



PAK President's Report June 2022

NEWS

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WHY WE NEED DEDICATED PICKLEBALL COURTS

In the early days of PAK's formation, a considerable amount of time was spent in determining our purpose for as an organization. One suggestion was we should exist to "Promote the sport of pickleball on Kauai." After discussion, we decided

that purpose was too general, and we would never know if our mission was accomplished, as one can promote something forever, regardless of success. We decided to state our purpose as follows: ***“Pickleball Association Kauai will develop, operate and maintain quality dedicated pickleball venues with the spirit of Aloha.”*** This mission is precise and states exactly why we exist. The sport of pickleball is growing just fine without us promoting it. The newest meme adopted for our sport is “40 million by 2030”, meaning we are on track to having 40 million pickleball players in the USA within 8 years. What is not keeping up are suitable places to play. At this writing, there are zero public dedicated pickleball courts on Kauai. Construction has started on renovating the Koloa tennis courts and installing 4 dedicated pickleball courts in the space of one tennis court. We are thankful for this project and the new courts. It will be wonderful to have a crack-free surface, dedicated lines and permanent nets but the need for the estimated 450 resident pickleball players and hundreds of visitors is much more. PAK continues to negotiate for sites that can accommodate a tournament-class 8 court pickleball facility ready to play on by December of 2023. We continue to believe that “If we build it, they will come.” (From the movie *Field of Dreams*).

I would be remiss if I do not congratulate Rumi Masumura, tournament director for our first 2022 PAK Open Tournament held over the Memorial Day weekend. It was the largest pickleball tournament ever held on Kauai, and we had almost a hundred participants crammed in to matches on the four courts at Kalawai Park. We tried to set up three additional courts on the adjacent basketball court, but the surface was eroded, and largely unsuitable for pickleball play. There were hundreds of matches played over the three days, and except for a long rain delay on Sunday, all went smoothly. Our board of directors all stepped up to the numerous tasks at the tournament and we were able to further our bond with each other for the challenges of building courts coming up. Please see Rumi’s tournament wrap-up elsewhere on our site. As we go to press, some Kauai players will play in the Pacific Rim Tournament in Honolulu, where 450 players will play with 30 temporary nets placed on tennis courts. From our experience at the PAK Open, I can only imagine the nightmare of set-up and take down for them. More evidence of the need for adequate pickleball venues, folks.

In other news, the Emmalani Courts in Princeville, whose surface was refinished by a crew of volunteers led by Bob Day, has had a huge growth in players old and

new. Because it is right in a residential area, some non-picklers have complained about the sound of the ball hitting paddles and the number of players in the area. Our own Sande Lew and Karen Shrimpton are working to mitigate the complaints, but it just goes to show (again) that suitable venues are needed for our sport. Please see Karen's interview with Bob Day, age 80 as one of the top players at any age on Kauai in our Kauai Player Profile this month.

Until next month Aloha and Mahalo,

Nolan