



PalatinePicklers.com

MARCH, 2017 NEWSLETTER

CATTLE CALL FOR REST OF TRAVEL SEASON

The Division 2 (lower intermediate) travel team plays on Tuesdays ... still remaining are 3/21, 4/4, 4/18, and 5/2. If you've already given me your expected availability, note that the original cattle call went only through 4/4 so PLEASE let me know about those final two dates. First-timers are encouraged to get on the "available" lists for any/all dates.

The Division 1 (upper intermediate) season is more than full through 4/6, but this is the call for the Thursday dates of 4/20 and 5/4. PLEASE let me know if you're available either or both of these dates. Again, I'll try to accommodate those who have played the least or not at all.

REACHING ME IS EASIER THAN SOME THINK

A popular question I get is, "What's your e-mail?" If you have the e-mail that delivered a newsletter, you have it. I send all multi-Pickler e-mails to myself, with the rest of you on the BCC line, to avoid compromising your privacy. That means you have it twice on that e-mail. Perhaps an even easier, and increasingly popular, way to reach me is through our website (it's the blue line under the logo above). Just look for the "Contact Us" tab.

IF IT ISN'T IN AN E-MAIL, IT'S AS IF IT NEVER HAPPENED. Even if you tell me you can play travel on a given date and I say that's great, you must e-mail me that you'll play, as there's a good chance I'll forget. Every time I leave the courts, I spend at least the next few hours on Pickler e-mails, travel rosters, photos, spreadsheets, phone calls, newsletter, texts, etc. So far in 2017 I've received or sent more than 1,200 e-mails. I'm usually so immersed that I rarely even think about conversations I had at the courts. However, I do immediately take the appropriate action for each e-mail I open.



April



Dennis



Bob



Pam



Steve



Tom



Scott

THANKS TO THESE HAND-RAISING PICKLERS

Seven PPC members answered my invitation to help with making the club all it can be for our members. **John Pihl**, of course, has created and is maintaining our website. **Linda Mihel** has begun shooting a few photos of Picklers in action to supplement my monthly take. **Karin Beil** will be seeing that our old, forgotten Facebook page is removed and replaced with one she'll keep fresh. **Thea Froehling** will be our eyes and ears at the upcoming U.S. Open (see more below). **Melody Woodsum** will be organizing a social event for us to enjoy this summer. **Jim Blair** will strengthen the ball retaining capability of the fences surrounding the Sycamore Park courts. **Jim Latal** will handle a task or two we've yet to determine. Thank you, Volunteering Picklers. Your service is truly appreciated.

TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

A small group of PPC members played in the Addison tournament in February. Jose Sosa ran this round robin event for 3.0, 3.5. and 4.0+ groups. Two Picklers came away from this well-run, inaugural event smiling more than most.



Kathy



Jim



3.0 1st Clark & 3rd Holly



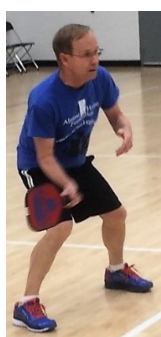
waiting & watching



Becky

WHEN WILL WE PLAY OUTSIDE

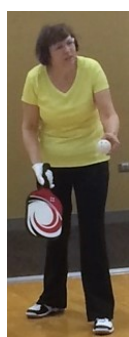
Rather than continue to send "Let's play" e-mails to whomever comes to mind each warm day, here's the new policy. On any day that seems Mother Nature is providing a day worthy of fresh air pickleball, **just show up** at Sycamore Park at 3:00. Yes, I said "any day." The worst that can happen is you find out that you are a bit heartier than your pickling peers and you head home. That's what I learned Sunday when it was 54 degrees with minimal wind. As for the spring/summer designated play times, see the story later in this issue.



Scott



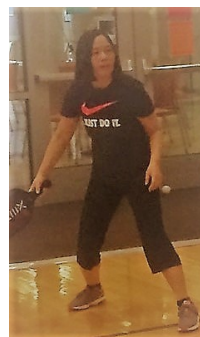
Mike



Sue



Terry



Sook



Peter



Debbie

TUNE-UP CLINIC APPROACHING

On Sunday, March 19th from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Wheeling Rec Center, 333 W Dundee Rd, First Serve Management will host a clinic for novice up to 3.5 intermediate players. Chuck and Dana will conduct this clinic. The \$30 fee should be paid at the Rec Center in advance of the clinic.



