

Home to Rudgear Courts  
2261 Dapplegray Lane  
Walnut Creek CA



**WALNUT CREEK PICKLEBALL CLUB**

*Around the Post*

# 2nd Quarter 2024

Written and Edited by Dee Morris & Mark Nollsch

## “Golden Ticket” Path to Nationals



Congratulations to our 2023-2024 club members who achieved the elusive “Golden Ticket” or placed in the finals at the APP Sacramento Open!

We are extremely proud and super-envious!

“So shines a good deed in a weary world.” - *Willy Wonka*

Golden Ticket winners are guaranteed a spot at the November 10-17 2024 USA Pickleball National Championships in Mesa, Arizona

Robert Walgren / Ronald Blasquez	Gold	Mens Doubles 3.0, 3.5: 75+
Steve Jang / Adam Leventhal	Silver	Mens Doubles 3.5: 40+
Mitch Goldblatt / Misha Posylkin	Gold	Mens Doubles 3.5: 50+
Anthony Parisi / Will Tams	Silver	Mens Doubles 3.5: 50+
Tony Parisi / Ricardo Amayo	Gold	Mens Doubles 3.5: 55+
Pete Sciarretta / Darrell Hoh	Silver	Mens Doubles 3.5: 60+
Deric Haynie / Alex Bychkoviak	Bronze	Mens Doubles 4.0: 19+
Damon Turner / Peter Loomis	Silver	Mens Doubles 4.0: 60+
Mike Gabrielson / Albert Lee	Gold	Mens Doubles 4.5, 5.0: 55+
Steve Bagot / Mark Whitfield	Bronze	Mens Doubles 4.5, 5.0: 65+
Spencer Brog / Darrell Holt	Gold	Mens Doubles 4.5: 60+
Mitch Goldblatt / Craig Gillooly	Bronze	Mens Doubles 4.5: 60+
Jim Jenkins / Adam MacKinnon	Silver	Mens Doubles 5.0: 50+
Robert Walgren / Nancy Tietz	Gold	Mixed Doubles 3.0-4.0: 75+
Kyla Grant / Steve Jang	Silver	Mixed Doubles 3.5: 40+
Gayle Blake / Pete Sciarretta	Silver	Mixed Doubles 3.5: 65+
Joy Iwata / Damon Turner	Bronze	Mixed Doubles 3.5: 55+
Carolyn Wei / Jonas Satuito	Gold	Mixed Doubles 5.0: 55+
Gayle Blake / Kathy Brown	Bronze	Womens Doubles 4.0: 65+
Kathy Wooleock / Nell Davis	Gold	Womens Doubles 3.0-4.0: 70+
Carol Jacinto / Tenaya Asan	Silver	Womens Doubles 3.0-4.0: 70+
Donna Meyer / Debbie Stanley	Bronze	Womens Doubles 3.0: 60+
Carolyn Wei / Julie Heitman	Silver	Womens Doubles 5.0: 55+
Ti Caudron de Coquereaumont / Joy Iwata	Bronze	Womens 3.5: 50+
Lorraine Reid / Linda Severet	Silver	Womens 4.5: 50+
Carolyn Wei	Gold	Womens Singles 4.5, 5.0: 55+, 60+
Mike Gabrielson	Bronze	Mens Singles 4:0: 60+



### Golden Ticket qualifying events:

- 4/3-7 USA Pickleball Golden Ticket (Mesa, AZ)
- 4/15-21 USA Pickleball Golden Ticket (Las Vegas, NV)
- 5/1-5 USA Pickleball Golden Ticket (Rockwall, TX)
- 5/7-12 APP Cincinnati Open (Cincinnati, OH)
- 5/22-26 APP New York City Open (New York)
- 5/29-6/2 UTR Sports Macon Open (Macon, GA)
- 6/5-9 USA Pickleball Golden Ticket (Virginia Beach, VA)
- 7/3-7 APP Newport Beach Open (Newport Beach, CA)
- 7/10-14 UTR Sports Denver Open (Arvada, CO)

