



AUGUST, 2016 NEWSLETTER

FALCON FACTS

WHEN DOES PLAY RESUME? Throughout August this is the question I've been asked most often. The answer is Monday, September 19th. The gym of six courts will be set up by 8:00 a.m. and is exclusively for pickleball until noon. Mondays and Fridays are reserved for those who have experienced their 50th birthday. Wednesday play is for anyone 18 or older.

FEES FOR PLAY constitute the second most popular question I'm asked. Wednesday is easy. It's \$3 each week for each player, regardless of residency. There's no prepaying for Wednesdays. Mondays and Fridays require a 10-visit pass at a cost of \$30 for Palatine residents and \$40 for non-residents. No, you may not pay for just one day. The good news is that the pass never expires. If you play only twice a season, you're good for five years.

COURT ASSIGNMENTS are of interest to those who have joined PPC since May. Mondays and Fridays you'll put your paddle in a rack, but that has nothing to do with your next playing group. Chuck Feinstein will put foursomes on the courts which he hopes are of similar ability. Sometimes this means you may play back-to-back games, and sometimes you may sit for longer than you'd like, but it all balances out pretty well and leads to games which are more fun for all than processes which disregard individuals' skill levels.

Wednesday's game plan is "You're on your own." Players make their own foursomes. This works fine for most, but it can be a bit frustrating for newer players, particularly those who are hesitant to assert themselves. Let's all try to include someone we've seen sitting for a couple games.

ARE THERE ANTI-GLARE SCREENS YET? No, but yesterday, after visiting Falcon to check out the situation, I asked our primary PPD contact Keith Williams about them. He then asked Steve Nagle who's coordinating the project. It is believed the screens will be in the gym before we will be. They'll be on the upper deck windows on the north side. Though it's worst for those facing north on the courts nearest the windows, the glare can impact play on all six courts, on sunny days. We're grateful to the Palatine Park District for listening to our request and having empathy for our concerns.

THE LONG & THE SHORT OF IT



PALATINE PICKLERS ARE PASSIONATE

Steve and April may view things from different perspectives, but they proudly wear their club's colors. And, as do most of their 300+ fellow members, they are passionate about sportsmanship, respect, encouragement, helpfulness, improvement, generosity, and helping to grow our sport. We can all take pride in being part of a large, yet surprisingly close, group of good people... the kind you'd welcome as next door neighbors.

BLAIRS' BALL BLOCKADE



Jim and I were brainstorming what we could do about balls rolling under the fencing around the Sycamore courts. We could lay 2x4s there and tie them to the fence, but that could be a liability concern for PPD. We could put towels there each day and throw them in the bin at the end of play. Then Jim came up with this idea. He and his wife Sue went shopping, asked my approval to spend \$23, and volunteered their time and craftsmanship in creating this good-looking, safe, and very efficient ball blockade. Thank you, Blairs.

MANY MEDALISTS

If you medal in any pickleball tournament, please e-mail me the details so we all can celebrate your success. Here are a few Picklers who survived metallic matches.

UNREPORTED last month. The Senior Games website had at least one misreported medal pair. Lynne Weisbart and Peggy Whitlow captured bronze in their age group.

Going back to June, Hollis Pearlman and Linda Gariano took gold in the Pickleball in the Park tournament in Wheeling. Though not sorted by age or skill level, eight ladies' teams participated.

Michelle Ryder and Rick Johnson earned 4.0 bronze medals at the Scheels Tournament in Springfield, IL on July 11th.

At the Great Lakes Regional in Fort Wayne, IN on July 11th, Holly Goldsmith and Sue Cameron took home the silver medals for their 50+ 3.0 success. Michelle Ryder and non-PPC partner Ewelina Wessels took silver in the 19+ 4.0 division. Chuck Feinstein and Seymour Rifkind captured the bronze in the 4.5 division. Chuck earned a 2nd bronze while paired with non-PPC member Patty Eagleton in the 50+ 4.5 competition.

MORE PICKLER POSES

Most of the Pickler pics this month are newbies to the club, though a few are of players who managed to avoid my infamous iphone until now.



