



## JANUARY, 2017 NEWSLETTER

### WE'VE WELCOMED OUR 400<sup>th</sup> MEMBER



Steve Ander of Buffalo Grove, on Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, became Palatine Pickleball Club's 400<sup>th</sup> member. Though a health issue prevented me from playing, I went to the YMCA that evening to take a few photos and, hopefully, recruit this landmark member. Though more have joined since then, 400 by year's end had been a goal. Steve represents one more, big step toward PPC becoming the most nurturing and diverse club in Illinois, as well as the largest.

### WHO'S WHO ON THE COURTS



Sandy & Mike



blurry Scott



Marti



Trevor



Steve

## THANKS FOR GIVING BACK

We owe a **BIG** thanks to a number of Picklers, and two entities, for having gone out of their way to help us enjoy our sport more in 2016. In alphabetical order, I want to acknowledge with gratitude the following:

**CHUCK FEINSETIN** ... for always taking the time to offer helpful tips, rather than saying, "Take a lesson."

**DANA JOSEPH** ... for taking the reins of Canlan's pickleball program and working to level the travel playing field.

**JIM BLAIR** ... for inventing solutions to keeping balls within Sycamore's fences and keeping Canlan paddles organized.

**JIM SIMMONS** ... for volunteering to run the summer skinny singles ladder and for doing a fine job of doing so.

**JOHN PIHL** ... for buying the domain name and developing our website [PalatinePicklers.com](http://PalatinePicklers.com).

**LIZ BERRY** ... for researching and creating comprehensive list of indoor pickleball venues found on our website.

**PALATINE PARK DISTRICT** ... for installing blinds at Falcon and giving us playing time in Birchwood Park's gym.

**PEGGY WHITLOW** ... for her generous donation to the club.

**TIM MOTTL** ... for serving as Ambassador and for setting up the Northwest Illinois Pickleball page on Facebook.

**WOOLENWEAR** ... for ordering and printing PPC shirts at affordable prices, in quantities as low as a dozen.

**ALSO**, thanks all who put bills in my Crown Royal bag to cover the cost of outdoor balls and other club expenses.

## PPD FOUND US MORE BIRCHWOOD DATES

The Palatine Park District gave us a holiday gift of more play dates at Birchwood Park. Starting tomorrow **January 4<sup>th</sup>** and going through March 29<sup>th</sup>, Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 the gym will be ours, EXCEPT for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## YEAH, I KNOW ... LESS BABBLE. MORE PICS



