



# Summer 2025 Newsletter

July 6, 2025

## Upcoming Events

—Cynde Hargrave, VP/Director,  
Communications

- **Tuesday, July 22 – Wes Gabrielsen Clinics**  
Clinics for 3.0 to 4.0+ will be coached by Dean Guyer and Jared Davis. Register [here](#).
- **July 23-27 - Pacific Northwest Classic Tournament**, Pine Nursery Park. You still have time to register for this all doubles, all round robin event at [Pickleball Tournaments](#).
- **Thursday, August 7 – Pickleball Zone Blood Drive**, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 63040 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Bend. Gift cards awarded. See details below.

## Feeding the Hungry

—Marion Anderson, Director At Large

Members really delivered for the June Food Drive supporting *The Giving Plate* and *The Bend Food Project*. A team effort and generous contributions enabled BPC to donate 395 lbs. of food to those organizations! Bravo!

## Don't Forget

Our **Suggestion Box** on the Club storage shed located between Courts 8 & 10 is checked weekly for any comments you may offer. Provide your name and phone number or email address for a direct response.

## President's Message

—Kirk Foster, President

**Fifteen Years In!** - This year we celebrate 15 years as an organized pickleball club. In 2010, with no permanent pickleball facilities in sight, a handful of enthusiasts organized and formed Bend Pickleball Club. Today the BPC has grown to nearly 1,300 members with 16 dedicated courts at Pine Nursery Park. Now there are places to play pickleball all over Bend and the surrounding communities.

**BPRD Partnership** - Our collaboration with Bend Park and Recreation District continues to flourish. Our cooperative efforts helped to create the existing 16 dedicated pickleball courts, and we are on the verge of adding 8 more.

Thanks to donations from several hundred club members, matching funds from Werner and Susan Zehnder, and a grant from Bend Sustainability Fund, the Club reached our goal of 50% funding for the 8 new courts. By end-July, we should know where we stand with lights funding. I extend a special thank you to Diana Henderson who gave tirelessly of her time, energy, and ideas to help raise the needed funds.

We expect that BPRD will review the bids and award the contract sometime in July. Construction of the new courts is expected to begin in late summer.

Matt Mercer, Director of Recreation Services at BPRD, will retire this month. Matt has been a great supporter of Bend Pickleball Club and pickleball in general. I thank Matt for his efforts and wish him well in the future. I hope we will get to see him enjoy some pickleball on the courts he has worked so hard to develop.

**2025 General Meeting** - Club bylaws require the Board to conduct an annual General Meeting to update the membership on club activities and business, manage and

update the bylaws, and elect officers. This year the meeting was held on June 12 at the Larkspur Senior Center. It was attended by the Board and about 20 Club members. Board officers gave updates on projects and events, financial status, membership trends, and upcoming player development activities. Note: During the coming year we will be seeking ways to increase member involvement and interest in Club operations.

**2025 Pacific Northwest Classic Tournament** - Registration for this annual tournament closes July 7. We will be tying up loose ends and prepping for the July 23 start.

This year we made the decision to forego the Open (prize money) events. Why? Putting up \$35k in prize money seemed imprudent given our need to raise enough money to help fund the new courts. We also opted to go with an all doubles, all round robin format because tournament players pay entry fees and travel expenses and want to play more than two games. That can happen (and often does) in a double-elimination format. Our round robin format guarantees each team will play a minimum of five matches.

We anticipate about 400 players when registration wraps. Come out to see some great play! While the weather forecast is too far off to rely on, especially in Bend, predictions are calling for temperatures in the high 80's with clear skies. Let's hope everything that can cause smoke has already burned in the past 5 years and that we get 5 days of clean air and sunshine.

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help with the tournament. We can still use help in a few key areas. Please visit [SignUpGenius](#) to schedule your time.

Bend Pickleball Club continues to be the driving force in Central Oregon pickleball. Your continued membership and support makes all of what we accomplish possible. Thank you and see you on the courts!



## Advance Your Game!

—Janet Davis, Director, Training & Development

WOW! The courts this summer are full of members enjoying the game we all love.

