



PalatinePicklers.com

AUGUST, 2025 NEWSLETTER

WE NEED MORE COURTS – YOU CAN HELP GET THEM



The above is a typical site about 9:00 EVERY morning at Hamilton. There are more players waiting to play than there are players playing. If you read the July newsletter, you saw how behind all other NW suburbs Palatine is in courts per capita. Actually it's worse now. Deer Park added 5 or 7 courts for their 3,000 citizens, and Schaumburg added another 8. PLEASE write the Palatine Park District's Executive Director Ben Rae at brae@palatineparks.org with your desire to see the old stable at 14 & 68 turned into a beautiful, pickleball facility with fountain, wash rooms, shade, and seating. Palatine hosts one of the, or even THE, largest pickleball club in the country, yet is way behind the nearest 16 suburbs in providing courts for players. As I write this 70 Picklers have expressed interest in having a real pickleball facility

there. We need a lot more. Come on, Picklers. Let the PPD know we need MORE courts. Palatine should be the trend-setter, not the town that cares the least. When you decide to add your thoughts, please copy (CC or BCC) me so I can continue to monitor the number of Palatine Picklers who wish the Park District would realize the need for more courts in town, and they just happen to have a perfect location.

CLOSEST TO JULY 4th BIRTHDAY TOURNAMENT



. Mike, Bob, sub Bear, Natalie, Matt, Karin, Pam, Colleen, Lisa, Stephanie, & Karen



Stephanie 2nd, Bob 1st, Matt 3rd

2025 APP Chicago Open

08/27/2025 -08/31/2025

Location: Danny Cuniff Park - Highland Park, IL

Volunteer signup is at pickleballdesk.com

Volunteers get a free tee shirt and admission to watch the pro matches.

There are numerous jobs for which you can volunteer. They're all more fun than work.

WHERE ARE ALL OUR BEGINNING & NEWER PLAYERS ?

For 10 years we've served 24 Mentorees each Wednesday morning, from May through October. Not this year. There have been three weeks when there were not even 24 Picklers on the Expect To Be Available list. In past years there were at least 40.

We also have walk-on mentoring from 3 to 5 at Hamilton Thursdays and Saturdays, but Wednesday gives you more bang for your (free) buck. You will share courts with three other students of your experience and ability, for 90 minutes. During that time, you'll receive instruction and guidance from three different Mentors.

Want to give mentoring a try? Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with any or all of the Wednesday mornings through 10/29 you expect to be available. Please indicate on your calendar for each date you give me "Maybe mentoring" or something that will remind you to email me to remove you from any ETBA list, when a conflict arises. I need to get that email prior to noon on Saturday before a mentoring Wednesday. That's when I send our Mentoree Scheduler the spreadsheet with all the Mentorees and their ETBA dates. Their 'x' is changed to upper case and bold on each date they participated. That lets Rune try to give everyone somewhat equal days. Of course, if there aren't more than 24 on any given date, everyone will receive an invitation on either Sunday or Monday.

WHAT'S A STRIKE, AND HOW DO YOU EARN ONE? A strike is earned by wasting our volunteer time. That can be done four ways. (1) Turning down Rune's invitation. (2) Not replying to Rune's invitation before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday. (3) Saying or emailing ANYTHING to Rune, other than accepting his invitation. Anything else about mentoring should be emailed to me. (4) Being a no-show. Of course, 11th hour emergencies are excluded. **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET A STRIKE?** Your first strike is overlooked. Should you earn a second strike, you are banned from participating in any organized Palatine Pickler events for the next six months.

WIDOWS ARE SEEMING IN SHORT SUPPLY

Our 3rd annual widows (unisex term) tournament and dinner is not off to a great start. Only Debbie C, Doris L, and I have signed up so far. It is to be from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 14th in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. The past tournaments have been fun, and the dinner conversations were wonderful and very different than those we have with non-widows.

So, if you are in this “club that no one wants to join,” and you’re available from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the 14th, please email me right away at aokbarry@yahoo.com that you’ll participate. I expect to email on Sunday the 10th those who have signed up. I’ll either give more details or let you know I had to cancel it due to not having at least 8 widows available.



DENNIS IS MORE THAN AN EXCELLENT MENTOR

Dennis Bourgoïn is also a paddle improver. Here he has set up his shop to affix an overgrip to a Mentoree’s paddle, while his granddaughter Maia is ready to witness his artistry.

