

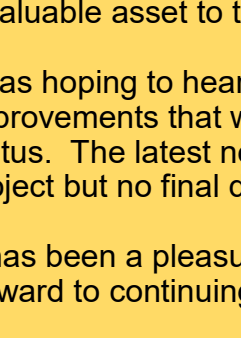


Santa Fe Pickleball Newsletter

February 2022



**Jeff Holbrook—Editor &
President**
jffholbrook@gmail.com



**Bruce Panowski—Publisher &
Vice President**
bpanowski@gmail.com



**Nancy Mroz—Contributing
Editor**
nancymroz@gmail.com

Club web page: <https://santafepickleballclub.com>

Club email: sfpickleball@gmail.com

Message from the Board

A huge thank you to the people who have stepped up to be a part of the Santa Fe Pickleball Club (SFPBC)! These are important roles in helping to improve local pickleball play, increase and improve facilities, and develop relationships with city of Santa Fe officials. Also, a huge thank you to Kiki Hummel, who is not running for re-election as Secretary of the SFPBC board. She was an invaluable asset to the board!

I was hoping to hear more definitive news about the Romero Park project (County park improvements that will include 5 new pickleball courts!!!) but am still awaiting news of this project's status. The latest news is that they are in conversations with a company that has bid for the project but no final decisions have been made. Stay tuned.

It has been a pleasure working on the Santa Fe Pickleball Club for the past 2+ years and I look forward to continuing to help make Santa Fe a great destination for pickleball fans!!

Jeff

Club Annual Meeting/Elections

The Santa Fe Pickleball Club Annual Meeting and Elections will be held **March 1, 2022** at 3:30 PM at Estancia Primera Clubhouse, 450 Avenida Primera S. Masks will be mandatory, as we will be indoors. An email has been sent with the proxy voting information. (If you didn't receive the email, please let us know at sfpickleball@gmail.com).

You may vote in person at the meeting. Refreshments will be provided, so please RSVP by February 15 so we know how much food to order.

Please Note: If Santa Fe's infection rate is above 10% at that time, we will cancel in-person and meet via Zoom.

Current Candidates for Board Positions

Cindy Lawton—President



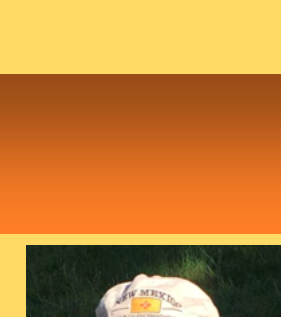
I am very passionate about the sport of pickleball. I feel that I can be a good leader for our club to help grow the sport in our community while continuing the spirit of play to be competitive, fun, and social. My goal is to meet the needs of most and bring new ideas from other places I have played (Florida, North Carolina, New York, Washington D.C., Connecticut, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, California). We have so many people from all over so I plan to be a good listener to see what other ideas folks have to offer on what worked and didn't in their previous clubs or communities. Lastly, I have a good working relationship with the city and with many USAPA ambassadors and hope to continue to work on expanding both playing opportunities as well as places to play. For these reasons, I feel that I am a good candidate for president and I hope you will consider my nomination.

Wayne Siefert—Vice-President



I have been an active pickleball player for the past five years. I have been a board member of the Upper Bucks Pickleball (PA) Club for the past two years. With this club, I was involved in running tournaments, organizing play and social activities. I was also a member of several other pickleball clubs in the area. I have played pickleball extensively in Pennsylvania and also in Florida. I have played in over 20 states during my travel for work. In Florida, I was involved with several different clubs and leagues. In my short time in New Mexico, I have become involved with the Santa Fe Pickleball Club. I have been an instructor for two sessions of beginner lessons, and I have also helped welcome and teach more than two dozen other new players. I have also been instrumental in teaching pickleball to new players from the New Mexico School for the Deaf and students from St. John's College. I have helped several local schools secure equipment for their pickleball programs. I have a good relationship with many members of our club, including Cindy Lawton. I am confident that if Cindy were elected as President, I would, as her Vice President, be able to work very effectively with her to advance the goals of the Santa Fe Pickleball Club, including raising money for six additional courts at Fort Marcy.

Sandy Arrighi - Secretary



I am a retired community college Program Director/Instructor as well as an avid social pickleball player. I started playing pickleball in 2013 shortly after I retired. Currently I play in Santa Fe as well as Apache Junction, Arizona where my husband Bill and I live during the winter months. I feel confident that I have the necessary technology skills and enthusiasm required for this position and will do my best to serve the Board and club members. I feel that the club is moving in the right direction in promoting pickleball in Santa Fe and I am willing to donate my time and energy to further this mission.

