



KEOWEE KEY PICKLEBALL CLUB WEEKLY UPDATE

Chairman's Corner

Happy New Year Pickle Nation,

I have taken up the pen from Tom Lund which is more than just a bit intimidating! Tom has religiously provided us with weekly updates and pearls of his wisdom for more than 15 months. I hope to offer even a small fraction of his humor and insights. Thanks for everything, Tom!!

As we look forward to a fun-filled year of pickleball, it's the perfect opportunity to reflect on the tremendous year we had in 2015. Last year we added more than thirty new members and friends to our club roster. While a few players didn't renew this past year, we still have a club membership approaching two hundred. Block times, especially C and social block times, grew in popularity in 2015, underscoring the very social nature of the sport. Thanks to John Walker and a number of very dedicated facilitators, we now have biweekly player development sessions for club members who want to improve their skills. And for those who are interested in competition, we have had and will continue to have many interclub events at our own courts and courts used by surrounding area clubs. Our own Keowee Key Classic Tournament held this past October was a huge success and we have already begun to think about next year's tournament. We had lots of PB&Bs and Ladies parties in 2015. Thanks to our new Social Committee, we already had our first party on New Year's Day and it was a blast! Nearly 50 players turned out to eat, drink, socialize and play. Photos are already posted on our website thanks to Jean and Sam. Oh yes...and I shouldn't forget that our new website was launched in 2015....Great job, Sam!

For players interested in new paddle technology, we still have three Gamma Sports demo paddles, courtesy of Dick Stone. The paddles have a rimless edge, carbon fiber or fiberglass frame and Aramid honeycomb core. Aramid is a strong synthetic fiber used in aerospace and military applications including ballistic-rated body armor fabric. We are very close to having enough interested players to meet Gamma's minimum for a volume discount which ranges from \$30-40 per paddle- a great deal! We hope to place an order by mid January. Until then, the demo paddles will be available at player development and a few other block times or you can contact Dick Stone (rgstone@bellsouth.net; 944-2137) to arrange for a time to try out the paddles.

Thanks again to Tom and last year's committee for the terrific support they gave to our club. The new Pickleball Club Board (members below) meets for the first time tomorrow.

Ann Savoca (Chair)
Karen Daniels (Vice-Chair)
Randy Kamischke (Treasurer)
Barbara Skaluba (Secretary)
Kaleen Dixon and Dorcas Annett (Social)
Jon Goyert (Competition)
John Walker (Training)
Jean MacGuffie (Communications)

Please don't hesitate to pass your recommendations along to me or any other Board member so that we can continue to meet the needs of the Pickleball Club. I look forward to working with you all to ensure we have another fantastic year!

Ann

Social Scene

LADIES ANNUAL REGIFTING PARTY Jan 22nd

Ladies, mark your calendars for our annual re-gifting party – January 22 from 1-3 PM. Wrap an unused gift (\$5 and under) for which you have no use. We will swap and steal from each other and, of course, play pickleball. We look forward to seeing you on the courts.

Kaleen (Dixon), Dorcas (Annett) and the Social Team

Interclub Events and Competition

The first 2016 Ladies League competition is scheduled to begin on Friday, January 29th from 1-3 PM and will run each Friday through February 26th. Everyone will have the opportunity to play with and against everyone else during the course of the competition. For each session, players will be assigned to a court for the day and play a total of six games with three other players on that court. So far we have 21 interested players; the first sixteen who signed up are in the event. Currently, the others are on the waiting list. If you are interested in playing, please contact Ann Savoca at savocaann03@gmail.com; if we get three more players to sign up, we will run a second league competition, most likely on Fridays following the first session. We also have four subs but could use a few more so please let Ann know if you would like to have your name added to the sub list.

Sally (Brinker) and Ann (Savoca)

Player Development

12/30/2015 Self-directed practice...rained out...again!

1/1/2016 New Year's Day KKPBB Club gathering, by all measures, was a huge success, particularly given the amount of play that was experienced by all in attendance. From a Player Development standpoint it

was great to see people demonstrating skill and strategy practice, playing to the level of the participants involved. Extended rallies of play yielded lots of excitement, laughter and an increasing appreciation for the continuing improvement in play. A significant part of this was the amount of well placed soft shots that won points or led to opponent unforced errors. Three Cheers to all!!!

The next facilitated Player Development session is scheduled for 01/06/2016. We currently have four signed up, so space is available for an additional 12. To sign-up, please send your request to jswalker5233d@gmail.com as usual.

We look forward to see you on the courts. Happy New Year!

John (Walker)

[Click here to view calendar for pickleball block times and special events.](#) We encourage you to create your own schedule by going to the reservations column and reserving a court(s) up to 72 hours in advance when available.

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