Scott



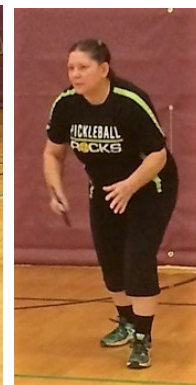
Rick



Soo



Satish



Sandy



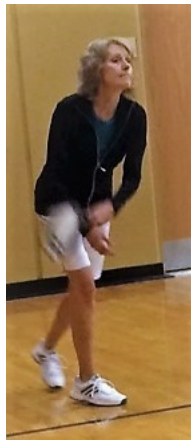
Gary



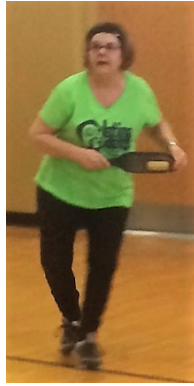
Howard



Jerry



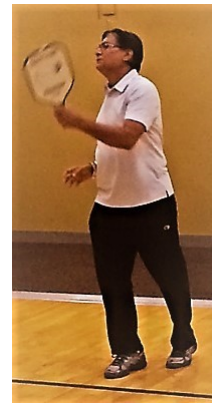
Gail



Marcia



Linda



Kenny



Mike

## SHOELESS JOES & SHOELESS JOS WANTED

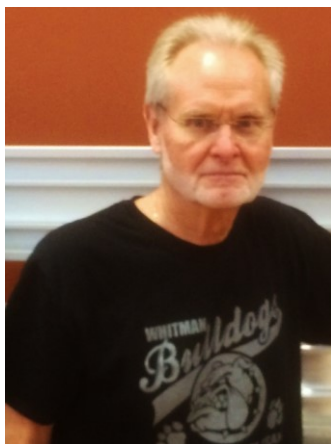
Most, but not all, Falcon players heeded the suggestion in the December newsletter to carry your playing shoes into the lobby and change there. That salt residue that enters Falcon on the soles of your shoes leaves those shoes in favor of the court floors. And that makes them slippery and dangerous. We've already seen a couple players slip and go down. So please, until snow and salt are long history, change shoes in the lobby. Thank you.

## ONLY 7 MONTHS FROM NOW

Mark your calendars, and solicit a great partner or two. The 2017 Six County Senior Games will be in July ... Women's will be Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> ... Men's will be Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> ... Mixed will be Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> ... and Singles will be Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Once again, all competitions will be at Fabbrini Park in Hoffman Estates. Whether or not you'll be playing, you're invited to volunteer to help. Let me know you're raising your hand, and I'll put you in touch with the right party.

## FALL LADDER COOKED WOULD BE CLIMBERS

Our summer ladder's top dog Greg Woodsum picked the ladder lovers' names from my purple bag, to establish the starting rungs for the fall skinny singles ladder. The first name would be on the top rung. That first Pickler was Ralph Cook. I'm sure he'd have preferred to have been drawn 18<sup>th</sup>. Then he could have enjoyed a few more ladder games. Ralph did eventually face a couple challengers well into the season, but he had little trouble dashing their hopes. Congratulations, Ralph. Greg Woodsum finished the season in second, while Tom Engels took the third rung.



Ralph



Greg

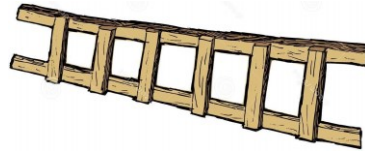


Tom



## WINTER LADDER IN JEOPARDY

The initial response to a winter ladder was so minuscule that let's try fresh. If you'd like to play half-court singles in an ongoing, ladder tournament over the course of the remaining indoor season, e-mail me. Even if you responded last month, please do so again. HOW'S IT WORK? Rather than make this newsletter any longer, I'll refer you to our website, [PalatinePicklers.com](http://PalatinePicklers.com). Click on the LADDERS tab, to find rules of this one-on-one game on your 10' x 44' court. If we have at least a dozen, we'll start by February. Games are scheduled for anywhere and anytime by mutual consent. Early at Falcon has been the most popular time and place. Only successful challengers need to let me know their result.



## PLENTY OF PALATINE PICKLERS PARTICIPATED – HOW 'BOUT YOU ?

One year ago this month, the collaborative efforts of several club leaders resulted in the formation of the winter-spring traveling league. Four clubs ... Palatine, Hoffman Estates, the combined Libertyville & Park Ridge clubs, and a collection of players from DuPage County competed with each other every other week. Teams consisted of six ladies and six men. Captains seeded their pairs, 1-3 for gender games and 1-6 for mixed pairs. Then each pair played the same seeded pair from each of the other three clubs. Throughout the season, the Hoffman team reigned supreme, with their stable of 4.0+ "horses." Palatine finished 2<sup>nd</sup> each match. At season's end it was determined that this format league would be limited to upper intermediate players (3.3-3.9), and the 4.0+ players from the region would have a separate day in the fall. Then a couple of us pushed to add a lower intermediate league (2.5-3.2). What we got is a club vs club match for 8-player teams from Palatine and the combined team of Lake Barrington Shores and Canlan players. With only 2 gender pairs and 4 mixed pairs, we play each of the opponent's pairs, with no need for seeds. Again, everyone plays six games to 15.

