

Members of the Month

October 2016

Recently, two of our regular Pickleball players were nominated for the title Member of the Month. If you have learned how to play Pickleball here at The Pointe you probably worked with **Rich and Mary Altis.**

Their nominator shared, “they are so patient and dedicated to this sport which is relatively unknown to many people here in the Mid-West, and when it comes to Pickleball it is a must to know all the rules to fully enjoy the game.”

Rich and Mary do exactly that, they patiently teach each newcomer how to not only play the game, but to truly enjoy it. They explain rules and play multiple games with the newbies until they start to feel more comfortable with the pace of play. To Rich, Pickleball is about competition; he plays to win. Mary enjoys the competition too, but to her it’s more about having fun and enjoying the social part of the game. “It’s as strenuous as you want to make it,” Mary said.

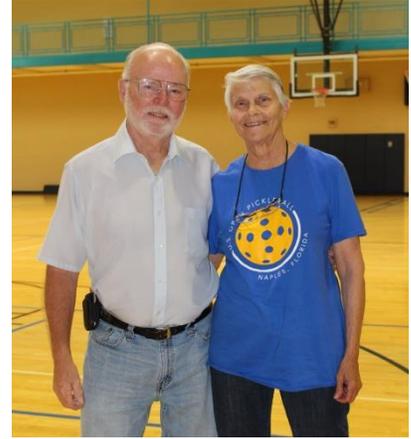
Rich and Mary met at a small high school in Eureka, Kansas and have now been married for 55 years. Throughout the course of their marriage, they have raised 8 children and fostered some 60 more. Over the years of raising children Rich was, in Mary’s words, “an unprofessional professional coach.” Rich coached just about every sport, many times ones he didn’t grow up playing. So, he would go to the library and learn everything he could about the sport so he could help his kids improve.

This same mindset has been carried into teaching the newcomers how to play Pickleball. “We started new to the game, everyone starts new. So, we don’t mind teaching and playing with people who are still a little insecure,” Mary mentioned.

Rich and Mary were members of The Pointe when their children were younger and enjoyed coming to play in the gym or swim in the pool. Then in 2013 after some health issues they decided to come back and start using the track. Soon they started seeing the game in the gym below and seeing flyers for Pickleball. Mary shared her experience with The Pointe this way, “I came thinking I wanted to use the machines and walk on the track, but to me it’s so boring. I enjoy Pickleball much more, it’s a great workout.” Unsurprisingly, their favorite part about this facility is the people and the Pickleball. In their opinion, The Pointe is the very best place in St. Louis to play Pickleball.

Pickleball isn’t the only sport this couple enjoys. In fact, Rich would tell you his true passion lies with pitching horseshoes. Not only has he won the State Tournament multiple times in the last few years. He’s consistently placed among the top players in the World Tournament. He’s President of the Ballwin Horseshoe Club, and he has been inducted into the St. Charles County Amateur Sports Hall of Fame. Rich’s achievements make an impressive list, so in the interest of time and space, we suggest asking Rich for all the details about this hobby and passion, he truly has a talent!

Rich’s advice to other members is “Definitely stay active. If you are not active every day you will regress. I’m in pretty good shape for a 78 year old, and it’s because I’m competitive.” Thanks for your commitment to The Pointe’s Pickleball group Rich and Mary, we are honored to recognize you as October’s Members of the Month.



*Know someone who deserves the title “Member of the Month”
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