

Georgia State Games Pickleball Tournament

The Georgia State Games Pickleball Tournament has been set for the new pickleball venue in Spalding County just outside the city of Griffin. The great new facility will have eighteen dedicated pickleball courts with a full cover over four of them. This venue is ideally located within 3 miles of several moderately priced hotels. We will be working with them to see if we can get some tournament rates.

Tournament Format: Round Robin **Dates**: June, 23, 24, 25, 2017 (Fri-Sat-Sun)

Venue: Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park, 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin, GA 30223. Located

in Spalding County.

Registration will be available on line at: http://georgiagames.org/Pickleball.html

Registration must be received by June 13, 2017.

Tournament schedule:

Friday, June 23, 1:30 PM, Women's & Men's Singles Saturday, June 24, 8:00 AM, Women's & Men's Doubles

Sunday, June 25, 8:00 AM, Mixed Doubles

Check-in will be 90 minutes before your assigned play time on all three

days.

Competition Classes:

Age groups:

18 and under, 19+, 35+, 50+, 60+, 70+, and 80+

Skill Levels: Each age group will have:

Novice (2.5 and 3.0)

Intermediate (3.5)

Advanced (4.0 and up)

Medals will be awarded to the top 3 players each division.

Notification: You will receive your start time by e-mail two to three days before

the tournament date

Other: Players will receive a T-shirt.

Tournament Director reserves the right to combine or change skill and age groups.

From the Kitchen

I had a chance to see the new venue in **Griffin**. Still quite rough but will be ready for our State Games. You can now see what a great facility it will be.

Eighteen courts, all individually fenced. Twelve surfaced with the new leg-and-hip-friendly surface.
Four will be covered.

Plenty of parking next to courts and less than 30 minutes from the Atlanta airport, right off of I-75 S. Hotels within five minutes. Great rates at the Quality Inn, Griffin.

This is your chance to see and play one of the best pickleball facilities in the country. Still time to register for the State Games.

THE GPB

The **GPB** is produced for all our Georgia pickleball players to enjoy hearing about tournaments, tidbits, photos and fellow players throughout the state. The information herein is provided by readers, ambassadors & players like you.

So, talk to us.
You have news, tidbits or photos to share in our next GPB bulletin? Simply email your text and/or jpg files to the address below. See our submission guidelines on the last page of this bulletin. To subscribe to our bulletin, use the email below and feel free to forward this pdf to

any of your friends.

Editor Copy Editor

Bill Hess Carole Hess Georgia District Ambassadors USA Pickleball Association

Graphics, Design & Layout

Fran Conn
Contributors & Photography

You and your fellow players

To submit an article, please read the submission recommendations on the last page and email it and photos to:

b3779@hotmail.com

Dutch Treat

On April 15th Sharon and Greg Conrad, Peachtree City, Dave Main, Griffin, and Carole and Bill Hess, Waleska joined twenty three Dutch pickleball players for for an afternoon of pickleball in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The Georgia pickelball players were in Amsterdam to start a fifteen day river cruise. Pickleball has become popular in Amsterdam and they have several very nice venues used by some very good pickleball players. Bill Hess had a chance to reconnect with quite a few players that he had played with four years ago when pickleball was just starting in Amsterdam.



USAPA & St. Jude's: A Winning Combination Still Time to Enter!!!

St. Jude National Indoor Pickleball Classic & Challenge Team Event

akepoint Sports Complex and USA Pickleball will be holding this great event at the new Lakepoint fieldhouse. The venue has twelve indoor basketball courts under one roof. No shortage of space for the new tournament. Please add this new event to your tournament schedule.

Volunteers Needed

Referees and Volunteers needed for the St. Jude National Indoor Tournament Lake Point Sports Complex, Emerson GA. May 22, 23, and 24. If you would like to help with the tournament set up on Sunday afternoon May 21st at 3 PM please contact Bill Hess at b3779@hotmail.com We will take some time after set up to play a few games in this great facility. Referees and other volunteers are always needed for a sanctioned tournament: this is a chance for you to get some experience referring or working at a national tournament. We will have experienced officials on hand to help you get started. If interested please contact Bill Hess at b3779@hotmail.com

St. JUDE NATIONAL INDOOR PICKLEBALL CLASSIC & Challenge Team Event

May 22 - 24, 2017

All Proceeds and Donations Benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

At st. Jude, families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing or food – because all a family should worry about is helping their child live. Lakepoint and the USAPA are proud to be able to jointly sponsor the first annual St. Jude national pickleball classic.

