

Pickle Post

24Aug26

PPA Board Update

As you may know, Peg Travers has assumed the temporary responsibility as PPA President until the October elections. If you have questions, contact Peg at 978-478-7234 or prescottpickleball@gmail.com. The Board hopes to streamline operations to make the board jobs easier for future leaders. Remember, we are a volunteer organization: more hands make for light work, so your help would be much appreciated.

PPA Board Election

There will be three open positions for the PPA Board as of November 1: President, Secretary, Member-at-Large. The election will be held in October. The nominating committee is comprised of 3 board members: Peg Travers, Rick, Bothell, and Marcie Moody. On or about September 1 a notice will be sent to all members soliciting candidates.

Round Robin and Ladder schedule change

As the days get shorter it is time again to adjust the PPA regular event schedule. On Sep 14 Challenge Play will move to 8-11am, and PPA Ladders and Round Robins will start after that. The detailed schedule is being worked on and will be shared with those who participate in these weekly events.

September Social Round Robin

In honor of our very hot summer, the fall Social Saturday Round Robin will be called “Dink, Dink, Hooray! Fall is on the Way! Each player will be able to play a minimum of 6 matches with one of them being a dink-only match.

Date: September 12, 2026

Time: 9:00am - Noon

Location: Pioneer Park

Registration will begin August 29th

Girl's Night Out

This event was cancelled due to low sign-ups. If you are interested in attending and especially if you are willing to volunteer to make it happen, please contact Ann Steiner at easteiner@yahoo.com

September Social Gathering

Watch for a Sep 1 announcement for a non-pickleball social event in September

PPA Website

At the last board meeting, it was decided to form a Website Committee. Ed Ohlmann has volunteered and joining him will be two board members and one captain. We need another volunteer! Do you have some website experience or have a desire to help this team? Contact Ted Vanderlaan at tedv82@gmail.com if you would like to help.

More Courts

Peg Travers, Karen Eads, and Ted Vanderlaan developed a presentation requesting that we expedite the construction of four More Courts. At an August meeting with Recreation Services, we were informed that our proposal must be put on hold. There is a bathroom capacity problem at the courts. It is a septic system and we have a leaching field that is failing. Recreation Services is trying to find a solution to this problem but it may take some time. Unfortunately, this means that there will be no more courts in the near future. Your Board would like to explore ways to make the current courts more usable. We asked Recreation Services if we can explore lighting on courts 5-8 and or some kind of wind remediation. We will be working on these options in 2027. If you are interested in participating in this effort, contact Peg Travers.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the life blood of PPA. Your Round Robin Captains, Playgroup Liaisons, and event organizers and volunteers spend hours making sure your event runs smoothly. Have you thanked them recently?

When you come to events, you often see the same volunteers tirelessly working hard to make sure your event is fun. They need more help! Please consider volunteering. If we all volunteer for one or two events, committees or projects, it makes PPA stronger and better.

For this month's "Volunteer of the Month," let's celebrate all Volunteers. Thank the people who make PPA so wonderful! And Volunteer! It is a great way to meet people, and it is fun!

Coaches Corner

Drops and Drips

By PJ Janik

Just by the title alone, you may be wondering if this is an HGTV article on home improvement! I can assure you that you are in the right place for a Pickleball Coaches Corner tip!

No doubt in my mind you are all very familiar with the infamous "drop shot.". Whether it's a "third shot drop" or a "4th shot drop" or somewhere when the timing and opportunity present itself. Taking them down with a drop shot is a great strategy and tactic against the "banger." Typically, the drop shot lands in the Transition Zone (TRZ) by their feet. To execute the drop shot, loosen your grip and/or take a half swing. Effective shots frustrate the most aggressive players and is admired by all! Practice drop shotting by getting a laundry basket and placing it between the Transition Zone and the Non Volley Zone (NVZ). Aim and adjust your grip and swing to place or in this case "drop" the ball in the laundry basket!

Ok, so what about this "drip" thing?? The "drip shot" is a shot that literally "drips" over the net and lands either very close to the net or between the net and the NVZ. It causes a lot of pressure on the opponent who maybe still meandering around the Baseline, to either run like heck to address it or just let it go and say "nice shot" afterwards. Even if your opponent is near the TRZ, it still causes some issues for this player. They still must scramble and lift the ball up and over the net in an attempt to return it. That will result in a "pop up." A pop up is a great Christmas present to you in being able to finish up the rally. Once again, loosen your grip and either punch or half stroke it. The loose grip is key!

OK, now comes a Consumer Warning disclaimer. Whether it's a Drop Shot or a Drip Shot, realize you are intentionally bringing your opponent up to the NVZ sooner than later. And as we all know, "he/she who controls the NVZ, typically wins the game." Until then, buy that laundry basket, practice these shots and remember, "it's just Pickleball."

PJ Janik is a USA Pickleball Ambassador and certified Coach and Player Skills Evaluator through Pickleball Coaching International. He is one of the authorized City of Prescott Pickleball instructors allowed to teach at Pioneer Park. In addition, he is the new head coach Pickleball Coach for the YMCA. He also happens to be a really nice guy!