
Pickleball - Atlantic South Region Monthly Newsletter

Rich and Donna Donald

Mon, Feb 15, 2010

ASR AMBASSADORS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 15, 2009

The Atlantic South Region (ASR) E-Newsletter is distributed on the 15th of each month to all ASR Ambassadors. This newsletter is intended to keep all of you apprised of what is happening in your region and to consolidate our news into a once/monthly communication. Please forward this information to all USAPA members, all pickleball players/clubs in your regions and post to your local pickleball Blogs or Websites

.....A NEW AMBASSADOR - A NEW USAPA BOARD MEMBER.....

Please extend your warmest welcome to **Carla Black, Ambassador, Georgetown, SC**. Carla is the Recreation Director for the Georgetown High School in SC - so her plan is to introduce pickleball as part of the PE program as well as a club sport. We look forward to hearing more from Cala and to introducing her on our Atlantic South Website.

Please extend your congratulations to **Laura Patterson, Ambassador, Winston-Salem, NC**, as she recently accepted the position of Secretary on the USAPA Board.

.....MAINSTREAMING PICKLEBALL.....

This is another example of what Ambassadors find on our Google How- To Group. Dick Manasarri shared this and I thought it would be very helpful to our entire newsletter audience.

Mainstreaming Pickleball means getting in front of recreation professionals and seeing if we can get them to include Pickleball in what they normally offer to their customers.

Here are the links to the handouts that will be used for the Pickleball presentation and demo scheduled for the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association in February:

http://usapa.org/file/mi/2010_MRPA_Handout_Part1.doc

http://usapa.org/file/mi/2010_MRPA_Guide.doc

The Guide is a step-by-step process for developing a successful Recreation Department Pickleball program in partnership with USAPA Ambassadors. This material includes the new information about the USAPA Official Portable Net System and the enhanced Training Grant program. The Guide can be useful when meeting with individual Rec Center Managers too.

Tom Burkhart is presenting similar material for the LA and TX conventions and Chris Thomas is doing the same for the CA convention. We were not accepted for the NY convention but we will pursue NY again and other states plus the national NRPA convention.

Please review this material to see how you might use it and send back any comments on how we can improve what's there.

.....Tournament and Pickleball Event Update.....

There is a lull in tournament play, so Ambassadors and Clubs across the region are taking advantage of that spare time to train new players and/or improve the pickleball skills of veteran players. In Florida, Ambassadors Rich and Donna Donald introduced new players with a Beginner Workshop at the Lake Magic Encore RV Resort in Clermont, and Skills Clinics at the Thousand Trails RV Park in Wauchula and in Leesburg for the Highland Lakes Pickleball Club. The Spruce Creek Pickleball Club in Summerfield held four Beginner/Refresher Clinics this month for their members.

A very special thank you to Gary Bejin, Ambassador, Waterford, MI who as a Florida snowbird provided a Beginner Workshop to welcome new players at the Golden Ponds Community in Ft. Pierce. And the very same to Ilene

MacDonald, Ambassador, Lexington, MI who has introduced pickleball to the Lake Ashton Community in Lake Wales with presentations, demonstrations and Beginner Workshops. Click on the links below for pictures and more information.

<http://south.usapa.org/2010/02/new-place-to-play-pickleball-lake-magic.html>

<http://south.usapa.org/2010/02/skills-clinic-highland-lakes.html>

In the Winston- Salem area in NC, Ambassador, Laura Patterson used her creativity to showcase pickleball at the Woman's Senior Masters Racquetball Championships in Gaithersburg, MD and did a Pickleball Demo and Training at the Winston-Lake Family YMCA for the Active Older Adults.

Click on this link to read her story on our website:

<http://south.usapa.org/2010/02/north-carolina-pickleball.html>

And let's not forget the fun social events AFTER the pickleball game! The Plantation Pickleball Club in Leesburg, Florida held their End of League Social on February 13th, and the Sun City Center Pickleball Club attended their Valentine Dinner Dance on February 7th.

.....Watch for more news on these Upcoming Tournaments and Pickleball Social Events..... Registration/ information are available on our Atlantic South site.....

Kings Point Winter In Paradise Wing Ding, Sun City Center, Fl. - February 20th, 2010

Lee County Senior Games, Ft. Myers/Cape Coral, Fl - Feb. 22-26, 2010

Collier County Senior Games, Naples, Fl. – February 24, 2010

Spruce Creek Senior Charity Games - Summerfield, Fl., March 2-5, 2010

Heartland Senior Games, March 5th and 6th, 2010

Polk County Senior Games, Poinciana, Fl, March 9th and 10th, 2010

Fit For Life Games, Port Charlotte, Fl, March 11 and 12, 2010

Good Life Games, Seminole Recreation Center, March 29th, 2010

Do you have a tournament/round robin or social event that should be listed here?

.....Membership and PTP Update.....

Membership - In the last month we brought on 13 new USAPA members to the Atlantic South Region for a total membership of 278 for our Region. USAPA is VERY close to bringing on their 2000th member. Current membership is at 1994.

Places To Play - In just one month we have added 7 new places to play. Alabama (1), Florida (4) and SC (2). Great Job!

