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## **JULY, 2020 NEWSLETTER**

### **CLUB REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE ... 1500 MEMBERS**

After signing up only a handful of members online since mid-March, as you'll see in the Newbie section of this newsletter, the floodgates opened, once the locks came off the courts. And this were during a time courts were restricted to singles. (Doubles returned June 26<sup>th</sup>.) The vast majority of our Picklers, and would-be Picklers, have opted to go to other towns to play. With doubles allowed again, local participation will rise steadily. I'll suggest times of play later in this newsletter.



On June 16<sup>th</sup> Dick and Judy Crump became our 1500<sup>th</sup> and 1501<sup>st</sup> Palatine Picklers.

They learned the game in Florida this winter, love it, and rate themselves as 2.5s.

Not that any Palatine Picklers aren't, but these two are REALLY nice people. Hope you get to meet them.

## THANKS FOR HONORING THE RESTRICTIONS

When the courts opened, the Palatine Park District was happy that I volunteered to play “pickleball police” to inform players at Hamilton, Sycamore, and Locust of the restrictions. Yes, they were posted, but how many of us actually read such signs. I visited all Palatine courts at least a couple times a day. Yes, those visits got us some new members, but it’s also shown me how willing our Palatine players who remained in town to play are to follow the PPD’s guidelines. “Can’t play doubles.” “No problem. The two of us will play on that court.” “Have to have your own ball and touch only that ball all day.” “I’ll go get another ball from the car.” It’s been that way dozens of times. Not once did I get the arguments I heard, when I visited another town in which masks were required for doubles, but only ¼ of the players honored that restriction. Congratulations, Palatine Picklers and players. You’re helping all of us stay healthy.

## PANDEMIC MAY BE GETTING WORSE, BUT THE NEWSLETTER IS LOOKING MORE NORMAL

We have Picklers playing pickleball, and I’m taking their photos. This feels SO normal, and it’s a good feeling.



Sherry



Phil



Sue



Tom



Lesa



Linda



Lori



Mary Pat



Melody



Manon



Lisa



Lou



Jean



Janice



Karin



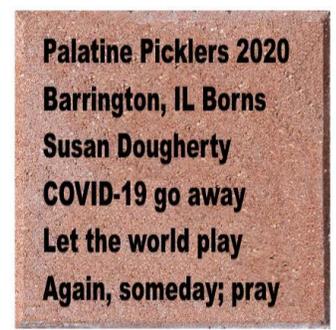
Ken

## MENTORING ... ALTERED, NOT CANCELLED

Our popular mentoring program didn't seem viable this summer. The, when courts opened for four players per court, I got creative. I came up with two ways we could have a season and contacted our top three Mentors, for their input. Here's the plan. We cannot accommodate everyone this year, but we can help 24 students a week. We'll have one Mentor work with four Picklers on one court for an hour. There will be a 9:00 to 10:00 session and a 10:15 to 11:15 session at Sycamore on Wednesdays. There will be drills and proctored games. This will start Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to participate, email me at [AOKBARRY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:AOKBARRY@YAHOO.COM) with each Wednesday through October 14<sup>th</sup> you could participate. I'll get back to 24 of you each Monday, with your session time. If you do not get an email from me, do not show up. I'll try to give everyone an equitable number of sessions. This solution beats simply cancelling mentoring off all together, but it may or may not have all the benefits of having each of three Mentors each week.

**Mentorees will be required** to wear masks and have their own ball bearing their name. You will not be allowed to touch any ball that's not yours. Kick, putt, or flip other balls back to their owners. Because some will forget this procedure and touch a ball that's not theirs, please bring sanitizer or wipes to treat the ball and your hands right away. Mentors Dennis, Marv, and Neal (alpha order) have contributed to these restrictions.

## OUR BAIMBRIDGE BRICKS



Thanks to these Picklers for wanting to represent our club on the new walk at the birthplace of pickleball.



Nez



Pat



Phil



John



Julie



Lucky



Linda



Barb



Ann



Anne



Brian



Deb



Frank



Jenny



Mary



Tom



Howard



Frank

## REMEMBER YOUR DISCOUNTS

Now that we're back on the courts, many of us are considering purchasing a new paddle or other pickleball equipment or accessories.



