

Around The Post

NEWSLETTER OF THE VENTURA COUNTY PICKLEBALL CLUB



3rd Quarter 2022

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JUNE GLOOM COMES TO RANCHO CONEJO

VCPC's June Gloom Tournament sponsored by the Kirby Auto Group became *June Glorious* as 240 players competed to make it to the medal stand for a gold, silver or bronze.

There were a total of 14 categories for women, men and mixed doubles teams at skill levels ranging from 3.0 to 4.0. In some brackets, the 60+ age group competed separately. By all accounts, it was a huge success. See pictures on Page 5.

Remember to visit the website:

www.venturacountypickleballclub.com for all up to
date club news and tournament info

Ventura County Pickleball Club

520 North Ventu Park Road, Suite 191
Thousand Oaks, California 91320

<https://venturacountypickleballclub.com>

2022 Board of Directors

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Around The Post

Quarterly newsletter of the Ventura
County Pickleball Club

Editor, Allan Linderman

Associate Editor, Pamela Collins

Editors invite all members to submit their own stories about their pickleball experiences at all levels: allanlinderman411@gmail.com

President's Letter

By Kathrin Nolan, VCPC President



We hope you are well and that your 4th of July weekend was safe and filled with lots of pickleball! It looked as though the courts at Rancho Conejo and Del Prado were busy throughout the long, extended weekend.

Thank you to all who played and attended VCPC's June Gloom tournament at Rancho Conejo sponsored by the Kirby Auto Group. With 240 players over two days on the 10 courts at Rancho Conejo, the park was buzzing with good pickleball vibes. We owe HUGE *Thank You's* to both our tournament director Pat Rosenthal and Jay Oken who wrote and ran the flawless tournament software. Thank you Sharon Pacheco, Carole Linderman and all the volunteers for their tireless dedication. We could not do these events without all of you. Thank you to Kirby Auto Group for stepping up as the title sponsor of the tournament. Bruce Holley from Kirby was a lot of fun and a big help at the courts on Saturday. Thank you Gary Faga for introducing us to the Kirby group. And thanks to Jigsaw Health for providing us with energy packets for the players.

June Gloom also had a surprise celebrity participant on Sunday when pickleball lover Jamie Fox showed up and subbed in with Ranier Samano at the 4.0 level when we were short a team. Thank you Jamie and Ranier!

Going forward, Pat and Jay are already hard at work on our next tournament, a calcutta style round robin/exhibition match scheduled for Saturday, September 10th at Rancho Conejo. Save the date!

Stay tuned this summer for details about training events for players of all levels with Pat Carrol who wrote the book, "Pickleball, Less is More".

Also coming soon will be a Selkirk "paddle demo day" which is a great opportunity to play with different paddles and pick the right one for you.

Created and managed by VCPC's Mary Lyman, the Ladder League Session #3 will begin its weekly noon games on Wednesday, Sept. 7 running for 8 consecutive weeks through Nov. 2. Look for the sign-up notification in early August. (Continued on next page)



VCPC looks forward to scaring up some fun with CRPD at the "Monster Smash" tournament on Oct. 29 - 30.

And lastly, CRPD is moving forward with planning for more pickleball courts at the five parks proposed in the recent survey. Thank you all for participating in those on-site meetings. We look forward to CRPD's next steps for more places to play the sport we all love. We will share that information as it becomes available.

If you feel inspired to get involved in the pickleball goings-on in the Conejo, please reach out to any VCPC board member. We would love to have you!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the pickleball courts soon!

Kathrin

Jamie Foxx Came to Play

Actor Jamie Foxx showed up at Rancho Conejo to play some pickleball on Sunday, June 26th. Foxx, who lives in nearby Westlake Village, is a semi-regular at the Rancho Conejo courts, but the courts were filled that day with June Gloom's day 2 competition. There was nowhere for Jamie to play. Until there was. There was a last minute dropout from one member of a 4.0 men's double teams and suddenly Jamie became a stand-in. Surely, it's been a long time since he was a stand-in. But Foxx, winner of an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, a Grammy, a SAG Award and more, partnered with VCPC member Rainer Samano and played well, although leaving without a medal.

