

PEM Pickleball Group Membership Meeting

Thursday, February 4, 2015 5:00 PM

Minutes

WELCOME (Co Chair Doug Gibbs)

Introduced Co-chair Judy graves and Committee Chairs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grand Canyon Games (Doug Gibbs)

- Tournament is February 24-28, 2016.
- Approximately 540 participants, representing three countries and 32 states.
- Need volunteers; takes 100 to run event. Sign-up at end of meeting.
- Will need lights every night when it gets dark.
- Volunteer raffle – more tickets for more hours worked. Prizes include paddles, etc.
- Need more volunteers – sign-up after meeting for the group you are interested in or contact the group lead.

Finance (Doug Gibbs for Anne Reynolds)

- Lots of purchases – shirts, balls (going through a lot at \$2.00 each).

Operations (Ken Fiske)

- Huge thank you to Rick Baumann and Denny Craig for blowing off courts after the last storm, which was huge.
- Cracks in the courts will be repaired (temporally) before the Grand Canyon Games.
- The practice backboard to be located at the old courts was approved by PEM. Don Williams (who built the bulletin board) will be constructing it.
- New electrical has not been turned on yet at the main courts.
- Need a few more volunteers for the Grand Canyon Games.

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

- Large attendance each for beginner lessons and skills classes.
- No advanced skills next Thursday.
- Bruce expressed the importance of supporting a partner during play, producing better results.

Tournaments (Chair, Rich Bauman)

- 80 people participated in the January tournament.
- Karl Kunz Memorial Tournament will be on March 11. Will be mixed doubles at all levels; information forthcoming.
- Doug provided a history on Karl Kunz – started pickleball here years ago by convincing Roberts Resorts to build the two original courts (located near horse shoes and shuffleboard). Karl promoted the sport and passed away before the new courts were built.

- Will be doing court cleaning prior to Grand Canyon Games on February 16 and 18. Need volunteers to help; can sign up for one or both days.

Rating Committee (John Friesner and Peggy Conrad, Co-Chairs)

- Players who want to be rated can go to our website to sign-up. When there's enough who want to be rated, will set up a sessions.
- One rater per player. Players play three games. Raters meet with player after session with outcome.
- The rating process is a positive experience. Raters will tell you what you do right and what you can work on.
- Have received a lot of positive feedback provided by those who have already gone through the rating process.

Organized Play (Judy Graves, Chair)

- Organized play has exploded!
- Rich is running the social mixed Round robin on Mondays, using most of the courts due to popularity. Separating round robins into two time frames: 2.0 and 3.0 at 9:00 AM and 2.5 and 3.5 at 11:30 AM. Will leave at least two open courts available with this change.
- Wednesday round robins have become so big we are moving all men's round robins to Friday at 10:30 AM. We used 18 courts (to include old courts) last Wednesday and Wednesday before.
- Judy recognized round robin captains: Charleen Hutton, Peggy Bradley, Don Williams, Bert Sealing, Rich Bauman, Doug Gibbs, Daizel and others who help out.
- We are asking players to update their current skill rating for our records. Will be posting skill ratings on the bulletin board for reference purposes for round robins. Also serves as a guide for new players to see where they fit in.
- Round robin scores are not publicly known. If you want to know where you fall in the group you can ask Judy and she will provide you with YOUR percentage.
- Continued discussion on people playing in the right areas during organized play. Many players have expressed a concern that some players are not playing in their designated skill during drop in and organized play, either because there is no one in their skill level to play with or they want to play with better players so they can improve. Doug Gibbs relayed the thought that while players want to play with those better than themselves, there's another side to the coin; our pickleball players are so nice that they will play soft, but walk away being frustrated. Ideas for playing with better players:
 - Challenge in via a "challenge court." We tried this in the past, but it didn't catch on. Common practice in other pickleball communities.
 - Ask better players to play outside or organized or scheduled drop-in play.
 - Enlist the help of one of the mentors.
- If players are not sure where they should be playing or at what level, they can enlist the help of the Rating Committee.

Communications (Doug Gibbs, Chair)

- We send out a welcome email to all new players.
- Current have about 350 members; have received dues from everyone on record. Blue star on name tag indicates player is current in dues.
- PEM Management requires everyone to wear a badge. Please remember to wear badge at the courts as we are starting to have a problem with people coming from outside the resort to play on our courts (not as a guest). It's also helpful for new players who don't know who you are.

- Still need more photographers and videographers; especially important in order to get a good cross-section of photos for the annual video.

OTHER

- Annual Banquet – At last month’s meeting the group overwhelmingly support the idea of having an annual banquet in lieu of a potluck at the pool. Only day available was March 4. Happy hour is 5-6:00 PM, with one hour for dinner and a presentation after. The cost will be reasonable. The menu will be chicken cordon bleu or fish, salad, green beans with slivered almonds, red roasted potatoes and apple blossom with ice cream. Need help with table decorations. Diane, Wendy and Kitty volunteered.
- Bags located next to ball dispensers are for broken balls.
- Jane McKesson and Don Williams are working on a metal art sculpture for the wall in front of the ladies restroom at the courts. It is their hope to get it in place before the Grand Canyon Games.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

- Donna Baumann promoted drop-in afternoon play – 2:00 PM and after.
- Raja Hadawi asked if skill ratings are based on criteria or are subjective? John clarified we use USAPA standards for skill rating. Raters use worksheets to evaluate shots and skills for different skills sets – so not subjective.
- Donna Baumann said her rating experience was awesome and she was amazed at the comments and checkmarks and how thorough it was. Lee _____ also said it was very satisfactory. You play three games with generally the same skill level, well quantified and looks at individual skills. Donna indicated it doesn’t matter if you win or loose.

Next Meeting: ANNUAL Banquet – March 4, 5:00 PM – in lieu of March general membership meeting.