

## **ATLANTIC SOUTH PICKLEBALL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

February 15, 2012

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

### ***WELCOME NEW AMBASSADORS***

**John Fitzgerald** - Please extend a warm Atlantic South welcome to our newest ambassador in **Pensacola, FL**. John usually plays with the folks up in Franklin, NC, but now he's in Pensacola trying to start pickleball. The public courts were eliminated for play, when the head of the city tennis center feared that pickleball might cause a reduction in tennis participation. Imagine that!!! So he wrote up a recommendation/proposal and set up a meeting with Bill Hamilton, the Athletic Director of Pensacola State College to use their courts and promote the game through their senior wellness program. And while not exactly what he wanted - he definitely got his foot in the door. Here's part of the response... *"We are looking into accommodating you, some. I have decided to check into the cost of painting the lines,..... We are pricing anchors at the edges too. And this will be for one court, 3 ½ hours, 2 days a week."*

### ***NORTH CAROLINA SENIOR GAMES AND STATE GAMES UPDATE:***

Your NC ambassadors are working collectively this year to introduce pickleball into even more of your local senior games and into the North Carolina State Games. They need your support to make this successful.

Jacksonville ambassador **Rick Laskey** has provided some great information on the local games, while Winston/Salem ambassador **Laura Patterson** gives us an update on the State Games initiative.

The dates for the Gaston/Lincoln County, Onslow County and Macon County Games are already scheduled and links are available on our website. Contact your local ambassador if you can help. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and the status of the games in your county!

### ***RECENTLY IN THE ATLANTIC SOUTH NEWS***



***5th Annual Winter In Paradise Wing Ding*** - Louann Dubendorf, of the Kings Point Pickleball League is the planner and organizer of this yearly event that draws people from across the state to play. More than 70 pickleball players

braved the 40 degree temperatures and blistering winds traveling from the RV Resorts in Wauchula and Bowling Green, Satellite Beach on Florida's Space Coast, the Sarasota/Bradenton and Ft. Myers areas to the south, and from Lutz and Wesley Chapel north of Tampa. This is also one of the few tournaments open to players of all ages and all skill levels and drew players from age 12 to 80! Pickleball for all !!! [CLICK HERE](#) for complete story and photos.

**2012 Geezer Meister** - The Geezer Meister Pickleball Tournament was held January 19th - 21st at Del Webb Spruce Creek near Summerfield, Florida. This was a USAPA Sanctioned Tier 3 tournament that saw a growth to 282 entries from 190 last year. Players travelled from Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and throughout Florida.

*"Yvonne and I commend Jim Claycomb and his staff on an excellent tournament. Very well run, lots of food and refreshments for players and spectators, a great venue and excellent competition."*

Jim Hackenberg - Kalamazoo, MI

[CLICK HERE](#) for complete story, results and photos.



medal matches played best to out of three to 11 points. [CLICK HERE](#) for additional pictures and Tournament Winners.

### 2nd Annual Senior Pickleball Tournament

- This tournament was held in Jacksonville, NC Feb 10th for men's and women's doubles and Sat Feb 11 for mixed doubles. The number of entries increased from last year. 97 players registered to play. The States represented were Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. This was a double elimination tournament. Each match was one game to 15 points with



### Del Webb, Ponte Vedra Pickleball Tournament -

The Riverwood Pickleball Club held their very first in house pickleball tournament at their Del Webb Community in Ponte Vedra, Florida. The pickleball

courts were just opened for play back in July of 2011, but on December 4th - pickleball was in full force, with a blind draw, double elimination tournament. There are only about 260 homes built so far, so to reach 50 pickleball members in their club in such a short time is fantastic. In the photo, Ambassador, Bob Dean, presents Carole Dominick with a free pickleball paddle as the 50th member of their club. [CLICK HERE](#) for photos and tournament winners.