You'll receive a 10-20% discount on any Paddletek paddle from your friendly, local Paddletek Pro Chuck Feinstein.  
. 847-877-7770 & grtfuldad@aol.com

**PICKLEBALLCENTRAL.COM** For any purchase, use the promo code CRPALATINEPB, to receive a 5% discount.



Bob



Bill



Deb



Susie



Marti



Sarah



Steve



Stana

**SPACE FILLER** I apologize to the half dozen newbies I either forgot to photograph or my shutter stuck so I took a pic of the ground. Remind me to take your photo for the August newsletter.

## PANDEMIC BROUGHT BACK A MEMORY

Sixty years ago our English teacher gave our class five minutes to write a four-line poem/rhyme. Hadn't thought of this in all the time since then, until it popped into my mind seeing someone sneeze. Here it is.

I sneezed a sneeze into the air. It fell to the ground I know not where. But cold and hard were the looks of those in whose vicinity I had snooze.



Cammy



Chris



Rick



Jaime



Joe



Gina



Greg

## PLAYING SCHEDULE

Hamilton ... Monday – Saturday 9:00 – 11:00 ... Sunday 2:00-4:00 ... Wednesday 7:00 p.m. ... Sunday 7:00 p.m.  
Sycamore ... Wednesday mornings is reserved for mentoring. Afternoons everywhere are open for drop-in.



Maureen



Mike



Susan



Alex



Bob



Connie



Dave

## 1<sup>st</sup> PICKLERS' MEDALIST OF THE SEASON

Playing in a Bremen, IN tournament, Jon Bradford (a.k.a. Jonny Storm) teamed with Kirby Shedd to take silver in the Men's 5.0 division. Jonny is the one showing respect for COVID-19. Congrats, Jonny, and thank you.



## NOT MEDALS, BUT ...

After playing in their driveway, Susie and Terry Layton awarded themselves "game balls" which they hung around their necks for this photo op.



Henry



Gary



Don



Barb



Brian



Fran



Ed



Angie



Deb



Jeff



Heidi



Jeff



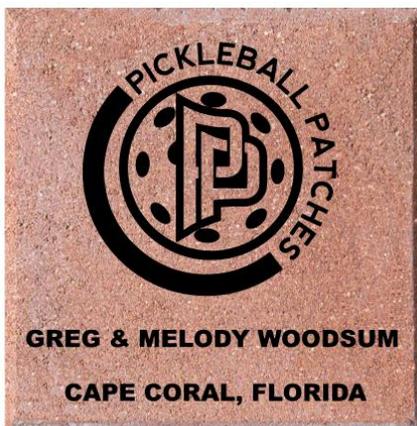
Joe



Larry



Clay



### ONE MORE BRICK

It's the mission of Pickleball Patches business is to provide customizable products that will enhance players' experience at tournaments, within clubs, or at other events. For info write Greg at [gtwoodsum@aol.com](mailto:gtwoodsum@aol.com).



## HAMILTON IS ONE YEAR OLD

Due to iffy weather I held two grand openings last June. The top photo was taken at the first on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. We managed a couple hours of play, before getting rained out. 40 die hard Picklers came that day. The next day I'd bought a couple dozen more donuts than I did Monday. That was fortunate, as we had over 70 Picklers throughout Tuesday morning. Many appear in the lower photo.



### **THANK YOU, PALATINE PARK DISTRICT**

I was honored to hit the very first serve on the new Hamilton courts. For 4.5 years at that time, the PPD had been responsive to the growing needs of the Palatine Picklers. First they added pickleball lines to 4 tennis courts. Then they kept two of those tennis courts but gave us our first four purely pickleball courts. Then, after at least a year of planning, they added these six, awesome and beautiful courts. If you have a few spare minutes, why not send an email to the PPD (check on [PalatineParks.org](http://PalatineParks.org)) expressing how happy you are with the Hamilton facility and everything else they've given us inside and out. Thanks.

## I PROMISED YOU NEWBIES

It's been a month since the locks came off the courts. Having signed up only three new Picklers in more than 2.5 months, I was beginning to forget how to write a "Welcome to the PPC" email. In less than a month, I've welcomed each of the new members who appear below in alphabetical order ... and several whose photo I forgot to take. I know you'll make them all feel welcome.



