



February Update 2022

February 6, 2022

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF THE SPORT OF PICKLEBALL

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Rico Goedjen

As we muddle through this prolonged alternative lifestyle -when will masks be gone?- it is a great pleasure to report that support for CAPA has bounced back well above the levels of 2019. With both the growth of membership and court locations the board is busy planning for a significant increase in events of all types. Growth is great, but it has required us to do some upgrades to reflect the maturing nature of CAPA. First, we are now officially a non-profit with 503c7 status. This step was made with the confidence that after six years members will continue to support a growing organization. Officers and members will mitigate financial risk related to association activities. While donations will not be tax deductible we will need to file an annual return. Second, we have added liability insurance for the benefit of all those who help with any CAPA activity.

While the risk exposure is minimal, the expanded number of events expected in the future will make it easier to attract volunteers to help. Third, following professional guidance, we have updated our participation waiver to better reflect some of the specific types of conditions that occur in pickleball. This new waiver language means that current members will need to accept the revised version. The board is working on the mechanics for this now, expect further information soon. While this is dull administrative stuff, it is essential for the thriving, active organization that we are. We hope that these steps will help maintain this organization for years to come. We know that this great sport of pickleball is here to stay.

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DO YOU KNOW THE RULES?

By Tim Duket

Not as many rule changes this year as last. One of my favorites is the new 7.N. which reads: "In non-officiated matches, players may carry additional pickleball(s) as long as the ball(s) are carried in a way that the ball(s) are not visible to their opponent(s) during play. If an additional ball that a player was carrying falls on the playing surface during play, a fault shall be declared." The proponent of this rule complained that it was distracting to see two or more balls on the other side of the court during play. This new rule doesn't apply to officiated matches because the referee controls the game ball and several spares.

2022 Official Rules:
<https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/ifp-official-rules/>



HELP NEEDED FOR NEW LOGO

CAPA is in search of a Graphic Design Artist or other creative individual willing to volunteer their time and talent to help design a new logo for our non-profit organization. We plan to use the new logo on CAPA promotional items such as t-shirts and hats. If you know of someone, or are that person, please reach out to CAPA Board Member [Heidi Lawton](#)

PICKLEBALL CENTRAL 5% DISCOUNT

Are you looking for new Pickleball gear to start 2022 out with? Remember one of the benefits of being a CAPA member is a 5% discount when making a purchase at Pickleball Central. There is also a benefit to CAPA in that we receive Club Rewards that can be used toward purchases for CAPA related events. For those who may have forgotten the code here it is: CRMadison.

CHECK THESE OUT

[CAPA Website](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)

CAPA BOARD MEETINGS

CAPA Board Meetings are open to the public. Meetings will typically be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Time and location noted in the Agenda on the [website](#).

PICKLEBALL CENTRAL DISCOUNT

Don't forget to take advantage of the Pickleball Central discount; 5% to you and 5% credited to CAPA.
Discount code is: CRMadison

