



Sun City Hilton Head Pickleball Club History

Early 2005 – Darlene and John Prest introduce the game of pickleball to Sun City Hilton Head (SCHH) community. Pickleball is played on a makeshift court, shared with the basketball players, located off Sun City Lane.

April 22, 2005 – The initial meeting for formation of the SCHH Chartered Pickleball Club was held in the Santee River Room at Hidden Cypress to collect club annual dues of \$5.00 per member, elect a Board and review tentative Club By-Laws. Nominations and elections were held with the following being elected: Brad Buck as President, Don Petrin as Vice President, Tony Troia, Paul Naef as Co-Treasurer and Co-Secretary and Ron Petroff and John Prest as Members-at-Large. Discussions held about promoting pickleball, new courts venues, how to schedule courts and who would do this. Main push was to get the Club chartered.

May 11, 2005 – Official approval of the By-Laws and Charter of the SCHH Pickleball Club given by the SCHH Community Association Management (CAM).

November 19, 2005 - 50 club members were in attendance of the second meeting of the now official Chartered Club. Nominations and elections were held. Elected for 1-year terms to expire December 31, 2006 were: Brad Buck as President and Ron Petroff and John Prest as Members-at-Large. Elected for 2-year terms to expire December 31, 2007 were: Don Petrin as Vice President, Pat Stern as Treasurer and Tony Troia and Paul Naef as Co-Secretaries. A Functions Committee to handle socials, leagues and tournaments was formed with the members being JoAnne Pearson, Judy Bily and Pat Kapelski.

January 1, 2006 – Club membership is 145 members.

Early 2006 – The Pickleball Club Board pursued building new courts at the New River Sports Park (NRSP) with Brad Buck negotiating the new courts and their location. Del Webb/Pulte Homes decided to build three courts outside the left field fence of the softball field.

July 2006 – Despite Brad Buck's request to move the three new pickleball courts to behind the center field fence, he is told it is too late as it would hold up the Gala Opening of the NRSP. Numerous club members including Joe Huber and Jim Rossini protest the three new pickleball courts location and short court dimensional lengths as safety issues as staked out prior to the concrete pouring at the NRSP.

August 8, 2006 – Court reservation scheduling is manually done at the courts using a book for members to write in and to be kept in the purchased green cabinet on a wood post.

September 15, 2006 – Brad Buck asks Joe Huber, Paul Naef, Pat Stern, Tony Troia and Mitch Sackson to attend a sports park safety meeting with CA Board liaison Jo Stephy to express our concern for safety issues from batted softballs as the pickleball court location was too close to the left field fence. After Joe Huber sent a summation letter as requested by Jo Stephy for the CA Board to review, the subsequent reply was it was too late to move the courts as the NRSP had to be opened on-time in November 2006. At this point in time the concrete had not yet been poured for the three courts.

September 29, 2006 - Jim Rossini sends his second letter of concern to Jo Stephy on behalf of the pickleball club members. The official response again is it is too late to change anything.



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November 8, 2006 – Nominations and elections held for the Club's Board of Directors. Elected for a 2-year term to expire December 31, 2008 was: Joe Huber as President. Elected for a 1-year term to expire December 31, 2007 were: Jim Rossini as Vice President, Eddie Anderson as Secretary, Pat Stern as Treasurer and Phil Worley and Danielle Hilton as Members-at-Large. Committees formed to devise a new court scheduling plan, Orientation and Rules Committee for training potential new members and the 2007 Nomination Committee. Reviewed and voted to approve the revisions to the Club's By-Laws.

December 2006 – The three new pickleball courts built by Del Webb/Pulte Homes are opened for play. Initial problems were paint flaking off, courts too short in length, no fencing to prevent balls from running into the lagoon and after a couple of months the courts started to crack from the water pressure under the courts due to poor construction practices.

December 15, 2006 – Darlene and John Prest volunteer to take over court scheduling on a first come-first serve telephone call in basis.

