

Relish Pickleball

Tallahassee Pickleball Players

May 20, 2015

Volume 1, Number 1

PB tournament needs players, volunteers

June 27-28 event open to members & nonmembers

Polish your paddles, put on your best court shoes, and get ready to have a great time at the Tallahassee Round Robin Tournament, June 27-28 at Premier Health & Fitness Center, 3521 Maclay Blvd. S.

Saturday features men's and women's doubles, and Sunday features mixed doubles.

Players select the bracket in which they want to play: beginner/intermediate or intermediate/advanced. If you need a partner, indicate that on the registration

form, and efforts will be made to find someone at your skill level.

The entry fee is \$20 for one event or \$25 for two. Players will receive a T-shirt and snacks. Prizes will be given to the top three teams in each bracket.

Although the registration deadline is June 5, spaces are filling fast. Only eight teams will play in each bracket, so register now. Drop off or mail in the registration form to Premier.



Volunteers are needed to help with the tournament. If you are interested, check with Tricia Rizza at trizzateacher@gmail.com.

Don't miss out on this fun event. Grab a friend and join in.

Where to play pickleball in Tallahassee this summer

Most City of Tallahassee community centers and Premier Health & Fitness are getting ready to offer summer camps and other programs for school children. This means that regular Tallahassee pickleball venues either will be unavailable or will offer alternate times starting June 1. All facilities are indoors with the exception of the two outdoor courts at Lafayette Park.

Tallahassee Senior Center

1400 N. Monroe St.

Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m.-noon, free lessons for beginners

Noon-4 p.m., open play

Fridays: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$2/person

Jack McLean Community Center

700 Paul Russell Road

Closed June 1-July 31

Starting Aug. 3:

Mondays: 10-11 a.m., free lessons for beginners

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., free open play

Sue McCollum Community

Center (850-891-3946)

501 Ingleside Ave.

Closed June 1-Aug. 15

Starting Aug. 17:

Mondays & Fridays:

Reserved court times, only, from

9-10:30 a.m., and 10:30-noon

Cost: \$10/court per time period

Wednesdays:

10 a.m.-1 p.m., free open play

Lafayette Park (outdoors)

501 Ingleside Ave.

Open on a first-come, first-served basis. Net tie-downs, paddles, and balls available inside Sue McCollum during regular business hours, only.

Lincoln Neighborhood Center

438 W. Brevard St.

Closed for the summer; courts will reopen Sept. 1

Premier Health & Fitness

3521 Maclay Blvd. S.

Members: free; guests: \$7

Tuesdays & Thursdays:

June 16-July 9, and July 21-Aug. 27:
9 a.m.-noon

June 2, 4, 8, 10, & July 14, 16:

1-4 p.m.

Saturdays:

8 a.m.-noon

June 27-28

Courts closed to open play during pickleball tournament

Local players win big in Tallahassee Senior Games

Jack McLean Community Center was the site of the Tallahassee Senior Games in March. The top winners qualified for the Florida Senior Games, which will be held this December in Clearwater. Players are grouped by their ages as of Dec. 31, 2015. For doubles, players must play in the age bracket of the younger player.

Men's Singles

60-64	Gold	Rod Houck
65-69	Gold	Dean Lin
	Silver	Keith Houck
	Bronze	Richard Matela
70-74	Gold	Chuck Finkel
	Silver	Barry Powers
	Bronze	Bernie Windham
75-79	Gold	Ken Loewe

Women's Singles

60-64	Gold	Jodi Yambor
65-69	Gold	LaRae Donnellan

Mixed Doubles

60-64	Gold	Jodie Yambor David Tait
	Silver	Chris Kellogg Mic Dottorelli
	Bronze	Judy Lyle Rod Houck
65-69	Gold	LaRae Donnellan Charlie Giblon
	Silver	Mary Bowers Ken Loewe
	Bronze	Shelley Hill Charlie Winterbottom
70-74	Gold	Carolyn Allaire Chuck Finkel
	Silver	Jane Goad Terry Goad
	Bronze	Rubia Byrd Bernie Windham

