



# USSP MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2023 / Vol. 002

## After a surge of popularity in the past few years, will pickleball survive the hype? All signs overwhelmingly point to YES!

The Association of Pickleball Professionals (APP) recently released its 2023 Pickleball Participation report, and the results were pretty incredible. According to the report, 14% of adults in the US played pickleball at least once between 2021 and 2022. In addition, the study concluded that more than **six million seniors**, aged 55+ played pickleball eight times or more in that same

period. With more than 10,000 places to play across the US, and amateur tournament registration at an all-time high, the Sports Business Journal has predicted that pickleball will continue to grow at a rate of 7.7% annually between now and the year 2028. With statistics like these, it seems clear that our favorite sport is not just a passing fad. Pickleball is assuredly here to stay.

## Dinking on the High Seas: Floating courts provide more opportunities for travelers to play.

As resorts across the country answer the call to provide pickleball as a recreation activity for vacationers, cruise ships have been quick to follow suit. According to an article posted by In The Loop Travel, from Europe to Asia to the Caribbean, more than 40 different ships on 10 different cruise lines around the world now have dedicated pickleball courts, and many more have multiple-purpose courts that can be used for pickleball. Some ships are even offering pickleball themed cruises with clinics, drills with pros, and group social events. Fast becoming a favorite activity for passengers, pickleball aboard cruises is lauded as a great way to introduce friends and family to the game, and simultaneously see the world. To read the full article, [click here](#).

## Tournament Spotlight: USSP National Indoor Championships

Join your USSP friends in fun-loving Oklahoma City for the USSP National Indoor Championship tournament!

Dates: June 2-4  
Registration begins March 8th!  
Click here to Register:  
[Sign Me Up!](#)



# Humana®



# 2022 USSP POINTS RACE WINNERS

## Women 50-54:

- 1) Marie Rowena Cabral
- 2) Stacie Scarborough
- 3) Juli Corden
- 4) Lisa Malone
- 5) Alexandra Quinn

## Women 55-59:

- 1) Connie Blanco
- 2) Tina McComb
- 3) Karen McAllister
- 4) Deana Holman
- 5) LeeAnn Fairlie

## Women 60-64:

- 1) Leslie Towry
- 2) Risa Hillard
- 3) Kandi Patrick
- 4) Julie Carver
- 5) Vicky Smith

## Women 65-69:

- 1) Jo Honeycutt
- 2) Karen Bussell
- 3) Martha McGrath
- 4) Cori McCray
- 5) Anna Simpkins

## Women 70-74:

- 1) Vicky Noakes
- 2) Jeanne Miller
- 3) Bobbie Vinson
- 4) Jan Cooley
- 5) Donna Irving

## Women 75-79:

- 1) Sharon Beavers
- 2) Betty Alcorn
- 3) Jerrie Howe
- 4) Anne MacEachron
- 5) Winnie Montgomery

## Women 80-84:

- 1) Susan Cole
- 2) Alice Tym
- 3) Valeria Spacher

## Men 50-54:

- 1) Buck King
- 2) Daniel McAllister II
- 3) Brent Mistler
- 4) Al Arco
- 5) Jefferson Denton

## Men 55-59:

- 1) Rudy Pashke
- 2) Michael McLemore
- 3) Jeff Kamnikar
- 4) JJ Doan
- 5) Robert Drapiza

## Men 60-64:

- 1) Keith Hillard
- 2) Steve Beggs
- 3) Jim Clark
- 4) John Erickson
- 5) Terry Neal

## Men 65-69:

- 1) Kevin Carver
- 2) Ron Young
- 3) William Nichols
- 4) John Brittan
- 5) Steve Welch

## Men 70-74:

- 1) Joseph Burk
- 2) Tim Kuss
- 3) Rob Irving
- 4) Bob Romagosa
- 3) Carmine Esposito

## Men 75-79:

- 1) Larry Wiggins
- 2) Chris Thomas
- 3) Ken Willingham
- 4) Carl Tietze
- 5) David Hart

