

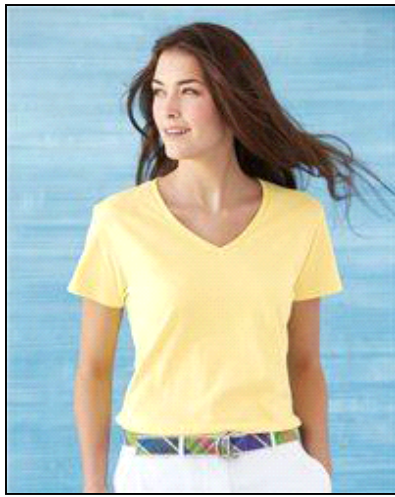


November, 2015 Newsletter

YOUR PEERS NEED YOU TO ORDER YOUR SHIRT

A minimum of 12 shirts must be ordered, to keep the prices at \$10 for a traditional T-shirt up to size XL and \$11 for the new V-neck ladies style. Fellow Picklers Karen Jaffe, Cathy Carlson, Lee Smith, Andy Nyberg, Leslie Hofeldt, Satish Sura, and Lucky Tran need your help. They want their shirts, but I can't order them, until more of you hand me some money and tell me what style, size, and color you'd like. This will be the **final order** of the year. In fact, it could be the final order ever, if the next Board doesn't want the hassle. So, how 'bout it? Here again are the color options for the traditional T. They are Sport Grey, Carolina Blue, Safety Pink, Safety Green (should be called Fluorescent Yellow), Lime, and Safety Orange.





Ladies Ts are available in Cornsilk Yellow (shown), Lime, Azelea Pink, Sapphire Blue, and Sport Grey.

"TUCKY TIME" TOURNEY TRIUMPHED

October was such a brain-dead blurr for me that I totally forgot that this tournament took place after the September newsletter so had yet to be shared with you.

This was the first, full-scale tournament run by our club. It was held in honor of Tucky Marchica who we lost last spring and was open to only Palatine Picklers and Hoffman's Prairie State Pickleball Club. Tucky belonged to both clubs. The round robin competitions took place on the Fabbrini Park courts in Hoffman Estates. We want to thank Bill and Linda Graba of PSPC and the Hoffman Park District for their help in making this tournament both a smashing success and a dinking delight..



Individual winners follow, but the big winner was the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation to whom we sent \$1240. while sticking to our \$0 budget for the event.

Palatine Picklers who placed in their respective groups are as follows:

Group 1: April Volpe, 2nd ... Cathy Carlson, 3rd

Group 2: Joyce Pihl, 2nd ... Melody Woodsum & Sandy Barreca, tie 3rd

Group 3: Sue Johnson, 3rd

Group 4: Susie Layton, 1st ... Lynn Perkins, 2nd ... Anita O'Connor, 3rd

Group 5: Scott Stubig, 1st ... Rob Paneral, 3rd

Group 6: Rick Johnson, 2nd ... Dan Robinson, 3rd

Group 7: Carl Massa, 1st ... John Pihl, 2nd ... Bear Shatwell, 3rd

Group 8: Don Bextel, 1st ... Terry Layton, 2nd ... Darrell Rutter, 3rd

REPORTING OF TOURNEY RESULTS

There are myriad tournaments in which some of our members play. If, and only if, someone reports to me 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place results for ALL Palatine Picklers who play in them, I'll post those results. If you happen to win your division of the Anti-Cheesehead Classic, for example, by all means let me know ... but make sure you give me the name and place every other Palatine Pickleball Club member who medaled in any division of that Bear fan tournament.

DANA'S "CUSTOM" TOURNEY

Dana has staged several round robin tournaments, but until now, registration has been first-come-first-served and divisions age-specific. This time she decided it would be fun for all, if she invited specific individuals to play in groups conceived in her imagination. Groups had as many as nine competitors which gave players eight games. Her event kept Dana busy from 9:00 a.m. through 4:45 p.m. I thought we all had a lot of fun. Here are the Palatine Picklers who placed in their groups:

Advanced Men: Ralph Cook, 1st .. Rick Johnson, 2nd .. Trevor Reisz, 3rd

Advanced Ladies: Cathy Carlson, 1st ... Hollis Pearlman, 3rd

Advanced Mixed: Scott Stubig, 2nd ... Rob Paneral, 3rd

Adv Mixed Veteran: Lee Smith, 1st ... Sally Kofi & Linda Gariano, tie 2nd

Beginner Ladies: Ann Stein, 1st ... Judy Ryan, 2nd ... Wendy Dorf, tie 3rd

Novice Ladies: Ann Blanchard, 2nd

REALLY ?