# Court Love on Valentine's Day!

Over 50 players joined in on the Valentine's Day round robin poker chip event hosted by the club. Everyone enjoyed an array of spectacular food and drink, and pickleball fun. Kudos to Cindy Gershen, Social Director, for her organization and hard work to make this event such a success, and to Darrell Hoh, Venue Director, for sprucing up the courts and all the great photos! xoxo



# Tournaments & Leagues & Events, Oh My!

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## April

- 4/1-31 National Pickleball Month
- 4/5-7 Dinkin' In The Fog, Willow Pass, Golden Gate Pickleball Club
- 4/5-7 Monterey Bay Pickleball Challenger
- 4/11-14 Wine Country Pickleball For All, Santa Rosa
- 4/12-14 In-Shape's Stacey Strong Charity Tournament, Stockton
- 4/13-20 2024 US Open Pickleball Championships, Naples, Florida
- 4/20 Foster City Spring Fling Paddle Battle Tourney, Foster City
- 4/20 Junior Pickleball Showcase, Santa Rosa
- 4/21 RIPL Roundrobin Individual Pairs League, Lafayette Rink, [riplpickleball.glide.page](http://riplpickleball.glide.page)
- 4/27-28 Life Time Roseville Pickleball Spring Classic Tournament, Roseville

## May

- 5/4-5 2024 May CA PIG Chase, Cabrillo College, Aptos
- 5/5 Dinko-de-Mayo Tournament, Discovery Bay
- 5/10-12 Rogue Valley Classic, presented by Paragon Pickleball, Grants Pass, OR
- 5/19 RIPL Roundrobin Individual Pairs League, Lafayette Rink, [riplpickleball.glide.page](http://riplpickleball.glide.page)
- 5/24-27 2024 Bay Area Senior Games, by PIG, Palo Alto
- 5/25-27 2024 Service Champions Doubles Classic, [www.tennis4dogs.com](http://www.tennis4dogs.com)

## June

- 6/5-9 PPA Tour: Sacramento, Roseville
- 6/7-9 Sonoma Wine Country Games, Rohnert Park
- 6/8-9 2024 June CA PIG Chase, Cabrillo College, Aptos

## Save the Date: Upcoming Club Tournaments and Events

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**Sunday, May 5 | Dinko De Mayo Picnic | Rudgear Park**  
Club sponsored event. For more information, reach out to Cindy Gershen | [925.360.8543](tel:925.360.8543).

**Sunday, June 2 | Annual Picnic and BBQ | Sportsmen's Park | Rossmoor**  
Club sponsored event. For details, contact Cindy Gershen | [925.360.8543](tel:925.360.8543).

**July 27-28 | WCPC Summerfest Tourney | Willow Pass Park | Concord**  
Skip Sewell | Tournament Director | [mjsewell13@gmail.com](mailto:mjsewell13@gmail.com) | [512.589.5555](tel:512.589.5555)



*Skip Sewell  
WCPC  
Tournament Director*

## Grand Day for Craneway

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Craneway Pavilion hosted their Grand Re-Opening on March 23-24. Located in Richmond's Marina Bay, it includes a sports themed restaurant and bar, twelve pickleball courts, and ping pong tables!

San Francisco/Bay Area players enjoyed a grand weekend of free pickleball, great music and food, and meeting up with some of the pros despite some backlash from Rosie the Riveter protestors.



1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond | [510.609.3304](tel:510.609.3304) | [info@thecranewaypavilion.com](mailto:info@thecranewaypavilion.com) | [www.thecranewaypavilion.com](http://www.thecranewaypavilion.com)

# May 26 - Courtside Pickleball 'Demo Day'

Join us for a fun-filled day of pickleball, paddles and gear!  
**Courtside Demo Day, 10:00 - 2:00 Sunday, May 26 @ Rudgear**



Meet Jennifer and Will Johnson, owners/operators of Courtside Tennis and Pickleball. Demo the latest paddles from your top favorite pickleball companies like Selkirk, Gearbox, Engage, Joola, and CRBN. Check out the latest athletic shoes, bags and pickleball gear. Mark your calendars and don't miss out on this great opportunity to save on top pickleball brands!

If you're like us and can't wait, drive to their newest store conveniently located at 6012 College Ave in Oakland - 510.817.4147.

*Around the Post* sat down with Jennifer and Will to learn more about their business and tour their new store.