## Men 80-84:

- 1) Richard Johnson
- 2) Robert Scharlach
- 3) Michael Pesile
- 4) Larry Miller
- 5) Kenneth Schroeder

## Men 85+ :

- 1) Gil Middleton
- 2) Thomas Alexander
- 3) Gerry Dumond
- 4) Robert Gaps

Congrats to all our winners!  
For Full results see  
[www.pickleballbrackets.com](http://www.pickleballbrackets.com)



## Tip of the Month: What's the best advice you've been given to improve your game?

**Recently**, an internet thread asked, "What's the very best advice you've been given to better your pickleball game?" Over one hundred competitive players responded, and here are the most popular answers they gave:

- Watch the ball all the way until it hits your paddle.
- Serve deep, to backhands: Aim for the opponents off-hand foot.
- Placement over power.
- Don't rush, you have more time than you think.
- Always expect the ball to come back- no matter how good your shot was.
- Keep your paddle in the ready position.
- Save your back! Bend at your knees, not your waist.
- Communicate with your partner- don't expect them to know what you're thinking!
- Remember why you love to play! It should be FUN!





# USSP MEMBERS HONORED AS 2022 INDUCTEES TO THE HUNTSMAN WORLD SENIOR GAMES HALL OF FAME



The 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees



Huntsman Hall of Fame Trophy



Dick Johnson, his wife Lawana, their daughter Sheri, her husband Terry, and two of their pickleball-loving great grandchildren.



This past autumn, four senior pickleball players: **Dick Johnson**, **Alice Tym**, and **Jim and Yvonne Hackenberg** were each inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Huntsman World Senior Games. Held in Utah each October, the Huntsman Games are the largest multi-sport event in the world for athletes over age 50. Last year over 11,000 athletes competed in their choice of 35 different sports. Of the eight athletes chosen as Hall of Fame inductees in 2022, these four pickleball players, two in their 70's and two in their 80's, were selected for not only their repeated outstanding athletic performances but for their exemplary dedication, teamwork, character, and ambassadorship.

*"...The examples of determination, teamwork, dedication, sacrifice, and excellence shown by this select group are the standards that set them apart and raise the Games to a higher level. The individuals honored with this induction are the kind of people that you want on your team when the going gets tough...Never stop over-achieving and exceeding expectations wherever you go."*

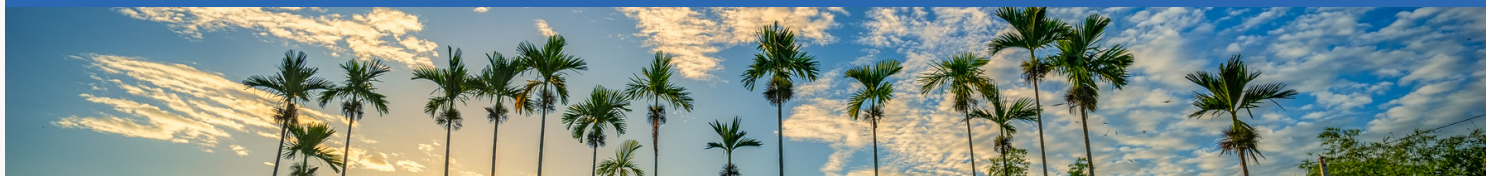
**- Huntsman CEO Kyle Case**

Inductees received a photo album and beautiful glass trophy and were celebrated at a dinner ceremony in St. George, Utah. Congratulations to these outstanding athletes!

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# ESCAPE THE WINTER BLUES, PLAN A WARM-WEATHER PICKLEBALL WEEKEND!



Join fellow USSP members this spring for some fun in the sun!