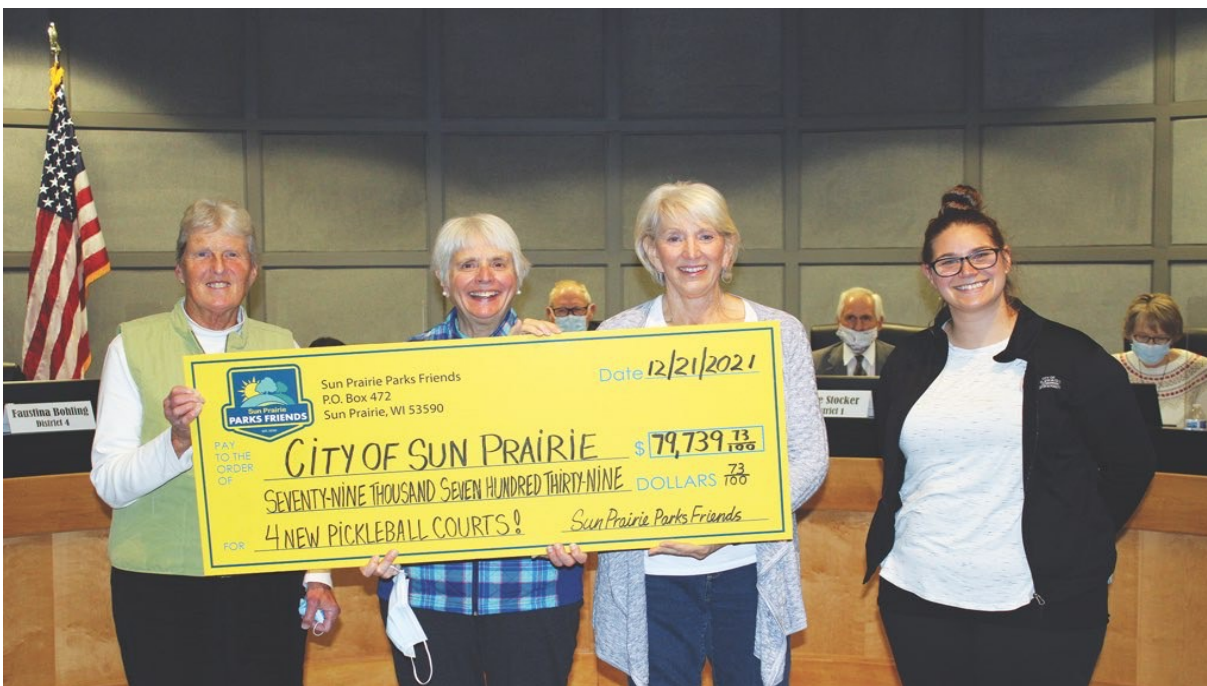
CAPA MEMBERSHIP

Don't delay – Join today!
Click [here](#) for online membership renewal or new membership.
Please share with others.

CAPA NEWSLETTERS

Look for the [CAPA newsletters](#) four times a year. If there is anything you would like to see included, please let us know by emailing pickleball@capareapb.com.

SUN PRAIRIE - WYNDHAM HILLS PARK TEN PICKLEBALL COURTS IN 2022



CAPA members (L-R) Karen Jerg, Mary Lalley, Jo Kiesow and Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Kristin Grissom. Missing from the photo is Connie KIELTY. Photo credit to Chris Mertes, Sun Prairie Star Newspaper.

On December 21, 2021, the Sun Prairie Parks Friends presented a check for \$79,739 to the Sun Prairie City Council. The City Council enthusiastically accepted the donation which is to go towards the construction of four more dedicated pickleball courts at Wyndham Hills Park. At a previous meeting the city had agreed to add \$60,000 to the 2022 Capital Improvement Plan for this project. A design has been finalized for the four courts and bids for the project will go out in February. A final vote by the Sun Prairie City Council will take place in March and if approved, construction will start in April. The Sun Prairie Parks Friends would like to thank area businesses and the pickleball community for their support of this addition. Once completed Wyndham Hills Park will have 10 dedicated pickleball courts. We continue to take donations for this project. Donations can be made on line at parksfriends.org. Please specify that the donation is for the pickleball courts at Wyndham Hills Park. Thank you!

NEW INDOOR VENUE

The Sports Enhancement Academy (SEA) in Stoughton began offering pickleball play during the holidays. Due to high interest, SEA is now offering open play on 4 courts 8:30 am-10:30 am Monday – Friday. CAPA member Janice Kellogg reported that it has been going well and there is a good turnout of mostly Stoughton players for the four available courts. With four courts 20-22 players is ideal. At this point they have been exceeding that number. New players are welcome to SEA and asked to please text John at 608-575-7680 to check availability. Wednesday and Thursday seem to be the days with the most availability. If the number of players continue to grow, SEA is willing to look at offering one more 2-hour session. For more information check the [SEA website](#). You can check out all indoor venue options using this [link](#) to the CAPA website. All open play times and places are now listed. If you see any errors, please contact [Joanne Crapisi](#).