Dennis has missed only a few Wednesdays, in his nine years of summer mentoring. He mentors many Thursdays and Saturdays too.

YOU KNOW – I COULD USE MORE INTERMEDIATE PICKLERS

Kind of like mentoring, why are the numbers of intermediate level Picklers willing to play against their real peers for three hours dwindling? If you’re in the 50% of our membership that considers yourself an intermediate Pickler, PLEASE email me (aokbarry@yahoo.com) that you’d be available to play in any of the every other Tuesday mornings in Canlan in Lake Barrington. Our next intramural match will be August 5th. You’ll play one game partnered with each of your seven teammates. It’s hard to find more fun than this. After 3 years, the Whippersnappers (younger half of those playing that match) and Wise Ones (older half) are

tied with 39 wins each. How awesome is that? BTW most of us go to lunch a mile away, after the match. Lots of fun, exercise, and bonding. Email me, and make it happen for you. Maybe showing you some who've played in our July matches will motivate you to email



Natalie



Lisa



Lisa



Mike



Pam



Maureen



Jeff



Clay

2ND ANNUAL MOST GRANDKIDS TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 5th in Lake Barrington's Canlan Sportsplex, from 9:00 to Noon is when we'll have our 2nd "Most Grandkids" tournament. Then, of course, we go to lunch. If you think you just may be in the top 12, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with how many grandkids you have. I'll give an update in the September newsletter.



Jacquie



Nichole



Mary



Janet



Scott



Bruce



Gerd



Bob



Bill



Angie



Kent



Karen

So, come on, Intermediate Picklers, join these for a morning of fun. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com, and include your MMDDYY date of birth. That determines on which team you'll be placed. Half our membership is appropriate for these intermediate intramurals.

YOUR AWESOME AUGUST **\$SAVINGS**

5% OFF anything sold on PickleballCentral.com, when you use the code CRPALATINEPB.

10-20% OFF Paddletek paddles from Chuck at 847-877-7770 or grtfuldad@aol.com.

[Pickleball Paddles](#) | [Engage Pickleball](#) - See what they offer this month

25% OFF anything from Gammasports.com, with the code ba_soderborg25

\$10 OFF Vatic Pro paddles ... https://vaticpro.com?sca_ref=3606076.ir5retg8qU Use code CHICAGO

5% OFF anything in Badminton Warehouse in Schaumburg, by mentioning Palatine Picklers

10% OFF anything at Strings Attached in Arlington Heights. Mention Palatine Picklers

JULY NEWBIES



Al



Ann



Bob



Brent



Bruce



Camero



Chase



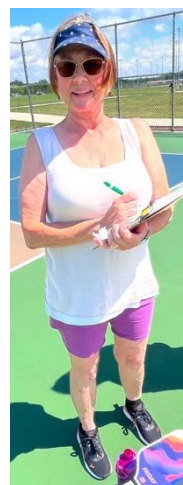
Chris



Deana



Debbie



Denise



Donna



Doug



Erik



Jan



Jeremy



Jim



Joan



John G.



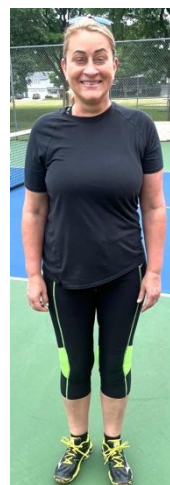
John M.



John S.



Judell



Kathy



Ken



Larry



Lina



Michael



Mo



Remesh



Richard D.

**Richard Ricky****Sandy****Shubha****Tim****Vanshika**

OUR “FUNNEST” TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR

At 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 28th in the Lake Barrington Canlan Sportsplex, a bunch of Palatine Picklers will compete using only their non-dominant hand. I call this our annual “Wrong Hand” tournament. It produces more good-natured laughs (at both ourselves and others) than at any other event I run. It’s, of course, humbling, but it becomes more fun, as we begin to feel halfway comfortable with some of the shots. The only exception to normal rules is that every server every time gets a Mulligan ... a 2nd try to put the serve in play.

