



CAPAREAPB.COM

October 2023

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF THE SPORT OF PICKLEBALL

From the President By Kevin McPherson

Members,
If you think it feels weird to read a CAPA President's letter that isn't from Rico, imagine how difficult it is to write one. I'm honored and excited to step into the role of CAPA President. But, before sharing my thoughts, I want to acknowledge all of the work that Rico, the Board and all of our volunteers have done over the past seven plus years to get us to this point. While all of us have had a role in making CAPA what it is today, the leadership team has done an especially impressive job in building a strong, active and vibrant organization.

Moving forward, we'll continue to grow our programming at least as fast as our membership numbers increase. We'll do that by recruiting additional

volunteers and giving them a chance to show what they can do. So, if you're interested in helping CAPA support the growth of Pickleball in the Dane County region, reach out to me at kevinjmcpherson@gmail.com or get in touch with any of our Board members. You should see a number of new initiatives launch in 2024, including a spring social event to kick off the outdoor play season.

This newsletter is packed with updates on another fantastic year for CAPA. New courts, new lights, new players and our inaugural CAPA Cup tournament were some of the highlights. But, my personal Pickleball highlight for the year was lots of time spent playing the world's best participation sport with my old and new friends.

See you on the courts,
Kevin

www.capareapb.com

In this issue

President's Note
CAPA Info
Pickleball Rules Update
Membership Update
CAPA: In Retrospect
The CAPA Cup
Madtown Pickleball Open
Technology Update
CAPA Events
CAPA Annual Meeting
Etiquette Corner
Island Pickleball
CAPA Player Profile
Fun Prairie Pickleball Open 2024
Pickleball Fundraisers
Pictures!



CAPA Info

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT:

****[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

Pickleball Rules Update

By Steve Surprenant,
USAPA Level-1 Certified Pickleball Referee

What is a legal serve for Pickleball in 2023?

For a volley serve, the player may spin the ball with the paddle but may not impart spin during the release from the hand. The only limitation to putting spin on the ball with the paddle are the conditions for a legal Pickleball serve. The service motion must be executed in the following manner:

- 1 - Ball hit below the navel
- 2 - Paddle below wrist at contact (the highest part of the paddle below where the wrist joint bends)
- 3 - Paddle traveling in an upward arc. (upward motion)

For a drop serve, the player may drop the ball from any height (by hand or paddle) and hit the ball after it bounces (it can bounce multiple times). The player may not forcibly throw or hit the ball up or down prior to hitting it. Once the ball is released the player may hit it any manner.

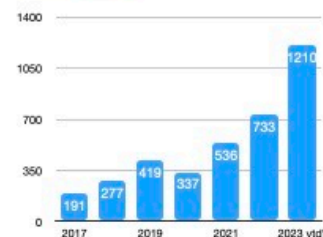
For both serves, the receiving player shall be able to see the ball during the serve.

Check out the 2023 Official Rulebook: <https://usapickleball.org/docs/USA-Pickleball-Official-Rulebook-2023-v2.pdf>

www.capareapb.com

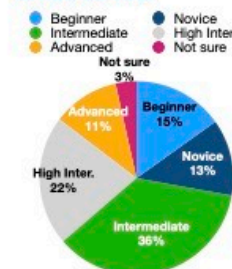
Membership Update

MEMBERS

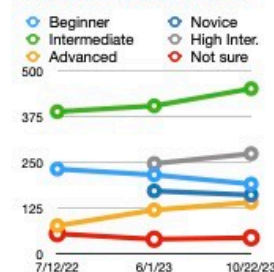


YEAR*	MEMBERS	%CHANGE
2017	191	
2018	277	45%
2019	419	51%
2020	337	-20%
2021	536	59%
2022	733	37%
2023 YTD*	1210	65%

SKILL LEVEL



SKILL LEVEL TRENDS



SKILL LEVEL	7/12/22	6/1/23	10/22/23
BEGINNER	232	216	191
NOVICE	172	172	161
INTERMEDIATE	389	405	452
HIGH INTER.		247	274
ADVANCED	77	120	141
NOT SURE	55	40	44

CAPA: Then, Now, and the Future

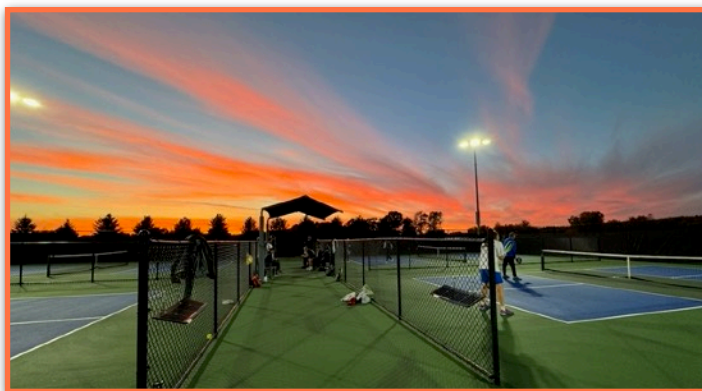
For the first time since its inception, CAPA founding members Rico Goedjen and Mike Barone are no longer on the CAPA Board. Here they reflect on the origins of CAPA and consider what is to come.

