

Palatine Pickler Page

June, 2015

PPC Shirts Are Coloring Courts



PPC
Travel
Team

Pickler T-shirts are beginning to show up on courts and around order as soon as you buy five more of these \$10 cotton Ts. The colors are shown above and are Sports Grey, Carolina Blue, Safety Pink, Safety Green (closer to yellow), Lime, and Safety Orange. You can e-mail me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with your preferences and send a check or give me cash on the court. a bit large.

We've joined the NW Suburban Travel Team League. Six men and six lady Picklers will compete against Hoffman Estates tomorrow (Tue 6/30). This first match is limited to 55+ and pits our 1st, 2nd, & 3rd seeded seeded teams against one another in men's, ladies', and mixed play.

Future matches may experiment with different age groups and/or skill levels. We expect to have fun, despite our team members about 8 years older and far less experienced than our Hoffman hosts. After the match those can will enjoy lunch together.

Barrington Tournament

Kathy Carlson and Jan Robinson captured 3rd in the 3.5 and under division at The Ice Breaker event at the new Barrington's new and Impressive, 12-court facility. Other PPCers to compete were Pete & Sandy Berreca, Ann Blanchard, Linda Chung, Ralph Cook, Rick & Sue Johnson, Tina Labellarte, Bill Myers, & (if off IR) Scot Stubig.

Let's Make These Work

The Mon-Wed-Fri play starting at Sycamore is a success. When the group gets too large, the more competitive players move over to Locust. Both the Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and the Sunday at 4:00 seem hit or miss. You're encouraged to make these times if possible, to keep them from fading away.

Beginners and Barely Beginners

It's no secret we've been a bit more encouraging to beginners to our sport than most of our neighboring towns. For this reason, it's our responsibility to help them understand the game and love participating. On Thursday, June 16th at 6:00 p.m. Neal Harris (PPC Secretary) and I Will conduct a Beginners Clinic at Locust Park in Palatine. Just show up.

One-On-One Tournament

This ladder tournament will run all summer. The names of contestants will be randomly drawn and arranged in a vertical "ladder" list. At the end of tournament (1st day of indoor play at Falcon), the individual whose name is at the top of this ladder is the winner, and positions are locked. Each participant may challenge anyone who is directly above or two positions above him/her. If victorious the challenger will e-mail Darrel Rutter (PPC's Vice President) at **drutter997@aol.com** with that result. Scores are not considered, only wins. He will move the winner into the ladder rung previously held by the loser who will move down one rung. If there is a player between the contestants, that player will move down one rung also.

This inaugural PPC ladder event will be singles on the half court. The court for this event will be from the center line to one side line. Players never change sides. The kitchen is still the kitchen. There's no third number, when calling the score, as there is only one server per side out. This singles game is excellent for working on dinks, lobs, court position, and control. Each match will consist of only one game to 15, or until someone has a 2 point lead beyond that.

If a challenged player is not available for a period of one week after being challenged, and numerous times have been offered by the challenger, the challenger can ask Darrell to be declared the winner. He will make those decisions.

The ladder will be updated regularly on the Palatine Pickler Facebook page. Ladder standings will also be e-mailed weekly to all participants. Matches are to be arranged by the participants and may be played anywhere and at any time. One option is to schedule your match 15-20 minutes before our Sycamore play times (9:00 Mon, Wed, Fri, 6:00 p.m. Thu, and 4:00 p.m. Sunday).

Depending on how many choose to participate, there may be separate ladders by gender or age group. The starting ladder/s will be posted on Facebook and e-mailed to all participants in early July. Register **this week** by e-mailing Darrell (from the e-mail address to which you want results sent) with your name and most appropriate phone number. Each participant will receive the contact information for all who register. Should you wish not to share both phone and e-mail, let Darrell know which he should publish for you.