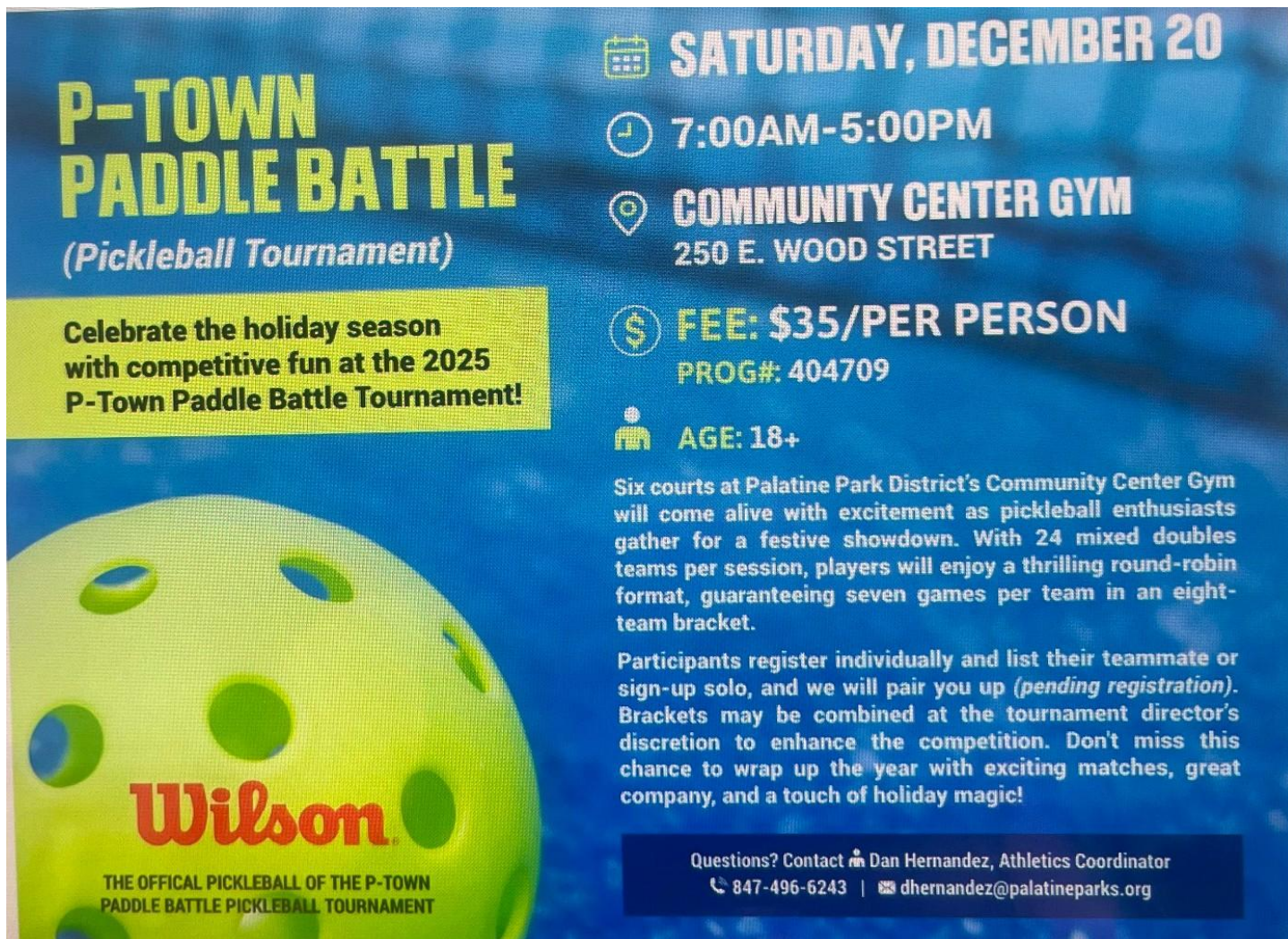
To get into this fun and challenging tournament, just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. On Sunday August 24th I’ll email everyone with who made the roster, based on the earliest to apply. As after all my Canlan events, we go to lunch a mile away at Kelsey Road House, when we’re done paying.

ANNUAL ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER TOURNEY

Once again this will be held at Dryden Park/School in Arlington. It will be held from 8:30 to 12:30 on Saturday, September 13th. It’s for ages 55+. To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ahsc-inc-pickleball-tournament-tickets-1397158451539?aff=oddtcreator> or call AHSC, to save a transaction fee. 847-253-5532.

PALATINE PARK DISTRICT PB TOURNAMENT

Find your favorite mixed doubles partner and practice up for this late December tournament run by our Park District.