January 1, 2007 – Club membership is 256 members.

February 26, 2007 – The Pickleball Club's initial on-line court reservation website begins allowing members to schedule court reservations on a 24/7 basis.

March 1, 2007 – The Pickleball Club Board approves Meet & Play to begin to allow new members and existing members a chance to meet members to play more pickleball and possibly form new play groups.

April 20, 2007 – All official Pickleball Club emails now being sent out to the membership with the President's approval using the Internet Services of Low Country (ISLC) bulk email program called Mailman. This allows prompt communications with club members without printing costs and undue burden to deliver notices throughout our large community.

April 25, 2007 – First true social held by the Pickleball Club at The Pavilion in Town Square. Food catering by the British Open Pub, with the Pickleball Club providing beverages, music, numerous door prizes and a 50-50 raffle hi-lited this well attended social.

July 18, 2007 – General membership meeting held. Reviewed proposed Club By-Law changes and voted upon said changes as follows:

1. to extend all board members terms to two years with at least three board members including two officers remaining in place while three to four new members are elected each year for board continuity. Amendment approved.
2. to add one additional member-at-large bringing the Board to seven members to avoid tie Board votes. Amendment approved.

No members volunteered for the 2008 Nomination, Fall Social or Election Committees, so Joe Huber appointed members at a later date. Extensive Q & A period held.

September 12, 2007 – Official approval of the July 18, 2007 revised Club By-Laws given by the SCHH CAM.



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October 11, 2007 – General Membership/Election meeting. Nominations and elections held for the Club's Board of Directors. Elected for 2-year terms to expire on December 31, 2009 were: Jean Paul Fauser as Vice-President, Werner Rotach as Treasurer and Eileen Rossini as Member-at-Large. The Fall League Committee chaired by Phil Worley randomly selected and announced members for the Fall Pickleball League teams based on their skill levels.

October 23, 2007 – Our club petition is presented by Jim Rossini to the CA Board at the quarterly CA Board meeting, which was signed by club members to request four new courts be built at the NRSP as soon as possible and the CA Board requests that Del Webb/Pulte Homes pays for the four courts. The Board members dwell on the fact that we use the word unsafe three times in our petition and since we have given them something in writing from numerous members they must now do something.

October 30-31 and November 1, 2007 – SCHH Pickleball Club hosted the inaugural Beaufort County Senior Games pickleball competition for Womens, Mens and Mixed doubles play, with age and skill level breakdowns. Club volunteers lead by Joe Huber run the tournament.

November 1, 2007 – Dave Meseroll, CAM Director announces the three NRSP pickleball courts will be permanently closed following the Beaufort County Senior Games. Temporary courts will be created at the NRSP basketball court and near the old softball field. Fall Leagues delayed due to lack of courts.

November 12, 2007 – The SCHH CA Board grants a meeting to the SCHH Pickleball Club Board to discuss procedural questions on how residents and chartered clubs interact with the SCHH CA Board. Further discussed concerns about getting the four new courts 1) all new pickleball courts must be funded by the SCHH CA not Del Webb/Pulte Homes with the possible exception being four new courts on the north side of Rte. 208 2) the CA Board approved building four new courts for a budgeted cost of \$64,000. 3) Joe Huber gave Dave Meseroll, CAM Director the Pickleball Club's Request for Proposal write-up and over a dozen potential contractors 4) CA Board approved two additional temporary courts in the old sales center parking lot for use until the new courts open 5) Joe asked for inclusion in the 2009 CA Budget four additional courts giving the community eight pickleball courts.

December 31, 2007 – Club membership is 630 members.

January 1, 2008 – Club membership is 463 members after non-renewals are removed.

January 14, 2008 – The 2007 Fall League finally begins using two temporary courts at the old sales center. Many drop out since we are playing on temporary courts.

March 19, 2008 – Inaugural League Banquet held in The Pavilion with food and beverage provided by the British Open Pub. League Championship team awards given in addition to numerous door prizes.

