



PalatinePicklers.com

OCTOBER, 2017 NEWSLETTER

INDOOR PLAY IN PALATINE

There will continue to be Picklers playing at Sycamore and Locust Parks, as long as weather permits. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at Sycamore are always popular, as is Sunday afternoon. However, it's time to review how Falcon works. If everyone arrives on time, you'll play ... 9:00 Monday and Friday ... 4:00 Sunday. I heard from five who said no one was there last Wednesday, but they had five different times.

On Monday and Friday mornings, starting at 9:00 players will be assigned courts. The idea is to keep games competitive and fun for all. These are very popular sessions. Wednesday mornings at Falcon (and Thursday noon to 3:00 at Birchwood Park) have lower fees, as they are self-governing. It seems to work well, when the stronger half of attending players stick to the far (north) courts and the rest play on the lobby (south) courts. If it's a truly full gym, paddles can be placed on a bench, with those of winners on the left and losers on the right. Place your paddle on the bottom of the stack. The top four paddles of the tallest stack get the next court. Switch partners.

SHOES ... If the weather isn't totally dry, please carry your playing shoes into Falcon and put them on in the lobby. Please do not bring dangerous wetness into the gym.



Tom



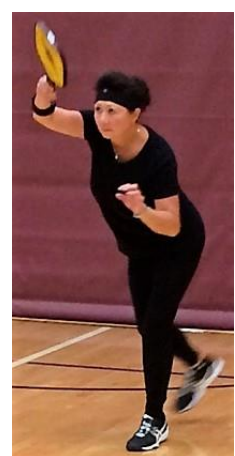
Karen



Terry



Rich



Sandy

PURPOSE OF PICS

Why do I take, crop, edit, size, and position so many photos? Mostly because pics are fun. I know everyone likes to see photos of themselves and their friends so the pics help to hold your attention for the more mundane, potentially useful, information in the newsletters. Also, the pics help us all get to know each other. We all feel more comfortable playing with those we (even sort of) know than total strangers. It's more likely that we'll start a conversation, if we know the individual's name. So, in my opinion, sharing the photos and first names facilitates the social aspect of our sport.

I have an aging iphone 5S so none of my shots are of the quality I'd like. Some are terribly blurry, but if I think you'll be able to recognize the Pickler I include them anyway. I do try to remember to take better ones of those individuals for the next month's newsletter.

PALATINE PICKLERS PLAY ON WORLD STAGES

Last month Greg and Melody Woodsum wore our logo in international competition in Spain. How cool is that?



Melody & Greg took lessons from (middle pic) Daniel Moore (runs pickleballtrips.com who coordinated their tour of Spain) and Hilary Hilton Marols (platform tennis Hall of Famer now pickleball pro). The Woodsums helped Team North America beat the European team 200-102 in the inaugural Bainbridge Cup, winning a majority of their games. Then in the Spanish Open, Melody and Greg took silver in the 55+ open, and Greg and partner Randall Rob took gold in the 50+ mens division. The world now knows Palatine Picklers are a force with which to reckon. Thanks, Melody & Greg.



Thea & Norbert



Tom



Satish



Sue



Vic



Ralph



Tom



Mike 1



Mike 2



Mike 3

TOURNAMENT JUST FOR MENTOREES

Now that you've drilled much of the summer during our mentoring sessions, you can test your new skills against your fellow mentorees. The first eight Picklers (who participated in two or more mentoring sessions) to contact me with your interest will play in a King/Queen of the Court tournament. This will be at the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington (14 through Barrington to Pepper Rd light. Right to stop sign. Huge building on road to right). You'll play 7 games to 13 points (win by 1), partnering with each participant once. All scores will be recorded. Most points at morning's end wins and gets a larger photo in the next newsletter. Courts are available earlier for practice, but we'll start the games at 9:30 on Thursday, November 9th.



Kim



Keith



John



Linda



John



Janice



Kenny



Lori



Larry



Melody & Greg



Alberto

MARV CLIMBED TO, AND HELD, THE TOP RUNG

Our summer-long skinny singles ladder tournament saw several dozen challenges being played on at least eight courts throughout the area. The top rung changed hands six times. Marv Zwass ended up claiming, and keeping, it. Though the photo below was taken at an indoor travel match, it shows the lobbing form which frustrated all those he played in ladder competition. Congratulations, Marv.



