

Sun Prairie and Area Pickleball – Spring 2018

The calendar shows April, but the weather is more like January. None the less it is time to think about playing outdoors. THE OUTDOOR NETS ARE UP AND READY TO GO.

PICKLEBALL - FASTEST GROWING SPORT

The number of players in the Dane County Area has grown by leaps and bounds.

Thank you for spreading the word and inviting family and friends out to give it a try. I have also noticed that there are more 18+ year old players on the courts and not just the retirees. It is a life long sport and for players of all ages. A big thank you to all the players who play and support pickleball at Prairie Athletic Club and the Northeast YMCA. We are so fortunate in Sun Prairie to have two beautiful indoor facilities.

MORE PICKLEBALL COURTS AT WYNDHAM HILLS COMMUNITY PARK

The big news as we enter the outdoor season is that a generous and anonymous donation of \$85,000 has been given to the city of Sun Prairie for the construction of two more courts at our current outdoor facility of Wyndham Hills. Weather permitting these courts should be ready for play by early August. Warren Luehring, Mike Derr and myself have been working with Adam Schleicher, Director of Public Services/City Engineer Department on this project. **Watch for an announcement for a grand opening celebration.** The best way that we can say thank you to the donor and to the city is by filling the courts throughout the outdoor season and by introducing others to the sport.

PICKLEBALL LESSON OFFERED THROUGH THE SUN PRAIRIE PARKS/REC

Another new thing happening this summer will be the pickleball lessons that the City of Sun Prairie Parks and Recreation Department will be offering during July and August. There will be evening adult lessons on Monday nights and evening youth lessons on Thursday nights. Warren Luehring, Jeff Barkley and Kristy Damm will be teaching these classes. Classes will be at Wyndham Hills or Orfan Park. More information about these classes can be found in the 2018 Sun Prairie Park and Recreation Fun Guide or by going to www.cityofsunprairie.com or call 837-3449.

OUTDOOR PLAYING SCHEDULE

On a separate attachment you will find a tentative outdoor schedule. A couple of changes have been made, but overall it is similar to last summer's schedule. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any comments or suggestions for the schedule. The schedule will change when the new courts become available. If you are part of a particular skill group and want a particular time and day to play let me know and I will try to get you on the schedule. A schedule will be posted at the courts.

COURT LEADERS

One change for the outdoor season that I would like to make is to have one or two players be court leaders for the different times of play listed on the schedule. The responsibilities would be fairly simple, such as helping new players who come to the court to get involved, keeping an in and out rotation going if needed and a few other responsibilities. By sharing the responsibilities with someone else, you would not need to be there every time. Please contact me if you want more information.

EVENING LEAGUES

Evening leagues will again be offered during the summer. The leagues are by skill level (4.0+, high 3.5+, and 3.5+). These leagues are by sign up only so contact me if you are interested in more information. Please let me know if you are interested in starting a 3.0+ league. League leaders are needed for these leagues. Please let me know if you are interested. There may be a slight change to the sign up process.

CAPITAL AREA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION (CAPA)

The goal of CAPA is to promote pickleball in Dane County (and surrounding area). Currently there are about three hundred members. In the past year CAPA has sponsored clinics, socials, and tournaments. Membership fee is \$10 for a year and you can join by going to capareapb.com. If you have any questions feel free to contact Sun Prairie players Karen Jerg or Warren Luehring, who are on the executive board.

MONDAY SKILLS, DRILLS AND MINI TOURNAMENTS

Monday morning Skills, Drills and mini tournaments, sponsored by CAPA and the Sun Prairie Park and Recreation Department will be back this summer. Let me know if you are interested in volunteering in being a leader for this program. It was a huge success last year and a lot of fun. Feel free to contact me now if you can help out or want more information. Thank you

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENTS

A big congratulations to those of you who entered tournaments throughout the year. I know that many of you came home with a medal or two. WAY TO GO!!!

Future tournaments are:

Wisconsin Senior Games, June 9 at Hitters (ages 50+)

Wisconsin Cup, June 9 and 10th, Moorland Tennis/Pickleball Club - Brookfield

Wisconsin Senior Olympics,(ages 50+) August 25, 26, at Moorland Tennis/Pickleball Club – Brookfield

The Senior Games and the Senior Olympics are especially fun tournaments because they are by age and not skill level.

SKILL LEVELS

I often get the question – what skill level do you think I am. One way to find out is to play tournaments that are organized by skill levels. Many of you know your general skill level range so enter that skill level for a couple of tournaments. Based on how you do, move up or down a skill level. Another source in the USAPA.org website. It does show the IFP/USAPA rating scale.

This will be an exciting summer for pickleball in Sun Prairie with the construction of new courts. Please support these courts and bring your family and friends out to play. Please offer to volunteer as a court leader, a league leader or participate in the skills, drills and mini tournaments. Spread the word that the city is offering lessons.

I will be at the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships in Naples, Florida from April 19 to April 28. I will apologize now if I do not get back to you in a timely fashion.

See you on the court
Karen Jerg
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