April 25, 2008 – General Membership meeting held with food and light refreshments, numerous door prizes and a 50-50 raffle. Volunteers selected for the 2008 Nomination Committee, Summer Social Committee and the 2008 Fall League Committee.



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July 21, 2008 – The net thief strikes stealing the two nets at the temporary pickleball courts at the old sales center. We end up playing with one old net and one orange plastic construction fencing for over one month.

August 3, 2008 – A fabulous Summer Social was held at the Okatie Ale House with live entertainment and numerous door prizes including a very lucrative 50-50 drawing. More than 120 members and guests attended. Kudos to the Social Committee chaired by Jean Paul Fauser.

August 29, 2008 – The four new pickleball courts at the NRSP are finally open for play!

September 2, 2008 – Meet & Play returns after almost a one year hiatus.

September 29, 2008 – The 2008 Fall League begins. Another excellent organization plan and implementation has been done by the League Committee chaired by Phil Worley.

October 5, 2008 – Club membership is 627 members.

October 17, 2008 – The General Membership/Election meeting scheduled for 1-3 PM in Pinckney Hall for the election of the President, Secretary and two Members-at-Large. Additionally proposed Club By-Law changes to be reviewed and voted upon.

November 4-5-6, 2008 - SCHH Pickleball Club hosts the second annual Beaufort County Senior Games pickleball competition for Womens, Mens and Mixed doubles play, with age and skill level breakdowns. Club volunteers lead by Joe Huber run the tournament.

December 12, 2008 – Werner Rotach and Joe Huber meet with Jon Cherry to request 4 More Courts in 2009 and with a proposal if Pulte Homes would not build them. Jon says Pulte Homes is in no position to build additional amenities in this lousy housing market. He does have Derek Morgan put us on the next CA Board Workshop agenda to present our proposal.

December 31, 2008 - Club membership is 862 members.

January 12, 2009 – Joe Huber and Werner Rotach present the club's proposal for building 4 More Courts in 2009 to the CA Board during the workshop.

January 26, 2009 - An emergency meeting of all interested club members to meet and discuss how to proceed with funding 4 More Courts in 2009 since a loan guarantee is off the table. 106 members come to say we should develop a donation pledge form to send to members to fund the courts. There was an overwhelming majority to proceed with this plan.

January 27, 2009 – Joe Huber and Werner Rotach have dinner at the Rotach's home with Derek Morgan and Jon Cherry to discuss how the club should proceed. They advise that the four Pulte Homes CA Board members do not oppose our plan, but will only vote in favor of it if we have the money and the approval of the three resident CA Board members.

February 1, 2009 - Club membership is 776 members after non-renewals are deleted.



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February 2, 2009 - Winter League play begins with our first separation of men and women on teams. There are a total of 18 men's teams and 15 women's teams with 4 players per team.

February 3, 2009 – Joe Huber meets with resident CA Board members Cliff Hudsick and Wes Pipkin to discuss our revised donation pledge plan and to get their approval of building the 4 courts in 2009. They advised we could give no preferential scheduling for those donating the money to build the court and if we did they would definitely not approve the land use for building the courts. They did say if we had the money in hand and or pledged they would probably approve use of the land for building 4 more pickleball courts.

February 5, 2009 – The donation pledge letter and form are emailed to all club members asking them to pledge a total of \$45,000 needed to supplement the \$20,000 we have and will raise in additional fundraisers. The total cost of the 4 more courts is estimated to be the same as the ones built last year for \$65,000.

February 9, 2009 – Barbara and Werner Rotach meet with resident CA Board member Barbara Lenta to ask for approval of the land to build 4 more courts. She agrees if we have the money and pledges she would probably vote to allow us to have the land to build the 4 more pickleball courts.