Rounding out the top ten were Melody Woodsum, Sue Shatz, Greg Woodsum, Elke Jacobsen, Sol Shatz, Bear Shatwell, Harvey Stein, Sue Cameron, and Gus Panos. This half-court game has really been embraced. It's being played wherever there is an empty court and a number of Picklers not divisible by four

KING/QUEEN FOR OUR 60s

Our King/Queen of the Court tournaments have been unanimously hailed as great fun for all. This month three KQofC are being introduced for groups yet to compete in one. The first eight Picklers in their 60s to contact me will compete for the 60s championship. Again, you'll play with each of your seven "opponents" at Canlan. This tournament will be held the morning of Tuesday, November 7th, with play starting at 9:30.

KING/QUEEN FOR OUR 70+s

Same format for our senior seniors. The first eight to tell me you want in will compete for the supremacy of our 70+s. This tournament will also be held at Canlan but on Tuesday, November 21st at 9:30.



Jim



Gail



Don



Greg



Dennis



Jay

ALMOST A SECRET ... BIRCHWOOD THURSDAYS

We have indoor play on Thursday, from noon to 3:00 at Birchwood. We've had enough Picklers to enjoy the afternoon, but we've yet to fill all three courts. Think about it. Mark your calendars. Join us.

ANY EARLY RISERS?

Ever anxious to please us, the Palatine Park District has offered us the only time Birchwood gym is available. If any of you pickleball addicts would rather play than sleep, that can happen. We can have the gym at 6:00 or 6:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. If you could be "up" for this, let me know. If we get even four Picklers, they'll set up a court. If we get more, they'll set up all three courts. From 6:00 to 8:30 the gym is ours through February.



Daniel



Darrell



Dave



Elke



Denise



Dana

CANLAN COMPETITIONS

Every other Tuesday and Thursday, the Palatine Picklers compete with other clubs at Canlan in Lake Barrington. Tuesdays we compete against Barrington's "lower intermediate" players. On Thursdays, we compete against the "upper intermediate" players from Hoffman Estates, a combined team from Libertyville and Park Ridge, and the club from DuPage County. Our rosters have been filled for the rest of 2017, but please consider answering the "cattle calls" for the winter season that you'll see in next month's newsletter.

Palatine is usually the dominant team in both leagues, but we're more about giving everyone a chance to represent our club than about winning. Inter-club competitions are unique, exciting, fun events. AND we go to lunch nearby at the Onion Pub, after the matches, for more, awesome conversation and bonding.



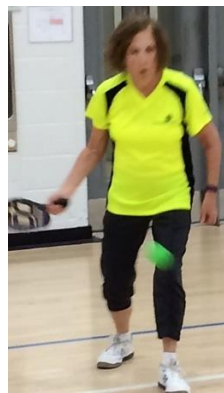
Bob



Dave



Bob



Anne



Bear



Char

ANOTHER FSM TOURNAMENT

First Serve Management is staging another, fun tournament on Sunday, November 12th in the Wheeling Recreation Center, 333 W Dundee. There are three classes ... 4.0, 3.5, and 3.0 for both gender events and mixed. The 4.0s will begin at 7:30, with 3.5 next, followed by 3.0 events. It's \$25 for your first event and only \$5 for your second. Recruit your partner/s and send your fee to Dana Joseph at FSM 507 W Creekwood Drive, Palatine 60074. Be sure to give your email address, as your start time will be emailed, once the total number of participants in each level are registered. Questions? Reach Dana at 847-404-3174 or dsj2@comcast.net.



Gus



Jim



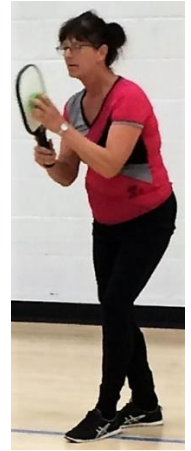
Marti



Sally



Penny



Susan

GET A REAL RATING

This concept was introduced last month, but only four Picklers have expressed interest in being tested for a rating. You hear about 2.5s and 3.0s, and 5.0s. What do these numerical ratings mean? Well, the higher the rating the better the pickler. Most tournaments are set up by ratings (ie. FSM tournament above). Go to iptpa.com (International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association) to see what is expected for a player at each level. Then select the rating for which you hope to qualify. Your on-court test will be exactly what you just read for your desired level. Let me know (contact me through PalatinePicklers.com) the rating for which you'd like to test. When we have enough Picklers for a given level, we'll work out a time to go to the Arlington Heights where Seymour Rifkind will test you. He's an IPTPA Certified Ratings Professional. The cost is nominal

Unlike other rating methodologies, IPTPA ratings will not vary from one region to another. They are as close to being totally objective as is possible. You won't ever hear stories of IPTPA-rated 4.0 players getting blown away by IPTPA-rated 3.0 players. This type of universal rating is surely the future of our sport. How about being in the first wave and knowing your real rating NOW. Just let me know your intended level.



