



Letter from the Editor

Joanne Griesser

The Dog Days of summer are here. It's important to stay hydrated when you're on the court. "The biggest mistake is waiting until you're thirsty to drink. Your brain center doesn't send a message until you're almost 2 percent dehydrated. By then, you've likely already encountered some problems associated with dehydration." (How to recognize when your thirsty" Kellyanne Petrucci and Patrick Flynn)

The board has been working very hard to setup events that allow members to play and socialize. We hope you get to take advantage of these events.

**I couldn't figure out why the pickle ball
kept getting larger and larger.
Then it hit me.**

If you have a story about your vacation, a helpful tip, pictures, travel information, an event or you just want to have your voice heard. Send your article to Joanne.Griesser@verizon.net.

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From the President's Desk

As our association continues to grow and thrive, we are experiencing some changes in our association's board members. The association welcomes Steve Orr & Barry Leech who are joining our association board. Steve will replace Rob Schmidt as 1st Vice President. Rob Schmidt is stepping down as a VP due to other commitments. Thank you Rob for helping our association continue to grow, you did a good job coordinating our organized play last summer. Renae Scheiber joined our board for a few months but decided the other commitments such as work and family provided her little time to give to the association. Also leaving the board will be Joanne Griesser who was our inaugural association secretary and stayed on as the Communication's Chairman responsible for our new newsletter. We appreciate all Joanne has done to help get our association going in the right direction.

A big thanks to Joe Beitz & Steve Orr for leading our Ladder League at Locust Pool Park this spring. We had approximately 32 people participate along with other substitutes who were not able to sign-up for the league. The concept of offering competition within skill levels worked well. We are contemplating the addition of a beginner's league sometime in the fall.

Duane StClair and Barry Leech are managing our player instruction program. Barry has accepted the role of New Player Instruction Coordinator and is scheduling and leading instruction sessions both during the week and on Saturday mornings for new players. Barry gets names and contact information from various sources for folks that are interested in learning to play PB and adds them to his email distribution list. He then communicates with them on his instruction sessions. We recently designated one court at the Saturday morning Ice Rink Drop-in session for new players so they can feel comfortable playing with people their own skill levels. Once someone starts to get the hang of it, they can then easily move over to the other three courts to start playing with higher level skilled players. So far this is working out well.

Barry is taking a leave of absence due to a hip replacement but Marc Austin, a certified PB instructor, has agreed to take over for Barry for the weekday evening beginner player session on Tuesday evening. Barry's sister, Nancy, will be replacing Barry for the Saturday morning session for the new players at the Ice Rink Courts. Duane, a certified PB instructor, is also teaching classes at Howard County Community College introducing PB to a new set of people. Many of them are joining our association both during and after the course. Duane also anticipates scheduling a few intermediate training courses this summer, likely to be held on Sunday's. A big thanks to Barry and Duane for their leadership and instruction skills in working with new and seasoned players. I would also like to recognize Dorothy Boulton who is taking over as Instruction Director from Duane. Dorothy will be working to expand our Instruction Program working with our board and coaches to ensure we continue to offer what is needed and desired by our members.

Now that Summer is upon us we are moving to a summer schedule with using the Oakland Mills Ice Rink (IR) courts as well as the Locust Park (LP) courts. Duane StClair is our Organized Play Coordinator for the IR courts, working with various volunteers such as Don & Kathy Plasse who have volunteered for several weeks at the IR in addition to others who are helping out. Steve Orr has accepted the position of Organized Play Coordinator for LP courts. He will be working closely with Duane on locating volunteers to help setup and run the sessions. We are adding Monday and Friday mornings to the IR courts and I am coordinating the net setup and volunteers for these days. Thanks to Patti Dixon who has taken Friday mornings while I cover the Monday morning setup. We are also exploring the use of a third location at Hammond Neighborhood Park for Saturday mornings to help alleviate the crowding at LP courts. I will be working with Joe Beitz for setup at this location.

The board has decided to reduce the fee for the PB Tutor to \$20 per day. If you are unfamiliar with the device, do a search for it on YouTube and you will find various videos to guide you in its use. The rental includes a ball collector, a tub of 40 balls, a hand truck to transport the balls and device, instructions on various drills with the device settings as well as the PB Tutor itself. We can also offer a net if so desired. If you are interested in using the device use the PB Tutor Rental form under Equip. Mgt. on our website.

