

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

The Non-Volley Zone – PPPA Board

Pikes Peak Pickleball Associations weekly BLASTS converting to a monthly Newsletter

Several years ago, PPPA started publishing a weekly BLAST. The weekly PPPA Blast was used to inform our members about what was happening within the organization as well as within the pickleball community. The weekly Blasts were also a means for our sponsors to reach out to our members with the goods or services they offered and to serve as a means of fundraising for the organization. Producing a weekly blast put a lot of work on our all-volunteer staff. To lessen the workload and provide a better-quality product for our members and sponsors, the decision was



made to move to a monthly newsletter format in lieu of the weekly blasts. We hope that this will foster greater readership and involvement from our members in providing pickleball-related news and information. On occasion we may still see a need for an impromptu Blast in between monthly issues. We welcome your thoughts and comments on this new format and hope that you all enjoy it monthly. Send feedback [here](#).

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



Joe Johnson - President Pikes Peak Pickleball Association

Joe has served as the President of Pikes Peak Pickleball Association for the last 4 and a half years. As a formal 5.0 rated tennis player, his transition to pickleball was easy. Joe is one of the most recognizable figures in the pickleball community and has worked to grow the sport locally as well as nationally. He retired from the U.S. Army where he served 20 years as a Senior Logistical Specialist. Originally from Virginia, Joe settled here in Colorado Springs after retiring from the military. He has continued his service as a Government Civilian, having worked at NORAD-USNORTHCOM and currently as a Program Analyst for HQ USSPACECOM. Joe has a B.S. degree in Public Administration and a Master's degree in Homeland Security Management. Joe continues to work tirelessly to grow the sport of pickleball here in Colorado Springs as PPPA seeks to recruit a new President for the organization. Want to know who else is on your board or

how to contact them? [Link here](#).

Special Promotion

This month Scheels has a special promotion for 20% off Pickleball Equipment (in store only) at the Colorado Springs location from March 2- 17, 2024 for PPPA members.

[Click here](#), print out your coupon, and go pickleball equipment shopping at Scheels to get your discount!



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Its All About Business – Jeff Jensen, Treasurer

Although the first few months of the year might be slow on the courts, it's a busy time for the business side of PPPA. The annual audit of PPPA's financial records was conducted by three volunteers on February 17th. The auditors found no errors and gave PPPA's financials a passing grade. It's important to note that the Treasurer is never on the audit team and is present only to answer the auditors' questions.



Over the years, several members have asked why PPPA does not have full CPA audits. The simple answer is money. A CPA audit would be several thousand dollars, and that's money that can be spent on services for our members! You can see the auditors' report by clicking [here](#).

What Has PPPA Done for You Lately – Jeff Norton, Acting Past President

Here's a summary from our PPPA Year End Report of the major accomplishments in 2023. Go to the [Blast](#) to get more details.

City & Government Relations

- PPPA 2024 Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) Award for \$23,000
- 18-20 Dedicated Pickleball Courts at Coleman Community Park

Communications and Public Relations

- Community Outreach--37 Start-up Pickleball clubs and counting, including Palmer Lake
- PPPA lessons for Liberty Heights residents

Education and Training Activities

- Round Robin league play
- Beginning Lessons to 400+ students including AARP members
- Guided Play
- Doubles Ladder Play and a new Ladder Play program for Singles

PPPA Finances

- Financial records converted to QuickBooks for more efficient reports and projections
- Annual Financial Audit: All Books in Order
- PPPA Planned Budget for 2024

Membership

- Membership stats
- Improvements to On-line Store
- New paddle-up troughs MVP and signage at MVP and JVCP
- Membership 'Dinks & Dips' Ice Cream Social

Sponsor and Donor Relations

- Over \$19,000 in combined cash, goods and services from donor contributions
- Members should help refer additional potential business owners as PPPA Sponsors

Tournaments

- Colorado Pickleball Open—Pikes Peak or Bust (40 different CO cities and 12 other States)
- PPPA Round Robin Membership tournament events



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Membership Minutes – Carolyn Engquist, Membership Director



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.

