

Mission: To promote the sport of pickleball in El Paso County, Colorado, through education, training, and amateur competition

## The Non-Volley Zone – PPPA Board

**A Challenge court will be coming soon to MVP. We are coordinating with Parks & Rec to put this in place as soon as possible.**

Court 6 will be designated a challenge court. Two players, or individuals, will be able to challenge other players to one game to 11 (win by 2). Winners stay on the court while those who lost exit the court and can immediately paddle-up in the trough which will be placed on court 6. Winners must come off the court after three consecutive wins; they can then paddle-up for another game. If a single paddle is in the trough without a partner to play with, a member of the losing team can stay on to allow the single an opportunity to play.

While many players show up to the courts in foursomes, there are plenty who come as a duo or individuals. This allows players to quickly get into a game and assess their level of play against other players. It will also give many players, who are unable to sign up for our round robins, an opportunity to get into some competitive matches in a mini round robin format. Higher level players may get the upper hand but will still have to exit after three consecutive wins allowing everyone to participate.

Key to making this a success will be the cooperation of all players to follow the designated rules and make this an enjoyable, fun opportunity for all.

We look forward to seeing many challenging games on Court 6!



## Who's Who on Your Board? – Meg Duncan, Special Projects



### **Jeff Norton - Acting Past President**

Jeff is a retired Air Force colonel with 27 years of active duty. He served another 10 years working for NASA's Space Shuttle and Space Station operations contractor, United Space Alliance. He has a Bachelor's degree in General Engineering and a Master's in System Program Management. He grew up on the Minnesota-North Dakota border and fishing for big bass, northern pike and walleye was his early passion. Now flyfishing in Colorado and Utah for much smaller varieties of trout must suffice.

As a Lifetime PPPA member, he previously served as the founding Vice President and President of our Association. He is our 'go-to' mentor for some 40 start-up pickleball organizations from across the USA that have routinely queried our PPPA website over the last several years. The common question was "how did you all do this?" with them seeking guidance and lessons learned on how we've formed and grown such a successful Pickleball Association. He's also our primary contact for fundraising grants and corporate sponsorships that help us co-fund and develop new Pickleball courts in Public-Private Partnerships with the City and El Paso County.

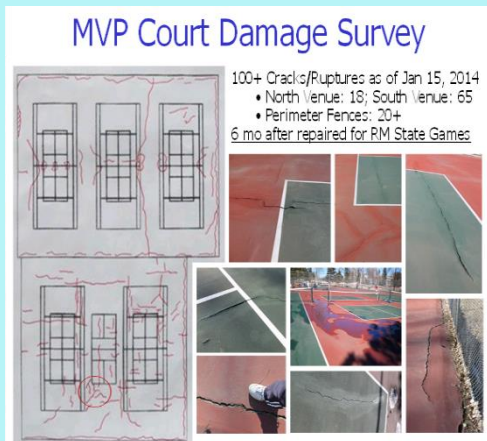
Want to know who else is on your board or how to contact them? [Link here.](#)

## PPPA History Series: The Monument Valley Pickleball Court Conversion – Bob Holman, Historical Committee Chair

*This is the second installment of the PPPA History Series. The last topic, [December Pikes Peak Pickleball Association - WeeklyBlast 20231210](#), described the advanced planning that PPPA did with the City to enable pre-planned growth to a total of 8 Pickleball courts at John Venezia Park. Note: Based on recent discussions with Parks & Rec, it looks like that growth option will finally happen sometime this summer.*

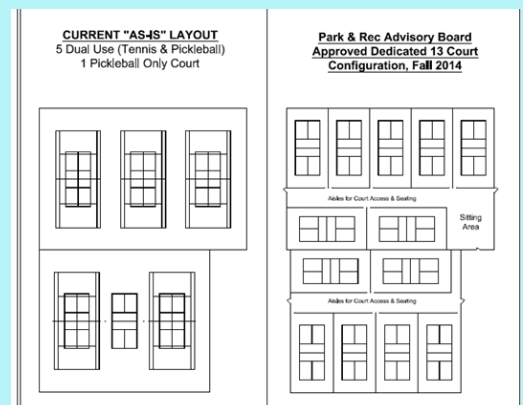
This month's History Series describes the initial groundwork PPPA and its many members did to help evolve the heritage Monument Valley Park tennis courts into the outstanding Pickleball venue we have today. Our PPPA long-term approach was to FIRST convert the asphalt tennis courts at Monument Valley Park (MVP) into a dedicated Pickleball venue based on demonstrated need in 2014, and then SECOND to upgrade the 13 repair-intensive asphalt PB courts to a post-tension concrete "50 year" low/no maintenance solution with 15 dedicated courts.