Bernie



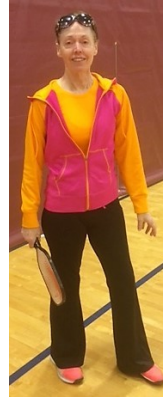
Brigitte



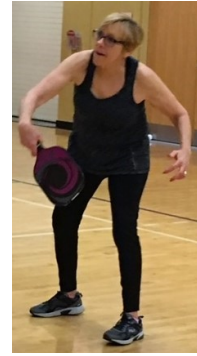
Bob



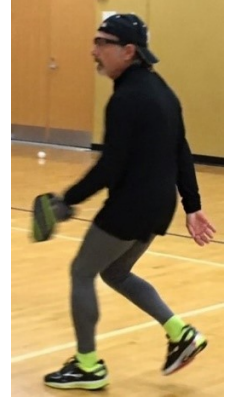
Linda



Barbara



Holly



Don

A MORE COMPETITIVE FSM EVENT

First Serve Management isn't just about tune-up clinics and assigning Falcon's courts on Mondays and Fridays. They're hosting a great tournament at the Wheeling Rec Center (still 333 W Dundee Road) on Sunday, April 2nd. Find a partner, select 3.0, 3.5, or 4.0+ division, fill out a registration form (Chuck has them on the bench at Falcon), pay your \$25 fee per person for gender or mixed play (only \$5 to add the other), and prepare to have fun.

RENT THIS GUY BY THE HOUR



Whether you're a beginner or darn good player, you can get better with help. Chuck Feinstein of First Serve Management has been giving individual and group lessons to a number of Palatine Picklers (and some from "lesser" clubs too). They seem to keep coming back for more so he must be as good a coach as he is a player.

For a private, one-hour lesson, the fee is \$50. For two it's \$30 apiece. For three or more, it's \$20 each. Chuck schedules lessons at Falcon on Mondays and Fridays from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and from noon to 1:00 p.m. At Wheeling it's 8:00 to 9:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both Park Districts will accept credit cards.

Lessons can cover strategy, shot selection, positioning, dinks, serves, returns, and/or whatever else you'd like to learn or improve. **TO SCHEDULE** call Chuck at **847-877-7770** or e-mail him at paddleup001@gmail.com.



BEAR'S DONATION BAG

Once again the club's books are a bit in the red. Expenses are few, but they eventually add up. Expenses have included such things as different types of outdoor balls, 3-ring binders, acetate page protectors, dry erase boards, dry erase pens, Gorilla tape & protective surfaces for the travel scoreboard, paper, color and b&w cartridges, repairs to the Sycamore fence, Sharpies for signs, the occasional unclaimed/unpaid shirt I can't peddle, prizes for tournaments, an occasional stamp, etc. Last summer I tied a purple, Crown Royal bag to my court chair for anyone who wanted to make an anonymous donation. The resultant generosity kept us in balls for the rest of the summer.

I'll leave this bag on top of my black gear bag under the bleachers just right of the paddle rack location at Falcon. If you'd like to shove a dollar or two in there, great. Don't go overboard. A little from several of should get us comfortable for a while. Thanks.



Denise

Mary Beth

Dana

Darrell

Connie

Clark

Bryan

INPUT WELCOME ON OUTDOOR PLAY

Next month's newsletter will outline the increased play times we'll have at Sycamore and Locust. Last summer started with everyone gathering at Sycamore on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 9:00. After the crowd grew sufficiently, I'd send the more competitive half over to Locust. This worked well. Eventually, most everyone knew where they best fit and just reported there. That was fine LAST summer, when our club was half the size it is now.

Thursdays and Sundays at 4:00 were added to the schedule fairly early in the summer. Those times attracted slightly fewer so sometimes we used only Sycamore. Skilled Pickler chalk masters measured and lined the tennis courts so three games could be played at each location...and redid it after every rain. (BTW the Palatine Park District has virtually assured me they'll have those tennis courts lined for us this spring.)

THIS SUMMER I think we need to designate a LOT more playing times ... and have them more targeted. I'm thinking "women only," "newbie," "novice," "lower intermediate," "upper intermediate +," and, if warranted, "advanced (4.0+.)"

The Mon-Wed-Fri mornings is worth keeping as is for now, as is the Thu & Sun afternoons (but moved to 3:00, instead of 4:00). What I need to know from you 80+ Palatinian Picklers and the rest of you who play on our outdoor courts is what, and when, would you like to see added to our schedule. More evenings and weekend times, for those still working? Novice with non-playing guidance from one of us who's reached intermediate status? Age group play? Whatever ... tell me. You have three weeks to send me your desires. E-mail me through PalatinePicklers.com. If you "don't vote," I hope

you won't "Why didn't you..." or "You should have..." me later. We have extremely inadequate facilities for the numbers we have, but we can make it work, if we can agree on how to maximize those courts we do have. I'll look forward to your e-mails. In three weeks I'll begin structuring our summer schedule to publish in the next newsletter.



