

PEM Pickleball

Group Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 5, 2015 4:00 PM

I. WELCOME (Judy Graves and Doug Gibbs, Co-Chairs)

A. **Grand Canyon Games** (Judy Graves, Co-Chair)

- The clinics will take place on February 17 followed by the tournament on Feb 18-22. Sixty-four people are registered for the advanced clinic (full), and 33 are registered for the introductory clinic. (Note: Even if you are not registered you can still come out and watch the clinics from outside of the courts.) During Tuesday, February 17, various people will be at our courts practicing as they are open to tournament players. This will not interfere with morning activities and if there are open courts in the afternoon there is no reason we can't play. Most activities will be on courts 1-4. There are 144 people registered for the welcoming party. The Grand Canyon State Games folks are providing pizza for people who registered for that event.
- There are 476 players registered for tournament. Non-players registered for the clinic makes 498 total. There are over 100 more than last year. We will need lots of volunteer help.
- Several players from our resort are entered into tournament so we have good representation from park and several won medals last year.
- Restrooms may or may not be done. We will have portable restrooms if the restrooms are not completed in time.
- Encourage everyone to come out and watch. All top players of the country will be there, including national champs. It's wonderful pickleball! Food is also available at the Snack Shack provided by Activities from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM – proceeds go to our Pickleball group!
- End of meeting sign-up for different jobs – parking, first aid, food prep, operations, set-up, take-down, etc. Need lots of help for all five days the tournament is going on. The more help the better. Games start at 8:00 AM each day and on Saturday and Sunday matches will not end until 8:00-8:30 at night. (Note: If you did not sign up at the meeting, there is a sign-up form on the bulletin board at the courts.)

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Communications (Doug Gibbs, Chair)

- **Current player numbers** – Welcoming new players. Lots of new players, ton of people are coming into the park. Out of 450 members, we have almost 300 that are in the park right now. Participation builds in February and March and goes down in other months. For people who have changed sites or phone numbers, please contact Doug Gibbs to update. Also indicate what you think your skill level is if you haven't already done so. You can do this in person or by contacting him through the www.pempickleball.com website.
- **Schedule Changes** – A lot of schedules for organized activities and training are being changed. Be sure to check the bulletin board and/or website for any recent changes on events.

B. Finance (Judy Graves, standing in for Beth Nagle)

- **Financial report** – At the Southwest Regional tournament we received \$800 from the Arizona Sports Commission (\$5.00 per player entrant) and about \$1,200 from snack shack. The same will happen for Grand Canyon Games; we'll receive over \$2,000 from entrant fees plus the profits from snack shack. We are going through tons of pickleballs. Annie is ordering more.

C. Social Events (Adele Mather, Co-Chair)

- **Mixed Match Madness and Cheap Shot event** – Friday, February 6 at 10:00 AM at the main courts. All levels of play. Encourage everyone to come out. Don't worry about costume, but just come out and have fun. Play will be for an hour. Prizes will be awarded for best or worst dress. There will also be the annual cheap shot challenge and the coveted trophy will be passed along. There will be door prizes!
- **Monthly coffee and donuts** - will be in the morning on Monday, March 2.
- **Annual meeting/potluck** – Thursday, March 5, 5:00 PM at Pool. Appetizers and ice cream social. There will be door prizes and a video of "This Year in Review"

D. Operations (Ken Fiske, standing in for Anne Reynolds)

- **In Anne's Absence** - Ken Fiske and Denny Craig have taken over operations for the Grand Canyon Games while Anne is away. There are rumors of more balls being purchased and new squeegees for court cleaning.
- **Grand Canyon Games** – Some set up will start on Monday right after the morning round robins end (moving bleachers & heavy tables). Will need to string electrical cable – help is needed. On Tuesday at 9:00 the chairs and tables arrive and help is needed to set everything up in preparation for the day's events. A registration table needs to be set up by 11:00 AM. During the tournament, we will need to keep water coolers filled, check garbage and washrooms, etc. Will need about 36 shifts during the five-day tournament – 5-6 shifts, 2-3 people per shift. Teardown is late on Sunday night. If it rains we'll need as much help as we can get to dry off the courts.

E. Organized Play (Judy Graves, Chair)

- **Round Robins** – Round robins are going great. There were about 20 men in yesterday's 2.5-3.0 round robin, 12 in women's 3.0 plus round robin, and two courts of 2.0-2.5 women's round robin. On Tuesdays, Don Williams is coordinating 3.5 round robin play – divided into two skill groups 3.0 and 3.5 plus; everyone seemed to enjoy. On Thursday and Saturday there are organized round robins for 3.0 on up. Rich's round robin on Monday took up all but one court!

