

SPACE COAST PICKLEBALL NEWS

What's News on the Space Coast?



We have ourselves a Facebook page. Feel free to use this page to see who's playing where and when (just post where and when you're playing and see who answers, or feel free to tag your friends to "invite" them to play). This is also where you'll find news, events, pictures, and more. So click on over and like us. After all, we like you. And please, don't be scared – it's only Facebook.

Places to Play Updates and Changes for May:

West Melbourne Veterans Memorial Complex:

Tuesdays: 6pm-8pm

Thursdays 5:30-7:00pm (Non-official)

Sunday 4:30-? (Non-official No Charge)

Please contact Emily at ech280@earthlink.net for questions regarding West Melbourne play.

Eau Gallie Civic Center:

Sunday May 3rd: 5:30 - 8:30

Mondays: 12:30 - 3:30

Fridays: 9:00 - 12:00

(Monday May 25th Memorial Day will be open for Pickleball 12:30 - 3:30)

Grant Street:

Mondays: 10:00 - 12:00

Wednesdays: 1:00 - 3:00

Viera Community Center:

Back open through June 1st

Satellite Beach Play Update

Saturday Night Schedule Change - Because of the large group of Pickleball players that has developed, and in an effort to get everybody quality playing time, we have changed the schedule to accommodate 2 shifts on Saturday nights (only).

- 5:00 - 6:30 Beginners/Recreational Open play & instruction only. This will only be for beginners and or recreational players. A beginner is considered someone that has been playing for fewer than 4 months. (This is a great time to bring a friend to learn how to play.)
- 6:30 - 9:30 Intermediate and Advanced play only

Mondays: 7:00 - 9:30

Wednesdays 7:00 - 9:00 League Play
(must be registered)

Fridays (now until May 29th) 12:30 - 3:30

Coming soon:

4 courts of Pickleball at the new Wickham Park Community Center, starting May 30th. Details to come.

New Pickleball Venue:

St.Teresa Catholic School Gym, 207 Ojibway Avenue, Titusville, FL 32780 (321) 267-1643

They are providing equipment you need.

The cost will be a donation of \$2.00 per person.

Regular Play: Wednesday and Friday, 7pm to 9pm

For More Information Contact: Rich 321-604-6163

Our Official Web Site:

WWW.SpaceCoastPickleball.com This, we hope, will be a great repository for beginner, intermediate, and advanced players. A common information site for local upcoming Pickleball events, it will also have links to national items for you to use.

Pickleball Tip of the Month



Vero Beach Clinic



Satellite Beach Clinic

OUR CLINICS

For those of you who attended the free clinics we held over the last few months, I congratulate you on your dedication to become a better Pickleball player. And, as I stressed at the time, I encourage you to continue drilling. Remember, practicing a few extra minutes before or after you play will help your game significantly. Below I've provided a recap of what we covered; things that should be constantly reinforced during your warm-up and practice sessions.

THE DINK

One of the most underrated shots in Pickleball is the dink shot. In fact many players don't even pay attention to it. However, if you watch all of the top players, you'll see that almost all of them have the dink as a regular part of their game. They use it often, and quite effectively. But how did they get good at that pesky shot? Simple: practice. Through practice we can all improve our dink shots. When practicing, hit/dink the ball with a nice, soft touch; you want the ball to just clear the net. Don't try to put too much spin or get too cute with it as that will make it more difficult to make a good dink shot. And if your dinks keep hitting the net, or travel too high, don't get discouraged. Like the rest of your game it will take time and practice to perfect the shot. But you can do it! Remember that having a good dink game will make you a better, more complete, competitive player. And that leads to wins!

A GOOD SERVE

Much too often, people attempt "ace" serves. The best Pickleball players generally serve to the center of the opponent's court and then work to set up a winning shot. Experience shows that "ace" serve attempts against an equal player fail much more often than they make a point. So don't try to overpower your opponent when deep and centered generally works the best.

RETURN OF SERVE

When receiving the serve remember that your opponents must let the ball bounce after you hit it back to them. You should take advantage of this rule to set your team up at the net. Do this by hitting the ball fairly softly and deep into your opponents' court. This will give you time to approach the net (the strongest doubles position), and it keeps your opponents playing defensively at the back of their court. The game is won and lost at the net.

GETTING TO THE NET

If you are the team at the back of the court and the other team is at the net, you are at a disadvantage. You want to get to the net. To do so you should master the toughest shot in Pickleball: the 3rd shot. From the back court hit the ball soft and just over the net so it will bounce in your opponents' non-volley zone (their kitchen). This will give you time to rush to the net and give you the same court position advantage as your opponents. This difficult "3rd shot" must be practiced to be perfected because if you hit it too high they will smash it right back at you.