Jerry F



David D



Janet S



Kristie M



Bob M



Clark P

CLUB vs CLUB MATCH

On a Wednesday morning in the near future, we will send eight or ten Picklers about nine miles from Falcon to compete against men's, ladies' and mixed teams on the Lake Barrington Shores outdoor courts. This particular match will be for intermediate players. We're working on where to draw the line on "intermediate" for this, but it will be lower than it is for the fall intermediate travel league. I've never had occasion to say this, and I'm smiling as I write it, but I may be too good to make this team. If you'd like to play two gender games and five mixed games at your level, please let me know right away via e-mail. Even if you have already requested consideration for this match, please let me know again, now that we know it will be a Wednesday morning. I've proposed that all players from both clubs who can spare the time, go out to lunch after the match.

This will be our club's third club vs club match. We learned from our first with Hoffman Estates and improved the format when we visited Libertyville last summer. This one should be even more competitive. No, that's the wrong word. It sounds too serious. Let's change that to this one should be more evenly matched.

MORE PADDLE PUSHERS



Dave S



John M



Earle G



Alberto B



Dennis R



Mike K



Moira F



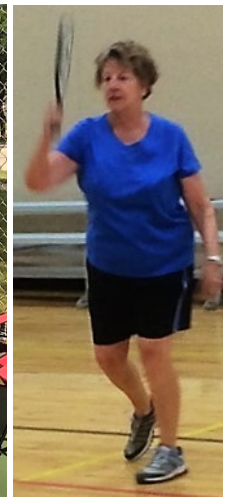
Tom E



Marianne O



Dennis B



Sue G

IF WE INVITE HIM, HE WILL COME



Chicken N Pickle

Dave Weinbach
Clubs & Pro Exhibitor

Dave Weinbach is a US Open & Professional Champion. Thursday, October 20th from 1:00pm - 3:00pm Dave will be holding a \$30 clinic that will focus on pickleball fundamentals and winning strategies. That evening Dave will be featured in a free and exhibition match from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

Thursday October 20th
Pick up to the weekend's tournament.

Clinic Registration Online!
\$30

Chicken N Pickle Tournament
October 21st - Men's Doubles
October 22nd - Mixed Doubles
October 23rd - Women's Doubles

(816) 537-1400
www.ChickenNPickle.com
1191 Boulevard St. North Kansas City, MO 64116

Dave Weinbach could be called a living legend. Google his name or look for him on YouTube, if you're unfamiliar with his artistry on the pickleball court. Greg and Melody, among other Picklers, recently attended that clinic shown on the poster on the previous page. Afterward, Greg sent me an e-mail part of which appears just below.

I don't know if you heard from anyone else that went to Dave Weinbach's clinic on Thursday. Melody and I thought it was a fabulous clinic. It certainly was one of the best ones that we have attended. Dave is a great presenter of his philosophy and stokes. He loves to answer questions and made the clinic fun. It lasted over 2 hours and was 75% on-hand play and 25% instruction. Dave and KaSandra sent time with each group (8 courts, approx. 32 people) and were very helpful and friendly. We worked on three shots: dinks, 3rd shot drop, and serves/return of serve. It was really nicely done in which he got us all around one net and he would teach the stroke, answer questions, and then have us spread out and practice. After a bit, we would get together again and go over the next drill. At the end of the night we started with skinny singles and then moved to regular doubles where Dave and KaSandra again join each of the groups as they went around the gym separately. The clinic went for 2 hours but we practiced/played for almost 2.5 hours. I got to talk to Dave a little after the clinic to thank him and he offered to come on down to our area and give a clinic.

I don't have all of the pricing details but we paid \$35 a person and I think the minimum group size is around 30 participants.

