

President's Musings...

—Bill Brown

This season has been a great one so far. Helping us operate the Club are the board members who work hard to bring you the best experience possible. Some board members are taking office on August 1 and some are getting a well-deserved rest. Please give them all a big shout out for their work on your behalf (that is how they get paid!).

With our tournament starting on Wednesday, July 28, Bend will be back on the tournament map in a big way! It will be exciting and a lot of work. You should be proud of your Club for hosting this premier event. If you have the opportunity, please help out in any way you can.

There are many updates to cover in this newsletter (training, membership, operations and more) so I won't add much more. I want to close by saying that I have had the opportunity to meet many of you at the courts. You are fun and energetic, and I want to thank you all for being such a great Club.



Introducing New Board Members

—Susan Dona, Director at Large

As you are aware, Bend Pickleball Club recently held an election for new executive board members.

Unfortunately, during the election process there was a scarcity of candidates for the positions. Fortunately, post-election some members heard the plea and stepped forward. The executive board took action to appoint the following volunteers:

Susan Day, Secretary. Susan volunteered to serve as board secretary at the conclusion of Cindy Adkins' term on August 1. Susan moved to Bend from Beaverton where she raised her family and had a career as a project manager. She was introduced to pickleball two-and-a-half years ago and immediately became addicted. She is still working, so had a difficult time finding a niche in the pickleball world until she discovered Bend Pickleball Zone and Bend Pickleball Club. She is now an active participant in the Bend pickleball community and has introduced her family to the sport. She told her husband he should look forward to becoming a pickleball widower or share in her addiction.

Teri Ehntholt, Director of Operations. Teri has volunteered to fill the capable and well-worn shoes of Jim Stone when his term expires. She joined the Club in September 2020, after relocating from New York to retire from her 38-year nursing career and be near children and grandchildren. After retirement she googled: "What sport should a 58-year-old who has never played sports pick up?" And pickleball was the top search result! It is now *her* healthy addiction. She has owned multiple rental properties and has a good understanding of

the mechanics behind structures, grounds, and utilities, including how and why they all work the way they do—perfect for a Director of Operations!

Brian Firebaugh, Membership Officer. Brian has volunteered to replace Sandy Braddock when her term expires in August. He has been an active member of the Club since its beginning and has served on the executive board in various capacities several times. Brian and his wife, Anita, are so well known at the courts that he hardly needs an introduction, but we will do so for our new members. Brian and Anita moved here in 2009 and were introduced to pickleball by a neighbor a month before the Pine Nursery courts opened. Brian balances his pickleball obsession with kayaking, camping, chess, and the oriental game of *Go*.

Cynde Hargrave, Director of Communications. Cynde has volunteered to fill the position of Director of Communications, a position that has been vacant for over a year. Her career was in marketing, market research, and environmental consulting. She moved to Bend from the Bay Area in 2014 while still doing some contract work. She became aware of pickleball while walking through Pine Nursery and striking up a conversation with Bill Brown. Bill encouraged her to join the Club and learn the game. She was hooked. Like many of us new to Bend, the Club has introduced Cynde to a community of new, like-minded friends.

Thanks to Our Outgoing Board Members!

We want to sincerely thank **Cindy Adkins**, **Sandy Braddock**, and **Jim Stone** for their dedicated service to the Bend Pickleball Club and the game. Cindy and Alane Harrold went beyond their assigned duties to organize successful social events prior to such events being curtailed by the Covid pandemic. Jim Stone, with the help of his volunteers, has maintained the courts, linked with the Bend Park & Recreation District for court repairs and maintenance, and organized the set-up and breakdown for tournaments for several years. When you see these folks on the courts, please express your appreciation for their efforts on behalf of your club.