LAKEPOINT is conveniently located just off of I-75, Exit 283 in Emerson, GA. 40 minutes North of Atlanta, GA and 45 minutes south of Chattanooga, TN www.lakepointsports.com

We encourage all to not only be part of this history making event for the benefit of a great organization but to also bring family and friends to be part of the fun filled experience.

Not able to attend the tournament? Donations are accepted through PT.com or directly on the St. Jude's website (stjude.org) Events include: Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles, Men's and Women's Singles Age/Skill Groups (when possible) – 19+, 50+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+ plus a special St. Jude challenge team event (one paddle, 2 women and 2 men, singles format).

Tournament Director reserves the right to combine ages and/or skills

Format – Double Elimination – Round Robin for brackets with 4 or less teams

Registration opens February 17th at pickleballtournaments.com For additional information go to pickleballtournaments.com or USAPA.org



Pickleball Rocks Forsyth Co. & Changes Lives

by Rob Moody, Cumming Ambassador

The history of pickleball in Forsyth County begins with a couple named Joe and Peg O'Toole, who had been tennis players for over 30 years. They were introduced to pickleball about five years ago and were instantly hooked. They became USAPA ambassadors and promoted the sport through the YMCAs and county recreation centers in the north Atlanta area. (Peg is now Director of Player Development for the Sun City, Texas Pickleball Club, which has over 500 members.)

As far as I know, pickleball was first played Forsyth County around the beginning of 2014 at the Forsyth County Family YMCA. Daina Magnussen, who headed up the program then, tells the story: "The O'Tooles from the Alpharetta Y came in and did a demonstration and convinced us. Pickleball was said to be the fastest growing new sport in Georgia. We liked it because you could play it indoors or out. You could play singles or doubles. Equipment was easy to set up and take down. It was a good workout and I was hoping I would get more of the older adults involved. We were told it was more intense than table tennis but not as intense as tennis. But watching some of the matches, it can get pretty intense and competitive."

When I first started playing pickleball at the Y over three years ago, there were only two courts (crowded onto half of a gym floor) in all of Forsyth County. None of us had our own paddle, so we played with those terrible wooden paddles (Tom and Ann Earley later donated some used paddles to us). There were no experienced players to teach us, so we had to figure it out on our own. Sometimes I would be the only person who showed up to play. My, how times have changed.

In the Summer of 2015, Jerry Killinger spearheaded the effort to get Forsyth County to put down courts inside the gyms at Central Park, and now the four courts there draw an average of about 30 players per session. (Bill and Carole Hess helped jump-start play at both the Y and Central Park by leading clinics there.) The county also put down two outdoor courts on the tennis courts at Coal Mountain. A year later, with the courts at Central Park bursting at the seams, the county put down three courts inside the Fowler Park Recreation Center, and recently added three more. They also recently put down two courts on the tennis courts at Midway Park.

New subdivisions such as West Oaks have started including pickleball courts in their amenities, Fieldstone Glen has two courts on their tennis courts, and Polo Golf and Country Club is considering doing the same.

I think the reason pickleball has exploded in popularity in Forsyth County—as it has everywhere else—is because it's a better mousetrap than tennis or ping-pong. It's easier than those other sports to keep the ball in play, so volleys last longer, which makes it more exciting and gives you a better workout.

Before I discovered pickleball, I used to lift weights and take exercise classes with names like Boot Camp and Insanity (it was insan-

ity), what I now call "boring torture." I was

in shape, but I wasn't having any fun. (In my mid-40s, I finally decided that if I was going to work hard and pant and sweat, I at least needed to have fun while doing so.) And incredibly, there was almost no social interaction with the people I was exercising with. I could take the same class for many months and never even get to know the name of the person who was right next to me. You would think that enduring so much pain with other people would foster some camaraderie with them, but you would be wrong.

Contrast that to pickleball: When I see a player who I've never seen before, I go up to them and say, "Hi, what's your name?" If they're a new player, I spend two minutes teaching them the basics, put a paddle in their hand, and within minutes, they're having a blast (and probably hooked).

