



Santa Fe Pickleball Newsletter

April 2022

- Cindy Lawton—President**
- Wayne Siefert—Vice-President**
- Sandy Arrighi—Secretary**
- Chuck Stein—Treasurer**
- Gaby Loy—Member-at-large (Ambassador, Membership)**
- Bruce Panowski—Member-at-large (Publisher)**
- Nancy Mroz—Member-at-large (Contributing Editor)**
- Dr. Mike Jackson—Member-at-large (Jack-of-all-trades)**

Club web page: santafepickleballclub.com
 Club email: sfpickleball@gmail.com
 Most Recent Board Meeting Minutes

Message from the President

Spring is here and the weather is turning. YAY! We are looking forward to a fun-filled season with a lot of play. I want to personally thank all of you who took the time to fill out the survey. This truly did help the board understand what the club members desire and move in a direction that will hopefully meet what you are looking for.

Survey Results

Thank you all who filled out the survey. Here are the results of the survey and what the board decided to do with these results. A PowerPoint presentation with all the details is on the website. 120 people completed the survey and 68 volunteered. We cannot thank you enough for stepping up to volunteer for one or more categories. We have a lead for each category, so if you did not get a chance to fill it out and are still willing to volunteer, please email the club and we will add you to the list. If you have an idea for the particular category, please contact the lead directly. Their emails can be found on our website at santafepickleballclub.com

Volunteer areas:
 Playing Opportunities: Cindy Community Outreach: Chuck
 Court Maintenance: Bruce and Mike Fundraising: Wayne and Jim Hille
 Newsletter: Nancy and Bruce Social Events: Gaby

Playing Opportunities: At this time the board has decided to work toward the top 3 opportunities:
 Round robins
 Drill sessions
 Special times for different levels

Social Events: Happy Hours were the most desired; we will be planning one per month.

Membership Annual Dues: 110 of 120 people were willing to pay annual dues. The average was \$45. The club will start charging \$35 for annual dues in April when you sign up in our new system. If you joined this year and donated, the amount you donated will be credited to your account. More to come on that in the next section. We truly do not want to lose any of you as members, so if the annual dues cause financial hardship, we have scholarships available.

Approximately 50% of you wanted a higher amount annually that included all events and 50% wanted a lower amount. We chose a lower amount and a small fee structure for some event participation.

Newsletter: 112 people felt the length of the newsletter was appropriate. We will continue with approximately the same length each month. A bit more than 50% wanted to get the newsletter monthly and the rest thought less often. We decided to continue with a monthly newsletter during May through August when we have the most going on and bi-monthly September through April.

Court Reserve

Court Reserve: The club will now use a system for joining called Court Reserve.

Signing up:
 If you are presently a member, you should have received an email directly from Court Reserve to sign up.
 If you have a friend who wants to join but is not presently a member, please direct them to the website santafepickleballclub.com and have them click on the membership button to join. This will link them into the court reserve page to join or they can go to the following link: https://app.courtreserve.com/Portal/Santa_Fe_Pickleball_Club

If you are having trouble signing up or navigating the system, we have set up two zoom calls to help you. The zoom link for the live demonstration is:
<https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/97671259242>
 Times: April 12th at 7:30 a.m. and April 18th at 7 pm.

Payment: Each club member should go to their profile and make sure it is accurate. You might also want to set up a payment profile in the system, either through an electronic transfer from your bank or via credit card. We encourage all members to use the electronic transfer method. Our fee structure is much less vs. using a credit card.

Still having trouble? You can always contact Cindy with your questions at clawts@gmail.com and she can help you through the system.

Events: We are working to start our playing opportunities in May. The calendar is available for viewing under the events tab. You can sign up already for some events by clicking the details button on the calendar.

Open Play: Open play will continue every morning and evening, and all-day Saturday.

All club programming is for members only. The events will be during the off-hours in the afternoons. The calendar will show you when these occur and allow for sign-ups.

- Open play by player level
- Drill sessions (combined player levels)
- Round robins (combined player levels)
- Newbie clinics: Once a month (members will have a few weeks to sign up before non-members.)

In the future, we hope to have ability to sign up for:
 Private lessons (\$60/hr. for up to four players) limited slots each week
 Reserving a court for 1.5 hours (\$20/court for up to four players).

