

Ambassador Talk

Hi Everyone,

I miss writing and sending these updates and when the WRPA board asked if I would write a regular column, I said of course, yes!

As many of you know, Patti and I are spending most of the winter in a little town in Baja California called Los Barriles. No coincidence, they have some nice pickleball facilities here including 10 courts at Tres Palapas pickleball "resort". In fact, I recently participated in a round robin tournament there with a friend visiting from Ketchum, and although I have no hardware to report on, we all had a great time. We run into people all the time that come here just to play pickle. Go figure.

There are a number of organizations trying to elbow their way into the mainstream for viewer eyeballs. The APP, PPA, MLP, WPF and several others. If you play pickleball now, you really are the vanguard of the sport with growth coming on so quickly.

With its popularity, we all must expect more pressure on the existing courts and more often having to wait to play. Yesterday I went to a venue here that has 3 courts, and there were 22 paddles lined up to play; in Mexico! With that many players, it was organized as 4 on, 4 off, and only play to 9 and win by 1. Our wait time wasn't too bad, about 10 minutes.

My point is those of us who have been playing for a few years have had it pretty good but now will have to expect more wait time for courts. WRPA will help manage that traffic flow as we have done in the past. Here's a link to club that has some nice suggestions for pickleball etiquette that some of you may have seen on our Facebook group:

<https://woodbridgepickleballclub.org/pickleball-safety-and-court-etiquette/>

Let's talk. If you haven't already, I hope you will consider becoming a paying member of WRPA. \$25 per year is manageable for most people. Sure, you can use the courts without doing so, but you will feel good about being part of a small organization that is constantly advocating for more and better courts. Look for the launch of the website in the next few weeks and when you see it, remind yourself to join.

If you want to supercharge your game, here is a link to my favorite drill routine (yes, I know you have seen this before) that I guarantee will improve your game if you do this at least a couple of times per month:

<https://youtu.be/hPFRo5R9cT0>. It's hard and if you complete it you will be exhausted!

And Joe Baker has several excellent videos on beginning and intermediate doubles strategy. Once you understand his style of play and practice it, you will be able to build on your own style that complements your strengths. Start here:

<https://youtu.be/x5ceh-7DI1Y>.

Adios from southern Baja. Que le Vaya Bien.

Tom

USAPA Ambassador, Blaine County Idaho