



PalatinePicklers.com

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NOVEMBER, 2021 NEWSLETTER

INDOOR & OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL

Hamilton, Sycamore, and Locust will remain open with nets up all winter long, but when snow-covered, the courts will be locked. Last winter there were only about a dozen days we did not play at Hamilton. That's a "cool" option for all who aren't comfortable playing inside in a mask.

FALCON ... Falcon Rec Center is located on Recreation Drive, just east of the Toyota dealership at Rand and Hicks. It's official address, though, is 2195 N Hicks for some reason. All six courts are available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The expanded play time each day runs from 9:00 to 1:00. Though I'd expect there to be Picklers coming at 9:00, it's still nice outside so you may want to coordinate with fellow Picklers, before showing up to play. You must be masked the full time you are in the facility. There is no limit to the number of players who will be allowed in the gym. The paddle racks we've used in the past should be there to assure everyone basically an equal number of games. If it's busy, use one pair of racks for "competitive" and one for "rec" and have an indicator to show which group goes to the next available court. Picklers can start in whichever group the desire, but as at Hamilton, if you lose three in a row in competitive, paddle up in rec, and if you win three in a row at rec, move to the competitive rack. I won't be there so someone needs to step up and yell, "Play to 9, win by 1," when there are about 10 waiting to get on a court. \$5 per day.

BIRCHWOOD ... The Birchwood gym's drive is on the south side of Illinois, west of Plum Grove and east of Quentin. It's address is 435 W Illinois. Masks, of course, are required. Pickleball is available Mondays and Wednesdays from Noon to 4:00 and Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon to 3:00. \$5 per day.

HARPER COLLEGE ... Play is in the M Building in the SW corner of the cluster of buildings. Enter from Algonquin Road and use the first parking lot on the left. Walk up the ramp to enter and turn right to get to the sports desk. You'll sign in which allows you to see how many others are already there. Play is Monday evening from 6:00 to 9:00, and the fee is \$5. Masks must be worn in the building. Paddles are available by the downstairs courts, for anyone who doesn't have one. There are six courts on the new floor. Again, there will be paddle racks for determining the next four players to play. Toward the end of the evening, more serious players will seclude themselves for more competitive play.



**HAVE A HAPPY AND
SAFE THANKSGIVING**





Ann



Graciela



James (pic by Kathy S)



Ron



Ryan



Phil (pic by Amme S)



Steve (pic by Anne S)



Erin



Greg



Hayden



Jenny



Karen



Kathy



Julie (pic by Anne S)



Karen



Jeff (pic by Clay F)



Mike (pic by Anne S)

ANNUAL MENTOREE TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday, October 19th, the week after our Wednesday morning mentoring ended, 16 Mentorees (the first to sign up) took to the courts at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington for a fun morning. Each played 15 games to 6 points, partnering once with each competitor. Art, who was on the sub list, agreed to serve as Scorekeeper. He was also available to compete, had there been a no-show or last minute emergency.



Fellow Mentors felt I should be in the group photo, as this was the 6th Mentoree tournament I'd run. I should explain I wear this shirt honoring my late wife "Kid" who died of breast cancer on this date in 2004. Behind me are Robin, Tracy, Linda, Maureen, Karen, Betty, Sue, Dee Dee, John, Ann, Kathy, Jan, Laura, Mark, Lori, and Susan.

Once again, we Mentors loved witnessing how drastically improved EACH of the competitors was, compared to their early weeks in the program. Mentors served as referees offering zero advice but calling EVERY fault, even some of which the players were unfamiliar. It was still a learning experience. As happens every year, many Mentorees were hesitant

about participating, saying, "I'm not good enough." My rebuttal has always been, "It doesn't matter. You can't impact the outcome, as everyone will partner with you." As always, everyone, regardless of how many points they scored, had a great time and got to know more new friends.



