



# Spring 2024 Newsletter

March 31, 2024

## @ Pine Nursery Park

—Scott McIntosh, Court Operations

### Court Lights are Funded!

Bend Pickleball Club and BPRD matching contributions, combined with Club member and nonmember donations to the Bend Park & Recreation Foundation, brings the funding for new lights to \$64,650. And BTW, of that funding, donations claim the largest contribution at \$24,650 (way to go!). Imagine the cool evening play ahead!

### Court Maintenance

Keeping the Pine Nursery Park courts well-maintained comes with a bit of daily effort. And you can help. We need 3 or 4 member volunteers to help blow debris off the courts, preferably before the 9:00am RR sessions. One person typically can clear all the courts in 30-45 minutes, so an arrival time of 7:00-8:00am is ideal. Please contact me (Scott) at 541-350-4881 to learn more.

### Did You Know?

To better address your concerns or queries regarding Club policies and activities, we have installed a **Suggestion Box** on the Club storage shed (located between Courts 8 & 10). It will be checked on a weekly basis and passed along to the appropriate Board member. If you want a direct response, be sure to provide your name and phone number or email address.

## President's Message

—Kirk Foster, President

The recent sunny weather is giving us a taste of good times to come on the courts. Plus, our snowbird friends will soon return, and courts will be busier than ever.

### 2024 Season Events

The Board has been busy preparing for summer play. Details are included in articles that follow.

- April is *National Pickleball Month*!! Get out and play and visit [USAPickleball](#) for some ideas on how to spread the word and celebrate your passion.
- Organized play goes into effect April 8, and the *New Season Celebration* is April 20 at Pine Nursery Park. See you there!
- Bend Park & Recreation District will be installing lights on the 8 west courts. Light poles arrived March 18; fixtures and mounts are expected in a few weeks. BPRD will begin pulling wire early April in preparation for installation. Plans also are underway for 8 additional courts at PNP to keep up with the ever-increasing demand.
- Registration for the *Pacific Northwest Classic* (PNC) tournament opened February 1; nearly 300 players have registered.
- Plans are underway for a *Calcutta* tournament on September 19-21. Last year's *Calcutta* was great fun. Mark your calendar so you don't miss out.

### Your Board at Work

- **Club Apparel** - We recently provided members a 2-week window to purchase high quality Club logo apparel through a special online storefront. The vendor collects orders at the close of the store window, then prepares and ships the purchases. If you missed the first opening, watch for the next opportunity.
- **General Membership Meeting** - In preparation for this annual meeting, we've been reviewing the Club bylaws. We

will inform you of these recommended changes, as well as the slate of officer candidates for Board positions, well in advance of the meeting. Please plan to attend June 18, 4:30pm, at the Larkspur Community Center.

- **Funding New Courts** – The Club is supporting BPRD’s plans to build additional courts at PNP through various fundraising activities. One effort underway is Court Sponsorships. Sponsors can purchase a 1-year or 3-year sponsorship through Bend Park and Recreation Foundation (a 501c3 organization) to have a sign posted at the gate of a court of their choice (first come, first choice), recognizing their contribution. If interested in this high-visibility opportunity, please contact us at [courtsponsor@bendpickleballclub.com](mailto:courtsponsor@bendpickleballclub.com).
- **Board of Directors Updates** - We welcome new Board member, Scott McIntosh, as Director of Court Operations. Scott agreed to complete the term of Larry Berk who moved to Arizona in December. Scott is a regular at PNP and has always helped with tournament operations, round robin play, and courts maintenance. We are grateful to Larry for his service and, of course, to Scott for stepping up to fill the void. When you see Scott, be sure to thank him!

Secretary Susan Day’s current term expires June 30, and she has announced that she will not be seeking a second term. Susan has been a real asset to the Board and the Club in keeping us organized and on track. She was instrumental in developing our partnership with the Grouper health care benefit company (see below) to help many members get their club dues paid through their health insurance provider. Thank you for your service, Susan. We will miss you!

Things are shaping up for a busy spring and summer! We welcome all new members and look forward to seeing you on the courts. ❖

## Season Opener!

—Craig Poole, Court Utilization Chair, Tournament Committee Chair

We are fast approaching the busy season for Bend Pickleball Club play at Pine Nursery Park. Given our membership growth, it’s important to follow the established rules that enable all members to enjoy play.