Our association is becoming recognized both within Maryland and the surrounding states as a well-developed organization and a good advocate for our sport. Duane StClair leads our public relations efforts. Duane & Cathy Spain are working with CA to explore expanding our PB venues. We are looking forward to working with Sonny Tannan as he begins his role as lead PB coach for CA. Duane continues to be a member of the Tennis Advisory Committee to give our PB members a voice in the predominant Tennis community. Duane is also working as the lead for the Maryland USAPA Ambassadors, expanding PB within our state as well as our county. Steve Orr has agreed to be our liaison with Howard County Recreation & Parks and is working with Amanda Bartell to find ways to offer our services to Howard County Recreation & Parks. Thanks to Duane, Steve and Cathy for their diligent work behind the scenes attempting to grow our PB network and venue alternatives.

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful people as members of our organization and I often hear how pleased new members are to meet and interact with “such a great group of people”. It's nice to work with so many friendly and hardworking people and it helps as our organization continues to expand both in size and offerings.

Duane's Court

Due to budget constraints in Fiscal Year 2020, the East Columbia Library park project has been deferred and proposed as part of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) budget in Fiscal Year 2021. Ambassador Tournament

On Saturday, May 11th eight Howard County Pickleball Association members joined 96 other players from around Maryland to participate in the first Maryland Ambassador Open at the Pip Moyer Gym in Annapolis. The Open was designed to bring together players from all over Maryland to play and begin to determine how we might best promote future growth of pickleball in Maryland. Everyone enjoyed the event and look forward to cooperating in the future on other promotional events.





Interview with HCPA Member, Sonny Tannan

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for the Association Summer Newsletter.

Would you mind telling us a little about yourself?

First, thank you for the opportunity to share some thoughts on Pickleball with the Howard County Pickleball Association. The group has been so warm and open to inviting new players into the community, it's been an absolute pleasure getting to know each one of the members. My family moved to Howard County almost a year back for a job opportunity for my wife as well as to be in a school district that would best support our son's future education and development. Interesting enough, my son Om & I have a video series on LinkedIn in which we share life experiences as we travel the world and share it with our global community as #Fansof3.

So, for us, continuing to surround ourselves with people that share the same values and sense of purpose in engaging in meaningful growth is important. Especially since people from around the world have so much to share in terms of family values, traditions, culture and diversity. I am a Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR) Certified Professional and currently provide instruction at a few organizations throughout Howard County. I was also lucky enough to be

invited to be a United States of America Pickleball Association (USAPA) Ambassador to help promote the growth and development of Pickleball.

What caught your interest in Pickleball and how long have you been playing?

I have always been a fan of playing sports and Pickleball is certainly no exception to this. What caught my interest was the social aspect of it, as well as the opportunity to be a part of an interesting new sport. Having grown up playing tennis (and other sports) at the university level as well as overseas, I've always had a love of racquet sports. But I can safely say that the players that first introduced me to the sport, really made me feel welcome into their group because of their love of the sport.

I understand you're a certified instructor. Where did you get your certification and was it difficult to acquire?

Well first, I have to give a special thanks to David DuPree who convinced me to go to a coach's workshop and become certified to begin with. He really took me under his wing in introducing me to his Pickleball community as well as shared his knowledge when it came to coaching. I was lucky enough to attend a PPR Workshop with Sarah Ansbury in Hanover, PA and some of the others that went through the same training are now players that I learn from, train with as well as hold in some of the highest regards as friends. Like many things, I think I approached the certification process with the intent of learning from the best as well as becoming one of the best so that I could continue to develop as both a coach as well as a player. I think that their training set some good foundational concepts and if you are looking to coach or even to improve on your own coaching knowledge, I urge you to attend a workshop.

About how many hours a week do you play?

Between coaching and practicing or playing, I probably spend on average 10 hours a week on the courts (indoors or outdoors).

You have played in several tournaments, where is the best place that you have played and why?

I really can't put a favorite place to play out there simply because the game is really made up of the people that play it. So, from competitive matches in which others are helping me to improve my game, to providing lessons to others so that I can help them to achieve growth in their own game, I'd say wherever there is a court and a net, I've enjoyed being on the courts!