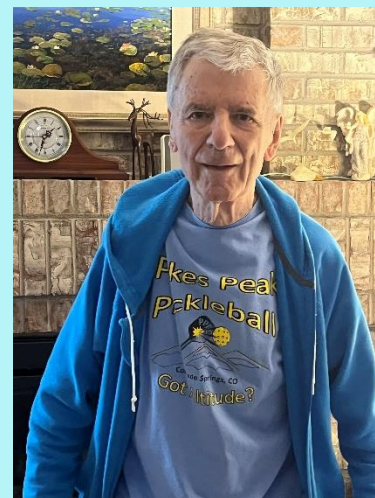
As of January 1 we have 35 new members and 55 renewals. With the weather so unpredictable it's difficult to plan too far ahead, but please keep in mind the Round Robins are being played weekly weather permitting. Don't forget to sign up for the singles and doubles ladder

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 – Bob Holman, Historical Committee Chair

In the Spotlight –Today in the spotlight, we have longtime member Bob Holman. Bob is from Hazleton, PA but has led a life across the USA. He graduated from Lehigh University with a Bachelors in Finance, and was drafted into the Korean War. Fun fact: as a Dispersing Specialist he got to pay General MacArthur. After service he earned an MBA from the Wharton School. He married and has three sons. Bob worked as a Systems Engineer with some of the first commercial computers working for IBM and Xerox living in Philadelphia, and then Los Angeles. After a divorce, he lived 'the good life' for 10 years with an apartment on the beach in Long Beach. He used one of the first video dating services and there he met Janet. One month after their first date, they were engaged, then married a year later. Earthquakes scared them away from LA and they checked out Denver and

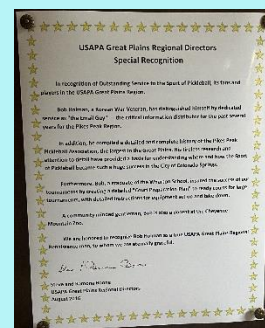
Albuquerque, and decided to live in the Springs.



In 2011, working as a Business Broker, an appraiser Bob was working with told him about Pickleball. Bob took over the email list of 75 players, who had been playing for 10 years. When the deteriorating court conditions caused Jeff Norton a nasty fall from which he got up after an ½ hour, Bob approached the local Tennis pro and Colorado College, but no one had an interest. When the team approached Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation, paddle and ball in hand, they were told if

they raised the money, they could repair the courts. And so, the story of Pikes Peak Pickleball Association began.

Bob found pickleball to be a 'wonderful social event' and played three times a week both summer and winter! Today, Bob is 93 years old and retired from pickleball when he started to have a balance problem leading to Parkinsons Disease 7 years ago. He continues to contribute to the community as the Historical Committee Chair for Pikes Peak Pickleball Association.



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



Paraphrasing Cyndi Lauper’s Song, “Girls just want to have fun”. We all just wanna have fun and PLAY, PLAY, PLAY. Pickleball has exploded over the last couple years, which is evident by how crowded the weekend play is getting. There is an estimated 5 million Pickleball players in the US and it is growing worldwide. Is it a fad, pandemic or addiction? I guess that depends on who you ask. For myself it is an addiction, from the first time my wife and I took Beginning Lessons together almost 5 years ago. I believe this sport is fast growing because:

- It is definitely Fun, even the way I play it.
- It is more affordable than most other sports.
- Easy to Learn, except scoring, serving, volley and dinking.
- We can play it in almost any space. I’ve played in my brother and son’s driveways. On the top of an extinct volcano. YUP not too hot.
- Helps us obtain our fitness goals.
- It is a Lifetime Sport. We can play with family, friends of all ages.

So, 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](#)



Pisces (February 19 - March 20) -

Pisces players bring a touch of magic to the pickleball court, weaving fluid, and graceful movements into their play. These water signs have a natural intuition for the game, often making shots that seem impossible to others. Their gentle demeanor belies their competitive spirit, making them enchanting and formidable opponents. PPPA Members celebrating birthdays February 19 through March 20.

Kay	Dickson
Carol	Lory
Margaret	Moynihan
Nancy	Boesche
Terry	Alley
Barbara	Blumer
Kris	Bradley
Becky	Linsky
Daniel	Brant
Judy	Keating
Larry	McGough
Sandra	Bandfield
Joe	Azar
Phillip	Helvie
Jeanne	Gregor
Mic	Davis
Kathy	Butler

Terry	Stahl
Chris	Lawrence
Jeanette	Keter
Owen	Riss
Ruth	Tarcza
Patricia	Hall
Steve	Lutz
Troy	Fant
Linda	Mardosz
Jan	Fairchild
Charles	Parnell
Susan	Kershaw
Nan	Muno
Barbara	Anderson
Sue	Culver
Susan	Hess
Rick	Carney

Joan	Hofer
Paul	Wolfe
Brenda	Myers
Patti	Lynch
Wendy	Tomme
Julie	Raber
Lisa	Ramsey
Bill	Kreighbaum
Kathryn	Presnal
Kurt	Lang
Robin	Schwartz
Bill	Burmeister
Joe	Cocklin
Agnes	Ortega
Sandi	Swinford
Bradley	Rubottom
Dana	Retting

Paul	Bermani
Patricia	Mueller
Ron	Pausa
Chip	MacLaren
Fred	Brown
Dawn	Kruger
Linda	Pash
Elisa	Heinzel
Cathlin	Parker
Cori	Cathcart
Brenda	Darnall
Michael	Gundrum
Robyn	Grantz
Becky	Gundrum
Mary Beth	Robinson
Jannette	Figuroa
Bryre	Malone

We wish you all a very Happy Birthday!

