

The COURT REPORTER

JULY 2022



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BLACKBURN PICKLEBALL PAVILION NOW OPEN

The new Blackburn Pickleball Pavilion on the campus of Skagit Valley College is now open! The College hosted the Grand Opening ceremony on June 30th. The well attended event was highlighted by Claude Blackburn and Dan Budzynski playing the very first game at the 10 court facility. Our club presented Claude with a very unique paddle! If you look closely, you'll note an image of the pavilion overlaid on the paddle face. Skagit Valley Pickleball (SVP) has exclusive use of courts 4 thru 10 every day from 8am to 11am and again from 4pm to 8pm.



Claude and Dan share congratulations after the first ever game at the new Blackburn Pickleball Pavilion

President's Message

By Dan Budzynski

Contact: president.svpball@gmail.com

We are in a great place with continued growth in membership and the Pavilion grand opening. We gained 60 new members in June alone. We are on track to add an additional 80 members in July bringing us to over 400 members strong, welcome all. I really did not imagine this type of interest when we started the club but I am excited as it will enable us to do much more for our membership. I believe the main drivers of growth have been the Hillcrest courts and the Blackburn Pavilion.

There are several activities already underway or planned for members in the next month or so. **Doug Robinson** is graciously heading up a program to help mentor new players in the game of pickleball. This is a program that we have wanted to do and it has been well received. There is a waiting list to get into this mentorship so get in touch with Doug and have some fun with pickleball. For those with more experience and wanting to improve their skills, we hosted a skills clinic with the 2021 Pro Mixed Doubles National Champions, **Lindsey** and **Riley Newman** from Whidbey Island. The clinic was held at the Pavilion. The **Competition/Recreation Committee** is hosting a tournament to be held at the Pavilion. This is an SVP club members only event with no entry fee, giving us a chance to see how tournaments are managed.

Each June we have our annual meeting to vote on new board members and by-law changes. It is a "state of the club" presentation to review how we are doing and where we are headed. This year we added a social aspect to the meeting with a potluck that was very well received with close to 100 members attending. I have to give credit to both **Ardell Brandenburg** and **MaryBeth Budzynski** for many hard days working through the details to make this such a success. A thank you as well to **Melissa Ballenger** for making and donating SVP coasters, **Mark Riley** for setting up the sound system and MCing and everyone who helped with setting up and clean up.

We started with why we exist by reviewing our purpose in our by-laws, article 3. We, and especially I, have been focused on building courts to enable us to instruct on rules, strategies, etc and to introduce pickleball into the community. My thinking has always been dedicated courts are needed first to have a place to play.

The presentation turned to our growth which has been phenomenal. We have tripled so far in just the past two years. These members are coming from all parts of the Skagit Valley, which is why we changed our name to be more inclusive. We have six communities where 20 or more players reside and four of those communities have contacted us for help with developing dedicated pickleball courts in their locale.

President's Message (continued)

Your new board members were announced with **Travis LoGrande** becoming our **President**. **Travis** assumes the role from his **Vice President** position this past year. **Mark Dixon** will be our **Treasurer** and **Larry Otis** is the new **Member at Large** for two year terms. **Mike Thompson** assumes the chairman of the **Courts / Grounds Committee** with **JuLee Rudolf** appointed to fill the second year of the **Membership Committee**. Thank you all for your involvement and support of SVP. I will remain on the board one more year in the **Past President** role. **We do have an opening on the board at the Vice President position**. It is very important that we fill this to help maintain continuity and strong leadership.

The Blackburn Pavilion is in operation with the Grand Opening held on June 30th, with close to 150 people in attendance. It has been a sometimes tough three and a half years but we have now realized **Claude Blackburn's** vision with this Pickleball Pavilion. What a venue in which to play. The facility has already generated a lot of excitement and interest. I have talked with groups from Canada and the Seattle area wanting to get more information. Of course, we must thank **Claude** for making this possible for not only his donation but his ideas and time in the weekly design meetings. The club presented **Claude** with a custom paddle made by Players of Bellingham. He used it for the first serve of the first game in the Pavilion and received that ball autographed by **Tom Keegan** – President of SVC, **Brad Tuininga** – President of SVC Foundation and myself.

The **Competition/ Recreation Committee** has been hard at work generating the **Etiquette of Play** and the **Court Access** posters to be used at the Pavilion. These documents were vetted by both the SVC and SVC Foundation and will be

installed in the next couple of weeks. There will be a group of volunteers at each session each day for the first two weeks to help everyone learn the process. SVP is very fortunate to have priority on 7 of the 10 courts for 7 hours each day of the week. Please be understanding and help other players as we all learn this process.

I knew this past year was going to be a challenge, but the outcome is so great. Everyday you will see players on the Hillcrest courts and now that the pavilion is open you see them there as well. Gone are the days when you ask someone to play with the caveat "if it is not raining". We do live in a great place with very special people.