The Johnson family has been in business since 1985 serving the tennis community in Sacramento County. However, since the invasion of pickleball, their business has flourished from tennis-only to tennis and pickleball, and now padel! Over the years, they have successfully built a clientele of loyal customers, many of whom have become close friends. They are extremely excited to open their third location and bring tennis and pickleball to the East Bay!

Here's what Courtside has to offer:

- a promise to make things right if there is ever an issue
- 3 for \$25 - demo 3 paddles for 30 days; any paddle purchase will be discounted by \$25
- price matching with any authorized retailer
- athletic shoe brands K-Swiss, Mizuno, Wilson, New Balance, Adidas, Nike, Babolat, Asics
- a variety of tennis racquets/gear; padel paddles; Maui Jim; Lucky in Love, Sofibella, Nike & Adidas athletic wear

Let's support local small businesses! Visit Courtside at [www.courtsidetennis.com](http://www.courtsidetennis.com)



## Stretch Before & After You Play

Stretching prevents injury, helps recovery, and can improve performance. Best of all, it only takes a few minutes before and after playing to maximize the benefits.

**Dynamic** stretching should happen before an athletic performance to increase muscle temperature and decrease stiffness. Dynamic stretching involves tightening muscles through the full range of motion or moving while stretching.

**Static** stretching is for after an athletic performance to increase the flexibility of the muscles.

Try these warmup exercises the next time you're ready to play!

- Forward lunge w/rotation
- Lateral lunges
- Inchworms
- Leg swings
- Arm circles
- Jumping jacks



# St. Paddy's Pickleball Palooza!

It was a magically delicious day as many lads and lasses came out to try their luck at the poker chip event. Leprechauns were busy preparing food, cleaning off courts, and organizing the event. All hoped that luck would be on their side. At the end of the day, many found their pot of gold by making new friends and enjoying a beautiful spring day!

*"The only sure thing about luck is that it will change" - Wilson Mizner*



80's band 'Rewind' featuring our own Patrick O'Vaucheret lit up the night at Gallagher's!

Suzanne, Lisa R., Wendy, CeCe, Mary, Ken, Elaine, Steve, Lisa K., Ricardo, Ed, Kristen, Dee and Cat partayed into the wee hours of the night.



# Pickleball Art by Elizabeth Koval Maffeo



What’s happened to all of those pickleballs that went into the recycling bin?

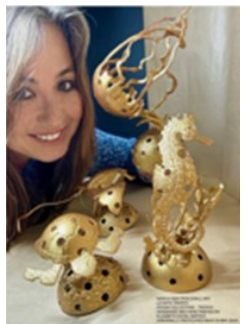
*Around The Post* learned that local artist Elizabeth Koval Maffeo uses recycled pickleballs to create unique art sculptures. We visited Liz at her studio to find out more and to drop off 557 used pickleballs!

In 1986, Liz founded Koval Designs specializing in fine art illustrations, paintings, sculptures and decorative art that celebrate her Japanese ancestry. While Coach Patricia was teaching Liz's son pickleball, she asked Liz if she could turn pickleballs into art. In the following months, Liz got creative and started designing lady bugs, butterflies, flowers, sea horses, dragonflies and jellyfish.

The process to complete each unique art piece takes about 2-4 weeks. First, a prototype is created with drawings and a pattern on a pickleball. Second, the fabrication process includes drawing out the pattern, cutting, carving, shaping, heating and melting the piece. Third, the piece goes through a curing process of sanding, shaping, and stabilizing. Finally, the piece is painted in stages with layering of colors and sealed with a top coat. Each pickleball sculpture is individually handcrafted using 1 to 2 pickleballs. What's unique about these sculptures is that all of the pickleball material is used and not wasted.

*Liz will be happy to work with you to create a custom-made order for you or the pickleball lover in your life!*

For more information, check out the pickleball section at [KovalDesigns.com](http://KovalDesigns.com). Email or call to place an order at [ekm5@mac.com](mailto:ekm5@mac.com) or 707.342.0382.



## Paddles for Youth Pickleball



Did you know that pickleball has been introduced to many of our local elementary and high schools? Monica Lyman, local resident and Assistant Athletic Director, is bringing pickleball to College Preparatory School in Oakland.

