

# 3rd Quarter 2024

written and edited by Dee Morris & Mark Nollsch



WALNUT CREEK PICKLEBALL CLUB

*Around the Post*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our members, both those who have recently joined and those who have renewed their memberships. Your support is invaluable, and the increased dues we're collecting are directly contributing to our planned financial commitment for the construction of new pickleball courts.

**New Court Development:** We're making steady progress in the development of new courts. This past quarter, a city-sponsored sound study for courts at Tice Valley Park was completed. The results have been shared with park neighbors and we are actively engaging with both Saint Anne's Church and the Fire Department. Our goal is to find a solution that meets the needs of the WCPC and the park neighbors alike. We've also shared our proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the city and are currently in negotiations regarding the terms, pending city approval of a court location. We're committed to keeping you updated as we move forward in this process.

Looking ahead, we have a face-to-face meeting planned in July with Saint Anne's Church and the Fire Department to discuss the new courts. We're also beginning preparations for the WCPC Club Tournament in October. More details on these events will be shared as they become available.

**Recent Club Activities:** The Board has been busy this quarter organizing events to bring our community together. We held a fun-filled Dinko de Mayo playdate and summer kick-off picnic, both of which were great successes.

**New WCPC Logo & Merchandise:** We've updated the WCPC logo and distributed new logo magnets to all members. We're also excited to announce that new WCPC logo merchandise is now available for purchase! We're offering men's t-shirts and women's racerback t-shirts for \$20 each, caps for \$35, and visors for \$30. To purchase, simply ask any board member; we accept payment via Venmo and PayPal. Keep an eye out for future expansions of our merchandise line, including different shirt styles, colors, and materials.

**SummerFest Tournament:** Mark your calendars for our upcoming tournament on July 27-28! We'll be offering gender doubles and mixed doubles events in skill divisions 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0+. Registration fee is \$35 per event, with a special \$10 discount for WCPC members (applicable to one event only). Don't miss out on this fun event - registration now available.

**New Player Meet-Ups:** We're thrilled to report that our first two beginner and novice-intermediate meet-ups were a huge success. These events, organized and led by our own board member Jill Shinkle, provide a great opportunity for players to find others of similar skill levels. To stay informed about future meet-ups, please reach out to Jill at the courts.

**Call for Volunteers:** While we're fortunate to have many wonderful members on our board, we can always use additional help. If you're interested in becoming more involved in the management and support of the WCPC, please reach out to me directly.

In conclusion, I want to thank you all again for your continued support and enthusiasm. Your participation makes our club vibrant and successful. Don't forget to check out our new merchandise, and we hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Best regards,  
Tony Parisi WCPC President

★ WALNUT CREEK PICKLEBALL CLUB ★

# SUMMERFEST

## TOURNAMENT



JULY 27-28, 2024 | WILLOW PASS

All proceeds go to building  
**more** public east bay courts!

Registration: [tinyurl.com/wcpc-summerfest](https://tinyurl.com/wcpc-summerfest)

## Registration Now Open!

2.5 - 4.0 Men's, Women's, Mixed Doubles

\$35 until July 13 | \$45 July 14-July 22

\$10 discount for WCPC members

(use "WCPC" at checkout)



## Questions?

Contact Skip Sewell, Tournament Director  
[mjsewell13@gmail.com](mailto:mjsewell13@gmail.com) | 512.589.5555

## WCPC Officers and Committee Chairs

<b>President</b>	Tony Parisi tonyparisi9@gmail.com 925.895.4376	<b>Tournament Director</b>	Skip Sewell mjsewell13@gmail.com 512.589.5555
<b>Vice President</b>	Michael Gabrielson cpa711@sbcglobal.net 925.899.5798	<b>Social Director</b>	Cindy Gershen cindymgershen@gmail.com 925.360.8543
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## Member Spotlight - Laurie Savage

Last year, the club wanted to honor those members that went above and beyond to make the entire clubs' experience exceptional by creating the **Sweetheart Award**.

*This year the Sweetheart Award has been bestowed to Laurie Savage!*

Ever wondered how pickleballs magically appear every morning? That's thanks to Laurie! She buys balls, bags them up and sells them for the club. She has sold 35,000 balls with all profits going to the club!

Laurie also volunteers to work the sign-up board whenever she's there, and finally, (and oh so important) is her willingness to put away the whiteboards, balls, donation box, markers and table.