Other items on the calendar with sign up
 Morning Welcome Host: We are hoping each member will sign up once this summer. 8-9:30 a.m.
 Social events
 Community outreach

Player Levels/Rating: All players will need to self-rate themselves in the system. If you need help with your rating, contact board members Cindy Lawton, Wayne Siefert, or Mike Jackson. Here is the list of ratings and general descriptions. There is a system in place to allow you to change your rating as you improve.

Beginner 1	Played pickleball for less than three months; minimal to no previous racquet sports. Scoring still a little challenging and doesn't always remember where to be on the court. Basically, a newbie.
Beginner 2 (2.0)	Played for less than one year with minimal to no previous racquet sport experience. Hits balls into net, wide, or long regularly. Often a bit nervous at the net when someone hits hard towards them.
Intermediate 1	Plays regularly and can hit the ball consistently over the net and in. Most serves and return of serve are playable. May have some limitations due to physical capabilities – moves a bit slower.
Intermediate 2	A relatively consistent player. Can place the ball on the court most of the time. Starting to be able to perform some dinking and drop shots. Serving and return of serve is rarely missed.
Intermediate 3	Consistently keeps ball in play. Can drop the ball into the kitchen. Understands pickleball strategy. Dinks consistently.
Advance (3.75+)	Has a variety of shots including lobs, dinks, resets, drives, and rolls. Can place the ball on the court. Understands strategy of play. Able to comfortably block hard drives. OK being tagged (hit with the ball when done as a controlled shot).

NEWS/STATUS

By Cindy Lawton

We have worked with the city over the last month to discuss some of our needs and the city continues to support the pickleball community.
 1. Port-a-potties to arrive in April at Fort Marcy
 2. The city has bought four benches for the Fort Marcy courts.
 3. The trees have been trimmed
 4. The city is reviewing our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 5. Met with Melissa McDonald in regards of reviewing the proposed signage for Adopt - A-Court fundraising project. She felt the signage was appropriate. Next, Melissa is setting up a meeting with some of the city councilors to discuss the signage and the MOU.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Meetups

Hello Santa Fe Pickleball Club Members
 You have spoken and the board listened. Our first social meet-up will be at Caffè Greco after the Dinko de Mayo tournament (4-6 pm).
 Space is limited, so the first 30 people to sign up on Court Reserve are in. Each individual will be responsible for their own food and drinks as well as their own behavior.
 As a club, we are hoping this inaugural meet up will help members:
 1. Create a greater sense of community amongst players
 2. Introduce Santa Fe to our Pickleball community, spend money in our community, and get to know one another off the courts.
 I am looking forward to being your hostess for the next few months!

Gaby Loy

Fund Raising

By Jim Hille

THE CAMPAIGN IS ON!
 In case you did not receive our email, or missed reading it, our goal is to raise \$200,000 toward the construction of 6 additional pickleball courts, north of the existing six courts at Fort Marcy. The City of Santa Fe will be funding the balance of the design and construction costs. The new courts will have individual entrances and will be separated by fencing to ease disruptions of play. This is made possible by being wider than the existing courts. To learn more about the campaign and how to contribute, go to our website: santafepickleballclub.com.

A NOTE FROM YOUR NEW VICE-PRESIDENT:
 Hello SFPC! My name is Wayne Siefert, newly elected VP of our pickleball club. Thank you for your support! I am a Siefert, formerly Santa Fe, originally from Pennsylvania, where I've been playing the sport for the past 8 years at the encouragement of my hometown YMCA director. I was HOOKED from day one!
 I am a regular at Fort Marcy, loving our city and pickleball community. When asked to be on the fundraising committee by Cindy, like the others who agreed to serve, I'm reluctant to ask for contributions. But it's really about the importance of the cause: knowing how crowded our six courts were last summer, I know it will be even more crowded this summer. We need six more courts!
 My partner and I own a small packaging distribution company giving us a comfortable life, but we are not wealthy. Yet we have always contributed to our community to a variety of causes where there are real. This year we have decided to contribute \$5000 as co-sponsors of our Adopt-a-Court program, as part of our six new courts campaign. We believe in the importance of the project, and hope that YOU too will contribute what you can! Thank you!

