



PalatinePicklers.com

FEBRUARY, 2017 NEWSLETTER

WE'RE 2 YEARS OLD

Two years ago later this month I started the Palatine Pickleball Club to bring organization to a (comparatively) small group of players, provide a way of disseminating information, make it possible to have inter-club events, help Picklers get to know one another, establish playing times on outdoor courts, create events, and unify our wants and needs with the Palatine Park District. The thought we'd have 443 members, travel league teams, and a website 24 months later was not even a dream. We are proof that pickleball IS the fastest growing (and addicting) sport in the United States. Thanks to all of you for supporting the club's efforts and programs. At the rate we're growing, I'm sure the Park District will help us get the vastly increased playing times and venues we'll need in the near future. Who knows? At this rate, in a few years Palatine may have established itself as THE place to play pickleball in the Midwest.

PICKLEBALL HAS THEIR HEARTS

Happy Valentine's Day to our married Palatine Picklers.



Barreca ... Peter & Sandy



Biel ... Karin & Scott



Bourgoin ... Betty & Dennis



Buras ... Ann & John



Caruso ... Dori & Fred



Choi ... Tina & Bob



Farb ... Ben & Lois



Finch ... Leroy & Barb



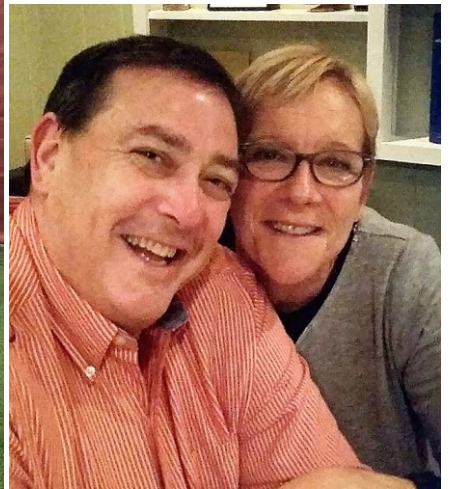
Forshall ... John & Gail



Frech ... Pam & Tom



Gaborek ... Ken & Sandy



Goldsmith ... Larry & Holly



Hopkins...Charles & Denise



Jacobsen ... Chris & Elke



Johnson ... Rick & Sue



Jones ... Laurie & Stan



Jordan ... Cyndi & Vinnie



Kellen ... Bob & Judy



King ... Peter & Pat



Latal ... Jim & Brigitte



Layton ... Terry & Susie



Magg...Millie & Bob



Marra...Marti & Bob



Massa ... Ellen & Carl



McDonald...Pat & John



Myers...Debbie & Bill



Paneral ... Rob & Debbie



Partman ... Steve & Mary



Piehl, Fran & Iacovo, Joe



Pihl ... Joyce & John



Pihl ... Norm & Jan



Robinson ... Dan & Jan



Schreier ... Lance & Suzie



Rosen, Scott & Zuchert, Laura



Seltzer ... David & Angelina



Shatwell ... Kathy & Bear



Shatz ... Sue & Sol



Simmons ... Jim & Jan



Smith ... Sue & Lee



Speicer ... Lynn & Mike



Stein ... Anne & Harvey



Tuszynski ... Ann & Joe



Wagner ... Carl & Betsy



Weisbart ... Howard & Lynne



Williams...Jan & Craig



Woodsum...Melody & Greg



Young...Pam & Bryan



Blair...Jim & Sue

Blair photo is last, as Sue just joined Thursday

THURSDAY PICKLEBALL IN PALATINE

We've asked and asked for Tuesday or Thursday or evening or weekend court time, and the Palatine Park District answered. We now have pickleball for four hours on Thursdays. From 11:00 to 3:00 at Birchwood Park off Illinois between Plum Grove Rd and Quentin Rd, we have three great courts on which we can play to our hearts' content. It's great that the Y has three courts from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Thursdays, but Birchwood's are better, and it's only \$3, regardless of residency. Let's show the Park District how much we appreciate any extra court time they can give us, by embracing this fantastic time.