As part of the first step to convert the 5 dual-striped tennis courts, PPPA conducted an informal 30-day on-site survey in 2012 that showed a 10-to-1 ratio of Pickleball players to tennis players using the courts at MVP (30 tennis players were observed using the dual-striped tennis courts compared to 310 Pickleball players). 310 might seem low in today's Pickleball environment, but 12 years ago Pickleball was just getting started here in the Springs. At that point, PPPA had 70 registered members.



That court utilization data was presented to the Parks & Rec Advisory Board along with continuing concerns about the unsafe nature of the MVP courts after each winter season with the asphalt deterioration due to the freeze-thaw cycle. In 2013, Parks & Rec patched and resurfaced the asphalt courts in preparation for the Rocky Mountain State Games pickleball event at a cost of around \$25,000. Little did we know it at the time, but there was a natural spring under the tennis courts located where MVP Pickleball courts #2 and #3 are today which further added to the asphalt freeze-thaw damage problem. Six months later in January of 2014 PPPA conducted a physical court damage assessment to document the typical recurring damage and resulting tripping hazards even after the recent repair of the dual-striped tennis courts (see court damage survey results).

The next step in our conversion plan was to work in partnership with the Pikes Peak Community Tennis Association to make the MVP a dedicated Pickleball venue. The tennis complex at Memorial Park in 2014 had just been upgraded from asphalt to 15 post-tension world-class tennis courts. The rapid growth of Pickleball, with PPPA membership approaching 400 members, led to discussion of dual-striping those tennis courts but the tennis community was not in favor of sharing their new courts. And in fairness, they actually supported PPPA in making Monument Valley a dedicated Pickleball venue. That led to a public meeting in May of 2014 hosted by Parks & Rec where PPPA presented an overview of our Sport including its social and physical health benefits. Homeowners and businesses within 1000 feet of the MVP were invited to share their opinions on the proposed conversion of the MVP courts to a dedicated 13-court Pickleball venue. Out of the 50+ people that showed up, only one individual tennis player was in opposition to the conversion plan. In the



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public meeting, the President of the Pikes Peak Community Tennis Association and the Friends of Monument Valley Park nonprofit supported the conversion plan. The Friends of MVP highlighted the fact that the many Pickleball players using the park daily had made a significant difference in making the park more secure by reducing the number of vagrants during daytime hours. As a result of our Pickleball player adult presence, it was bringing back many young families to use the adjacent playground during the day. Based on the overwhelming support during the public meeting, Parks & Rec and the Advisory Board approved the dedicated 13 Pickleball court conversion shown in the attached diagram and picture.

Installment #3 next month will describe how the plan to finally upgrade the MVP courts to a world-class low/no maintenance post-tension concrete solution was almost derailed based on a Parks & Rec proposal to instead move the pickleball venue to Sky View Park next to the Colorado Springs airport.

### **Membership Minutes – Carolyn Engquist, Membership Director**

We have 17 new members this month along with 42 renewals. We would like to thank our wonderful members. The fees we pay help keep the courts in good playing condition and help fund new ones. Please share the PPPA opportunities with friends and family.

With the weather so unpredictable it's difficult to plan too far ahead, but please keep in mind the Round Robins are being played weekly weather permitting. Don't forget to sign up for the singles and doubles ladder when your schedule allows. It is a great way to meet other good players and get to know more of our friendly members.

### **In the Spotlight – Carolyn Engquist, Membership Director**

One of our members helped sing the praises of pickleball on national television. Lynn Di Vito recently appeared on Jeopardy and spoke about the benefits of playing pickleball as a benefit to Jeopardy play on national television. She said quick reactions are important in both areas. A quick movement on the court or a quick touch on the buzzer both require mental and physical quickness. Another mindset that applies to both games is that you must move on from a mistake. It could be a wrong answer or a missed shot but both need to be forgotten to make way for the next move.



