**Pickleball!**

Pickleball was originally started by a creative family who lived somewhere on an island in Puget Sound. After some development and practice, it is becoming more popular as a sport especially among clubs and older people. The court is like a tennis court but much smaller. Play is usually sort of like doubles in table tennis. The ball is a wiffleball slightly larger than a tennis ball. That means it has to move slower than the much faster tennis ball, but without as much spin as the much smaller ping pong ball. There is an area on either side of the tennis style net called the “kitchen”. The rules state: “stay out of the kitchen”; this avoids the swinging of a racquetball size plastic/wood racquet which might impact a player on the other side. The first three hits in any rally must be underhand. Serves must land in the diagonal rectangle. Game is 11 points and you only score when it is your serve.

Now you know that I have limited knowledge of the game since I have only played two games, and I looked completely awkward trying to hit a ball that does not bounce very consistently. Why am I doing this? Well, it is always nice to learn a new sport even at 74 years. There are many Pickleball courts that have been built at parks across the country and it seems to have a following especially among the older crowd which appreciates the exercise and strategy involved. Of course, it helps to be young, athletic, and have long arms, but many types of people can have some fun doing this.

We found that the Conejo Ski and Sports Club had a regular group that went out on Friday nights and played at some new courts in 1000 Oaks. Since the court takes up far less space than tennis, it is possible to get many courts in a smaller area and provide lights which are adequate to play at night. It is even feasible to get a court into a spacious back yard. However, I have not heard yet of a new housing development where all houses have a pickleball court in the back yard, but it should be coming soon.

The dimensions and measurements for the standard **pickleball court** are: A.1. The **court** shall be a rectangle 20 feet wide (6.10 m) and 44 feet long (13.41 m) for both singles and doubles matches. ... A total playing area 30 feet wide (9.14 m) and 60 feet long (18.28 m) is the minimum size that is recommended.