Your Board Members for 2021

Effective August 1, 2021, the Bend Pickleball Club board members will be:

- Bill Brown, President
- Craig Poole, VP & Court Utilization Chair
- Susan Day, Secretary
- Alane Harrold, Treasurer
- Brian Firebaugh, Membership Officer
- Cynde Hargrave, Director of Communications
- Teri Ehntholt, Operations Director
- Randy Moss, Training & Player Development Director
- Susan Dona, Director at Large



2021 Pacific Northwest Classic Tournament

—Bill Brown, President

Our big tournament of the year is nearly here! It will be an amazing event with nearly 800 registrants, drawing players from the Pacific Northwest, California, Arizona, and many states across the nation. This tournament will be the first time we are offering a \$25,000 “purse” for the Pro player brackets. There should be some really good play, so we encourage you to come watch. No COVID restrictions are in place, however, as always, if you have been exposed to the virus or are not feeling well, please do not come and risk exposing others.

We will have 16 vendors onsite and a few food venues. This year we have tried to improve the food offerings, so please show your appreciation to the food vendors by patronizing their tents/trucks. Special covered seating will be available near the “Pro courts” (courts 15 & 16) to watch the play. Parking will be at a premium, so anticipate having to park some distance from the courts. The players will have access to the shuttles; everyone else will need to walk to the courts.

Big tournaments need many volunteers to be successful. Many of you have signed up on CourtReserve to help, but we still need referees and line judges. If you haven’t done so, please consider helping in these areas.

As Club members, you are our ambassadors. Please welcome the traveling players and help them feel the “Bend” experience! Remember, we have a high altitude, but no attitude.

Message from Director of Operations

—Jim Stone

As I complete my term as Director of Court Operations at the end of July, I want to thank all the volunteers who have contributed to the quality of play at the Pine Nursery courts. It takes nearly 50 person hours a month to maintain the courts. Here is a partial list of those who have made time in their days to support that cause. Please give them a big THANK YOU when you see them.

Scott Martin
Brian Firebaugh
Tom Matson
Bob Elliott
Don Parker

Kathy Goldschmidt
Gary & Vicki Drydahl
Marcia Stone
Gary Yeager
Terry Brown

I want to welcome Teri Ehntholt as my replacement for the Director position. I am sure she could use your help in making Club play at Pine Nursery a success.

Courts 9-16 were resurfaced this spring, and all 16 nets were replaced. These new nets are dedicated to summer play; the old nets will be used for late fall and winter play. Along with the increased use of the courts by both members and non-members, I have seen activities on the courts that are not permitted, including skateboarding, bicycling, pets, and anything not related

to pickleball. This shortens the life of the courts and creates a maintenance headache for volunteers. If you witness inappropriate activity, please nicely remind the user of the rules posted on each gate.

Thank you all and keep pickling,
Jim Stone, Outgoing Operations Director

Updates on Court Utilization

—Craig Poole, VP & Court Utilization Chair

I hope your summer is off to a great start and it includes some occasional pickleball with friends and family. The courts have been busy, especially during the peak hours in the morning before noon.

Schedule of play – The Club has claim to courts 5-16 every Monday through Saturday, 7:00am-2:00pm throughout the year. After 2:00pm, all courts 1-16 are open to the public. All courts on Sunday are for public play. Club days, hours, and court availability can be [viewed on our website](#), if you have questions.

Round-Robin Play – These sessions have been well attended and continue the trend of past years. Please remember that if you sign up and cannot make it, you need to remove your name from the list the night before. If it is the morning of, you can remove your name and call the RR Captain at least 2 hours prior to the RR start time. Your privileges to play can be removed or suspended if you do not follow this basic request. Thanks for your understanding.

Guests – Please remember that to bring a guest to play, you must have a Bend Pickleball Club Guest Pass. This can be requested from Susan Dona, sedona549@gmail.com, who will then mail them to you. These passes are intended only for guests who come with a member to play a few times; they are not for continual use. Our [Guest policy](#) is as follows:

Guest passes will be provided to Club members with annual memberships, upon request. Each member can claim up to two guest passes. These will be permanently issued, numbered, and signed. They should be used for family and friends who are visiting and would like to try playing at our facilities. Members must not abuse the passes by giving them to people to use on a regular basis to avoid having to pay to become a member.