VARIETY ADDS SPICE

Variety players have the advantage. Hitting the ball hard is aggressive and may seem to be the best way to make points. However, slowing a shot down, placing it where the opponent is not expecting it, or lobbing the ball high and to the back of the court, will often improve your chances for making a point. Try these options and keep track of the points you make. You will be quickly convinced that variety in your shot selection is the way to go.

ALWAYS ANTICIPATE A RETURN

Some Pickleball players count their chicks before they are hatched. They will hit what they think is an ace and then they drop their guard. Too many Pickleball players are quick enough to be able to return even the best of your shots. Always concentrate and be ready for that return, for only when the ball is "dead" should you pat yourself on the back for a shot well-executed.

HAVE FAITH IN YOUR PARTNER

Have faith in your partner. Even if you are the stronger player you must trust your partner to return the shots on his/her side of the court. Encourage them and don't criticize during the game. This does not mean that you should not occasionally "poach" a shot. If you can surprise the other team with a quick "poach" do so, but be ready to get back to your side to cover. After the game is over partners can talk about what improvements might be made to improve their game.

TAKE TIME TO FOCUS WHEN SERVING

Do not call out the score as you are serving. Too often this habit will have you serving out of bounds, into the net, or simply too high or slow. What you should do is call out the score, take a deep breath, and then serve the ball. Don't give away those easy shots.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR PARTNER

Talk with your partner and make agreements about shots before the game starts. Agreements can include things such as yielding to the partner with a forehand shot when either partner can return a hit. Another agreement may be that one of the partners (the stronger lob returner) takes all lob shots and switches to the opposite court are made when necessary. And during the game, talk to each other to avoid having both players go for the same shot.

DinkDinkDink

Brevard's first Pickleball store, DinkDinkDink, is open for business to support not only Brevard and the neighboring counties, but web business as well. DinkDinkDink has an amazing inventory of new, competitively priced paddles and accessories. And Greg will even let you try a paddle (or two, or three, or...) before you buy!

Check out the new site www.DinkDinkDink.com, or stop by, or both!

Got questions? Please feel free to call 321-693-0262 or Email greg@dinkdinkdink.com

DinkDinkDink is located at 700 South John Rodes Blvd, Unit E5, Melbourne, FL, 32909

ICYMI: New Pickleball Podcast: www.pickleballshow.com just another way to enjoy Pickleball.

Upcoming tournaments: US Pickleball Open

April 26 -May 1, 2016 - Naples Florida

There will be a \$20,000 purse

Televised by Tennis Channel

1000 entrants limitation

Vendor booths \$1000 + 10%

There will be stadium court seating for finals

Will be globally advertised

The Kitchen Sink By Gregory Krolczyk

What's in a Name?

Over the last few months there has been much discussion over name-calling. No, not *that* kind of name-calling, but instead the kind that designates a player's ability level. For example, this winter at Eau Gallie we had so many new players that we found it necessary to separate the beginners from the more advanced players so that everyone could enjoy a competitive game. Problem was some people didn't like being lumped in with beginners, feeling that they had been playing long enough to no longer be referred to as such. However, when one examined the ability level of some (not all) of those who protested, one couldn't help but come to the conclusion that, despite the amount of time they had put into the game, for whatever reason, they were still playing at a level that could only be considered "beginner." So what to do?

A suggestion was made that maybe instead of separating the "Beginners" from the rest, we use the designations of Recreational play/players and Competitive play/players. That way, any Recreational player who decides to play in a Competitive game knows exactly what type of play to expect. Still, there can be disagreements and hurt feelings here as well.

A final suggestion was to use the International Federation of Pickleball's ranking system to determine a person's proper placement. Now as you can see (I've listed the guidelines below), despite their best efforts some ambiguity can still be found. For instance, according to these guidelines, some days I might be a 3 and others (dare I say it) a 4

(and yes, in the real world, no one would ever confuse me with a 4.0 player). When I mentioned this to the person who suggested it originally, their reply was “Yeah, but you know you’re not a 2 and you’re not likely a 4, so you can comfortably and rightfully consider yourself somewhere in the 3s. Thus you could easily and fairly divide your group into 3 parts: those below a 3, between a 3 and a 4, and 4 and up.” This, of course assumes that you have 3 courts to play on.

Rating	IFP Rating Description
1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and have only minimal knowledge of the game and the rules.
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to some rallies. • Learning how to serve. • Developing a forehand. • Fails to return easy balls frequently and occasionally misses the ball entirely. • Played a few games and is learning the court lines, scoring, and some basic rules of the game.
2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustains a short rally with players of equal ability. • Demonstrating the basic shot strokes – forehand, backhand, volley, overhead and the serve, but has obvious weaknesses in most strokes. • Familiar with court positioning in doubles play.
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes longer lasting slow-paced rallies. • Makes most easy volleys and uses some backhands, but needs more work on developing shot strokes. • Beginning to approach the non-volley zone to hit volleys. • Aware of the “soft game.” • Knowledge of the rules has improved. • Court coverage is weak but improving.
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More consistent on the serve and service return and when returning medium-paced balls. • Demonstrates improved skills with all the basic shot strokes and shot placement but lacks control when trying for direction, depth, or power on their shots. • Beginning to attempt lobs and dinks with little success and doesn’t fully understand when and why they should be used.
3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates improved stroke dependability with directional control on most medium-paced balls and some faster-paced balls. • Demonstrates improved control when trying for direction, depth and power on their shots. • Needs to develop variety with their shots. • Exhibits some aggressive net play. • Beginning to anticipate opponent’s shots. • Learning about the importance of strategy and teamwork in doubles.