**4th Annual Cypress Cove Pickleball Fun Event.** Nineteen teams and a dozen spectators turned out on Saturday, January 21 for this fun event in Kissimmee, FL. Players arrived from Solivita in nearby Poinciana, Sebring, FL and from as far away as Nashville, TN. The double-elimination tournament featured thirty-nine games before the champions were determined. All teams were selected through random draw, and play was conducted on four courts under perfect weather conditions with temperatures in the low-80s.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the complete story and photos submitted by Cypress Cove Player, Mike Sullivan.



### ***Pickleball at Piedmont Senior Games Kick Off***

North Carolina folks are getting ready! It's Kick Off time! Ambassador Laura Patterson is spearheading these Kick Offs and so far there's been two! "On January 19th and January 27th we had separate Senior Game Kick Offs (one in Kernersville, NC and the other in Winston-Salem, NC). We had the pleasure of showing off the sport of pickleball as a demonstration sport and this year it will be one of the events (even though we will not have pickleball at the State Games as an event). We had quite a few people try the game and many of them are now asking where they can find the "good" racquets."



**Seminole Pickleball Tournament**  
- This tournament took place on Thursday,

February 9th at the Seminole Recreation Center in Seminole Florida. Usually these tournaments are "in house" for recreation center members only, but this time players from Clearwater, St. Pete Beach and visiting players from Rhode Island joined the regular players. Kristyn Sabbag, Seminole Recreation Leader II for the City of Seminole adds "There was a great amount of outstanding play, long and hard rallies and a tired, but happy Pickleball group at the end of a very long day ."

[CLICK HERE](#) for more pictures and tournament winners!

### ***Groundhog Day Round Robin -***

The pickleball players at the Peace River RV Preserve in Wauchula, Fl, shared the sun with Punxsutawney Phil this year. The ladies and men played in a random draw doubles competition and, with a bit of a new twist, the mixed doubles partners were determined. The tournament was organized by RV



pickleball players Nathan Showalter and Karen Wolf to collect funds to resurface the parks pickleball courts. [CLICK HERE](#) for story and photos.

### ***UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS***

Visit our ASR website for links to additional/registration information:

- Collier County Games, February 10,11 and 12, 2012, Naples, Fl. (USAPA Sanctioned Tier 4) . Open to players 16 and older!
- Winter Die-Hards Pickleball Tournament, February 20, 2012, Franklin, NC
- Beginner Pickleball Clinic, February 17, 2012, Destin Community Center, Destin, Fl
- SCC Pickleball Club Relay for Life Fund Raiser, February 25, 2012 Sun City Center, Fl
- Spruce Creek Senior Games, February 20-March 8, 2012, Summerfield,Fl
- Gulf Coast Senior Games, February 21-26, 2012, Bradenton, Fl
- Ft. Myers Expo, February 23, 2012, Pioneer Village RV Park, Ft. Myers, Fl
- Lee County Senior Games, February 24, 25 and 26, 2012, Ft. Myers, Fl. (USAPA Sanctioned Tier 4)
- Sarasota Expo, March 4, 2012, Harbor Lakes Encore RV Resort, Port Charlotte, FL.
- Polk County Senior Games, March 6-7, 2012, Poinciana, Fl
- Heartland Senior Games, March 9-10, 2012, Sebring, Fl
- Good For Life Games, March 19-20, 2012, Seminole, Fl Singles competition, April 11, 2012 - Clearwater, Fl
- Charlotte County, Fit for Life, Senior Games, March 16-18, 2012, Port Charlotte,

Fl

- The Villages Senior Games, March 19-21, 2012, The Villages, Fl.
- Gaston/Lincoln County Senior Games, April 5, 2012, Gastonia, NC.
- Onslow County Senior Games, April 10, 2012, Jacksonville, NC
- Macon County Senior Games, April 23-25, Franklin, NC
- Riverbend Classic/Skill Level Tournament, April 13-14, 2012, Labelle, Fl ( open to players 16 and older)
- 4th Annual Waccamaw Sports Classic, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC April 20, 2012
- South Carolina Senior Sports Classic (SCSSC) State Games, Francis Marion University, Florence, SC - May 19-20, 2012.
- Mid-South Regional Pickleball Tournament, July 13-15, 2012, Mandeville, LA.

