



Summer 2023 Newsletter

July 11, 2023

President's Message

—Kirk Foster, President

Summer is fully upon us and pickleball is booming! As you read this, the Pine Nursery Park court repairs and resurfacing should be completed July 12 and the courts ready for our Pacific Northwest Classic Tournament on July 26-30.

Thank you to all the members who attended the annual General Meeting on June 22. It was great to see you. As always, we appreciate your interest and support. Thanks, also, to you volunteers who contribute to keeping the PNP courts clean and safe, leading organized play as Captains, and helping with the upcoming tournament. Your efforts are important and appreciated by all of us members.

Pickleball interest in Central Oregon continues to grow, much as it has nationwide:

- A recent Bend Bulletin article detailed the announcement that Sunriver converted all their courts from tennis to pickleball for a total of 18 indoor and outdoor courts.
- A new facility will open soon in Redmond with 9 indoor courts.
- At least 7 large tournament opportunities have developed this past year at various local venues. This gives locals an opportunity to play with competitors from other areas and learn how they really measure up without the expense of travel. It also brings some big names to Central Oregon, providing enthusiasts a chance to see some great pickleball.

In September we plan to host a Calcutta tournament comprising teams of member players from all skill-levels. This has been a very fun event in the past. It includes an evening "launch" dinner just prior to the Tournament Day and is a great way to meet other members and make new friends. Learn more about Calcutta tournaments below.

In addition to the myriad managerial duties of Club operations, your Board continues to assess court impacts and adjust membership caps. As always, we need your input on the types of activities you would like to see. We can always use more member involvement in organized play activities, with a particular need for Captains to run round robins. We continue to work with Bend Park & Recreation District to explore the possibility of building more courts in Bend and hope to share more news very soon.

I am honored to be back with the Board and really enjoy working with this group! We have an energetic and conscientious Board that works continuously and diligently to make Club pickleball a great experience for everyone. These are exciting times for pickleball and Bend Pickleball Club. I look forward to what the future holds for us and to seeing you on the courts!

✍

General Meeting Outcomes

—Cynde Hargrave, VP/Director of Communications

The annual General Meeting on June 22 was informative and productive. Craig Poole spoke of the many positive changes accomplished in the past year:

- New 3-year agreement with Bend Park & Recreation District
- Recent repairs to Pine Nursery Courts by BPRD
- Creation of Board member job descriptions
- New PA system at Pine Nursery Courts
- New Courts Committee established for potential expansion
- Success of the 2022 Pacific Northwest Classic Tournament, premier tournament in the northwest
- Ongoing court cleaning and repair behind the scenes
- A great Board

The Club is in great financial shape thanks to our recent dues increase. The recent expansion of membership to 1050 players has also contributed to a favorable bottom line and resulted in reducing the number of applicants on our waiting list.

Janet Davis provided background on the clinics and training being planned, and she cited the success of the indoor events she orchestrated over the past winter.

Some 80 members attended and voted for the following Board members, each with 3-year terms to June 20, 2026. Congratulations:

- **Craig Poole** continues as Court Utilization Chair
- **Janet Davis** was voted in as Director of Training & Development
- **RJ Petershagen** is our new (and first) Director at Large #2

Tournament Co-Director Christie Gestvang delivered a summary of tournament developments to date that ensure the 2023 Pacific NW Classic will be a huge success. She called out some of the members who are laying groundwork for this success. Christie also introduced Volunteer Coordinator Margaret Immink and encouraged meeting attendees to sign up as much needed volunteers. More volunteers are still needed. Use [SignUpGenius](#) for your sign-up. ✍

More Members!

—Brian Firebaugh, Membership Chair

Bend Pickleball Club has program rights to 12 of the courts at Pine Nursery at 7:00am-2:00pm Monday-Saturday. Last year, member demand for the courts was such that the Board instituted a membership cap at 900 members. A waitlist was established that eventually climbed to over 650 names.

We have been monitoring player pressure on the courts and recently concluded that we can raise the membership cap by 150 members to 1050 without overburdening the courts. As of July 1, membership is 1045, with 373 applicants on the waiting list.

WELCOME!

As explained in the past, until the Club can add new courts, play must be limited to members only. Unfortunately, guests cannot be allowed to play on Club courts during Club hours.

Reminders

- If you are awaiting your name badge, you can claim it at the Pine Nursery shed from an on-duty RR captain or on premise Board member.
- Check the Lost & Found bin in the Pine Nursery shed for items you may have left on a court. ✍





Clinics – New & Ongoing

—Janet Davis, Director of Training & Development | Director At Large #1

I am working to expand the training opportunities created these last several months. Match Play Critique and Point Progression training clinics will continue. Look forward to new drill clinics and other offerings to help you improve your skill level. If you are a 2.5 rated player looking to move to 3.0, just send me an email; I will see that you can advance as your skills allow.

