



SSIPA in 2020

It is only fitting to reflect on one of the founding pillars of SSIPA as he decided to retire from the board last month. Fred Thompson has been the treasurer of SSIPA for the past 3 years. Fred made sure the filing for the non-profit status for SSIPA was successful and provided excellent services in all things financial for our association. He and wife Char are now splitting their time between Arizona and Texas. Before pickleball, Fred was an ultra-marathoner and competed in races that included 100 milers. Having a successful knee replacement has allowed him to return to his first love while continuing to play some excellent pickleball. Our association will miss his services and level-headed way of going about the business of running an organization like SSIPA. The board and executive director would like to thank Fred and wish him the best in all his future endeavors. When you see him out and about or on the courts, please thank him for all he has done during his three years of dedicated service. Thanks Fred for superior service.

Board Membership and Officers 2020

The board welcomes Dave Allenbaugh, SSIPA's Webmaster, as a new board member for 2020. Dave is replacing Fred Thompson as a result of Fred's retirement from the board in 2019. As the person that developed the SSIPA website, Dave has been with SSIPA since the beginning. His knowledge and service to SSIPA qualify him in every way to provide leadership to move our association forward into the next decade. If you have not met Dave, look for him at more tournaments this year as a competitor. Please help us welcome Dave to the SSIPA board and thank him for all his past

service. The board looks forward to working with him in this new capacity.

Three of our board officers will be continuing for their second year of service in the same position. Tim Kuss, President, Vicky Noakes, Vice-President, and Chris Thomas, Secretary will all continue in 2020. Mark Kellam has been elected to serve as treasurer for the coming year. In 2019, Mark served SSIPA as the Director of Finance. He has a professional background in finance and brings a wealth of knowledge to his new office. Also, continuing on the board in at-large positions are Debbie Forrester and Jeff Stone. Please thank these board members when possible for both their past service and for their commitment for the year 2020.



Tim Kuss
President



Vicky Noakes
Vice President



Christopher Thomas
Secretary



Mark Kellam
Treasurer



Debbie Forrester
International Liaison



Dave Allenbaugh
Webmaster



Jeff Stone
Tournament Operations

2020 - Entering A New Decade

Tournament Schedule - The published tournament schedule has developed well for 2020. Now with 35 tournaments listed, of which, 3 are international, 31 are sanctioned and one non-sanctioned, there is a good variety from which to choose. The schedule will continue to grow as additional tournaments are listed. **If you know of any tournaments that are considering SSIPA for 2020, please have them contact fordmrober-son@gmail.com or call 325-280-0044 immediately.**

The SSIPA Championship Series had about 1000 entries this year, averaging close to 350 per tournament. East, West and World Championships have become SSIPA's most popular tournaments. SSIPA is hoping to expand this series in 2020 with additional offerings in the North and South making a total of 4 or 5 events.

SSIPA continues to work with pickleballtournaments.com to implement membership verification for all tournaments. This feature will help streamline the registration process for tournament directors and ensure that players are properly registered for SSIPA circuit events.

SSIPA has added the rest of the regional tournaments to the points event tournament schedule and continues to work with the USAPA as a proud ally. For questions regarding tournaments, please contact SSIPA.PB@gmail.com.

New SSIPA Search Feature in PT

There is a new search feature that has been added to pickleballtournaments.com to assist our members in finding SSIPA Circuit Events. At this time, the feature is limited in which tournaments it displays. Only tournaments with a registration date after 1/6/2020 will be added to the search results. As tournaments are listed and prior to registration opening, these tournaments will become searchable using this feature. At this time, in order to monitor all SSIPA Circuit Events, please go to our website, SSIPA-PB.com for a complete listing of tournaments.

In order to use the new search feature in PT, simply follow the steps listed below:

- 1) Go to or sign in as a player on the PT website - pickleballtournament.com
- 2) Click on Tournaments/Future Tournaments
- 3) Scroll down on the right to “Search For A Tournament”
- 4) Click “Expand Search Options”
- 5) Scroll down and click in the box labeled “Show SSIPA Eligible Only”

Please be reminded that at this time, there is a very limited number of tournaments that are listed, only those that have a registration date after 1/6/10 and have been turned on by the Tournament Director. The list of tournaments will grow over time and this feature will become a valuable tool for the SSIPA membership in the future.

As Point Events, USAPA regional tournaments will not be found using this search tool, but only be published on the SSIPA website.

SSIPA wants to thank the Staff at PT for making all this possible for the benefit of our membership.