February 18, 2009 – Cherie Bronsky decides to close the temporary pickleball court on the basketball court at NRSP to appease the volleyball club without consulting us before making this decision. Dave Meseroll approves it, saying a gentleman approached him thinking about starting a basketball club. Many PB club members send emails to Cherie and Dave but no reversal in this poor decision comes forth.

March 15, 2009 – Club membership is 802 members.

March 16, 2009 – Joe Huber and Werner Rotach present the history of the Pickleball Club, our present drive to fund 4 more courts and the difficulties with the CA Board and the CA management team to the Fitness Advisory Committee.

April 29, 2009 – General Membership Meeting updating the club on our "4 More Courts in 2009" fundraising efforts with PowerPoint Presentation outlining the efforts put forth to date. In attendance were CA Board Members Clifford Hudsick, Wes Pipkin, Barbara Lenta, Cisco Garcia and Derek Morgan. Plus Dave Meseroll, CA Executive Director. Lively discussion followed the presentation with responses from CA Board Members and the Executive Director.

May 20, 2009 – Dave Meseroll emails a recap of the CA Management's cost estimates for building 4 additional pickleball courts. Cost has risen from \$71,000 to \$100,000.

May 27, 2009 – PB Board Meeting to present and discuss the results of the on-line survey to our members. The PB Board decided not to continue with the club's fundraising efforts based on the above information and the fact that the costs went from \$71,000 to \$100,000. The Board also decided to submit a 2010 Cap Ex Request for 4 more courts to the Community Association following the approved process of sending it to the Fitness Director.



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June 17, 2009 – Joe Huber and Werner Rotach submit a 2010 Cap Ex Request for 4 more courts to the Fitness Director, Cherie Bronsky.

August 20, 2009 – Werner Rotach, Joe Huber and Jean Paul Fauser attend the Finance Committee Meeting for discussion of the 2010 Cap Ex Budget. Bob Rubio, Finance Committee member asked Joe Huber why there was two figures on our request, \$100K and \$125K. Joe responded we only put down the \$100K estimate that Dave Meseroll had given us on April 29, 2009. Dave Meseroll stated after a meeting with CA Board Member Barbara Lenta, he raised the estimate to \$125K. Dave Meseroll is reminded by Derek Morgan that the Community Association Board had requested him to do a Land Use Study.

August 15, 2009 – Club President Joe Huber creates an independent Pickleball Club website using free software from Weebly and a small annual domain charge of \$39.95 to the club. The website address is <http://www.schpickleballclub.com> and it is open to all.

September 30, 2009 – Werner Rotach and Joe Huber to meet with the new CA Executive Director Sue Sweeney to discuss the Pickleball Club's 2010 Cap Ex Request.

October 15, 2009 – Letter from Sue Sweeney advising after a lengthy discussion the SCHH Board of Directors has decided not to move forward with building any new courts in the development at this time. However, it is anticipated that four new pickleball courts will be built in Reflections in the near future. Construction on those courts is planned to begin in 2010 and plans are to have the courts open in 2011.

October 20, 2009 – Joe Huber and Werner Rotach requested a follow-up meeting with Sue Sweeney for further explanation and to give us a sense of what we can do as a club now.

October 22, 2009 - General Membership/Election Meeting with Jean Paul Fauser re-elected as Vice President, Werner Rotach as Treasurer and newly elected Member-at-Large Sallie Bridgwater. Updated the membership what is happening with our pursuit of having the much needed 4 more courts built.

December 7, 2009 – Sue Sweeney gives Joe Huber the approval to put up advertising banners on the chain-link fence at the pickleball courts to raise monies for the club.

December 31, 2009 – Club membership is now 931 members.

January 2010 – The January issue of SunSations Magazine includes a request for residents to submit their suggestions for the Land Use Study on the remaining Community Association property by January 25, 2010. Joe Huber, club President emails this information request to all members on January 8, 2010.