Check out **CourtReserve** for the following training options:

Wednesday Clinics

Serve/Return Workshops, 11:00am-12:00pm

This one-hour clinic will focus solely on the serve and return, two of the foundational shots in pickleball. Instruction and coaching will concentrate on developing the topspin serve, the directional serve, and the all-important deep placement of the serve. Return of serve training will emphasize proper footwork, paddle swing-path and ball contact, along with placement, pace/power, and pressure.

4 spots, \$15/person

Open Paddle Face Practice, 12:00-1:00pm

Players will learn proper positioning of the paddle face to reset the point and slow the ball down. Drills will emphasize forehand and backhand paddle positions and taking balls out of the air in transition.

4 spots, \$15/person

Point Progression, 1:00-2:00pm

In simulated game play format, players will deliberately use the serve, return of serve, and (3rd or 5th) drop shots while establishing non-volley zone court position from where they will dink, speed up, and reset the appropriate shot(s). Players will be rotated into the simulated game. Individual drills will focus on drop shots, dinks, resets, serves and returns.


8 spots, \$20/person

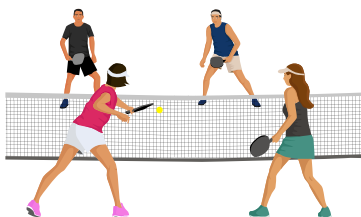
Friday Clinics

Pickleball 102, 11:00am-12:00pm

For beginning players who want to gain a better understanding of the game, this clinic will provide drills and play to improve overall performance on the court. This training can take your game to the next level. In this clinic, 2.5 skill level participants may also receive a 3.0 rating if appropriate.

6 spots, \$15/person

If you have taken a CORE test and passed, way to go! Remember to drop me a note, and I will adjust your rating on CourtReserve and our member directory. If you have tested and not passed, no worries, just drill, play, practice, and try again. You've got this! 



Prime Time at Pine Nursery

—Craig Poole, Court Utilization Chair

It is great to see that the good weather has brought out our member players.

Prime-time hours for Club play at Pine Nursery Park have long been mid-morning. These hours are favored for Round Robins as well as by members seeking their own reservations play. Providing both during prime-time hours is a balancing challenge. We did recently adjust and add more RRs; these have been well received and are nearly full every day. As always, we will continue to monitor and adjust schedules to be fair to all members.

The Open Challenge courts continue to be popular for drop-in play 9:00-11:00am, Tuesdays|Thursdays|Saturdays on Courts 9, 13, and 15. We continue to encourage sign-ups, but this has not received much traction.

As always, if you have questions on court usage, please send them my way at craigsheilapoole@gmail.com. ✍



Pacific Northwest Classic Tournament – Our Hosts

—Christie Gestvang, Co-Director, Pacific Northwest Classic

The Bend Pickleball Club is so fortunate that our 2023 Pacific NW Classic, sponsored by Thump Coffee, is being co-hosted by three extraordinary pickleball players.

It is with pleasure that the Club welcomes **Enrique Ruiz**, El Condor. Enrique has been a longtime supporter of Bend pickleball. He is a Selkirk-sponsored pro and was one of the first pickleball players to have a signature paddle. He is also a 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee and

one of the winningest players in pickleball history. He has garnered numerous medals at USA Pickleball National Championships, Tournament of Champions (TOC), and various regional tournaments over the years.



Again this year, the eleven-time National Champion **Wes Gabrielsen** is cohosting the Pacific NW Classic tournament. Wes is a recent Inductee into the Pickleball Hall of Fame. Since last summer, he has become a full-time pro and is teaching pickleball across the United States and internationally. He is always a great supporter of pickleball wherever he is playing or teaching. Welcome back Selkirk-sponsored pro, Wes Gabrielsen.



Joy Leising is a professional pickleball coach and player. With over eight years of competitive play under her belt, Joy has won numerous medals across the US and Canada, including gold in Women's and Mixed Doubles at USAPA Nationals. We are pleased to welcome Joy Leising as a 2023 co-host for the Pacific NW Classic sponsored by Thump Coffee.

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The Calcutta Tournament, Explained

—Kirk Foster, President

If you're unfamiliar with Calcutta tournaments, you need to be aware of a couple of things:

1. The Club will be hosting one this fall (2023). More about participation details are at the end of this article.
2. Learn how it all works by reading the following description.

Calcutta tournaments are common to golf, sports fishing, and other competitive events, including pickleball. A Calcutta is a collection of auction pools conducted by the sponsoring club. Competitors in a pickleball Calcutta are "sold" to the highest bidders at the pre-tournament auction, and the winner(s) of the pools of money are determined by the results of the event.

The Bend Pickleball Club's Calcutta will consist of **96 players** grouped into **3 skill ranges**: 2.5-3.0, 3.5-4.0, and 4.5 plus.

