

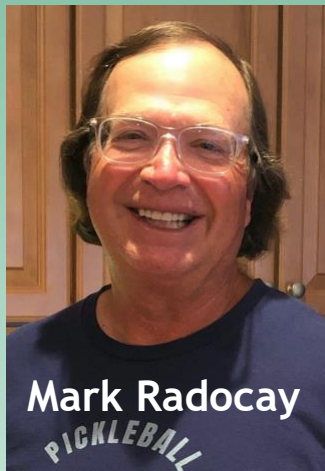
Around The Post

NEWSLETTER OF THE VENTURA COUNTY PICKLEBALL CLUB



September 2021

Premier Issue



Mark Radocay

Thoughts From VCPC President, Mark Radocay

When I found out about the sport of pickleball, learned to play, and began to participate in open play, I was impressed by the social aspect of the sport. People at the courts were welcoming and friendly. We were all relatively new to the sport and played at about the same skill level. The sport is addicting and many of us were playing as often as we could, some of us almost daily. Whenever I would show up to play, I was warmly welcomed and encouraged to jump in and play as soon as I got my paddle out. It was kind of like the TV show "Cheers", everyone knew my name and the courts were a comfortable place to hang out for a few hours. Fast forward 5 years and not much has changed. Open play is still very social, almost everyone knows me, and I can spend several hours playing and enjoying the company of my fellow pickleball addicts!

The sport of pickleball has grown tremendously in the last 5 years, both nationally and locally. That growth is very apparent at our local courts at Rancho Conejo Playfield. The courts are very busy morning, noon and night and I see new faces and meet new players regularly. Wait times for

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Rockin' Round Robin Tournament Rocks the Courts at Rancho Conejo

The Ventura County Pickleball Club kicked off its event-filled calendar with a Rockin' Round Robin



Tournament and Open House on July 18th at the Rancho Conejo courts. It was a huge success - and a lot of fun - as noted by both participants and spectators. “Lots of games, lots of fun. I was tired but so happy I did it”, said smiling VCPC member Allan Linderman. Click here to see the Thousand Oaks Acorn pics: <https://tinyurl.com/upsapuvh>

In a six hour window, VCPC brought together 32 Women's Doubles players, 32 Men's Doubles players and 40 Mixed Doubles players who battled each other in a series of uniquely designed pickleball games that brought out their competitive spirit but congealed around friendship and camaraderie. For



For many players this was their first exposure to a pickleball tournament - but not their last! They discovered the fun that is a part of competing against comparably skilled folks in this sport that keeps us active, smiling and laughing.



As a recreational tournament (not sanctioned) VCPC was able to modify playing rules. At the Rockin' Robin Tournament, each game was played for a maximum of 10 minutes. The final score at the 10 minute whistle was 'plussed up' to 11. Each player on each team received the same plussed up number of points.

VCPC Leadership

President – Mark Radocay

Vice President – Bill Weiss

Vice President – Kathrin Nolan

Secretary – Janet Clark

Treasurer – Carole Linderman

Committee Chairs

Membership – Sharon Pacheco

Education – Pamela Collins



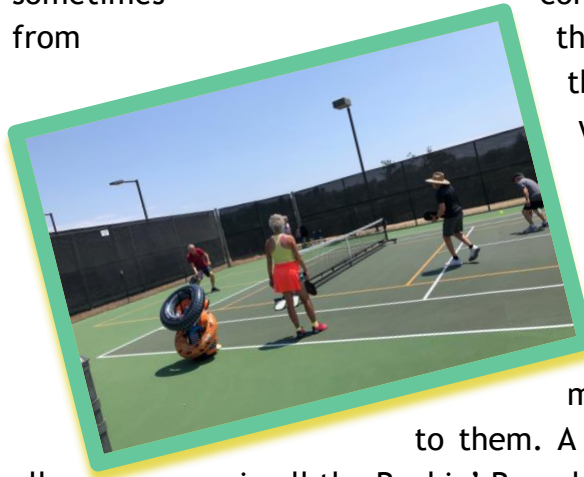
(L-R Mark Radocay, Sharon Pacheco, Valerie Radocay, Carole Linderman, Kathrin Nolan, Pamela Collins, Bill Weiss)



Ventura County Pickleball Club (aka VCPC) is organized for the purpose of encouraging interest in the fun, healthy, recreational and competitive sport of pickleball. Our club strives to facilitate a sense of community, provide guidance to those who are new to the sport, assist in organized play options for all, advocate for creation of more places to play and to provide basic instruction to those who are new to the sport. The club also works to promote good sportsmanship, fellowship, and a fun and enjoyable experience for all members playing pickleball.