4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent and dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand shots. • Reliable serves, lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys and can use spin shots with some success. • Occasionally can force errors when serving. • Rallies may be lost due to impatience. • Uses the dink shot and drop shots to slow down or change the pace of the game. • Demonstrates 3rd shot strategies – drop shots, lobs, and fast-paced ground strokes. • Aggressive net play and teamwork in doubles is evident. • Fully understands the rules of the game and can play by them.
4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning to master the use of power and spin, can successfully execute all shots, can control the depth of their shots, and can handle pace. • Beginning to master the dink shots and drop shots and their importance to the game. • Beginning to master 3rd shot choices. • Displays sound footwork and moves well enough to get to the non-volley zone whenever required. • Understands strategy and can adjust style of play and game plan according to the opponent's strengths and weaknesses and court position. • Serves with power and accuracy and can also vary the speed and spin of the serve. • Understands the importance of "keeping the ball in play" and the effect of making errors. • Making good choices in shot selection. • Anticipates the opponent's shots resulting in good court positioning.
5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mastered all the skills – all shot types, touch, spin, serves, with control and can use them as weapons. • Excellent shot anticipation, extremely accurate shot placement and regularly hit winning shots. • Forces opponents into making errors by "keeping the ball in play." • Mastered the dink and drop shots. • Mastered the 3rd shot choices and strategies. • Uses soft shots, dinks and lobs to set up offensive situations. • Mastered pickleball strategies and can vary strategies and styles of play in competitive or tournament matches. • Dependable in stressful situations as in tournament match play. • Athletic ability, quickness, agility, and raw athleticism are also qualities that are sometimes what separates the top players from those near the top.

So who is to determine the ranking for each player? Well, ideally, that would be up to the player him- or herself. Or it could be determined by the Court Coordinator. Yeah, it's not foolproof. The bottom line here is that as our sport grows, we need an effective way to separate players into ability groups so that everyone can have fun and no one gets their feelings hurt. For the most part, it seems as though the last suggestion is the best: use the IFP's ratings as a bible of sorts, to help group together like players and thus keep the games competitive and fun. So what do you think? Which suggestion do you like the best? Or do you have one that tops them all. We really do want to know. Send your thoughts and/or suggestion to me at gkro@earthlink.net and I'll share them in the next newsletter. Just remember to put the word PICKLEBALL in the subject line so I don't junk it. Until then.

Free CPR Training (Thanks Ron Smith for finding this)

We received this from Health First, inviting us to participate in a free CPR training opportunity.

Details are: Saturday, June 13 at Space Coast Stadium
CPR training starts at 8:30 am but requires advanced registration
Participants who complete the CPR training will receive:
American Heart Association's "Friends & Family" CPR & AED Training Certificate
Free Health First CPR Day t-shirt
Free ticket to a Brevard County Manatees game
Certificate for a free personal gourmet pizza from Pizza Gallery & Grill in Viera
Sign up will be at the Web Site below:

<http://www.health->

[first.org/hospitals_services/training_center/cpr/training_center_free_cpr_day.cfm?utm_source=Vanity%20URL&utm_medium=vanity%20url&utm_campaign=vanityurlfreecprday](http://www.health-first.org/hospitals_services/training_center/cpr/training_center_free_cpr_day.cfm?utm_source=Vanity%20URL&utm_medium=vanity%20url&utm_campaign=vanityurlfreecprday)

Got pictures? Send 'em on and we'll post them up.

Space Coast Pickleball Site Coordinators

Phil McGibney – Viera Regional Community Center & Health First

Pat and Ed Langiotti - South Beach Community Center

Brenda Brand and George Frank - South Beach Community Center

Bill Rycroft - Satellite Beach/David R. Schechter Community Center, & Kiwi Tennis Club

Dick Duckett - Eau Gallie Civic Center & Grant Street

Gregory Krolczyk – Newsletter, Facebook, & Website Coordinator

Rich & Kitty Grenier - Walter Butler Community Center (Sharps)

Emily Hendricksen - West Melbourne Veterans Memorial Complex

Bob Levoy & Donna Nunnally – City of Titusville

Omar Ollis – Melbourne Ambassador

HAPPY HITTING



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