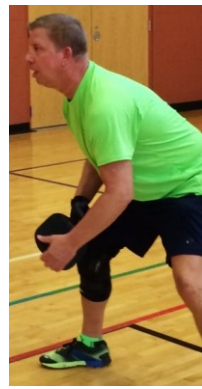
Between the ten matches of the winter-spring league and the 4 matches of both the intermediate, fall leagues, Palatine Pickleball Club has put 18 teams on the travel courts at the Canlan Sports Complex in Lake Barrington. Unlike, the other clubs, PPC's rosters differ considerably from week to week. We want to give as many Picklers as practical the opportunity to enjoy the experience of representing their club in travel play. In 2016 a total of 53 Palatine Picklers have played travel pickleball for us. In alpha order of first names they are:

*Anita O'Connor, Ann Stein, April Volpe, Bear Shatwell, Becky Coleman, Bill Myers, Cathy Carlson, Clark Poole, Dana Joseph, Debbie Myers, Debbie Paneral, Diane Raak, Don Bextel, Greg Woodsum, Hollis Pearlman, Holly Goldsmith, Jeff Degner, Jeff Kaufman, Jim Blair, Jim Roland, Jim Simmons, Joan Barkocy, Joan Naughton, John Forshall, Karin Hribar, Kenny Thakker, Kevin Wright, Larry Shoemake, Leslie Hoefeldt, Linda Garriano, Linda Mihel, Liz Chaplinsky, Lynn Perkins, Lynne Weisbart, Mark Vrtacnik, Marti Marra, Marv Zwass, Melody Woodsum, Neal Harris, Pam Lindberg, Ralph Cook, Rob Paneral, Sandy Barreca, Scott Stubig, Steve Erdmann, Sue Cameron, Sue Shatz, Thea Froehling, Tim Saunders, Tina Labellarte, and Tom Engles.*

**LET BEAR KNOW, IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ONE OF OUR FUTURE ROSTERS.** Playing for your club as part of a team is so much more exciting than any non-tournament play you can experience. Don't worry about costing PPC a victory. We've demonstrated (with an early 31-5 win victory in Division 1 and 22-2 victory in Division 2) that we have the talent to win every match at both Divisions handily, if we so desired. I'm Captain Bear, and it's my goal to roster teams that will win in CLOSE matches. If we lose, it's entirely my fault, not yours. It remains the goal of this club to let everyone who has the desire enjoy the unique experience of travel pickleball. Don't be shy. E-mail me. You'll be glad you did. For the January-February 4-match season, I already have 30+ players wanting to make one or more of the four, rosters. I'd really like to have more Division 2 players from which to assemble rosters. Those dates are 1/10, 1/24, 2/7, & 2/21. Let me know which fit your schedule. Hopefully, we'll get you on one of those rosters.



Rob



Scott

## SLIGHT OVERSIGHT SLIGHT

In the December newsletter's coverage of Pickler medalists in Dana's all-day tournament, I missed sharing that Rob Paneral and Scott Stubig captured gold in the men's 3.5 division. Belated congratulations, proud Picklers.

## FINAL FACES



Suren



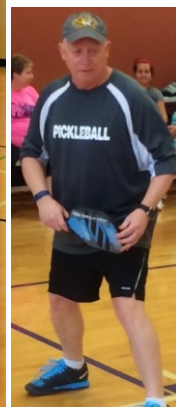
Lucky



Liz



Tina



Tim



Mickey

## PICKLEBALL PEAK PERFORMANCE CLINIC SCORED

The four-pro clinic held by PPP in southeast Arlington Heights in early December attracted, by my count looking at group photos on Facebook, 32 of us Palatine Picklers. From having talked to about half of those, it seems it was a complete success and well worth the \$75 fee.

[PalatinePicklers.com](http://PalatinePicklers.com)

Adding house guests to the routine tasks of newsletters, travel teams, club e-mails, and playing has caused me to be a bit derelict in working on our website. We hope there's enough there already to have you visit often. Remember, you can find all the newsletters on the website so you don't need to keep them on your device. You can also find places to play. Be sure to e-mail me, or use the "contact us" box on the site, to offer your feedback and suggestions. Our website will remain a work in progress. Thanks again to John Pihl for making this a reality.

**WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2017...**

Bear Shatwell  
PicklePrez