Lynn was playing Jeopardy against a nine game winner when she first competed. She said it was like playing pickleball against someone a level above her. In her mind she said "just play the best you can" in every situation. Another similarity between the two games was the support and camaraderie she felt. Players were very friendly on Jeopardy and she feels that on the pickleball courts as well. Lynn started playing pickleball seven years ago. Her goals have remained the same through the years.

- Don't get hurt
- Hit some good shots
- Have fun



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## All We Want to do is Play, Play, Play – Dan Lovelace, Education & Training Director

My fellow PPPA Members. Join our Round Robin, Ladder Play, Guided Play, & Beginning Lessons groups for: The **CRAZY, LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER FUN!** Fun dress-up days are scheduled in all of our education and training groups.

- April 8 - 12 Hawaiian/CRAZY Shirt Days
- May 7 -10 CRAZY Hat Days
- June 3 - 7 CRAZY Socks Days
- July 8 - 12 Patriotic Dress (Hats, Shorts, Shirts, etc...) Days
- August 5 - 9 CRAZY Shorts, Shirt, Hat and Socks Days

Join us and show your spirit for the above CRAZY Days and have some fun. There will be 1st Place Gifts for each group and level of play.

### COME SHOW YOUR PPPA SPIRIT AND CRAZY SIDE

Click here for more information on PPPA options, look under the play tab, and get out and [Play, Play, Play.](#)

## Pickleball Horoscope, Pickleball Trivia - Sharon Kumpf, Board Member at Large

What if the stars aligned to determine how you play pickleball? We know it sounds out of this world, but for the astrologically inclined, there is a connection. Here's a light-hearted look at how your zodiac sign influences your pickleball game, courtesy of [Pickleballrookie.com](#)



### **Aries (March 21 – April 19)**

Born to compete, Aries players charge onto the pickleball court with unbridled enthusiasm. These energetic fire signs are known for their fierce and aggressive approach to the game. If you hear a loud "I got it!" echoing across the court, you can bet it's an Aries on the prowl.

PPPA Members celebrating birthdays March 21 through April 19 are located here:

**We wish you all a very Happy Birthday!**

David	Knize
Ken	Byerly
Jim	Reynolds
Barbara	Ball
Mary	Sanders
Richard	Stolp
Paul	Lee
Melody	Agruso
Stephen	Sager
Jim	Linsky
Daryl	Osborn
Chuck	Mardosz
Lois	Benson
Cynthia	Heyse Breeding
Linda	Hodgkins
Kathy	Kruckenberg
David	Alford
Jon	Appelhans

Barbara	Martin
James	Bell
Steve	Kearney
Jean	Mortensen
Nan	Rublely
Jon	Hicks
Lance	Timco
Cathy	Blake
Elayne	Rayburn
Stacy	Blaugrund
Jill	Trent
Gregg	Heinzel
Todd	Brokaw
Trina	Allen
Jody	Green
Terry	Ladwig
Dave	Fite
Tiffany	Austin

Lori	Dravecky
Lori	Arriola
Lisa	Marsh
Benjamin	Willock
Dawn	Lepinski
Richard	Yu
Kathy	Houck
Kathy	Rugh
Mary	Delaney
Christy	Webb
Tasha	Patry
Clayton	Keil
Lori	McGregor
Ryley	Theien
Ethan	Strike
Jill	Pellegrino

\* If you are an Aries but didn't see your name in this list, please update the birthday field on your membership account today!

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## **Maximizing Court Time: The Art of Sharing Pickleball Courts** *contributed by Joe Johnson*

Pickleball, a fast-growing sport beloved for its accessibility and camaraderie, often faces the challenge of limited court availability. Whether at public parks or private clubs, sharing courts is essential to accommodate all players. Here are some tips for maximizing court time and fostering a harmonious playing environment:



*Photo courtesy of Owen Riss*

1. **Respect Court Time Limits:** Be mindful of the designated time slots for each game. If others are waiting, please adhere to paddles up rules.
2. **Rotate Players:** Implementing a rotation system ensures fair play and equal court time for all participants. After each game, players can rotate out to allow others to join in. This keeps the games dynamic and inclusive.
3. **Communicate Effectively:** Clear communication is key to avoiding conflicts and misunderstandings. Use a friendly and respectful tone when discussing court usage and rotation schedules with fellow players.

