

PEM Pickleball Group Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 6, 2016 - 4:00 PM

Meeting Summary

WELCOME (Co-chairs Doug Gibbs and Judy Graves)

Doug welcomed everyone and noted there were a lot of new faces. He reviewed the Pickleball Group committee structure and process. Members volunteer to serve on the various committees. Each committee selects their chair or co-chair(s). The Chairs select the overall group chair/co-chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Anne Reynolds, Chair)

- Committee member includes: Donna Bowman, who helps collecting dues and steps in to help with finances in Anne's absence.
- Anne reviewed the current financial report. Recent major expenditures include balls at \$300.00, water fountain at \$1200.00, new very nice squeegees and brooms. There is a lot of money going to keeping up the courts. We collect a lot of money, but it does get used up during the season.

Operations (Ken Fiske, Co-Chair)

- Committee members include: Denny Craig (co-chair), Rich Baumann, Joel Carbone, Gerd Carbone, Jay Hennies, Mary Lea Hennies, Roy Markwardt and Rita Weihe. In addition to volunteering to help with the Grand Canyon games (with the many other volunteers), they help with operations throughout the year.
- Ken thanked Doug Gibbs for coordinating the water fountain purchase. The state-of-the-art water fountain has been installed and is in use. Our Pickleball Group paid for the fountain and PEM installed it in coordination with the Operations Committee.
- Cracks in courts 13-16 – Denny Craig is working with PEM and they are very aware that the cracks will expand if not repaired. PEM will be doing a major repair next summer which involves cutting the concrete. Anne Reynolds is coordinating short-term crack repairs that will last up to a year.
- Thank you to all who helped to clean water off the courts. Tip – if the squeegee or rollers are squeaking, you are pushing too hard.
- Grand Canyon Volunteers – we had 23 Grand Canyon volunteers on the Operations side last year. Many have already volunteered for this year. Shifts are four (4) hours. More volunteers are needed. (More covered under "Grand Canyon Games" below.)

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.
- Judy thanked everyone who came out yesterday at 8:00 AM to clean the water off the courts. A large group showed up to help. We need help tomorrow morning as well.
- We have a variety of organized play:

- Mixed 3.5 round robin on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday on courts 13-16. About 20 people showed up last week using five courts. There are lots of new faces in this group.
- Monday round robin coordination by Rich Baumann and Doug Gibbs, who assists. That group will be taking up all 16 courts. People play at their approximate skill level. It's a fun social time. Rich tries to put people in the right skill level as much as possible.
- Wednesday men's round robin is beginning to be divided into three groups: 2.0, 2.5+ and 3.0+.
- Wednesday women's round robin: 2.0-2.5 and 3.0+.
- 80 people participate in one way or another in round robins.
- If anyone has any suggestions on organized play, please let Judy know.

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, Jane McKesson, Judy Graves and Anne Reynolds (Referee training).
- We are now limiting the number of players who can sign up for beginner lessons to 16 so we can provide a one-to-four trainer-to-student ratio.
- We are working with a new format for beginner/novice skills (1.5-2.0) that focuses on becoming proficient at basic skills per the Skills Rating definitions for PEM. Once they are proficient at these skills they are moved to intermediate skills with Bruce (2.5). Audience questions arose in regard to how players know when to move up in skill level. Instructors in novice skills will advance players when it's time to move. This is a new process designed to help the trainers put players with others of like skill and ability. Trainers will provide feedback to players at end of each session from now on.
- Audience discussion occurred regarding the rating system and how to know where to play (summarized below).
- Bruce Kimmell, lead for intermediate (2.5) skills training recognized Doug Moore for helping in with his classes. He would like more trainers, so if anyone is interested, please contact him. You do not have to be a perfect player, just buy into the concept of what they are teaching and be a good communicator. He shared his observation that a lot of players are incorporating the short game into their play, especially at the lower levels. Working on these skills is during skills training is becoming apparent on the courts.
- Becky reminded players to take advantage of the mentoring program. Information is on the bulletin board and on our website.

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

- Committee members include: Denny Craig, Bob Hays and Larry Hyatt.
- January 22 Tournament – 1.5-2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 men doubles and women doubles, 3.0+ mixed teams.
- March 11-12 Karl Kunz Memorial tournament will be mixed doubles, broken into skill levels. In-house tournament. Must be a resident and current in dues.