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Joanne Crapisi

Membership numbers continue to go up! CAPA currently has 597 members! You can find a list of the members on the website under the Member List Tab. A reminder that the code to view the lists is CAPApb. There are 2 lists posted. One is a listing by name and the other is a listing by city. The lists also include the self-rated skill level the member provided. This is useful for members and CAPA to reach out to a specific skill level group. If you have not provided a skill level or if you would like to have the skill level updated please send an email to [Joanne Crapisi](mailto:Joanne.Crapisi@capa.org)

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FORMED

By Jerome Klein

Based on positive feedback from our membership regarding the past offerings of Skills & Drills clinics and the desire for more content, the CAPA Board has established a Player Development Committee. The goal of this committee will be to increase the number of people playing pickleball and improve the quality of play in the CAPA service area. The target audience will be on the Novice level (1.0 to 2.0) up to the Intermediate (3.5) level as defined by USAPA. Our intention is to improve the fundamentals and skills of these players in larger group sessions and not to conflict with players who are seeking advanced level, paid coaching in smaller or individual sessions.

The committee has met several times throughout the fall and winter. The initial focus has been to review existing materials and to develop and consolidate lesson plans that can be shared with CAPA volunteers who will be facilitating these clinics throughout the greater Madison area. We intend to have this content ready for the 2022 outdoor season. These lesson plans will be skill level specific and are designed to build upon each other as players develop and refine their individual skills. The plans will include topics such as Fundamentals, Scoring, Serve, Return of Serve, Forehand, Backhand, Volleys, Dinks, Drop Shots, etc. The intention is for the Player Development Committee to be an ongoing group that will solicit feedback from CAPA members, clinic facilitators and participants to continually review, refine and enhance content. Initial members of the group are Mike Barone, Joanne Crapisi, Kevin Devine, Karen Jerg, Jerome Klein and Mick Viney. If you are interested in contributing to this committee or learning more, please email [Jerome Klein](mailto:Jerome.Klein@capa.org) or call Jerome at (608) 334-8405.



COLLABORATION YIELDS SUCCESS

This past summer CAPA collaborated with the Recreation Department in Sun Prairie to offer two regular and ongoing events. On Mondays they jointly sponsored a sixteen-person double round robin tournament for 3.5+ players. Each week, using CAPA's software (Sign-up Genius-SUG), an invitation was sent to the membership of CAPA. In addition, the Sun Prairie Recreation Department also sent the SUG link to residents of the city who were not members of CAPA. Sixteen participants, along with four substitutes, registered to participate. The invitation was emailed at the same time to both groups on Thursdays. The need for and interest in these types of events was evident when most weeks the 16 sign-ups were filled within sixty minutes after sending the invitation. The second collaborative event took place on Tuesday nights. An eight-person round robin tournament for novice (2 to 2.5 level) players was offered. In addition to the round robin format, instruction was provided each week on a different aspect of the game. Later in the season, CAPA's Lobster ball machine was used to practice blocks, drop shots and dinking strokes. Again, this event is usually filled within sixty minutes of release of the invitation. CAPA members from the Sun Prairie area volunteered to coordinate the events as well as provide instruction to the novice event. In summer 2022 CAPA looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate with local members and city recreation departments to provide these types of events in your communities. For more information on how to organize and run these types of events at your location you can contact the CAPA Events Committee Chairperson [Shelley Reynolds](#) or CAPA Board member [Mick Viney](#).

CAPA EVENTS COMMITTEE

The CAPA Events Committee worked hard last summer! They focused on beginners and novice players, and it was a huge success. They held Skills and Drills at the newer Stoughton Courts in conjunction with the Stoughton Park District and after these events, they followed up with these players and offered a 'Supervised Open Play' for four weeks at the new courts in Fitchburg. These four weeks allowed the new players the chance to continually play games with others and really get the feel for the game. They all showed a huge improvement! The Events Committee is an excellent resource if you want to hold similar events on the pickleball courts in your community. Our committee looks forward to collaborating with your volunteers to provide help in organizing and running these programs. The Events Committee is also a fun, solid group!