Upcoming Activities

Dinko de Mayo Tournament

Santa Fe Pickleball Club's first and soon-to-be annual **Dinko De Mayo Tournament**
 When: Thursday, May 5, 2022
 Where: Fort Marcy Complex
 Team Fee: \$400 (\$50 per player)
 Cinco De Mayo get-together following the tournament (details in Social Meetups above)

Other Albuquerque Tournaments

1. **The ABQ Pickleball Club's Earth Day Classic** (April 22-4) at Manzana Mesa outdoor courts is now open for registration at pickleballtournaments.com.
 The tournament is sanctioned by the USA Pickleball Association. Early registration is \$50 (thru March 5th), after which registration is \$60; the registration fee covers all events. This is a skill/age pool play tournament for singles, doubles and mixed doubles: the groupings are listed at pickleballtournaments.com. Also, there is a need for paid referees. If you can referee and/or would like a referee clinic, please contact Gary Rutherford at rutherfordg@azol.com.

2. Registration is open for **Senior Affairs 50+ Tournament** on May 13-15 at the Manzana Mesa outdoor courts. This is a skill/age pool play tournament for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. A \$20 fee includes all events and shirts. This tournament is advertised on pickleballtournaments.com. Registration is currently available through Senior Affairs Community Centers, and forms for download and mail-in as well as more information is at abqpickleball.com under future tournaments. Membership in Albuquerque City Senior Affairs (residence can be anywhere) is required (\$20 annually) which will cover both use of all Senior Affairs Community Centers as well as this tournament and the Meet and Greet Tournament in September.

3. **NM Games** August 19-21 at Manzana Mesa: Information at pickleballtournaments.com and abqpickleball.com. Registration will be on pickleballtournaments.com in March. This tournament will have an under-19 division for the youngsters. Singles, Doubles and mixed. Pool play by skill/age, \$50 covers all events and includes shirts.

4. **Albuquerque Senior Affairs Meet and Greet** September 16-18. This tournament will be for ages 16 and up, pool play by skill/age. Cost will be \$10 per event and membership in Senior Affairs gyms (see 50+ Tournament.) Registration will open in June.

Gary Rutherford
 (505) 507-3663
 Rutherfordg@azol.com

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

Coach's Corner

Third Shot Drive

By Christine Wantuck Certified Coach PPR

In today's game many players have chosen to avoid the 3rd Shot Drop, instead employing the 3rd Shot Drive. Why? Because the 3rd Shot Drop is considered to be the most difficult shot to execute in the game of pickleball. It is strategically important to understand when to utilize the 3rd Shot Drive.

A 3rd Shot Drive is a powerful groundstroke, hit with 60-70% of your full power potential. Both drives and drops are considered set up shots to force the opponents into making an error or to pop-up an attackable ball. When does it make sense to hit a drive?

Drive the ball when a deep return of serve forces you to hit your 3rd shot from near or behind the baseline. The further you are from the net, the more difficult a drop becomes and it increases your odds of either hitting the net or popping the ball up for your opponents to hit a winner. Even if you do manage to hit a good drop, you might not have the time to make it to the NVZ.

Try a drive if your opponent hits you a return with heavy spin. The more spin, the more difficult a drop shot becomes, increasing the odds you will, once again, either hit the net or pop the ball up for an easy put away.

Also, consider using a drive on a short return or a slow loopy return. Short returns give you time to set up and execute a solid drive with the intention of setting up a point for a winner.

Drive the ball when you see the returner moving toward the NVZ while you are hitting the ball. Hitting a drive in this situation puts pressure on the returner, forcing an error or an easy put away as the returner will be off balance while moving through their shot.

To set up for a drive, turn your body perpendicular to the net and use your core strength by rotating your hips and shoulders, as you transfer your weight forward. Hit the ball out in front of you at its apex with 60 to 70% of your full power. Ideally try to hit this ball 3 to 6 inches above the net. Remember, very few points are won on the drop or drive alone, your intention is to set up a response you can capitalize on.

A few words of caution when driving a 3rd shot off a deep return. After the drive you may be vulnerable to a drop shot, a lob or an offensive shot from your opponent. Your opponent knows you are amped up, and they will anticipate your next shot to be hit hard and out. So, control your movement, get balanced in your ready position, before your opponent hits their next shot. Focus on reading your opponent's paddle: if the face is tilted up get ready for a pop up; if the ball is punched with a lower trajectory to your feet, don't get greedy. Drop this ball softly in the kitchen giving yourself time to move toward the NVZ to be ready for the next shot.

Knowing the what, when, and how to hit various pickleball shots keeps most of us addicted to this game with the funny name. Now get out there and have a hit fun with your new found friends.