First, second and third place winners for each round robin group were awarded medals for their accomplishments. There were many proud faces at every level of play. Everyone was patient with the court coordinators who raced to add up points from each match to determine the winners.

Like any first-time event of this magnitude, it wasn't perfect. The whistles that started and stopped the matches were sometimes from



confused with the whistles the soccer fields. And, at the end of the day, there were not quite enough medals for all the winners, so bags of oranges were temporarily substituted until the medals were quickly sent to them. A few minor glitches, but

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Besides Allan, there were many other raffle winners who won prizes like a paddle, balls, shirts, hats and towels. Congratulations to Linda Pappas, Lori Cord, Rob McAfee, Rueben Ruiz, Paul Stroud, Patti Kolb, Brenda Newton, Conor Logan, Kathrin Nolan, Betty Soucy, Debra Gomez, Vinny Rivera and Lois Miller for their raffle wins!

The people who came together to make this tournament a fantastically fun event are too numerous to name but they know who they are...many thanks to all! And a huge shout out to all the wonderful players who competed hard, had fun and made the tournament such a fun and successful event for VCPC.

To be part of this group and become a member of the Ventura County Pickleball Club, visit our website at <https://venturacountypickleballclub.com> and click on "SIGN UP". As a club member, you can improve your game with Skills and Drills Clinics, compete in future Ladders and Round Robins, participate in the Education program and/or help us advocate for more courts.



(Continued "Thoughts . . ." from page 1)

games have increased, despite the addition of 4 more pickleball courts on the adjacent tennis courts and increased use of the pickleball courts at Del Prado Playfield. However, the friendly environment and comfort of hanging out with other players has not changed much. I have noticed that, because there are not enough places to play in our area, there are several groups of players who prearrange their play time at various times of the day, or some groups will head straight to the pickleball courts on the tennis courts when they arrive to play, and others will travel to neighboring communities to play. This fragmentation of our local pickleball player community has reminded me that I may not see as many of my pickleball friends as often as I used to and that I miss them. I have realized that VCPC can counteract this drifting apart and will keep us all connected socially. The club should provide a way to make new friends, strengthen existing friendship bonds, and enrich the playing experience of our members.

Pickleball people are fun, active, and generally positive people. It is a real blessing to get to know them and to be around them. A couple of years ago, my good friend, Bill Weiss, and I were chatting about the sport of pickleball while we were returning home



Mark and Bill Weiss (right)

from a tournament, we had just played in. Bill asked me, "Has pickleball

changed your life?" I thought about it for a bit and considered the significance and possible meaning a life changing event. Maybe I overthought the question a bit, but I ultimately responded by mentioning how fun it was to be involved in pickleball and that I appreciated the many new friends I had made, but NO, I didn't think pickleball had changed my life to such a significant degree. That question has kept creeping back to mind and I have frequently pondered its significance. I have changed my mind on that question and must now state unequivocally that YES, HELL YES! Pickleball has definitely changed my life. And in so many ways. I'll provide specific examples in future chats with you all, but for now, I'll just mention a couple of ways. First, there are the friendships with players of all ages and skill levels. I see so many friends regularly every week. We share the joy of physical activity, good competitive games, and companionship. I am very grateful for that aspect of this sport. Second, because I am more physically active, enjoy being out in the sunshine, and see how well active people age, I am very optimistic about how the rest of my life will play out. Pickleball is definitely a life changer!

I see VCPC as an excellent vehicle to stay in touch with my many friends and the pickleball community in general. Going forward, I am excited about exploring the many opportunities to add more ways this wonderful sport can enrich the lives of our club members. With the various club activities that we all are striving to develop and fine tune at this time, I am hopeful that many of our members will reach the conclusion a lot sooner than I did and agree YES, PICKLEBALL IS A LIFE CHANGER !!



VENTURA COUNTY PICKLEBALL CLUB

MEMBERS ONLY CARNIVAL and PICNIC FUN*

The Whole Family is Invited to join in on the fun

Sunday, September 26

From 4-7PM

At the Del Prado Pickleball Courts

Pickleball skill games with prizes!



Watch for more information to follow shortly

*Due to covid concerns, we ask that each VCPC member bring your own picnic treats and chairs or blankets