Can you tell us about a good experience you have had on the court?

One of my favorite things to see is how this sport can transcend generations. I have been lucky enough to play with a family of 3 generations on the court...at the same time! This family plays at a variety of skill levels, and at all speeds. But what I enjoyed most was seeing how competitive each of them was while still maintaining smiles and laughs at every turn. To me, that is exactly what this sport is all about...bringing people together.

Would you mind telling us about a not-so-good time that you had on the court?

It's unfortunate that this type of incident happened, and it is certainly not limited to the sport of Pickleball. But the incidents that I have come across that have really impacted me and the others on the court, are the ones where people make comments that turn into personal attacks on people. One incident that comes to mind was one where a comment was made that included a completely insensitive remark on a person's culture and gender and how they thought it impacted the game being played. For all of us that are paying attention to the state of affairs in the world, there is no place for that kind of mentality, let alone on the courts playing Pickleball.

Do you do any volunteer work in the community that you would like to discuss?

I am a big fan of philanthropic work in the community and think everyone should consider some form of giveback in their own way, shape or form. There are a few key areas that I am most passionate about, education of children and our veterans (military service members). The book I wrote recently about my son (Through the Eyes of Om) has a give back component that we will be donating books to certain school systems and charities as we continue to write more books in the series. And I also helped to co-found a non-profit (Roots for Boots) that provides support to military service members in the community. I think it's important for us to all recognize that there are others out there that may be less fortunate than us, and even a small gesture of kindness can go a long way.

Can you tell us how we can get in touch with you about taking lessons with you?

Absolutely! I would love for people to connect with me. For those that prefer email (sonny_tannan@yahoo.com) or if you would rather call or text (443.473.9259 cell). But if you would like to follow along on my social media platforms, here are some of my more popular places to be:
LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sonnytannan>
Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/tannansonny/>
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/sonnytannan>
Twitter - <https://twitter.com/TannanSonny>

If you could only give one piece of advice to a Pickleball player, what would it be?

Those that have taken lessons from me or even played with me know that I will say, if you had to focus on only 1 thing to work on, what would that be. When I was going through my coach's certification, I asked this question to Sarah Ansbury, what is one thing that you have had to unlearn while playing? And she was the one that provided this mindset for me, work on 1 thing at a time before moving on to the next thing to work on.

Trip to Ocean Pines

By Ken Greco

The Howard County Pickleball Association will be planning a one or two-day trip this coming fall to play with the Ocean Pines Pickleball Club (OPPC). The date selected for the trip will be Sept 21-22. The OPPC has 8 outdoor dedicated pickle ball courts. We will drive out early Saturday morning considering it's a 3 hour trip. We will play the late morning around 10 am to about 1 pm. This leaves the afternoon open to other options including lunch with the OPPC players. We could head to Ocean City Maryland for dinner and drinks. Those who want to drive home on Saturday could do so or the other option is to stay overnight in Ocean City and repeat play on Sunday morning and then head home Sunday afternoon. The cost is \$5.00 per person per day to play at their courts. There are all levels of players at the Ocean Pines Club. We would like to know who would be interested in a trip like this to Ocean Pines and Ocean City Maryland. Please use the following doodle to register your interest and what dates you would like to attend. <https://doodle.com/poll/zndq52pctgbuibcm>

HCPA – Annual Meeting Recap 6/26/19

By Earl Sneeringer

The Pizza and Pot Luck Social and Annual meeting was a big success. It appeared that all participants had a good time. In addition to the six dedicated pickleball courts we also rented one of the tennis courts and lined it with tape so we had 8 PB courts in use. We handed out customized pens with our association initials and our website to all attending members as well as our car magnets to any new members. We had a lot of good food, social time and pickleball; who could ask for more. I wanted to share the information I provided during the annual meeting section of the evening.

I introduced our new board members as well as mentioned those current board members serving various positions. The new board members are Steve Orr who is replacing Rob Schmidt as the 1st Vice President and Barry Leech who joins the board as the New Player Instruction Coordinator. I expressed a big thank-you to Rob who did a great job last year coordinating our organized play for both the Ice Rink courts and the Locust Park courts along with his group of volunteers, Veronica Buzby and Don Shmidt. I announce that Renae Scheiber who recently joined the board as 2nd Vice President was unfortunately leaving the board due to other commitments. I also announce the departure of Joanne Griesser from the board. Joanne was our inaugural secretary for our first two years and headed up the Communications Committee this last year. We appreciate all her efforts for the association. She was instrumental in getting the association going in the right direction and we will miss her valuable feedback. We will be looking to replace these people on the board over the next couple months.