CAPA EVENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Help! We're looking for some volunteers to help on our Events Committee. We hope to plan some social events, skills-n-drills, short tournaments, etc. If you'd like to join us, or if you can't volunteer but have some ideas on great events that we can host, send us an email. We'd love to hear from you!

For assistance from the Committee or to join this group, contact [Shelley Reynolds](#).

THE DEAF PICKLEBALL COMMUNITY



Eric Hameister, Billy Mauldin, Jeff Holub, and Ricky Wolfe are deaf pickleball players who play regularly. They were kind enough to answer some questions about their pickleball-playing experience.

How long have you been playing pickleball?

We started playing right before the Covid-19 pandemic, which has impacted how much we can play, so it's been between 1-2 years now.

Where do you play most of the time?

Most of the time we play in Janesville at Riverside Park when the weather allows us to play outside. We just started playing indoor Pickleball for the winter season at Oregon High School.

What are some advantages to being a deaf pickleball player?

In American Sign Language (ASL) we can communicate to our partners and fellow players in noisy gyms without the need to yell. We can easily develop strategies or offer suggestions to each other no matter what environment we're in.

What are some challenges with being a deaf pickleball player?

Communication is the biggest challenge when you play with a partner who is not Deaf. We have to read their body language closely and watch their usual gameplay to figure out how we can best play as partners.

Do you have any pickleball stories you would like to share?

Pickleball is one of the most enjoyable sports I have ever played, and I wish I knew about the sport a long time ago. Pickleball is what I like to call a "FIT for ALL" sport, where no matter your age, personality, or skill level, you are "fit" to play this game. It is easy to learn and the community is incredibly friendly and welcoming. I highly recommend it to those who haven't tried, or perhaps those who shy away from other sports, because Pickleball is one of a kind! This sport is very addictive, so fair warning that you can play for hours.

Is there anything else you would like to mention?

The entire Pickleball community could learn ASL numbers (#1-11 at least) and sign scores before a serve. This is a simple way to be inclusive of Deaf players, but would also help in those noisy indoor gyms for everyone to communicate clearly! My advice to everyone is to keep playing Pickleball to stay fit and healthy. This sport is very addicting!

[Here is a video on how to count in ASL.](#) It's good to learn for Pickleball and in general!

CAPA PLAYER PROFILE



JIM AND MIKE HALBERG

Jim Halberg started playing pickleball about four years ago. While walking down the hallway at Prairie Athletic Club Jim heard the strangest sound. He watched as a group of otherwise sane people hit around a wiffleball with an oversized ping pong paddle. They were having a ball! Jim joined in the game, had a great time and was immediately hooked. Jim credits Mary Beth Goldapske, who lent him a paddle, and Jo Kiesow for getting him involved in pickleball. Michael Halberg, Jim's son, has been playing for just over a year. Jim taught Mike how to play and for the first two weeks Jim could beat Mike. Now Mike is addicted to pickleball and beats his dad. During covid, Jim and Michael set up a mini court in the garage to drill and play together. Mike quickly moved up in skills and later this month will be playing 5.0 doubles at the Ororo PPA Indoor National Championships in Lakeville, MN. Jim will also

be playing age 70-74, 4.0 skill level at this tournament. The father son duo continue to drill and play together. They each said that they play three or four times a week. Son/brother Jim Jr. is also a pickleball player but primarily plays paddleball at Maple Bluff.

Jim and Mike both enjoy the competitive aspect of the sport, but also like that it is social. They have met many wonderful people and have made lifelong friends through the game. The best part of pickleball is that you can invite someone to play and within ten minutes you can be having a good time. But, at the same time, you can face competition and continuously improve.

Along with playing pickleball Jim has been an instructor for CAPA/Sun Prairie skills and drills classes. Mike loves to teach intermediates that they too can hit an Ernie or an around the post shot if you just think you can!

