

From The Picklehood.....June, 2022

First Pickleball Association Kauai Tournament...Memorial Day Weekend, 2022

It's in the books. The first annual PAK tournament was, in this observer's opinion, the best tournament Kaua'i has conducted since pickleball began on our island in April of 2015. We have had several and we have had larger, but when it comes to presentation, organization, adjustments, facilities, food, swag and raffle prizes, this was the Big Kahuna.

Mother Nature got involved. Rain. Lots. Matches were backed up. Delays were commonplace. One such delay lasted four hours. Tournament staff and players adjusted. Squeegee handlers got their steps in. I remember doing so three times in the course of an hour. Changing out of wet clothes twice in that same hour. And the in between?....so much fun listening to oldies but goodies on the P.A., playing "I can name that tune in three seconds," Watching rain dancing (to "Rubber Band Man"), eating Doreen Masumura's ono food plates/ desserts and observers performing to the Village People's "YMCA."

I won't mention names because I know important people will be forgotten. Suffice to say that congratulations and glass raising was the order of the day on Sunday. Well done Pickleball Association Kaua'i Board of Directors (you can look up the Magnificent Seven), set-up and clean-up crews, raffle prize organizers and contributors, vendors, the incomparable food booth crew, swag people (tournament tees and first class tournament medals), and, finally, all the supporters who showed up to watch family and friends play. Camaraderie was never better. The Kalawai Park pickleball venue is Kauai's best, so a big mahalo to the County of Kauai as well.

As for me, I mostly watched. Smiled a lot. Made photographs. Volunteered a bit. And said numerous times (to myself), "thankful we live Kaua'i."

Jack Hodges
District Ambassador - State of Hawaii