You're constantly switching partners and opponents, and everything you do affects them and vice versa. As Sandy below notes, "You can't get angry at your opponent because the next round, they could be your partner." Each game is a unique experience that you and three others create and share. You complement each other's gets and shots, and all laugh together when the ball does something crazy. Tapping paddles at the end of a game shows respect and says, "no hard feelings."

It's interesting how such a simple little mashup of a game—that started with a badminton net and a dog's wiffle ball over 50 years ago—can change lives. Pam Watson, who plays at Fowler Park, told me, "Until last summer, my opportunities to play were limited because most of the play was during the day, but I work then. I had played now and then and really enjoyed it. Last August, Fowler Park started offering play with the normal daytime schedule, but also included a more competitive play option from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., three days a week. While I have never been an early riser, I decided to give it a try. It has been a great experience. I feel healthier than before, have a bounce in my step on the days I play, and really enjoy the camaraderie of the group. We all play hard at our morning sessions, but also laugh at ourselves and each other. It makes a great start to my day."

I remember the morning last August when I was standing by the door to the gym, watching play and talking with new players, when Sandy Kraus walked in, eyes wide and mesmerized. She wrote a poem that tells the rest of the story:

That First Day

You said you saw me looking through the window,

You said you saw me open the door, You said you heard me ask, "What's going on? What is this?" You said, "This is pickleball." I said, "This is love at first sight!" And love it is. Before that first day, I felt an old, chubby, bored 71 years old. Six months later, 20+ pounds lighter, new friends, lots of laughter and definitely not bored. Result....I feel a young 71 years old.

Thank you, Joe and Peg, Daina, Jerry and others

for introducing so many people to a game that has changed their life.

Tournaments Played

Yonah Play? Spring 2017 Tournament Celebrates Cleveland, Georgia's New Courts

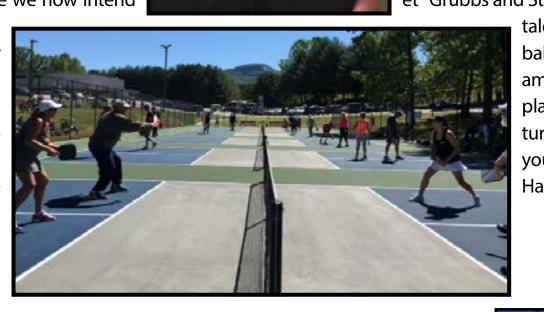
Cleveland, Ga (White County - home of Yonah Mountain, next to Helen, Ga and not far from Clayton, Athens, Dahlonega, Hiawassee, and Gaines-ville) hosted its 3rd Pickleball tournament May 5–7, but the first one on our six new dedicated outdoor Pickleball courts where we now intend

to host 3-day tourneys every May and November. The next one will be Nov 3rd to 5, 2017. We also utilized our 3 indoor courts in the gym next to the courts. We had 3 full days of 38 separate brackets of men's & women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles. Despite a near rain-out day on Friday, we were able to complete all 385 games with the help of neigh-



boring Rabun County opening its indoor courts for two of our largest women's doubles brackets on Friday. Thank you, Rabun! Ages 12 to 80; skill levels 3.0 to 5.0; players from five states; some first-time tournament participants, and a whole lot of veteran players— fun was had by all. Very thankful to have the honor of hosting Rodney "Rocket" Grubbs and Stephanie Lane, as well as many other top

talent players. Our Yonah MountainPickle-ball Club players and Commissioners were amazed at some of the exciting Pickleball playing on our new courts. I'll kick the pictures off with a picture of Rocket with the youngest player in the tournament, Dylan Harris of Cleveland, Ga.





Make the Right Call



The Play: Team A serves to team B, Team B returns the ball near the sideline, player on team A shouts "Out" to his partner while ball is in the air. The partner on Team A allows ball to bounce and returns it to team B. Player on Team B returns ball back to Team A, and the ball is returned to Team B. Player on Team B catches ball and claims it was called out and Team B should have won the rally.

Right Call: Team A is awarded the point. The player on Team A called "Out" before ball struck the ground; it is therefore considered to be communication with his partner. Team B loses point because player caught the ball and stopped play.

Rule: 6.D.12 If while the ball is in the air, a player yells "out," "no," "bounce it," or any other word to communicate to his or her partner that the ball may be out, it shall be considered player communication. If the ball lands in, play will continue. If the out call is made after the ball hits the court surface, it shall be considered a line call and play shall stop.

Winning Tips from Rodney Grubbs

Let Your Paddle Do The Work?