February 10, 2010 – The Community Association Board conducts a meeting introducing the SEC Group as the consultant firm hired to collect our amenity and land available data, analyze and then present a detailed report with a suggested Amenity Plan and Lifestyle Study valid for the BoD use for the next 5-10 years. The BoD is concerned about the use of the land, costs and value of the selected use of the land. The results would be done in 6 months and no building of additional amenities would take place until the results were in, analyzed and voted upon by the Community Association Board.



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February 24, 2010 – The first three advertising banners are placed on the pickleball court's fencing. They are 5 foot by 3 foot Forest Green color with white only advertising copy.

February 26, 2010 – Derek Morgan, President of the Community Association Board and Sue Sweeney, Executive Director call Joe Huber, Pickleball Club President saying the Board just met and decided we must stop putting up advertising banners at the pickleball courts. The reasoning was weak and especially disappointing since the Board is usurping the Executive Director's decisions. They advise a Board Workshop meeting on this subject is being held March 17, 2010, with all residents having the opportunity to express their opinions of the changes they will be making to the community rules and regulations plus the solicitation policy.

March 31, 2010 – Club membership is now 707 members.

Late May 2010 – The Sun City Hilton Head Lifestyle and Land Use Survey is finally available after a 3 month delay. The survey deadline date is June 18, 2010.

June 16, 2010 – Joe Huber and Werner Rotach submit the Pickleball Club's 2011 Cap-Ex Request to Charles Whalen, Finance Director for Wentworth Management. The request is a two part request asking for 4 pickleball courts in the New River Sports Park and 4 pickleball courts in a site to be determined after the results and review of the SCHH Land Use Study by the Community Association Board.

June 16, 2010 – Pickleball Club Board sends letter to the Community Association Board requesting a meeting to discuss pertinent issues outlined in the letter.

June 19, 2010 – Barbara Lenta replies to our letter on behalf of the Community Association Board but does not mention a meeting date.

June 20, 2010 – Joe Huber replies to Barbara Lenta asking for a meeting date.

June 21, 2010 – Joe Huber submits to Cherie Bronsky, Fitness Director for Wentworth Management a list of seven items for the Fitness Budget as requested by Cherie Bronsky.

June 24, 2010 – Joe Huber and Werner Rotach meet with Cherie Bronsky, Fitness Director for Wentworth Management to discuss and review the four pickleball courts usage by the clubs 737 members and countless SCHH residents. Cherie is provided with a response list and the 2010 court reservations to-date. We restate that the pickleball courts are in continuous use weather permitting; which is the same as tennis, golf, bocce, croquet see during the summer months.

June 28, 2010 – Werner Rotach contacts Barbara Lenta asking for a meeting. A meeting is granted to be held 9 AM June 29, 2010.

June 28, 2010 – A Wentworth Management TYSK states that 3,760 residents fill out the Sun City Hilton Head Lifestyle and Land Use Survey. (JH: Estimated residents 14,000+; 26-28% fill out the survey)



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June 29, 2010 – Barbara Lenta meets with Joe Huber and Werner Rotach to discuss eight points of interest affecting the Pickleball Club that she would pass along to the CA Board.

July 15, 2010 – The Maintenance Committee chaired by Dave Willis completes the contracted pouring of concrete pads at all four entrances to the pickleball courts and the pad for the club's storage shed. The storage shed is put up by a group of club volunteers shortly thereafter.

July 21, 2010 – Club membership is now 747 members.

August 17, 2010 – Notice sent to club members that the Pickleball Club Board has chosen the Chelsea Systems on-line court reservation system after our current provider was unwilling to correct problems in his program and advised us to look elsewhere.

August 18, 2010 – The SEC Group presented their Amenity and Land Use Study results to the community after meeting five hours with our SCHH CA Board to make changes. Numerous club members in attendance (including Joe Huber, Kathi Fleming, Darrel Turner and Dave Willis) step up to the microphone to say this "rough draft" is unacceptable as both scenarios show the current four pickleball courts being ripped up (waste of \$71,000 of our monies) and moved away from the New River Sports Park to a new site in SCHH North having eight pickleball courts, four of which would be lighted.

