

PEM Pickleball

Group Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2015 4:00 PM (Card Room)

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

A. Southwestern Regional Tournament Outcome

As of yesterday, the Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission gave us a check for \$800.00, which included \$5.00 from everyone who entered the competition. The same will happen for the Grand Canyon Games in February. Some players did not receive reimbursement for the dinner event that was scheduled for the night before the tournament and later cancelled; Judy will follow-up.

B. Grand Canyon Games

The Grand Canyon games will be held here at our park February 18-22. About 364 are already registered, more than this same time last year. It is expected participant numbers will exceed 400. Some events are full and closed. Play is expected to go into the night on most days.

On Tuesday, Feb 17 there will be a welcome party starting at 12:00 noon that will include paddle demos and skills clinics. This event is open to registered players as well as our members. There will be clinics for all levels featuring Mark Friedenborg, Gigi LeMaster, Gail Dacey and Bob Youngren, and a referee refresher class by Lynn and Linda Laymon. Advanced sign-up is required and you do not have to be registered to play in the tournament. Space is limited to the first 64 participants who sign up. Spectators are allowed outside the courts to view. Food will be available for registered tournament participants after. For more information go to www.pickleballtournaments.com. Note: Sign-up screen may not be up on the website yet, so keep checking back.

Activities will be providing food throughout the tournament. We asked to add another menu item besides hamburgers and hot dogs, such as a chicken wrap or salad.

Judy and Doug had a good meeting with coordinators of the Grand Canyon Games and PEM Management and Activities yesterday, lasting about two hours.

We don't know if restrooms and lighting will be done. We are currently in the process of putting together a letter to Roberts Resorts expressing our concern. If the permanent lighting isn't installed, the resort will have to rent four portable lights instead of two.

Volunteers will be needed like last year. Information forthcoming.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Communications (Doug Gibbs, Chair)

Current player numbers – There are currently 201 members (out of 400) here in the park. Most have paid dues. For those people who are new, the \$10.00 fee is for all year long. Dues help us to buy pickleballs, cleaning equipment, web domain, paper, copying, lessons, social events and organized play.

Change in email or site number – If you have a change in site number, email address or phone number, please let Doug know. We do not send out the email list to anyone. It stays with us and is a way for us to communicate with you.

B. Finance (Beth Nagle, Chair)

Financial report – We currently have \$2424.00 plus \$800.00 from southwest for \$3224.00 total. We will need to buy pickle balls which will cost at least \$1,000 this year. We will be purchasing some operational, tournament and social event supplies.

Dues – 201 people have paid their dues so far, so everyone us up to speed.

Southwest Regional Tournament – We haven't received profits from food sold at tournament yet, so not sure what the amount will be. Activities is going through a transition period right now.

Call for new committee members/new chair next season – Beth would like someone to step up to take care of the money. She's been doing it for two years. Looking for members with bookkeeping or banking experience and someone who is here in the park during the entire season (Fall through Spring). If interested, please contact Beth or go to our website at www.pempickleball.com and select the "contact" button.

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

Coffee and donuts – last Monday, successful.

Fabulous Fun Follies – Thursday, Jan 22, 3:00 PM Start Time – challenging outrageously fun pickleball event that absolutely requires no skill. Meet at old courts at 3:00 PM and play some fun games. Need spectators to cheer participants on. Pickleball event will be followed by happy hour and appetizers at the pool, and then a potluck. More information and sign-up sheets will be up at bulletin board.

Mixed Match Madness and Cheap Shot event – Friday, February 6 at 10:00 AM at the main courts. There will be swell prizes.

Annual meeting/potluck – Thursday, March 5, 5:00 PM at Pool. Will post info.

D. Operations (Anne)

Purchases – Purchased four brooms last year; two walked away and one came back. They are all now marked with PEM Pickleball. We will be purchasing two more brooms as well as squeegees that are more effective in getting water off the courts. Ordered 17 dozen balls today; have lost a lot due to cracking because of the cold weather. Reminder – please put the balls back in the holders so they will last longer.

Grand Canyon Games – A few of the courts need cleaning, but the others look pretty good. Other tasks include blowing off courts every day if needed, keeping trash cans emptied, keeping restrooms supplied, setup and takedown. We were fortunate to have a lot of volunteers for the Southwest tournament and anticipate the same for Grand Canyon.

Storage at the Courts – Once the restrooms are completed we will have two storage rooms so we can store our equipment.

General Court Clean-up – please remember to make sure umbrellas are down and water containers are thrown away when you leave the courts. Lost and found items are located in the brown storage bin and are taken to the concierge at the main office after a few days. After a while they donate them to a good cause.

E. Organized Play (Judy)

Round Robins – Rich is coordinating Monday round robin. Jerry Gleiss is taking over the 3.5 round robin until Don Williams returns. The 2.0-2.5, 2.5-3.0 and 3.0+ women's round robins are going well. The ladies are having a good time and we're seeing a big improvement in play. It is competitive in the sense that we are keeping score. It is intended to be a mentoring experience.

