

2017

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Mountains & Meadows Pickleball Club

ROBERT SWEETGALL HONORED

Dedication Ceremony

At a ceremony on Monday, August 28th **Mountains & Meadows Pickleball Club** and **The Club at Aspen Village** named the courts at the Aspen Club in honor of Robert. Additionally, a bench with a plaque has been placed inside the courts in Robert's honor.



Laurie's Testimonial explained how Robert first became interested in Pickleball, his tireless efforts to procure court space in Valley & Adams Counties and the formation of Mountains & Meadows Pickleball Club. (Read Laurie's Testimonial on Page 3.)

In addition to the Dedication Ceremony there was and a

"Round-Rob" Tournament - raffle prizes as well as BBQ Burgers & Hot Dogs. Participants provided potluck salads & snacks.

In memory of Robert's lifetime message of health and fitness a scholarship in his name will be set up and awarded to a local school student considering a career in physical education. Full details will be provided once all the formalities have been arranged. Donations will go towards the bench, sign and scholarship. Congratulations to winners of the "Round Rob" - Jim Gorczyca, Matt Linde, Max Muffley, Perry Harding and Patti Moran.

A gallery of photographs taken at the event are displayed on Page 3. On Page 5 is a copy of Paul's letter to Aspen Village BoD requesting the naming of the courts in Robert's honor.

A big Thank You to all those who participated and for your generous donations. A special thank you to our President - Paul Christensen and Secretary/Treasurer - Laurie Janssen who organized the event.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

Weekly Events

Sundays



9.00/11.30am

45th Parallel Courts at MeadowCreek

Mondays

6.00/8.30pm

The Club at Aspen Village

Tuesdays

6.00/8.30pm

The Club at Aspen Village

Wednesdays

9.00am/12.00noon

The Club at Aspen Village

5.00/7.30pm

45th Parallel Courts at MeadowCreek

Thursdays

6.00/8.30pm

Lutheran Church

Questions

Laurie Janssen - Secretary/Treasurer

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SUCCESSFUL EVENT AT 45TH PARALLEL COURTS

45TH PARALLEL PICKLEBALL COURTS

Thanks to M&M we enjoyed a successful fund-raising event for the 45th Parallel Courts on August 12. M&M contributed the burgers & hot dogs as well as some raffle/door prizes - tee-shirts etc. The Club at Aspen Village provided a 2018 Season Pass as well as a number of Day Passes. The MeadowCreek Resort provided three rounds of golf, and numerous day passes to the swimming pool and/or pickleball courts. Amongst Robert's memorabilia were Salmon River Pickleball Club tee-shirts and many books, videos that he had written. These items were all distributed as raffle/door prizes. Other donations for the raffle included specially-commissioned Ward Hooper posters depicting Gov. Cecil Andrus 2016 visit to MeadowCreek Golf Resort. Almost every visitor to the 45th Pickleball courts for the event was rewarded with some prize or other.

Paul Christensen organized a Round-Robin competition - the winner being Scott Christie with Laurie Janssen close behind; highest scorer in the event was Suzi Christie and Judy Titus in second place.

Court No. 5 was named as the Rob Sweetgall Memorial Court; Paul made a short speech in memory of Robert. A big Thank You to those that attended and to those who contributed to the Raffle/Door prizes. A reminder that Pickleball Group Play is scheduled for:

Sunday mornings 9.00/11.30am and Wednesday evenings 5.00/7.30pm.
(Note earlier start time on Wednesday evening due to shorter daylight time.)



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SEPTEMBER 2017

Board & Coordinators

Board of Directors and Venue Coordinators

Officers

President

Paul Christensen

Secretary/Treasurer

Laurie Janssen

Communications/Webmaster

Kay Clark

Expert Consultant

Jack Bonawitz

Venue Coordinators

The Club at Aspen Village

Debbie Isley & Paul Christensen

45th Parallel Courts

Tootie Neeves & Max Muffley

Lutheran Church

Laurie Janssen

45TH PARALLEL PICKLEBALL COURTS



Laurie's Testimonial presented at the Dedication Ceremony

It seems like a very short time ago that we were here celebrating the Grand Opening of these courts! I remember Robert giving a speech and getting emotional. These courts meant so much to him.

Thank you all for coming, I know how everyone loves announcement time during pickleball, so I will try and keep this short. Thank you to Debbie and the The Club at Aspen Village and Aspen Village homeowners association for being so supportive of pickleball. Thank you Paul C for all your efforts and hard work to make this happen.

The last time Paul and I saw Robert, he told us about the first time he learned to play pickleball. He was giving a seminar somewhere and somehow met a player named "Horns" who introduced Robert to the game. Darcy relays that Robert came home and told her he had discovered the next big thing. Robert was hooked. Robert joined forces with Tootie and Bob Neeves and together they learned more about the game and began to find places to play. Meadows valley school allowed play inside their gym during that first winter. Meadow Creek Golf course donated an old tennis court and that first summer they played there on the old mossy crumbly surface.