**P-TOWN
PADDLE BATTLE**
(Pickleball Tournament)

Celebrate the holiday season with competitive fun at the 2025 P-Town Paddle Battle Tournament!

📅 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

🕒 7:00AM-5:00PM

📍 COMMUNITY CENTER GYM
250 E. WOOD STREET

💰 FEE: \$35/PER PERSON
PROG#: 404709

👤 AGE: 18+

Six courts at Palatine Park District's Community Center Gym will come alive with excitement as pickleball enthusiasts gather for a festive showdown. With 24 mixed doubles teams per session, players will enjoy a thrilling round-robin format, guaranteeing seven games per team in an eight-team bracket.

Participants register individually and list their teammate or sign-up solo, and we will pair you up (*pending registration*). Brackets may be combined at the tournament director's discretion to enhance the competition. Don't miss this chance to wrap up the year with exciting matches, great company, and a touch of holiday magic!

Questions? Contact 📞 Dan Hernandez, Athletics Coordinator
📞 847-496-6243 | ✉️ dhernandez@palatineparks.org

Wilson
THE OFFICIAL PICKLEBALL OF THE P-TOWN
PADDLE BATTLE PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Divisions are (1) 2.0-2.9 a.m. (2) 3.0-3.4 a.m. (3) 3.5-3.9 a.m. (4) 3.0-3.4 p.m.
(5) 3.5-3.9 p.m. (6) 4.0+ p.m.

Register at

https://ilpalatineweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/search.html?Action=Start&SubAction=&subtype=&primarycode=&keyword=PADDLE&keywordoption=Match+One&module=AR&multiselectlist_value=&arwebsearch_buttonsearch=yes.

The earlier you register, the more likely you will be to get in and get the time you prefer.

12 OLDEST MEN & 12 OLDEST LADY PICKLERS

These tournaments will run side by side in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington on Thursday, September 25th, from 9:00 to Noon. Email me with your MMDDYY date of birth at aokbarry@yahoo.com. If it's obvious you won't make the cut, I'll let you know as soon as I know. On Sunday before the tournament, I'll ask for your final confirmation that you're in and ask if you'll be going to lunch. I'll have to make reservations again, when we'll have more than 10 which we surely will. So check your calendar and send me your birthdate.

MEDALISTS HAVE A NEW NEWSLETTER CONTACT

Stephanie Douglas is replacing me as your Medalist Editor. Whenever you earn a medal, email her at Stephanie.Douglas@sbcglobal.net, with your name, your partner's name (if not singles), your tournament, its location, your division, and your medal. She will put the medalists page together and send it to me for inclusion in the next newsletter. Thanks, Stephanie.

Meanwhile, here's my swan song.



. Dana Gonciulea & Daniel Koste – Star Spangled Paddle in MP Picklr – 4.0-4.5 - Silver



Jean Schinkmann & Patty Eagleton – 6 Co Sr Games – 65-69 – Gold



Daniel Koste - Windy City Open- Singles 3.5-4.0 under 50 – Silver



Thai Tran & Daniel Koste - Star Spangled Paddle in MP Picklr – 4.0-4.5 - Bronze

ANNUAL TEACHERS' TOURNAMENT

Despite the eventual winner going to the Libertyville Canlan and missing the first two games, it proved a fun tournament for all. And having ten at lunch was fun too. Except for Jodi, here are this year's participants.



Mary, Donna, Jacquie, Mary Pat, Masumi, Brian, Joanne, Natalie, Barbie, Sue Carol, & Linda
And the winners are...



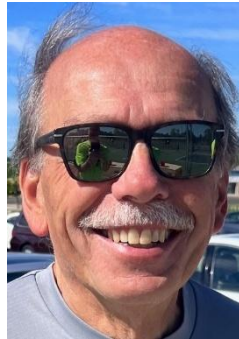
Linda, 2nd, Jodi, 1st, Mary 3rd

IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)

25,785

Ben Farb



23,752

John Havlir



21,275

Steve Manis



20,746

Lois Farb



WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)

19,734

Mardy Manis



18,694

Jesse Cohen



17,528

Lois Farb





17,125

Bobbie Campbell



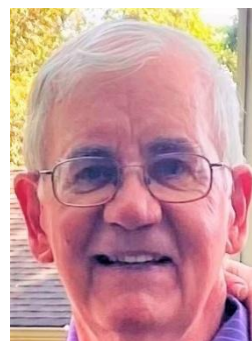
17,067

Ben Farb



16,486

Bear Shatwell



16,432

Bob McGowan

CHECK YOUR PHONE, & JOIN US HERE

If your phone has a little, red heart icon, you'll find your daily steps there. If you get 15K or more, just take a screen shot and email it to me at mary.palatinepicklers@gmail.com. You too can be featured in this walker-honoring section. Thanks. Mary Werling, Walking Section Manager.

