



WCPC - 2020 Oct/Nov/Thanksgiving Newsletter

Back in October, the fall colors started showing up, the windy weather had helped clear our air locally, but hurt firefighting efforts here and in the West. Wyoming and Colorado were dealing with the largest fires they have ever seen. The beetle killed trees have created millions of acres of drought driven kindling. All the first responders were in our thoughts. We hope they all came safely home. Thankfully, Colorado and Wyoming received heavy snowfall, plus 16 inches in some areas and most fires were contained.

This November, fires still smoldered across the West, but winter snows and some rain in the Bay Area were surely welcome to put the fires out. The stormy election season is finally over, let's give thanks for that. The final certification of all state elections may still be a month away. Give thanks for our democracy, for our right to vote, for our country, for our citizens of every ethnicity. Give thanks for the diversity of California. Our country is still the "melting pot" society, as I remember it was called from childhood, rhythms and cultures all blending. Never hate and racism.... Our country, has always treated those in need with respect and kindness. Give thanks, that is who we are, USA.

Our club gives everyone a huge opportunity to meet the old and the young and the athletic and the recreation players. Give thanks! Pickleball has brought so many of us together. You have new players to play. Give thanks. You have new folks to drill with. Give thanks. You have new best friends. Give thanks. Pickleball has given us a daily break from the lockdown of Covid. Give thanks. Our members generosity, over all the years we have played at Rudgear Park, built the eight dedicated courts we play on. Give thanks. Our many Board of Directors over the years, volunteered hours to this club. Give thanks.

Seen on October 12th, CBS, 5 PM Newscast

Our member, **Rachael LaField** found the ballot box overflowing down in Danville and reported it. **Kathy Sostaric** let me know she had seen the broadcast. Thanks Rachael! So many are voted early and I guess some of the ballot boxes were filled to the brim!

Tournaments

The **Fall Brawl** was held in Utah, even though the Huntsman Senior Games was cancelled. **Batong Briones** and his partner **Brett Noel** won Gold in the Men's Doubles 5.0, 50-54. And **Mike Luevano** won Silver in the Men's Doubles, 4.0, 70-74. Mike also won Gold in the Mixed Doubles with **Barb Wintroub**.

Congratulations to both men who are keeping their skills razor sharp even in a pandemic.

Community Service Day

While the City decided to hold a Food Drive, this year, the club collected lots of food from neighbors and members. We took a car load to the Community Center at Heather Farms.

Our members, **Carol Manuel, Amy McDaniels and Greg Salmon, Maggie Hochfelder, Tosh Kuritsubo and Kris Hunter** donated food. A neighbor/friend of **Yarin Molad's, Tom**, brought many bags of food as did a neighbor of Kris Hunter's, **Janet Foster**. Thank you all for donating to the Food Bank.

The Club donated \$250 and **Brad Bolton** donated \$10 too. This, all in the spirit of helping others get by. The drive benefited the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. More than 35,000 pounds of food and approximately \$5000 in cash donations was collected. Many thanks to all that participated around Walnut Creek.

Our member **Kristin Lanham**, put out 100 bags in her entire neighborhood and collected a huge amount of food! Way to go Kristin!

We also did a little clean up outside the courts, clearing the path around the courts, of brush, weeds and small bushes creeping through the fencing. Thank you to all that helped! **Tosh Kuritsubo, Jon Rego, Carol Manuel, Amy McDaniels, Greg Salmon, Pam Cook, Steve Bagot, Brad Bolton, Brad Lowe, Tom Caldwell and Tom Caufield., and Hormoz Baba**. Our club has always contributed to keeping the pickleball court area free of weeds and brush. Thank you to the many, many members, over the past five years, that have given their time and energy to helping to keep the area around the courts, in good condition. Thanks you for participating in **Cindy Silva's** Community Service Day in Walnut Creek.