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

**REPORTING IN FROM THE REGION:**

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Ron Blake - Greenville, SC** - We were recently contacted by representatives of the SC Senior Games for help in getting pickleball included in the Greenville Games this year. We contacted Ron Blake ( better known as "Spike" to his Upstate Picklebal Group (UPG), who graciously responded: *"I will contact Joe Lanahan and find out what it's all about. I'm sure that we will be able to rustle up some players and will let some of the other groups know about the games. Will advise."*

**Richard Skovran, Myrtle Beach,** Pepper Geddings Rec Center in Myrtle Beach has been hosting a Choose to Lose, Choose to Move & Choose to Train Program since Jan. 10, 2012. This program runs until the end of March. Rich and Rena Grant teach newcomers the game of pickleball every Tuesday and Thursday. The response has been overwhelming; nearly 30 new people have learned to play. Rich continues to encourage USAPA memberships, and says there are plans for more round robins and simple tournaments.

Recently Rich has taken over the lead role and teaching, with the help from some great volunteers, because fellow ambassador, Rena Grant, was taken ill and has been in the hospital. *"She is now recuperating at her daughters. We all need to keep her in our prayers as well as her family. Please contact me for Rena's address if you'd like to send a get well card and words of encouragement to a wonderful Lady who has dedicated herself to the game of pickleball."* [E-Mail Me](#)

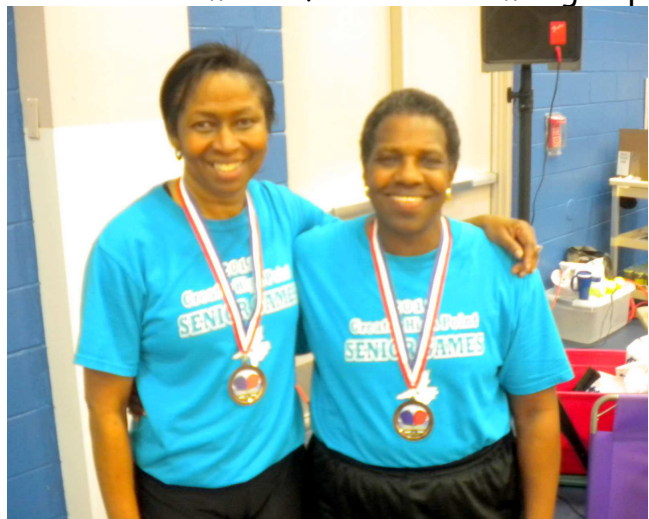
**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Earl Cunningham, Gastonia** *"More and more people are playing pickleball in our area. Starting Friday of last week the Belmont, NC YMCA has allowed use to use the courts for pickleball Tuesdays and Fridays following badminton thus we are introducing many new people to pickleball. This happened thanks to Ann Helms' promotion. "*



**Laura Patterson, Winston/Salem** In addition to the Piedmont Senior Games Kick Off, Laura was involved in a couple of other pickleball events. She was contacted back in November and asked to provide a Pickleball demonstration at the Alamance County Community Center in Burlington, NC, about an hour from where she lives. That demonstration took place on January 30th. About 20 people showed up and had a great time learning to play including the Director of the Burlington YMCA. Pickleball is now being played every Wednesday at the Community Center, and Laura is scheduled to do a demonstration at the Burlington YMCA on February 23rd.

Laura introduced pickleball in High Point, NC back in November of 2010 to a small group of players. They started out on a modified court in a multi-purpose room one night a week at the Cutler Senior Center. The number of players has continued to grow, they graduated to a regulation size court at the Moorehead Community Center and they are now playing several days a week. And recently after inquiring about the Jacksonville tournament - Laura persuaded three teams to play in their very first tournament and each team brought home a Bronze medal. Laura and her partner took the Silver medal. Everyone had a great time!