Membership growth is critical for us to achieve our goals for this year. Ambassadors who are having difficulty in meeting membership goals are encouraged to check out the Google How-To Group where you can find suggestions and ideas to promote and build membership. Requests for reimbursement through our Training Fund to start new places to play continues to increase. Remember that it is our membership dues that fund these types of programs.

.....More Pickle Ball News from across the Region.....

Georgia

Tom and Ann Earley -Canton, Georgia's Tom Early takes home the Silver Medal. Here's a note from Ann to all of us back here in the ASR about Tom's performance at the Palm Creek Pickleball Tournament in Casa Grande, AZ. *"So proud of Wayne and Tom yesterday! Once again, they played to the medals in the Legends - Men's Doubles 65+. They played from 11 a.m. until after 6 p.m., ending with the toughest team - A.J. Fraties and John Jetelina. ..They beat their opponents for the Gold last year, but A.J. is playing "Zen PB". He was on fire!"* And Tom and Ann partnered up for the 'mixed doubles' event and took the Bronze! Congrats!

Florida

Al Rosati - The Geezers N Gals are back to having pickleball fun..." Preliminary plans are under way for our first "social" of 2010. It will be played at the Bacall Courts (The Villages) on Wednesday .March 17th, from 10 AM to 12

PM which just happens to be St. Patrick's Day, so anyone participating in play will have to be Irish for the day. The wearing of "the green" will be mandatory. The play will be as used before, two divisions. A lottery system will be used. There will be a \$3.00 charge for refreshments"

Gary Bejin - In addition to getting pickleball introduced at his snowbird community in Ft. Pierce, Gary continues to introduce pickleball on Florida's east coast. "I am meeting tomorrow with the P&C directors in Vero Beach. I am sure that The Fenn center in Ft. Pierce is also very interested and are already talking about purchasing 3 nets & 12 paddles for play.... I am sure as time passes that both Vero Beach and the Fenn Center will be OK to add to the (places to play) list. I will keep you informed as to the progress we make"

Anita Marcus (Florida snowbird, and Michigan Ambassador) Anita has worked with representatives of Colonial Oaks Park in Sarasota to purchase pickleball equipment and nets.

"our program is starting the 22nd at the Colonial Oaks Parks in Sarasota. We are converting badminton nets for the time being and I think it will work. I am teaching a clinic during spring break for about 80 kids and could use some help on the 30th of March 10- 12. I am so happy this is happening. I am working with a great guy, David French at the Center." We will surely find help for Anita from her fellow Florida Ambassadors.

Jeff Prosansky- February 18th has been set to introduce pickleball to the Riverside Club, Golf and Boating Resort in Ruskin. Louann Dubendorf and the Kings Point Pickleball League will be assisting Rich and Donna Donald in the Beginner Demo and Workshop. Here's the latest e-mail from Jeff....."Hi Donna. You have a nice agenda for the 18th. I do have the USAPA DVD demo and I'll look into a TV/DVD set up. It's hard to speculate how many people will be in attendance but the event is being highly publicized. My guesstimate is 35-70. Most of the attendees will be unfamiliar with Pickleball. 4-6 of us have been playing once or twice a week. Yes, we will be starting in our old clubhouse that has a linoleum floor and is big enough for a lot of onlookers and a couple portable nets. I ordered one and it was shipped on Feb 1st. I applied for a USAPA training grant. The net will happen, I'm not sure about the grant. Time will tell. I sent you an attachment of the flyer that I distributed. Thanks again, see you soon. Jeff"

Carl Clous (USAPA Ambassador) and Bob Thies (President of the Solavita Samashers Pickleball)- Pickleball Disney has already become the buzz word as we put Dick Manasseri and his son Jason in partnership with Carl and Bob from the Solavita Community in Poincianna. Jason is in Florida now as an Intern at Disney - so work is currently in progress to identify the appropriate contacts at the Recreation Department to introduce pickleball. The enthusiasm from Bob and Carl and the Solavita Players is electric - they are so excited to be involved in this endeavor. We're excited too and anxious to hear more.

North Carolina

Laura Patterson- "I was scheduled to have a demo with about 10 Recreation Center Directors on Friday, February 5, 2010 but it had to be rescheduled for Friday, February 12, 2010 because of inclement weather. I believe this will be a very good venue for us to implement pickleball on a larger scale. The Recreation Centers already have the equipment but they just needed someone to help them implement the game. The Director that contacted me is on the committee for the Piedmont Senior Games, which will be held here in Winston-Salem in April and he would like for me to do a pickleball demonstration this year and then have pickleball as an event in next year's games."

South Carolina

Rena Grant - Rena has been very busy in the Myrtle Beach area. She has contacted and met with representatives at two separate Sports Arenas. The first is in Myrtle Beach. This is a very large 'warehouse' which offers most every sport. She was told that she could have space in the building as long as she wanted to paint the lines for the courts. They have offered free publicity and will advertise as long as Rena brings in a group to do the teaching. She has also contacted a similar Sports Arena in N. Myrtle Beach to do the same. Rena also met with representatives from the Midway Park in Myrtle Beach and is working with them to see if four pickleball courts can replace the existing tennis court. And thank you Rena for bringing us our newest SC Ambassador - Carla Black.

If you have ANY news/information from your area that you want included in our monthly newsletter or a story for our readers on our Website, please send it to Donna Donald at rddonald2@gmail.com