How many times have we stood at the non-volley line and had a ball blasted at us that went WAY out of bounds?

It's happened to all of us and it is frustrating. We see it coming and we know we should be able to handle it. So what is the secret to handling that hard smash? Well a simple thing that I starting doing a couple of years ago has made a big difference in how I'm able to control that shot. The key for me is loosening my grip on my paddle.

Yes, a lot of neutralizing those hard shots comes from having your paddle up and in the ready position, but ultimately the thing that made the big difference for me was to instantly loosen my grip so when the ball contacts my paddle, the paddle does the work. It really takes the pace off the ball and gives me much better control of that hard shot than when I had my traditional death grip when I knew that shot was coming.

Simple Yes, but it will make an instant difference. Watch how your paddle will almost automatically absorb that ball and cause it to land gently at the feet of your opponents. It will take some practice, so stand at the line and have a partner hammer some balls at you. It won't take long to feel the difference.

Try it. You'll be glad you did, I promise. Now Let's Play

New Courts & Venues

Barrow County

Join us at the Barrow County Leisure Services Center, 175 2nd St. in Winder, on Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings for Pickleball!





Upcoming Tournaments





Friday, August 18th through Sunday, August 20th, 2017

Odell Weeks Recreation Center 1700 Whiskey Road, Aiken, South Carolina

Indoor Tournament

Skill Level / Age Combination Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles

We are pleased to announce that we will, again, bring you the Palmetto Pickleball Doubles Invitational in partnership with the beautiful City of Aiken, SC. This year's event will be held from Friday, August 18 – Sunday, August 20, with clinics, exhibition matches and practice time on Thursday, August 17. Thanks to a wonderful group of participants and volunteers, we had a great tournament in 2016. We look forward to you helping us make 2017 even better. Please let us know if we can do anything to assist you in making your arrangements to join us.

Tournament Format

- * Skill level within age group.
- * Categories to be used are: 2.5 (19+, 50+, 60+, 70+) 3.0 (19+, 50+, 60+, 70+) 3.5 (19+, 50+, 60+ and 70+) 4.0 (19+, 50+, 60+, 70+) 4.5 (19+, 50+, 60+, 70+) 5.0 (19+ 50+)
- * You must be 19 years of age by December 31, 2017 to participate.
- * Awards will be made to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers. There must be at least 3 teams in an age group, even if combined, to receive medals.
- * Referees will be used for all semifinal and final matches.
- * Tournament Directors reserve the right to combine age groups within the skill level to ensure adequate playing time, or to adjust players into the correct skill level. We will not combine the skill levels without prior agreement of the players involved. We may also close registration of an event or multiple events, if the projected time of the number of matches exceeds the available court time for the day.

Scoring

- * Upper Bracket matches will be 2 out of 3 games to 11 points, win by two points. Back Draw matches will be one game to 15 points, win by 2 points.
- * If Back Draw players defeat the Upper Bracket players in the finals, then an additional game to 15 points, win by 2 points, will be played to determine 1st place.
- * In the event that there are 5 or fewer teams in a bracket, a Round Robin may be played in which each team will play each other team, one game to 15 or 21 points depending on the number of teams, win by one points. At the end, the number of matches won will determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd, place. In the event of a tie, head to head competition scores will be used to determine the winner.
- * This is a Double Elimination Tournament
- * Orange Onix Pure 2 balls will be used.

From The **USAPA...**



Finding Your Pickleball Skill Level

1.0

 New and have only minimal knowledge of the game and the rules.

1.5

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

 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

- 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

2017 GEORGIA PICKLEBALL CALENDAR

As we continue to add new pickleball events in Georgia we want to have complete event calendar. Laurie Lee, Ambassador for White County, has volunteered to keep it updated. She will send event updates to Fran Conn, our designer, by the 10th of each month.

Please check the event calendar before setting a an event date and send your info to Laurie: Sauteelodge@gmail.com

If you have a question feel free to contact us at B3779@hotmail.com

CAN'T PLAY? JUST WANT TO WATCH? NO PROBLEM! TOO YOUNG? TOO OLD?

NO PROBLEM! EVERYONE'S INVITED!

