

KEOWEE KEY PICKLEBALL CLUB UPDATE 5/15/2018

President's Corner

Greetings PickleNation,

I had an interesting article come across my feed this week about the exponential growth of our sport over the last few years. Maybe some of you saw it, too. In the article, Melissa McCurley reported that through early May, 2018, her online tournament management service has hosted over 400 Pickleball tournaments. That's up from 250 tournaments hosted in all of 2016. In their largest tournament, the 2018 Minto U.S. Open, there will be over 2000 competitors participating in over 4,300 matches. Two years ago there were merely 800 participants in that tournament. In the same article, Pickleball Central reported paddle sales in 2014 of about 3000 per month. In 2017, paddle sales were up to 16,000 per month. You don't need a degree in higher mathematics to see that's roughly a 40 percent growth rate across the board.

And, the growth of our little Pickleball Club is no exception. We had the largest ever crowd at last Friday's epic PB&B. Our best efforts to count the attendees indicated at least 130 were present. By the end of the festivities, Randy had collected renewals and new memberships from about twice the number as at last year's Membership Drive event. Here's another benchmark to consider... The first keg ran dry in about 32 minutes. Thankfully, the impending crisis was averted when an emergency keg was requisitioned from the Club. Thank goodness we own or own bar. It's kinda like having "OnStar" for the desperately thirsty.



And finally, I can't stop without congratulating Jim and Jennifer on another stellar performance. No wonder we're pushing 250 members. No wonder JJ had to repeat himself three and four times to be heard over all the high-spirited chatter. No wonder I'm 20 pounds overweight. You guys throw a hell of a party!

As usual, you are encouraged to create your own schedule by going to the KK website's reservations column and reserving court(s) for your group. And, remember that you can reserve the hard tennis courts (first court no.1 and then no. 2) when block times are crowded or our courts are otherwise unavailable. We are trying to track our usage of the tennis courts. So, when you book a reservation, **please enter "Pickleball" (not your name) in the description space**. The portable nets are located in the Fitness and Racquet Center for checkout with your keys or ID.

Doug Crenshaw

Social Committee

A big thank you to everyone who came out for the PB&B Party and Membership Drive and to all who helped make it happen.

Mark your calendars for our next event:

Thursday, June 21

Play Until You Drop Summer Solstice Party

We play until the last player surrenders!

We will be serving sub sandwiches, beer, soft drinks and moonshine!

More details to come...

Our next Ladies Party will be July 11 from 5-7 pm

It's a Beach Party with a "Swimsuits From The Past" Contest.

Ladies, Start looking for your bikini photo now!

Yours in partying,

Jim and Jennifer Rowe

Player Development

Next Wednesday **May 16** is our monthly **Facilitator Led Player Development session 9:00 - 11:00**. With only 1 person signed up thus far, you can get one of the remaining 15 places by signing-up at jswalker5233d@gmail.com.

Jodi, Robert, Joshua and Rachel all send hugs and their apologies that they were unable to deliver the **Elliott Family Clinic** weekend. They did send along Engage Paddle Sling Bags for those who had signed up for the clinics/lessons. Most were handed out at our membership drive, however, those who haven't received yours, please see me.

In the note Jodi sent, being the consummate instructor she offered:

"4 things you need to do...all common threads throughout all your shots

(dinking, volleys, ground strokes & serves)

1. Bend knees (stay bent through entire stroke)

2. Firm wrist - yes FIRM

3. Connect with the ball OUT FRONT

4 Stay forward - your body + your paddle, with paddle face towards target...
no side swiping

- Remember, dinking is SLOW...Place the ball, don't hit it.

-Reset the point...if someone hits a great shot, don't try for a winner...just
reset the point to keep you and your partner in the game

- When out of position...hit straight ahead...it's the shortest distance and
you're just about in position for the next ball.

- Smile and have fun."

Don't forget - Friday mornings Int/Adv Drills for Skills sessions 9:00 - 11:00.

- Wednesdays May 23 & 30 Drills for Skills sessions 9:00 - 11:00

John (Walker)

Competition

July 21, 2018 is the date for the Keowee Key Summer Mixed Doubles Pickleball
Championship.

Sign up for the event will be in June.

Competition Co-chairs

JJ (Jim Jacobs) Scott Lincoln

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