4. **Be Flexible:** Sometimes unforeseen circumstances arise, such as inclement weather or unexpected delays. Be willing to adapt to changes in scheduling and remain flexible to accommodate everyone's needs.
5. **Practice Good Sportsmanship:** Remember that pickleball is not just about winning—it's about enjoying the game and fostering a sense of community. Practice good sportsmanship by encouraging others, congratulating opponents on their successes, and maintaining a positive attitude throughout your time on the court.
6. **Consider Alternatives:** If court availability is consistently limited, explore alternative options such as scheduling off-peak hours, joining a pickleball league with dedicated court time, or seeking out additional courts in nearby areas.
7. **Utilize Waiting Areas:** While waiting for your turn to play, use the designated waiting areas to stretch, warm up, or socialize with other players. This helps optimize court usage and keeps players engaged while waiting for their turn.
8. **Share Court norms with new and visiting players:** Whenever possible, share welcome new and visiting players. Politely let them know how to get into games and any rules that are in place. This promotes a sense of unity and cooperation among players.

By following these guidelines, players can effectively share pickleball courts and create a welcoming environment where everyone can enjoy the game to the fullest. With a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, the joy of pickleball can be shared by all.

***“Inclusion elevates all.”*** – Elaine Hall

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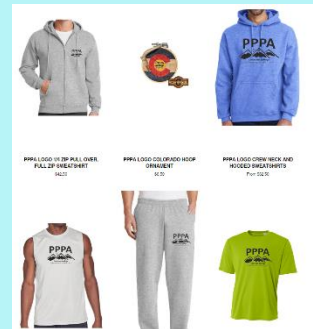
### In Memoriam

Sadly, we were informed that PPPA member Richard “Doc” Ratliff passed away on Feb 13th. Diane, his wife, told us “He loved playing pickleball and so enjoyed your PPPA.” Our condolences go out to his family and friends. Richard’s obituary can be found [here](#).

### Announcing the New PPPA Store

The [New PPPA Store](#) is now live and merchandise bearing the PPPA logo is available. A 20% donation from each purchase ordered from the PPPA tab will go back to our organization. We are looking forward to our collaboration with Goody and Risa of Goodwins Mercantile, who will be managing our store.

If someone wants something they don't see listed on the website just make contact through the website and Goodwins Mercantile will be happy to look for other colors or styles of clothing. If you do not hear back from them within 24 hours, it is likely that they did not get the message. (They are located in Green Mountain Falls and find communication to occasionally be unreliable).



### Going High Tech to Increase Your Pickleball Tournament Playtime

You may see the PPPA Board members out on the courts with some new equipment and wonder what are they doing now? The PPPA recently purchased two new VAPTRs for those rainy days during the tournament.



“The VAPTR ROLLR removes up to 95% of water from a court surface with a single pass minimizing court down time. Our patented 100% mechanical technology is far superior to a court squeegee and collects water letting you release it off court with ease, all without the use of electricity or gas. No batteries, no motor, no fuel, no noise, no squeegee... Just you! VAPTR is constructed of Stainless-Steel Hardware, 6061 Aircraft Aluminum and Commercial Grade Plastic for compact design for outdoor storage. Remove water and dry courts faster with the VAPTR ROLLR.” *From the VAPTR website*

The [VAPTR ROLLR](#) is the most advanced court drying machine on the planet!



# Off THE COURT

APRIL 2024

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## 2024 COLORADO OPEN *PIKES PEAK OR BUST*

**Friday August 2nd thru Sunday August 4th**  
MVP Park Courts, Colorado Springs, CO

**Registration is Open to ALL Ages including Seniors – No Memberships required**

Men's Singles/Doubles, Women's Singles/Doubles, and Mixed Doubles  
Wheelchair Doubles, Singles and Hybrid Doubles  
Age groups 15-34 and 35-49, Skill levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0  
Senior 5 year, 50-80+ Age/Skill Tournament, Skill levels - 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+



Registration is Now Open on  
[PickleballBrackets.com](https://PickleballBrackets.com)