Jamie's between games rest was interrupted at one point by the "Covid Lady" who arrived for an onsite test one day prior to a scheduled day of filming.

Jamie gladly joined VCPC – after not so gentle prodding from Treasurer, Carole Linderman. He likes playing at the Rancho Conejo courts and comes to play when he can.



(l-r) Gus Gougas, Jamie Foxx, Melissa Nespor, Tobye Bernstein, Kathrin Nolan

MEET THE 2022 VCPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Linda Pappas-Diaz, 1st Vice President

By Linda Pappas-Diaz

I was born in Wisconsin but came to CA at age 2. Growing up in Northern Orange County I participated in typical in school activities like Girl Scouts, fire explorers and orchestra. But was also involved with my community of Placentia.

After receiving a BA in Public Administration from Whittier College I was awarded a Rotary International Graduate Fellowship and studied in Wellington, New Zealand while addressing Rotary Clubs all over the country as an Ambassador of goodwill.

I worked 30+ years in local government within the cities of Placentia, Downey, Cerritos, Buena Park, Colma, Antioch, and finally Thousand Oaks as Assistant City Manager.

Since kinda retiring a few years ago, I've also had some interim gigs with Ventura County, City of La Habra, and the federal Census Bureau.

I wasn't raised a Catholic, but my husband is and we raised our daughter within the church. In 2008 I converted, and since my parents never had us kids baptized, I had to be fully dunked in the font with St. Pascal Babylon . . . nowadays they just have folks lean over and they pour a little water from a pitcher on your head!!! Of course, any convert to anything can become somewhat of a zealot, so NOW I am involved as a Lector who does the readings at mass. I was trained 2 years ago to take over as the Master Scheduler, creating our quarterly assignments for 30 lectors over 4 masses a weekend. And before I was totally comfortable, the former person doing this, died!! But I'm also a Bereavement Minister and a Eucharistic Minister!!!

Ok, Pickleball. Someone mentioned it to me in Jan 2019 . . . I still can't remember who and I don't think they said much about it, but I loved the name. When CRPD classes opened for registration that Feb., I casually checked in at 10AM and signed up for Larry's beginner class.

However, I didn't have yoga pants, or sports wear, or decent shoes. Once I knew I LOVED this, I went shopping. I love bright colors, especially pink, coral and peach, and my wardrobe exploded. Over the past 2 1/2 years I've built up quite a collection and of course match shoes, bag, hats, and definitely paddles! Since then, I've taken tons of lessons from Larry, Mark and Chew, and even went to PB camp in Costa Rica in late Feb this year . . . but I'm still hovering at 2.75ish. So i figure i gotta look GOOD to distract folks from my playing!! In fact, Kathrin caught me on a particular matchy-matchy day for Facebook (left)...and then a recent Ladder League had more than 7 of us dressed in one of my favorite bright colors (above). Who knows, maybe I've had a subconscious effect on fellow players . . . LOLOL.



JUNE GLOOM

VCPC's first June Gloom Tournament ended with a universal 'thumbs up' for fun, success and new and/or improved elements. First and foremost, we welcomed our initial sponsorship partner, **Kirby Auto Group**. We hope this will be the beginning of a true partnership relationship.

So many players commented on the ease of managing their play-times because of the unique software program voluntarily created by VCPC's Jay Oken. And, VCPC tested offering a lite snack for sale - in addition to the free oranges and bananas. Consider the test a success as the sandwiches were sold out both days! (Thank you to VCPC Treasurer Carole Linderman for managing that entire process.) You can expect the lite lunch offering to continue.

Below and on the next page are some selected pictures of the 2-day event. Enjoy!



