



KEOWEE KEY PICKLEBALL CLUB WEEKLY UPDATE

Chairman's Corner

Greetings Pickle Friends,

The courts have been pretty busy lately with a lot of players getting ready for the Keowee Key Classic tournament coming up next weekend. We have a lot of local teams that will be competing and they could all use your support. You can get the times and details for the tournament later in this letter.

One of my goals for our club this year was to increase the "competitive" side of our sport at Keowee Key. I knew that the "social" aspect of the game had been the driving force for many of our members to join, but what if we gave people an opportunity to improve their skills - would the social aspect be diminished? I have had the opportunity to help facilitate some of our Player Development sessions and I could not be happier with the results. Each session is filled with 16 people trying to hone their playing skills, but believe me, there is no shortage of laughter and fun! We have a great time and the quality of play gets better and better.

I've also seen an increase in court reservations. As you know, some of our club's Block Times were reduced or eliminated this month. While some of the blocks were very popular, many were poorly attended. Many of you are now organizing groups and reserving your own court time. This is a wonderful way to get great games going with people of similar skill levels. Please use the reservation system every time you play so we can document court usage.

We have a wonderful club filled with great people. At our annual dinner last December, I said something that I meant then and I mean even more now: "If you play pickleball, you are my friend".

Have a great week,

Tom

Social Scene

Club ladies enjoyed a splendid, sunny afternoon for the 'Be True to Your Team' Fall Fling this past Friday. Over 20 members turned out to play and socialize. We enjoyed cider and an array of snacks while chatting between friendly matches. There was a bit of a bittersweet moment when Esther took a photo of the group, as she reminded us that it was her last official photo at a club ladies event. Esther has done so much as our club photographer and we very much appreciate the time and effort she has taken to capture so many moments for us over the last couple of years.

Ginny (Bench), Janet (Kamischke), Ann (Savoca) and Elaine (Smith)

Please join us for the Keowee Key Classic PB&B on Friday, October 23rd beginning at ~6 PM. This PB&B will be open to the entire Keowee Key community as well as tournament participants from other clubs who want to stay, socialize and have some friendly games after a day of competition. Beer will be provided. As usual, please BYOB if you'd prefer something other than beer. For those interested, a BBQ dinner will be available for purchase at \$10/plate. This can be charged to your member account. We hope you can attend this event. It's a great opportunity to get out with fellow pickleballers and meet players from other communities.

Our 2nd Annual Pickleball Holiday Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, Dec 6. The event will be held in the Magnolia Room. Please mark your calendars. Further details will be available soon.

Dee (Helvik), John (Howell), Ann (Savoca), Bob (Skaluba) and Lee (Urove)

Interclub Events and Competition

Be sure to come out this Friday and Saturday to watch the annual tournament and to support the Keowee Key pickleball players. We have teams from 6 other clubs coming to Keowee Key to participate in this event. Bring your chairs, drinks, lunch, and enjoy the great weather from the sidelines or the pavilion. Friday morning beginning at 8:30 is the women's doubles (intermediate and advanced) followed by men's doubles, also intermediate and advanced. Saturday morning at 9:00, the mixed doubles intermediate will kick off the day and will be followed by the mixed doubles advanced. Also note that Friday evening we will have a social (or PB&B) with free beer and food provided for a charge by the Club. We could use a few people to help Linda Morgan with the food both days. Please contact her for more information. Also, if you are willing to referee, please contact Randy Kamischke.

Karen (Daniels) and Jon (Goyert)

Player Development

Last Wednesday we had one of the all time best Player Development sessions yet. The energy level was off the charts! We had 8 Facilitators, one for each two participants. Stations were Serves, Ball Machine (Ground Strokes, Volleys & Drop Shots), Play Analysis...getting to the net strategies and Unforced Errors Play. We also videotaped participants at the Serve station to provide instant replay opportunities. This is a new initiative that will prove to be very valuable.

The data that we collected from the Unforced Errors station will provide the focus for our next PD session. The majority of unforced errors were "balls into the net" and "out of bounds" balls (mostly beyond the baseline...some sideline). Our intent is to reduce, if not eliminate, unforced errors. Think we can do that?!?

Remember that next Wednesday, October 21 the courts have been reserved for unsupervised practice on skills and drills. Come one, come all and practice on whatever your heart desires. The Ball Machine is available for checkout for this block time. Have fun and enjoy doing your drills.

John (Walker)

[Click here to view calendar for pickleball block times and special events.](#) We encourage you to create your own schedule by going to the reservations column and reserving a court(s) up to 72 hours in advance when available.

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