Not that many people likely know about Picklehole.

Craig had two cornhole covers made for Picklehole, and then used PVC to create a hurdle like fence that was used as the net. It was great to work on the dinking game, and we'd play singles and doubles with it.

Played at pool parties, in basement, etc. The best feature? If you put the ball in the hole on a shot, you win the game no matter what the score was before!

From Wayne

So... maybe, just maybe, I said something snide about the Cowboys tattoo that Craig so proudly flaunts. Probably wasn't the best way to start a pickleball relationship. Eventually we got around to playing a game as teammates despite our disagreements over football. We played surprisingly well despite our differences and Craig was serving for game point. He turns to me and asks if he should hit a Nasty Nelson. I just muttered something about not knowing what that was and told him to do whatever he wanted. Of course, he promptly beaned our opponent, and we won the game like that. I had to laugh while I cringed at the same time. It was the start of a new fun pickleball relationship!

From Linda

I remember the first time I met Craig. It was at Creekview in a pickleball game. Craig's partner was a young woman who was new to the game. Craig's game seemed very new also as he was playing very soft, and trying to help his partner understand drops shots.

About a week later, I was in another game with Craig and I was amazed at how advanced his game had become in a week's time. All of a sudden he had a hard serve, and various hard drives and well placed shots. I questioned whether this was the same guy I played against the week before.

As we chatted between games, I found out that when I first met Craig he was not interested in being a good pickleball player that day, but was spending his time with one of his daughters and his interest was in being a good dad.

From Kevin

I first met Craig around 2020 playing pickleball at Creekview. Once you are one of Craig's friends, the invitations start coming; to carpool to York to play at the roller rink or to meet out for drinks, stromboli, Rita;s. Craig gathers pickleball partners like squirrels gather nuts. He organizes tournaments to ensure more games and more fun. His pool parties are legendary and have sparked many opportunities, from odd social pairings, new forms of recreation and sharing of many dishes.Craig then introduced us all to Tracy which just geometrically increases the adventures. Craig hosted a super fun day on his boat. I have been on a boat 5 or 6 times in my life. He taught me how to wakeboard with one confident pep talk in the water. I got up first try! It was exhilarating! (Unfortunately he did not teach me how to finish a wakeboard ride!) Craig talked me into challenging many pickleball players who should have beaten us. I usually took the challenge. Craig is quite persuasive. That same boat day he persuaded me to climb to the top of a slippery wet human pyramid as we were pulled across the water at high speed. So much fun. Craig later tried to persuade me to go skydiving with he and Tracy. I did not give in that one. Things are just more fun when Craig is around!

From Pam

Craig has a hat which has fake hair on top. When he would wear it, people would pull me aside and ask me if it was his real hair or if he had a toupee. If I had a dollar for each time I was asked, we could have played at Roll R Way for free for years.

The very first time I met him, Craig told me I seemed like someone that knew everyone and I had to tell him I really wasn't social off of the pickleball court.

Craig and I would grab breakfast at the diner before playing at Roll R Way. I would order my eggs over medium and he would tell me they were disgusting. I still ordered them.

Craig loves to ambush other rafters while whitewater rafting. He has a great sense of humor and adventure, although he lost his hat to the bottom of the river.

He is one of the most caring and generous people I know. He is there to listen but also to play a prank when one would give him the opportunity.

Craig once drank a beer using a hot dog for a straw and it still gives me nightmares.

He insisted that I do the shotski for his retirement party and totally figured out that I used water as my shot. I admit it!

From Kim

So, I'm playing against Craig and he's serving to my partner. I'm up at the kitchen waiting for him to serve and I guess I got distracted or bored and had a moment of inattention. Good ol' Craig seized the moment and proceeded to deliver a Nasty Nelson right to my midsection. I had never experienced this before and wasn't sure what it meant. For a split second, I gave him the benefit of the doubt and thought it was just an errant serve that hit me by mistake. But in the next second, I knew that wasn't the case by the smirk on Craig's face. He got the point, and so did I. While I was initially dismayed at what I thought at the time was a dirty trick, I realized he taught me a valuable lesson---to always be ready and attentive, especially when Craig Richards is serving!

From Ken

Favorite memories playing pickleball with Craig… Craig loves a good nasty Nelson pickleball serve especially on people that don't see the humor In it.

Our 5-hole competitions - Craig doesn't love the back door 5-hole. Playing pickleball at Blevins on the make shift court he made. Early Sat morning girls group play - Craig wearing a skirt to fit in.

Grabbing Breakfast with Kim, Craig, & Dave Arter on our way to play at the roller rink in York and our breakfast food nicknames.

Playing picklehole at his house- And all of the picnics he hosted. Lots and lots of fun times- and he has a big heart. My first memory of him is when he put together a tournament a few years ago at creekview with donations going to 4 diamonds. When I was new to pickleball and didn't know anyone. Craig was one of the first people I got to know, regularly getting me out to play.

I'm blessed to know you Craig and the the pball community to lucky to have you!

From Courtney

During the pandemic, on a winter evening, you played pickleball where you could find it, which was rare. Thank God for Pizza Club.

Craig cleared out an area of the warehouse at his work, taped court lines, put plastic fencing around shelves to keep the balls from disappearing, bought a portable net, and it was set up.

If you were lucky, you'd get invited to play pickleball one night. Some of us started calling it Pizza Club, we ordered pizza for the evening and it had the extra benefit of giving the activity some secrecy. Blared music while playing pickleball.

It was a delicious secret... couldn't have 20 people in the warehouse. Good times.

From Wayne

I knew what a nasty Nelson was but Craig was the first person I ever seen do it and be proud of it.

From Mike

When participating in an activity with Craig, be prepared for Go Big or Go Home. I love that about him--his adventurous spirit and passion for having fun. In Costa Rica, we were on a zipline tour. The option of "Flying like Superman" was presented by the guide. Flying like Superman pose means you are lying parallel to the zipline, strapped around your a midline with arms out like Superman. Who do you think was the first to try? Craig of course!

He then proceeded to encourage the rest of us to try. I thought "NO WAY was I lying flat and sailing above the trees. It took some convincing by Craig, but I then thought "oh heck". It was spectacular!!

Craig you bring out the spirited courage in all of us.

From Renee


TEXANS