Super Senior International Pickleball Association Stars

November Star - Nancy Steffy - Colorado Springs, CO

I graduated High School from Montezuma, Iowa and received my BA from the University of Northern Colorado in 1978. I played basketball for both schools. In 2018, I was inducted into the UNC Athletic Hall of Fame for women's basketball.

I began my pickleball life in 2010, after a 31 year elementary and middle school physical education teaching career in Florence, Colorado. I did teach pickleball to my middle school students, as it



was an activity in our PE curriculum. However, teaching juggling was my true passion.

During my teaching career I coached volleyball, basketball, golf and softball. My career was interrupted in 1990 when I was diagnosed with acute myelocytic leukemia. Following a bone marrow transplant in Seattle, Washington, I returned to Florence to finish my career. This December 13th, I will celebrate 28 years post-transplant.

At retirement, I thought I would be playing golf and badminton and maybe finding a place to continue teaching juggling. Along came pickleball and all of that became history. I started playing in Green Valley, Arizona while visiting my parents. Returning to Colorado Springs, I was walking my dogs at Monument Valley Park and came across people playing pickleball at the 5 dual stripped tennis courts. I was invited to play. We were a small group that knew we would be growing and that we would be needing dedicated pickleball courts. We decided to form a club in order to approach CS Parks and Recreation. Many dedicated players, including Steve and Ramona Boone, had already done a lot of work to get us started but no one wanted to take the roll as President of our new club. Not knowing what I was doing, I volunteered to be the founding President of our new club. We now have nearly 1200 players and 19 dedicated courts in Colorado Springs. After serving two, two year terms, I



now teach beginner lessons and guided play for our association. I am also proud member of Green Valley, Arizona Pickleball Club and happy to be a part of their accomplishment of getting a new 24 court pickleball complex.

I have recently taken on the position of Educational Ambassador for Great Plains Region and I am looking forward to the possibilities of this position.

My partner of 32 years, Amy, and I enjoy our little dog Kalli Jean, camping, kayaking, and spending our retirement years together. I am truly

blessed to have found pickleball and all the great friends that have come with it.



December Star - Kenny Long (The Pickleball Pastor) - Sun City, AZ

I live and play pickleball in Sun City, Arizona, but my pickleball journey started in Grand Junction, Colorado. After playing racquetball for 20 years I had to give it up after back surgery. While I was recovering, I was invited to play pickleball. After my first trip to the courts in Grand Junction, I was hooked on the game.

I don't have a long resume of wins at big tournaments, but I love to compete. I have picked up 15 medals in local tournaments in Colorado and Arizona at the 3.5 and 4.0 levels because I have been pretty good at picking partners. I am also a founding member of SSIPA. Pickleball has opened up a whole new world for me. It has even brought opportunities for

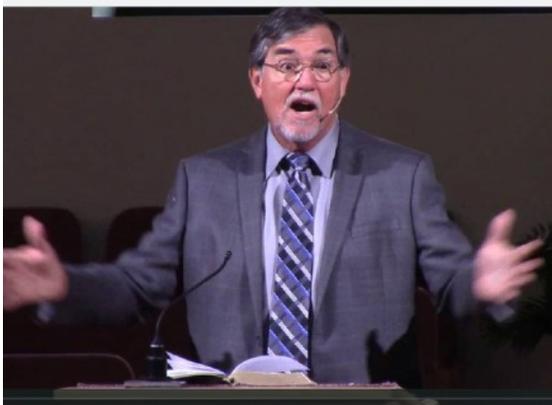


ministry into my life. I have performed 2 weddings for friends that I have made playing pickleball.

I was born and raised in Tennessee and you will often see me on the courts wearing Tennessee Orange and ready to talk about the Tennessee Volunteers. I also love to talk about hunting deer, elk and bear. I served as a guide in Colorado for 13 years, but now at age 67 I would rather talk about climbing the mountains than actually having to climb them again.

As much as I love pickleball and hunting, my first love is preaching the gospel and serving as a pastor of a local church. I serve as the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Sun City, Arizona and pickleball has allowed me to meet a lot of folks and make many new friends and to do ministry as well. I will often invite folks to come hear me preach so they can say, "I beat that preacher in pickleball". Being a pastor has allowed me to make friends all around the world. I have been on mission trips to Mexico, Thailand and Nepal. I have been to Zimbabwe twice and 3 times to China.

If you ever need a "Pickleball Pastor" you can find one at First Baptist Church in Sun City or on the courts at the Marinette Center in Sun City AZ. I won't be able to help you get over your pickleball addiction, but I will be able to sympathize with you.