32 players, 2.5-3.0 skill level = 16 PAIRINGS

32 players, 3.5-4.0 skill level = 16 PAIRINGS

32 players, 4.50+ skill level = 16 PAIRINGS

= 96 players

The 32 players in each of the three skill groups are sorted by skill relative to other players in that skill group by tournament operations staff and then paired by random draw to achieve 16 pairings in each of the three groups. The goal is to approximately balance the skills of all pairings in each group so that all PAIRINGS in any given group are approximately equal in skill.

The PAIRINGS from each skill group are combined—again by random draw—to create TEAMS of 3 pairings, one from each skill group, for a total of 16 TEAMS. The 16 TEAMS in each group are split into two divisions, with 8 teams from each group going in to one division or the other. For our purposes the divisions are named Mount Bachelor and Broken Top. Each TEAM is assigned a different one of eight colors to identify the team.

Each TEAM has 3 PAIRINGS:

2 2.5-3.0 players

2 3.5-4.0 players

2 3.5-4.0 players

= 6 players = 1 TEAM

Each division has:

8 TEAMS - Mount Bachelor Division

8 TEAMS - Broken Top Division

= 16 TEAMS

Day 1 – The Reveal Dinner

Two days prior to the actual tournament, the 96 participants + optional guest (dinner fees paid in advance) attend the Club-hosted "Reveal Dinner." This is where the auctions come into play.

Part 1. PAIRINGS – Pairings in each skill group are "revealed" and players and guests are permitted to "bid" in a silent auction to "buy" the pairing. All funds from the silent auction are pooled into three PAIRINGS pools, one for each of the three skill groups.

Part 2. TEAMS – Each of the eight 6-player teams are assigned to a division and their team colors are “revealed” in a live auction, with bidders attempting to buy entire teams. All funds from this live auction are pooled into a separate TEAM pool.

A percentage of the PAIRINGS and the TEAM pools goes to the Club as a fundraiser. The balance of the two pools will be divided among the winners as detailed below.

Day 2 – Practice Day

PAIRINGS can practice at Pine Nursery Park or on any courts of their choosing.

Day 3 - Tournament Day

Within each division, each PAIRING will play the other PAIRINGS in their skill group. A total of 7 round robins per PAIRING take place with an approximate 20-minute break between matches. Matches are 1-11 using rally point scoring, win-by-1. Each match will be limited to 16 minutes; incomplete matches will receive no adjustment.

Determining winners and tie breakers:

- Number of wins
- Head-to-head (where applicable)
- Point differential
- Fourth tiebreaker: point differential against next-highest team

Each division’s top TEAMS in each skill group will play off for bragging rights.

Money Split

PAIRINGS Pool (3 pools, 1 per skill group)

- 50% of PAIRINGS pool to the owner of the winning pair in group
- 30% of PAIRINGS pool to the owner of the second place pair in group
- 20% of PAIRINGS pool to the owner of the third place pair in group

TEAMS Pool

- 50% of TEAM Pool to Highest point team owner
- 30% of TEAM Pool to second place team owner
- 20% of TEAM Pool to third placet team owner

How to Participate

September 28 – Reveal Dinner, time, location, and cost TBD

September 29 – Day for practice, Pine Nursery courts, as available

September 30 – Tournament Day, Pine Nursery Park

Registration is also TBD, probably mid-August (stay tuned). ✍



Places to Play Beyond Bend

—Susan Day, Secretary

Technology reigns, so it's no surprise that apps galore present us with places to play pickleball. You can check out [PicklePlay](#), [Pickleball FYI](#), [Pickleball Buddy](#), [PickleballConnect](#), and many, many more.

One that I have used is [USA Pickleball Places2Play](#). But like most things variable, you need to call before showing up as the information can be out of date, memberships may be required, and/or contacts are no longer.

If you're in Portland, OR, check out [RECS](#) (Recreate, Exercise, Compete, Socialize):

- 18,000 square feet for nine state-of-the-art rubber cushion courts, separated by net dividers and with ample spacing
- Permanent (not portable) steel net systems
- 20-30 foot high ceiling (lowest at the walls and highest in the middle)
- Zero interior columns



RECS uses CourtReserve, so it's easy to request a 'visitor' membership. They have SoccerTennis (also known by other names) and additional variations of fun play coming soon.

❖ CALENDAR ❖

RISE Training Camp with Rob Davidson

Monday, July 24, 9:am-12:00pm (4.0+)

Tuesday, July 25, 9:am-12:00pm (3.0-3.5)

Pine Nursery Park, Bend

Register on CourtReserve

Pacific NW Classic Tournament

Wednesday-Sunday, July 26-30

7:00am-8:00pm

Pine Nursery Park, Bend

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Saturday, August 12

4:00-7:00pm

Pine Nursery Park, Bend

Fall Calcutta Tournament – Save the Dates!

Reveal Dinner

Thursday, Sept. 28

Location TBD

Day of Practice

Friday, Sept. 29

Tournament Play

Saturday, September 30

Pine Nursery Park