Winner Dee Dee is flanked by Mark and Sue who tied for 2nd



Scorekeeper Art and Refs Dennis, Bear, Bob & Neal



Karen, Tracy, & Susan were the best-dressed Mentorees



Ann



Bill



Brad



Karin (pic by Anne S)



Janet



Susan (pic by Anne S)



Valery



Steve



Cindy



Patti



Jeff



Giuseppe



Heather



Kim



Anne



Mike (pic by Anne S)



SOLDIERS DRILLED, SERVED, & SMILED

In late September Sgt Daniel Stevens, Religious Affairs NCO, introduced himself to me via email. He understood we were the club to contact for his request. He asked me if I could reserve six, outdoor courts at no cost ... close to Fort Sheridan ... for 90 minutes ... at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 24 ... provide a couple dozen loaner paddles and balls ... recruit six Mentors to get up well before dawn and drive at least a half hour ... and teach the sport to 24+ soldiers who knew nothing about the game. What could I say but, "Sure, not a problem at all."

I was able to get the Highland Park Park District to reserve their six, Danny Cunniff courts for us and post signs well in advance saying normal play wouldn't start that day until 8:30. I then recruited, in alphabetical order, Bob Goldstein, Dennis Bourgojn, Melody Woodsum, Neal Harris, and Thea Froehling to join me for this unique adventure. Between our individual stashes, we had the required paddles covered. Then I wrote a one-page summary of the basics of the sport and got that to Sgt Dan to get into the hands of our soon-to-be Mentorees so we wouldn't waste time on the 24th going over what they could already know.

Only Sgt Dan had ever held a paddle or pickleball until that morning. Each Mentor put four paddles on a court and awaited the soldiers to finish their pre-pickleball calisthenics and report to us. We had them dink a bit, hit a few ground strokes, and got games going in short order, while calling faults and going over an occasional rule or tactic. We had the full spectrum of students from those who had trouble hitting the ball to those who were airborne smashers and heavily sliced line drive hitters. The only thing they all had in common was their almost perpetual smiles. We left the courts right on time, as "regulars" were waiting.





Bill



Bob



Carrie



Dave



Debbie (pic by Anne S)



Don (pic by Anne S)



Mike



Chris



Elie



Ann



Jaime



Howard (pic by Anne S)



Sandy



Gary (pic by Anne S)



Mike

CENTRE COURT FALL BRAWL MEDALISTS



Dale Zwack & Jonny Storm
4.5 ... Gold



Natalie Shaw & Liz Chaplinsky
4.5 ... Gold



Jerry Huo & Liz Chaplinsky
4.5 ... Silver



Wisconsin Senior Olympics ... Masato Suzuki & Ron Alden ... 70+ ... Gold

GEORGE CRIDLAND'S 95th BIRTHDAY DRIVE-BY

The weather was a bit dreary, but the spirits were joyful during the 2nd, annual drive-by to celebrate George Cridland's birthday. Thanks to Connie Kus for the photos below.



THIS MONTHS PAVEMENT POUNDERS

SUPER STEPPERS ... Those Picklers who logged at least 20,000 steps in a day.



Karen Neetz



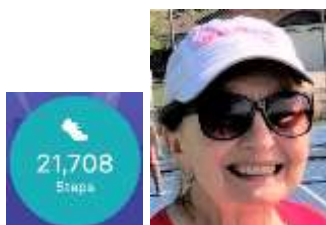
Scott Beil



Barry Fischman



Bear Shatwell



Kathy Ford



Scot Shatwell



Anne Stein

WORTHY WALKERS ... Those Picklers who garnered at least 15,000 steps in a day.



Kevin Shatwell

Bear Shatwell

Clay Farnsworth

Carol Frenda



Kathy Ford

Robin Dubin

Karen Neetz

Karin Beil



Bob



Connie (pic by Anne S)



Gail

STILL ROOM FOR MORE IN INDOOR MENTORING

There are four dates in 2021 (lots more in the new year) on which we'll have 2-hour mentoring sessions at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. These sessions are for Palatine Picklers who are fully vaccinated and will properly wear a mask the entire time in the facility. Neal Harris and I will oversee the drills and games. We can serve 24 students each week so please let me know which of these dates you expect to be available. I'll invite you on the Sunday before each mentoring session. The sessions will be on Tuesdays ... 11/16, 11/30, 12/14, and 12/28. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with those you think you could attend. BTW going out to brunch/lunch is a nice end to your fun morning.