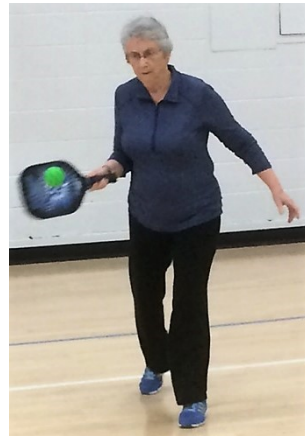
Gus



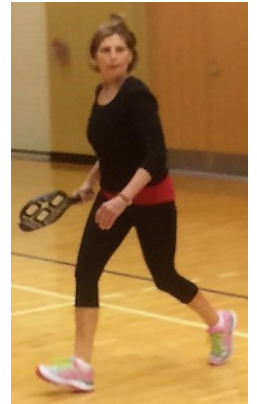
Jane



Gail



Judy



Karin



Jay



Mark



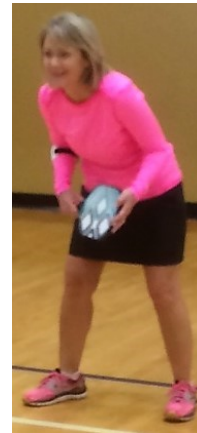
Mike



Lynn



Sally



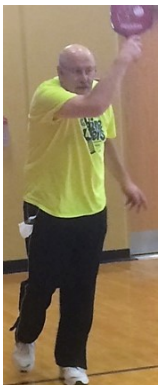
Nancy



Nez

PLAY A PRE-PURCHASE PROLITE PADDLE

On Mondays and Fridays Chuck, a Prolite distributor, has paddles available to demo. It is always preferable to try out a paddle, before shelling out \$60-\$120 for one. Not every paddle is appropriate for every style of play. **DO NOT** buy one of those paddles at a big box store that is good for nothing but bouncing a ball on a rubber band. Talk to Chuck ... or Peggy Whitlow. They will let you try their quality paddles before you make a decision.



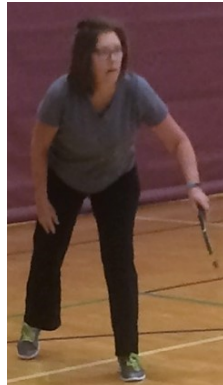
Larry



Cyndi



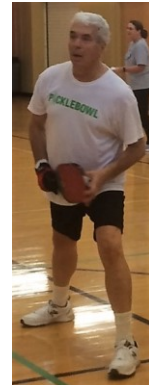
Lisa



Ellen



Jim



Jeff



Jeff

WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR RATING REALLY IS ?

You may know Seymour Rifkind as a local pickleball guru and frequent, tournament partner of Chuck. He's also certified to rate pickleball players. He'll do this at River Trails Tennis Club on Monday and Friday afternoons. Four to six players are required. The fee is \$25 for the 90-minute evaluation. For \$20 per year, your name with rating will be added to the national list of rated players. For more information, e-mail Seymour at rifkinds@gmail.com.



Lynn

Kenny & Lucky

Marti

Marianne

Mary

Pam

Neal

OUR ON-THE-SPOT U.S. OPEN REPORTER

Thea Froehling has had an incredibly successful year in both our travel leagues. She's ready to take her game to the next level ... the U.S. Open where she'll be partnering with our own Tina Labellarte.

Just as important is her role as PPC's Roving Reporter and Photographer. If you're playing, officiating, or just observing, please make a point of telling her what you're doing there. We certainly want to recognize any Pickler who earns a medal, but we'd enjoy reading all your stories.



WOULD YOU BELIEVE INDOOR, EVENING PLAY IN PALATINE ?

One more item on our PPC wish list is being checked off. We can play at Birchwood Rec Center, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. **YOU NEED TO CAST YOUR VOTE/S. E-MAIL ME** with each of those evenings you would, at least occasionally, like to play. We could have them all, but I want one to be well-embraced, before we expand to a second. This is expected to work just like Birchwood days ... \$3 per evening. We can begin, as soon as basketball is finished this month. **Huge thanks to the Palatine Park District** for continuing to listen to us and give us what you can. Let me hear from all of you whose work prevents your participation in our current Falcon and Birchwood hours. This should be the answer to your winter, pickleball wishes.

WONDERFUL RESULT ON MARCH 7

With a few notable exceptions, I strive to have really close travel matches. Our Division 2 team on Tuesday, March 7th delivered PERFECTLY. Against the Lake Barrington Shores/Canlan team, the result was a first-ever tie at 12 wins apiece. The tie-breaker is total points scored. You guessed it ... another tie, 282 to 282. Fantastic.



Mary Beth

Wendy

Jim

Jose

Don

Dick

Don

Dori



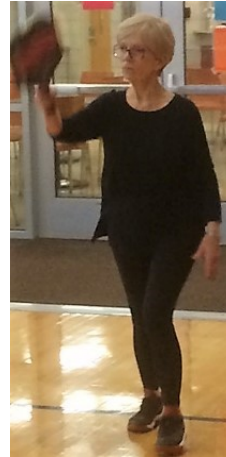
Joan



Elke



Anita



Ursula



John



Peggy



Carole



Julie



Diane

BIRCHWOOD AFTERNOONS ENDING IN SIGHT

We've really enjoyed our 1-3 Wednesdays and 11-3 Thursdays at Birchwood. Our Birchwood season did expand Sadly, the gym will be needed for other programs later this spring. Our last Wednesday will be May 24th. Our last Thursday will be one day later, May 25th. **ALSO, note that on Wednesday, March 30th there will be no Birchwood pickleball.**

Happy Pickling,

Bear

Palatine Picklers Prez