As I continue to expand training opportunities for our Club, I want to remind you to frequently **check out Court Reserve for added clinics**. Wednesday afternoons have been filled with RJ Petershagen's amazing skill clinics, and Fridays offer an opportunity to take your game to the next level with Jared Davis' Match Play Critique.

Another reminder: BPC **CORE** testing is Saturday, July 19, at Pine Nursery Park. Given the waitlist for the 3.5 CORE test, an additional testing date has been added for Saturday, August 2. Register [here](#).

And more training opportunities have been added:

- [Tournament and Test Prep Clinic](#) - If you are getting ready to test or preparing for an upcoming tournament, this clinic is you. Maybe you are working on a specific skill or need

some ideas on how to adjust your game to play outdoors? Jared will get you there. Registration for this clinic is open to one member who may then invite a partner, another team, or friends to join the clinic. It's up to the member.

- **Ladies Lesson and Ladder Play** - Begin this time with a “skill drill,” then take that skill to the game with Ladder Play. This offers a great time to connect with other Club ladies while improving your game.

**You d’best!** A heartfelt thank you to those who donated to the fundraiser honoring Michael Mineni. Together we raised not only enough for a court sponsorship but also for a memorial bench. Both will be placed in the new courts addition once completed. Thank you again. Michael’s friends are truly “OUTstanding.”



## Board Members Continue to Serve

—Cynde Hargrave, VP/Communications Director

The annual General Meeting on June 12 provided BPC member attendees the opportunity to vote for Board candidates, all of whom have served on the Board in various capacities over the years. Now, with new 3-year terms to June 30, 2028, please congratulate:

- Kirk Foster, Board President
- Brian Firebaugh, Director of Membership
- Alane Harrold, Director At Large #1

You can read their bios at [bendpickleballclub.com/board-of-directors/](https://bendpickleballclub.com/board-of-directors/).



## The Gift That Keeps on Giving

—Werner Zehnder, Partner, Pickleball Zone Bend

As a recipient of multiple blood transfusions over the last 12 months, I hope you will consider donating a pint of your wonderful blood.

Summers are the most difficult times for the Red Cross to get enough donors. In addition, this is also the season of highest demand. Did you know that 1 in 7 visitors to St. Charles Hospital requires blood and St. Charles blood supply depends very much on the Red Cross blood bank?

The Red Cross lost their "Blood Mobile," so I offered the 4th floor lounge of the Pickleball Zone for their next blood drive on **August 7th, 2025**.

This message is going out to our pickleball mailing list on CourtReserve [and now to BPC]. Unfortunately, I can't donate blood, but I can give each donor a \$25 gift card that can be used at the Pickleball Zone towards lessons, clinics, court reservations, organized play sessions, or in the Proshop. In addition, the Red Cross is providing you with a \$15 gift card.

Thank you for considering donating blood. It is very much appreciated by all of us who depend on it.



## SOAR Pickleball 2025

—Christie Gestvang, BPC Volunteer Organizer for SOAR

Bend Pickleball Club members volunteered once again for Destination Rehab’s annual SOAR event.



Despite the cold and windy conditions, on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Bend Pavilion, BPC members Cindy Wilson, Tom Hart, Scott McIntosh, Trudy Dahlmeier, and Christie Gestvang provided a fun opportunity for participants to be introduced to pickleball.

This free community event promotes connection, health, and wellness for adults who have neurologic conditions.

SOAR offers activities such as walking, yoga, dance, soccer, wheelchair basketball, pickleball, art, fitness classes, and more. BPC looks forward to supporting SOAR again next year.



## Thanks to Our Round Robin Captains

—RJ Petershagen, Director, Court Utilization

As we enter the heart of our Bend Pickleball Club 2025 season, I hope you’ll join me in acknowledging our crew of captains who keep our ever-popular round robin play running smoothly. Our captains this season are **Marion Anderson, Brian Firebaugh, Christie Gestvang, Scott Martin, and Scott McIntosh**. Their dedicated assistance Monday-Saturday, 8:00am-2:00pm, enables BPC to be the finest place to play pickleball in Central Oregon. Be sure to say “thanks for all the help” the next time you play.



Lookin’ good! Round robin players sport the latest Club T-shirt and a hat!