[CLICK HERE](#) to read Laura's complete report, find out who the winners were and to check out some more great pictures.

**Rick Laskey, Jacksonville,** "USAPA Ambassador Mike Walsh from Cary NC invited me to give an advanced clinic to his group of about 20 players on Fri Jan 6. We met for over two hours at the Bond Park Community Center in Cary. Mike can probably give you more details. On Sunday of that weekend Mike lined one of the outdoor tennis courts in the community where he lives in Cary and we got to play for several hours."



**Mike and Nancy Falkenstein, Franklin**

Players in Franklin inspire their fellow players to take pickleball to new places when they head south for the winter. Don and Judy Wirth played in Franklin - but pictured here is the new group they helped to start up in Naples, at the Fleischman Park. And we already introduced another Franklin player, John Fitzgerald who is promoting pickleball in Pensacola, FL You can [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and pictures from Don and Judy in Naples, FL

*Mike Walsh, Cary - "Things have been going very well for Pickleball. On January 6th Rick Laskey, the ambassador from Jacksonville NC came to Cary and conducted an extremely valuable 2 hour clinic. Twenty, both new and experienced players were there, to benefit from his expertise. We were also fortunate enough to have Marcia Bingham, the ambassador from Wilmington NC in attendance. Feedback from the group was excellent and Pickleball spirit is on the rise here in Cary.*

*During the past few weeks I've met with the Board of Directors of the Weatherstone sub-division and gained their agreement to begin play on their two tennis courts beginning in March. They have also agreed to paint those courts for Pickleball as play groups grow.*

*A meeting with David Mallard, Recreation Programs Manager for the town of Holly Springs NC resulted in his agreement to begin a senior program at their Hunt Recreation Center during March. I'll be on hand to help their start.*

*I've also discovered a small group of players at the Garner NC senior center and we met and played with them on Jan 24th. They were not aware of other players here in this area and are anxious to integrate some play activities. That is also true for a small group of players that have been playing outside at the Heritage Golf Club in Wake Forest NC.*

*Today a meeting with Steve White, Recreation Program Director, for the city of Raleigh NC, concluded with a plan to begin a senior indoor play program in Raleigh NC. I'll help to launch that program during March and to help co-ordinate it with the one here in Cary.*

*Finally the Briar Creek sub-division has scheduled an evening of Pickleball and pizza for February 17th."*

## **FLORIDA**



*Cindy Eddleman/Nancy Meyer-Ft. Myers " We recently did a clinic at Riverside RV Resort in Arcadia. They have a brand new Pickleball court and about 40-50 people eager to learn how to play. They started playing a couple of years ago in the parking lot and when the insurance company said they couldn't do that, the management built them a court.*

*We recently did two clinics at Heron's Glen in North Ft Myers. They have six tennis courts that they tape off each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. They have just petitioned the Community Association to be recognized as an official sport at Heron's Glen. They have about 40 regulars and 50-60 more waiting to learn this exciting new sport."*

*Bill and Kim Years of Heron's Glen sent another great story about the growth of pickleball and the help they received from Nancy and Cindy.*

[CLICK HERE](#) for their story.



*"February 9th we did a presentation for the Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA). We did an hour long class with the focus on how to market pickleball to your rec center participants. We used a power point and the USAPA video as well as "hands on" letting them hit a ball over a net that we set up.*

*We met last week with the City of Ft. Myers who contacted us after reading all the articles in the paper saying that Lee County needs more courts. They have a Skatium that will hold at least six courts. They taped a court and we took a net and paddles to see how the ball bounced on their floor. It is used as an indoor soccer field and roller hockey rink at various times during the week. They are going to open for Pickleball on Thursday February 23 from 6:15 to 8:15 and Saturday mornings from 7:30 to 10 am. If they have good response, they are willing to open it everyday for Pickleball. We are preparing for the Collier Tournament where we have 128 entries. We are thrilled and are excited. "*