Our association continues to grow and is now approximately around 300 members. Renewal season is upon us since this is the time frame many of our members joined. Keep in mind that the renewal process is automated with the website and the use of a reminder email to be sent out two weeks prior to your end of term date. Members will find the renewal menu item under the Members menu tab.

Our past year included many successes such as the conversion of the tennis bubble at the Owen Brown Tennis Club into the six wonderful pickleball courts, the setup of our leagues and tournaments and our recognition by other pickleball organizations for our multiple pickleball venues and association organization. Duane StClair who now leads the Maryland USAPA Pickleball Ambassadors is getting multiple requests to talk about how our association formed and the benefits of that.

We appreciate the ability to use the Owen Brown Tennis Club pickleball courts and we have decided that renting them periodically will enhance our relationship with the Columbia Association as well as provide an opportunity for our members to come together for more organized social events. We plan to rent the facility on a Thursday evening twice in July and twice in August for more Pickleball and PotLuck socials. We will likely use Friday as our rain date as well.

Keith Risser our Treasurer was unable to attend due to another commitment on Friday so I read over a report he provided. If you would like to view this report, go to Member / Announcements and scroll down to the meeting recap posted on 6/26/2019.

I introduced Ken Greco, our Social Committee Chairmen who spoke on the upcoming social event for a visit to the Ocean Pines community who has invited our association for a day of pickleball down at the beach. Ken stated that four people had responded to the doodle and he was hoping he could get at least 4 more people to sign-up as we got closer to the date in the fall. He will be posting more information on this in the next couple months.

I spoke on some of the future plans we are working on such as a fall tournament for both beginners and intermediate players. I recognized Joe Beitz who is our association's tournament director and thanked him and his group of volunteers - Steve Orr, Daryl Tuck, Ira Frankel and Dorothy Boulton for both the spring tournament and the ladder league. I also mentioned the possibility of an invitational pickleball event with a Delaware club in the works for the fall. I mentioned our work on getting more indoor facilities similar to what we did last winter in the use of school cafeterias and when available gyms. I explained that the basketball program has a higher priority and so use of school gyms were very limited.

I then introduced Duane StClair who is our public relations lead and he spoke on his efforts to work with the Columbia Association (CA) on getting more permanent courts built. We were unsuccessful in our proposal to convert either the Ice Rink courts or the Locust Park courts into permanent pickleball courts. Both communities wanted to provide a "shared" environment and felt that the pickleball lines on the court offered this more so than permanent nets. Duane announced that one of our members, Sonny Tannan who is also a Maryland PB Ambassador and a Certified PB instructor was recently hired as a lead PB coach for CA. We believe this is a step in the right direction for CA to address the needs of our PB community and we are looking forward to working with Sonny and CA. Duane will be working with CA and Howard County Recreation & Parks to develop a master plan for the future of pickleball in our community.

I expressed my thanks to Joanne Griesser for her efforts with our newsletter and how happy we are to have started our association's newsletter.

Finally, I recognized several of our outstanding volunteers who have assisted us in various ways. These are: Jan StClair, Rob Schmidt, Don Schmidt, Veronica Buzby, Ira Frankel, Daryl Tuck, Joe Beitz, Steve Orr, Barry Leech and Don & Kathy Plasse. We handed out gift cards for Tino's Italian Bistro as a token of our appreciation for their service to our members.

Thanks to all participants and volunteers to make this a very successful PB year!

The Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR)

By Mark Austin

PPR is the official education and certification partner of the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA). PPR was established in 2018 to educate, certify and serve those interested in teaching pickleball. As of early 2019 there were more than 3 million people playing pickleball across the globe.

