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## DECEMBER, 2020 NEWSLETTER

### LET'S CELEBRATE OUR MENTOREES

Not having a truly urgent message, other than needing more Ugly Sweater tournament Picklers, I'm going to honor the group of newer Palatine Picklers who are adding new and fun talent to our ranks and actually stimulating the growth of our club. I wasn't able to get a photo of all our 2021 mentorees, but here are a large percentage of them. Let's celebrate their willingness to leave their comfort zone and learn more about our sport. Of course, none of this would be possible without our awesome Mentors Marv, Neal, Dennis, Bob, and only semi-awesome me. Thanks, Guys.



Allison



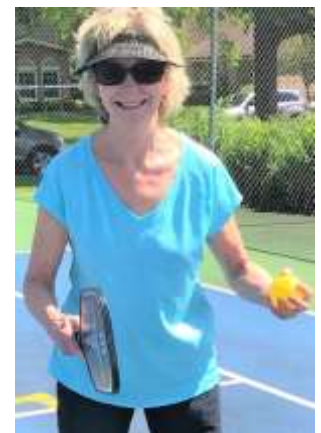
Amanda



Andrea



Andrea



Ann



Ann



Ann



Annette



Anta



Art





Barb



Barbara



Barbara



Barbara



Beatrice



Betty



Bill



Brad



Brad



Brandon



Brian



Brian



Carol



Carole



Caroline



Cathy



Cathy



Celeste



Chris



Chris



Cindy



Cindy



Cookie



Dan





Dan



Daryl



David



David



Deb



Debbie



Dee Dee



Diane



Diane



Diane



Dyan



Erin



Erin



Fran



George



Graciela



Gretchen



Jan



Jan



Jan



Jane



Janet





Jeannine



Jennifer



Jennifer



Jim



Jim



Joan



Joanne



John



John



Karen



Karen



Kathryn



Kathryn



Kathy



Kathy



Kim



Laura



Laura



Laura



Laura



Linda



Linda





Lisa



Lona



Lori



Lynn



Lynnda



Marcia



Marge



Marianne



Mario



Marion



Mark



Maria



Mary



Maureen





Midge



Mike



Mike



Monica



Mucia



Nancy



Nancy



Nancy



Nancy



Nick



Nicole



Noreen



Pat



Patty



Paul



Paula





Peggy



Regina



Renee



Rich



Rob



Robin



Roger



Sally



Sandi



Sandy



Sandy



Sarah



Sarah





Sharon



Sheila



Silver



Steve



Steve



Sue



Sue



Susan



Susan



Susan



Tara



Theresa



Tom



Tracy



Trish





Trudy



Vikki

## MENTORING CONTINUES IN 2022

Our every other Tuesday mentoring will continue at Canlan. The start time is moving to 10:00 so we may enjoy lunch after play. The dates are 1/11, 1/25, 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, & 4/5.

If you are fully vaccinated and think you'd be available to attend any/all of these masked sessions, email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com). As most of you know, I'll send email invitations to 24 of you on the Sundays before each session.

## TIME CHANGE FOR DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> MENTORING

Our final Canlan mentoring session had to be changed. It now will start at noon. Therefore, I'll basically throw out the "Expect to be available" list for that date. Please email me (again or for the first time), if you'd like to be considered for that session. Again, I'm at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com).

## FINAL FOUR FACED WIND AND COLD



After a summer of Thursday afternoon mentoring sessions with as many as 37 participants, the final session found only four, brave Picklers willing to brave the weather. John, Mark, Rob, and Paul brought the season to an end on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The following Tuesday, mentoring for 24 each week moved indoors to Canlan.

Never would have expected to fill nine, newsletter pages with mentoring photos, when the program began six years ago. These programs have done as much for our club as they have for the mentorees.





Bill



Clay



Dori



Greg



Karen



Janice



Mike



Mike



Ron



Roger



Patrick



Susan (pic by Anne S)





Valery



Silver



Tracy



Patti



Mike



Kathy



Marcia



Kathy



Nancy



Neal



Mary

## UPPER INTERMEDIATE TRAVEL TEAM UPDATE

Through 5 weeks John Kirschner's Palatine Picklers are in 1<sup>st</sup> place with a 101-79 record. Hoffman is 2<sup>nd</sup> at 94-86. DuPage is 3<sup>rd</sup> at 84-96, and Libertyville is 4<sup>th</sup> at 81-99. Last match Palatine & DuPage tied for first at 20-16.



# MEET PICKLER TRACY WESLAGER

Tracy grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin. She earned a degree in Retail Management and Business at University of Wisconsin-Stout. Her best, male friend kept asking her out, and she kept turning him down. Persistence paid off. Four years later she and Bill dated a whole month, before getting engaged. After their wedding they moved to Florida, to start their new life together. While his job, Tracy realized she's truly a Midwestern girl at prefers winter and snow to the weather in the South.

The Weslagers have one daughter, Macy who graduated University and now lives in Ohio. Tracy describes her as those who know Tracy even a little, it's hard to imagine energy in a room with both of them. The Weslagers relationship. Tracy would love to have Macy living in forever, but he's kind of glad to have her "off the visit her as often as Macy allows.

Tracy and Bill have two dogs. Biscuit is now an old lady. Maltipoo princess. Of course, both are adored, even driving them crazy.

For eighteen years Tracy ran her own online stationery business. She also offered custom birthday cards to companies across the country.

