
PICKLE POWER PRESS

All The News That's Fit To Pickle

A major part of the magnetism of our game of Pickleball is it's appeal to players of all ages. Young and old become captivated by this great game, making it the fastest growing sport in the world. We are most fortunate in Las Cruces to enjoy playing with some terrific senior players. We recently sat down individually with Michiko Henmi, Wally Hill and Doug Bogart. These wonderful people inspire us all to cherish the friendship and fellowship that comes with Pickleball.



*Halloween fun, food and Picklers in support of veterans
With PTSD and Mission 22*



Wally Hill

Truly a “Silver Fox”, **Wally Hill** began his Pickleball interview with a bit of self-professed nervousness. Soon, his captivating blue eyes sparkled as he told his story.

Wally is eighty-six years old and continues to play Pickleball with joy and skill. He began playing the sport in the mid 2000’s, in addition to tennis and badminton. He has successfully played all three sports in the Senior Olympics. He was asked to bring some of his ribbons. He modestly brought an entire box of blue ribbons and has many more at home.

Wally was born in Hermleigh, Texas then moved to San Antonio and Ft. Worth. Lastly, his family moved to Noodle, Texas, a very small rural community. He lived on a farm that specialized in cattle and cotton. Wally was the middle child with two sisters. He graduated from Noodle High School. With his usual sense of humor, he stated that he graduated in the top five of his class, but that the class consisted of only five graduating seniors (continued)

....He met his lovely wife, Sue, in the eighth grade. Both Wally and Sue played high school basketball for Noodle High. Wally graduated college at Abilene Christian College in physics and math. Sue and Wally have been married a total of sixty-six years and have two adult children and two grandsons. After college, Wally's first job was at White Sands Missile Range where he stayed for thirty-three years. Wally appreciates that Sue has always been supportive of his incredible athletic endeavors in softball, basketball, tennis, badminton, and Pickleball. However, she did draw the line and did not ride his small motorcycle nor would she climb mountains with him . He said he let that go!!

As for today, Wally is a favorite Pickleball player to many. He loves the entire Pickleball community, but confesses that his favorite doubles partner is Michiko Henmi. It's no secret that he is her favorite partner as well. She is in the same age bracket and plays skillfully with Wally.



Michiko Henmi

Michiko was born in Tokyo, Japan, where she still has family. She first arrived in the U.S.A. at Fairbanks, Alaska, where her husband was a grad student at the University of Alaska. They would later move to Fort Collins, Colorado where her husband worked at Colorado State University. Michiko dearly loved the beauty of Colorado and enjoyed nature as an avid hiker. They settled in Las Cruces in 1985 when her husband accepted a research position at New Mexico State University. They have three sons and two grandchildren. Initially, Michiko missed Colorado but quickly came to love Las Cruces. She enjoys the friendliness of the many nice people, the beauty of nature and the close friends she has made through tennis, Pickleball and table tennis. She became thoroughly involved in university life, teaching Japanese language, cooking and Origami folding.

Pickleball is actually a second sport for Michiko as she is a very accomplished tennis player. She started playing tennis in middle school and has enjoyed it for many years. She plays on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She only wishes there were more days in the week for additional Pickleball play. Michiko also enjoys table tennis. She recently picked up some serving ideas while watching it in the Olympics. If you see her staring at the ball intently prior to serving, you will know that she is concentrating on perfectly hitting the center of the ball. Watch out! Michiko indicates that it is a very effective technique that she now uses. Soon, we will all be improving our serves with better concentration.

When asked about advice for younger players, Michiko indicated that we should all be alert for opportunities to encourage younger people to play the game. She says she hopes that they can have fun and learn that persistence is power. We can encourage them to enjoy the sport and continue to persevere.

Michiko truly loves our game. When asked about her favorite playing partner Michiko quickly declared "Wally Hill!" and shared some success they enjoyed at Senior Olympics in Albuquerque.

We concluded an absolutely lovely conversation with a great lady when Michiko articulated some sage advice. She said, "We all need exercise every day. We need to be physically healthy and happy to attain maximum enjoyment. The key is to keep in balance at all times." Thank you, Michiko for a delightful conversation!

Practice, Practice, Practice ...Play! In that order!



Doug Bogart

Doug is one of the original Pickleball players to participate in the sport in Las Cruces. He plays at both Meerscheidt Center gym and outside at Apodaca Park. He is known for his dynamite serve and seems to quickly get to most balls sent his way!

He was born in El Paso in November of 1937. He lived in La Union, NM for a short time until his family bought an alfalfa/cotton farm in Las Cruces. He is the oldest of four children. According to Doug, he was a wild child due to his parents' leniency. He attended Alameda and Central Elementary School, Court Junior High, and Las Cruces High School. Though not a formal athlete, he dabbled in ping pong, badminton, and substituted in horseback riding and the square dance team, where he met his wife, Peggy. They married and had a daughter ...

.... named Sherry. He eventually had two grandkids and three great grandkids. His wife passed recently after sixty-two wonderful, active years.

