



PalatinePicklers.com

palatinepicklers@gmail.com

APRIL, 2020 NEWSLETTER

PALATINE PICKLERS PLAYED PLENTY



Call it Voting Day. Call it St Patrick's Day. Or call it Palatine Picklers Play Anyway Day. Fourteen Picklers took to the Hamilton courts on Tuesday, March 17. It was a little brisk, but hardy soles such as Jerry, Jeff, Bob, Bill, Paula, and Harry enjoyed the rare opportunity to get on the courts. **COURT ARE LOCKED AT LEAST TO 4/14.**

IF YOU STILL “HAVE” TO PLAY, PLAY SAFELY

Out of boredom with other pursuits during our self-imposed quarantine, I started the April newsletter after taking the shots on page 1. By the time you read this, it will probably be irrelevant. I expect the state to take the option of playing away entirely. However, in case that isn't the case, I wanted to share my feelings on how it can be played as safely as possible. If play is no longer allowed, oh, well ... this will simply help pad what is likely to be a much shorter newsletter than recent editions. In chronological order, here's my advice, but realize that my degree was in psychology, nothing that would give my opinion much credence.

- 1) Wash your hands, wetting them, then soaping them for 20 seconds before rinsing.
- 2) Put on latex gloves, at least before you touch a door to your courts.
- 3) Obviously, do not touch your face, at least until you're back home with washed hands.
- 4) Do not approach the net after your game has ended. Just call out, "Nice game., Guys."
- 5) Hopefully, you won't need to use the paddle troughs. If you do, make sure everyone knows they should touch only their own paddle. Just call out names on the paddles or the paddle description for the next four.
- 6) If you have a bag, leave it inside the cage, when you're preparing to leave. Do not put your ball or paddle in it yet. Step out of the cage. Sterilize the ball or throw it away. Sterilize both sides, edge, and the handle of your paddle. Then remove your gloves, pulling only on the open ends. Throw them away. Then go back into the cage through the door you left open and put your clean paddle (and ball) in your bag. Do not let anything unsterilized touch your bag. That includes your gloved hands.
- 7) During play, if anyone within 20' of you coughs or sneezes, give it some thought. Is there a breeze that could make your safe distance a lot more than 6'? Of course, cough/sneeze into a tissue you discard or else your elbow, never your hand.
- 8) As soon as you're able after play, wash your hands as you did in step 1.

Those who still say, "If I get it, I get it" are the biggest problem. As I write this, US death projections range from 100,000 to 2,000,000, with anywhere from 40% to 70% of our population getting covid19. Exponential growth is frightening. Most of us are over 60. While our death rate may be listed now as only 3-7%, my logic says that's going up. As this pandemic begins to peak, with far too few ventilators available, you and I will be, as we used to say in college SOL. In other words, what may have been our ventilators will be given to 25-50 year olds, who own make up 40% of those infected in the US. I empathize with the healthcare professionals who will have to make these life or death decisions, but it would be hard to fault their logic. **NOW IT'S 3/22 STAY HOME! NO PLAY. NO GRANDKIDS. LATEX GLOVES. NO SOCIALIZING. GET DELIVERY. WASH HANDS. ETC.**

IF WE LOSE A PALATINE PICKLER ...

I hate to even write this paragraph. I certainly hope and pray we come through this unscathed. However, as much as I am an optimist, I'm also a realist and have to think we may not be so fortunate. If you know of a PPC member who loses life to this pandemic, please email me (aokbarry@yahoo.com) that info, and a pic if you can. I'll remember him/her in the next newsletter.

SO MANY THINGS ARE POSTPONED

This was to be a fun-filled spring and summer. Sorry we have to postpone the fun of the 70+ tournament, widows' tournament, Family Fun tournament, ping pong tournament, the May Luncheon, the 4th of July parade (well, not official yet but ...), wrong-handed tournament, skinny singles tournament, and more I've not even mentioned. Let's look forward to enjoying these fun events in the future. Whether we're playing again in July or September or January, we will play again.

FINALLY ... PICKLER PICS

Because I'm so on top of things (can't do rolling eyes emoji, sorry), I have a library of Pickler pics that have yet to be published. Combined with all those I took since the March newsletter in the limited time we had, I can share a pretty good collection. Look long and hard, as they'll be far fewer next month.