PICKLERS PLAYING

This month Jonny Storm, our Action Shot Namer, chose to grab your attention, by starting with mid-Js and putting the early alpha Picklers at the end. You may notice fewer photos this month. That will continue, as part of my reduction of Palatine Picklers hours. It takes time to select, crop, and edit each phot I take. Still hoping one of you will begin to take and edit photos and add names. I'll likely take pics of only Newbies and Picklers wearing our shirts.



Jaime



Jim



Joanne



John



Judell



Karen



Linda



Lisa



Marcia



Mark



Matt



Maureen



Michael



Mike



Mo



Natalie



Pam



Ramesh



Rick



Rune



Susan



Bob



Carol



Chris



Cindy



Clay



Dawn



Deb



Gene



Greg



Jacquie

THE PALATINE PICKLERS ARE GOING TO MEXICO!

7 days, 6 nights at a luxury oceanfront resort including a complete pickleball package.

DESTINATION: Palmas Pickleball Resort

Los Barillos, Mexico (1 hour north of Cabo San Lucas) CHECK OUT THIS [LOS BARILLES VIDEO](#)

WHEN: January 14 – 20, 2026

COST: \$1,100 per person, based on double occupancy (airfare not included)

Los Barilles is a beautiful and completely safe vacation destination, loaded with great restaurants and endless activities. If a full week of pickleball sounds like too much for you, try :

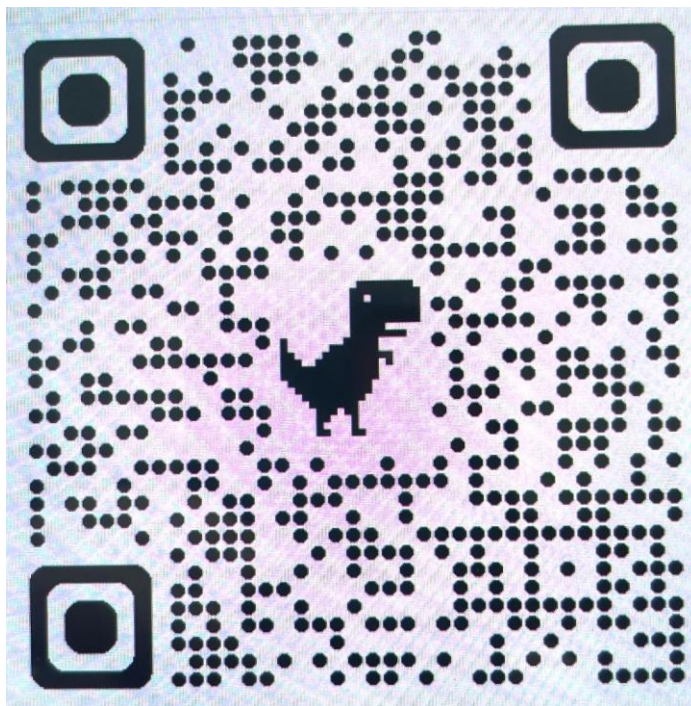
- Kitesurfing (Los Barilles is considered the kitesurfing capital of the world!)
- Kayaks and Paddleboards
- World class sportfishing
- Extraordinary Snorkeling and Diving
- ATV adventure rides
- Great hiking
- Beach horseback riding, or just hang out on the beach!

Do you prefer an Ocean view room? Garden view? Poolside room? Register soon to get your pick!

Visit the trip website for more details and to

register: https://2026palatinepicklerpbvacation.blogspot.com/2025/04/blog-post_60.html

Or scan this QR code: I couldn't copy it so hope this screen shot works.



This article was written by John Schehl, Our Mexico Coordinator. If you have questions, you may want to start with him ... JSchehl@sbcglobal.net or 847-287-2103.

POST-PLAY PICKLERS' PICNIC ON 9/5.