Twelve students took part in a 13-hour week-long pickleball camp hosted by Coach Dee. These enthusiastic freshmen learned basic skills, scoring and rules, and participated in drills, fun ‘n games and matches.

*Monica shown top row, second from right*

There was even a doubles and individual pairs two-day tournament!

Monica is seeking used paddles to kickstart the school’s pickleball program. If you would like to donate a paddle, please contact Monica at 802.233.7481 or Dee at 415.505.7775.

Please know that your donation will go towards growing the sport amongst our youths and promoting the future Ben Johns and Anna Leigh Waters of the world. Go Cougars!



## Keep Your “Eyes” on the Ball

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Everyone knows that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America! With rising participation comes rising injuries. Experts agree sports-related eye injuries, such as a detached retina, can be prevented by wearing protective eyewear.

Many pickleball players do not wear any eye protection, but yet you see players donning knee and elbow braces, sunscreen, and hats. While pickleball does not mandate the wearing of protective eyewear on the court, we think it should be. Safety glasses ensures less risk to injury and better visibility, plus you’ll look cool on the courts!

Many sports companies offer moderate to high-end priced eyewear. *Around the Post* recommends Gearbox Vision Eyewear (\$40) for its slim fit and variety of colored lenses, and ONIX Eyewear (\$35) with interchangeable colored lenses. If you can’t find something affordable, pull out a pair of safety goggles or punch out the lenses on an old pair of prescription glasses. For indoor play, get a pair of anti-reflective glasses to eliminate glare and make vision clearer - your eyes will thank you!



*Some of our WCPC members looking pretty cool!*

## What’s Picklin’

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The WCPC Board of Directors & Committee Members are working hard on a number of projects, including:

- updated logo
- website modernization
- bylaws refresh
- memorandum of understanding (MOU) for new courts
- fundraising events / club activities
- community outreach programs

Any club members wishing to assist with fundraising events, tournaments and/or club activities, please contact Cindy Gershen at 925.360.8543. We would love to have your help!

## Youth Pickleball on the Rise

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*Dave Holland  
WCPC Treasurer*

The Walnut Creek Arts and Rec Department runs several sports-related after-school programs, including basketball, volleyball, golf and other sports. This spring, they decided to introduce pickleball!

When they put out a call for interested coaches, David Holland responded and was asked to run a twice-weekly teaching clinic at two different middle schools. For the month of March, Coach David is spending four afternoons a week teaching 30 kids the basics. They’ve picked it up fast and with great enthusiasm - so don’t be surprised to see some new young faces at Rudgear in the near future!

Special thanks to Jamie Patterson, Dee Morris and CC Holland for providing ‘real’ loaner paddles to replace the (very) rec-quality paddles provided by the City.

# Welcome to our Newest Club Members!

Steven Dorcelien	Doug Lindorf	Sharon Lindorf	Mary Russell	Anna Harriman
Brian Patrick	Jose Sanchez	Maryellen Holley	Ray Simon	Andrew Solomon
Phu Ho	Jody Schultz	Jamie Moran	Charles Simkins	Lauren Roth

## Renewing your Membership

### Friendly reminder to renew your 2024 membership!

Your membership dues have funded over 1,200 pickleballs annually, an AED defibrillator, and court maintenance equipment including the VAPTR court drying machine, which has been so helpful at quickly drying the courts after it rains.

Benefits of membership also include the quarterly newsletter, club tournaments, fun social events like our Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day mixers, summer picnic/annual meeting in June, and the very popular annual holiday party in December. This year, we will also be hosting monthly membership appreciation breakfasts and barbecues at the courts.

Our club will be contributing financially to the development of new permanent courts in Walnut Creek through membership dues and additional fundraising. We really need your partnership in this important work! So please join us again this year in our efforts to support and expand high-quality pickleball in WC.



