

April 2026

Hello Berkshire Mountain Pickleball Members,

Spring is here, the courts are busy, and it's a great time to be part of our BMP community! We have a few updates, some new opportunities to play, and a couple of important reminders to share.

Steering Committee Update

While we're excited about the season ahead, we also want to say a heartfelt goodbye to one of our founders and a great friend, **Tony Richards**, as he moves to New Hampshire to be closer to family. Tony has given so much to BMP over the years, and his presence will truly be missed. We wish him nothing but the best in this next chapter.

At the same time, we're happy to welcome **Deb Melle** to the Steering Committee; thank you, Deb, for stepping in!

New Schedule Additions

We've been listening to your feedback and are excited to introduce a few new ways to play:

Afternoon Play

- **Mondays (3–6 PM):** *Beginner Courts* (2 courts / 10 players)
- **Wednesdays (3–6 PM):** *70+ Players* (2 courts / 10 players)
- **Fridays (3–6 PM):** *Dinks & Drinks*: stay after and keep the fun going at the GEAA (General Electric Athletic Association) Golf Course at 303 Crane Ave!

Lessons & Clinics

- **Leia's Clinics (Tuesdays, Benedict):** Weather permitting—these fill quickly, so keep an eye out!
- **Intro to Pickleball (Saturdays):** Led by Mike Gilardi—perfect for new players
- **Skills & Drills:** This program will be discontinued

Challenge Court is Here!

Looking to test your game? Try out our new **Challenge Court** (Court 5):

- Play to 11, win by 2
- Winners stay on (up to 3 games max)
- Next two paddles challenge
- Losing team rotates back into the queue
- As always, we yield the court if needed by the public

It's a fun, competitive way to mix things up; give it a try!

Free Equipment – May 9 (9 AM–12 PM) at Benedict Rd Courts

We will have used nets and storage boxes available for free!

First come, first served. Please note items must be picked up onsite (no deliveries).

Friendly Reminders

- **Benches:** Please keep them clear for resting players; use hooks or the ground for your gear
- **Mowing:** If city crews arrive, please move cars off the grass

- **Courtesy:** Please “delete” yourself if you can’t make a slot that you signed up for.
- **Tournament:** Stay tuned for the details on the upcoming tournament. Remember you **MUST** be a paid member at the time the tournament is announced to be eligible to play. **AND** this year **WE** will determine if you are in the correct category.

 **Thank You**

A big thank you to **Peter Widitor** for helping clean up the grounds on Earth Day; we appreciate you!

We’re looking forward to a fun, active season with all of you. See you on the courts!

Warm regards,

Your Steering Committee

Jan Uliasz | Gary Schiff | Mike Gilardi | Marie Richardson

Kelly Maginnis | Schuyler Goodrich | Deb Melle

Carol Cushenette | Pete Cote