Details still pending, but it will be at either Hamilton or the golf course tennis courts that are rarely used. Play pickleball at Hamilton until 10:30. The picnic will begin about 10:45. Freddie and Ann will supply the meat for Freddie to grill. You're asked to bring a side dish. Email Freddie at olerfredrickson@sbcglobal.net if you want to attend. They need an accurate head count, when they go shopping.

NO, I AM NOT RETIRING – JUST CUTTING BACK

The Palatine Park District had seen how “over the top” I'd been for both youth hockey and youth baseball so they suggested I start a local pickleball club, even though I'd been playing only a few months. That was ten and a half years ago. Since then I have written 295 newsletters. These were comprised of 2,302 pages. They contained 19,316 photos 95% of which I took. I have welcomed 4,477 new members. I knew emails consumed a lot of my time, but until today never counted. Just spent almost half an hour counting the 1,194 (just for pickleball) emails I have either sent or received IN JULY.

So here's what you can expect:

- 1) No more intramurals after December, unless someone wants to inherit the scoreboard, bag of tape and pens, and spreadsheet of those who have been playing and when they say they are available.
- 2) No more fun tournaments (teachers, untall ladies, Halloween costumes, most grandkids, birthdays closest to 4th of July, wrong hand tournament, ugly sweater tournament, 70+ men and women, government employees, unmarrieds, etc.) after December, if no one steps up to create and run them. I'll give a bunch of scoreboards I've made for different numbers of participants and a bunch of balls, since Canlan isn't great at keeping good balls in stock.
- 3) No more mentoring on Thursday or Saturday FOR ME. I'll still coordinate Mentors for those sessions. I will keep running Wednesday mentoring, doing the court assignments, and mentoring when needed. If I can't find at least 3 Mentors for Thursday or Saturday, I may step in to help out.
- 4) No more answering every email I receive, if only with an emoji. You'll have to assume I got your email and acted appropriately.
- 5) Far fewer photos. Mostly limited to those in Palatine Picklers shirts and Newbies, unless someone sends me cropped and edited ready to print photos.

- 6) Not meaning to be a smart ass, but I'll likely reply, "It's in the newsletter," in response to the myriad questions I get after every newsletter, rather than actually answering with what was in the newsletter.
- 7) I will still create the monthly newsletter based on what all our hopeful new volunteers send me. And I will still maintain the membership roster and welcome our Newbies.
- 8) I will still lobby the Palatine Park District for our growing needs.
- 9) I will still publicize tournaments run by a member of the Palatine Pickleball Club.

I have enjoyed, except for the overwhelming workload, growing this club and creating ways for members to get more out of their membership. I can't tell you how much I look forward to not drowning in Palatine Pickleball responsibilities. I truly hope volunteers will step up, to keep the club running on cruise control, but it is what it is. Wish you all continued joy in your club.

Thanks to Mary Werling for now managing Walkers and doing Newbies layouts. Thanks to Stephanie Douglas for taking care of all medalists. Thanks to Jonny Storm for taking my edited pics of Picklers in action and adding creative names to them. Thanks to Linda O'Connor, our Shirt Lady for taking orders, collecting money, ordering the shirts, checking them in, distributing them, and paying me. Thanks to a bunch of Picklers willing to be Mentors – Dennis Bourgoïn, John Stepal, Jeff Balacki, Greg Willard, Steve Lawler, Karyn Picchiotti, Tom Battisti, Bill Parry, Scott Brown, Bill Buesing, Jenny Buesing, Bob McGowan, Pam Sammons, Dee Dee Belovicz, Mary Knight, Brian Knight, Ron Haaker, and, surely others I'm temporarily forgetting.

Yes, I have had a ton of help, but I need a ton more, if we're to keep the Palatine Pickleball Club the awesome club it's been. How 'bout it? Want to do your part? I want to cut down to about 20 hours a week on my laptop. It takes you to make that happen, or the club kind of melts away.

My goal? I want to finish the "Guide for the Newly Widowed and anyone who knows one" book I started just before pickleball consumed my life. I think that's important too. Please step up and pay "your" dues, for the blessings your life has given you. We'll all thank you.



Photos are of me getting Thursday afternoon mentoring started. I WILL miss this and working with the newest of the Newbies. I've been told I was a pretty good Mentor. That's meant a lot. Seeing newer Picklers have an "Aha" moment or eventually "Get it," always makes my day.

That's all I've got for now. Hope to hear from future contributors.

Happy pickling.

Bear

PicklersPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com