The idea creating an organization to promote Pickleball was a byproduct of a fundraising effort in 2016 to convert underused tennis courts at Garner Park in Madison dedicated to Pickleball. At this point, Sun Prairie and Stoughton had developed dedicated courts as well. Hoping to support any community looking to add Pickleball facilities, the name chosen was Capital Area Pickleball Association (CAPA). Our first organizing meeting overwhelmed our room; clearly there was enthusiasm for this relatively new sport.

As part of the handful who worked on the fundraising effort, which morphed into CAPA, Rico being the least reluctant, was elected to be president.

The challenge in the early years was to explain Pickleball. Educating about the game as much as possible, some very dedicated players were willing to spread the word. There were lots of unique elements for a larger audience to understand: a strange name, new equipment, noisy play, social engagement, funny scoring, etc. Growth was slow but steady. New outdoor sites slowly were put into budget discussions in most of the area communities. Fund raising efforts by members moved projects along, and players clearly outnumbered court capacity. It seems that COVID actually set the stage for the tremendous growth over the past three years. Since then, the number of outdoor courts in our area has grown by a multiple of five to over 150 courts.

I don't believe we have hit any type of plateau for growth. New players, especially younger ones, will continue to contribute to the growth of the sport as Pickleball is now mainstream. I would not be surprised to see organized competition at the high school level in a few years. The second trend will be to add more commercial indoor sites with food and other amenities. As for CAPA, the challenge now is to organize rather than promote: leagues, instruction, tournaments, and ratings. We were fortunate to be a participant during the formative years. CAPA was an idea at the right place and time.



Inaugural CAPA Cup Scores an Ace By Richard S. Russell and Rico Goedjen

After years of anticipation, months of planning, weeks of preparation, and sunny days filled with fun and excitement, the inaugural CAPA Cup Pickleball Tournament, held August 18-20 at McGaw Park in Fitchburg, was a smashing success.

Over 200 CAPA members competed in the tournament's 18 round-robin brackets, which comprised a combination of gender (men, women, and mixed), skill level (3.0-3.49; 3.5-3.99; and 4.0-4.49), and age range (18-54 and 55 and up). Most brackets featured the full complement of 8 teams, but a few were undersubscribed, so to fully use the available court time, those with only 4 teams played a double round robin, and those with only 6 played to 15 instead of 11. All games were played to win by 1 to enable the next round to start promptly.



The CAPA website features pictures of the winners (capareapb.com/CAPA-Results) and complete lists of tournament teams and results (tinyurl.com/r3ku39cn).

The top 3 teams in each bracket got awards – not the traditional medals on ribbons, but nice, 3-D-printed medallions, magnetized for proper display on the home fridge, as inspired and provided by Anthony Suy. He was on the organizing committee, which also included Mark Blitz, Karen Jerg, Shelley Reynolds, Mick Viney, Michael Wedge, and your authors.



Winners from Women 55+ 3.5-3.9 Group



CAPA and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County.

The tourney wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of CAPA members who volunteered to be court marshals, supply wranglers, registrars, scorekeepers, sign makers, and set-up and take-down crews. Therapeutic services were donated by Stretch Zone, and several food trucks provided an opportunity to replenish depleted calories.

A special word of thanks goes out to the tournament's presenting sponsor, Baird Wealth Management (especially for the free water), and to the logistical, publicity, and graphic support from the Fitchburg Chamber Visitor and Business Bureau.

Proceeds from the tournament enabled CAPA to donate a check for **\$2,000** to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dane County.

CAPA's then-President Rico Goedjen said of the event, "It was a big success. We have talked about holding a member only event for many years. Thanks to the membership, we got what we hope is an annual event off the ground."

2023 Madtown Pickleball Open

This year's Madtown Pickleball Open was once again held at Wyndham Hills Community Park with the Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department on July 13-16. And once again the event was a huge success! Pickleball players from all over the state came ready to compete. A new event was added to the Open this year: the split age event. One partner had to be 60+ and the other partner 59 or under. Net proceeds from the event benefited the Youth Sports Grant and its mission to get kids involved in sports.



Photos courtesy of Andy Slawek Photography



CAPA Website: Technology Tips



Tip #1: Editing your skill level in your CAPA personal profile.