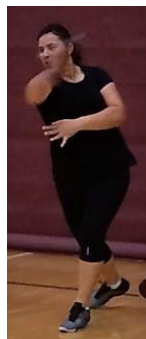
Brigitte & Jim



Brian



Carolyn



Nez



Marv & Dana



Melody



Bob



Dawn



Marti



Paula



Cathy



Tom



Angelina



Lynn

ORDER YOUR PALATINE PICKLER SHIRTS ONLINE

Since designing club shirts in 2015, I've placed 15 orders, ranging from 12 shirts to 28. In all 254 PPC shirts have been sold. Now, you can use our website PalatinePicklers.com, to shop styles, colors, sizes, and prices. Use the "Contact us" tab to email me your desire. Then just pay me when you see me, or I can tell you where to send your check. Originally, you asked for more colors. You got them. Then you wanted V-neck shirts. You got them too. Next you wanted wicking shirts. We got them. Then you asked for an even broader selection of colors. We've got them. Most recently you asked for sleeveless shirts. Yep, they're available too.

Of course, you can still tell me in person what you'd like. I always have my clipboard handy, to take shirt orders and sign up new members. As I write this, I have a dozen shirts in the car yet to be delivered and the clipboard shows four shirts for our next order and two Picklers who are checking the site for their colors. On the day I receive the 12th "preorder," I'll place our next order. About three weeks later you'll be able to get your shirt/s from me.

MAYBE COUCH POTATOES BUT NOT HOMEBODIES

I keep stumbling across photos of Rick, and sometimes Sue, Johnson with the medal du jour. He seems to collect pickleball medals the way Lynne Weisbart collects pickleball shirts (64 and counting when we had the shirt collection contest a few months ago). Three years ago Sue told me that Rick spent more time glued to pickleball tutorials and games on YouTube than he spent playing. Obviously, he's a heck of a student. Now he and Sue seem to play and medal in every state they can spell. Congratulations, Johnsons.



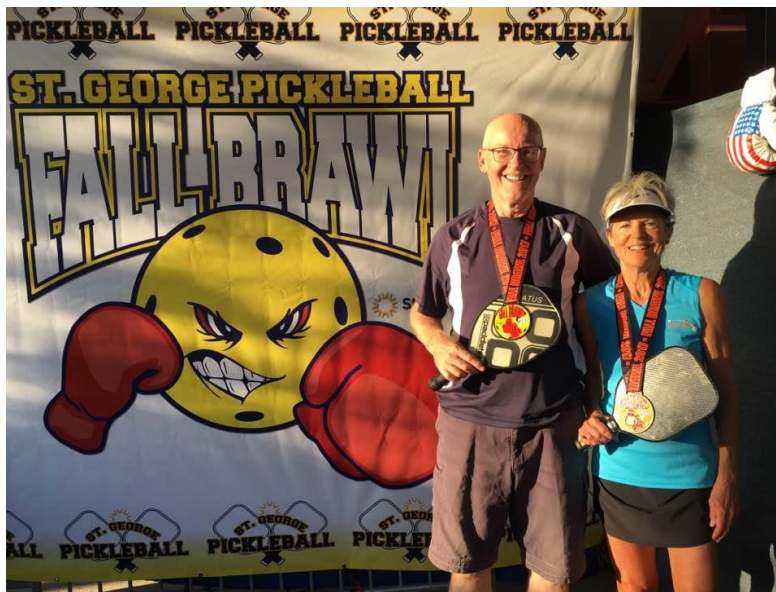
Rick & Sue took Silver in the Tampa Sr Games 65-69



Rick & partner took Gold in mens 65-69

ON THAT SAME HIGHWAY TO HARDWARE

I just found mention of another Pickler who's been collecting medals all over the country. This month Linda Mihel partnered with Marvin to capture Silver in the 3.0 65+ division of the Fall Brawl in St George, UT.



MORE FALCON PROTOCOL

1st Serve ... On all Palatine courts, it's standard operating procedure for the north side to serve first. In Falcon that's the side farther from the lobby. In Birchwood it's also the side farthest from the lobby.

Lobby Court ... Whether your game on the court nearest the lobby starts 0-0 or you move to that court well into your game, due to glare, teams should change ends half way through the game, or what's left of it.

Falcon Fees ... Palatine Park District residents can buy a 10-play pass for \$50. Daily fee is \$6.00 ... same as it is for non-residents. Non-residents will save time, not money, but they can buy a 10-play pass for \$60.