Robert tried working with the city of McCall to get Pickleball lines painted on the public tennis courts. He and Jack B attended several city council meetings, met with the Parks and Rec Director and eventually got permission to paint one court with pickleball lines. This court has since been resurfaced and painted over. After resistance to the idea of sharing tennis courts, Robert decided to look elsewhere. He scoured McCall, Donnelly and New Meadows areas for potential places to play. He scouted out parking lots, warehouses, airport hangers, schools, private tennis courts and talked to countless people to try and promote the game.

In the spring of 2014, Robert was instrumental in creating 11 outdoor pickleball courts: 4 at Meadow Creek, 3 at Lutheran Church, 4 here at The Club at Aspen Village. Plus he built his own court in Lucille. Many of us were right there beside him on our hands and knees, cleaning, taping, painting, working together to get this done. Volunteers included Tootie and Bob Neeves, Scott Clinger, Jack Bonawitz, Jeff Weissman, Art and Cynthia Peavey, Bob Stevens, Diane Dobson, Paul C., Bob Bryan, Rob Bryant myself and Paul, and many other volunteers. Robert donated much of his time and money to get it all done. Now these courts

may not be pristine pickleball surface of a brand new court or tennis court, but Roberts's creativity, tireless efforts and tenacity resulted in providing courts to play on in a short amount of time, at a relatively low cost, and soon we playing at 3 different venues 4-5 times a week. After the paint dried, Robert got the coordinators together to create a schedule and suddenly we were forming pickleball club. – Our name - Mountains and Meadows PB - came after a contest and vote to choose the best one – Roberts's idea of course.

Robert's thinking out of the box got us playing inside during the winter months as well. Meadows valley school continued to allow us to play every winter. We held a clinic/tournament/potluck there – the Snowball Smash a dink and dine blast. Thanks to Connie Heinzmann's idea and Robert organizing, play began inside at Donnelly Bible Church; a half gym where we play among stacks of chairs and crumbs on the floor left over from fellowship. Who else but Robert would come up with Core-Robics at the Club, where we practiced drills to music all winter long inside in the small basketball court or racquetball court here at The Club. Or what about play one winter at Yellow Couch, a youth center, where we played a wacky short game among computer terminals, pool tables and a stage. Robert always seemed to have some crazy fun idea up his sleeve. One fall we met early here before play and walked on the golf course using his walking poles. He called these Pre-Pickleball fitness walks and would say we were the only players in the nation that would do this. I tried to make all of these, after all, how many people can say they have walked with a man that has walked across America.

Robert taught many of us how to play and coached us as well, whether we wanted it or not. He was very patient with new players and spent many, many hours with us helping us improve our game. His patience would only last so long until his competitive nature would eventually kick in if the score got to low and watch out, he would bring out the poach or an awesome lob. And many of have felt the sting of his cobra.

Throughout his lifetime of amazing adventures, Robert touched and enriched countless lives with his message of a healthy lifestyle through his seminars and books. I feel so honored he spent time with us pickleball players during these past few years. Robert not only introduced us all to a fun way to keep fit, but he also introduced us all to each other, I doubt if many of us would have met or even be standing here today without him.

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Gallery of pics. August 28 Dedication Ceremony