Registration is \$45, plus \$10 for each event through June 30. Starting July 1, Registration is \$55, plus \$10 for each event till registration closes July 23. USSP/SSIPAs members will receive a \$10 discount. Registration for Wheelchair participants is \$30, plus \$5 for each event. *This year registrants get a choice of paying through PayPal or Stripe. Stripe is like the Affinipay we use for our PPPA website – it just takes your card information and doesn't try to make you set up an account. This should make it easier for registrants to get through the registration process*

**Free tournament T-Shirt for each registrant.**

**For more information contact:**

Tim Kuss: [tim02701@protonmail.com](mailto:tim02701@protonmail.com)

Joe Johnson: [joejohnson757@yahoo.com](mailto:joejohnson757@yahoo.com)

**Approved USSP Circuit Event/USSeniorPickleball.com**

To contribute articles or suggestions contact Shirley Marquardt-Tynan [bb1pickleball@gmail.com](mailto:bb1pickleball@gmail.com).







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Thanks to tourism-related City grant funding, the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association can offer this event at **reduced registration rates that include a tournament t-shirt as well as a free pizza “meet & greet” social** for our tournament players/guests and our tournament support staff. Pizza and soft drinks will be served on **Thursday afternoon around 4:30 PM on August 1<sup>st</sup>** (the day before the start of the tournament event) at the Monument Valley Park Pickleball courts which will also be open that day for players pre-tournament practice.

Based on the success of last year’s Wheelchair competition, we are expanding the participation to 24 wheelchair athletes that will be integrated into the normal doubles and singles competition schedule. This will be unique, and possibly a first-of-a-kind opportunity, for these amazing athletes to compete in a major regional tournament.

★ **2024 COLORADO OPEN -** ★

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# PIKES PEAK



# OR BUST

# TOURNAMENT

**LARGEST  
WHEELCHAIR  
PICKLEBALL  
COMPETITION IN  
COLORADO!**

**ONLY 24 WHEELCHAIR SLOTS**

**\$30 ENTRY FEE**

**\$5 PER EVENT**

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 2-4**

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★ **COLORADO SPRINGS, CO** ★





**SINGLES, DOUBLES, AND HYBRID PLAY**

**REGISTER ON**  
**PICKLEBALLBRACKETS.COM**



To contribute articles or suggestions contact Shirley Marquardt-Tynan [bb1pickleball@gmail.com](mailto:bb1pickleball@gmail.com).







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## On-the-Court Calendar

**Mondays,** 2:00pm 2.0 RR - MVP.  
email Paula Buczak at [paula599577@yahoo.com](mailto:paula599577@yahoo.com)

**Tuesdays,** 1:00pm 4.0 RR Bear Creek.  
email Ronnie Bincer @ [ronniebincer@gmail.com](mailto:ronniebincer@gmail.com)  
2:00pm 3.5 RR - MVP.

email Betty Moses @ [dorbmoses70@gmail.com](mailto:dorbmoses70@gmail.com) and Patty Doerr @ [pattydoerr@gmail.com](mailto:pattydoerr@gmail.com)

**Wednesdays,** 2:00pm 3.0 RR - MVP&BC.  
email Karen Mogge @ [klmogge@comcast.net](mailto:klmogge@comcast.net)

**Thursdays** , 2:00pm 2.5 RR - MVP.  
email Terry Sloan at [tsloan16@gmail.com](mailto:tsloan16@gmail.com)  
1:00pm 3.5 RR - BC.

email Betty Moses @ [dorbmoses70@gmail.com](mailto:dorbmoses70@gmail.com) and Patty Doerr @ [pattydoerr@gmail.com](mailto:pattydoerr@gmail.com)

**Fridays** 2:00pm 2.5 RR - BC.

email Terry Sloan at [tsloan16@gmail.com](mailto:tsloan16@gmail.com)

**Saturdays** 9:00am Beginning Lessons available April thru mid-October  
Go to <https://pikespeakpickleball.com/free-lessons> and sign up.



**13 April** PPPA Quarterly Board Meeting 10:15am – 12:00pm Pikes Peak Library – East Library 5550 N Union Blvd. Room F1. Please email [info@pikespeakpickleball.com](mailto:info@pikespeakpickleball.com) to submit a public comment prior to the meeting.