SHIRTS ARE A FRUSTRATION

I have not forgotten the 33 of you who ordered shirts as long ago as September. No, I do not have these shirts, though I still have about a dozen from prior orders that Picklers have yet to retrieve. A lot of the ordered shirts were for styles not currently offered. More were wanting colors not available now. It's a supply chain problem.

Some of the shirt makers can't get the materials. Some are severely short-handed. Our printer is swamped but hopes to shop around to find alternative shirt-makers who offer the same or very similar shirts to some of those we've ordered. I've asked if they can get just those shirts which are available. We'll have to pay some additional shipping charges and, possibly, another set-up charge later, but the club will pick up those charges. The bottom line is I hope to get some of you some shirts in the not too distant future. I'm sure I'll be contacting more of you with available options of colors or styles. I apologize for this nightmare. Usually, I've been able to pick up our shirts in two to three weeks after placing our order.



Clay (pic by Anne S)



Jennifer



Gene



Barb



Neal



Mary



Tom

2nd ANNUAL "UNTALL LADIES" TOURNAMENT

If you are not taller than 5'2", mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 23. The first eight, fully vaccinated ladies to email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com will play a round robin tournament that starts at 9:00 in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. Masks required. Pay \$8 fee at the lobby desk. Lunch after play ends.



UGLY SWEATER THEME TOURNAMENT

9:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 7th at Canlan.
Fully vaccinated and masked. \$8 at desk.
Round robin tournament. Ugly holiday shirts
acceptable. First 8 to email me at
aokbarry@yahoo.com will play. Lunch after.



Daniel



Robin



Sue



Clark



Dave

MOVIE QUOTE WINNERS

This was our third, 50-quote contest. It was, clearly, the hardest. Our top three finishers are ...



Clay Farnsworth ... 19



Kevin Shatwell ... 18



John Allen ... 16

MEET PICKLER PATRICK O'CONNELL

Patrick was new to pickleball, when he joined now describes pickleball as the best thing since in 1967 and grew up in Chicago and attended Lincoln Park, Glenview, Antibes (France) and studying abroad. He and his wife call Des parents, older sister, and Patrick are huge tennis or golf every chance they can.

He earned his B.A. in French Language and French Human Services earned a where he

Patrick has tzu named school



years. As a life-long enthusiast of ping pong, Patrick and an equally fanatical colleague co-sponsored the school's Table Tennis Club.

He's still into tennis and golf and bucket list. Still on that list is beautiful vineyards, the top of Before COVID they loved Saugatuck, Michigan. Now they together. Patrick is a Grillmaster.



our club in mid-September. He sliced bread. Patrick was born Gordon Tech. He has lived in Monastir (Tunisia) while Plaines home. His whole family, tennis players. Parents still play

teacher. He Services second one in Educational Leadership. Both earned at DePaul University also played tennis. He has since coached tennis for 30 years.

been married to Jan DeStefano for 27 years. They love a 20 year old Shih-Jethro and a 10 year old Poodle mix named Lena. Patrick has been a counselor for the past 30 years. He's currently the Counseling Department Chair at Grayslake North High School where he's been for 10



was able to check scuba diving off his going back to France, to show Han the the Eiffel Tower, and the Cote d'Azur. Caribbean cruises and short trips to enjoy being home and doing fun things

He views pickleball as a fantastic sport with a huge social aspect. everyone with whom fantastic. It's a club of community. He be a part of it.



Patrick is a cancer survivor
Jan is a two-time

Photos Patrick and Jan on a Las Vegas conference, year, and enjoying Hoover Dam with Jan.

he's played at great people considers

survivor
Breast Cancer

at Rob Roy escalator with participating in a Zoom meeting while working remotely last



He thinks Hamilton is and a wonderful himself lucky to

(Melanoma), and survivor.

Golf Club, Patrick colleagues at a

REMEMBER YOUR DISCOUNTS

5% OFF anything sold on PickleballCentral.com, when you use the code **CRPALATINEPB**.