CALL TO ACTION. Before Dana and I begin to explore the logistics of Canlan's or Falcon's, and Dave's, availability and pricing, I need to **know** that at least 30 of us would be willing to spend \$30-\$50 to have Dave Weinbach put on a similar clinic here ... or even two, possibly one novice-intermediate and one intermediate-advanced. Greg spoke with him and learned he would be willing to drive down from Wisconsin for us, if we can get the registration and indoor venue needed. Once again, **E-MAIL ME**, if you'd be like to be part of such a clinic. Please also indicate if you think you would benefit more from a lower or higher skill level clinic, as differentiated three sentences ago. Your e-mail is not a commitment. I understand it would depend on your availability. Thanks. And thanks to Greg for paving the way for what could be the best thing to happen to your game in, well... forever.

WAZZUP WITH THAT INTERMEDIATE TRAVEL LEAGUE ?

Great question. Time will tell. This coming Thursday, September 1st, Dana Joseph has invited Presidents or Representatives of several clubs to meet at Canlan to explore the interest and brainstorm the details of this potential league. Those who responded to my invitation last month to express interest in playing at least once in this league that would cap about 3.5 on the skill level are (last names only) Barkocy, Bernabe, Coleman, Degner, Forshall, Jacobsen, Marra, O'Shea, Paneral, Paneral, Pearlman, Perkins, Rosenblum, Shatwell, Vrtacnik, Warner, Woodsum, Woodsum. Elke and Greg are of questionable eligibility, but we'll know more in a few days. **WHO ELSE** would like to seem some fun action against several other clubs? I really need a handle on our intermediate talent pool, before Thursday's meeting.

PPC – PPD MEETING OF MINDS

This past week I exercised my envisioned right to be a PITA. I exchanged increasingly long e-mails with Palatine Park District's Keith Williams, advocating for several things on the wish lists of all Palatine Picklers. Keith tried to suggest that we were one of a great many of clubs and organizations vying for PPD's resources.

Of course, I tried to point out that there was PICKLEBALL, and then there was all those other, less important things. Given that we each have several, complex issues that are often at odds, Keith very politely and professionally invited me to meet with him to go over everything in more depth. We hope to get together in the coming week. If I'm unable to negotiate a twelve court facility with retractable roof, concessions, locker rooms, lights for 24-hour play, and streaming live coverage of our games on those courts, it's not for lack of trying.

MAY NOT BE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH, BUT

Thanks to the PPD for installing a drinking fountain between the pickleball courts and the ball field at Sycamore Park. It may not restore our youth, but it will assure we're well-hydrated while playing and aging. One Pickler was disappointed because, due to the low stream of water from the fountain, she couldn't fill her water bottle more than one-third of the way. I'd just accidentally discovered that there's what I called a foot-washing spigot at the base of the fountain. That worked well for filling her bottle.

RUNG-CLIMBING NEARS CONCLUSION

There's been a lot of activity on the half-court singles ladder this month. Jim Simmons has had to send numerous updates to the remaining 33 players. He's set September 16th as the final day for challenges matches to be completed.

INDOORS? As much fun as so many of us have had with this skill-honing game, I wonder how many would like to start a new ladder indoors, with games to take place about 8:15 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at Falcon. This would beat the crowd so courts would be available. As always, there would be a blind draw for starting rungs and anyone could challenge one or two rungs above him or her. Days of each match would be determined by mutual consent. Yet again, **E-MAIL ME**, if you'd like to hop on an indoor ladder.

MAY NEED A BIGGER MAILBOX

To review here's a list of things about which you need to e-mail me a.s.a.p.:

- If you've won a medal in any tournament
- If you're an intermediate player who'd like to play one Wednesday outdoors at LBS
- If you'd like to support a Dave Weinbach Clinic here in Palatine
- If you'd like to be rostered for at least one "Intermediate Travel League" morning
- If you'd like to participate in an indoor "Half-Court Singles Ladder"

PREFER PRINTED PAGE ?

I've learned this week of a couple Picklers who rarely/never look at e-mail. To remind everyone, you'll find a thick binder for Palatine Pickleball Club under the front desk at Falcon. Just ask. It contains copies of all club newsletters and more. Page through it at one of the nearby tables and return it.

See you on the courts, and **DON'T FORGET** Thursdays and Sundays at 4:00 at Sycamore.

Bear Shatwell

Palatine Pickler Pres