PPR combines the educational resources of the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) with the expertise of 5-time National Champion, Sarah Ansboury, to develop courses and workshop material in order to certify PPR members to teach and coach Pickleball. PPR has a full time staff to implement PPR business to and assist its members. Those joining PPR before August 31, 2019 will be classified as a PPR Charter member. PPR is located in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

PPR offers official instructional certification workshops in many states in the USA and are working to expand internationally. As of this printing, there are over 1300 PPR members, many of which are certified to provide adult instructions to all levels of pickleball players. PPR is currently fine tuning a certification program to develop certified instructors specifically designed for youth players.

Attendees of a 1 day PPR instructional certification workshop must demonstrate acceptable level of competence throughout three (3) key areas of evaluation judged by the workshop clinician; individual pickleball skill level, ability to organize and run a 20-minute instructional clinic and how one scores on an on-line exam.

There are two levels to achieve in order to become a PPR Certified Instructor;

Professional Certification: assessed at a 4.0 Skill Level or better, demonstrate exceptional teaching ability and score at least 90% on the on-line exam

Coach Certification: assessed at a 3.5 Skill Level, demonstrate exceptional teaching ability and score at least 75% on the on-line exam

- In addition to the above criteria, in order to achieve the "Professional" teaching level one must display above average demonstration of basic shots in pickleball, both technically and tactically, and show strong understanding of technical stroke parameters outlined in the PPR study guide. One must also show the ability to progress players from beginner to higher level skills and demonstrate the ability to provide an in-depth explanation of how to play pickleball.
- In addition to the above criteria, in order to achieve the level of "Coach" one must display the ability to demonstrate all the basic shots in pickleball, both technically and tactically, and show understanding of technical stroke parameters outlined in the PPR study guide. One must also explain the basics of how pickleball is played. Those attending a certification workshop but do not achieve the criteria to become a Certified member (either Professional or Coach) can still be a PPR Affiliate Member.

To find out more about PPR including finding a local PPR Certified Professional or Coach please visit; www.pprpickleball.org. To find out more about USAPA please visit; www.USAPA.org

Website News

As the webmaster, I've attempted to keep our website up to date and expand our capabilities. There have been several changes which I would like to bring to your attention.

- One addition is the Instruction page. This provides all viewers the ability to see what kind of instruction is available via our association, the local organizations and instructors that have notified our association of their desire to be added to this list.
- Another addition for our members is the Organized Play page, which displays our weekly schedule. However, you need to be a member and login to access this page.
- I have added another news flash bar at the top of the home page to quickly notify members without logging in to display any exceptions to our play times or dates.
- I have also added a Forum capability under the menu label "Member Discussion" to allow our members to interact and discuss various aspects of our sport with other members.
- Finally, I have added an Equipment Management menu item. We are starting to acquire multiple items to support our growing programs and we need some way to track this equipment. If you are given equipment as volunteers to the organization and then you pass them on to another member, please take the time to fill out the equipment transfer form. This will assist me in managing the inventory and tracking the location of our nets, first aid kits, water jugs, etc. We are hoping that the person who hands off the item will want to note they no longer have it and will fill out the form.

I've heard from various association members how much they appreciate the member's directory. However, some wish there were more pictures of members to help them remember names and faces. If you would like to load your picture into the directory, you can do it yourself with the Gravatar website. There are YouTube videos to assist you in using this application.

Otherwise, take a headshot picture and email it to me and I will try to upload it to the website as time permits.

Thanks to all members who send in association pictures for the website. I have been trying to keep up with new pictures added to our website and although I don't always get to them right away, eventually they do get added.

Where to Play

Locus Park, Hammond Neighborhood Park and the Ice Rink courts are setup every Saturday morning for HCPA members and guests.

Owen Brown Tennis Club is available to CA members and sometimes non-members during off hours.

Atholton - Free play anytime the park is open.

Classified

Rent: Pickleball Tutor, \$20 per day - use the request form under "Equipment Mgt." menu.

Lessons: Marc F. Austin

What is a Super Dink? What is the Gauntlet? Want to advance your pickleball level and IQ? Enjoy highly educational and fun lessons from PPR Certified Professional Pickleball Instructor and HCPA member- and official USAPA Ambassador. Now accepting new students!
Instructing beginning, intermediate and advanced players
Will come to your local tennis or pickleball courts- I can set up on any tennis courts (no need to be lined for pickleball).
Providing private hands on 1.5 hour instruction sessions (up to 4d students) or three hour small group sessions(up to 8 students)

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Lessons: Sonny Tannan

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