What does Laurie like best about WCPC? She loves our welcoming and supportive atmosphere for all levels. She says, "Even the high-level players are willing to play a game or two to help less skilled players get better." Laurie often plays with newbies to make them feel included. She's such a *Sweetheart!*

Next time you see Laurie please thank her for all of her hard work and congratulate her on her award. *Recipients of the Sweetheart Award receive a \$50 gift card.*

We're lucky to have her and it's time to sing for another *Unsung Hero!*



*Lisa Regal announced this year's winner at the Annual Meeting.*



*Lisa presenting Laurie with the Sweetheart Award!*

## New WCPC Logo

We are extremely pleased and excited to announce and unveil the **new** Walnut Creek Pickleball Club logo!



The idea behind the design was to try and capture the essence of the club and Bay Area locale by incorporating a silhouette of Mt. Diablo!

We feel that the new logo is modern, simplified, and can withstand the passage of time. It will soon be featured on all future club communications, merchandise and social media platforms.

In celebration of the unveiling, each club member will receive a magnet with our new logo. If you haven't received yours yet, please contact a Board member.

Special thanks to our creative logo subcommittee comprised of CC Holland, David Holland, Brad Falk and Dee Morris who worked closely with designer Kathryn Besser to come up with the new logo.



## Annual Meeting and Picnic

The Annual Meeting and Picnic was held on June 2nd at Sportsmen's Park in Rossmoor. More than 60 members attended and indulged in Cindy Gershen's delicious Mexican fare of tortillas, grilled chicken and vegetables, tamales, guacamole and scrumptious cookies!

President Tony Parisi updated members on the sound study, proposed new courts at Tice Valley, unveiling of the new logo and merchandise, and upcoming club tournaments. He also introduced club member Dr. Craig DeVinney, who is running for Walnut Creek City Council. Craig endorsed the proposed courts at Tice Valley and asked for the pickleball community to consider supporting his candidacy this November.



# It was a Hubba-Hubba Day!

Walnut Creek pickleball clubba members enjoyed “Appreciation Day” at the HUBba with fun pickleball games and some yummy grubba. Thanks to all the organizers and the HUBba for hosting this superbba event!



# Random Act of Kindness

Around the Post was touched by a **Random Act of Kindness** displayed by none other than club member Chris Reilly.

On Sunday, April 9th, Chris was getting ready to warm up on Court #3 when he found a man's wallet containing about three hundred dollars. Instead of pickling, Chris immediately drove to the man's house to return the wallet. When he got there, the man didn't appear to be very grateful as he gave Chris a lukewarm thank you and said, "I thought it was in my car."



We wanted to do something special and acknowledge Chris for reminding us that a daily dose of kindness goes a long way. For his selflessness, we surprised Chris with a RAK certificate, random soda pop and pickleball bottle opener!

We hope his story inspires you to become a better and kinder person, and motivates you to spread a little cheer everywhere you go. Pip Pip Cheerio!

*"Imagine a world where you can succeed by being nice. Where we all pay it forward. Where people look out for each other. It all starts with an act." - RAK Foundation*

It was a fabulous day as club members celebrated **Cinco De Mayo** with a little food, fun, and pickleball flair! ¡Fue un día especial!



WCPC's Official Mascot

# Membership Update

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Welcome to the Newest Club Members!

<b>Jerry Arnold</b>	<b>Scott Bromstead</b>	<b>Cristina Castagnini</b>	<b>John Chabalko</b>	<b>Laura D'Anna</b>
<b>Drew Diefenbach</b>	<b>Craig DeVinney</b>	<b>Pete Dworkin</b>	<b>Jeff Elfont</b>	<b>Tim Garverick</b>
<b>Richard Inglis</b>	<b>Lauri Jones</b>	<b>Deb Kennedy</b>	<b>Sarge Kennedy</b>	<b>Beth Miller</b>
<b>Or Palmor</b>	<b>Kathryn Phillips</b>	<b>Julie Pryde</b>	<b>Julia Riller</b>	<b>Stuart Rowley</b>
<b>Cindy Tottle</b>	<b>Greg Ward</b>	<b>Kathy Williams</b>	<b>Bob Worthington</b>	<b>John Yoh</b>



*Mark Nollsch  
WCPC Membership  
Director*

**HELP!** A couple of members paid their 2024 dues using PayPal without identifying themselves:

- One dues payment was made on March 30th by “*The O House*”
- Another dues payment was made on Apr 12th by “*Pickleball/Tennis Teaching*”

If you can help identify these mysterious members, please contact Mark at [mark.nollsch@gmail.com](mailto:mark.nollsch@gmail.com), 925.695.7080.