2020 Tournament Schedule

Super Senior International Pickleball Association - 2019 Tournament Schedule						
#	S	Date	Tournament	Location	Reg. Open Date	USAPA/Intl
1	(P)	1/8-12/20	USAPA Southwest Regional	Surprise, AZ	Open	Sanctioned
2	(E)	1/11-12/20	Key West Gamma Pickleball Classic	Key West, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
3	(S)	1/28-30/20	Sun City Marinette SSIPA	Sun City, AZ	Open	Sanctioned
4	(E)	1/31-2/2/20	Gamma Sundial Championships	Sanibel, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
5	(S)	2/6-10/20	Sombrero Showdown and Amigos Cup	San Carlos, Mex	Open	International
6	(S)	2/11-13/20	Space City Part Deux	Houston, TX	Open	Sanctioned
7	(E)	2/20-23/20	South Florida Gamma Championships	Davie, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
8	(E)	3/7-8/20	ARNOLD Sports Festival PB Championship	Columbus, OH	1/1/20	Sanctioned
9	(E)	3/7-8/20	The Grapevine Indoor Tournament	Grapevine, TX	12/1/19	Sanctioned
10	(P)	3/13-15/20	USAPA Mid-South Regional	College Station, TX	TBD	Sanctioned
11	(E)	3/14-17/20	Vero Beach Gamma Pickleball Championships	Vero Beach, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
12	(E)	3/20-24/20	PicklePlex Gamma Grand Slam	Punta-Gorda, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
13	(E)	4/4-5/20	Aaron Gifford Pickleball Benefit Tournament	Las Cruces, NM	TBD	Sanctioned
14	(S)	4/7-9/20	Horseshoe Bay Resort Sr. Spring Championship	Horseshoe Bay, TX	Open	Sanctioned
15	(S)	4/14-16/20	Willow Grove Pickleball	Cordova, TN	TBD	Sanctioned
16	(S)	4/21-22/20	Cowtown Senior Spring Classic	Fort Worth, TX	TBD	Sanctioned
17	(S)	5/01-03/20	Quad States Senior Open	Denton, TX	1/17/20	Sanctioned
18	(E)	5/01-03/20	Doc Holliday Classic	Griffin, GA	TBD	Non Sanctioned
19	(P)	5/22/2027	USAPA Mountain Regional	Brigham City, UT	TBD	Sanctioned
20	(E)	6/12-14/20	Paddle at the Plex - Summer	Opelika/Auburn, AL	TBD	MMO-Sanctioned
21	(E)	6/12-14/20	Gamma Pickleball Classic	Pittsburgh, PA	Open	Sanctioned
22	(E)	6/12-14/20	Colorado Pickleball Open	Arvada, CO	TBD	Sanctioned
23	(S)	6/17-18/20	Cowtown Senior Summer Classic	Fort Worth, TX	TBD	Sanctioned
24	(P)	6/18-21/20	USAPA Great Lakes Regional	Ft. Wayne, IN	2/12/20	Sanctioned
25	(P)	6/25-28/20	USAPA Atlantic Regional	Portland, ME	2/1/20	Sanctioned
26	(E)	7/1-5/20	Bainbridge Cup & English Open	Nottingham, England	TBD	International
27	(P)	8/7-10/20	USAPA Great Plains Regional	Colorado Springs, CO	TBD	Sanctioned
28	(E)	8/13-16/20	Billy The Kid	Ruidoso, NM	TBD	Sanctioned
29	(P)	8/13-16/20	USAPA Middle States Regional	St. Louis, MO	4/1/20	Sanctioned
30	(E)	8/17-19/20	Kahunaverse Sports Super Senior Slam	South Surrey, BC, CAN	TBD	International
31	(P)	8/20-23/20	USAPA Atlantic South Regional	Foley, AL	TBD	Sanctioned
32	(S)	8/28-31/20	Willamette Valley SSIPA	Albany, OR	TBD	MMO-Sanctioned
33	(S)	9/15-16/20	Cowtown Senior Fall Classic	Fort Worth, TX	TBD	Sanctioned
34	(S)	9/14-16/20	Paddle at the Plex - Fall	Opelika/Auburn, AL	TBD	MMO-Sanctioned
35	(P)	9/14-20/20	USAPA West Regional	Southern CA - TBD	TBD	Sanctioned
36	(P)	9/17-20/20	USAPA Mid-Atlantic Regional	Virginia Beach, VA	TBD	Sanctioned
37	(E)	10/8-11/20	New Seaside Classic	Myrtle Beach, SC	TBD	MMO-Sanctioned
38	(S)	10/5-7/20	SSIPA East Championships	Griffin, GA	TBD	Sanctioned
39	(S)	10/16-18/20	Horseshoe Bay Resort Sr. Fall Championship	Horseshoe Bay, TX	TBD	Sanctioned
40	(E)	10/23-25/20	Camden Outdoor Gamma Classic	Camden, SC	TBD	MMO-Sanctioned
41	(S)	11/13-16/20	SSIPA West Championships	Surprise, AZ	TBD	Sanctioned
42	(S)	12/4-6/20	JW Marriott - Phx Desert Holiday Classic	Phoenix, AZ	TBD	Sanctioned
43	(S)	12/7-10/20	SSIPA World Championships	Surprise, AZ	TBD	Sanctioned