Nancy Mroz—Member-at-large/Newsletter Contributing Editor



I have lived in Santa Fe with my husband Gene since 2002, and in New Mexico since 1978, residing in Los Alamos. My background includes being a University of Tennessee Volunteer with degrees in Marketing and Vocational Education and a huge Kansas City Chiefs fan. In 1983, I started a real estate career in Los Alamos, going on to own two real estate companies there. I sold my RE/MAX franchise in 2007 and retired from the business in 2008. My hobbies include golf, fitness, and extensive sewing, quilting and machine embroidery. My family, including my two amazing grandchildren Kellen (11) and Reagan (7) are my greatest joy. Cindy Lawton introduced me to pickleball in 2018. Immediately after trying it out at Fort Marcy Gym in early 2019, I was hooked. I am a founding member of the SFPBC. Pickleball is so much more than a sport and fitness routine; it is about the wonderful lasting friendships I have made playing the game!

Bruce Panowski—Member-at-large/Newsletter



I've been asked to run as a Member-at-Large for the coming two years on the Santa Fe Pickleball Club board. This position is responsible for general court maintenance (leaf blower, wind screens, net heights, etc. as well as newsletter creation). This is a bit of a continuation for me, as I have been on the board as vice-president and have been responsible for the publication of the Club's monthly newsletter since the Club's inception. I feel I can continue these duties with consistency, and they are duties I enjoy. Being retired, and living about 10 minutes from Ft. Marcy, I can regularly check the courts 2-3 times/week. I grew up in Los Alamos, and attended University of New Mexico where I received a Master's degree in Anthropology. I have worked as a National Park Service archeologist at Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, and Bandelier National Monument. After this, I was employed at Los Alamos National Laboratory as a database programmer for the Water Quality and Solid Waste departments. After retiring in 2009, I pursued my passion for birding, which has taken me to many places in the US chasing that elusive species, as well as volunteering for 13 years at Bandelier National Monument on their bird-banding team. Tennis elbow put a stop to my activity in tennis, so pickleball (a little easier on the arm joints) was a welcome activity, and one that I hope I can pursue for many years.

Mike Jackson—Member-at-large



I am a founding member of the Club, primarily as a function of repeating stimulus from Diane Reynolds and Mary Collins. Carolyn and I drive an hour each way from our farm in Medanales to play twice a week, mostly at Fort Marcy at our beautiful new courts. My background includes extensive tournament experience in play, management and refereeing all over the West; even made it to the top of the heap in the "80s, before reality set in. Still love to play for fun and teach beginners. Incidentally, our Club logo originated in the mind and pen of our daughter, Julie.

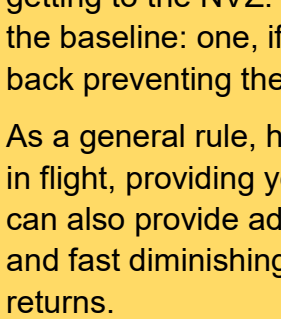
Note for below: Both Gaby Loy and Chuck Stein are currently serving their second year of two-year terms, and are therefore not up for election this cycle. However, they are both highly regarded for their valuable contributions, and are including their mini-bios here so members can know the full Club board.

Gaby Loy—Member-at-large



I have been playing pickleball for about a year and a half but I love it and I play every day. It really makes me feel good. I have been on the board as an At-Large member since February of 2020. I am in charge of Membership, Events, and T-shirts. I have been a USAPA Ambassador for several years.

Chuck Stein



I am continuing on the Board as Treasurer having assumed the position in January 2021 after the former Treasurer resigned. I love pickleball! Great opportunity to be outside and meet new people. I moved to Santa Fe from Dallas in May 2018. I have only been playing since July 2019 and did not play for most of 2020 due to Covid but finally did start playing again in 2021 at Aldea and Fort Marcy mostly. I am a CPA who continues to work part-time, having my own tax and accounting practice. I have served on several non-profit boards in various capacities and specifically as treasurer for two boards. I served in one treasurer's position for over ten years for a non-profit that had an annual budget of over \$3 million. Giving back to the community is a priority for me. I look forward to the Club continuing to expand its activities in the community and am willing to pitch in wherever I can. I volunteer for several other non-profits in Santa Fe and volunteering is something that is very meaningful to me. See you on the courts!

AMBASSADORS' NEWS

By Cindy Lawton

- The Newman clinics are full. Lindsay said if we have enough interest, they would be willing to do a 3rd session, so please continue to write to clawts@gmail.com if you want to participate.
- City councilor - Signe Lindell requested information regarding pickleball: Provided information in regards to economic impact, number of players in Santa Fe, school programs, ages of our players, etc.
- Communicated with Melissa McDonald from Parks and Recreation dept in regards to the new head of Recreation (Maria Sanchez-Tucker) and our on-going relationship for pickleball.
- Gathered examples of MOUs and joint club-city partnerships from other pickleball clubs and cities.
- Spent the last month in Phoenix where I have learned quite a bit of information to bring back on various systems in regards to leagues, ladders, tournaments, and organized play,

Notices

Free Pickleball Clinic

New Mexico Senior Olympics will offer a PICKLEBALL CLINIC in Santa Fe on Saturday, February 26th. Clinic is free for the first 50 persons, however, we only ask if you register and cannot attend, please let us know so someone else can attend in your place!