PLAYERS APLENTY



Jan



David



Gail



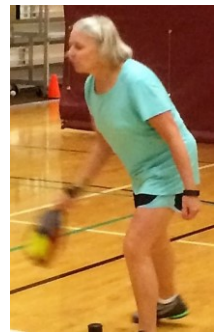
Henry



Jim



Jay



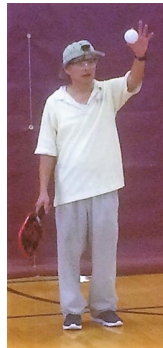
Debbie



Julie



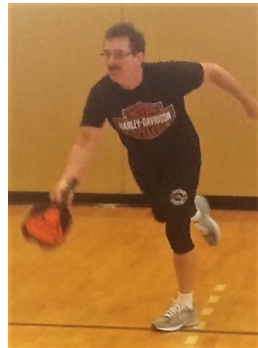
John



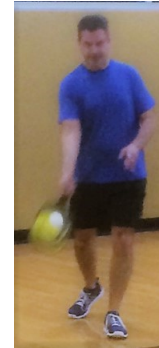
Lucky



Laurie



Ken



fuzzy Rob



Neal

LADDERLESS WINTER

The interest in a winter, skinny singles ladder is inadequate to justify it. This is understandable, given the increasingly crowded gym at Falcon, even by 8:30 a.m. There will be another cattle call in a few months for the summer season's ladder.

CATTLE CALL ...

MARCH-APRIL-MAY TRAVEL INVITATION

This is your chance to play on a Palatine Pickler Travel team. All matches are at the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. Division 2 (lower intermediate ... 2.5-3.3) plays Tuesdays. Division 1 (upper intermediate ... 3.3-3.9) plays on Thursdays. Matches start at 9:30 and go to about 12:15. The fee is \$7 per day. If you'd like to represent your club against other clubs, e-mail me (Bear) all dates you'll be available (see below). BEING AVAILABLE does NOT mean you'll play those days. I try to give everyone a chance to play at an appropriate level at least once. If you do get rostered for any date you're available, I'll e-mail you. If, about a week before a match, you do not receive an e-mail saying you're scheduled to play, it means you are NOT on the roster for that date. Please share which of the following dates you expect to be available. It's OK to give all dates you are available. I'll try to avoid putting you on a team for which you are overqualified or underqualified. PLEASE E-MAIL me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with all dates you expect to be available.

Tue 2/7 Thu 2/9 Tue 2/21 Thu 2/23 Tue 3/7 Thu 3/9 Tue 3/21 Thu 3/23 Tue 4/4 Thu 4/6

“UPPER INTERMEDIATE” TRAVEL LEAGUE

This league is comprised of four clubs who compete on 12 courts every other Thursday morning. Players are in the 3.3 to 3.9 range. Captains create pairings and seed them. Each pair plays the similarly seeded pair from each of the other clubs. Three gender games and three mixed games to 15 are played. Results are recorded on a large scoreboard. Those whose schedules allow head to the Onion Pub a quarter mile away for enjoyable lunchtime conversation.

“LOWER INTERMEDIATE” TRAVEL LEAGUE

This “league” is club vs club competition. Our Palatine Picklers play the combined club of Lake Barrington Shores and Canlan. Interestingly, many of their players are also Palatine Picklers. The clubs roster four men and four ladies. Captains pair their players for gender and mixed games. Each pair plays each pair from the other club. At the January 24th match (pics on next page), six of the eight LBS/Canlan players were also PPC members so I've included them in the photos. Action shots of those in orange (& Ray in cap) are of the ones with “dual citizenship.”

TRAVEL TEAMS “QUIETLY” HAVING FUN

I've written myself an “executive order” to refrain from publishing travel results. Why? Because any stats I could share would be ambiguous at best. We've proven that we can blow away the competition in both upper and lower intermediate league play and could surely go undefeated, if that was our intent.

I do share a lot of team and individual with the Palatine Picklers who have played in that match. To put these in the newsletter or on the website would be entirely misleading. For instance, I've played in a few Division 1 matches and have a great winning percentage. These stats might suggest I'm one of the best player on the team. In reality, I'm usually the worst, but I'm playing as a low seed. Other clubs do not have the depth we do. The lower our seeds, the more likely they are to garner wins. Another reason stats can be misleading is we often loan players to other clubs who struggle to fill rosters. I always loan our best available players. This could mean a “loaned” Pickler is actually stronger than some of the players representing our club that day.

Is it all for fun? Yes, but still ... We've lost two close Division 2 matches in a row and, for the first time ever, finished 3rd in our last Division 1 match. Consequently, on February 7th and 9th, I'm fielding, hopefully, strong enough teams to let it be known that Palatine is still the alpha dog in these leagues.

About 60 Picklers now have played on one of our travel teams at least once. I hope the cattle call above attracts many more first-timers. Again, I'll be glad to tell you the truth, if you're not sure you're “good enough.” Just ask me.



