
DECEMBER UPDATE

Changes of the Seasons

It is hard to believe that less than a month ago we were playing outdoors in short sleeves! I hope you are continuing to play indoors. I know some members still are playing outside in warmer climates but, just think, they are missing out on below zero wind chills this week.

In the two months since the official launch of the Capitol Area Pickleball Association (CAPA), there has been significant activity in getting the organization off the ground. I would like to share with the members the progress we have made so far.

Membership

We have more than 135 dues paying members. Thanks to all of you for your interest in the sport and your confidence that the organization can be a benefit for the pickleball community.

Publicity

We have set up a web site at www.capareapb.com with information on playing sites and times and a Facebook page to add comments and posts. There also was a nice story in Isthmus about the Garner Park courts and our new association. Our visibility is starting to reach a broader audience. We are nearing consensus on our logo. Once we have settled on a design we will be able to offer T-shirts -nothing works better to spread the word than a way to show our extensive membership.

Mini tournaments

We have tested a one session event; many of you may have played in the Dink Challenge at Hitters organized by Joe Carter. These have proven to be both popular and fun, a mix of skill development and social interaction. We hope to schedule more tournaments like this at other locations. We also tested a four session event but found it was hard to find enough players willing to make the time commitment. We probably will wait until spring as winter travel declines and our membership increases.

Skills development

We are putting together a schedule which will include both beginning instructional lessons and advanced skills development. The first schedule may seem limited; we need to coordinate facilities, instructors and participants. We also want to ensure that our sessions are more disciplined and structured than some of the options offered by MSCR or the Y's. Please bear with us as we find the formula that works.

Rating

Some of you are wondering what your level of play is, especially when you hear numerical levels instead of the informal Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Again, this involves coordination of qualified rating individuals and usage of standard rating criteria. The rating level we will be providing is not the official USPA one. Very few players in Wisconsin have been officially rated and this service

may carry a fee. There will be no requirement to be rated but for those who would like to be, we will provide opportunities this spring. One of the benefits of getting rated is to find out what skills you may need to develop to move up. It always helps to know what needs work.

Outreach

Board members, led by Joe Carter, have been playing at different indoor locations to better understand what kinds of programs and facilities are in the area. It also gives us a chance to let facility managers know about our organization and how our plans may fit in with their players. With limited indoor options we would like to provide a reliable guide to playing conditions around the area. The executive board will be meeting at different sites when possible to further develop the role the association can take in promoting indoor play this winter.

Social

You also will see more social events such as “play and socialize” afterward. The first of these will be informal, probably on-site after play and during the day. As we see what works we will expand to more extensive events.

Getting Involved

We are not short of ideas. What we lack are individuals willing to help carry the load. The easy part of getting involved now is that since we are so new, there are no rules to follow, no right or wrong way. We know the association will learn by trial and error what works and what the membership wants. If you want to plan an event or when you are asked to help, please step up; taking a more active role will make this a stronger organization.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the organization, feel free to e-mail or speak to any member of the board.

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Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season! See you on the courts!

Rico Goedjen

President