

PICKLE POWER PRESS

All The News That's Fit To Pickle



A group of Pickling friends got together for a fun watch party at Picacho Hills CC in April. Thanks to **Laura Smart** for a super job in arranging the event complete with prizes, decorations, party favors, delicious food and many laughs. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and great viewing of The Minto U.S. Open Pickleball Championships. Now that virus restrictions have been loosened, we are all looking forward to more fun events with Pickleball friends.

Don't practice 'til you get it right; practice 'til you can't get it wrong

**Rita Borunda****Tom Winter****Cece Hunter**

New ideas, energy and experience for Organ Mountains Pickleball Club. We are thrilled that some super people are contributing their time and talent to move Pickleball forward in Las Cruces.

Rita Borunda was elected Vice President of the Club.

Tom Winter has agreed to serve as the City Liaison for Public Works.

Cece Hunter volunteered to become Events Director.

Wow! That's some serious Pickle Power working to expand our community.

USA Pickleball Ambassadors

Ambassadors play a critical role in the development and advancement of our sport. We are fortunate to have several great ones. **Laura Smart** and **Rita Borunda** serve in our area. Ambassadors are a great source for information and knowledge about Pickleball including rules, skills and knowledge of the game. They actively expand the growth of Pickleball for all ages. They support and promote the specific goals and programs of USA Pickleball in growing Pickleball (including the **Places 2 Play Program** check it out..... <https://www.places2play.org> The whole community thanks you for your commitment.

Special thanks to Jeff and Marris Anderson for all their support and generosity during the Virus shut down. All those who got a chance to play at Sunny Acres are very grateful.

"A trophy carries dust. Memories last forever." – Mary Lou Retton

Las Cruces Welcomes John and Nancy Allevi



John Allevi and wife Nancy moved to Las Cruces last winter and John is having an immediate positive impact on Pickleball in Las Cruces. John is a certified IPTPA (International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association) teaching professional as well as a certified pro and rater on the Pro Pickleball Registry, the **official education and certification partner of USA Pickleball**. Some Organ Mountains Pickleball Club players recently sat down with John in order to get to know him a bit better as well as gain some insight into his views on Las Cruces and Pickleball.

John was born in New York the oldest brother in a family of 3 boys and 2 girls. He grew up in White Plains, New York a small town in Westchester, New York. He had a very active young life participating in Football, Basketball and Baseball. His favorite job growing up was working at the country club. John and Nancy have been together over 50 years. They first met over a July 4th weekend at the Jersey Shore. John's friend Chicky (it seems everyone has a nickname in New York) invited him down to the shore. John's nickname was Boomer or Boomy for short. It appears Nancy found Boomy quite charming and left a note with his friend Budgy (Budgy for short) for John to call her and he did ... and so it began.

They lived for many years in Florida but in 2010 they downsized and hit the road in their mobile home traveling the country. They had a fondness for warm climates and, after a time in Florida, settled in Arizona where John discovered Pickleball. Arizona was a bit too hot. Nancy indicated that she wanted to visit New Mexico. They visited Santa Fe, Taos, Old Mesilla and Las Cruces. They found the weather fantastic in Las Cruces and after returning here last winter(Cont'd next page)

.....they decided to buy a home here and make Las Cruces their permanent residence .. and we are all so happy that they did!

John and Nancy have been amazed by the number of welcoming and friendly people they have met here so quickly. John says that they have never been anywhere in this country where people have taken them in and welcomed them as here in Las Cruces. They just love it here and want to make a positive contribution to the community. John's skill as a Pickleball teacher and coach has spread rapidly by word of mouth and he has been very very busy with helping Las Cruces Picklers improve their game.

When John started playing Pickleball he initially learned to hit the ball hard all the time. It wasn't until a bit later that a friend in Yuma introduced him to dinking. He thought, "what the hell is dinking?" He was really taken by this approach and began to "hit the books" studying every aspect of the game. He threw himself into expanding his knowledge base about Pickleball and studied technique, rules, strategy and teaching. He started intensive practicing and skill improvement. He continued to progress into his certifications and developed a real love of teaching the game. He studies Pickleball every single night. When asked about the most important elements in improving one's Pickleball game, John emphatically replied, "practice basics, practice, practice and drill, drill, drill. Focus on position and placement while learning to trust your partner." He indicated that time spent at practice and drilling should be 3 to 4 times as much as playing time. Work at constantly improving your basics. He was asked about the IPTPA rating process and indicated that it is very thorough. There are criteria for every skill level which include being able to successfully hit 20 different shots; playing ghost doubles with rally scoring; hitting 88 out of 120 shots and then playing a "controller" who is certified at the level you are aspiring to achieve. When asked what he would like to see for Las Cruces Pickleball in the near future, John suggested more clinics; establishing some league play; and more just for fun Round Robins.

John shared a principle he has learned in Zen study: "we are more content to stay where we are rather than work through the discomfort of changing habits." He also shared this quote from former UCLA Basketball Coach John Wooten.

"He who fails to prepare, prepares to fail."

We are all so very delighted that John and Nancy chose Las Cruces and look forward to many days of improving while learning.

Thanks John!

Pickle Chips and On The Horizon

Cece Hunter and her team are finalizing plans for a super fun **Round Robin** over the July 4th Weekend. Cash prizes! Food! Drink! Fun! Pickleball! More details later, but for now, ...July 3rd, 6:00PM at Lions Park. Entry fee is \$20.00/person for 32 players selected by a public drawing. If you are not lucky enough to be selected for this one, you will automatically be first served for the next event. Funds raised from the event will be used to support The future Apodaca Grand Opening and to support youth Pickleball play. Updates will be sent out through **organmountainpickleballclub@gmail.com** and posted on **Facebook** as well as **Instagram**. This is a great time to join the Organ Mountains Pickleball Club at **organmountainpickleballclub.com** or simply ask anyone you know.

Becky Dominguez, Club President, has held initial discussions with Parks and Recreation and Meerschiedt to discuss some exciting plans for programs for summer youth players along with some adult program ideas. This positive interaction with the city has some promising potential.

Laura Smart was named Referee of the Month for April by **pickleballdesk.com**. Laura refereed a whopping 122 matches. Congratulations Laura! Super energy.

Gold Rush The dynamic duo of **Carol Sherick** and **Beverly Boozer** have won Gold Women's Doubles, 60+ 4.0 in Arizona and in Florida this Spring. Wow just Wow ladies. Congratulations!

Ruidoso: Conner Mills is our new Pickleball Ambassador in Ruidoso. He is also a level 2 Pickleball referee for all tournaments.

Share the Buzz about Pickleball

We are always looking for more content to share with Las Cruces Pickling ones. Please drop a note and share news, chips, ideas, insight, thoughts, or inspiration anytime to:

organmountainpicklballclub@gmail.com

Pickle On!