(S) - Standalone Tournament
(P) - Point Event



Coming Soon: 2020 ARNOLD “50 Plus” SSIPA Pickleball Classic

An AGE & Skill Level Tournament!

The ARNOLD "50 Plus" SSIPA Pickleball Classic

Columbus, OH

March 5th & 6th, 2020

Register on Pickleball Tournaments.com
 Mixed Doubles - Thursday March 5th, 2020
 Men's & Women's Doubles - Friday March 6th, 2020

ARNOLD PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
 PICKLEBALL PROMOTIONS USA

Scarborough East Tenn
 Columbus, Ohio
16 Pickleball Courts!

SELKIRK SPORT

GAMMA PICKLEBALL

Be Part of the 2020 ARNOLD Sports Festival!

<p>Divisions are Skill & Age Based</p> <p>Men's & Women's Doubles: 3.0/ 3.5/ 4.0/ (4.5/ 5.0) - Skill Level 50-54/55-59/60-64/65-69 70-74/75-79/80 plus</p> <p>MIXED Doubles: 3.0/ 3.5/ 4.0/ (4.5/ 5.0) - Skill Level 50-54/55-59/60-64/65-69 70-74/75-79/80 plus</p>

2019 Tournament Updates

SSIPA West Championships - Surprise, AZ

Another tournament in the SSIPA Championship series along with the East and World Championships. These three special tournaments provide players with the best competition and extra point values in the points race each year. Be watching for one or two new tournaments to be added to the championship series in 2020, possibly North and South or Central.

Any additional championship tournaments will be added to the schedule during the first quarter of the year.

SSIPA West was held at the Surprise city courts for the second consecutive year in the heart of Arizona pickleball, one of the largest and most competitive areas of the country for senior pickleball. The tournament was held on the 16 court outdoor complex over a four day period from September 30 - October 3rd. With over 300 players in singles, doubles and mixed doubles the play once again produced champions that are some of the best in the country. For complete results go to pickleballtournaments.com and look in the past tournaments.

Jeff Stone, president of the Surprise Pickleball Association (SPA) and SSIPA Board member was the tournament director. Jeff has been providing quality tournaments for players from all areas of the country and Canada for many years. He and his staff do a most commendable job and are an example for the global pickleball community. SSIPA will be coming back to Surprise in 2020 again for both the West Championships and World Championships in November and December. Please go to SSIPA-PB.org for the 2020 tournament schedule.

A special thank you to all the SPA membership for hosting in 2019. We can all look forward to 2020, another great year for pickleball.



The Japan Open Pickleball Championships - Yamanouchi, Japan

SSIPA's first circuit event in Asia. The Japan Open was held on October 5-6 at Kanbayashi Total Field in Yamanouchi, Japan. Players competed in men's, women's and mixed doubles during the two day tournament. There were about 30 players from the United States and 40 players from Asia. The largest group from outside Japan from Asia were the players from Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), about 20 players. These players were mostly under 30 in age and came from a background of high level badminton.



The first day had rain and court-drying was accomplished in order to be able to complete the day. Then the second day would have been a rain-out except that an indoor facility had been reserved for play. Moving indoors about 30 miles away from the outdoor facility provided a number of challenges including having to tape twelve courts before play could begin. With the assistance of most of the players, the total delay was only 2 hours. The indoor play allowed for the tournament to be completed as scheduled.

The event was a success and highly complemented by the players and spectators. Most of the Japanese players were competing in their first tournament and really enjoyed the experience. Next year's Japan Open will be in Tokyo, the site of the 2020 Olympics. Daniel Moore was the tournament organizer and Ford Roberson was the Tournament Director along with operations manager. Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers that supported the inaugural Japan Open Pickleball Tournament. Good luck in 2020.





Horseshoe Bay Resort Senior Open - Horseshoe Bay, TX

The Horseshoe Bay Resort Senior Open was a SSIPA standalone tournament held on October 15-17th in the Texas Hill Country. This resort is one of Texas's treasures for outdoor entertainment in a special setting deep in the heart of Texas. With 8 dedicated outdoor courts, located adjacent to outdoor tennis courts for practice, the tournament ran smoothly for the 150 plus players. Competition was held in singles, doubles and mixed doubles for three days.