A FREE **Pickleball Clinic** in Santa Fe on **Saturday, February 26th, 1st Session at 8:00 a.m. to 11:00a.m. and 2nd Session at 12:00pm to 3:00 pm** at The Genoveva Chavez Community Center, **3221 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM**. Clinic will adhere to local public health safety guidelines -COVID Safe.

This clinic will feature Certified PPR Instructor and USA Pickleball member, Felix Rabanal! Social distancing will be practiced and limited space is available. You can find a registration form by visiting www.nmseniorolympics.org for more info. To register over the phone, call our Roswell Office at 1-888-623-6676 Monday – Friday between 9-4 pm, closed for lunch 12-1 PM.

To be COVID Safe we are requesting no spectators and Clinic will be limited to a maximum of 50 participants.

Want to contribute to the newsletter?

Have you got something you'd like to share with the group either about pickleball or yourself? Would you like to contribute an article to the Newsletter or just submit some ideas? Contact Nancy Mroz at 505-660-4600 or nancymroz@gmail.com

RULES & REGS

Nasty Nelson

By Christine Wantuck, SW Regional District Ambassador

A "Nasty Nelson" is a controversial trick shot named after Tim "The Puppet Master" Nelson. The server aims his serve, typically, at the receiver's partner standing near the center line of the non-volley zone. If the ball, before bouncing, hits the receiving team it is a point for the serving team.

To avoid being a victim of this shot, stay focused on the server, the trajectory of the ball, and consider not standing tight to the center line.

If you are a victim of this shot, laugh it off and learn from it. We have all been there.

Rule

It is a fault against the receiving team resulting in a point for the server if:

4.N.2. The receiver or their partner is touched by or interferes with the flight of the ball before it bounces.

COACH'S CORNER

Return of Serve

By Christine Wantuck, SW Regional District Ambassador

The essence of pickleball strategy, for the majority of shots, is about managing space and time. This principle certainly holds true for the second shot to pickleball, the return of serve. An effective return of serve affords your team the first opportunity to advance to the most offensive position on the court, the non-volley zone (NVZ). After returning serve, the returner should ideally be moving from the baseline toward the NVZ in order to establish a strong position before the third shot is hit by their opponent. The team at the net is in the best position to exert the maximum amount of pressure on the opponents by having the initial chance to dictate play by hitting an offensive shot down, away or through their opponents.

Here are a few tips on how to hit an effective return of serve to buy time for yourself so that your team can swiftly gain the net advantage.

When receiving the serve, give yourself enough space behind the baseline to let the ball reach its apex after the bounce, so that you can hit the ball out in front of you. By standing deep behind the baseline, you will be able to hit the ball while using your forward momentum to gain valuable time getting to the NVZ. There are a couple of instances, however, when you should stand closer to the baseline: one, if the server consistently hits short serves and second, if the wind is at your back preventing the ball from reaching the baseline.

As a general rule, hit your return of serve deep. The deeper the return, the longer the ball remains in flight, providing you more time to get up to the NVZ. Adjusting the speed at which the ball is hit can also provide additional time to get up to the net. If you hit hard and fast it will come back hard and fast diminishing your opportunity to gain the net advantage. Experiment with low and slow returns.

Try to avoid running around your backhand to hit a forehand shot as it will often move you wide off the court, creating a longer distance for you to cover to get up to the NVZ. It can also put you in a weaker position to hit your fourth shot.

Think about the placement of your return of serve. For an example, hitting a return of serve deep to the middle of the court can limit the opponent's angles but, also shortens the distance the ball must travel and the time you have to move to the NVZ. It is important to practice an assortment of spins, speeds and targets on your return of serves as you will need a variety depending on the opponent's skill level.

Hope these few tips give you something to practice when you go out to play.

Have fun!

SWEET PICKLES

Member Recognition

Congratulations to Cindy Lawton (Santa Fe) and Barb Wellington (Albuquerque) for taking 3.5 gold in Phoenix at the Tommy Wong Memorial Tournament!

Like the shirt Cindy.

Also kudos to Gaby Loy and Jae Hoon Lim for taking 3.0 gold in Santa Fe's recent local tournament. A beer well earned!

Congratulations to Jon Bernard with partner Greg Wellington for placing in two tournaments! Gold in Pebble Creek men's 4.0/4.5 and bronze in Happy Trails men's 4.0.

Welcome New Members!

Provided by Gaby Loy

Reminder: Membership applications can be mailed to Gaby Loy at gabyloy@msn.com or P.O. Box 408, Tesuque, NM 87545

Monetary donations can be mailed to Chuck Stein, 41 Camino Botanica, Santa Fe, NM 87507

CAUGHT ON THE COURTS