Terry



Steve



Valery



Ursula



Susie



Steve



Tom

NO WINNER ON "Yep" "Nope" Yep" "Nope" MOVIE QUOTE

We had great guesses, probably all valid, but not the movie I had in mind. My movie, for anyone who saw it, should have been as memorable as "Make my day" or "Every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings." It's "Baby Boom" a really fun, cute movie starring Diane Keaton. Worth renting while quarantined. No 3 ball prizes, but, because these guesses were all good, each gets one pickleball (have to ask me when together again) ... Larry Kosulic (Dumb & Dumber), Jeff Degner (High Noon), Steve Shapiro (The Westerner), Jaime Sandoval (Contagion), Joe Iacovo (Forest Gump), and John Anich (Once Upon A Time In Hollywood).



Alberto



Jeff



Jim



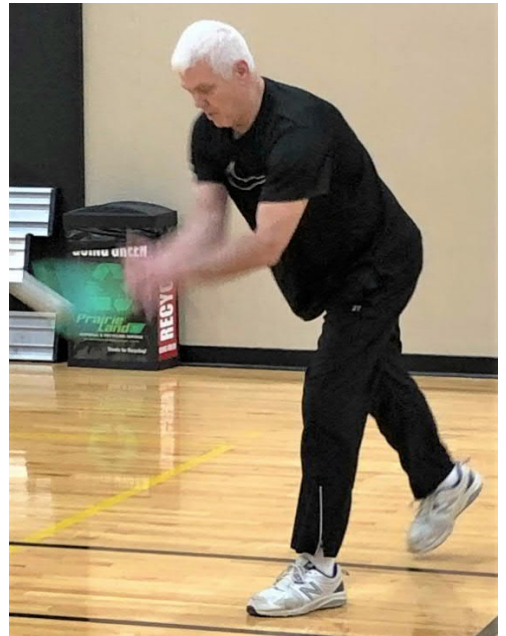
Marisa



Lori



Lizanne



Mark



Phil



Patti



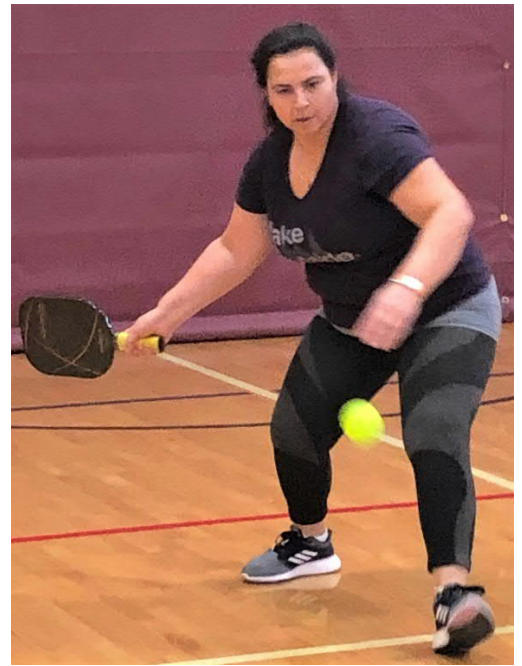
Sharon



Sherry



Steve



Nez



Paula



Satish



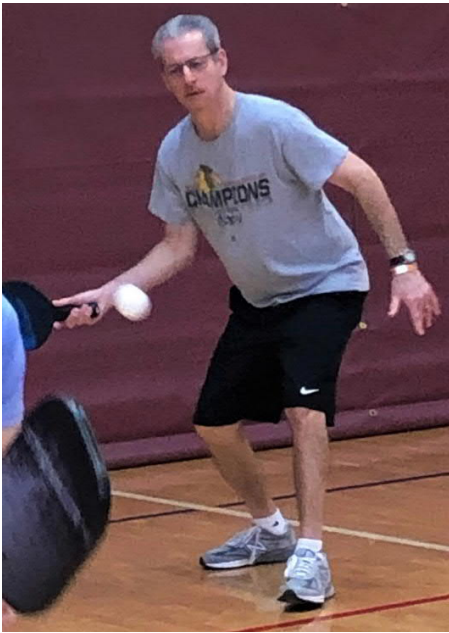
Roger



Neal

WHO'D LIKE TO RUN OUR LOWER INTERMEDIATE "TRAVEL" TEAM ?