F. Training (Becky Gibbs, Co-Chair)

- **Beginner Lessons and Skills** – we have a huge number of people coming out for beginner lessons and skills practice. To better accommodate players, we're breaking up beginner lessons (for brand new players) and skills practice (for repeat players) into two separate groups and time frames. Beginner lessons will stay at the same time, 9:30 AM, and beginner skills drills and practice (1.0-2.0) will start at 11:00 AM. Hopefully this will also free up some courts for early morning drop-in play.

- **Intermediate Skills** – Intermediate Skills Practice is being moved from 10:15 to 11:00 AM in order to provide more court time for morning drop-in players. We are also changing skill level for this group to 2.0 and 2.5 (rather than just 2.5). If players are not sure what skills training level they should be attending, please ask one of the instructors. Sometimes we are so busy training that we forget to tell you it's time to move up!
- **Advanced Skills** – Judy is getting a great turnout.
- **Skills Drills** – The training committee is working on trying to incorporate more skills drills into training, like Judy is doing.
- **New Instructors** - Welcome to new instructors Polly Beam, Kim Beam and Gerry Grimes. Thanks to Jane McKesson for stepping in to help out. We can always use more instructors, especially in intermediate skills on Wednesdays. If anyone is interested they should contact Becky Gibbs or Bruce Kimmell.
- **Paddletek Demo** – Paddletek representatives did a paddle demo last Monday during the coffee and donut event and sold quite a few paddles.
- **Onix Sports** – Becky Gibbs has a variety of demo paddles from Onix Sports if anyone is interested in checking any out to try. She is not a dealer but has worked an arrangement with Onix to have paddles available for people to try (especially new players) so they don't have to go to travel to their shop to check them out.
- **Paddles for Sale** – John Friesner and Phyllis Foreman both have paddles they are interested in selling. John's is a Core 2 composite (Becky will have it available during lessons or when she's up at the courts playing if you want to check it out). Talk to Phyllis for more information about her paddle.
- **Paddle Checkout** – We are working with Activities to provide a paddle check-out program geared towards new players until they can buy their own. Last year we had about 16 paddles provided by Roberts Resorts and a good number of them walked away before the end of the season.

G. Tournaments (Rich and Don)

- **February 13 Tournament** - Becky and Judy working on referees. If anyone has referee clip boards from the training class, please return them to Rich, Becky or Judy. We will need 11 referees, so if you are not playing in the tournament and want to ref please contact Becky or Judy. Rich and Don will be doing brackets on Wednesday prior to the tournament. The tournament starts at 8:30 AM. Check-in is at 8:00 AM. Set up will be on Thursday after 3:00 PM if anyone wants to help – meet at the recreation building (where the pickleball meeting is). Will set up most everything on Thursday. Volunteers should show up before 8:00 AM on day of tournament. We will have about the same number of teams as last year.
- **March tournament** – moved up to earlier in the month on the 13th and 14th. This is the annual Karl Kunz memorial tournament. Information forthcoming.
- **Referee training** – if anyone would like to ref and needs training, please let Judy or Becky know. They are happy to do it. You can also shadow someone during the internal tournament to get your feet wet.

III. OTHER

- A. **Next and last General Membership Meeting** – Thursday March 5, 5:00 PM at pool cabana – will include a video “The Year in Review”
- B. **Audience comments/questions/suggestions**
- **Be good ambassadors** – if you see people hanging the courts ask them if they want more info, show them bulletin board, let them know there are lessons, make them feel welcome, etc.
 - **Comment Cards** – If you came and/or stay or own at Pueblo El Mirage because of the pickleball, it’s helpful to let Roberts Resorts know that. Fill out one of their comment cards (available at the office) and send it in! Pickleball is a huge sport, especially for seniors. Ours is one of the only RV parks in the area that is not owner lots that you can come and stay for a month or so and play pickleball in a place with lots of courts.
 - **Courtesy** – just a few reminders: when entering the courts come in the right gate that doesn’t interrupt play, pick up water bottles when done, and take down umbrellas when no one is left at the courts and please put the balls back in the ball holders. Put items that are left at the courts in the brown box where they will stay for couple days and then turned in to the concierge. Unclaimed items will eventually be sent to the Goodwill or similar charity.