Ladder – the ladder starts on Saturday. There aren't quite as many people as last year but enough to break into skill groups. Ladder will be on Saturdays at 9:00 AM. All info is on board. Play lasts for about an hour to an hour-and-a-half. If you can't make it, you need to let Judy know in advance. Your group can schedule their own time if they can't play during the regularly scheduled time.

Ratings – Please identify your rating if you haven't already. If you're having trouble figuring it out, compare yourself to others who already have a skill level. Once everyone is rated we'll figure out what to do with the information. There is a listing on the bulletin board where you can indicate your rating if you haven't already.

Court Designation Signs – We are currently replacing the court rating signs that were damaged from the rain.

Call for new chair next season – Judy is ready to hang it up and looking for someone interested being Chair of the Organized Play Committee. If interested in serving on her committee and/or being the chair in the future, please contact Judy.

Pickleball Ambassadors - Anne reminded everyone that we need to be good ambassadors while out playing Pickleball. If you see someone walking around, please take time to stop and talk to them, give information about pickleball, tell them about lessons and refer them to bulletin board.

F. Training (Bruce and Becky)

Beginner lessons and skills (1.0-2.0) – On Tuesdays at 9:30 AM. Twenty-four people attended training last Tuesday; twelve were brand new players and twelve were repeats. Focus is on the most basic shots, scoring and rules.

Intermediate Skills (2.5) – On Wednesdays at 10:15 AM. Incorporates more advanced shots and focuses on court placement.

Advanced (3.0) skills Report – On Thursdays at 1:00 PM. Twelve people attended today. Training emphasizes a softer game and advanced shots.

Training Reminder – Training is designed to improve your current skill level and prepare you to advance to the next level. Please go to the training designated for your skill level. If unsure, ask one of the instructors whether you should move up or down.

Rocket launcher AKA Ms. Pickles "No error" contest – Just a reminder the rocket launcher will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesday during training for players of all skill levels to practice with. Only two people are currently in the "zero - no error" club. Prizes awarded in the future!

Need for Trainers – We are in need for more trainers. You do not have to be an advanced player. We need two people for beginner lessons and/or skills and two for intermediate. Please let Becky or Bruce know if you're interested. You can also just help out with the rocket launcher or assist instructors.

Paddletek Demo – Paddletek will be coming sometime late January/early February to do a paddle demo. Players will have a chance to try out the paddles. The Social Committee has graciously offered to provide coffee and donuts.

Referee Class – Anne will be doing a referee training class on Monday, January 12 at 1:00 PM. This class is for those new to reffing as well as those who have already taken the class. Refs will need to practice six games. Anne will watch and shadow as needed. If you cannot attend, please contact Anne and she will try to make other arrangements.

G. Tournaments (Rich)

January 30-31 (Friday-Saturday) in-house tournament - Men's and women's doubles in 1.5-2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 skill groups. Open (partner with who you want) for 3.5 and 4.0+ skill levels. You must be a PEM resident to participate. Entry forms are located below the clock at the bulletin board. You can also download them from the website.

III. OTHER

A. **Capital improvements (water fountain)** – a work in progress...

B. **Committee Volunteers** – we are trying to get some new blood into our committees. Two-and-a-half years ago we had 45 people in the pickleball group and now we have over 400. We just formed committees knowing we were going to have to worry about different issues. The people on committees select their own chair. Everyone is welcome to volunteer to be on a committee. If interested, please contact the chair for the committee you're interested in or go to our website at pempickleball.com and send a message via the "contact" button.

C. **Name Tags** – Please be sure to wear your name tags at the courts. This is especially important during training and organized play, and helps other players to learn who you are!

D. **Next General Membership Meeting** - Thursday, February 5, 4:00 PM at regular location

E. **Audience comments/questions/suggestions**

- *Is there a method for players to advertise they have used paddles for sale?* We don't have a formal process but players can post information on the bulletin board. If anyone has a used paddle they would like to sell, please feel to share that information. There are new players who may be interested in purchasing a used paddle before investing in a new one. Players looking for a used paddle can also post a notice on the bulletin board if they wish.
- *Looking for places to play when not in the park?* Go to USAPA.org and click on "Places to Play" for a list of courts in the area you are visiting.
- *When do most people play?* Most people play around 9:00 AM. Some will start around 2:00 PM as the park gets busier. Note: to know where to go, look for the sign on the entry doors to the courts with your skill level on it.
- *What is the plan for restroom storage area?* The side closest to golf course is resort storage. The two storage rooms on the west side of the restrooms are designated for our equipment.
- *Are there any paddles available?* We had lots of paddles last year, but quite a few walked away. There are some in the brown bin located at the main courts in the storage shed at the old courts. If anyone has an old paddle would like to donate it, feel free!