RULES & REGS

By Annie Maes

Pickleball question of the month...
 Got a rule question? Email PQC: SfPickleball@gmail.com

Dear PQC:
 The Server hit the foot of the Receiver while the Receiver was behind the baseline. The Server thought it was a good serve because it hit the player's foot, but others thought since technically the ball was out of bounds when the hit occurred it was a fault on the server.

Answer:
 If a ball hits a player before it hits the court, it's a fault on the player that it hit. In this case it's a point for the serve team.
Rule: Section 4.N.2

MEET THE MEMBERS

Nancy Germond

By Nancy Mroz

Nancy Germond was born and raised in Calgary Alberta by a Canadian mother and Texan father, so don't be alarmed if she skillfully uses "eh" and "y'all" in the same sentence! Always keen for the next adventure, Nancy was downhill skiing at the age of 4, back when poles were bamboo and lift tickets at Lake Louise were \$5/day! When her parents retired to the Hill Country of Texas, Nancy decided to attend the University of Texas studying Chemical Engineering followed by an MBA. After working at 3M and American Airlines, she went back to Austin to pursue her creative interests as the owner of a paint-your-own-pottery studio. With the outbreak of the pandemic, Nancy closed up shop and high-tailed it to Santa Fe in December 2020.

After spending many years running and mountain biking, a friend introduced her to pickleball back in September 2019. The obsession really began in May 2020, when a group of 6 friends met 2 times per week to play at an outside court in Austin. Even temperatures over 100 degrees couldn't dampen Nancy's enthusiasm for the sport. So, it's no surprise that two of her first friends in Santa Fe - Julie Bugg and Mark McDaniels - were approached by Nancy at Fort Marcy, 3 days after her move! And now, many of Nancy's closest friends in Santa Fe are fellow pickleballers and her happiest days are spent under our New Mexico blue sky enjoying great competition while exclaiming "What a wonderful day - we are SO lucky to live here!"

In addition to playing pickleball, Nancy enjoys exploring the area with her dog MagPie. As of December 2021, Nancy owns an adobe in the South Capital area. Her first mission was to get her kith up and firing after spending a year in storage. Future plans include (when she's not playing pickleball) creating a portfolio of art to sell locally, getting better at Mahjong and planting a New Mexico garden once the ground thaws. Meanwhile there are weekly excursions up to the ski basin, especially if there's fresh powder. Currently, she works part-time at the local pottery store Rainbow Gate, thanks to a recommendation from fellow pickleballer Linda Shafer.

Ambitions for her pickleball game include dinking more, smashing less and just occasionally not hitting those shoulder high 'out' balls! Oh - and getting rid of her serving yips, which she is confident will be gone by the time this appears in the newsletter.

Nancy G. is excited to be joining Nancy M. working on the monthly newsletter. The team of Nancy Squared is committed to bringing you insightful interviews with your fellow Santa Fe Pickleball Club members. See you on the court!

Welcome New Members!

Provided by Gaby Loy

- Tara Earley
- Karen Gahr
- Laura Hansen
- Tim Kirkpatrick
- Bruce Krasnow
- Anna Lippman
- Jaimie Lippman
- Scott Lippman
- Sherry Marder
- Karen Mayberry

- Sandra Padilla
- Mark Reynolds
- Lara Roesch
- Andrea Seidel
- Barbara Shoemaker
- John Shoemaker
- Mitch Shuwall
- Tina Walch
- Gina Woodson
- Jim Watson

Reminder: Membership and Donations to the club can easily done on our website at santafepickleballclub.com

SWEET PICKLES

Member Recognition

Congratulations to Nancy Lesicka, Linda Shafer, and Ray Thomas.
 Santa Fe Pickleball members Nancy Lesicka and Linda Shafer Win at the 3rd Annual Aaron Gifford Benefit Tournament April 2-4 in Las Cruces! They took gold in the Women's Doubles 3.5/70+ . Then Nancy and Ray Thomas competing in 4.0/70+ came all the way from the Opportunity (losers) Bracket to work their way back to play the first-placed team for gold - won 2 of 3 games then played the 1-15 match for gold and won 16-14- true grit and truly inspiring!

Also congratulations to Abel Vasquez & Dan Guevara and Mike Miera & Ron Geyer for moving on to represent the Ft. Marcy team in the upcoming Dinko de Mayo tournament. For the women, Ft. Marcy will be represented by Andie Crosby & Nancy Germond and Sara McIntyre & Mary Granzow. Sorry we had no photo of Sara and Mary to show you.
 Well done all!