Many members have wondered why some get invitations to Pickleball events while others do not. CAPA supports those collaborating with the organization by using the CAPA email system to send out invitations. These events often are targeted for specific skill levels and invites are sent based on CAPA members self-reported skill levels. It is important for all members to make sure that their self-reported skill levels are accurate and up to date.

Log into your profile and change the skill level listed to be more accurate. Check out this document that describes each step and shows what the screen should look like as you make this change. [Click here Instructions on how to enter your profile and change your listed skill level.](#)

Tip #2: Resetting your password on the CAPA website.

It is important to log in to the web site as many features and functions are limited to members only: features such as looking up other members (for example, players in your community), access to teaching tools like class plans and clinic lesson plans, etc.

To reset your password: [Check out this document that describes each step and shows what the screen should look like as you make this change.](#)

CAPA Events in 2023

The 2023 spring and summer have been busy with CAPA-sponsored organized play. There were 151 organized events with over 2,550 participants! In addition, 272 CAPA members played in 17 leagues that were held in different locations from May-October. The CAPA events that were offered to members include:

The five Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR) certified instructors fulfilled their commitment of offering four free clinics each. There were 20 clinics offered to four different skill levels. There were six clinics for 1.0-2.5, six clinics for 2.5-3.0, six clinics for 3.0-3.5, and two clinics for 3.5. A total of 110 members were able to participate in these clinics.

In Sun Prairie Karen Jerg organized seven *Skills and Drills* that were held on Thursday mornings taught by different instructors in which 70 participants attended. Mick Viney organized 26 Monday Morning Round Robins for the high intermediate skill level in which 416 people were able to participate. Jim Halberg organized 24 Monday Night Mixers for the advanced skill level in which 384 people participated. Jo Kiesow organized 26 Tuesday Morning Round Robin and 26 Thursday Morning Best of Court for the high intermediate skill level in which 928 players participated. Cheri McIlquham organized 23 Wednesday Night Court Climbers for advanced and high intermediate skill levels in which 552 players participated. David Mott organized three Dinks, Drills and Plays and three Skinny Singles Clinic and Tournament in which 96 players participated.



Sun Prairie Clinic

You may not have been aware of all the events as the emails, which include the sign up, were sent to specific skill levels but not all CAPA members. That is why it is very important that you keep your skill level up to date in your profile on the CAPA website to receive skill specific emails (see previous *Technology Tips* article).

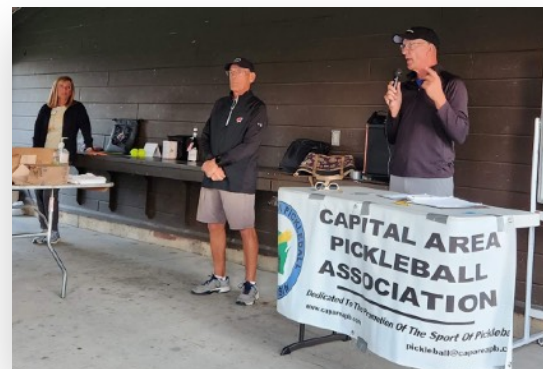
The goal for next year is to sponsor more events for CAPA members. To do that we need volunteers to organize these events. If you participated in any of these events and would like to volunteer to organize an event on your “home” court for next year, please contact Jill Jorstad at jilljorstad@gmail.com. Training will be provided to interested members.



CAPA October Tuesday League

CAPA 2023 Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Membership Meeting was held on August 17th at the McGaw Park shelter in Fitchburg. There were 96 members in attendance who enjoyed sub sandwiches, beverages, and ice cream bars. Various committees gave updates from the past year. There were several very important agenda items; the voting on extensive By Law changes was one of items. The members present voted in favor of adopting the changes proposed by the Board. Another important agenda item was thanking President Rico Goedjen and At Large Board member Mike Barone for the many years they have dedicated to CAPA. Both Rico and Mike were founding members of CAPA and have served on the Board since its inception. They were awarded lifetime CAPA memberships. They will certainly be missed! The last important agenda item was the introduction of the candidates running for President, Abigail Darwin and Kevin McPherson, and the candidate running for the At Large position, Jill Jorstad. All three candidates had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the members. A variety of great door prizes were awarded throughout the evening. It was a fun event!



Etiquette Corner By Kevin Devine



Line Calls, Part 2: Keeping Peace with Your Partner

In my last column, I made the case that you should always be generous when giving your opponent the benefit of the doubt on close line calls; your ability to accurately discern whether or not a ball traveling perhaps 30 or more miles per hour from a bad angle can make it nearly impossible to tell if a close shot is in or out. As the saying goes, a shot that is 99% OUT is 100% IN.

