

A Strange Name, A Popular Sport: Pickleball Anyone?

BY MATT SAVIELLO & CLAY REYNOLDS

Bringing up the subject for most –WHAT THE HECK IS PICKLEBALL? Where do I go find out about it?

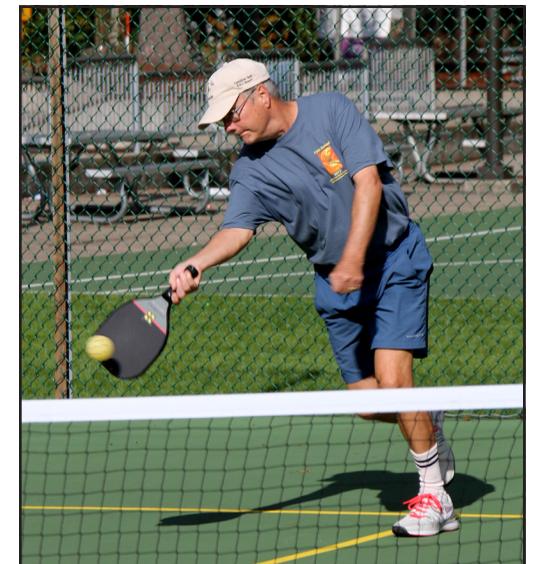
Pickleball, played with a hard paddle and perforated plastic ball, similar to badminton, ping-pong and tennis, began as a backyard family game in 1965 in Bainbridge Island, WA. Today, Pickleball is recognized as the fastest growing sport in the country for adults 50 & over. The fast paced game provides benefits for players such as hand-eye coordination, mental alertness and socializing.

The game is played on a smooth, hard surface, usually concrete or gymnasium floor. The Pickleball court resembles a tennis court, but the net is slightly lower. The game is often played with doubles and is about half the size as a normal tennis court. The ball is similar to a modified waffle ball and players use a paddle 8 inches wide and 15 inches long.

In singles or doubles play, players serve underhand and diagonally from one side of the baseline, then the other. The ball must bounce before the serve is returned, and unlike tennis, the return back must bounce. Then volleying, or hitting midair before a bounce, can begin.

If you talk with any of the 100+ members of the Tualatin Pickleball Club or anyone playing out at Tualatin Community Park you will hear similar stories as Becky Nicoli, 59, a retired Tigard-Tualatin School District employee. "I've never left not happy. Every time I've left here, I've felt better than when I came." It is a fun sport for all regardless of skill and a great way to meet people in the community.

Due to the growing popularity



2ND ANNUAL TUALATIN PICKLEBALL SHOOTOUT

A round robin/ladder formatted tournament.

Ages: 16 & Up

Where: Jurgens & Tualatin Community Parks

Beginners to 3.5 Skills Saturday 8/22

4.0 to Advance Skills Sunday 8/23

\$10 per player (pre-registration required)

Play begins @ 8:30am both days

Limited to 80 players each day

Register online @ www.tualatinoregon.gov



PICKLEBALL
ROCKS

For more
tournament
information call
503.691.3061.

of Pickleball in the community, the 2nd Annual Tualatin Pickleball Shootout for ages 16 & up will be held on Saturday (Beginners)/Sunday (Advanced) August 22nd & 23rd at Jurgens Park. This round robin/ladder tournament format allows players to play extensively and share laughs with other players of all ability levels. Pre-registration fee is \$10 and can be done online at www.tualatinoregon.gov.

You can find drop-in Pickleballers or "picklers" at Tualatin Community Park Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is free equipment on sight and always someone willing to teach new players. The Juanita Pohl Center has equipment that can be checked out during the weekdays. For more information on Pickleball in Tualatin contact the center at 503.691.3061.