

Dear Friend,

Eight years ago, a man and his wife moved from their native Michigan to Devonshire in Hershey's Mill. She was a former teacher and he was a former athlete, teacher and coach. Within a year, the couple began a new sport in Hershey's Mill. A sport with a funny name that few people ever heard of. The couple was Roger and Carol Ann Karr and the sport of course was Pickleball.

Because of the dedicated effort of Roger and Carol Ann for the past seven years, Pickleball at Hershey's Mill has grown from a handful of players at first to well over 100 players today. To borrow a phrase, the Karrs have created "A Tradition Like No Other." And today, Roger is the President of the Hershey's Mill Golf Club.

As they say, the only thing constant is change. And, as you may know, Roger and Carol Ann have retired from Pickleball. I have now accepted the role of Chairman. This will be a team effort. And, I am blessed to have 3 terrific teammates: Tom Fant (winter coordinator); Lynn Mander (rules) and Barb Trimble (communication). Together, our mission is to maintain the culture the Karrs created: one of fun, exercise, fellowship, encouragement and friendly competition. Played year-round (Thank you Tom Fant!) in a beautiful wooded setting, we now have the opportunity of playing in all four seasons.

Along with this letter, I have included the "New Pickleball Rotation Guidelines." There you will see that we have designated Court 4 as a practice court. The purpose of that (and the new guidelines) is to be as fair as possible to every player. "No player left behind" is our goal.

A week from tomorrow, we will officially begin the season with the Spring/Summer Kickoff and Clinic. The Clinic is for beginners and others who would like to sharpen their skills. The Clinic will begin at 9:00 am next Saturday (April 21) followed by open play at 9:45. If you know of anyone who has been thinking about trying Pickleball, please invite them to the Clinic. Light refreshments and bottled spring water will be served. There will be no charge.

We have an exciting agenda planned for this spring and summer, including: the annual Memorial Day Celebration; Pizza Pickleball Parties each month from May through September; the Rogers Cup; and other surprises. I will keep you informed about all of the upcoming events when the details become available.

Speaking of details, I want to thank Mary Lou Perry and George Madden for their hard work in updating and maintaining our player list. It is a very difficult job that Mary Lou and George make look easy.

Until April 20, play will continue 7 days a week at 2:00 pm. Beginning April 22, play will occur: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9:30 am; Wednesday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm.

I hope you will come out and join us on Opening Day and many times this coming season. As someone once said, "You will find friends you didn't know you had."

Jack Hamilton