



Fall 2026 Newsletter

October 21, 2026

Along with the many who are mourning the unimaginable tragedy at Silver Rail Elementary on Thursday, October 15, we grieve. We stand with the rest of our Bend community in offering our deepest condolences to the many who have been impacted. BPC members can anticipate an upcoming event in support of recovery. **#BendStrong**

BPC Board of Directors

President's Message

—Kirk Foster, President

Summer seemed to disappear overnight, giving way to cooler temperatures and changing colors. It was a busy spring and summer season filled with pickleball and Club activities. As 2026 winds down, I want to thank everyone who supported Club operations, especially our volunteers. From organized play and court maintenance to special events, your extra effort makes a better experience possible for everyone.

The big news for 2027 is that our summer tournament scheduled for July 14-18 is a USA Pickleball Golden Ticket event. A gold medal won in this tournament earns a direct "Golden Ticket," providing priority pre-registration access to Nationals. Players who do not medal may still qualify for Nationals through the **Tiered Point System (TPS)**. For details, visit <https://usapickleball.org/qualify/>. This is a unique opportunity for our local players to compete in a Golden Ticket event without the need to travel; we hope they will take advantage of it. We are also working with local businesses to secure special rates and travel incentives for out-of-town participants.

Attendance for the 2026 tournament was lower than we anticipated. Participants were treated to a smooth-running tournament with plenty of good competition and friendly, helpful volunteers. We also managed to dodge some smoky skies and a brief lightning storm and enjoyed some pretty good weather in the process. Here's hoping that our Golden Ticket tournament will draw more players!

We owe a special debt of gratitude to our 2026 sponsors and thank them for their continued support that helps to make all of this possible:

Mikes Fence Center • Storage2U • Pickleball Zone Bend • Horizon Broadcasting Group • Visit Bend • First Interstate Bank • Selkirk Sport • Jigsaw Health • Vascular Intervention Specialists • Move&Go Physio • SomaTx Design • Pickleball Planet

Winter play will continue at the Zehnder Pickleball Complex as weather permits, along with several indoor events for members. We'll also be planning the Club's usual events and activities for 2027.

Wishing safe travels to all of you who are headed to warmer climes and for all of you who will “hold the fort,” *stay warm and we’ll see you on the courts!*

October 13 Lighting Update - We are pleased to announce that a Siteco representative will visit the site on Wednesday, October 28, to program controls, measure preliminary light levels, and provide training to Bend Park & Rec District personnel. Pending a successful outcome, BPRD will proceed with Dark Sky Compliance. Although a final release date for the system has not been set, we are making progress. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding. ❖

Winter Schedule in Effect as of November 2

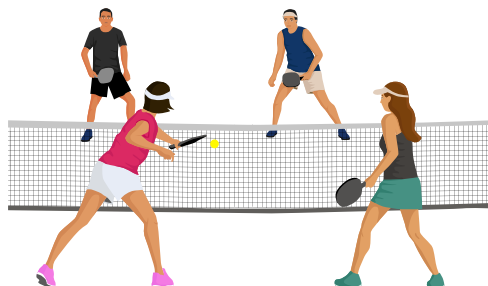
—Marion Anderson, Director of Court Utilization

In parallel with the end of Daylight Savings Time on November 1, Bend Pickleball Club will change to our **Winter Schedule** on Monday, November 2. Just two categories of organized play are offered on Monday through Friday:

1. **Winter League Round Robins** – 12:00-2:00pm, play on 8 courts (odd-numbered courts 1-15), open to all skill levels, and
2. **4.0+ Round Robins** – 12:00-2:00pm, play on 8 courts (even-numbered courts 2-16), open to 4.0 and above rated players

These round robins are listed on CourtReserve. Reservations are required. Sign-ups open on Sunday, October 25.

The Saturday Challenge play schedule remains the same with play at 9:00-11:00am and 11:00am-1:00pm. ❖



Club Website – New Look & Feel

—Cynde Hargrave, VP/Director of Communications

If you haven’t visited BendPickleballClub.com in a while, you should check it out. While the left-hand menu remains much the same, you may notice lighter, more engaging copy with connecting visuals that help to tell our story. In addition to the [court cameras](#), you can check out the [current weather](#) and [air quality](#). The new [Winter schedule](#) is posted here, as well as on CourtReserve.

Given the many pages of content, it’s easy to miss a needed change. Should you uncover copy that requires updating, please send a note to bpc@bendpickleballclub.com. It will be most appreciated!

❖

The 2nd Annual Veteran's Pickleball Cup is in the Books!

—Christie Gestvang, Volunteer

Thank you to the 20+ veterans who joined us on Saturday, September 19, at Pine Nursery Park. We had participants ranging from novice to 5.0 skill levels representing the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Army.

I want to give a big shout-out to the other BPC volunteers who helped organize and support this wonderful event: Scott

McIntosh, Tom Hart,

Maureen Bartelling, Dave Kitzmiller, Kelly Powell, Dave Hardenbergh, and Stan Lubeck. A special thank you also goes to Ben Moreno for helping spread the word to the veteran community and for designing the event t-shirts.

Bend Pickleball Club greatly appreciates and honors all veterans for their service. Congratulations to the Army this year for winning the 2026 Veteran's Pickleball Cup! ❖