Yes, we're done for the season. I'm talking fall, or whenever we can restart. This is an every other Tuesday match with the MidBar team ... that's half from Midtown Club and half from Barrington. Each team consists of 4 men and 4 ladies. Each player will partner with each of 7 teammates once in games to 13. The skill level is 3.0 to 3.5. I've run this match and our team since inception. It's not that hard. I always invite Picklers to let me (now you) know which dates they EXPECT to be available. You'll make your roster for the next match, and 7 days before the match, you let rostered Picklers know you're inviting them to play. If someone says plans have changed, you replace them. Then on the Sunday or Monday before the Tuesday match, you email your rostered players asking for "final confirmation" that they're still good to go. Again, if not, you replace them. I'll give you the dry erase scoreboard. You get MidBar's players' names 2-3 days early and put them on the board, along with your team's names. The rest is easy. This pandemic has caused me to realize I still have IMHO an important task to finish. The year after I was widowed I started a book for new widows (at the suggestion of many on a widow bulletin board on which I was prolific). I need time to finish it. Write me aokbarry@yahoo.com.



Phil



Neal's shirt



Steve



Val



Those thinking about running the Tuesday matches, think about this. After the match you AND those playing on the 3.5-4.0 league in the next gym go to lunch and have a great time. Here, Harry, Bob, Bear, Jim, Bob, Connie, Carol, Jeff, Sue, Donna, and Masato enjoy 90 minutes of good conversation and good food...and a beer or two. How can you not want to be the one who creates this kind of fun Anot? Again aokbarry@yahoo.com.

LET'S SHARE AWESOME VIDEOS, IN THIS DOWN TIME

Thanks to Bob Goldstein for sharing this "pickleball" video. Please share any fun videos we'd all love to see. Here's Bob's: <https://youtu.be/d7o494CdYAO>. This one is fun and slightly thought-provoking. I'll share an awesome one later in this newsletter.

PLEASE USE MY EMAIL ADDRESS

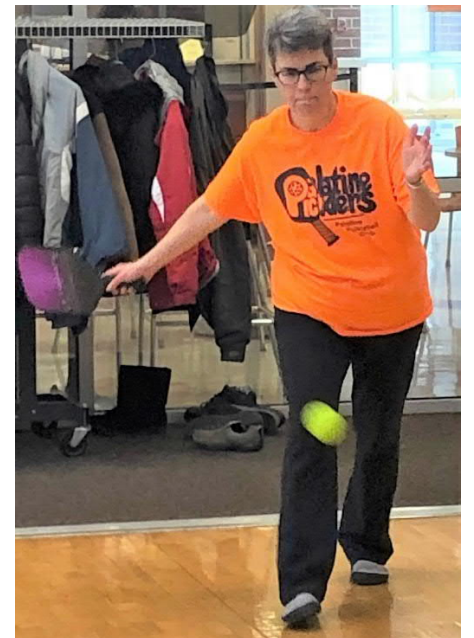
I put aokbarry@yahoo.com several times in each newsletter and ask you to respond to me via that. Most of you do, but all too many simply hit "reply." Please don't do that. I do not check gmail that often. So Greg, our MailMaster has to forward your email to me. Then, half the time, I don't realize that so I reply, and my response goes to gmail, not you so Greg has to slap me on the wrist and tell me to respond again to you. Such a waste of all our time. Please try to remember. Thanks.