Men's Doubles

60-64	Gold	Rod Houck Jerry Morris
	Silver	Carter Dick Matela
65-69	Gold	Colon Terrell Randy Herron
	Silver	Mic Dottorelli Charlie Winterbottom
	Bronze	Charlie Giblon Dean Lin
70-74	Gold	Chuck Finkel Ken Loewe
	Silver	Barry Powers Bernie Windham

Women's Doubles

60-64	Gold	Carolyn Allaire Jodi Yambor
	Silver	Chris Kellogg Linda Smith
	Bronze	Karen Rickards Debra Lachter
65-69	Gold	LaRae Donnellan Judy Lyle
	Silver	Paula Guidy Jovita Ashton
	Bronze	Shelley Hill Jane Goad
70-74	Gold	Zippy Wartenberg Anita Boukater



Men's 65-69: 2nd: Winterbottom/Dottorelli;
1st: Terrill/Herron; 3rd: Lin/Giblon



Women's 60-64: 2nd: Kellogg/Smith; 1st: Yambor/Allaire;
3rd: Lachter/Rickards



Women's 65-69: 2nd: Ashton/Guidy; 1st: Donnellan/Lyle;
3rd: Goad/Hill



RIGHT: Men's 60-64: 1st: Morris/Houck
BELOW: Mixed 60-64: 2nd: Kellogg/Dottorelli;
1st: Yambor/Tait



Mixed 65-69: 2nd: Loewe/Bowers; 1st: Donnellan/Giblon;
3rd: Hill/Winterbottom

Player spotlight

Each issue, we will highlight two Tallahassee pickleball players so that we can get to know one another better.

Rubia Byrd

Forget the stereotypical librarian who speaks with a quiet voice and says “shhh” to rowdy patrons. Rubia Byrd, who spent most of her life as a librarian for the Los Angeles Unified School District, uses her contagious laughter and gentle spirit to bring joy to the pickleball court and to others who need help.

Since her retirement five years ago, Rubia, 72, has found many things to fill her time in Tallahassee. She loves cooking, handiwork (e.g., sewing, embroidery, crocheting, trapunto quilting, needlepoint, and Chigiri – a Japanese art), and travel. In 2012 alone, she took nine trips sponsored by the Tallahassee Senior Center. She was a torch bearer at the 2015 Senior Games in Tallahassee, and she was featured in 2014 and 2015 in the “Active Living Magazine,” published as part of the Tallahassee Democrat.



“My trip to Jerusalem was the highlight of my life,” Rubia said. “I even bought a rug in Ephesus for my house.”

Rubia started playing pickleball three years ago at Premier Health & Fitness Center and became hooked immediately. In addition to everything else in her life, she plays pickleball three or four times a week at Premier and at city courts. And she’s quite good. She’s like a vacuum cleaner, scooping up balls you think might have passed her by.

Rubia is a great ambassador for the sport. She has been spotted at Jack McLean Community Center, teaching the fundamentals to new pickleball players she has recruited from her church. Now, that’s one way to give back and spread happiness!

But unlike most of us, Rubia had her own pickleball court painted onto her driveway. She invites friends, known as the Pickleball Jamborees, to play from time to time. Might there be a Rubia Invitational Tournament one of these days?

Michael Grindberg

Michael Grindberg, who perhaps is better known as “The Lob Man,” has the maddening skill to successfully lift a pickleball over just about anyone’s head. On top of that, he is quick enough to reach balls hit anywhere on the court.

Michael was introduced to pickleball last spring when he watched people laughing, smiling, and having a good time playing an unfamiliar game “while hitting this yellow whiffle ball around” on the basketball court. So he and his wife, Michelle, decided to give pickleball a try. One of the regulars gave them some quick lessons, but Michael said he was “horrible” the first time he tried to hit the ball. Despite having played tennis and racquetball, he said he struggled at first with the different equipment and court setup.



“I could not even correctly serve the ball in the box. Other people would cringe when they had to play with me,” Michael said.

We’ve all been there! But he said he came back the next week, hitting the ball in the racquetball court by himself to improve his skills.

“Now, I really think I could play this sport every day and not get tired of the fun and friendly competition,” Michael said. “This game has proved to provide great exercise and is a wonderful way to meet some special folks.”

But his full-time job working in the sales department at Proctor Honda and participating in other interests such as coaching and watching his daughter play soccer make it difficult for him to play as much as he’d like.