BLACKBURN Pickleball Pavilion

Court Access

Unless reserved for college or tournament play, courts are available as follows:

- Pavilion Hours: 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Courts 1-3 open to the public (non-members)
- Courts 4-10 reserved for Skagit Valley Pickleball Club: 8:00-11:00 AM and 4:00-8:00 PM

All courts open to everyone outside these times.

Learn more about Skagit Valley Pickleball (www.svpball.com)



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BLACKBURN Pickleball Pavilion

Pickleball Etiquette:

- This pavilion is for pickleball play only
- Use pickleball courts at your own risk
- Keep courts and walkway free from trash
- Only court shoes are to be worn while playing
- No bikes, skateboards or pets allowed on the courts
- Nets can be damaged; do not hit, lean on, or sit on nets
- No chairs or personal items allowed into fenced courts
- Alcohol, food, gum, and glass containers prohibited on courts

When players are waiting:

- After playing one game, rotate out
- Limit drills to 30 minutes and rotate out
- Games are played to 11 points, win by two
- For pickleball game rules and tips go to www.USAPA.com

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Competition Committee By Don Wold

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July Events at Blackburn Pavilion



Skagit Valley Pickleball is making great use of the new Skagit Valley College Blackburn Pavilion. On July 5-6 SVP welcomed Pro Mixed Doubles National Champions **Lindsey** and **Riley Newman** for 2 days of skill level clinics. The clinics focused on drills, skills and tips to win more games. The clinics included live match play with and against the Newmans.

Riley and Lindsey were presented with Honorary Lifetime Memberships to SVP and we hope to make this an annual opportunity for our members.



Blackburn Pavilion will host the **SVP Summer Tournament**

on Saturday/Sunday July 23-24. Nearly 100 participants have registered for this free, members-only event. Women's and Men's Doubles will be played on Saturday with Sunday being filled with some great Mixed Doubles play. Skill levels 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 will be represented at the Tournament. Come out and watch your fellow club members compete for the Gold!

Volunteers Make SVP Great

Whether it is cleaning courts at Hillcrest, installing the paddle racks and nets, or planting a few hundred trees and bushes, it is our volunteers who make Skagit Valley Pickleball a great community!



Mark, Wil, Travis, Mike, Bill, Pam, Colin, Keith



Steve, Ken, Adam, Mark, Mark, Doug, Dan, Don, Tod



Ken, Doug, Don, John, Dan, James, Tod, Steve



Pavilion Planting Party—May 28th, 2022

Getting To Know...

The Just For Fun Group

A few years ago several senior women took beginner pickleball lessons but then struggled to find others at the same level to play with. Two of these women, **Lou Erwin** and **Kathy “Kit” Broussard**, realized that the answer was to start their own group of like-minded women who could play on weekday mornings. They were particularly interested in helping new players get beyond the initial beginner jitters and raise the level of play to the point where rallies were fun and everyone had a good workout. It is the social aspect of pickleball that appealed to these ladies, rather than getting ready for tournament play. Now, don't take that to mean that they aren't competitive, as they all appreciate a spirited game just as much as anyone!

Somewhere along the line **Lou** and **Kit** hit upon the name “**Just For Fun Group**”. The women play on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, weather permitting. The group has been as large as 24 players but **Lou** and **Kit** prefer to keep the core group closer to 12 so that everyone gets to play. Most **Just For Fun** folks are local but a few travel from Anacortes. In keeping with the “Fun” goal, the women have incorporated a monthly birthday get together at a local restaurant. Group members buy lunch for those whose birthdays occur that month.



Kit and **Lou** encourage players either new to pickleball or new to the area is to start their own small group with people that have similar goals and ability. Once you are playing regularly, others will find your group and you can decide just how large you want your group to be. Who knows, maybe someday your new group will have a cool name like the **Just For Fun** members!

Board & Committees

Current Board

President	Travis LoGrande
Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Mark Dixon
Secretary	John Ballenger
Member at Large 1	Chris Kinsland
Member at Large 2	Larry Otis
Member at Large 3	Anna Wright
Past President	Dan Budzynski

Committee Chairs

Communications	Jeff Brandenburg
Competition & Rec	Don Wold
Court & Grounds	Mike Thompson
Membership	JuLee Rudolf

Other

Newsletter Editor	Mark Dixon
Website	www.SVPball.com
Pickleball Central 5%	CRSkagit
Club Rewards Code	

Find A Coach

Jessica and Bobby Welch

- Certified Coach (Professional Pickleball Registry)
- Rated as 4.0 PPA tournament players

Jessica and Bobby coach beginners to 4.0 players, offering private and group sessions. They love to coach doubles strategy as well as fine tuning basic fundamentals at any level. Jessica and Bobby can be reached at 360-389-8539.

Mark Livingston

- Level 2 Certified Teaching Professional (IPTPA)
- Certified Rating Specialist (IPTPA)
- Certified Pro (Professional Pickleball Registry)
- Certified Coach (Pickleball Coaching International)
- Rated as a 4.5 player

Coach Mark works with players who are serious about learning pickleball, improving skills and gameplay performance, and obtaining a higher skill level rating. He uses IPTPA's rating system to customize training and development plans for dedicated improvers.

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