Mary Pat



Masato



Kate



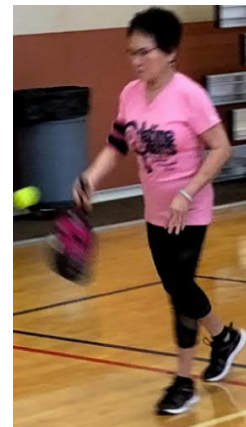
Kevin



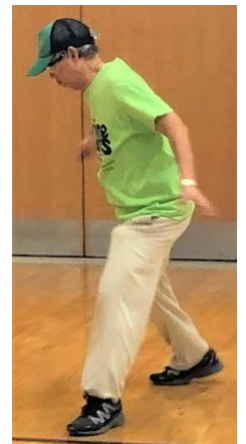
Kim



Larry



Lisa



Lucky



Bob



Carol



Anne



Carole



Cathie



Dale



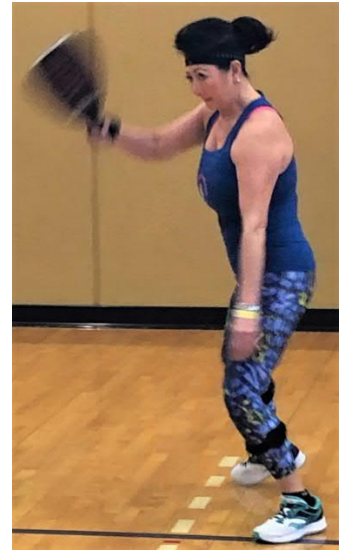
Fred



Donna



Bob



Sandy



Wendy



Vida



Thea



Mike



Michael



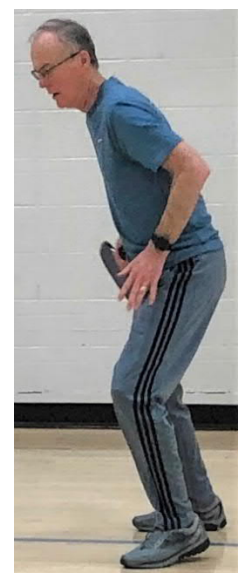
Marilyn



Mary



Steve



Mike



Linda



John



Karen

IF YOU WANT TO SHOP, DURING OUR DOWN TIME

It's now 3/24 so I know you're not playing anywhere. However, while watching reruns of "Leave it to Beaver" or playing "Tic Tac Toe" via Facetime with your grandkids, you may want to go shopping at pickleballcentral.com. Buy essentials or jewelry, but be sure to use our 5% discount code CRPALATINEPB.



Betty



Bill



George



Harry

NOW FOR THAT AWESOME VIDEO I PROMISED



Thanks to John McDonald for sharing this one. As I recall, it's about five minutes, but well worth it. Enjoy.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACkmg3Y64_s





Joan



Jim



John



Lisa



Lisa



Mark



Linda



Peter



Sally



Jay



Jeff



Don



Gary



Elvira



Ellen



Dora

PALATINEPICKLERS.COM STATS

Our website, run by John Pihl, has gotten some notoriety. Here's what John has passed on to me about the visits to our website during the last six months.

Sep 27, 2019–Mar 24, 2020

Country

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1 United States | 862(79.23%) |
| 2 United Kingdom | 30(2.76%) |
| 3 Spain | 25(2.30%) |
| 4 Canada | 23(2.11%) |
| 5 France | 22(2.02%) |
| 6 Italy | 15(1.38%) |
| 7 Germany | 14(1.29%) |
| 8 Ukraine | 13(1.19%) |
| 9 Poland | 9(0.83%) |
| 10 Sweden | 8(0.74%) |

State

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1 Illinois | 768(87.67%) |
| 2 Arizona | 29(3.31%) |

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 3 Florida | 26(2.97%) |
| 4 California | 9(1.03%) |
| 5 Wisconsin | 7(0.80%) |
| 6 Texas | 6(0.68%) |
| 7 Indiana | 4(0.46%) |
| 8 Ohio | 4(0.46%) |
| 9 (not set) | 2(0.23%) |
| 10 Georgia | 2(0.23%) |

City

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 Chicago | 282(34.90%) |
| 2 Palatine | 209(25.87%) |
| 3 Arlington Heights | 72(8.91%) |
| 4 Lake Zurich | 25(3.09%) |
| 5 Buffalo Grove | 21(2.60%) |
| 6 Schaumburg | 20(2.48%) |
| 7 Hoffman Estates | 10(1.24%) |
| 8 Elk Grove Village | 9(1.11%) |
| 9 Cary | 7(0.87%) |
| 10 Rolling Meadows | |

Top Day of the Week by Percent of Users

Friday 20.72%

Thursday 19.98%

Saturday 18.88%

Monday 18.51%

Tuesday 15.84%

Wednesday 14.18%

Sunday 13.63%

Pageviews

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1 /Home | 156(34.29%) |
| 2 /WhereWePlay | 75(16.48%) |

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| 3/NewsLetters | 52(11.43%) |
| 4/SkillsDrills | 41(9.01%) |
| 5/HowToJoin | 34(7.47%) |
| 6/Mentoring | 25(5.49%) |
| 7/Shirts | 25(5.49%) |
| 8/Links | 21(4.62%) |
| 9/Contact | 19(4.18%) |
| 10/HowtoJoin | 5(1.10%) * |

- We don't know why Google thinks there are 2 varieties of "How to Join."

Thanks, John, for this recap. It's good to remind Palatine Picklers that they can always check past newsletters at PalatinePicklers.com. I get asked often about getting past newsletters. They're all there.

HOW MANY MEMBERS NOW?

Until my self-quarantine, it was the rare day over the last 2-3 years that I wasn't asked that very question. So here it is. By the time recruiting came to an abrupt halt in mid-March, I had sent welcoming emails to 1,457 new Palatine Picklers. I hope I will be able to start adding to that number in 2-3 months.