Andrew



Ari



Arnie



Tina (replaced a dupe)



Bob



Bryan



Bryan



Chris



Chris



Cindy



Colleen



Corbett



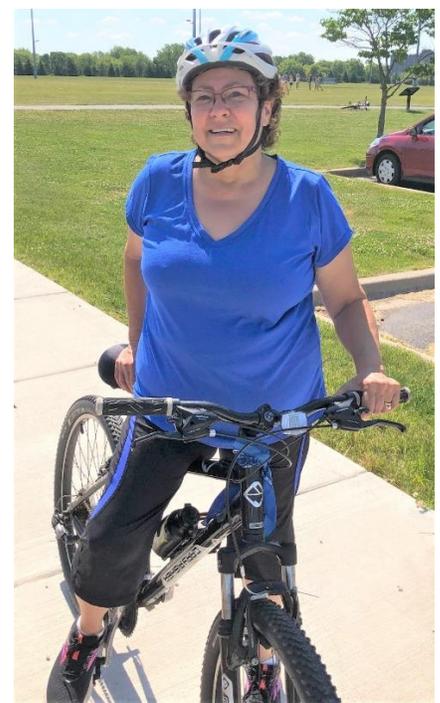
Craig



Dawny



Dean



Dee



Diane



Diane



Dick



Dimitri



Don



Emily



Eve



Jani



Jason



Jenny



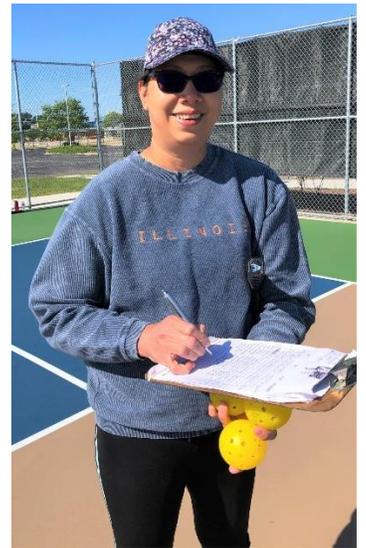
Joan



John



Jossie



Joy



Judy



Julie



Kara



Kathy



Katie



Ken



Kim



Laura



Linda



Marilyn



Mark



Matt



Meg



Nick



Noreen



Pam



Patrick



Pauel



Paul



Renee



Scott



Scott



Sean



Steve



Steve



Teresa



Tom & Cubby Bear



Vicki



Dennis



Diana



Judy

I took the last 3 pics too late to give them their rightful, alphabetical place.

## A LONG-STANDING PICKLERS TRADITION

In the early days of the PPC, Tucky started a tradition of a weekly, post-pickleball lunch at Subway. Though she passed away shortly after that, the lunches have continued. Even during the shut down and outdoor-only dining, Darrell and Terry kept showing up. Others have joined them from week to week, but these two are the true regulars.



## DOUBLES IS BACK

After three weeks of skinny singles, diagonal singles, and full-court singles, Hamilton's middle nets went back up, and doubles could be played with social distancing and no more than 50 people in attendance. I proposed several guidelines for a pretty safe return to our "new" normal. These were sent in a Tweener Memo, but with so many Picklers having joined the club after that, let's review them again. Most of these are not Park District rules; they are my suggestions. They have something for everyone, and so far they've been practiced by everyone. Some play in masks, and some don't. We've all been developing our skills at creatively returning balls to their owners without touching them with our hands, and everyone has been OK with setting up chairs at least 6' from those with whom they don't live.



### TWEENER MEMO ... June 25, 2020

All Palatine courts will be open for doubles play, starting tomorrow, Friday 6/26, as we enter Phase 4. The Park District will hope to have Hamilton's middle nets up, but if they don't get to that by the start of play, know that they will be coming.

Until further notice from the PPD, here is how we'll begin our new normal.

**Masks** ... Masks must be worn only if one of the four players requests that they should be worn in his/her game. Then the other three are to comply or find the "next up" player who will.

**Balls** ... Each player must have his/her own ball, preferably well identified. That is the only ball that the player can touch all day. Partners and opponents' balls must be flipped, kicked, or putted back to its owner.

**Paddle troughs** ... Only one player at a time can be at the paddle troughs. Others must be at least six feet away from everyone else who needs to withdraw or insert a paddle. Under no circumstances will touching a paddle that is not your own be allowed.

