

SFS Pickleball News Gram March, 2017

PLACES TO PLAY CHANGES

The **Fredericksburg Field House** will continue to stay open at this time. The SFS is not teaching there anymore at this time. If you have any questions please contact Novak the morning manager.

As you are starting to play outdoors this spring, consider Cosner park. Located on off Route 2, it is HHC Drive 22084, just south of Fredericksburg and past the airport. There are two tennis courts marked very well with Pickleball lines and they are lit into the evening!

The **Butler road YMCA** is now offering pickle ball on Tuesday and Thursday from 1-2:30 PM. No membership required! If we get out and support this venue perhaps the days /times will grow and there will be another quality place to play! I also understand that they have plans for two outdoor Pickleball courts!

SENIOR GAMES

This is a tournament that is by age. If you are looking for a partner, please email or call Joan Pope at register4sfs@gmail.com

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Please check our website out. Sfspickleball.org

Mark Renneson is Coming to Fredericksburg

Sign up for a clinic by Mark Rennison of third Shot Sports. He will be in our area and giving clinics on May 5,6,7,8 at Cosner Park in Spotsylvania. This visit is sponsored by the SFS group. Show your support and improve your game at the same time. This is a chance to get a rating, take a clinic or just audit a class if your injured. Here is a link www.coachpickleball.com On Saturday, May 6 there will be an exhibition match in the afternoon. Check the SFS website in May for the time.

NEW PLAYER (Playing for less than one year) TOURNAMENT at KENMORE PARK

Saturday, April 29th. Check out the Fredericksburg Parks and Rec website for sign ups.

VENUES

We are always looking for new indoor venues, if you have any leads please share them with us ASAP.

Holy Cross Academy

We are going to try something a little different at HHC, if you want to play with a partner you can rubber bands around your two paddles. This is for practice for those who are going to be playing in upcoming tournaments.

USAPA AMBASSADORS IN OUR AREA

Noel Lowery: North Stafford and Fredericksburg
noellowery@gmail.com

I became an ambassador a little over a year ago, my goal was to grow Pickleball in our area. I wanted to find an indoor venue for the winter months, have a place where the community could find information about Pickleball in our area and to start a ladder for competitive play.

My goals for next year is to have indoor play (with good floors) 4-5 days a week both day and night for winter.

Stu Simons: South Stafford and Fredericksburg
stusimons@rocketmail.com

Merv Olive: Spotsy and Fredericksburg. Merv is new as of March, 2017 thank you for your help!

moliva.usa1@yahoo.com

Ladder Balls

The new Onix Pure 2 outdoor ball will be the ball for ladder play. Joan has purchased the ball already for this season. They are the USAPA approved ball for tournament play and that is why we are changing ball types.

A Note from Noel Lowery, Stafford Ambassador

I became an ambassador a little over a year ago, my goal was to grow Pickleball in our area. I wanted to find an indoor venue for the winter months, have a place where the community could find information about Pickleball in our area and to start a ladder for competitive play.

I am so excited that I have achieved all my goals! I could not do it alone. Jan., 2016 Mike Curry and I sat down and began to brain storm about having a competitive ladder and in March the SFS Ladder league began. We soon realized that we needed a treasure and Joan

Pope stepped up to the service line and opened an account, collected fees, wrote checks for supplies, organized the roster, without her support there is no way that we could have been as successful as we have become. Thanks, Joan!

Next to come on board was Melody Litzenberg, I was having a hard time once we had more than 20 players in the ladder, setting up who was going to play in which match and together we designed the A and B ladder system. Subs needed to be from your section of the ladder, ... Mel's husband Ward wrote a wonderful excel program that really helped with keeping track of players score and is something that we still use to this day.

When we got the two indoor venues ready to go online we realized that we needed another team member. Stu Simons to the rescue! He brought a lot of knowledge and a love for Pickleball to our side of the court. Plus,

Mike is not the only guy :) He has a lot of ideas that we will be implementing this Spring.

Social Media was a nightmare none of had the skill set to be "the media person" but, we knew a gal that had just retired and had a lot of energy! So, we welcomed Donna Oliver to the computer side of the operation. I am sure that you have noticed that Stafford Pickleball Facebook page and SFSPickleball.org, is looking much better and up to date. She is a real diamond!

The newest member of our team is Bev Cameron. He is new to Pickleball since retiring and he is hooked! He is going to be helping us with our PR. He has contacts with the Freelance Star so look out we may be in the paper soon! That is the story of how we all work together to support the local Pickleball players. The SFS Pickleball Club!

A NOTE FROM MERV OLIVE, Spotsy Fredericksburg Ambassador

My endeavor is to promote the social/competitive spirit of Pickleball and be proactive in the philosophy of the USAPA. I will strive to introduce this growing sport to our local middle schools and high schools, as a possible physical education curriculum. I will continue to provide free clinics to my community and approach those communities interested in such a clinic with the same enthusiasm.

That being said, I would like to schedule a meeting with the director of Spotsylvania Parks and Rec; Mr. Jackson, that he can advertise through emails to anyone who is interested in learning to play. With the success of this year's Valentine's tournament at the Marshall's Center, which the Parks and Rec sponsored, there's an avenue for future tournaments in our area. The premise for all this is to promote the growing sport of Pickleball.

Thanks, Merv