Current club membership currently stands at 331 active members. Thank you all for supporting the club in our fund-raising efforts toward the new courts!

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*It's a bird, it's a plane, it's the lobinator!*

Actually, it was April 8th, the day of the total solar eclipse!

Club members Mark, Karen and Brad took a break from pickleball and donned their special eclipse glasses to partake in this historic event.

The eclipse was visible over a wide swath of North America, from Baja California across the Midwest and up through Ontario and Nova Scotia, Canada.

It was the longest totality on land for over a decade. Now that's out-of-this-world amazing!

## Jill's Corner

Meet Jill Shinkle WCPC Public / Community Relations Director  
email: [jill.shinkle@gmail.com](mailto:jill.shinkle@gmail.com)

*Jill has been working on a number of initiatives that she would like to share with you...*



### Game On for Friendlier Whiteboard Strategies

So, you and a friend put your name on the whiteboard and everyone else signs up in squares below you.



#### *What should you do?*

At WCPC, we all love a competitive game with people at our own level or with our best court buddies. But what about those less socially connected - newer or shy people or players who only occasionally come to Rudgear?

First, if you have unfilled slots in your square, or paddles hanging by themselves on the fence, be proactive! Stand by the board and as players come off the courts or arrive down the stairs, say, "Hey, we're looking for 2 (or however many)." Be friendly and persistent and don't take

it personally. If you're not successful in filling your square, then go out on the court with 2 or 3 players and drill or play for 15 minutes. This is definitely allowed!

Second, to all of our WCPC members, we ask you this important favor. Please make it a habit to look at the whiteboard for unfilled slots and take the admirable step to join that group for just one game. There are often experienced players in this situation, or out-of-town visitors, or enthusiastic learners who you can partner with, give tips to, and watch their progress!

We've all been that person looking for a game when everyone is already grouped up and continuing to "run it back." Remember to be pickleball nice - mix it up and include others, and do your part to add to the gross national happiness of our community.

### Club-Sponsored Play for Beginners and Novice-Intermediates

Most of you probably know that pickleball at Rudgear has a reputation for sometimes being intimidating or not so friendly for new and developing players. As interest in our sport continues to soar, the WCPC board thought it important to take steps to make our courts a little more welcoming.

On May 10th we held our first ever club-sponsored meet-up for beginners and novice-intermediates (2.0-3.0). It was a Friday afternoon, so more courts were available, and we had an enthusiastic group of 12 attendees, most of whom were 2.0 or 2.5 level players. The goal was to provide an opportunity for newer players to gather, get to know each other, and play in a fun, supportive environment.

A second meet-up with 20 players took place on Friday, June 20th, with the plan to continue monthly, either on Friday or Saturday afternoons. These meet-ups are open to members and

non-members alike, and are publicized through Facebook, the court message board, and targeted emails. We have also started separate WhatsApp groups for beginners and for novice-intermediates, so people who use the Rudgear courts can more easily make new connections and arrange to play with others at their level.

If you'd like to join the email list or one of the WhatsApp groups or volunteer to help during these monthly events, please email Jill.





# National Pickleball Day



Email Linda at  
[nationalpickleballday@gmail.com](mailto:nationalpickleballday@gmail.com)  
to order your NPD shirt

National Pickleball Day was created on August 8, 2019 to build awareness and excitement around the sport of pickleball.

Founder Dee Morris and co-founder Linda Gray would like to share this special day with you in full pickleball spirit!

To celebrate the sport we all love, we suggest going to your favorite venue or venturing out to a new location, playing with old friends or meeting new ones, coaching new or less skilled players, watching pro matches, funny or instructional pickleball videos, or be creative and create your own.

Whatever you decide to do on August 8th, let's all do our part to grow the sport. How different would our lives be without pickleball!

Contact Dee @ 415.505.7774 to get your free NPD sticker!



Besties Linda and Dee  
winning gold at Regionals  
(Bend, OR) in 2017!

## Which Paddle is Right for You?

Choosing the right pickleball paddle can be a daunting and overwhelming task. With the explosion of pickleball, there are literally hundreds of paddles to choose from with various weights, shapes, sizes, swing speeds, brands, colors etc.

Before buying your next paddle, consider these important factors: skill level, style of play, paddle shape/size, material and price. Remember there are advantages and tradeoffs with every paddle.