**Robert Taylor- Anna Maria Island/Bradenton-** *"I have spent some time answering requests from over 25 persons interested in playing pickleball in Bradenton and at the AMICC in Anna Maria over the last six months. I have also ordered over sixty PB paddles for Pickleball Players at Peter and Paul church in Bradenton. They now play three times a week Monday, Wednesday & Friday. I have also ordered paddles for one of our members who lives in New Mexico several months of the year. She is helping get a group started in New Mexico. I will get more information when she returns. Most amazing, I have ordered around 50 PB paddles for a new pickleball complex, called Mount Vernon, using two tennis courts, in Bradenton. A novice PB player, Diana McLeish, has recruited members of her Mount Vernon community to purchase before learning to play.*

*Toni Teasdale of AMICC has been involved with getting pickleball scheduled at the 2012 Senior Games in Bradenton."*

**Dave Majic - Avon Park -** *"Just sending along a note relating to our South Central Florida Pickelball League play. This year finds us losing one team, Rainbow RV, but adding an excellent addition in Riverbend Motorcoach Resort.*

*Once again, the concept is team oriented ( eight players) and based upon each opposing team facing each other team, one time. The four matches are used to sent up the championship tournament brackets. The winner of the league play, is to receive a first round bye. The other four teams play off against each other in a double elimination format. Last years' champion was Solivita. This year the league championship will be held at Solivita."*

[CLICK HERE](#) for current teams' stats and a note from a Lake Ashton player that according to Dave *"embodies what I've wanted to create, a "team concept" in pickleball that is more than just about one or two people."*

**Anita Rimler, Daytona Beach Shores** - *"We are excited... final bids are in and the city has chosen one which is now under final negotiations. We will be adding 4 new lighted and shaded Pickleball courts to McElroy Park. They should be completed by April. Cathy is doing a good job for Daytona and Mike has gotten Port Orange to line some courts soon We will have at least 10 courts in the area. Now need to work on Ormond."*



Speaking of Cathy, We just welcomed Cathy Stansbury last month to our Florida ambassador family. Since then she has been very busy organizing demonstration to introduce new people to the game of pickleball. On February 8th pickleball was featured along with this photo in her local Daytona Beach News Journal. [CLICK HERE](#) for story.

**Larry Judd, Winter Haven** *"Pickleballers have been extremely busy at Lake Ashton, both on and off the courts. They participated in the South Central Florida Pickleball League and had several*

*close meets against Solivita and Highlands Ridge.*

*Lake Ashton members, joined Ambassador Larry Judd, at Del Webb of Orlando (Davenport) and gave clinics two mornings in their beautiful facility.*

*In mid-January our Pickleball Association continued its fund-raising activities by holding a spaghetti dinner at Lake Ashton with the intent of building dedicated courts. The dinner was hugely successful and future events include a St. Patrick's Day dinner and the Community Give Back Program with Ruby Tuesdays. Only \$20,000 to go."*

*We also got a note from Eric Baker, the Lifestyle Director at Del Webb: "Larry Judd and his team were out here recently providing my residents some informative Pickle Ball instruction/training. His team did a phenomenal job!!*

**George Cantalo - Jacksonville** - *Players visiting this area from GA, TN, AK, AL, NC, SC and as far away as Buffalo, NY, contacted George for a place to play pickleball!!! George has also contacted a Christian organization called Christ Church to begin playing in their indoor gymnasium which looks very promising. Additionally he has*

cooperated in the project with ambassador Sandy Hooker to introduce pickleball in Neptune Beach, FL

**If you have ANY story, news or information from your area that you would like to share with our readers in our monthly newsletter or on our Website, please send it to Donna Donald at [rddonald2@gmail.com](mailto:rddonald2@gmail.com)**