I was saddened to see Dana seeming bummed. She's not sharing details, because she's a class act. However, her tournament on the 8th obviously stressed her out. I have a hard time believing anyone would have complaints about how ANY of the pickleball events, from weekday morning to summer courts to tournaments, are run. Not everything goes according to any well-conceived game plan. Matches may not be able to start on time. Participants may have situations that HAVE to be considered, and these may alter the game plan more. There **will always be** decisions the one in charge has to make that will impact some participants. Doesn't it make sense to realize and respect that there will be times **YOU** may be inconvenienced? It's not personal. If you feel a tournament isn't being run to your standards, don't participate in it ... start your own tournament instead. If you do that, I doubt you'll ever again complain about the administration of any event. Yet some participants felt justified in accepting an invitation to play and then giving Dana grief about their experience. Really?

BEAR'S "NEGATIVE" EXPERIENCE

I had zero chance of finishing in the top half of my group in Dana's tournament. My goal was simply to not hurt the chances of any of my partners. While playing with Ralph Cook who won the group, I played so well I momentarily felt I belonged in that group. That was fun.

I experienced another Pickler positive, while playing with Trevor. I attempted to drop a 3rd shot into the kitchen, instead of hitting it deep in stereotypical Palatine fashion. Rather than roll his eyes shot, Trevor congratulated me on tying the right shot. Because of that comment from a vastly superior player, I'll try that shot that can take me to the next level a little more, rather than safely whacking the ball back. Tolerance and encouragement are winning qualities. Thanks, Trevor.

HOW 'BOUT RAISING YOUR HAND ?

I'll say this again, because it's important. Residency and experience mean nothing. Nor does how long you've played or how skilled you perceive yourself to be. It doesn't even matter if you're away for months at a time. All that matters is that you love this game and would like to help the Palatine Pickleball Club create ways to maximize members' enjoyment of the sport . Please apply for the 2016 PPC Board. Just e-mail our Secretary, Neal Harris, at neal@relax4life.com with your willingness to serve. You are not applying for a particular position, just a spot

on the Board. The new Board will meet and decide who wears which hat...and even the hats are subject to change, as the Board sees fit.

I'm applying. I'd like to wear a Travel Team hat which isn't even a Board position in 2015. I'm sure the new Board can change that. I hope to see more members enjoying travel play. Do you have an idea you'd like to see incorporated in your club's plans? Great. Get on the Board and help get it realized.

TRAVEL TEAM LEAGUE BEING EXPLORED

Today, Tuesday, November 24th, I'll represent PPC in a multi-town meeting on the creation of a travel team league. All matches would be played at the Canlan facility in Barrington. I may be a minority, but I'll push for multiple level competitions. As a one-size-fits-all team, we showed we can't yet compete with Hoffman or Wheeling, but we are a bit stronger than Libertyville. I believe most clubs can field teams of varying skill levels, even if some of those teams have fewer than the traditional 12 players.

Right now we could field Picklers teams of 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5, but everyone loses when we're having to compete against 4.0 to 4.5 teams. You may recall that we looked great in our colorful array of Pickler shirts, but we lost all 15 matches against Hoffman's travel team back in July. That single team per club concept limits the fun of travel play to only a dozen players per club. I want a lot more to have the chance to enjoy travel play.

I'll also suggest a round robin format (as we used against Libertyville) that has each mens and ladies team play each of the opposing town's teams, rather than play the same one over and over again. Everyone seemed to prefer this, after experiencing both formats.

SELF-ADMINISTERED SKILL-RATING SITE

So often we wonder exactly how should we rate our level of play. Some of us hear about 2.5s or 4.5s but have no idea what that really means. Here's a link to a simple, self-rating site. It isn't guaranteed to be as accurate as learning the hard way by playing in enough tournaments to see at what level you win 40-60% of your matches, but it will be close. Hope this helps you understand where you are and what you have to practice to improve.

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DEBBIE & AL DEMO HOW MANY POSES PICKLERS ASSUME



I didn't take these. I just I edited and positioned them to let good players show how aerobic our sport can be.

NO TURKEY BURN-OFF FRIDAY

Unfortunately, we won't be burning those foul calories off at Falcon on Friday. There is no pickleball that day at our usual venue.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We're heading into Thanksgiving week with 220 members. Some play elsewhere part of the year, but as far as I know, all enjoy being part of the PPC. We welcome everyone and try to make their involvement and play as enjoyable as possible.

AGAIN ... PLEASE ACT ON THESE 2

This newsletter got longer than expected so I will end with a reminder to do two things: **First**, let our Secretary Neal Harris know of your willingness to help this club thrive in 2016. The appreciation of peers will exceed the investment of time. **Second**, please order your Pickler shirts. Just let me know your desired color, style, and size ... and pay me in advance. (I learned that requirement the hard way.) Bring your money to Falcon. I'm there almost every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If you can't put a face with my name, ask someone. Most Falconites will point you in the right direction. Thanks.

May you all have a healthy and happy Thanksgiving.

See you on the courts.

Bear Shatwell

Pickler Prez

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