Receiving the sponsorship check from the Kirby Auto Group (l-r) VCPC President Kathrin Nolan, VCPC Treasurer Carole Linderman, VCPC 2nd VP Tobye Bernstein, Kirby Auto Group's Bruce Holley



At the check-in desk





Pickleball in the News

From The New York Times: “Developers Embrace Passion for Pickleball”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/14/business/pickleball-courts-private-development.html>

From *Town and Country*: “Move Over, Tennis: How Pickleball Became the Preferred Sport of The One Percent”:

<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/sporting/a39323873/pickleball-trend-one-percent/>

From *THE NEW YORKER*: “CAN PICKLEBALL SAVE AMERICA?”:

<https://www.newyorker.com/magaz>

From Sports Illustrated: “Pickleball is the Wild, Wild West: Inside the Fight Over the Fastest-Growing Sport in America”:

[ine/2022/07/25/can-pickleball-save-america](https://www.si.com/sports-illustrated/2022/05/24/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-daily-cover)

From Sports Illustrated: “Pickleball is the Wild, Wild West: Inside the Fight Over the Fastest-Growing Sport in America”:

<https://www.si.com/sports-illustrated/2022/05/24/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-daily-cover>

From *DeseretNews*: “Why Pickleball Might Be the Sport You Never Knew You Needed”:

<https://www.deseret.com/sports/2022/7/12/23182321/why-pickleball-might-be-the-sport-you-never-knew-you-needed-tyler-loong-populari>

<https://www.si.com/sports-illustrated/2022/05/24/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-daily-cover>

VCPC Odds and Ends

VCPC’s Conor Logan continues to put his abundant talent to use by helping promote the club. Here is a link to his latest promo video with June Gloom footage:

<https://youtu.be/zrW4oP55u6c>

All players are invited to learn about and game-test Selkirk Paddles on August 6th from 7-10AM at the Rancho Conejo courts. Representatives from Selkirk will be there to help and answer your questions. No need to register. Just show up and play. Note, this event will NOT interfere with regular open play.



Several June Gloom players asked about the small sandwiches purchased at the Tournament. They were specially prepared for VCPC by The Sandwich Spot, located near the Rancho Conejo pickleball courts at 2110-C Newbury Rd., Newbury Park, 805-375-3400.



YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU'LL MEET ON THE COURT

We reported in the last issue of AROUND THE POST that silver medal winners of the Women's 3.5 Earth Day tournament were sisters Kellie Gunner and Jolie Franciscus. For most of us that would have been the highlight of the tournament - by far. But for Kellie, it was not nearly as emotional as seeing a familiar name on the opponent's line of the score card before a mixed doubles match in the same tournament.



The player was a just a *wee bit* taller than she recalled (maybe 2+ feet) with a bit more hair (okay, quite a bit) than she remembered, but Kellie thought she recognized him from her classroom, years ago. “Is your last name Marvin?” she cautiously asked the tall man with a beard. “Yes”, he answered. “Is your first name Dustin?”. “Yes”. Then, suddenly, “It’s me! Mrs. Gunner!” And, so began a very emotional impromptu reunion between a retired teacher and her 3rd grade student from decades ago.

The pickleball match became secondary for both but Dustin prevailed with his aunt as his partner. Kellie admits losing focus and appreciates Greg Davis’s forgiving nature.

Kellie remembers the young Dustin as her secret favorite student who always tugged at her heartstrings. A kind, smart personable kid from a nice family.

For his part, Dustin remembers Mrs. Gunner as kind and caring. To this day he recalls the warm look on her face when she returned to him a spelling test with a good grade. “I remember feeling so proud and thankful because of the compliment she gave me.” Today, Dustin is an elementary school Vice Principal who will soon become the Principal. If you’ve ever questioned the impact a teacher can have on a student, here’s what Dustin thinks: “Even though I was just in 3rd grade when I first met Mrs. Gunner, there is no doubt in my mind that the Lord used her to shape me into the man I am today. I don’t know if I would have the passion for serving elementary age students if it weren’t for her.”

You never know who you’ll meet on the pickleball court. It could be the person who changed your life. Or maybe someone whose life you changed.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENT

DATE	TOURNAMENT	PLACE
October 29-30	CRPD Monster Smash	Rancho Conejo Playfields

FALL LADDER BEGINS SEPTEMBER 7th!

Look for an email announcement from Ladder
Leader Mary Lyman with details on how to register

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.

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, compete in future Ladders and Round Robins, participate in the
Education program and/or help us advocate for more courts.

