

# In the Kitchen

## Westfield Pickleball Inc.



Volume 2 - June 10, 2022

### First Pop-Up Tournament of the Season

We were very excited to kick off the first pop-up tournament of the season. Twenty-four players braved the cold and wind on a late Sunday afternoon. We played a double elimination bracket and a random draw for teams and seeding. Scott Labombard and Travis Nichols took third place . "Scott and I tried to play bread



and butter pickleball, a recipe of safe play and consistency, said Travis. Scott followed his partners response with "Amen brother! I was happy to make a new friend". Zee Tuffaha and Melissa Moriarty took second place. Both Melissa and Zee agreed that they were "lucky to have been paired up with each other". The highlight for their team was making a comeback from the losers bracket to play in the championship game. Danah Abu and Dave Bodendorf stayed undefeated the whole time and

won the tournament. Danah was coming off of an injury from her foot three weeks prior to playing. This was her first time playing since then. Being both excited and anxious to come back she did not not show it. She shared that she had a "great partner and finished with a very competitive game". I know that everyone can attest to that as we all watched on. "People are welcoming, a joy to be around, win or lose", shared Danah. Unfortunately, I could never chase Dave down for a quote but I heard he was off to Disney World with his winnings. We look forward to holding other event with different formats in the future.



### Open Play Hours

#### OPEN PLAY RESERVED HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday**

8:30 am - to 11:00 am

**Tuesday and Thursday**

4:30 pm - to Closing

During these hours all courts are reserved by permit for **Westfield Pickleball for All**. All players, at all levels of play, must mix-in and share courts using the paddle - system.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

Park & Rec is offering various programs relating to pickleball. Must sign-up through Park & Rec.

#### April 17th - June 26th (Sundays)

11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Beginners - Max of 12  
(Critiqued open play)

#### May 21-June 25

9:30am - 11:30am  
Adults - Max of 8

#### Pickleball Summer Camp

7/11 - 7/15  
7/18 - 7/22  
10:00am to 12:00pm

Need some new pickleball gear or accessories? Check out Pickleball Central and use this discount code!!!

**CRwestfield**

## ***Player Spotlight*** ***Meet Jim Lutat***

Meet our Player Spotlight, Mr. Jim Lutat. He is a stand up guy who brightens up a room when he walks in (or down at the pickleball courts for that matter) When I met Mr. Jim for the first time he was extremely welcoming, patient, and willing to teach the sport of pickleball. Mr. Jim continues to be that person every time he steps onto the court. With a little help from a friend, Shannon Small was able to interview Mr. Jim to get to know him both on and off the court.



### **Tell us how you discovered pickleball?**

I was playing senior Softball with the Relics of Wilbraham, a bunch of the guys said “hey we’re going to go try this new sport called Pickleball”, so I went and the rest was history.

### **What do you think is your greatest weapon in pickleball?**

The ability to finesse the ball and a pretty decent serve.

### **What are your other hobbies?**

Woodworking

### **Did you play other sports?**

Sure...Basketball, Football, Baseball, Softball, so pretty much any sport that ends with “ball” but also hunting, fishing, and candle pin bowling.

### **What jobs/ careers did you have in the past?**

Spent most of my life in Education as a Principle at Gateway Regional and finished that career in Longmeadow at Glenbrook Middle School. I also worked in constructions and had a wooden toy business. I was the town constable in Montgomery. While on duty one night sitting waiting for speeders to come thru there was only one car that passed, and it passed so fast we couldn’t even catch it. Exciting times in Montgomery, MA

### **What is your greatest accomplishment in life?**

Raising 6 fabulous children that turned out to be pretty good adults.

### **What is your most prized possession?**

My Pickleball Paddle, of course. Also my beautiful home and woodworking and carving tools.

### **What is your favorite song?**

Leader of the Band

### **What is on your bucket list?**

To take one of those long riverboat cruises in Europe and see the Castles.

### **Where is the most interesting place you have traveled?**

Alaska, out in the bush on a fishing trip. I will admit however the Brown Bears made me a bit nervous.

### **What is your favorite food?**

A perfectly cooked medium rare Steak

## League Update

The spring league has been successful and great competition. Playoffs are right around the corner. The top four teams in each division will qualify. Games are to start at 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Below are the following dates for each division.

<b>Men's A</b>	<b>Women's</b>
June 29th	June 27th
<b>Men's B</b>	<b>Mixed A</b>
June 15th	June 17th
	<b>Mixed B</b>
	June 17th

## Pickleball Tip

### *Move Your Feet and Bend Your Knees*

There are many strategies and tips we can learn in pickleball so here is one for this month's newsletter. As I play and talk strategies with others this is one tip you may want to think about that is simple but we can all be guilty of. If you can practice on this one technique it just might help you with receiving your opponent's low shots and help you hit low shot as well. **Move your feet and bend your knees!** Sometimes we find ourselves standing up more and more as the rally goes on and then we reach for that side shot. Although it's easy to preach and focus on this technique it can be an easy fix or at least one small aspect that can improve your game. Your feet are so important in your shot execution. As a result, it is important to move your feet and position yourself so that you can hit the pickleball out in front of you. By bending your knees you are engaging the most powerful muscles on your body which are your leg muscles. So, work on stay low and not getting caught up in watching your partner rally so that you can be ready for a shot at you. Make a more conscious effort to move your feet and bend those legs.

**MORE PICKLEBALL TIPS TO COME IN THE FUTURE!**

## Time to Renew Your Pickleball Memberships

Pickleball memberships are due to renew July 1st, 2022. What are the benefits of Westfield Pickleball memberships?

### **Benefits of Memberships in Westfield Pickleball**

- \* Allows pooling of resources/funds for specific goals. To date, we have purchased: windscreens, portable shade tents, portable nets and pickle balls supplied for open play
- \* Allows members to participate in sponsored activities, i.e., league and tournament
- \* Insurance liability coverage, both for Westfield Pickleball, Inc., and individually, through USA Pickleball
- \* Members have the right to vote for board members of Westfield Pickleball
- \* Members are part of the community of pickleball players

## Memorial Day Round Robin

A pop-up round robin tournament took place on Memorial Day with both good company and competitive play. There were a lot of laughs and we dressed up in our red, white, and blue. The winner for the day was Ish Santiago, Chris Dorr came in 2nd, and Jen Polverari came in third. Keep a look out for more pop-up tournaments in the future!



Pop-up tournaments are NOT WPI events but all are ALWAYS welcome