

What the heck is Pickleball?!

Ever wonder about that game with the silly name? Below is information from the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) about the popularity of this game and how it came to be. Meanwhile, do you want to learn how to play? Or just watch us have fun? Come visit us during Open Play game times in the Clubhouse Auditorium, 2pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, 3pm on Fridays. All times are subject to Auditorium availability. Introduce yourself and tell us you'd like to hear about the game and we will explain the game and, if you tell us you want to learn to play, we'll teach you right then, if we can, or will arrange a time for private lessons. We love teaching new players! Remember, WE PLAY FOR FUN AND EXERCISE! Paddles and balls are available for your use.

Visit our page on this website to view videos to see what the game is all about or to see our current schedule. Click this link <http://oceanaseniors.org/pickle-ball-2/> . You can even watch a YouTube video on how to play pickleball or watch videos of your neighbors having fun trying to play this game! There also is a link to the USA Pickleball's basic summary of the rules.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States. Some of our grandchildren even play this game in phys ed class in High School.

The following is from USAPA:

Continued Growth

Currently, the sport of pickleball is exploding in popularity. The number of places to play has more than doubled since 2010. There are now nearly 4,000 locations on the USAPA's Places to Play map. The spread of the sport is attributed to its popularity within community centers, PE classes, YMCA facilities and retirement communities. The sport continues to grow worldwide as well with many new international clubs forming and national governing bodies now established in Canada and India.

History of the Game

1965 – After playing golf one Saturday during the summer, Joel Pritchard, congressman from Washington State and Bill Bell, successful businessman, returned to Pritchard's home on Bainbridge Island, WA (near Seattle) to find their families sitting around with nothing to do. The property had an old badminton court so Pritchard and Bell looked for some badminton equipment and could not find a full set of rackets. They improvised and started playing with ping-pong paddles and a perforated plastic ball. At first they placed the net at badminton height of 60 inches and volleyed the ball over the net. As the weekend progressed, the players found that the ball bounced well on the asphalt surface and soon the net was lowered to 36 inches. The following weekend, Barney McCallum was introduced to the game at Pritchard's home. Soon, the three men created rules, relying heavily on badminton. They kept in mind the original purpose, which was to provide a game that the whole family could play together.