Michael just turned the Big 5-0. He was born and raised in Fargo, North Dakota, but he and his wife moved to Tallahassee about 20 years ago so that she could go to grad school at FSU. They decided to stay, he said, because “we just thought Tallahassee was a bit warmer than Fargo.” You think?

Michael offers this advice to new players: “Remember, if you are just starting out, you will get better (as in anything in life). Just keep playing.”



Ask the Ref

If you have questions about pickleball rules or etiquette, email your questions to “Ask the Ref” at larae.donnellan@gmail.com Answers will be dictated by the International Federation of Pickleball “Official Tournament Rulebook.”

Q: Where must a player stand when his or her partner is serving?

A: If you watch pickleball videos online, you will notice that a server’s partner might stand at the baseline, on either sideline, or maybe even next to the server. According to Rule 5.B.9, “The receiver’s partner may stand anywhere on or off the court.”

Typically, partners stand at the baseline in the court next to where the server is standing. But some teams try different strategies. For example, if one person has the stronger forehand, he or she might choose a spot to the left of the server – even if that means standing outside the left sideline.

Q: What about the receivers? Can they stand anywhere?

A: According to Rule 5.B.8., “The receiver is the only player who may return the ball. If the wrong player returns the ball, it is a point for the serving team,” while Rule 5.B.9. states that “The receiver’s partner may stand anywhere on or off the court.” Once the correct receiver has returned the ball, the partners may switch positions for any reason.

Often you see this happen when one person falls back to reach a well-placed lob hit deep into a corner. Partners might yell “switch,” meaning that they agree to cover the opposite sides of the court, as needed. Or, as is the case with serving, some receiving teams may choose to position their stronger forehand player to the left of the receiver at all times.

But once the rally is over, Rule 5.B.10 stipulates that the partners must revert to their appropriate side of the court before the ball is served again.

Q: Keeping track of the score often is challenging. Any advice on how to remember who has what?

A: The server should always call out the score loudly before each serve. This helps everyone stay focused on the score and allows for corrections to be made before the next serve.

Here’s another trick: At the beginning of each game, note where you are standing. According to Rule 5.B.3., “The team’s points will be even when the game’s starting server is on the right-hand side. Points will be odd when the game’s starting server is on the left-hand side.”

In other words, “When the serving team’s score is even (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10), the player who was the first server in the game for that team will be in the right-side court when serving or receiving; when odd (1,3,5,7,9), that player will be in the left-side court when serving or receiving.”

Traveling Players

Several Tallahassee players have participated recently in out-of-town tournaments.

In March, Judy Lyle and Michael Donnellan placed first in 4.0 mixed doubles while LaRae Donnellan and Charlie Giblon placed second in 3.0 mixed doubles at a tournament in Daytona Beach Shores.

In early May, Carolyn Allaire and her partner, Virginia Paschall Corker, placed first in the 70-74 women’s doubles bracket in the Baton Rouge, La., senior games.

In mid-May, Carolyn Allaire, Karen Rickards, and LaRae Donnellan participated in a blind-draw tournament in Neptune Beach.

Has anyone else played outside Tallahassee?

About “Relish Pickleball”

Greetings, fellow pickleball enthusiasts. This is the first edition of an “independent” newsletter dedicated to those who play pickleball in public and private facilities in Tallahassee. You are receiving this newsletter because your name is on a list of players either at Premier or at the Tallahassee Senior Center.

The goal of this newsletter is to share information about what’s happening locally on the pickleball scene.

I hope to send this newsletter out at least monthly. But I can’t do it alone. Your stories, ideas, photos, and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Please send them to me.

Here are some ideas for future issues:

- **Swap Shop:** Do you have an extra paddle, pair of goggles, fitness tracker (e.g., Fitbit), or other sports-related item that you’d like to sell, swap, or give away? Use the newsletter to let others know.
- **Future of pickleball in Tallahassee:** There is talk of creating an independent Tallahassee pickleball club. Do you think we should create one? Also, some players are pushing for dedicated outdoor courts and more indoor venues.

Sincerely,

LaRae Donnellan, Editor
larae.donnellan@gmail.com