**Names on paddles** ... See that your name appears on both sides of your paddle upside down where the paddle meets the handle. This will allow someone to call out the names of the next four players.

**Chairs** ... Only chairs with plastic or duct taped bottoms will be allowed inside the cages. You must position your chair along a fence at least six feet from any chair belonging to anyone with whom you do not live. Chairs may also be positioned six feet apart outside the fence on the sidewalk.

**Singles** ... Due to the expected volume of Picklers, singles play will not be allowed mornings at Hamilton. However, we're reserving the south court at Sycamore for those who prefer to play singles. Depending on popularity this may be expanded to both Sycamore courts. (So far, we've not had to move singles play to Sycamore, but as the number of players increases, that will be the game plan.)

**Sanitizer/Wipes** ... You should bring hand sanitizer and/or alcohol wipes. It's highly likely that someone will forget the Balls restriction and accidentally pick up a ball that is not his/hers. That ball and your hands should be immediately sanitized. (Wiping it on your shirt does not count as sanitizing.)

Illinois leads the country in controlling COVID-19. As far as I know, we've had only one Palatine Pickler contract, and lose to, the virus. If we all adhere to the above restrictions, perhaps we'll eventually get through this unscathed for the duration.

Thanks for your  
cooperation.

***Bear***

***Pickler Pres***

***Email: aokbarry@yahoo.com***



Deb, Steve, Clay, and Chris enjoy a new normal game of doubles at Hamilton

## **HAMILTON'S PROCEDURE FOR WHO PLAYS WHERE & WHEN**

- 1) The left/north cage of 3 courts is designated for "Competitive" play.
- 2) The right/south cage of 3 courts is designated for "Recreational" play.
- 3) Picklers can enter whichever cage they choose. However, if a Pickler loses three, consecutive games on the Competitive courts, he/she should put the paddle in a Recreational trough. If a Pickler wins three, consecutive games on the Recreational courts, he/she should put the paddle in a Competitive trough.
- 4) NEW: Picklers should create two name tags and affix them to each side of their paddles upside down near the handle so "Mary Murphy, you up" can be called out, without having to touch the paddle.
- 5) Social distancing when off the court (6' away from anyone who doesn't live in your household) will be expected.
- 6) As for PVC trough use, when you finish a game, stay 6' apart as you insert your paddle in the Winner or Loser trough. Same with withdrawing your paddle, when you're up next. Have your name on both sides of your paddle upside down where the paddle meets the handle. This way when a paddle is inserted, that person can call out the names of the next four paddle owners, without touching a paddle.
- 7) If there are a significant number of players on site, singles play should be moved to the south court at Sycamore. Afternoons may be more appropriate for singles at Hamilton.
- 8) It's recommended that each player (if all 4 aren't in the same household) should have his/her own ball and should not touch any other ball. Balls can be kicked, putted, or flipped back to their owners.
- 9) If 4 Picklers want to play as their own foursome all the time, that's fine. Just have all 4 paddles put in either the W or L trough together, and see that 4 or 8 paddles are ahead of your 4. This may mean asking one or more to come off courts after you to put their paddle/s in front of yours
- 10) NEW: Do not latch the "doors" into the cages. We want them to be pushed open/closed by feet.
- 11)

## **SINGLE MONTH RECORD GROWTH**

During the month of June, 75 new Picklers joined the Palatine Pickleball Club. There is an excellent chance I won't remember most of you. It's nothing personal, if I ask you if you know me or if I recognize you but ask you again to tell me your name. You are all important, and we're glad you opted to become part of our vibrant club. In most cases, by the third time I ask a Pickler his/her name, I have it. Thanks for your tolerance.



Craig



Mary



Neal



Dave



Steve



Amy

## PLEASE CELEBRATE SAFELY

Our country is trying to deal with huge challenges on so many fronts this year. We can help by wearing masks in public, not socializing with more than a few, avoiding being in buildings when possible, coughing and sneezing into our elbows, always staying at least 6' from anyone with whom we do not live, not driving after drinking, and not setting off fireworks.

For the past 243 years (not 244), we've been celebrating Independence Day. Let's strive to be here next July, to celebrate it without the stress. Thanks.

**Bear Shatwell**  
**PicklersPrez**  
**aokbarry@yahoo.com**