10-20% OFF Paddletek paddles from Chuck at 847-877-7770 or grtfuldad@aol.com.

20% OFF anything at engagepickleball.com, with the code **20jon**.

SHIRT SHOW OFF SECTION

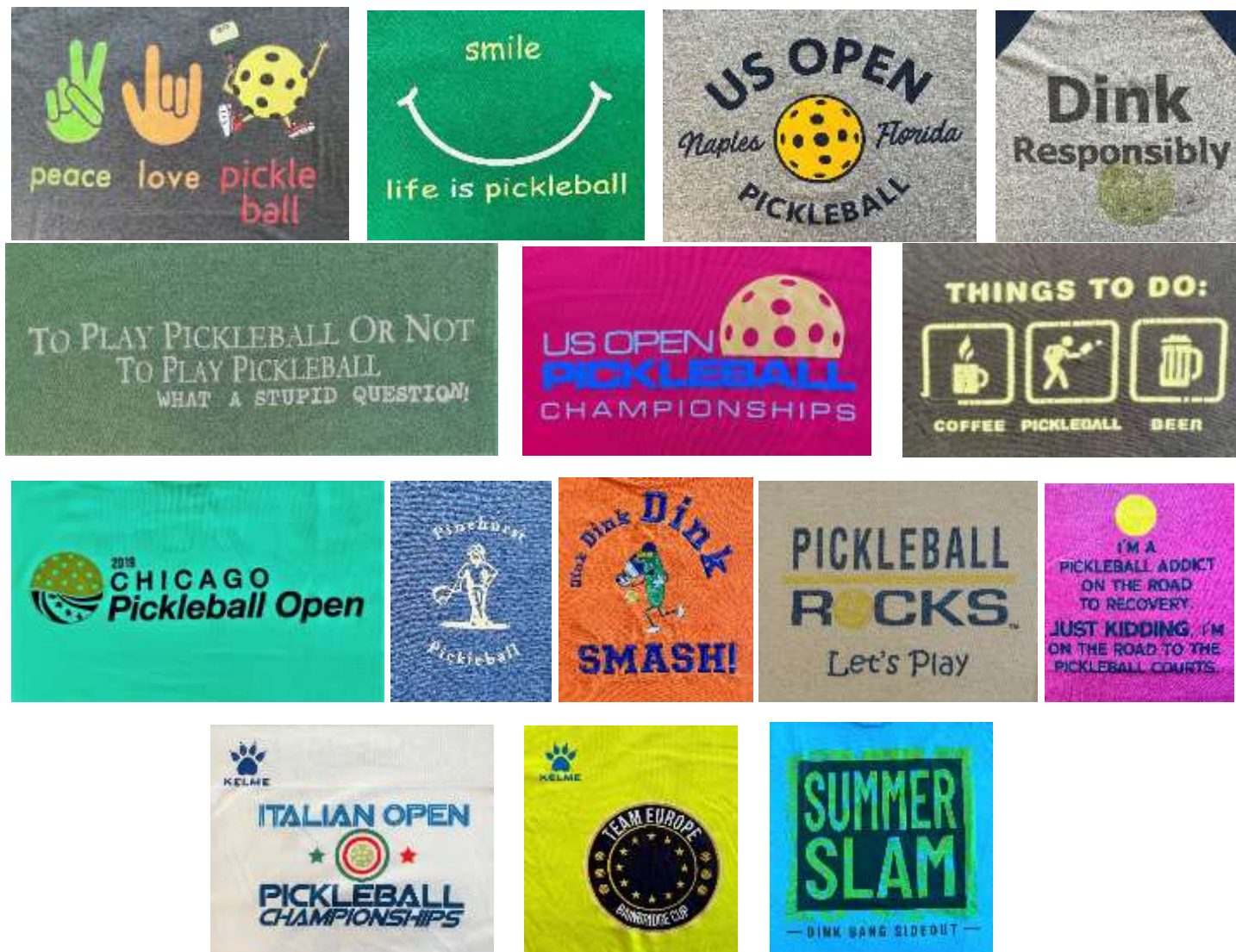
I invited Picklers to send me pics of the chest area of their pickleball shirts. That didn't get them running to their closets, shelves, and drawers. The Queen of pickleball shirts, Lynne Weisbart was saddened that her shirts were packed for their move. Last time we did this, Melody and Greg Woodsum had a similar stash to mine. They weren't able to participate this time either. So, I'll pull out the dozen Palatine Picklers shirts in my collection and share only those which are less familiar. When she and Howard are settled after their move, we'll have her blow us away with what may be the world's largest, private collection of pickleball shirts, including those with my logo.