Kris Hunter and **Tosh Kuritsubo** have been the group leaders for the past five years. So many projects accomplished with so many club members. Give thanks. Many trees have been removed, six picnic tables built, that were donated by the city, we cleared wide paths to new gate, added truck loads of stone and then bark, so many wheel barrows full. A new bottle filler, water fountain from Public Works too. Give thanks to our City of Walnut Creek!

Welcome New Members

Members just keep joining our club. Pickleball just keeping growing as more and more take up the sport. Please welcome, **Rosie Bareis, Carrie Benuska, Danielle Boone, April Burstedt, Joe Dajani, Bob and Pam McQueen, and Austin Siler**.

Donations to the Club

We want to thank **Rusty Lent** also know as "**Rusty Nail**," for his donation of \$100 to the club. We will definitely use this at some future party or event. Many many thanks!! If you haven't met him yet, Rusty is a great guy, who loves to help players improve their games! He is also an IPTPA Certified Professional Pro. He started playing many years before any of us knew that the game existed. **Rob Baker**, yes **Pastor Rob Baker**, has had a pickleball court of his own for many years and he and Rusty battled there frequently, with other players..

Many of our members rounded up and donated extra dollars, to the club when they bought balls. Thank you, **Steve Bagot, Carol Manuel, Brad Bolton and Cindy Gershen! Thank you Tom Bishop, Mike Palucki "Chicago Mike", Jason Johnston and Mitch Goldblatt!!** Thank you **Monika Wyborny** and **Toney Parisi**.

Retirement

Speaking of **Rob Baker**, he is retiring from his church as head pastor. The **Oasis Christian Fellowship Church** has been run by Rob and his beautiful, **wife Linda**. Rob has produced many CD's of his music, which you could hear at the services. Linda played the organ and accompanied him too.

Rob is another great player that is always more than happy to show you how to play a better game and will also give you a real tour of the entire court! Great family!

Linda Baker, recently, and surprisingly, had a heart attack and is recovering well. We are all so thankful about her recovery! Prayers to you both.

Selling Balls

Did we ever thank **Laurie Savage** for helping the club sell our stored pickleballs? She did a great job before getting injured. And now she is getting back to play with her usual grace and put-away.

We have sold most of the Dura Fast 40's now.. We still have Franklin balls for sale, which are also the neon color for \$20 a dozen. They last longer in the colder weather we are starting to see. You can contact **Laurie Savage** or **Kris Hunter** if you need any.

Surprised to see on the Courts

The other day I was playing in Martinez and who comes walking by our court? **Tim Tamura and John and Krisana Swindell** and **Cedric DeVries**! What a crew! While we have seen **Cedric** back on the courts at Rudgear, we sure have missed **Tim and John and Krisana**. So great seeing these friends all playing together again!

I got to see **Elaine and Kevin Hennessey** and **Kelly Erardi** playing at Concord a few weeks ago.. So nice to see Elaine out on the courts with her hubby and Kelly. Of course, **Denny**, Kelly's wife was in Wisconsin visiting again. Great day!

Recently Seen at Rudgear

We were surprised and happy to see our past Board member, **Bill Marsh** at the Rudgear courts. He had a sore hip for months and did his own PT. After some cortisone, he was back teaching his daughter all about pickleball. He hopes to play with his brother at Nationals in November of 2021! Miss you Bill! Bill's daughter **MacKenzie**, an actress was on Grey's Anatomy this past week. Keep an eye out, she will be in some other episodes in about three weeks.

Debbie Yee was back recently also. She has not been playing as much, as she is baby sitting for her daughter much of the time. Nice seeing you Debbie!

Bob Walgren was back in action at Rudgear also. He has a group he plays with, **Linda Bower, Patty Andrews and Patty Spinrod** all from Rossmoor. Always good to see our regulars back on the Rudgear courts.

Ron Blasquez made an appearance at the courts a week or so ago. It had been way to long. We hope his wife is doing better and we have missed seeing him! He is the gentleman we always thank daily, for the gates that he designed and built, that keep the balls from rolling between the courts. He has been a long time member and a great help to our club. Give thanks for our own **MacGyver**!!