Pine Nursery Park has 16 pickleball courts:

- Courts 1-4 are public courts and cannot be reserved, although members are welcome to use them if they are open
- Courts 5-16 are Club-designated courts only, 7:00am-2:00pm, Monday-Saturday
- All 16 courts are available to the public after 2:00pm and all day Sunday

Any open court can be utilized during Club hours until a member with a reservation arrives.

## Organized Play

The [2024 Spring Schedule](#) for Club organized play at Pine Nursery Park begins **April 8, 2024**. The Monday-Friday schedule features skill level-based round robins at 9:00-11:00am.



- 3.0 skill level RRs are on courts 5, 7, 9, and 11
- 3.5 skill level RRs are on courts 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14
- 4.0+ skill level RRs are on courts 13, 15, and 16

New this year: 2.0/2.5 RRs are on Courts 10, 12, and 14 at 11:00am-1:00pm.

**You Can Help** - Each RR requires a volunteer captain on site to organize play (and participate) for that session. Once you learn the simple procedure you can become the regular captain for that RR. Try it! Contact [membership@bendpickleballclub.com](mailto:membership@bendpickleballclub.com).

### Challenge Courts

The Saturday schedule features Challenge Play 9:00am-1:00 pm. This is drop-in play for Club members that does not require reservations through CourtReserve to play.

- 3.0 skill level (only) Challenge Play is on Courts 5 and 7
- 3.5 skill level (only) Challenge Play is on Courts 9 and 11
- 4.0+ skill level (only) Challenge Play is on Courts 13 and 15

The format for Challenge Play can be found on the [BPC website](#).

### Reservations

As usual, reservations for all BPC organized play at Pine Nursery, including special events, clinics, demos, tournaments, etc. are made through the CourtReserve website. Members, be sure to register for your free BPC account on CourtReserve for this purpose.

RR registrations are available 7 days prior to the scheduled event at 8:00am. When sessions are full, a waiting list is available. If there is a cancellation, the first name on the waiting list will automatically be added to the RR roster and an email notification will be sent. Cancellations can be made up to one hour before the start of the event. Note: Players who register but do not show up to play may be subject to CourtReserve restrictions.

As always, feel free to [send questions or comments my way](#). See you on the courts. ❖

## Your Membership Dues May Be Covered

—Susan Day, Secretary

We are pleased to share some favorable news. The Bend Pickleball Club has teamed up with Grouper, a Medicare Advantage and Supplement plan benefit, to cover your membership dues.

**What Does This Mean for You?** Very soon, Club members with an eligible health plan will be able to enjoy all the benefits of Bend Pickleball Club membership without the cost.

**Check Your Eligibility** - Curious to know if you qualify? Once Grouper provides our Club-specific URL (we'll let you know), you'll be able to check your eligibility in just a few simple steps. Then Grouper will reach out within 5 business days to inform you if your health plan covers this social benefit.

If you have any immediate questions, feel free to contact Grouper at 833-906-1700. Here's to your healthy, happy future! ❖

## Spring is Here. Let's Play!

—Janet L Davis, Director of Training and Player Development

Many members put in some fun indoor play at our BPC-sponsored Challenge Courts events at Pickleball Zone Bend this winter. That was then. NOW, if you, like me, are ready for blue skies, sunshine, and fresh air pickleball, let's get outside to Pine Nursery Park.

### **New Season Celebration**

Saturday, April 20, 9:00am-Noon

☛ We'll have coffee and doughnuts to welcome you. ☺

- Meet other players and enjoy the challenge courts for some fun pickleball matches
- New Members - learn the ins and outs of CourtReserve, our court reservation platform
- Participate in short clinics provided courtside, to include an Intro to Pickleball 101
- Hear about upcoming training opportunities
- Consider onsite pickleball products and demo new paddles

Do you have your new BPC garb? Wear it proudly to this event! And if you haven't already done so (and many haven't), be sure to pick up your name tag.

### **Skill-Level Ratings**

A reminder, if you have CORE-tested to the next level and your CourtReserve and BPC accounts are not reflecting the change, please drop a note and it will be updated.

**3.0 Rating** - Any 2.0/2.5 rated members who want to level up to 3.0 are eligible for a FREE eye rating by qualified member players. This will take place in round robin format on May 4, 10:00-12:00noon, Pine Nursery Park, Courts 10,12,14,16. Register on CourtReserve. Additional opportunities will follow.