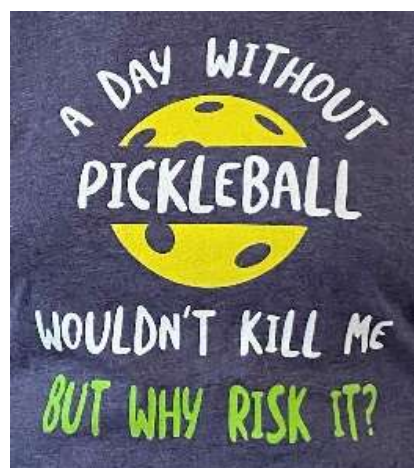
LIKE THE "MEET THE PICKLER" PROFILES ?

Yeah. So do most Picklers. The thing is we need you to step up. We want to get to know YOU. Email me with where you were born, grew up, attended schools, family, jobs, pets, hobbies, jobs, bucket list done & pending,

accomplishments in which you take pride, how you got into pickleball, what you like about the sport and club, and anything else that just may interest us. Email this information, along with pics of you involved in your non-pickleball life to aokbarry@yahoo.com. I need just the information. I'll write the profile. We've gotten to meet 34 Picklers so far, through this section. Let's keep it going. Thanks. Now back to Bear's shirts.



OTHER SHIRTS SUBMITTED



Anne S's



Dee Dee B's



Karin B's



Mary H's



Robin D's



Betty B's



Betty B's



Tracy W's

LET'S WELCOME OUR NEWBIES



Allison



Ann



Anta



Anthony



Barb



Barb



Cindy



Deb



Erin



George



Jan



Jesse



Linda



Lona



Marcia



Marianne



Patrick



Sarah



Tara



Theresa



Nicole

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, PALATINE PICKLERS

MENTOREES ... JOIN YOUR DIRECTORY

Virtually every one of this summer's 133 Mentorees truly loved their experience. While a number of "brave souls" have ventured over to Hamilton and found the Picklers there as welcoming and helpful as we'd promised, many more are hesitant to play with their more experienced peers.

That's where Betty Cloud stepped to the plate. She will compile a Mentoree Directory which she'll email to each Mentoree who is willing to share contact information with the other, interested Mentorees.

Just send to Betty ... ecloud106@aol.com ... your name, your email address, your phone number, and the town in which you reside. The Wednesday after our last Sycamore session, four mentorees came back about 9:00 to enjoy playing with each other. I hope that practice continues and grows. The Directory, though, will let groups of you arrange your own times and courts.

Before we had Hamilton, I created the Sycamore Directory for Picklers who wanted to be included. It worked well, with Picklers arranging a wide variety of times to gather and play there.

Happy peer pickling.

We're now witnessing the segregation of Pickler preferences. Some are heading indoors, while some prefer to stay outside, regardless of the cooling temps. The bottom line is we all want to keep playing as much as possible. That's actually a compliment to each of us. We're a fun and welcoming community and enjoy being together.

In this newsletter you've been invited to email me which Tuesday mornings (11/16, 11/30, 12/14, 12/28) you think you'd be available for Canlan mentoring sessions. ... "Untall Ladies" let me know you want to compete. ... Those with ugly holiday sweaters/shirts same for you. ... Thursday 3 p.m. mentoring at Hamilton will continue through 11/11. ... and Mentorees can sign up with Betty for the Mentoree Directory.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Bear,
PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com

