

Dick Johnson Again Wins Three Gold Medals at the 2019 SSIPA World Championships!

December 2019 in Surprise, Arizona



Despite Dick's second knee surgery in four years, and, therefore, being physically unable to even compete and defend his Singles titles in most tourneys during the year, 2019 was again a remarkable year:

For the 5th consecutive year, Dick continued a "Medaling Grand Slam" in the six Major tournaments for senior players (the USAPA Nationals, US Open, Huntsman World Senior Games, National Senior Games, State Games of America, and the SSIPA World Championships). At those Majors he has won 60 medals. Overall, since beginning playing only six years ago, he has won over 200 medals in 110 USAPA sanctioned tournaments. Many of those were won playing against much younger players.



With Tim Kuss, President of SSIPA



Gold 4.5 Age 75 Mixed Doubles with Alice Tym. Like Dick, Alice is one of the few pickleball players in the world who has won the pickleball US Open and also played in the tennis U.S. Open.



Gold 4.0 Age 75 Men's Doubles with Bob Robillard. Like Dick, Bob has medaled at Nationals and Huntsman and gave Dick some of his first lessons when Dick began playing pickleball 6 years ago.

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How About A SSIPA tournament in the Treasure Valley?



Dick is a Lifetime and Founding Member of SSIPA, which in only three years has exploded to around 35 tournaments each year. These exciting and fun events have been held throughout the US and in England, Hawaii, Spain, Mexico, and Germany. Canada is already booked for 2020 and other countries are being considered. Over 15,000 players have competed so far. Some tournaments have provided special clinics and fun social and cultural activities around the tournament venues and surrounding areas. Players have regularly enjoyed unique travel and vacation opportunities as part of their tournament experiences, both in the US and other countries.

Dick continues hopeful that the Treasure Valley will sponsor a SSIPA tournament. SSIPA events can even easily be embedded into a regular tournament which has the usual younger age/skill events. SSIPA leadership continues to offer that opportunity to our area and would even come to help run the tournament! It would be especially beneficial to the older players in our area. Why? Because SSIPA is well known for bringing older players back into the sport who enjoy competition and social play, but had become discouraged by having to play (and, usually get beaten) by younger players. SSIPA membership has rapidly grown to almost 3000 members and is becoming increasingly very popular. And, beginning in 2020, it is even open to players age 50 and up!