**3.5 CORE Rating** – FREE Central Oregon Rating Evaluation (CORE) to 3.5 skill level will be offered Saturday May 25, 10:00-12noon, Courts 10,12,14,16. Register on CourtReserve.

### **Clinics**

The Ladies Mentor Event returns Saturday, May 11, 12:00-2:00pm. We had a blast last year, snowflakes and all. If you are 2.5/3.0/3.5 level player looking for game-improving pointers while enjoying casual play, this event is for you. Register [here](#). Any 4.0/4.0+ members wanting to join as mentors should drop me an [email](#).

We are fortunate to have Rob Davidson back this year for his fantastic clinic for our 4.0 players. Watch for details.

See you on the courts. ❖

### **Board Seeks Nominees**

—RJ Petershagen, Director at Large & BPC Nominating Committee

After nearly three years of dedicated service, Board Secretary Susan Day has decided not to seek another term. Her thoroughness and professionalism in keeping Board discussions on track, timely, and pertinent were lessons in diplomacy. Thank you, Susan, for your service.



The following Board positions are OPEN for the new 3-year term beginning July 1, 2024. Any BPC member interested in being a candidate for one of these roles is encouraged to submit a brief biography to the [Nominating Committee](#) by May 12, 2024.

- **Secretary** - The Board of Directors seeks nominees for the position of Secretary; a detailed duty statement for the position can be found [here](#).
- Nominations will also be considered for the Board positions of **Treasurer** (links provide duty statements), **Director of Communications**, and **Director of Court Operations**, currently held by officers Alane Harrold, Cynde Hargrave, and Scott McIntosh, respectively. While each of these Board members has agreed to remain in their role for this new term, their positions are open to other candidates.

All candidates will be presented to membership in early May. Elections for all nominees, including incumbents, will be held at the Bend Pickleball Club's General Meeting on June 18, 2024, 4:30pm, at the Larkspur Recreation Center, 1600 SE Reed Market Rd, Bend, OR 97702. ❖

## Get Your Tournament On!

—Craig Poole, Court Utilization Chair, Tournament Committee Chair

First, the annual **Pickleball Zone Challenge** is scheduled for May 15-19, 2024, at the Pickleball Zone indoor courts. This all doubles, round robin tournament offers medals playoffs in all events. Players will get lots of challenging play while prepping for summer tournaments. Registration on [Pickleball Brackets](#) through April. (As of publication, most categories had waiting lists, but some players may still need partners.)



Next, our very own **2024 Pacific Northwest Classic** tournament, sponsored by THUMP Coffee, is one of the premier tournaments in the northwest. Mark your calendars for July 24-28, 2024. This year amateur players will be in a round-robin tournament, so there will be no “two-and-outs.” All amateurs will be guaranteed a minimum of 5 games. An overview is available on our [website](#).

Act now! [Register to play](#), plan to attend (Pine Nursery Park), or, for sure, sign up to [volunteer](#) (beginning April 15 on SignUpGenius.com). We need you all!

A reminder: The [2024 Edward Jones Rally in the Valley \(RITV\)](#) tournament on August 23-25 in Albany is now open for registration on [PickleballBrackets.com](#). The event includes Men's/Women's/Mixed Doubles round robin brackets. Prize money awarded.

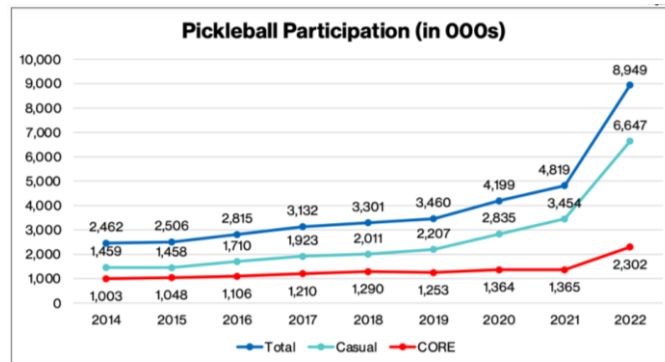
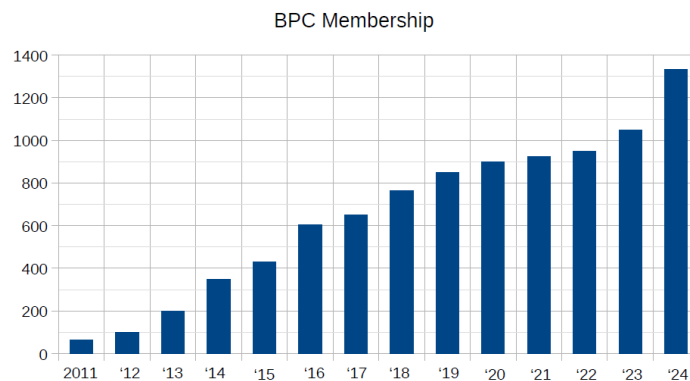
Of course, if you search for “Oregon” while on Pickleball Brackets, you'll find a large collection of tournaments: Sunriver on May 31-June 1; La Pine on June 26-30; Redmond on July 12-14, just to touch on those nearby! ❖