September 5, 2010 – Club membership is now 758 members.

September 7, 2010 – Joe Huber sends out an email to the club discussing the August 18 Amenity and Land Use Study presentation urging our club members to contact the CA Board with their feeling about the "rough draft" proposed. About 90 members email the CA Board. The CA Board asks Joe Huber to tell the membership not to send anymore emails as they have heard us and again the presentation was just a "rough draft" to get resident input. Seems they did not want that much input.

September 17, 2010 – A second community meeting with the final presentation of the SEC Group's Amenity and Land Use Study is held. The revised plan shows room for six additional pickleball courts next to the current four pickleball courts in the New River Sports Park, plus improved parking. The eight additional pickleball courts remain in the plan for SCHH North. It was emphasized that this was a five-year plan and we may not have the funds to build everything as shown, especially since the survey results were interpreted as most residents would not want to increase the HOA fees by more than \$5.00 per month.

October 11, 2010 – The Pickleball Club's new on-line court reservation system, Chelsea Systems, goes live with no major problems and the existing system is phased out. The Chelsea website address is <http://schhpb.chelseareservations.com>

October 13, 2010 – The Pickleball Club's Fall Elections and General Membership meeting is held with a record turnout of 157 club members in attendance. Elected to two-year terms commencing on January 1, 2011 were: President Mike Wallick, Secretary Jim Horner and two Members-at-Large Kathi Fleming and Sherry Jackson. A big thank you to the outgoing Board Members: President Joe Huber (four years service), Secretary Sharon Dvorak (two years service) and two Members-at-Large Lori Yaworski (two years service) and Phil Worley (four years service).



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October 15, 2010 – Sue Sweeney, SCHH CA Executive Director orders the club to take down the two temporary sun shades by November 1, 2010. Many club members email her saying this was unfortunate and sun shades are needed at the pickleball courts all year round. None-the-less the shade come down after the BJAAC games.

November 1, 2010 – SCHH Pickleball Club hosts the BJAAC Mixed Doubles Pickleball Event with a record number of 74 players. The BJAAC Pickleball Event Leader for all three days of competition was Joe Huber for the fourth straight year, with a great deal of help from all the great volunteers from both our club and the Haven.

November 2-3, 2010 – The BJAAC Mens and Womens Doubles are held in the Haven at New Riverside. 40 men participated and 48 women participated, which again was a new record for the number of players in both competitions.

November 14, 2010 – Club membership is now 792 members.

November 15, 2010 – Joe Huber, Mike Wallick, Dave Willis, Barbara and Werner Rotach meet with Sue Sweeney and Everett Banks to discuss what the Pickleball Club Maintenance Committee can and cannot do to the community's pickleball courts. A plan of action was discussed and a second meeting date was set to review the plan.

November 23, 2010 – The Pickleball Club's black storage cabinet along with the club's paddles and balls are moved into the club's storage shed at courtside to allow easier access by club members. The black storage cabinet has a new Master lock to allow the club's volunteers for the Pickleball Orientation to have a central storage location.

November 29, 2010 – Joe Huber, Mike Wallick and Dave Willis meet with Sue Sweeney and Everett Banks in the follow-up meeting from November 15, 2010. Sue Sweeney announces that the CA Board approved for the 2011 Cap-Ex Budget \$180,000 in improvements (not in the original Pickleball Club's 2011 Cap-Ex Request) to the pickleball court area in the New River Sports Park, but would not include our requested four additional courts. They will be a larger parking lot for cars and golf carts, restrooms with a water fountain and a picnic area. During this process there will be a chance for discussion of building four permanent sun shades with concrete pads, which may involve the club putting monies towards this addition. The changes involve the volleyball courts being relocated and engineering work with building permits, so no time-line could be given except it would happen in 2011.