**19-21 April** [Springs 1v1 Singles Smash Tournament](#)

**27-28 April** [Pickle with a Purpose Canon Springs, CO](#)

**17-19 May** [Springs We Love our Heroes](#)

**18-21 July** [2024 Rocky Mountain State Games by PIG](#)

**2-4 Aug 2024 Colorado Open - Pikes Peak or Bust, a USSP circuit event** ( PPPA Event. This tournament is unique in that 100% of the PPPA proceeds goes directly back into 'all things pickleball' including pickleball programming - from free introductory lessons to weekly organized round robin play to community outreach events to the upkeep, improvement, and expansion of pickleball courts in the Colorado Springs area.)

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## Hall of Fame

Thank you to ALL the organizations that help and sponsor us in our mission. Listed below are our premier sponsors. If you have an interest in being a [PPPA sponsor click here](#).



LODGING & AUTO RENTAL TAX

**PROUD TO SUPPORT THE  
PIKES PEAK PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION!**

**ROBERTA LOUGHMAN  
719-332-8083**

**SENIOR REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST**

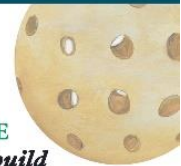


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PROUD SPONSOR OF PIKES PEAK PICKLEBALL



Leveraging our  
**EXPERIENCE**  
to help *build*  
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[Please click the balloon.](#)



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## From Springs Pickleball:

**SINGLES SMASH**

**1v1 DUPR TOURNAMENT**  
**April 19, 20 & 21**

**PRICE REDUCED!!!**  
**Members - \$35, Guests - \$70, Unlimited - FREE**

Offering Both Over 50 & Under 50 Events:  
Men's 4.5-5.0 / 4.0-4.5 / 3.5-4.0 / 3.0-3.5  
Women's 4.0-4.5 / 3.5-4.0 / 3.0-3.5

Members - \$35 - Non-Members - \$70 and Unlimited Members are FREE!

We also expanded the tournament and added a Men's 3.0-3.5 event!

We expect this tournament to fill up quickly so don't wait to register!!!

If you don't have a Singles DUPR Rating, just list your Doubles Rating in the DUPR Rating box.

We look forward to seeing you all in 4 weeks for this spectacular event. Spectators welcome!!!!

CLICK BELOW TO REGISTER:

<https://app.courtreserve.com/Online/Events/List/8778/7SAC6Q9YSG8778>

**SPONSORS NEEDED**  
*Show your support for our Local Heroes*

*Sponsor Dollars Go to Support Mt. Carmel Veteran Services, Fire Foundation of Colorado Springs & Shield 616*

**MAY 17, 18 & 19**  
**First Responders & Armed Forces Appreciation PICKLEBALL Tournament**

**BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES:**

- \$250**  
Sponsor Banner, & Logo on Tournament Advertising
- \$400**  
Sponsor Banner, Promo Table/Space  
Logo on Tournament Advertising
- \$500**  
Logo on Tournament Shirt, Sponsor Banner,  
Logo on Tournament Advertising  
Promo Table/Space, Directly Sponsor 1 Team

**To become a sponsor please call Julie at 719-640-1711 or email [julie@springspickleball.com](mailto:julie@springspickleball.com)**

Springs Pickleball is looking for sponsors for the 2nd Annual First Responders & Armed Services Appreciation Tournament this May!!!

Please join us in honoring our beloved local heroes!!!

If you are interested, please call Julie at 719-640-1711 or email [julie@springspickleball.com](mailto:julie@springspickleball.com) for details.

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# PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

**APRIL 27 - 28, 2024**  
3.0, 3.5, & 4.0 BRACKETS

**MENS AND WOMENS DOUBLES**  
Saturday, April 27

**MIXED DOUBLES**  
Sunday, April 28

**AWESOME FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT**

On April 27th and 28th 2024, Starpoint will host our annual Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser at Rouse Park in Canon City, CO. All proceeds will benefit Starpoint, a local non-profit organization. We would love to have you join us as we play Pickleball with a purpose! This tournament will help to support individuals and families, in the communities that Starpoint serves, across southern Colorado.



**PICKLE with a PURPOSE**

**SIGN UP TODAY ON: PICKLEBALLBRACKETS.COM**




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