

## Profiles in Pickleball

By Neal Wendel

I sat down with Jack Litsky on a cold day in January to talk to him about his membership in the Regency Pickleball Club.



**When did you move to Regency?** I moved to Regency on Turnberry Drive with my wife Toby in July of 2025 from our home in Marlboro New Jersey. After looking at several other communities our decision to move here was heavily influenced by the fact that it was nicer and more active.

**Are you retired? What did you do before retiring?** I retired from FINRA after spending 40 years as a Securities Investigator.

**What made you decide to join the Regency Pickleball Club?** I dabbled in pickleball before moving here. In July I started participating in the open play where I met David Berkowitz, who encouraged me to join the club. It was a great recommendation!

**What do you think makes our Pickleball Club Special?** The sheer size of the club membership and the members are welcoming and inviting. We also enjoy the multiple social events and getting some exercise. We really enjoy Friday Night Lights and the Pickleball Gala.

**How often do you play?** Weather permitting, I play three times a week, often playing after I come from tennis.

**How has your game changed since you first started?** Before moving in, I was only playing sporadically. Since moving in, I took advantage of open play and my game has improved dramatically, since I have also been able to incorporate my tennis skills.

**Has pickleball helped you connect with neighbors or make new friends?** Yes! The friends we have made here are also members of the Pickleball Club.

**What would you say to someone that is hesitant to try pickleball?** You have nothing to lose giving it a try.

**If you could introduce one new club activity or event, what would it be?** I have two suggestions. I think it would be great if the club could keep a small supply of paddles and balls to make available to novice players beginning to learn that are not sure if they want to invest in their own paddle. My second suggestion if it is possible, organize some events that are specifically targeted to beginner, intermediate, and advanced players.

**What's always in your pickleball bag?** I always keep an Arm Brace (called a bandit) to prevent Tennis Elbow and a Knee Brace.

**What is a fun fact the people may not know about you?** I was featured as a character in a movie of the week called *Without Warning Terror in the Towers* based on my experience during the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and my efforts to save a paraplegic co-worker by carrying him down 37 flights of stairs. As a result, I got to be an Olympic torch bearer for the Salt Lake City games in 2002.