**Are** you one of the thousands of USSP members that live in an area with cold, snowy winters that seem to drag on into springtime? Were you dismayed in February when the groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter because it meant you'll have to wait longer to get back outside onto your favorite courts? Let USSP help you find some warm, sunny, pickleball-filled days in your future! Listed below are just a few of the USSP springtime circuit events where you can pack your sunscreen and leave your mittens behind! For a full list of tournaments, visit: [www.usseniorpickleball.com](http://www.usseniorpickleball.com)

## **Eastern Zone:**

- Georgia: Pinkest Pickleball Party on the Planet, Macon GA, 22-23 March
- Tennessee: GO ALL OUT Pickleball Championships, Johnson City, TN 21-23 April
- Florida: MetroHealth Super Seniors at Pictona, Holly Hill, FL 5-7 May

## **Central Zone:**

- Texas: Victoria Spring Classic, Victoria, TX, 16-19 March
- Texas: Cowtown Senior Open Series (2), Fort Worth, TX 4-5 April
- Texas: Quad State Senior Open, Denton, TX 21-23 April

## **Western Zone:**

- New Mexico: Aaron Gifford Memorial Tournament, Las Cruces, NM 1-2 April
- Arizona: Prescott Spring Fling, 13-14 April

[Click here to register or to find out more!](http://www.usseniorpickleball.com)





## 3 SIBLINGS, 3 STATES, ONE PASSION

**Spending** time with siblings can be excellent for our health. Visits with family can include bonding over shared memories and family traditions, and stress can be relieved just by being around each other. For many of us who live long distances from our siblings, those occasions can be few and far between; often happening at milestone birthday celebrations, during the winter holidays, or at planned visits to each other's homes. But for these three active senior siblings, there's a much better way to reconnect and make great memories; by playing together in Pickleball Tournaments!

**Chris Thomas**, and his sisters, **Sandra Bowman**, and **Patricia Weiskopf**, grew up in Maryland. Now all in their 70's, the siblings have settled in different areas on the east coast; Sandra in Marriottsville, MD, Patricia in Carolina Shores, NC, and Chris in The Villages in FL. Starting around 2015 all three began playing pickleball recreationally in their respective areas. In the past few years they have found that playing together in tournaments is a perfect excuse for get-togethers! Just last month, the trio met up in South Carolina, to celebrate their birthdays (all of which occur in February and March), and, of course, to play some great pickleball!

While the three siblings all play separately in various tournaments over the course of the year, they try to find at least a couple of opportunities to partner up annually. In this most recent tournament, Chris and Sandra paired together in mixed doubles (Patricia also played MXD with a different partner), and Sandra and Patricia paired up in women's doubles. "It's a nice way to spend time together," said Chris. When asked which sibling is the most competitive of the trio he just laughed and refused to answer, "We are just looking to have fun!"

With USSP adding circuit event tournaments to the 2023 schedule weekly, these siblings will surely have many great opportunities to reunite and compete together again soon!

## ITS NEVER TOO EARLY TO LOVE PICKLEBALL!

**Kathy Kerst**, a USSP Ambassador from the North Bay District in CA, told us that she has seven granddaughters, ranging from one month old to 18 years. Except for the littlest one, she has played pickleball with them all!

In addition, the preschool that Kathy works at has embraced the sport and has pickleballs for the kids to play with in all of the different classrooms- even the infants! Cheers to Kathy for encouraging a love of pickleball for all ages!

HAVE PICTURES OR STORIES OF PLAYING PICKLEBALL WITH MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILY OR FRIENDS? SEND THEM TO [USSP.NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:USSP.NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM) FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE!



KATHY KERST'S GRANDDAUGHTERS  
LOVE BEING ON THE COURT!



*New Website*

Be sure to check out the new US Senior Pickleball website! The website includes our full tournament schedule, photos, information on becoming a USSSP sponsor, and a new online store to purchase your favorite USSSP gear! Visit [www.usseniorpickleball.com](http://www.usseniorpickleball.com) today!



**Coming Soon!**  
Our summer newsletter will feature photos from the USSSP National Indoor Championships happening in June in Oklahoma City as well as other spring circuit event tournaments!



[www.usseniorpickleball.com](http://www.usseniorpickleball.com)



Thanks for reading our quarterly newsletter! Your feedback is very important to us. If you have a great pickleball story that you'd like to see featured in upcoming editions, email us at: [ussp.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ussp.newsletter@gmail.com)