Friendly Foes



Madonna & Sue J



Bob & Kevin



Lynne & Anita



Tom F & John



Kenny & Jim



Ray & Tom L



Kenny & Sue J



Lynne & Jim



Sue J & Madonna



Tom F & Sue G



Anita & Kevin



Sue G & Moira



Bob & Madonna



John & Moira

TRAVEL PICS EXPLANATION

Yes, we had a team of 12 upper intermediate Picklers playing against three other clubs on 12 courts two days after the match shown above. However, there were so many Pickler withdrawals that I had to become the final sub on our team so was not available to take any photos. Sorry D1 Picklers.

PICKLERS APLENTY



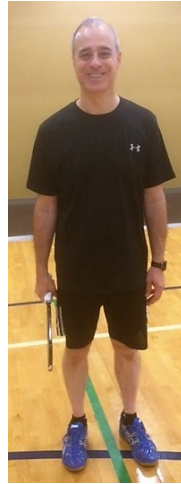
Eileen



Ellen



Helen



David



Curt



Cindy



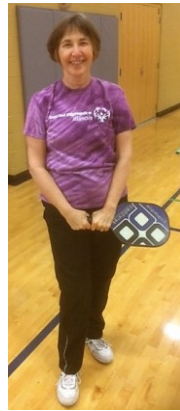
Sherry



Sandy



Tom



Sue



Sally



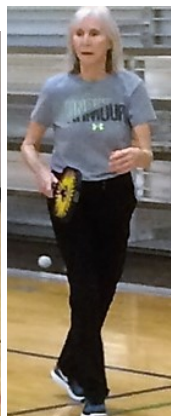
Vinnie



Mary Beth



Linda



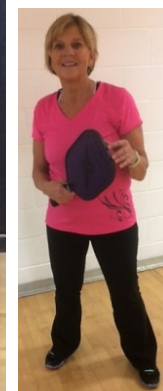
Pat



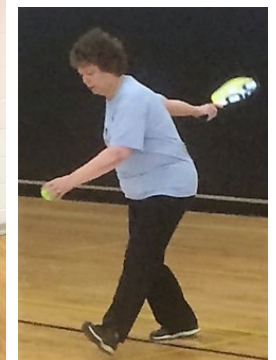
Stan



Keith



Marilyn



Moira



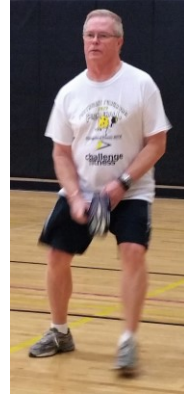
Ray



Becky



Kevin



Bear



Sharon



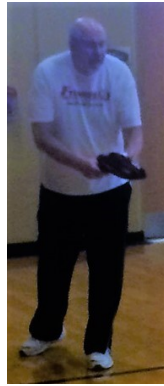
Ann



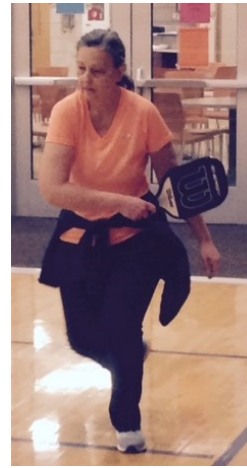
Kristie



Vida



Larry



Aluana



Kathy



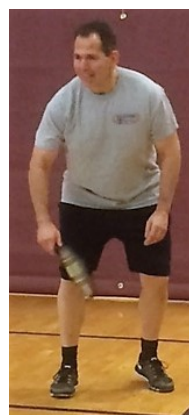
John



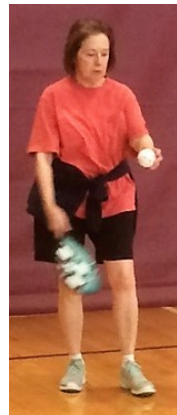
Linda



John



Jim



Barbara



Brigitte



Ilene

TUNE-UP CLINIC MARCH 19th

From 2:00 to 4:00 on Sunday, March 19th, Dana and Chuck of First Serve Management will conduct a tune-up clinic for players who fall within the novice to lower intermediate (up to 3.5) level. This will take place at the Wheeling Rec Center, 333 W Dundee Road, Wheeling. Registration should be done in advance at the facility. The fee is \$30.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS



Yeah, that ball left a mark



Make your own caption



A true enthusiast



There are no words

NEARBY INDOOR TOURNAMENT

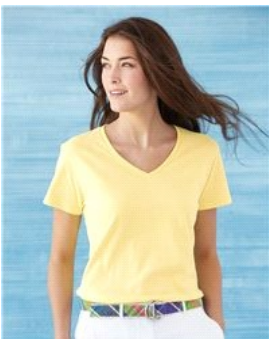
To wait until the March newsletter would be an injustice to this event. Another First Serve Management tournament is scheduled for Sunday, April 2nd. This, too, will be held at the Wheeling Rec Center (address above). Very soon Chuck will have registration forms to pass out. The fee is \$25 for your first event, and \$5 for a second. Checks should be made out to FSM. Register as pairs ... men, women, and/or mixed. Divisions will be 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0+. Start times have yet to be determined, but the first group/s will begin play at 7:30 a.m. Don't wait too long, as Dana's tournaments always fill up quickly.

1ST SHIRT ORDER OF 2017

Our last shirt order was mid-November. That was about 50 new members ago. You've seen these shirts every day at Falcon. Now you can have one. Already have one or more? Maybe it's time to add more color to your wardrobe. The traditional T-shirts are only \$10 up to size XL. \$13 for XXL. The ladies, v-neck shown at left is \$11 up to XL and \$14 for XXL. Ladies come in yellow, pink, sapphire (darker blue), grey, and lime.

Traditional Ts, as seen below, come in grey, blue, pink, yellow, lime, and orange.

E-mail Bear (aokbarry@yahoo.com), contact me through the website, or see me at Falcon or Birchwood. Please pay with exact amounts at the time you place your order. Once I have at least 12 prepaid shirts, I'll place our order. From then it should be about two weeks, until I have your shirt.



WANT TO SHARE YOUR SKILLS ?

Sometimes it seems hard to remember life before the Palatine Pickleball Club became a retirement-filling labor of love for me. Tending to club details is SO much fun that I'd be selfish, if I didn't give you a chance to share it.

Our Facebook page will be revitalized or replaced. Karin Beil has volunteered to manage this task and keep it current. Thank you very much, Karin.

John Pihl has undertaken the enormous task of creating and maintaining our website. Huge thanks, John.

Three of us is a lot working to increase members' enjoyment of our sport is a nice improvement over one of us. Still, there's plenty of opportunity for more of you to get involved.

If you would like to help with any of the following club tasks, please e-mail me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

- Take pictures of club members on the court. My iPhone 5S doesn't give the clarity my 35 mm Nikon did, but most pics are recognizable so don't worry about how great your photos will be.
- Write up details of upcoming tournaments in the area.
- Create a position as our "Up Close & Personal" reporter, looking for human interest stories within our membership.
- Take over the Captainship of one of our travel teams.
- Run our "skinny singles" (half court) summer ladder.
- Contribute articles, tips, news, etc. for our website.
- Direct a tournament ... conceive of it, define it, schedule it, get prizes, determine fees, create registration forms, set the times, collect money, etc.
- Schedule a pro clinic.
- Plan an "off the court" event ... pizza party, golf outing, attending a Cubs game, happy hour gathering, whatever.
- Organize a workshop for beginners on our outdoor courts.
- Research how other towns have managed to grow the sport. We can help ourselves and the Park District, if we can provide tips on how they've managed to afford more extensive pickleball facilities.
- Etc. I encourage you to find other ways your special skills or interests may benefit the Palatine Pickleball Club.

NEWEST NEWBIES

There are still a few Picklers who have joined in the last month I've failed to capture, but here are three of the seven who joined Friday. The other four are shown next.



Charlie



Kim



Mike

ANOTHER PAIR OF PAIRS

Every time I think I'm done with this month's newsletter, more inclusions present themselves. Here are two couples who joined PPC on Friday at Falcon.



Zanchelli ... Bob & June



Springer, Linda & Weglarz, Frank

Unfortunately, there are some paired Picklers I didn't manage to include. However, the 50 couples shown speak volumes about pickleball being a sport that can be shared and enjoyed. Many of our couples are not of the same skill level and may play only an occasional game together, but the joy they experience playing remains very similar.

Well, that's finally it for this month. Don't think this issue sets a precedent. The March newsletter may have only one or two pages. I kind of blew my time budget big time this month. Time to sit down and take a deep breath.

Happy Valentine's Day, and thanks for being a Palatine Pickler.



Bear Shatwell
PicklerPrez