Elena



George



Janet



Jim

HOPE THESE PEOPLE "GET IT" BY NOW

On Tuesday March 24th, PPD called me to say all courts were closed immediately. They were thinking of putting locks on the gates. I urged them to do so a.s.a.p. and drove to Hamilton to tell the Picklers playing that today would be their last chance to play in Palatine at least until April 13th and likely longer. No argument. I told them PPD had decided to lock the courts. Wednesday morning I verified Hamilton was locked.

When I got home, I was one of 15 or so Picklers who received a text invitation to play at Eagle Park. There were unlocked tennis courts there we could chalk for pickleball. I went back and forth with the originator of the text that this was a terrible, rule-breaking idea, irresponsible, dangerous idea. The Pickler argued that it's fine that I'm self-quarantined, but each person should decide for themselves whether to play or not. I responded that this isn't an "either-or" decision; it is a "right-wrong" one. Only two others responded. One supported my position, and the other said, 'At least wear gloves.'

Not sure if enough others on the thread agreed with the original texter and would go along with playing, despite the parks being closed, about 1:00 I took a drive over to Eagle. No picklers, just one tennis player practicing serves. Phew. Maybe pickleball players in Palatine really do want to try to contain the spread of Colvid19. My happiness over that thought was short-lived. Later in the afternoon a post in "Everything Palatine" on Facebook started something such as, "WHAT are they thinking?" This lady had been out for a run and passed Sycamore where she found more than 20 adults inside the pickleball cage. Those not playing were sitting and chatting nowhere near 6' apart. I was, perhaps, the 60th to jump on this thread. Almost all were as shocked and mad as I. Still, a handful took the, "Get over yourselves" approach .. it's been a fun day.

I let the Park District know about Sycamore being open. I also planned to go over there today (Thursday, March 26th) and, if it was still wide open, I'd go buy combination locks, install them. And email their combinations to PPD. Then I realized it was just irrational anger causing me to think that. Even Amazon Prime couldn't deliver locks in an hour, and I surely wasn't going into a store. I hope that either locks or players' own conscience led to zero play in Palatine today. I hope they get it that it's not about them ... playing is selfish, irresponsible, against the rules imposed, and downright dangerous to all of us. Exponential growth is far-reaching



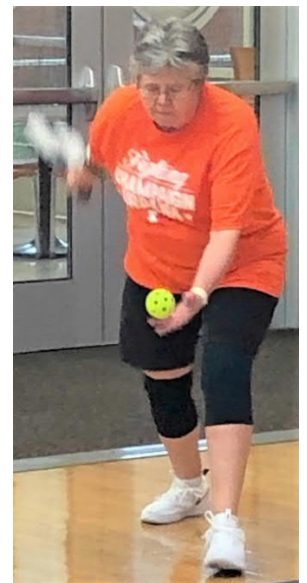
Jerry



Julie



Karin



Connie

OUR NEWSLETTER IS ALREADY LOOKING A DIFFERENT

This April newsletter has a considerable amount of my own opinions. There are several reasons for this. First, I consider it my responsibility to try to keep our members (and everyone else) safe and ready to play in a few months. Secondly, I don't have tournaments to publicize or the usual collection of medalist pics, or post-tournament write-ups and pics. Thirdly, I want to give you another distraction while stuck at home. I have spare, recent pics that I'll put in the May and even June newsletter. I hope you'll share with me things I'd like to share with everyone else. Again, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Thanks.



Deb



Cindy



Clay



Chris

WHAT CHABE END OIN'?

In just a few, short weeks, it's hard to believe how much our lives and lifestyles have changed. Many, if not most, of us play pickleball at least four times a week. That's a lot of hours. Now that time is being filled with other pastimes. Please send me a photo of you involved with one of your current time-fillers. Please remember that we do have kid members. Not only will we enjoy seeing your activity, it may give us an idea for how to spend some of our own time. Again, you can send your pics to me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Thanks.



Ann



Dave



Bob

So, what do you think? Are you going to dress up, for your Easter morning walk into your living room?



Greg



Marie



Linda



Bear



Dennis



Don's shirt



John



Larry



Terri



Jeff's shirt



Al



Denise



Bill



Mike



Leah



Anita



Bill



Janice



Denise



Jackie

Several Picklers have taped a line 34" off the floor of their garage or basement and one on the floor 7' away. Drill or create your own games, after taping more lines on the floor.

Well, Picklers, it seems as though we're living in a truly frightening, surreal movie. I hope we all will stay home and stay safe. Please share what you're doing with your extra time.

At right I am writing depressing items for this newsletter on March 17th. To put me in a more upbeat mood, I donned a pair of Christmas gift socks.

Bear Shatwell
PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com