TOURNEY/EVENT	2017	LOCATION	CONTACT	AGE	URL/NOTES/
Get Off Your Butt & Play Pickleball	May 20–21	UTA Tennis Center, Lifetim Fitness, Norcross	Chad.cromwell@gmail.com	19+	Outdoor. 2.5 – 5.0 skill levels. Regular WD, MD, and Mixed events, plus "3 on 3" League competition. Registration opens 1/2/17 & closes 3/10/17. atlpba.org
St. Jude National Indoor Pickleball Classic	May 22–24	Lakepoint Sports Complex I-75, Exit 283, Emerson, GA	www.lakepointsports.com or www.usapa.org	19+	Phenomenal facility donated by Lakepoint Sports in Georgia for this national event with 100% of proceeds going to St. Jude's Hospital. Women's & men's & mixed doubles by age & skill level plus other special events. Online registration available on pickleballtournaments.com . Registration begins Feb 17.
Georgia State Games	June 23-25	Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park, 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin, GA	Bill Hess b3779@hotmail.com	12+	Brand new 18-outdoor court complex, with four courts covered. Online registration keyinfoinc.com/html/georgia/registrationStep0.asp?action=&sportID=87
Doc Holliday Shootout	Aug 12–13	Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park, 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	TBD	TBD	The Spalding County Pickleball Assoc. More information soon.
Custer Park Pickleball Tourney	Sept. 15 –17	Custer Park & Rec 545 Kenneth E. Marcus Way, Marietta	Christine Mills 770-794-5630 Cmills@mariettaga.gov	TBD	3 indoor courts. More to come on how to register.
North Georgia Pickleball Club Fall Invitational Tournament	Sept 29– Oct. 1	Earley Farm, Canton	Ann Earley go4baroque@icloud.com.	TBD	3.5+ skill and above. More registration information coming soon
Georgia Mountain Pickleball Fall Classic	Oct. 6-8	Hwy 76, Hiawassee	Peggy Castorri : pickleballpeggy16@gmail.com.	10+	14 outdoor pickleball courts. Singles & all doubles events. Registration on pickleballtournaments.com and begins June 1.
Special Pops/Southern Motors Pickleball Tourney	Oct 13-15	Landings Club, 910 Franklin Creek Rd. N., Savannah (Skidaway Island)	Ted Copeland 216-406-6775 tcopelandusa@gmail.com		Friday night: Open Party. Saturday: M & W Doubles; Sunday: Mixed. Outdoor courts. Manual registration: send email address to Ted Copeland.
Super Seniors Pickleball Tourney	Tues/Wed Oct 17–18	Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park, 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	TBD.	TBD.	More info coming. Tourney held 2-days prior to the Atlantic South Regionals at the same location.
Atlantic South Regional Pickleball Tournament	Oct 19–22	Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park, 1301 Cowan Rd, Griffin	Karen Parrish 850.699.1692	TBD.	Singles, M & W Doubles, and Mixed at 18-court complex in Griffin, Ga. Possibly adding a junior division. Registration opens on <u>pickleballtournaments.com</u> April 1.
Yonah Play? Fall Classic	Nov 3-5	White County Parks & Rec 327 Asbestos Rd, Cleveland	Laurie Lee, 770.317.1062 sauteelodge@gmail.com	7+	6 outdoor & 3 indoor courts. One location. Online registration available: pickleballtournaments.com
Turkey Shootout Pickleball Tourney	Nov 17–19	Rabun County Rec Center, Tiger (near Clayton), GA	Amy Martin 706.782.4600 Amy.martin@rabuncounty.ga.gov	7+	Nine indoor courts. Probably all round-robin formats. Online registration available: pickleballtournaments.com

Looking for a place to play pickleball ...

but were afraid to ask? It's easy peasy.

Go to <u>usapa.org/places-to-play-pickleball/</u> and click on your state.

You will not only find places to play but who to email or call with questions as well.

Submission Guidelines

Georgia Pickleball Bulletin

Feel free to submit your stories and photos to our bulletin.

Text: **plain text** format (.txt), or, alternatively, it can be part of your email. **Please do not format text**: no tabs, centering, bullets, double spaces, etc. And a reminder: the word pickleball is all lower case, it is not capitalized.

Photos & images: use jpg format (separate from the text file, i.e., do not paste or embed photos into your text file). If possible, the images should be renamed appropriate to your text (j.smith.jpg; winner.jpg; new courts.jpg, etc)

Calendar Events: Submit calendar events as a separate email with the information below. Email all to: Bill Hess • B3779@hotmail.com

