

PEM Pickleball

Group Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Nov 5, 2015 5:00 PM

WELCOME (Co Chair Doug Gibbs)

Doug reviewed Pickleball Group committee structure and process. Members volunteer to serve on the various committees. Each committee selects their own chair or co-chair. The Chairs select the overall group chair/co-chair, which is usually whoever volunteers to do it. Everyone is welcome to serve on a committee or be a volunteer at large. If interested, contact the chair(s) of the committee you would like to on, or fill out the on-line contact form on our website at www.pempickleball.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Doug Gibbs for Anne Reynolds, Chair)

- Committee member: Donna Bowman.
- Doug reviewed the current financial report. We have collected about \$1180.00 in dues so far for the 2015-16 season. We've had some major expenditures at the beginning of the season as outlined below.

Operations (Doug Gibbs for Ken Fiske and Denny Craig, Co-chairs)

- Committee members include: Joel Carbone, Gerd Carbone, Jay Hennies, Mary Lea Hennies, Roy Markwardt and Rita Weihe.
- The Social Committee was folded into the Operations Committee the end of last season.
- The storage rooms are finally complete and the restroom is open. Security is supposed to unlock restrooms in morning and lock in evening.
- The fences at the old courts were damaged during the recent wind storm due to resistance caused by the wind screens. PEM will be doing repairs. Operations will be removing the screens to prevent damage in the future.
- Looking at possible lighting improvements at old courts in order to see better at night.
- Purchasing a water fountain to be located at the new courts (\$1200-1400).
- Purchased a second blower (\$324).
- Purchased squeegees and balls (about \$600).

Organized Play (Judy Graves, Chair)

- Committee members include: Rich Bauman, Peggy Bradley, Karen Gleiss, Charleen Hutton, Anne Reynolds, Bert Sealing, Don Williams and Rita Weihe.
- Round Robins (social and scored) started the beginning of November as follows:
 - 1.5-2.0 and 2.5-3.00 mixed (non-scoring), Mondays at 9:00 AM (Rich). This round robin was very successful last year; at point they took up all 16 courts, which is a good thing.
 - Men's 2.5-3.0 (scored), Wednesdays at 11:30 AM (Rich). Two courts full this week.
 - Women's 2.0-2.5 (scored), Wednesdays at 11:30 AM (Karen). Seven players participated this week.
 - Women's 3.0+ (scored), Wednesdays at 11:30 AM (Charlene and Peggy). Ten players participated this week.
 - Mixed 3.5+ (scored), Thursdays, 8:00 AM and recreational round robins on Tuesdays and Saturdays, 8:00 M (Don). Judy thanked Don for all his coordination.
 - As time goes on in January, we may split groups a little more by skill level depending on number of players. It helps to make it more fun and competitive if able to play with people in same skill group.

Training (Bruce Kimmell and Becky Gibbs, Co-Chairs)

- Committee members include: Doug Moore, Doug Gibbs, Kim Beam, Polly Beam, Peggy Bradley, Charlene Hutton, Diane Dalziel, Judy Graves and Anne Reynolds (Referee training).
- Training schedule is as follows:
 - Beginner lessons, Tuesdays at 9:30 AM (Becky-Lead). We've trained 27 new people over the last three weeks starting in late October. Thirteen participated in last week's training. Novice (1.5-2.0) skills follow beginner lessons at 11:00 AM on the same day.
 - Intermediate Skills Practice (2.5), Wednesdays at 10:30 AM (Bruce-Lead). Approximately eight people attended the first training of the season on November 5.
 - Advanced Skills Practice (3.0+), Thursdays, 10:30 AM (Judy-Lead). Training will start on November 12.
- All training is based on skill level. In order to progress from one training level to another, players must be able to consistently perform specific skills. Participants can ask instructor(s) if they can move up or instructors will let students know.
- Our resort has become well known for welcoming new players. A lot of us know each other, but new people may have a difficult time figuring out who's who and where to fit in. Just a reminder for everyone to please wear their name tags and also help out those players who are not sure where to play or how to get into a game.
- We are starting a new mentoring program for players who want to get extra help outside of scheduled training. Interested players can contact a mentor of their choice from the list on the bulletin board and set up a time that's mutually-agreed upon to either work on skills one-on-one or in a small group setting (3-4 players of like skill). Mentors include:

Kim Beam	Becky Gibbs	Doug Moore
Polly Beam	Gerry Gleiss	Carol Poirier
Peggy Bradley	Judy Graves	Pierre Poirier
Peggy Conrad	Jay Hennies	Nadia Shworan
Diane Dalziel	Charlene Hutton	Barb Tieskoetter
Phyllis Foreman	Craig Hutton	Rita Weihe
John Friesner	Bruce Kimmell	Don Williams

Mentors specify what skill levels they are willing to work with. Anyone interested in being a mentor should contact Becky Gibbs at beckyblt@aol.com. We need mentors from all skill levels and you do not have to be an expert player. A list of mentors with contact information will be posted at the bulletin board in the near future.