A legal paddle has to have a combined length and width not exceeding 24 inches, and the length may not exceed 17 inches.

**Factoid:** There is no weight limitation for pickleball paddles.

**Skill Level:** Chose a paddle to match your level of control and power by considering weight, sweet spot, shape and material.

**Shape/Size:** Some players may invest in several different paddles depending on if they're playing singles vs. doubles. Elongated paddles are advantageous for singles play. Longer grip paddles are good for those who have a two-handed backhand.

**Weight/Swing Weight:** Swing weight can be best described as how heavy the paddle feels when you're swinging it. If it is too heavy, choose a paddle that has overall balance and not just at the head of the paddle. Heavier paddles will generate more power but you give up control and speed; it may also cause fatigue and arm and shoulder soreness after playing. Midweight paddles (7.5-8.0 oz) seem to work best for the vast majority of players.

**Material:** Most paddles these days are made up of different materials such as carbon, graphite, and composite overlay over polymer core (honeycomb). Composite paddles offer more power and are great for beginners and intermediates, while advanced players may look for more spin and control through the use of carbon fiber and Kevlar-faced paddles.

Before making your final selection, don't be afraid to demo a variety of paddles; and if you're planning on playing in any sanctioned tournaments, just make sure the paddle is USA Pickleball approved!



# Certified Pickleball Coaches

It's important to choose a pickleball coach who is right for you. A good coach is positive, enthusiastic, supportive, listens, trusting, focused, goal-oriented, knowledgeable, observant, respectful, patient and communicates clearly.

Meet our WCPC member coaches! Feel free to contact them directly if you're interested in lessons, drills, or tips for improving your game. Additional information, including their bios, can be found on our website at [www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com](http://www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com).

*Each coach independently operates and runs their own business.*



**Carmen Sanz**  
Professional PPR Coach  
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**Carolyn Wei**  
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**George (Rusty) Lent**  
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**Ti Caudron**  
Pickleball Coaching  
International  
510.501.9376  
[ti@vitalitiwellness.com](mailto:ti@vitalitiwellness.com)

# Beyond the Baseline

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## Do the Slide

Be sure to slide on over to the adjacent court when the far court frees up. This will speed up play and make open courts more accessible and visible to players waiting on the sidelines.

## Hang ‘em Low

When hanging your pickleball bag along the fence, please place them below the cable line so that spectators can get a good view of all the great court action!

## Ball Hogging

Remember to return balls to the bucket after each game so there are available balls for everyone’s use, and try not to take more than one ball per foursome, please.

## Trash & Belongings

Please pick up your belongings and dispose of any trash you see when you leave the courts. Keeping Rudgear clean and tidy is all of our responsibility.

## Paragon Pickleball Tournament

Join the fun! Registration is now open for the Paragon Open on October 18-20 at Willow Pass Park in Concord. For more information about this USAPA sanctioned tournament, contact Drew Diefenbach or check out [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com).

# Community Service Day - October 12

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*Darrell Hoh  
WCPC Venue  
Maintenance Director*

As in past years, the club has participated in the annual Walnut Creek Community Service Day. This year’s clean-up effort will be held on Saturday, October 12!

We are seeking volunteers to help pick up trash, spread bark, blow off the courts, scrub picnic tables, clean out the shed, secure nets, etc. If you’d like to participate in this rewarding community event, please contact Darrell Hoh @ 510.295.3541.

Light refreshments will be provided for all of our volunteers along with our sincere thanks and appreciation.

<b>WC Pickleball Club</b>  PO Box 374 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.272.9728 <a href="http://www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com">www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com</a>	<b>Rudgear Court Hours</b>  Mon, Tue & Wed: 8:00 to 1:00 Thursday: closed Friday: 8:00 to sunset Sat & Sun: 10:00 to sunset	<b>‘Places 2 Play’</b>  Find a pickleball court near you or anywhere else in the world. Go to the official USA Pickleball ‘Places 2 Play’ at <a href="http://uspickleball.org/play/places-2-play">//uspickleball.org/play/places-2-play</a>
<b>WhatsApp</b>  Want to stay in-the-know? Join the Rudgear Park Pickleball WhatsApp chat group at <a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/GoeUi94H3vg-Bro8JYk91s6">https://chat.whatsapp.com/GoeUi94H3vg-Bro8JYk91s6</a>	<b>Facebook</b>  Check out our Facebook page for club news, photos, information and much more... 	