

Gary Rutherford

I was born in Hollywood Hospital and have not lived up to the family film expectations. I spent most of my childhood bodysurfing at L.A. beaches, and sustained several head injuries, which explains some (but not all) of my bizarre behavior. Run out of town at the tender age of 13, my family fled to New Jersey where I attended high school and later, Rutgers University. I spent two years in the Army in Germany where I learned how to say guten tag. I received a MS in Agricultural Economics and an MS in Urban Planning from the University of Arizona and used those degrees to ferret out jobs in Bisbee, AZ, Canon City, CO, Sacramento, CA. and Albuquerque as planner, economist, program and project manager. I met my wife playing volleyball at the graduate dorm at the U. of A. She quickly became aware of my obsessive addiction to sports but married me anyway. My first sport was bodysurfing, followed by basketball, baseball, tennis, racquetball, volleyball, foosball, ping-pong, wallyball, pickleball, and games I randomly make up. We have one son who does not take me seriously.

I have played pickleball since 2009 and enjoy playing around town and competing in tournaments in various places. I am on the Board of the NM Senior Sports Foundation, on the Albuquerque's Senior Games Board, Chairmen of the NMSSF Finance Committee, Pickleball Commissioner for NM Games since the sport became a part of the games (5 years), Venue Coordinator at Cesar Chavez since it's inception, as well as serving as an USAPA Ambassador. I served for two years as President of the ABQ Pickleball Club, and for the last two years, hold the Community Outreach Board position for the Club. I plan to continue working toward growing the pickleball community by increasing places to play and types of play available, increasing tournaments and types of tournaments, promoting training and introducing people to the sport and working to expand this enjoyable sport (maybe to include extreme, tag team, and multi-court pickleball).