## Thriving Membership

—Brian Firebaugh, Membership Chair

On January 24, 2024, the Board decided to eliminate the waitlist for Club membership. Membership utilization of the Pine Nursery Park courts during the 2023 season did not overburden capacity. We determined that an increase in membership would still allow an acceptable level of court use going forward. Since that time, 300 people have joined, bringing the Club to a total of 1,351 members. Welcome, All!

Here’s how Bend Pickleball Club’s growth appears since the beginning (and we are just one of the clubs in Bend). Compare this to the lower chart that shows American stats collected in a collaborative study by Sports & Fitness Industry Association and Pickleheads (“an online platform for pickleball fans looking to connect with their local communities”). All of this points out the need for more pickleball courts (we’re working on that).



\*\*CORE and casual participation are measures of frequency. A casual participant is anyone that played pickleball 1-7 times in the last 12 months, while a CORE participant is anyone that played pickleball 8+ times in the last 12 months.

Source: [Pickleball Union](https://www.pickleballunion.com/)

Reminder: Members are required to wear their badge during play. If yours remains in the BPC shed unclaimed, please retrieve it ASAP during scheduled play. Badges for the new members will be available soon. ❖

## Pickling Trippin’ to the Great Beyond →

—Cynde Hargrave, VP, Director of Communications

Recently, different sources have sent info to the Club about international trips that include pickleball play, often with clinics/instruction. By sharing a few of them with you here, I wonder if you might

return the favor. We could collect a fascinating array of travel options for even more fun pickleball and making new friends while exploring the world. And I can share these finds with you here.

Check these out. Costs, as you might guess, are variable. Airfare typically is not included; transportation may be provided from the nearest airport. The research is on you.

- Eduardo Ballesteros, the CEO of [Pickleball Iberico](#), organizes trips in Spain. I used Google Translate to read the website in English. The site showed the scheduled 10-day, March 2024 trip that included 4-star hotels in Madrid, Cadiz, and Malaga with pickleball in all locations, guided tours, and more. Here's hoping for more in 2025. In the meantime, check out the Spain pickleball locations listed.
- Flavio Fiore, owner of [Pickleball Italy Trips](#), reached out in December. Trips are to various Italy locations. The 2024 Piemonte trip is described as "Alps, Lakes, Chocolate, Wine... & Pickleball." Enticing, no? Each trip is with a specific pro instructor, interesting side trips/tours, delicious food, etc. 2024 trips into October are posted; nothing for 2025 yet.
- This one came to the Club in February: Navigo Pickleball Vacations by Navigo Sports Tours, for both pickleball players and non-playing companions (nice!). Their focus is equally divided between touring and playing pickleball for 16 hours. Hotels are 4-star or better. 2024 trips hit Spain, Scotland, Italy, or France. Ooh la la!
- How about a Croatia and Bosnia pickleball yacht trip?! Brett Noel, 3X National Gold Medal winner and pro who has hosted camps locally, partners with wife Roxie of [XperienceWorldTravel@gmail.com](mailto:XperienceWorldTravel@gmail.com) to host yacht trips for pickleball with Brett as instructor. Their 2024 trip sold out immediately. Follow Brett Noel Pickleball on Facebook to track his offers.

Have you personally experienced a terrific international pickleball trip? [Do share!](#) ❖

### ❖ Key Dates ❖

April 1 – National Pickleball Month!

April 8 – BPC Season Opener

April 20 – New Season Celebration

May 4 – 3.0 rating event

May 11 – Ladies Mentor event

May 12 – Deadline to submit candidacy

May 15-19 – Pickleball Zone Challenge

May 25 – 3.5 CORE rating event

June 18 – General Membership Meeting

July 24-28 – Pacific NW Classic

September 20-22 – Calcutta Tournament