Tucky Tournament

This fall we are planning to host the Tucky Tournament, to benefit her favorite charity. Tucky was a pickleball fanatic who loved her sport and all of us. Her visitation and funeral were well attended by our membership. Tim Saunders, our Tournament Coordinator, is working on the details right now.

Sycamore → Locust

We have five designated outdoor play times...Mon, Wed, Fri at 9:00 a.m., Thursday at 6:00 p.m., and Sunday at 4:00. The general rule is to show up at Sycamore. When the participants number 16 or more, our game plan is to send 8 of the most competitive players to Locust. Play is always more fun, when games are competitive. So far this has worked well. We want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Lincolnshire Training For The Seriously Serious Player

I'm passing along the following letter I received from Seymour Rifkind. You may remember him as one of the instructors at last month's clinic at Falcon Park.

Dear Pickle Ball Enthusiast:

You are a current player, and live within an hour or so of Lincolnshire, IL. Although I am relatively new to Pickleball, I am not new to participating with, and coaching, athletes at an elite level in a number of sports. I provide workshops and motivational talks to national caliber athletes and Olympians at major universities on how to train and perform to attain their highest potential. During my workshops, I teach the skill sets I have learned from interviews with 50 Olympic Gold Medalists, as well as my own studies and experience, spanning 45 years. (Short biography is attached)

I, along with an advisory committee of (Chuck Feinstein and Trevor Reisz), am putting together a Pickleball training program at College Park Athletic Club West, 10 Marriott Dr. in Lincolnshire IL., geared specifically toward improvement and reaching personal goals. You will notice I said training program rather than just open play. We are looking for players interested in drilling, as well as playing, in order to make significant improvements to their game. Therefore, your skill level, personality and attitude toward improving your game, matching the mutual desire of the other members of the program are essential.

Here are my comments on the state of Pickleball in Chicagoland and why a program, such as this, is absolutely necessary.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. In the Chicagoland area most, if not all, programs are Park District funded with usually limited courts. Often times, 30-50 players show up of varying skill levels, ranging from beginners to 5.0. The vast majority of these are 3.0-3.5. Because the program is publicly funded, and open to anyone, it is very difficult for like skilled players to get consistent playing time together. More often than not, the advanced player is practicing with one or two 3.5-4.0 players which is not conducive to their development while being intimidating to the lower skilled player. Additionally, a rotation of sorts is developed so that players not on the court playing can rotate in as courts open up. When there is a large group there is an abundance of waiting on the sidelines, as we age this can cause muscles to tighten, joints to stiffen, creating an uncomfortable return to the courts at best.

Because courts are shared with so many recreational players who only want to play games, there is no time for drills. The fastest way to correct a weakness, perfect a backhand or develop a strategy of play with a partner is through repetition. The skill set must be done thousands of times to develop the consistency and the confidence of performing the practiced skill in competition. A program of drills, game play, video analysis, strategy sessions, mental and physical training is required. Incorporating such a training program creates an ideal environment, which maximizes your learning curve.

We plan to begin a program of group classes divided by skill level and led by either Chuck, Trevor or myself. All like skilled players will be placed into the appropriate class to limit the problems already mentioned. Each session will last 1 1/2 hours and the cost will be \$10 a session. We have commitments from Dave Weinbach, Dan O'Toole, David Sabino and other Wisconsin and Michigan champion caliber 5.0 players to participate as we plan on hosting clinics and play sessions on a regular basis. Our intent, over time, is to build the first true Training Program in the United States.

*I've found Pickleball players to be the nicest, most passionate people around so please get back to me with your thoughts. This initial session will be a beta group of things to come. This isn't my program but **ours**, as I am looking to be an active participant as well. Your suggestions are not only encouraged and welcomed, but very necessary.*

Program Starts June 29, 2015 Monday Wednesday Friday

*8:00-9:30- Beginner-3.0 skill level 9:30-11:00- 3.5 skill level 11:00-12:30 4.0 skill level
Yours in sport, Seymour Rifkind*

**See you on the courts,
Bear Shatwell, President**