Mark Nollsch  
WCPD Membership Director

Membership dues are only \$60 per year and there are several easy ways to pay:

- Cash given directly to Mark or placed in the provided envelope with your name and dropped in the ball donation box
- Venmo to @Mark-Nollsch (last 4 digits of cell phone are 7080 if needed)
- PayPal to [wcpdtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:wcpdtreasurer@gmail.com). Specify the member's name in the Comments section, and check the Friends and Family box to avoid PayPal fees.
- Snail mail a check to: Mark Nollsch, 2323 Belford Drive, WC, CA 94598

## Welcoming Beginners and New Players

We are starting to provide information and support to new players who contact our club -- things like giving them advice on how to get started, orienting them to drop-in play, and playing a few sheltered games with them.

If you would like to occasionally help welcome new players in this way, please text Jill Shinkle at 510.332.1761.



Jill Shinkle  
WCPD Public /  
Community Relations

## WCPD Appreciation Day - April 18



800 W. Tower Ave  
Alameda

### You are cordially invited to a Day of Appreciation!

Come join us at The HUB Sports Club on Thursday, April 18 from 10:00a-2:00p for some organized pickleball fun 'n games, prizes and light refreshments.

This is a members-only event for a modest price of \$10 (non-members \$30). Feel free to stay just for the organized events or the entire day (HUB hours 5:00a-10:00p).

free parking | nearby restaurants | full gym | locker rooms | front desk check in | friendly staff



## Catchy Catch Phrases

### SHOULDER HIGH, LET IT FLY

Balls typically above your shoulders are going to land out. Avoid hitting them.

### DOWN THE MIDDLE SOLVES THE RIDDLE

Great strategy to hit balls to the middle of the court to create confusion among your opponents.

### SERVE AND STAY, RETURN AND RUN

Stay back at the baseline after the serve to anticipate a deep return. Come to the kitchen quickly but safely once the receiver returns the serve.

### BOUNCE, BOUNCE, POUNCE

Important reminder of the two bounce rule. Ball must bounce before the return of serve and third shot.

### AT THE FEET IS PRETTY SWEET

Hit down and aim for your opponent's feet rather than high and at their chest or face.

## Match the Quote with the Player

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One job!</li> <li>2. Rip the ball, bang the ball, win the match, and celebrate with cake!</li> <li>3. That's a shame!</li> <li>4. 3-2-1 blastoff!</li> <li>5. Let's have fun!</li> <li>6. Pick me up!</li> <li>7. Son of a bun!</li> <li>8. I never thought I'd say this, as long as I can walk I'm playing pickleball!</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Doug Pearson</li> <li>b. Gayle Blake</li> <li>c. Lisa Regal</li> <li>d. Andre Agassi</li> <li>e. Karen Means</li> <li>f. Darrell Hoh</li> <li>g. Mark Nollsch</li> <li>h. Anna Leigh Waters</li> </ol> |
|--|--|

p=8  
 c=7  
 8=9  
 a=5  
 4=e  
 3=b  
 4=2  
 1=f  
 Answers

## Lost and Found



Lisa Regal  
WCPC Fundraising

Lost and Found is back by popular demand!  
 Lost items will be stored in the shed and displayed periodically.  
 Any abandoned items will be donated to a local charity.

Please contact Lisa Regal at 562.310.4007 if you've lost something.  
 She might even be able to help you with the yips!



<b>Trash</b>	<b>Rudgear Court Hours</b>	<b>'Places 2 Play'</b>
A friendly reminder to please pick up your belongings and trash when you leave the courts.  Celebrate Earth Day on April 22!	Mon, Tue, Wed 8:00-1:00 Thursday closed Friday 8:00-sunset Sat, Sun 10:00-sunset	Find a pickleball court near you or anywhere else in the world. Go to the official USA Pickleball 'Places 2 Play' at <a href="http://usapickleball.org/play/places-2-play">//usapickleball.org/play/places-2-play</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<b>WhatsApp</b>	<b>WC Pickleball Club</b>
Check out our Facebook page for club news, photos, information and much more...	Want to stay in-the-know? Join the Rudgear Park Pickleball WhatsApp chat group at <a href="https://chat.whatsapp.com/GoeUi94H3vg-Bro8JYk91s6">https://chat.whatsapp.com/GoeUi94H3vg-Bro8JYk91s6</a>	PO Box 374, WC, CA 94596 925.272.9728 <a href="http://www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com">www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com</a>