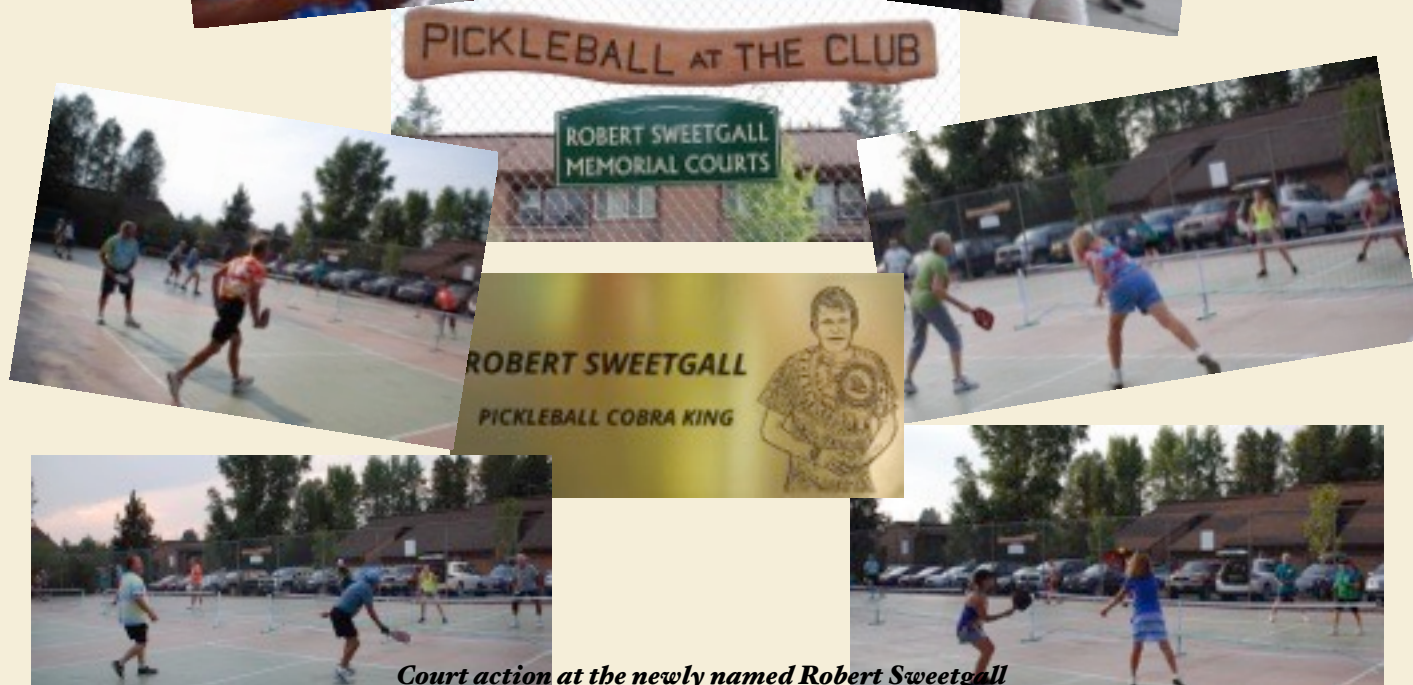
Right: Laurie presents Testimonial to Robert, with Darcy Williamson, Robert's widow (pic. on right).



Above: Members of the M&M Pickleball Club at the Dedication Ceremony.



Left: Paul and Laurie announce teams for the "Rob Robin" Tournament.



Court action at the newly named Robert Sweetgall Memorial Courts at The Club at Aspen Village.

M&M Pickleball Club President's letter to Aspen Village BoD

The Club at Aspen Village

Aspen Village Homeowners Association

The Mountain and Meadows Pickleball Club requests The Club at Aspen Village and the Aspen Village Homeowners Association, consider naming their Pickleball Facility in honor of Robert Sweetgall. Robert was instrumental in working with Aspen Village with the construction of 4 courts for Adams and Valley County residents to play Pickleball.

Robert was the driving force in promoting the sport of Pickleball in this area. He was our teacher and friend and

his lifelong work in teaching physical fitness and healthy lifestyle activities went far beyond Valley and Adams Counties. Robert presented keynotes and workshops to over one million people worldwide, helping thousands of corporations, communities, schools, hospital and health organizations implement safe, sensible walking and physical activity programs.

We would like to honor his legacy by naming the Pickleball Courts at Aspen Village the "Robert Sweetgall Pickleball Courts" and place a bench at the courts with a dedication plaque to Robert.



Regional Pickleball Group Play Schedule

- The time blocks listed below are reserved for GROUP PICKLEBALL PLAY.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI. – SAT.	SUNDAY
The Club @ Aspen Village, McCall 6:00 pm to 8:30pm Contact: The Club 634-5838 Season Pass: \$45 per person/ \$80.00 per couple for unlimited play June thru October. Or \$5 day pass. 4 courts available.	The Club @ Aspen Village, McCall 6:00 pm to 8:30pm Contact: The Club 634-5838 4 courts available	The Club @ Aspen Village, McCall 9am to 12 Contact: The Club 634-5838 Meadow Creek Golf Resort New Meadows 6:00-8:30pm Season Pass: \$25.00 per person/ \$40.00 per couple. Or \$5.00 day pass. 4 courts available	Lutheran Church Dienhard/Mission, McCall 6:00 pm to 8:30pm Contact: Laurie Janssen 315-5195 Fees: None 3 courts available	No organized group play	Meadow Creek Golf Resort New Meadows 9:00-11:30 Season Pass: \$25.00 per person, \$40.00 per couple. \$5.00 day pass. 4 courts available



Please refer to the following link for more pickleball information – www.mmpickleball.club

Note: In addition to the above venues, there is one public dual use court in the City of Donnelly at the tennis courts located off highway 55 and Pickleball courts are available in Cascade. Contact Kris Meyer 382-5018 for more information about Pickleball in Cascade.

Note earlier start time on Wednesday evening at MeadowCreek 45th Parallel Courts - 5.00pm