But I discovered something even more vexing in a recent game. My partner, whom I did not know well, and myself were struggling against a team that frankly, we should have been beating. We were down six points and it was taking a toll on my partner's patience. During a brutal rally, our opponents hit a smash down the sideline out of reach. Almost simultaneously, my partner yelled "out!" and I said "that was in".

He glared at me.

I guess it had never occurred to me until then that you could antagonize your *partner* more than your *opponent* if you contradict their line call.

So, what to do? Since then I have tried to never overrule my partner prematurely on a close call, especially if I don't know them well. Rather, I might say something like "That was close. How did you see it?" and let them call it. If they aren't sure, then I don't hesitate to call it in. But if they are like my partner in that game, I'll let it go.

And by the way, we were able to come back and win. There is karma in Pickleball. 😊

Island Pickleball

Many Wisconsinites enjoy a weekend getaway in Door County, and more and more of these weekend warriors play Pickleball. While in Door County, you can find the Door County Pickleball Club. And, if you drive even further north until you cannot drive any further, and then take a ferry across Porte des Mortes to Washington Island, you will still find a place to play Pickleball!

That is because a group of Washington Island residents dedicated to the sport have created a Pickleball community there. Washington Island resident Julie Gianni has spearheaded the effort in creating that community. When Julie started the Washington Island Pickleball community, they only had taped lines on the existing rugged tennis courts. But as the sport has grown in popularity, so has the community, which includes CAPA member Steve Klann. Steve plays regularly in Madison, but his Pickleball journey began on the island in 2021 where he learned to play the sport. A construction worker by trade, Steve recognized the opportunity to enhance the Pickleball experience on the island. He built a new court on the site. Julie was able to raise funds from visiting players and tourists and paid Steve for the necessary materials. She was also able to give Steve a small stipend for his labor.

Moving forward, with Julie's passion and fundraising along with Steve's construction expertise, the group hopes to build another court in the near future. Washington Island Pickleball has proven: the growing sport literally knows no bounds; if there's a will, there's a way; and when traveling, always bring your paddle :).



CartoonStock.com

CAPA Player Profile Erin and Dan Schettler

We started playing Pickleball, like many others, during Covid. We learned the game from a friend, and we were hooked! We looked to see where we could play and found the outdoor courts in Oregon. The surprise was running into two special folks from high school, Deanne and Jerome Klein, who spent an hour with us teaching the game and providing a lot of help (because we needed it!). Then Mike Barone set us up to play. While McGaw is our home park, Oregon has always been a special place due to how welcoming they were to two newbies.

That experience led us to start Pickles and Beer, a weekly social event where friends gather and play. We also try to give back to the sport by helping others with lessons, clinics, and round robins. Our future goals include traveling with a group for a Pickleball holiday, playing in Ireland, and playing in a PPA tournament.

We still aren't great players, but we love the sport and especially the people we have met through it. We encourage everyone to try Pickleball because it truly is a great sport for anyone and everyone!



Fun Prairie Pickleball Open 2024

Sun Prairie Recreation Department has announced the dates for the 2nd annual Fun Prairie Pickleball Tournament. This tournament will be held June 7th, 8th and 9th at Wyndham Hills Pickleball Courts in Sun Prairie. This tournament has events for women, men and mixed doubles teams in the skills levels of 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0. **NEW** this year: each skill level will be divided by age: 59 and under and 60 and over. Each event will host up to 8 teams in a round robin format. Watch for emails to CAPA members in late April for instructions on how to register. Place the June dates on your calendar now so you keep those days open.

Check out These Fundraisers to Support CAPA Area Pickleball

Lake Mills Pickleball Fundraising Event:
Tacos, Beer, and Pickleball Trivial Social
November 2nd.

[Event Flyer](#)

Friends of Oregon Pickleball Fundraiser:
Trivia Night
November 14th.

[Event Flyer](#)

Happy Pickleball Halloween!



Halloween Decorations in Madison! Play till you're dead!



Pickleball Pumpkins! (from Facebook)



Happy Halloween from Jeanne Burgess!



4th Annual Halloween Pickleball Tournament and Costume Competition at Hitters



More Pickleball Pictures from Around the Area



Outdoor Group Play at McFarland



PPC Group Play



Pickleball & Prosecco



Fall Pickleball = Fun Pickleball



In order to make room for the four new courts at Wyndham Hills, a black walnut tree had to be removed. Archie Degnan, John McGee, Wayne Kiesow, Bruce Deming, and Jim Halberg worked to turn the tree into two benches. Archie was the main architect of the bench and John did the great artwork and lettering on the benches.

More Pickleball Pictures from Around the Area



New Courts at Bakken Park, Cottage Grove



New Courts at Viking Park, Mt Horeb



New Lights at Wyndham Hills Courts!

Have pictures you want to share? Send them our way: pickleball@capareapb.com

DINK WISCONSIBLY!