



## **December, 2015 Newsletter**

### **HEALTHY 2015**

It was just ten months ago your Palatine Pickleball Club was formed. Since then we've done what we could to enhance your pickleball experience. In the process we have grown. We now have 238 members. Some play infrequently. A few have yet to play their first game but want to keep abreast of our activities so they'll be up to speed when they are able to step onto a court. Some play only a few months in Palatine and in other states the rest of the year. Two things we all have in common are a love of our sport and the goal of improving our play each game. 2015 was a great year for Palatine pickleball.

### **HAPPY 2016**

2016 should be even better. I'm pretty sure we've gotten the attention of the Palatine Park District. They now know pickleball CANNOT be lumped with shuffleboard or horseshoes ... both fine games played by a comparative handful of non-athletic elderly. Palatine Picklers may be entitled to some old fart discounts at some restaurants, but we'd rather be running around a pickleball court at 5:00 p.m. than sharing an early bird special there. And we are far from a mere handful of enthusiasts. In 2016 I envision

gathering your signatures on a petition or two. We have some requests we feel should be addressed immediately.

1) We want screens/shades on the rest of the windows on Falcon's walking track. The glare on courts is not only annoying, it's dangerous. We have some members who smack the ball with authority. If an opponent is unable to see on the ball for half its flight, it may be impossible to avoid being hit.

2) We want some sort of glare-reduction applied to Falcon's lobby windows and doors. The east-facing team on that court, in my opinion, has about a three point advantage. That glare for those facing the lobby is far worse than any other in the gym.

3) We would like the park district to look at the number of pickleball players, compared to volleyball or other sports, who could be served by evening play at Falcon one or more days.

4) We want the tennis courts, **at least** at Sycamore and Locust, lined for dual use. Often last summer players had to sit more than play, due to lack of courts. We'll have even more players in 2016. Just lining those two courts will increase our courts by 50%. Yes, we'll try to assign multiple play times (days or hours for novice and others for more advanced players), but lining those courts will help considerably.

5) We want to get them thinking about a Palatine facility with at least 6 (preferably 12) courts. We're unable to host travel team play, despite having by far the largest club membership in the suburbs. I don't see the park districts of Hoffman Estates or Libertyville or Park Ridge or others having significantly larger populations or greater budgets, yet they have to host our travel teams.

## **SHIRT PICK-UP**

On Monday, January 4th and Friday the 8th, I will have the most recent printing of Palatine Pickler shirts at Falcon, for those of you who ordered one or more. Those who have already paid are Lee Smith, Andy Nyberg, Leslie Hofeldt, Satish Sura, Lucky Tran, Neal Warner, Marti Marra, Debbie Myers, Scott Stubig, and John Forshall. Tina Labellarte owes \$11, Tom Frech \$20, Mike Rosenblum \$12, and Don Bextel 10, if my records are correct. Please have exact amounts.

# TRAVEL ROSTER PREP

Of course there will be residual headaches, but the biggest challenge of my pickleball year is now behind me. Below you will see the rosters for each of our upcoming 10-week "travel" season ... and the partner pairings for each of the 120 games. This represents what I believe are PPC's most competitive teams, while honoring my promise to give at least one play date to every member of at least intermediate level who gave me a list of dates they'd be available to play. For our men, that meant filling 60 slots from 182 requests, not counting all those who want to play but can't commit to any date in advance ... and those kind individuals who said "Use me if/how you need me." Their kindness put them pretty much out of the running. For the ladies I had to fill 60 slots from 110 requests, not counting those available to sub.

Yeah, I like numbers. Here's another: since the November newsletter announced the revised parameters for the travel league, I have sent or received 172 e-mails on this subject. During the course of those, our teams got significantly more competitive. A number of factors contributed to the decisions I made over the five hours it took to put these rosters together. Those include perceived skill level, compatibility of playing styles, complementary playing styles when compatible wasn't there, compatible personalities, and an attempt at practical equity. Seeding each of our 12 teams for each date involved even more considerations. There was a lot of subjectivity, and individual evaluations took a back seat to team evaluations. And moving some players around the seedings so they don't keep playing the same opponents also was considered.

Do I expect everyone to be happy with my decisions? Of course not. Even I'm not happy about them. I'd hoped to make all ten rosters, but I'm on only three.

Will I listen to your complaints, self-evaluations, and suggestions. Absolutely. Just put them in the second paragraph of an e-mail to me. Your first paragraph should read, "I want to serve on the PPC Board in 2016." After making my day with your first paragraph, I'll be open-minded to all you say in your second.

