



# PEAK TO PEAK PICKLEBALL CLUB

## March 2024 newsletter

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By [Cheryl Piderit](#)

We're looking forward to the March board meeting – the first with new board members Cami Jamerson and Stephanie Rumold. We have been working closely this past month with Alex and Stephanie McDonald on the transition of their positions. We'll have more information to share in the coming month.

The March Board of Directors meeting will be held 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at the Buena Vista Community Center, 715 E. Main St. Please feel free to join us.

#### Local representation

The Town of Poncha Springs will hold an election for three trustee positions on April 2, 2024, with mail-in ballots going out on March 11. Peak to Peak Pickleball Club is happy to announce that four members are running: Thane Good, Leann Olson, Hunter Sydnor and James Baker. As part of our mission to expand facilities in Chaffee County, it would be helpful to have some of our members in elected positions. If you have any questions for them, please feel free to contact them directly.

One way or the other, please remember to vote and share this information with your friends in Poncha Springs.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

By [Marnie Knapp](#)

As of Feb. 27, 2024, Peak to Peak Pickleball Club had 401 members! With the exploding popularity of pickleball, we're gaining new members every week. Here are a few things that new members may not be aware of (and perhaps can be a refresher for "veterans" as well).

**Nets.** When you come to Centennial Park or the fairgrounds, get a net and set it up. Don't wait for someone to do it for you. If you don't know how to put up a net, ask for help. When you finish play, check to see if someone would like to use your net. If not, take the net down. To refold the net, leave the posts in their sleeves, fold the net in half twice and roll it up. Stow all the pieces in the bag, zip it up and put it away. Lately, the nets at Centennial have been a mess. If you need help, ask; if you see someone struggling, offer help.


**Clutter-free is safer:** Bags and backpacks aren't allowed inside the fenced areas at the Salida and BV courts. They're a tripping hazard. Water bottles are OK.

**Ball!** During play, if an errant ball rolls into your court, look to see where it came from, make eye contact with the person you're returning it to before throwing or hitting it back. This way the stray ball doesn't interrupt any other games.

**Eyes:** Consider wearing eye protection. You only have one set of eyes – they're very valuable.

**Up and down:** Most players have the most fun when playing with others of the same skill levels. Read the [Pickleball Guru's Tips for Playing Up and Down](#) or you can click on and read or print the images below for the guru's great tips. Want to improve your skills? Find a drill partner, check out YouTube for pickleball drills and get to the courts for regular drilling.

**THE PICKLEBALL GURU'S  
TIPS FOR "PLAYING UP"**




When you want to play with or against players who are STRONGER than you:

- ☑ **Ask Politely and Give Them an Out.** For example, "Do you all mind if I get a game in with you, or would you rather play on your own?"
- ☑ **Ask at the Beginning or End of the Day.** Approach when they are warming up or cooling down. DON'T go when they are in the midst of a streak of higher-level play.
- ☑ **Accommodate Their Flow.** If you DO approach them in the midst of higher-level play, accommodate their flow. Ask "Hey, do you mind if I get a game in with you all before you quit today?" so that they can continue playing, but will hopefully commit to playing with you later.
- ☑ **Be Conscientious.** If they do play a few games with you, make it easy for them to bow out and play with other higher-level players so that they will be more likely to want to play with you again in the future. You might say, "Hey, I see you can get a good game in against those guys, I'll sit this one out and maybe we can play again later if you have a chance."
- ☑ **Hit to Them!** No one likes to watch their partner hit all the balls during recreational play. The higher-level player is doing you a favor by playing with you, so hit the ball to them *at least half the time*. It will make you a better player, make it more fun for them, and make it more likely that they will play with you again next time.
- ☑ **Don't Be Obnoxious If You Win.** It can be challenging to stay focused when playing with weaker players, so they may not be playing at the top of their game. Or, they may be focusing on improving their own shots. Either way, be gracious.
- ☑ **Show Your Appreciation.** If they give you feedback on your game, have an open mind and be appreciative of them taking the time to play and help you.
- ☑ **Don't Take It Personally.** Some people just aren't going to be very friendly about it. Don't let them get to you. Remember, it's only pickleball! 🍷

More Great Tips at: [www.THEPICKLEBALLGURU.com](http://www.THEPICKLEBALLGURU.com) THE PICKLEBALL GURU

**THE PICKLEBALL GURU'S  
TIPS FOR "PLAYING DOWN"**



When you play with or against players who are WEAKER than you:

- ☑ **Remember Where You Came From.** Who took you under their wing when you first started playing? Chances are you've improved your game since then by getting to play with better players, so pay it forward and make a point to regularly play with players who are weaker than you. You could regularly play a warm-up game with them, or once a week decide to dedicate the last 30-45 minutes of your play to playing with them, it's up to you. Just find a way to pay it forward.
- ☑ **If Now's Not Good, Say When.** If someone asks to play with you and you opt to play a higher-level game instead, let them know when you WOULD be willing to play, perhaps later in the day, or later in the week.
- ☑ **Give Them a Head's Up On How Long You'll Stay.** When you do play, let them know in advance how long you're planning to play, you might say, "I'd love to play with you all for a game or two, but then I'd like to get in with those other players."
- ☑ **Don't Be Patronizing -- Or, Overly Aggressive.** Instead of focusing on who wins or loses, find a way to make it challenging for yourself. Pick a shot you want to improve upon and focus on hitting that shot. Or, try to reduce your number of unforced errors. Focus on consistency and keeping the ball in play rather than slamming every put-away shot you get.
- ☑ **Limit Your Feedback.** If you notice something they could be doing better, limit your feedback to one aspect of their game during play. Giving them too many pointers can overwhelm them. Plus, they're probably already a little nervous about being on the court with you, so don't be too critical. Afterwards, if you want to give them more background info on your pointer, or give them one additional pointer, go ahead, but start out by asking permission first, "Would you like to hear more about what I noticed about your game?"

More Great Tips at: [www.THEPICKLEBALLGURU.com](http://www.THEPICKLEBALLGURU.com) THE PICKLEBALL GURU



**SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE  
CORNER**



By [Diane Cannella](#) and [Molly Frauenhoff](#)

### **BV ladder event success**

A BIG thank you to Stephanie Rumold for initiating ladder events at Buena Vista's Darren Patterson Christian Academy! The first, on Feb. 17 for 2.5/3.0 level, was filled up quickly with the maximum 12 participants. The event was very successful; players enjoyed the camaraderie and the competition. It was so successful that we've planned two more ladders this month (see below).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **March 16 & 30: BV arranged ladders**

REGISTRATION STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Due to the popularity and success of the ladder on Feb. 17, we have two more planned at Buena Vista's Darren Patterson Christian Academy, 518 S. San Juan Ave. Cost: \$7 per person. Please bring exactly \$7 if possible so there is no need to make change.

- Saturday, March 16: 3.5 level
- Saturday, March 30: 4.0+ level

Stephanie Rumold is coordinating these ladders and could use help. Please email Stephanie at [srumold@gmail.com](mailto:srumold@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering. A big thank you to Stephanie.

### **March 17: St. Patrick's Day gathering**

REGISTRATION REQUESTED

Wear your St. Patrick's Day green to socialize and play pickleball 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds North Building. The Social Committee will provide corned beef sliders, drinks and entertainment (Celtic music players). You bring a dish to pass, your pickleball paddle, smiles and Irish luck! We'll have two courts of Pickleball four square.

### **April 12 & 25: Meet, Greet and Plays**

REGISTRATION STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Tell your "wanna-be pickleball player" friends to sign up for a Meet, Greet and Play event to learn the great sport of pickleball. Cost: \$5 per participant. Both events are at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds:

- Friday, April 12, 7-9 p.m.
- Thursday, April 25, 9-11 a.m.

Coordinator Molly Frauenhoff needs helpers to help set up and provide tips/guidance to the participants. Please email her at [mfrauenhoff24@gmail.com](mailto:mfrauenhoff24@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering. Thanks much, Molly.

### **April 26: Cutthroat round robin**

REGISTRATION STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

The Social Committee will be holding a second winter round robin at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds 7-9 p.m. Friday, April 26, 3.5/4.0 (cutthroat/Group C). Cost: \$5 per participant.

Molly Frauenhoff is coordinating these events and could use volunteers to help set up and provide tips/guidance to the participants. Please email her at [mfrauenhoff24@gmail.com](mailto:mfrauenhoff24@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

### **May 5: Dinko de Mayo**

REGISTRATION REQUESTED

The second annual Dinko de Mayo will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds. Similar to last year, we'll celebrate the day with dinks, drinks and food. So come to mingle and dink with members of the wonderful P2P family.

**A NOTE ABOUT REGISTERING:** Many of our events are VERY popular. Registrations often reach the maximum number very quickly. Many sign up through [Events](#) on the [P2P website](#) before the events are announced by email (be sure to check [Events](#) frequently).

[website](#) before the events are announced by email (be sure to check [Events](#) frequently). Even if the event is full, go ahead and register to get on the waitlist. Cancellations often occur, and it's possible you'll automatically be registered (and notified) if you're next on the waitlist.

**Social Committee is the best!**

The Social Committee is fun and rewarding. Thank you to the committee members who work together to organize and hold these events. It takes a village!

If you'd like to learn more or have a question, contact Diane Cannella at (727) 744-9742 or [dlcannella@gmail.com](mailto:dlcannella@gmail.com) or Molly Frauenhoff at [mfrauenhoff24@gmail.com](mailto:mfrauenhoff24@gmail.com).

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Pickleball quote:

*"Despite its silly terms and funny name, pickleball is actually quite a sophisticated game."*

~ Bill Gates



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Newsletter editor [Terri Fleming](#)

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