

MID-SOUTH REGION NEWSLETTER
February, 2014



Mike Goldberg (Katy, TX) is getting ready to 'Mix it Up' , as he is planning a Mixer for early March. The first two hours will involve open play while the last two hours will involve picking a partner and then playing in either the 'Beginners/Intermediate Group" or the "Advanced Division". There will be door prizes and players will provide various snacks.

Vicky Noakes (OK City, OK) says that their club will be hosting the first USAPA sanctioned tournament in OK, April 8-10. The tournament, itself, will be held in Yucon. The pb club has changed its name (and logo) to Greater OKC Pickleball Club which includes all the communities they serve. The club now has over 160 members.

Bill James (Hot Springs, AR) notes that the 'Y' tournament will be held May 2-4, beginning with a round robin and ending with bracketed play for medals.

Kay Seamayer (Greater Dallas) was one of several interviewed at Cedar Hill Recreation Center regarding the growth and popularity of pb in the Dallas Morning News recently.

The Brazos Valley SOG (as well as the USAPA) received good coverage from the local TV station in Bryan/College Station, TX. (see USAPA website)

A couple of my PB friends and I recently provided demo/learning activities to all the girls physical education classes (except one) at a local

middle school. Each student received 'hands-on' instruction dealing with the dink, ground strokes, the serve, along with footwork for those 'hits'. Basic rules were also discussed.

RULE QUESTION

Player 'A' has hit a legal volley and is at the NVZ line swinging his arms to maintain his balance immediately following his shot. The opponent returns a soft shot just over the net that bounces near the net. Can 'A' step in and return the soft shot? (I invite you to send your answer, and why, to me and I will comment in next months newsletter).

Results of our Places to Play update project. We did not do quite as well as the past two years. However, AR, LA, and MS updated 100% of their venues. OK updated all but two venues. TN updated all but six. TX had the most to update, with right at 80% completed (ten not completed). With the continued explosion of pb, that means more venues. It is certainly incumbent on all of us to keep Places to Play updated (at least with the correct year). Who wants to travel to play somewhere only to find out that venue has changed their days/hours? Please take a look at your state and make a call or two (even if it is not your assigned area) and see if you can help complete this project.

Mid-South Pickleball Pioneer Award

For the last five years, the Pickleball Pioneer Award has been presented at the social preceding the Mid-South Regional. We have really tried to make this an easy process for all (pb players living in the Mid-South region, USAPA members or not, can nominate). Very soon, the nomination process will be open on the Mid-South website (<http://midsouth.usapa.org/>). The nominee basically must be a current member of the USAPA, live in the Mid-South Region, and have been connected to pb for at least seven years. The nominator will need to have specific examples of why the nominee deserves this award. A committee of ambassadors from across the region will pick a winner, if the committee feels that the qualifications are superior. Please encourage the players (recreational and tournament) in your area to consider making a nomination. As noted above, the nominator merely needs to complete the nomination form on the Mid-South website.

In just three short months, the Mid-South Regional will take place in Monroe, LA. The first deadline is a little over two months away. Once again, please help promote this event. We have averaged over 200 players the last three years. We feed players lunch every day they play. The day before the tournament, we have open practice, beginning at noon, with the dinner social (including door prizes) at the venue the same evening. See more specific information by going to: (www.pickleballtournaments.com).

It seems like I have mentioned several tournaments in this newsletter. Whether a tournament is sanctioned or not, it is always a good idea to have some USAPA membership forms available. And of course, remember the USAPA National tournament in November.

It looks like the REALLY cold weather is about over, which means everyone can get back to their normal pb routine. Have a great spring.

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