* If you are a Pisces but didn’t see your name in this list, please update the birthday field on your membership account today!



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Pickleball Connections

I was at Bear Creek and was asked a question about paddling up today. Here are the guidelines from the PPPA website, originally submitted by Dong Nguyen.

When all courts are being used and other players are waiting to play, the PPPA has established the following paddle up system at Monument Valley Park (MVP), Bear Creek, and John Venezia:

- The parks have either a trough or a rack system. Paddles are stacked (4 for doubles, 2 for singles) in the trough from right to left; the paddles to the right go to the next open court and other paddles move to the right.
- If you are a single player or have an odd numbered group, please request to include your paddle with another group.
- Games are played 1-11, win by 2 and then leave the court so the next group up can take the open court.
- When you finish your game and leave the court, call out “**COURT OPEN**” and the group to the right in the trough will go to the open court.



On-the-Court Calendar

Mondays, 2:00pm 2.0 RR - MVP.
email Paula Buczak at paula599577@yahoo.com

Tuesdays, 1:00pm 4.0 RR Bear Creek.
email Ronnie Bincer @ ronniebincer@gmail.com
2:00pm 3.5 RR - MVP.

email Betty Moses @ dorbmoses70@gmail.com and Patty Doerr @ pattyodoerr@gmail.com

Wednesdays, 2:00pm 3.0 RR - MVP&BC.
email Karen Mogge @ klmogge@comcast.net

Thursdays, 2:00pm 2.5 RR - MVP.
email Terry Sloan at tsloan16@gmail.com

1:00pm 3.5 RR - BC.
email Betty Moses @ dorbmoses70@gmail.com and Patty Doerr @ pattyodoerr@gmail.com

Fridays 2:00pm 2.5 RR - BC.
email Terry Sloan at tsloan16@gmail.com

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

28-30 June [NP The Springs Classic Powered by Onix](#)

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](#).



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Call to the Court – Maureen Logue, Secretary



Spring is just around the corner, but snow will still fall. Please remember that shoveling the courts is not allowed. It has come to our attention that several players (I don't think they are PPPA members) have made their way into closed courts and have been playing when the city or county has closed the courts. Please be reminded the city/county just spent a lot of money on re-surfacing the courts and does not want them damaged by snow and ice removal.

If the courts are closed, we should not hold any PPPA sanctioned play on the courts. Signs are posted at MVP, JVP and Bear Creek with

Open/Closed status. Occasionally, the county and city will post an update on their Facebook pages. Check them out at [EPCParks](#) and [CoSpringsParks](#).

Don't Get Pickled – Skills Assessment for 4.0

USA Pickleball is a great source of articles around everything pickleball. While playing with a friend trying to improve her own game, she mentioned reading about the [20+ skills](#) necessary to move up to 4.0. If like me you are at a lower level, we can still use this list of skills to master our own game, to focus our drilling and training, and to move on up! So what skills are you going to drill next?

1. Consistently hits forehand with depth and control
2. Consistently hits backhand with depth and control
3. Consistently gets serve in with varying depth and speed
4. Consistently gets return of serve in with varying depth and speed
5. Consistent and dependable overhands (directional control, depth, and placement)
6. Accurate in placing lobs
7. Able to sustain dink rally with control, height, and depth of shot
8. Understands which balls are attackable and those that are not in a dink rally
9. Sustains a dink exchange with patience at the net to elicit a "put away" shot
10. Consistently executes 3rd shot drop from the baseline to approach the net
11. Able to change soft shots to power shots to create an advantage
12. Able to volley a variety of shots at varying speeds
13. Able to block and return fast, hard volleys
14. Able to control NVZ (non-volley zone) keeping their opponents back
15. Aware of partners position on the court and moves as a team
16. Solid understanding of stacking and when and how it can be used effectively
17. Demonstrates ability to change position in an offensive manner (switching)
18. Demonstrates a broad knowledge of the rules of the game
19. Has a moderate number of unforced errors per game
20. Can identify opponents' weaknesses and formulate plan to attack weaknesses
21. Plays competitively in tournaments
22. Has good mobility, quickness, and hand-eye coordination