## ALL 10 TRAVEL ROSTERS

MEN		LADIES		MIXED	
<b>JANUARY 6</b>					
1	Jim Roland & Ralph Cook	1	Holly Goldsmith & Sue Cameron	1	Ralph & Joan
2	Marv Zwass & Jeff Degner	2	Joan Naughton & Pam Lindberg	2	Jim & Holly
3	Larry Shoemake & Scott S	3	Lynn Perkins & Tina Labellarte	3	Marv & Sue
				4	Jeff & Joanj
				5	Scott & Pam
				6	Larry & Tina
<b>JANUARY 20</b>					
1	Bill Myers & Ralph Cook	1	Liz Chaplinski & April Volpe	1	Bill & Liz
2	Larry Shoemake & Rob P	2	Linda Gariano & Debbie Myers	2	Ralph & Linda
3	Scott Stubig & <b>SUB</b>	3	Dana Joseph & Debbie Paneral	3	Larry & Debbie M
				4	Scott & Debbie P
				5	Rob & Dana
				6	<b>SUB</b> & April
<b>FEBRUARY 3</b>					
1	Jim Roland & Ralph Cook	1	Linda Gariano & April Volpe	1	Jim & April
2	Marv Zwass & Fohn Forshall	2	Dana Joseph & Debbie Paneral	2	Marv & Linda
3	Scott Stubig & Neal Harris	3	Holly Goldsmith & Hollis Pearlman	3	Ralph & Holly
				4	Scott & Debbie P
				5	John & Hollis
				6	Neal & Dana
<b>FEBRUARY 17</b>					
1	Jim Roland & Jeff Degner	1	Liz Chaplinski & Joan Naughton	1	Jim & Liz
2	<b>SUB</b> & Kevin Wright	2	Dana Joseph & Debbie Paneral	2	Jeff & Debbie P
3	Mark Vrtacnik & Bear Shatwell	3	Hollis Pearlman & Sue Cameron	3	<b>SUB</b> & Sue
				4	Mark & Joan
				5	Bear & Dana
				6	Kevin & Hollis
<b>MARCH 2</b>					
1	Jim Roland & Rob Paneral	1	Holly Gariano & April Volpe	1	Jim & Linda
2	<b>SUB</b> & Jeff Degner	2	Debbie Paneral & Dana Joseph	2	Jeff & April
3	Mike Rosenblum & Tom Frech	3	Holly Goldstein & Hollis Pearlman	3	<b>SUB</b> & Holly
				4	Rob & Debbie P
				5	Mike & Hollis
				6	Tom & Dana
<b>MARCH 16</b>					
1	Bill Myers & Jim Roland	1	Liz Chaplinski & Debbie Paneral	1	Bill & Liz
2	Jeff Degner & Mark Vrtacnik	2	Linda Gariano & April Volpe	2	Jim & Linda G
3	Neal Harris & <b>SUB</b>	3	Dana Joseph & Linda Mihel	3	Jeff & April
				4	<b>SUB</b> & Debbie P
				5	Mark & Dana
				6	Neal & Linda M
<b>APRIL 6</b>					

1	Bill Myers & Marv Zwass	1	April Volpe & Debbie Myers	1	Marv & Debbie M
2	Rob Paneral & Mark Vrtacnik	2	Linda Gariano & Holly Goldberg	2	Bill & Linda
3	Neal Harris & Kenny Thakker	3	Sandy Barreca & Sue Cameron	3	Rob & April
				4	Mark & Sandy
				5	Neal & Sue
				6	Kenny & Holly
			<b>APRIL 20</b>		
1	Bill Myers & Marv Swass	1	Liz Chaplinski & Debbie M	1	Bill & Liz
2	<b>SUB1 &amp; SUB2</b>	2	Holly Goldsmith & Joan Naughton	2	Marv & Debbie M
3	Rob Paneral & Bear Shatwell	3	Sandy Barreca & Linda Mihel	3	Rob & Dana
				4	SUB1 & Sandy
				5	SUB2 & Linda M
				6	Bear & Holly
			<b>MAY 11</b>		
1	Marv Zwass & John Forshall	1	Dana Joseph & Debbie Paneral	1	Marv & Debbie P
2	Scott Stubig & <b>SUB1</b>	2	Hollis Pearlman & Joan Naughton	2	Scott & Dana
3	Mark Vrtacnik & <b>SUB2</b>	3	Sue Cameron & Marti Marra	3	John & Hollis
				4	Mark & Joan
				5	<b>SUB2</b> & Marti
				6	<b>SUB1</b> & Sue
			<b>MAY 18</b>		
1	Marv Zwass & John Forshall	1	Liz Chaplinski & Debbie P	1	Marv & Liz
2	<b>SUB1 &amp; SUB2</b>	2	Dana Joseph & Sue Cameron	2	John & Debbie P
3	Scott Stubig & Bear Shatwell	3	Hollis Pearlman & Tina Labellarte	3	Scott & Dana
				4	<b>SUB1</b> & Hollis
				5	<b>Sub2</b> & Tina
				6	Bear & Sue Cameron