Rating Committee-NEW (Becky Gibbs standing in for John Friesner and Peggy Conrad, Co-chairs)

- Committee members include: Judy Graves, Bruce Kimmell, Becky Gibbs, Rita Weihe, Doug Moore, Don Williams, and Peggy Bradley. Raters are USAPA rated tournament level players and/or trainers. More raters will be added as demand increases.
- The Rating Committee is up and running and has done one trial/training run where four people were rated.

- Players self-rate or can enlist the help of the Rating Committee to figure out what their rating is. This is a voluntary process.
- Players can also get an idea of what their skill rating is by playing in the scored round robins. If you are consistently at the top of your skill group (after several games), then it's probably time to move up. Conversely, if you are consistently at the bottom with a spread between you and the mid to upper level players, then you should probably move to the lower skill group and see how you do there. Those coordinating the individual round robins should be moving players up and down accordingly. It may take a few games to figure out exactly where you fall. (Note: it's always easier to move up than down.)
- Diane Daizel, one of the players rated, shared how much they appreciated knowing what their skill level was and what they need to work on. She indicated it was a very positive experience.
- To ask to be rated or for more information on PEM Skills Rating Descriptions, go to our website at www.pempickleball.com, click the "Training" tab and then the "Skills Rating & Committee" tab. Players can request to be rated via the on-line form.

Communications (Doug Gibbs, Chair)

- Committee member: Becky Gibbs.
- There are approximately 350 members who have paid dues this year.
- Still need photographers to help take photos (and video) throughout the season to use in our annual video.
- Doug asked how many people would be in favor of doing a catered meal in the banquet room in lieu of the end-of-the-season potluck. Overwhelming response to do the banquet. The Pickleball Group will try to off-set the cost to keep the price low. Date to be determined.
- Doug passed around the roster for people to update their info, including skill rating. IF YOU WERE NOT AT THE MEETING please contact Doug if your contact info, site number, email, skill level, etc., has changed since last season.

OTHER

Grand Canyon Games (Anne, Tournament Director and Doug, PEM Pickleball Group Liaison)

- Grand Canyon Games are scheduled for February 24-28 (Wednesday-Sunday).
- Last year's tournament put approximately \$2800 into our coffers.
- 478 players are already signed up to play, with some events already closed.
- Projected end-of-day times are as follows: Wednesday 7:45 PM, Thursday 7:15 PM, Friday 5:30 PM, Saturday 8:15 PM and Sunday 5:00 PM. Times are subject to change with additional registrations.
- The following groups are still looking for volunteers. If interested, please sign-up after the meeting or contact the group lead.
 - FOOD (lead) – helping the "A Team" with the snack shack (no food permit required) and/or working the player snack booth (cutting up fruit, maintaining snack supply)
 - PARKING (Rich Baumann, Lead) – directing parking, transporting players to and from vehicles via golf carts.
 - LINE JUDGING (Doug Moore and Peggy Bradley, Leads) – line judging during medal matches. Judy will provide training in advance.
 - OPERATIONS (Ken Fiske, Lead) – Set-up, clean-up, clearing trash, filling water, ice, etc.
 - FIRST AID (lead) – Staffing first aid booth during tournament. Previous medical experience helpful (i.e. nurse, doctor, fire firefighter, EMT, etc.). Minor emergency assistance; major injuries or care referred to 9-1-1.

- Purchasing family service radios for our use during Grand Canyon.
- Encourage everyone to come and watch. World renowned players will be competing as well as residents from our resort.
- NO DOGS allowed at the venue due to continual problems last year. Includes all dogs, including those from inside.

Audience comments/questions/suggestions

- **Guest policy** - Policy for “guest” play is located on the bulletin board. Please read it before inviting guests into the park to play.
- **Reserving courts** - We do not have a system in place for reserving courts. We may enlist one down the road if more demand. If you want to have your own closed group (with three other people) go to an obscure court that is not being used. Most afternoons the courts are wide open. Note: Organized play, training and scheduled activities take precedence, so you may need to wait or move to another court.

Next General Membership Meeting – Thursday, February 4, 4:00 PM