



## April, 2016 Newsletter

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### BEAR APPRECIATES APPRECIATION

Last Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, I was surprised to learn it was “Bear Appreciation Day.” This was the brain child of Jeff Degner with whom I’ve shared volleyball, racquetball, tennis, squash, basketball, and pickleball courts for decades. A great friend, he was more aware than most of the time and money, I’ve invested in PPC. We’ve both always sought intrinsic rewards over material ones. I had never given a thought to being honored in any manner for my PPC avocation, let alone in such grand fashion.

At 10:30 Chuck and Dana yelled for everyone to stop their games and gather. I assumed they’d explain the new payment plan. (See subsequent story.) Jeff emerged out of the crowd to stand alone. Then I saw his wife Marcie and my wife Kathy enter the gym. That’s when my cheeks began to flush. Jeff, with some adlibs from Dana, gave a brief, pun-filled speech about my efforts and how I was “relished.” He then read a card that talked about my making the pickleball world a better place. Jeff added that these words “Bearly” scratch the surface of the club’s gratitude. He then presented me with a \$100 gift card to Biaggi’s, \$50 gift cards to Amazon and Dick’s, and \$65 cash. I was overwhelmed.



*Jeff Degner, creator of Bear Appreciation Day, congratulates Bear Shatwell*

I wish to humbly thank all who participated in this clandestine operation, contributed to it, shook my hand, patted me on the back, hugged me, or at least refrained from heckling me. I have been honored for volunteer work before (at post-season banquets, etc.), but I’d always been prepared. This time I was shocked and almost speechless. While you may appreciate me or my efforts, I assure you that I appreciate all of you. I love growing our club and trying to help everyone enjoy our sport as much as possible. Besides, if not for you, I’d surely have become a couch potato in my recent retirement and grown an even greater girth. Thank you.

## MORE PICKLE PUSSES

I received so much positive feedback about the “meet the Picklers” concept, it seems many would like to put more names to faces. Here we go ...



Don B



Hollis P



Holly G



Chuck F



Alex K



Scott S



Kathy M



Michelle R



Karin H



Jim B



Judy R



Roland L



Larry W



Amy L



Don S



Rea K



Lynne W

## SEASON-ENDING PAY PLAN

The easy part of this explanation is that Wednesday players will do what we've always done ... pay \$3 each Wednesday. The Monday and Friday Picklers, beginning NOW will not be allowed to pay for one day. We must use our 10-session pass (\$30/resident & \$40/non-rresident). The good news is that these passes will NEVER get obsolete. There is no expiration date. Falcon play ends with the Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> session.

## BLAH BLAH EXCUSE BLAH BLAH

I apologize if your face is blurry or your paddle seems to be moving at light speed in these pics. I don't want to bring a "real" camera to the gym, for one reason. I'm an all-or-nothing kind of guy who was huge into photography. If I brought something other than an obsolete iphone with a slightly delayed shutter, I'd spend all day shooting sports shots, rather than playing pickleball. Oh, and it's much easier for a shaky geezer to hold a 200 mm lens steady for a zoom shot than it is a 1/4" one. Well, that's about it for my self-pitying, whining excuses. Sorry for your fuzziness. Some shots were so bad last month, they get a 2<sup>nd</sup> pic.



Linda G



Linda C



Fred C



Elke J



Marti M

## SUBURBAN PB VENUES

Recent Pickler recruit Jim Little has done his homework. He's prepared a spreadsheet of places to play pickleball, along with a lot of information about each, including an estimated number of players who show up to play. Thank you, Jim, for allowing us to share the results of your research. See separate attachment.



Pam T



Terry L



Susie L



Peggy D



Tim M



Nancy G

## FALCON'S FINAL FRIDAY

Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for regularly scheduled indoor pickleball in Palatine.

# SYCAMORE'S SET TO SUB

Falcon may have flown from our pickleball calendar, but Sycamore Park is ready to step up to the pickle plate. Let's call Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> the official start of the outdoor season there, and let's call it a holiday. Oh yeah, it already is a holiday. That should make it easier for those youngish Picklers who are in pre-retirement mode to join us. Play will begin at 9:00 a.m. You'll need your own paddle, but we'll have outdoor balls there. It's a good idea to bring a beverage and a chair, as there's neither a fountain nor seating courtside.

Nets are up and nice days have already seen some of our members enjoying fresh air on glareless courts.

## MEET MORE PICKLER PEERS



Mary Y



Lori B



Jeff D



Karin B



Jim H



Jim L



Julie G



John M



Leslie H



Keith W



Lynn G



Diane R



Elvira C



Marsha P



Dori C



Lee S



Tom K



Liz C

## WANT TO PLAY TOURNAMENTS?

If you're ready to test your skills against less familiar faces, here's a link that will show you several, if not all, tournaments available to you. <http://www.northernillinoispickleball.com/tournaments> If you're uncertain at what level you should play, ask any of more skilled Picklers with whom you play...or ask Chuck or Dana or even me. We'll try to help you find the level in which you'll likely be comfortable.



Cathy C



Ellen M



Micki C



April V



Debbie P

## YOUR PPC SHIRTS AWAIT YOU

Yes, I do know that a few of you snowbirds are still out of town. However, if you are around, please plan to come to Falcon this Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. I'll have your shirts there. Wednesday, I'll arrive about 10:00, after I'm sure our travel team has no last minute glitches in Barrington. Those with shirts to pick up are, in alpha order with any money still owed, are Al J, Bob H, Bruce A, Fan B (\$10), Franklin L, Gail F, Henry L (\$10), Kathy J, Linda D, Mike R (\$12), Neal W, Rob W, Scott R, and Shelly C (\$11).

## GLARE TO BE GONE

The Palatine Park District will be giving us Picklers a "Welcome back" present, when the indoor season starts next fall. I have it on good authority that the most offensive windows ... those on the upper east side (opposite the lobby) will have glare-reducing screens. On sunny days those windows have impacted all six courts. Everyone is well aware of the extreme glare on the lobby court, but that impacts only that court. So the limited budget can do more for us on the upper deck windows. Thank you, Palatine Park District.

That's it for now. Next month we'll look more closely at the outdoor playing options. Thanks again for my big surprises. See you on the courts.

Bear Shatwell  
Palatine Pickler Prez