Jim is a retired teacher/administrator. He and his wife Teresa have two sons and five grandchildren. Jim continues to be an active tennis player, enjoys woodworking and loves home improvement projects. Michael is a doctor for Madison Emergency Physicians which covers eight area emergency departments. Michael and his wife Sheila have 3 children. Michael and Sheila love to travel. They are currently tailoring their house to their wants and needs, including setting up a pickleball court in their backyard. Mike would like to thank all the pickleball players who are vaccinated and making his ER job much easier!

Jim and Mike look forward to seeing you on the court.

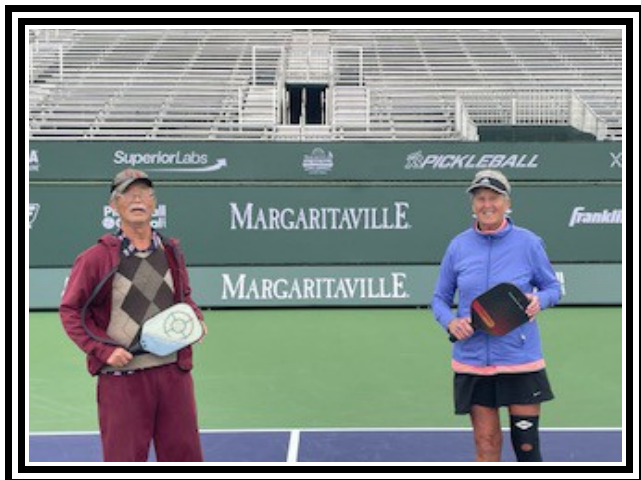
CAPA PLAYER PROFILE



JEFF STEVENS

After working 35 years at the same job, I was done! Friends and coworkers kept asking me what I was going to do in retirement, and I would shrug my shoulders and smile. I had no idea what would keep me busy. Luckily my good friend Lorrie had just started playing pickleball and asked me to come play. I grew up playing tennis and ping pong with my family and learned racquetball and squash while at college. So why not give pickle a try. And sure enough, I was hooked. Madison is a great pickleball community. Between open play at Hitters and pickup games at Garner, it wasn't long before pickleball was all I could talk about. It has been a great outlet for my competitive nature and a wonderful way to meet new friends. I used to dread Sunday nights with the work week looming, but now Sunday nights are exciting, knowing there is a whole new week of pickleball ahead.

CAPA LEADER MEDALS AT NATIONALS



Karen Jerg and her mixed doubles partner, Norio Nishiguchi from Seattle, Washington, were awarded third place in the 4.0/70-74 skill/age event at the 2021 Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships at Indian Wells, California held in December. During the medal rounds of play, with four teams remaining, the tournament directors canceled the tournament and therefore players could not continue to play to earn their way back to the championship match. Karen and Norio were actually in the middle of a match when the tournament was canceled.

Congrats to Karen on her success at Nationals!

PRO PICKLEBALL NEWS

By Rob Davidson

Rob Davidson is a professional player/instructor, playing both pro Tours and conducts premium pickleball camps under the brand RISE Pickleball around the country

If you have been following along with the two professional pickleball tours (the APP and the PPA), you may be pretty confused right now with so much change going on in the last several weeks. Many of the details I have heard are just that, hearsay, so please take the following with a grain of salt!

The two pro tours, APP and PPA have been jostling back and forth, each trying to position themselves as THE best pro tour. Also on the scene is the newly formed "Major League Pickleball" (MLP), which is owned by the same person who owns the rating system DUPR, as well as the pickleball and family entertainment venue "Dreamland".

The APP has always aligned with the USA Pickleball Association, sanctioning their tournaments (at least MMP), while the PPA has always been independent of the national organization (and NOT sanctioned their tournaments). Because the PPA wasn't sanctioned and therefore was not able to utilize the USAP's player rating data (supposedly), they originally aligned with DUPR as being a good way for players to get a rating without having to join the USAP. However, the PPA was recently purchased (at least a majority interest), by billionaire Tom Dundon, as well as PickleballCentral and indirectly, pickleballtournaments.com.

What this will mean for the direction of pickleball in general, and particularly for the direction of professional pickleball, is something that no one can really predict. I guess we will just have to wait and see!

CAPA INDOOR PICS



