

## **Clinics, Competitions, and Socials**

### **Dominate the 2026 Pickleball Club Calendar**

By Bob Zyontz

How many of you remember being that proverbial “kid in the candy store” looking at your parents with “big eyes” as you begged them to buy you every sweet confection in sight? Chances are you knew the odds were against you, unless of course, you were with your grandparents in which case the outcome would have been very different.

Now, you’re probably asking yourselves what does this flashback have to do with pickleball? It’s actually a metaphor for the wide variety of social, instructive, and competitive events members can choose from this year. No begging required. The Pickleball Club Board and its committees have been busier than a one-armed man at a wood chopping contest developing the Club’s 2026 calendar.

The Clinics committee, consisting of Lisa Citron, Phyllis Greenberg, Mitch Glanzrock, and led by Board member Bill Shuzman, plans to hold clinics for beginners, teach the art of dinking, teach women the techniques to deal with the smashing game, and teach men how to soften their game. Watch for the clinic calendar at [regencyatmonroepickleballclub.org](http://regencyatmonroepickleballclub.org) and TeamReach. It will provide a list of instructors along with the guidelines for enrollment and participation.

If you enjoy friendly competition, Gary Ramella, Board Chair for Leagues and Tournaments, has again ensured it will be in abundant supply. Club members might want to save the following dates for these premier events.

The 2026 Panson Cup League begins its fifth year of play on Thursday, April 30 from 6-9 PM, and will continue each Thursday into July. Named in honor of Regency pickleball pioneer Barry Panson, the Cup is symbolic of pickleball supremacy and bragging rights within our community. The championship game is projected for the evening of July 16 and no later than July 30 in an attempt to finish earlier than 2025 to avoid August’s heat and humidity.

The much anticipated Regency at Monroe Pickleball Club Tournament is scheduled to begin on Thursday, August 27 from 6-9 PM, and then continue on Saturday, August 29 and Sunday, August 30 from 9 AM-6 PM. Registration for this popular competition which includes men’s doubles, women’s doubles, and mixed doubles will open in July. If you’re wondering why there is no play on Friday evening, August 28, the HOA is hosting its Summer hot dog night.

While clinics and competitive events represent the cake, the Club's social events provide the icing. Meg Pribyl, Board Chair for Events, with help from her dedicated committee, has developed a robust calendar of socials that include a blend of previous favorites and some new and innovative ideas. Remember, this is the Club that never sleeps and runs events throughout the year. For example, the second annual Winter Warmup, two hours of indoor, temperature controlled pickleball fun takes place on Saturday, February 7, at Pickleball Kingdom in Hamilton, NJ.

As we head into Spring, members can look forward to BBQ Night on April 29, which signals the start of Panson Cup League play the next day, Oktoberfest on October 9, Ralph's Italian Ices Social on August 17, and two Game Days, a new concept that combines pickleball with canasta and/or mah-jongg plus lunch in between. This is just a small slice of a much bigger pie.

While these events offer fun, value, and excitement, they would be irrelevant without Club members. Ensuring that membership is grown and sustained is the purview of Board Chair for Membership Noreen Gumnic. Having recently joined the Board in November 2025, along with Meg Pribyl, Noreen's insight and fresh thinking are paying dividends by attracting new members who want to play, compete, and socialize.

If you enjoy the social benefits of Club membership and have a non-playing spouse or partner, why not share your joy by enrolling them in the Club? Becoming a member will enable them to attend events without having to pay a guest fee each time. When you consider the Club's Annual Gala, BBQ Night, Oktoberfest, and other popular social activities, that decision could pay for itself. If you're interested, reach out to Noreen at [ngumnic@gmail.com](mailto:ngumnic@gmail.com).

Club members have much to look forward to this year. If you're a new resident who wants to play and have fun with a friendly bunch of pickleball enthusiasts, please visit [regencyatmonroepickleballclub.org](http://regencyatmonroepickleballclub.org) for more information.



[Caption]

Club members were all smiles as they dined al fresco at the pre-tournament BBQ Night on Friday, May 18, 2025. From left to right: Jim Freeman, Rocky Katz, Rick Katz, Harvey Einstein, Lance Greenberg, Warren Kaplan, and Marlene Freeman. Photo by Tom Cullen.



[Caption]

Exceptionally hot weather on July 17, 2025, drove the league's Panson Cup playoffs indoors to PCM. This match featured Team Cohen player Marina Volpe watching her partner Steve Caputo return a shot to opponents Tom Bury and Alan Strauss of Team Strauss. Photo by Tom Cullen.