Steve Martin is still taking care of his wife **Leslie Holt** and we hear she is doing better too. Hope to see you soon Leslie.

Helene Rostock was back this last month, playing, drove over from Oakland, It had been months, to long! She and **Suzan Chu** met for some games. Glad to have you back Helene!

You might have notice **Lisa DiCarlo**, **Alma's** daughter playing more often. She is taller now at 16 years old! She plays many games with **Paul Johnson** one of our members from San Francisco, by way of England. He is a top 5.0 pickleball player and they have some great games with our members and others that come to play.. Try and catch one of their games next time they are on the courts. I learn something from Paul every time I watch him play. He participates in some videos with **Glen Lucey too**.

Gianni Givogri was at Rudgear recently. Haven't seen her in a while and I missed her the day she came to play. Hope to see you next time GG!!

Injured, Repaired and Coming Back

Mark Litzau started off months ago with a hamstring tear. I heard from him recently that he overdid his physical therapy in August which resulted in a new knee problem and a torn meniscus. After a lot of pain and suffering, he is now walking a few miles daily. He does not expect to be back on the courts for some time, as he does not want any more injuries. He and his wife **Alicia** are doing fine and planning some future trips. Hang in there Mark, we miss seeing you.

Monita Pang let me know the other day, that **Sylvia Sum** will be coming back to play very soon! So glad to have you back Sylvia. You have been in our thoughts.

Jack Gayle has been rehabbing his rotator cuff problem and hope he is on the mend.

Miriam Garfinkel, who is a PPR Teaching Pro, just had meniscus surgery on Friday and is doing well. She will be taking about six weeks to rehab. We will miss you.

Mike Paluki, "**Chicago Mike**" has been back on the courts after a knee replacement.. He is playing with **Dan and Julia Young** and **Duff Danilovich** often. Glad you are back Mike!

Dick Hildebrand had a back surgery over a month ago now. He is smart, down in Palm Springs with his wife **Lynn**, walking twice a day and rehabbing in the desert heat! We miss you both! Keep in touch! **Dick and Lynn** are past Board Members, for many many years. We give Thanks! Dick was also **President of the WCPC** for two years but was also the **Mayor of Walnut Creek!** Talk about public service!

Discovery Bay

The Discovery Bay Pickleball Club finally got their six new dedicated pickleball courts opened after a lot of hard work fund raising, holding many tournaments, applying for grants and holding many other events to raise money. They are now located at 1601 Discovery Bay Blvd.. Their old courts were in Cornell Park. So happy for their club members and Board that worked hard to get them! **Bob Lyman** is still on their Board. He has also been a long time member of WCPC.

Pickleball in Danville?

Two players that come to Rudgear, have been lobbying for pickleball courts in Danville. **Stewart Proctor** and **Ben Crockett**. On Nov. 12th, I sat in on the presentation that Ben gave to the Danville Parks and Rec. Great presentation and great questions from the youngest member, the Youth Advisor, Kyler. He had played pickleball and was smart about what might be needed. Ben made a good case to have dedicated courts at one of two locations. Danville supports emerging trends, and pickleball is listed. **Whallen Fong**, one of our members, helped text information during the zoom meeting to help answer a few questions.

Danville had spent \$750K on bocce courts and over a million on a skate park. Pickleball is available for so much less!

I told Ben and Stewart that we would love to host their Parks and Rec group someday at Rudgear. That should help sell it!

New Bay Club in Daly City

Tom Hartman, our Gearbox Paddle rep, ran an invitation only, event on Sunday, to introduce pickleball players to the new club. There are outdoor surfaced courts and at least 24 marked for pickleball. Tom hopes to secure this as an indoor place to play in the future. He is hoping to work out some type of hybrid plan to allow pickleball players to permanently play there. Once we are all through with these Covid days, this might be a great new facility in the Bay Area! Thanks Tom for all the information!