Doug has been self- employed since 1962 when he established a three-bay, full-service gas station. Later, he opened a repair shop on Valley Drive called "Bogarts", which is now under new ownership.

Pickleball has become his favorite activity as he plays five to six days a week. He also enjoys camping, hiking, four wheeling, snow mobiling, boating, and jet skiing. His energy impresses much younger people.

Since he retired twenty years ago, he has become everyone's "Mr. Fix It". There is nothing he can't make or repair. Doug will always lend a helping hand to anyone. He is a wonderful man with a friendly, outgoing personality. He is familiar with Las Cruces restaurants and enjoys eating out with friends. The Pickleball community embraces Doug as one of its best!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

During a season of gratitude, Thanksgiving, giving and joy we would like to thank so many who have been so generous in time and treasure to support the growth of Organ Mountains Pickleball Club this year. At this time last year we had around 25 members. Today we have over 150 with 267 on our mailing list and are growing every week. Our many thanks to:
(If we left anyone out please let us know)

Becky Dominguez for her untiring efforts and ever pleasant demeanor for the Club.

Events and Round Robins -

CeCe Hunter and Round Robin Teams, Kathleen Guitar, Beverly Boozer, Becky Dominguez, Gay & John Mylius, Dorothy Robinson, Kathy & Gerry Rittenbery, Ken Hunter, Virginia Barbier, Deana Elliot

Court Sponsors July 3rd Round Robin:

Kathleen Guitar Breast Cancer Awareness, Jeff and Marissa Anderson Sunny Acres, Dona and Gene Cassidy, Mr G Custom Upholstery, Cafe de Mesilla, Cece & Ken Hunter Casa de Esperanza, Hoop T Dudes, Frank and Cindy Carril PTSD Awareness and Aaron Gifford, Peter Goodman, Rob McCorkle KTAL 101.5 FM, Lorenzo's Italian, John & Nancy Allevi, The Bean, Barb Malooly Malooly's Flooring, Art Borunda, Jr. ADI, Alpha Development, Inc, Art & Rita Borunda, Arborunda Inc., Laura Smart, Laurel Coyle Realty, Advanced Hearing Care, Full Bloom Pediatrics, Sports Accessories, Angie Sullivan

Ladies League: Kathleen Guitar, Sara McDowell

Thursday Night Introduction to Pickleball:

May Cortion, Angie Sullivan, John Allevi, Beverly Boozer, Clayton Henry, Virginia Barbier, Sue Tillery, Mary Hulser, Mike Kennedy, Cindy Carril, Doug Bogart, Alicia Minich, Carol Sherick, Mark McDowell, Sara McDowell, Kathy Rittenbery, Gerry Rittenbery,

The Organ Mountains Pickleball Club Banner:

Tim & Lita Reser, the banner, Doug Bogart the Custom Frame, Dorothy Robinson, the custom carry case, John Mylius, custom transportation and placement

Raffle Prizes:

John Allevi, Jeff and Marris Anderson, Genno and Nancy Tafoya, Kathy & Gerry Rittenbery, CeCe and Ken Hunter, Barb Malooly, Dorothy Robinson

Christmas Photo Project: Gay & John Mylius**Other donations:**

Doug Bogart, Gene and Dona Cassidy, Dorothy Robinson, Becky Dominguez, Art & Rita Borunda, Gerry & Kathy Rittenbery, John & Gay Mylius, Dorothy Robinson

Your toughest competition looks back at you from the mirror

THE WINNERS CIRCLE

It has been quite a year for Las Cruces and Organ Mountains Pickleball Club players who have competed in tournament play around the country. Congratulations to all on their success. Some won so many medals that we might have lost count so please let us know of any additions of players or medals.

First, we had 3 terrific players qualify for 4 Golden Tickets to Nationals! Congratulations to Carol Sherick, Laura Sollars and to Beverly Boozer who qualified for two events. Both Milo and Ivan Molina had super years with a huge medal haul. Milo won 10 Gold, 8 Silver and 7 Bronze while Ivan picked up 8 Gold with a Trifecta where he won Gold in every event he entered. The dynamic duo of team Carol Sherick and Beverly Boozer competed all over the country and won 7 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze as women's doubles partners. They also won Golds in other events.

Please Congratulate all of these players who competed and won.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Milo Molina	10	8	7
Beverly Boozer	9	2	1
Carol Sherick	9	2	1
Ivan Molina	8		
Laura Smart	3	6	5
Ron Feder	3	6	1
Rita Borunda	4	2	2
Laura Sollars	3	2	2
Jeff Anderson	3	1	1
Clayton Henry	2	1	2
May Cortion	2	1	1
Luis Mendoza	2	1	
Maria Mendoza	1	2	
Gay Mylius	2		
Kathy Rittenbery	2		
Gerry Rittenbery	2		
Doug Bogart	1	1	

These players also won a medal:

Gold: Barb Malooly, Carl Conley

Silver: Sherry Galemore

Bronze: Shani Magee, Marissa Anderson, Dottie MacVeigh, Bill MacVeigh, Frank Carril