- Training schedules may change during the holiday season. Information will be posted on the bulletin board and on our website calendar.
- We purchased a Simon ball-throwing machine for training (\$1100).
- Some members expressed an interest in being rated so they can figure out what level they are and where they should play. They would like to play with people at the same level. This item was discussed further under "Other."

Tournaments (Chair, Rich Bauman, Vice-Chair Don Williams)

- Committee members include: Denny Craig, Bob Hays and Larry Hyatt.
- January 22-23 Tournament. Tournament will be on Friday for sure, and Saturday if needed. Format will be men's doubles and women's doubles.
- March 11-12 Karl Kunz Memorial tournament. Will be mixed doubles, broken into skill levels.

Communications (Doug Gibbs, Chair)

- Committee member: Becky Gibbs.
- There are 127 members here in the park, of which 118 have paid dues. We receive dues from approximately 350-400 players each season.
- Pickleball schedules will no longer be listed in the Pueblo Post due to reoccurring changes. For the latest information be sure to check at the bulletin board or at our website at www.pempickleball.com.
- We had 172 hits on our website on the day the recent group email was sent out to players.
- Ned, photographer for PEM, put up a panoramic view of beginner lessons from last Tuesday. Check it out at <http://www.welcometopem.com/panorama/PickleBallB/Pano.html>.
- We have a closed private Facebook page for the PEM Pickleball Group. It's a great way to set up pick-up games and share information. You must be a member of the Pickleball Group and also have a Facebook account to join. If interested in joining, email pempickleball@outlook.com and we will send you an invite. If you have any questions, contact Becky.

OTHER

Grand Canyon Games (February 24-28) (Doug)

- At the end of last season we were in deep negotiations in fear of losing this tournament to another resort. This tournament brings in \$4,000 to \$5,000 to our group. Drawbacks included the restrooms, lighting, and providing a tournament director. Anne Reynolds and John Friesner stepped up as tournament directors. Anne was director of the Northwest Regional Tournament in Bend this summer involving 300-400 players.
- This tournament will attract more than 500 players.
- While the restrooms are completed we are still working to resolve the lighting issue.
- The event is all run by volunteers here in the park.
- We lost the Southwest Regional tournament to Sun City.

Rating Committee (Becky and Judy)

- Numerous players have expressed an interest in getting help to figure out their skill level rating.
- A rating committee is being formed to aid players for that purpose. The committee will be composed of trainers and tournament-level players from a variety of skill levels.
- This program is strictly VOLUNTARY. Players can continue to self-rate or enlist the help of the Rating Committee if they want. The Rating Committee will not rate anyone unless requested.
- Those wishing to be evaluated will play a sequence of games with others of like skill and ability. Raters will provide positive constructive feedback on what they are doing well, what they need to work on, and recommended rating.

Loaner Paddles-Activities (Doug)

- We are purchasing loaner paddles to give to the Activities office to check out to players who do not have one yet. Players can check out for a limited time until they get their own paddle. Information on how to pick out a paddle and vendor information is available on our website under "Training."

Shirts (Doug for Anne Reynolds)

- Anne took the bull by the horns and purchased tee-shirts for our PEM Pickleball group.
- Shirts will be arriving tomorrow – dry-fit style, men's and women's, in blue and red.
- Design concept was a result of a joint effort among several Pickleball group members. Anne worked with a graphic designer to come up with a final design, select colors and styles, and get them printed.
- Cost will be minimal. Discount for dues paying members.

Audience comments/questions/suggestions

- New members to PEM said they came here because of the organized play.
- Donna Baumann reported the first aid box was stolen from the brown chest. A new one is now in the cabinet at the bulletin board. The large first aid kit is brought out only for tournaments.
- Audience member shared that another club she visited in the summer designated some days as totally recreation play and other days dedicated solely to competitive play.
- Audience member asked about training resources on how to learn different skills. Pickleballchannel.com, USAPA.org and YouTube videos were identified as good training resources in addition to our PEM Pickleball website (which also has links to those sites).

Next General Membership Meeting – Thursday, December 3, 4:00 PM