Drop-In vs. Challenge Court Play - These types of play are different! To clear up any confusion, please refer to the website for the skill-level-based, slightly more restrictive [Drop-In Play](#) versus the more “winners-rule” [Challenge Play](#). Be sure to consult the 2021 Playing Schedule for available courts and times.

Training & Player Development Update

—Randy Moss, Training & Player Development Director

Upcoming Clinics - We have had a number of training events already this season. Much of the training has been at the Pickleball Zone, and it is great to hear the good reports from the members who have attended. However, not all the events have been well attended. If this happens going forward, we may need to cancel the event. Each event is planned for 12 participants. Here are the upcoming clinics in August:

Skill Level

3.0 clinic
3.5 clinics
4.0/4.5 clinic

Clinic date

August 3
August 10 & 22
August 17

Mark your calendars! Each clinic occurs at 3:00-5:00 pm. To register, go to CourtReserve, click on *Events > PZB Training-3.0* [or other] *skill level > Register*.

Something we added this year is IPTPA testing at Pine Nursery Park. It occurred earlier in July. We may not be able to schedule more sessions this year, but it is on the list for next year.

Ball Machines - As you probably know, the Club purchased some new ball machines. They are available for reservation on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. We are learning the new machines, so please bear with the ball machine operators as they work to give you the type of shots you want to practice.

Speaking of ball machine operators, we recently had to cancel some ball machine practice sessions requested by members because no trained operators were available to operate the ball machine. Obviously, this is disappointing for the members. We need additional ball machine operator volunteers! Contact Randy Moss at randy@mosski.com so that we can set up additional training classes for operators. If we are unable to get operators regularly signing up to help, we may need to cancel some or all future ball machine sessions.

Feedback Requested - Finally, if there are any areas of training and player development that members would like to see in the future, the Club wants to know. What kind of interests might you have in a mentor program or a series of critique-and-play sessions? Again, contact Randy Moss at randy@mosski.com with your feedback.

Let's Get Social!

—Cynde Hargrave, *Communications Director*

The board has discussed how we might make the Club an even tighter community, and we arrived at social events as a good answer. Two big events, the post-tournament Volunteer Appreciation event and the autumn All-Members Meeting (details coming soon) will occur as per usual. And new ideas did come to the fore, for example, social evening play at Pine Nursery courts, a dink-athon, Halloween trivia night, new member Meet'n Greet, cornhole party, etc. Our not-firm conclusion was to plan post-tournament for the above and to roll out additional events throughout the fall, winter, and spring. Please provide your feedback in the survey included at the end of this newsletter.

Of course, orchestrating such events is a different matter. As a member, do consider responding to the volunteer appeal below.

Volunteer Opportunities

—Susan Dona, *Director at Large*

As you know, Bend Pickleball Club is organized and administered by volunteers, and without volunteers this organization would cease to exist. To keep the Club strong, we need helpers in the following areas:

Court Cleaning: Teri Ehntholt, Operations, will be looking for volunteers to help blow debris off the courts and help set-up for special events such as tournaments. Please contact Teri at lynteri@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping and to get more information regarding the specific tasks.

Social Events: The board is seeking a couple of coordinators to organize a few social events. Now that the pandemic has abated, and we can start socializing again, we would like to sponsor some 'meet-and-greet' events. Last year we had a couple of get-togethers at Pickleball Zone Bend that were highly successful. These social events create cohesion within our pickleball community and give us an opportunity to mix with members at various levels. If you are interested in coordinating one or more events, please contact Cynde Hargrave at cyndeh@gmail.com.

As an incentive to volunteer and, based on the level of time and effort involved, the board will cover your membership dues for the next year.