Rooms were available onsite at a discount in a spacious, comfortable setting right next to the courts. Early morning breakfast was just a few steps away in the resort restaurant. The event had rain delays, but the players all worked hard to make the daily play finish each day as scheduled. Most matches were very competitive and provided entertainment for the spectators and player alike.

The local pickleball teaching professional, Matt Lazarine, did a super job of directing the tournament. Matt was assisted by Karin Plotts for registration and tournament operations. Chuck Flanagan and Mary Payne were in charge of the match calls and referee coordination. This was a super first year tournament at a special location. SSIPA members should plan now to attend the two events in 2020. Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers for a job well done.



The Marriott Desert Ridge Holiday Classic - Phoenix, AZ

This tournament has now run for three consecutive years in Phoenix, Arizona. With men's doubles on Friday, mixed doubles Saturday and women's doubles on Sunday, the event had plenty of competition for everyone. Once again, the tournament was limited to about 250 players on the 12 outdoor courts in this special setting. The Marriott resorts are great environments for hosting a tournament where the food and service are exceptional. Viewing for the courts in the individual chairs is great for both the players and spectators.

Tournament organizers are Jack Thomas, former president of the USAPA and local tennis and pickleball professional Brian Thorfinnson. Jack's support of SSIPA by hosting these tournaments for the past 3 years is greatly appreciated. Brian makes sure the support needed on site is of exceptional quality as the standard for a Marriott event. The Browns, Sandy and Terry,



served once again as the referee coordinators. Nearly all of the referees were certified again this year. The event had some rain delay issues, but all matches were completed each day and Sunday was completed in the mid-afternoon. Ford Roberson served as the registrar and operations manager for the tournament for the third straight year as well.

The date for the tournament next year has been moved to the first week in December, just prior to SSIPA World's in Surprise. Plan now to attend both tournaments for 2020 for some great competition.



SSIPA World Championships - Surprise, AZ

This was the first year for the SSIPA World Championships to be held in Surprise, AZ. It had the largest number of players in the Championship series with 432 players. This was a four day tournament due to the large numbers registered for the event. It was held Monday thru Thursday, December 2-5 and Wednesday was the only day with weather problems. Men's Doubles on Wednesday was delayed about an hour in the morning

and then about 4:30 in the afternoon play had to stop again because of the rain. The format was shortened but the events were finished on Thursday morning before the singles matches started. Weather was beautiful all the other days. Jeff Stone and Marlene Berwald and their great staff put on a tournament that made all the players very comfortable. There were plenty of snacks, food truck and great seating to watch the matches. This was the last tournament to be included in the point's race for the SSIPA Points Awards final results for 2019.

The SSIPA Board was out in full force with Mark Kellam, Tim Kuss, Vicky Noakes, Fred Thompson, Ford Roberson, Jeff Stone and website designer Dave Allenbaugh.





Communications Review:

1. We have various ways to communicate with us via email: please use the appropriate email:
 - a. For MemberLeap and membership questions: ssipa.membership@gmail.com
 - b. For general questions about our organization, policies, procedures - that pertain to all members: ssipa.pb@gmail.com
 - c. For web site questions or comments: ssipa.webmaster@gmail.com
2. www.ssipa-pb.org is our official web page and the primary way information is passed on to members and the pickleball community. Please visit this site and get: Breaking News, SSIPA Code of Ethics/ Bylaws, SSIPA Stars (player profiles), Board member bios, Membership, Founding Members, Tournament Schedule and links to results, Guidelines on Hosting a Tournament and SSIPA Point Leaders.
3. Join our Group Facebook page: you can ask to join (it is a closed group) by searching for Super Senior International Pickleball Association.
4. We also have a SSIPA Facebook Page to better share information and have you Follow

Membership Number: Will I need my SSIPA Membership Number? When you join we will send you your SSIPA membership number. You should not

need it in the future as each Tournament Director will receive a list of all current SSIPA Members that are playing in their tournament. There is no membership card. If you have a problem, contact:

SSIPA.Membership@gmail.com

SAFETY in all our tournaments and play is paramount. Super Senior players can be more prone to minor injuries - stretching before play, adequate hydration, and proper conditioning should be a goal for everyone. Eye protection, while not required, is strongly recommended. The potential for eye injury is high and can easily be protected/minimized by always wearing glasses, sunglasses or goggles - both indoor and outdoor.