## SUBS

Four of PPC's top, men players (Ralph Cook, Steve Erdman, Jim Roland, and Tim Saunders) have schedules that are not set well in advance but should, with short notice, have several available play dates. In my opinion, these four have climbed higher on the skills ladder than the rest of us. Since we'll be facing strong competition each week, it would be great to have them represent PPC as much as possible. I hope to fill the ten **SUB** positions you see on the schedule above with them. I'm fronting the \$63 for these open slots and will collect from them, when they commit to a date.

On the chart below you'll find plenty of fine players who will be happy to sub on the dates shown. I **really** appreciate that several said they'd be available on dates indicated but were fine not being on any roster.

If you find yourself unable to play on any of your designated dates, it is up to you to find a sub. Call or text me (224-595-2697) or e-mail me as soon as you know you won't be able to play. Please identify yourself, as I may not recognize your phone number or e-mail address. I'll then e-mail you a list of all our subs of your gender with their phone numbers. Check their availability on the chart and start calling. When you find one, **LET ME KNOW**. I'll need to adjust the roster, possibly change partner pairings, and get the new roster to that week's "Captain" to turn in the morning of the match. (I'll appoint a willing Captain for each match date.) Yes, it would be easier for all of us, if I simply printed the entire list of subs and numbers here, but I prefer to protect their privacy.

## CHART OF PLAY DATES AND SUB AVAILABILITY

	6-Jan	20-Jan	3-Feb	17-Feb	2-Mar	16-Mar	6-Apr	20-Apr	11-May	18-May		
Bextel, Don	sub	\$0.00										
Cook, Ralph	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	sub	\$18.90							
Countryman, Terry	sub	\$0.00										
Degner, Jeff	<b>M</b>	x	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	x	x	x	x	\$31.50	pd
Degner, Mark	sub	\$0.00										
Erdman, Steve	sub	\$0.00										
Forshall, John	sub	x	<b>M</b>	x	x	x	x	x	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	\$18.90	pd
Frech, Tom	sub	sub	sub	sub	<b>M</b>	sub	sub	sub	sub	sub	\$6.30	
Harris, Neal	sub	x	<b>M</b>	x	x	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	x	sub	x	\$18.90	pd
Myers, Bill	x	<b>M</b>	x	x	x	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	x	x	\$25.20	6.30 bal
Paneral, Rob	sub	<b>M</b>	sub	sub	<b>M</b>	sub	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	sub	sub	\$25.20	
Roland, Jim	<b>M</b>	sub	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	sub	sub	sub	sub	\$31.50	12.60 bal



Perkins, Lynn	<b>L</b>	x	sub	sub	sub	sub	sub	sub	sub	sub	\$6.30	
Volpe, April	x	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	x	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	x	x	x	\$31.50	

### **WHY NOT PAY IT FORWARD ?**

If you've enjoyed pickleball experience in 2015, how 'bout helping us all enjoy the experience even more in 2016? Join the Board. Just e-mail Neal at [neal@relax4lift.com](mailto:neal@relax4lift.com) with your interest. Thanks to Jim Simmons and Tina Labellarte for wanting to serve in the new year. There really won't be that much work, but it's beneficial to all to have mutiple perspectives for brainstorming and addressing all issues.

### **THANKS, 1st BOARD**

From the first meeting of all of us at my home in February, I've enjoyed the support, input, and help when asked from each of our initial board membes. I'd like to personally and publicly thank (in alphabetical order) Dana Joseph, Neal Harris, Debbie Paneral, Bob Roth, Darrell Rutter, Tim Saunders, Kevin Wright, for their service in 2015.

### **SEE YOU ON THE 4th**

The 2016 indoor season begins on Monday the 4th. Again, I'll pass on a request from a few members. If you're a top-half player, please show up by 8:15-8:30, before the gym fills. Meanwhile, have a fantastic holiday season and a happy and safe New Year.

See you on the courts next year.

Bear Shatwell  
PPC Presdient