LOOK FOR IT NEXT MONTH

Our fall “travel” matches I’m calling Canlan Competitions as all matches are played there. The longer, winter-spring season begins in January. Please answer the “cattle call” in November’s newsletter for players to represent our club in the “upper” and “lower” intermediate inter-club contests. These matches ARE fun. There is NEVER pressure to win, but we usually do anyway. It’s my goal to get everyone who would like be part of a real team to get on at least one roster. Everyone deserves the chance to enjoy being part of a totally supportive Pickler team. *Yes, I see this is a duplicate story. I forgot to check it off “things to include.” Sorry.*

WE’VE BEEN RECOGNIZED IN A MAGAZINE

You may recall our Sycamore visit by Rob Cassidy, Executive Editor of Multifamily Design+Construction magazine. He’d heard of pickleball’s amazing growth and contacted me to see about witnessing it firsthand. I invited him to one of our Wednesday mentoring sessions. Rob’s technical article can be found at <https://www.bdcnetwork.com/pickleball-anyone>. He thinks condos should consider installing pickleball courts. I couldn’t find online the very first article in the fall issue about his experience with us. Took a pic.

PICKLEBALL — HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

Yes, that’s your fearless editor, giving his all for the cause, the cause in this case being his first pickleball lesson. Haven’t heard of pickleball? Don’t feel bad. Neither had I, at least not until this summer, when we conducted our first “Multifamily Amenities 2017” survey. When we asked designers and developers what “other amenities” they were installing in apartment and condominium projects, one respondent wrote “pickleball.” My response: Huh?

I THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE, but a quick search led me to the USA Pickleball Association (usapa.org), where I learned that pickleball has more than two million players. It’s played with wood or composite paddles and a plastic ball with holes in it, on a surface about one-fourth the size of a tennis court. It combines rules from tennis, volleyball, and other sports, but has its own curiosities. As in volleyball, you can only score when serving, and you must serve underhand. Unlike tennis, you can’t go all the way to the net to volley. That’s called being in “the kitchen,” and it’ll cost you the point or loss of serve.



I TRIED TO TAKE ALL THIS IN during a group lesson led by Barry “Bear” Shatwell, President of the Palatine (Ill.) Pickleball Club, and Melody Woodsum, a pickleball coach and referee. As a one-time lousy tennis player (no backhand), I quickly learned that you have to abandon almost everything you learned (or failed to learn) from all those expensive tennis lessons you took way back when if you want to succeed in the pickleball circuit.

To my dismay, I soon discovered that the pickleball itself has a mind of its own. The damn thing drops so fast it’s under your paddle in a microsecond. Advantage, the other side. It rattles around in the wind like a kite on a blustery morning. You smash what you think is a fantastic volley only to see the pickleball plop into the net. I had a lot of trouble serving (shades of my illustrious tennis career) until Melody hollered, “Step into it, Rob!” I was fine after that.

ENOUGH ABOUT MY ANTICS. There are supposedly 20,000 pickleball courts across the U. S., many in apartment and condominium complexes. If you haven’t added pickleball courts to your multifamily projects, you should be aware that there’s a huge demand for them, especially among the 50 and over set. You don’t want to lose that important clientele, nor the younger set who are also taking up the game with the funny name.

Robert Cassidy, Executive Editor

LATE NEWS FLASH RE: SYCAMORE

Moments before the presses started to roll for this newsletter, I received word from the Palatine Park District that Sycamore courts will be closed, starting Wednesday, October 17th. This is due to repairs they will be making. Of course, these repairs need to be completed while Mother Nature is still smiling on us.

For those who would plan on playing on Sycamore's courts Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday at 9:00 or at 8:30 Saturday morning or 4:00 Sunday afternoon, please plan to move your games to Locust, a mile southwest of Sycamore. From Sycamore, take Carpenter west to Rohlwing and go left/south to Morris. That's the 2nd right after your only stop sign. Half a block down Morris on the right is Locust Park which has the identical layout as Sycamore, but without the fountain or PortaPotty.

TO SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU NEED TO LET ME KNOW

- 1) Your desire to play in the Mentorees' King/Queen of the Court Tournament Thursday, November 9th.
- 2) Your desire to play in the King/Queen of the Court for those in their 60s.
- 3) Your desire to play in the King/Queen of the Court for those in at least their 70s.
- 4) Your interest in playing EARLY Tuesday mornings in the Bichwood gym (any time 6:00-8:30).
- 5) (let Dana know) Your interest in playing in FSM's tournament on Sunday, November 12th.
- 6) Your desire to take an on-court ratings test, to, perhaps, get a universally recognized IPTPA rating.
- 7) Your desire to order one or more Palatine Pickler shirts.

That's it for this month. Thanks, and happy pickling.

Bear
PicklersPrez