Rossmoor Pickleball - New Dedicated Courts

Linda Bower and **Carol Pillsbury** sent me some great news that was in the Rossmoor Newspaper. Many from the Rossmoor Pickleball Club, worked hard to present the need for new pickleball courts to the GRF Planning Committee last Thursday. . They currently only have three pickleball courts at Creekside, which has many issues with the foundation and the creek.

The project is on the list of recommended capital projects. The presentation was to convert two tennis courts, of the eight, at the Buckeye Tennis Facility, That would result in eight dedicated pickleball courts at a shared facility. Another option was to repair the Creekside courts and make six pickleball courts there. Golden Rain said that \$250 K was available for the conversion if it is approved! Wow!

Rossmoor Tennis Club has 190 members and they feel they need more tennis courts now. The Rossmoor Pickleball Club has **503 members** and has only three outdoor courts and two indoor courts, at the gym, which have been closed since March.

As our original club, founded in 2009 by **Bill Dougherty** and sister club now, in Walnut Creek, we think this is great news! We all still play together, much of the time with the more advanced players from Rossmoor. Good luck!

Also, we heard that **Bill and Joan Dougherty** have put their home in Rossmoor up for sale and are planning to live in Roseville near their son. We will certainly miss Bill and Joan. Oh! And we will miss their **dog, Ivy** too! I met Bill and Joan, when I joined the club in 2012. Bill was always helping all of us beginners learn the game. Such a wonderful couple, we really, **really** hate to see you go! Please stay in touch you two!

Southgate Park in Hayward

Our East Bay District Ambassador **Danny Borden** let us know that they are getting ready to have an opening celebration in Hayward. Two tennis courts were converted into six brand new dedicated courts with lights! He is working on signage and the project is near completion. Southgate Community Park is located at 26780 Chiplay Ave., Hayward, CA

Reminders

Try to remember to **park on the park side of the street** and give the neighbors directly across the street a break. No parking near trash cans on trash day, no parking near or over the sides of the driveways.

They do appreciate our help.

Have you met **Kiki** yet? She and her hubby sit in their garage across the street and down a few houses. They love to talk to the players as they are leaving. She can tell you all about **Keanu Reeves**, etc. Very nice neighbor.

Bringing our own chairs and masking up while waiting to play is still important. We want everyone safe and healthy! The city has posted new signs from the County Health Department to help remind us, too! We are also getting a new Official Rudgear Park sign from the City. It should list all the rules of play for Pickleball, as well as city ordinances and codes.

Rudgear Courts were Finally Cleaned

On Nov. 11th, Lifetime Tennis got our pickleball courts washed for the first time since last year.. They needed it, is an understatement. While the court surface is less slippery, the cracks on all courts seem to be growing. We are keeping track of that problem, as well as some damaged nets that could use replacing. We are thankful for clean courts.

Nice Compliment

We had a nice player, **Mike Summers** from Michigan, driving his motor home, stopped to play at Rudgear. He has been visiting National Parks and playing pickleball around the country. Sounds like fun doesn't it?

He and **Tosh Kuritsubo** and I decided to get a deli sandwich and meet in Alamo. On the way there, he forgot and left his phone on the top of Tosh's car. When they stopped and checked, it was gone. We all searched the area for a while. I remembered my son had helped me locate my phone once on his iPhone, the **Find My Phone** feature. I called my son and he helped us get the info entered on my iPhone.

Technology is amazing! There was Mike's phone, on the side of the road, no one had run over it! Tosh actually found it! It made Mike's day!

Besides finding his phone for him, he thought that we had the best group of players any place he had been on his two years of traveling. "Everyone is nice and friendly, inclusive, and it is a higher level of play too." Everyone should be proud!

Thanksgiving

There is always something to be thankful for...

Family, Friends, our homes, our health, our community and of course.....Pickleball!