Her life motto/brand is "livinthehappy." She says, "It's simple ... happy ... surround yourself with happiness ...

because why can't we? She's grown and all themselves events that particularly Rock



not? The world is crazy more happiness for a facebook group called than 300 members. things that can give and others. They have bring more smiles out in excited about their new Gardens." She creates

businesses so people of all ages can enjoy picking one to maybe, paint and leave one themselves for someone else

When asked about hobbies, Tracy said she grew up on still loves both. She loves crafts –



crochet, papercrafts, rock painting, macrame, sewing, lettering, etc.



She's obsessed with interior design. Bill endures her redecorating the house every week or two. She also enjoys college football, though she'd rather be at Wrigley to watch her Cubs, win or lose. She enjoys visiting family in northern Wisconsin, including nieces and nephews.



traveling a lot with heart. She actually

from Indiana a "Mini Me." For the positive have a close their basement payroll." They do

Caicos is their when they're



so why not do what we ourselves and others?" "livinthehappy" that now They focus on the good more happiness to many activities and the world. Tracy is "LIVINTHEHAPPY Painted these at selected, local bring them a smile ... and, to enjoy.

snow and water skis and





Tracy, along with hubby and daughter, is a huge fan of boating. A year ago they moved to live on the Fox River in Barrington and love having their boat a few steps away.

A friend  
50 and wanted  
As anyone who's  
social media guru  
and fell in love  
together, laugh  
every game, she



introduced Tracy to pickleball in March of this year. She'd just turned more physical activity. She's been hooked and obsessed ever since. visited our Facebook page in the last couple months knows, she's a so quickly found with our group. together, and gets good tips.



Where, other  
enjoys espresso  
You may well

She invites everyone to come to the Palatine Picklers  
Almost certainly, Tracy will reply.

than a pickleball  
at local coffee  
find her on their

the Palatine Picklers. She joined  
She considers us family. We play  
learn together. From virtually

court, might you find Tracy? She  
shops, the stronger the better.  
boat with a glass of prosecco.  
Facebook page and say hello.

## USE YOUR DISCOUNTS FOR HOLIDAY SAVINGS

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](mailto:grtfuldad@aol.com).

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

And a few that I won't be repeating each month, so make a note of these, if they are of interest.

Jigsaw Health (Pickleball Cocktail, Electrolyte Supreme, Mag-Soothe) Pickler Bill Kirscht will take \$10 off an order at [www.jigsawhealth.com](http://www.jigsawhealth.com)

Core Pickleball – Bkirscht15 will get you 15% off all orders at [www.corepickleballusa.com](http://www.corepickleballusa.com)

Zelus insoles (official insoles of USA Pickleball) – BILL20 will get you 20% off Olympus Pro insoles at [www.zeluspickleball.com](http://www.zeluspickleball.com).



Jim



Julie



Jesse



Theresa





## MELODY RISES TO ROYALTY IN REFEREEING

She started as a 3.0 Palatine Pickler. Devoted herself to learning. Now plays 4.0. She and Greg mentored one year for us. Then she got into reffing. She became a ref trainer and began reffing bigger and bigger tournaments. Look at her now. Congratulations, Melody.



Jim



Jim



Jennifer



James



Jenny



Steve



Steve





## ANOTHER PICKLER AUTHOR

Jeff Degner joins Ari Cohen as a published Pickler author. His first book “What Track for the Atlanta Flight” shared four decades of experiences as a Delta gate agent. Now, his second book, “Runway To Recoveries” continues that for its first half. Then he reflects on his decades with “Healing the Children.” He brought kids from countries without the wherewithal to treat severely troubled kids to the USA for treatments. You’ll love both books. They’re filled with lots of humor, lots of insights, and lots of inspiration. They are both available on Amazon. All the profits Jeff realizes are donated back to Healing the Children.

## WAHOO! I HAVE THE SHIRTS

After two months of myriad obstacles, I picked up almost all of the shirts our Picklers ordered. I’ve distributed several at Hamilton, but I’m rarely there these days. If you tell me when you can be at Hamilton ... or come to my home near 12 and Lake Cook, I’ll be happy to give you your shirt/s. If you are among the majority of the 32 who have yet to pay, please have exact amount with you. Remember that prices are \$1 per shirt more than still shows on our website.

## COURT ASSIGNMENTS ARE PERFECT ... IF UNDERSTOOD

Falcon play is divided between “competitive” and “rec.” Pickler Jim Blair has again created an awesome, paddle racking system to keep things simple (when understood) and equitable. When you arrive with your name on the top of your paddle, put it in the “in” side of either the competitive or rec rack. As at Hamilton, if you win three games in a row on rec courts, put your paddle in the competitive rack, and, if you lose three in a row on competitive courts, put it in the rec rack when you leave the court.

The racks have an “in” and an “out” side. Paddles will move toward the “out” end, as four are removed to hit the court. Each rack has a plug to indicate if “winners” “losers” go out next. When one removes four paddles, he/she should advance the other paddles in the rack and move the plug to the other (competitive or rec) side. Also, he/she should move the indicator between the two racks to the other (competitive or rec) side. So competitive Picklers and rec Picklers will alternate heading to the open court, and within each group winners and losers will alternate also.

## GLARE COURT POLICY

When a court opens on either side of the curtain, players should all move over one court. This is particularly important on the lobby side. The court nearest the gym door to the lobby is the “glare court.” When that court finishes its game, the other two courts MUST move to the next court in that direction. When you move to the glare court, note your score. You will change sides when you are halfway between the higher score and 11 (round up). This isn’t optional either. It is a distinct disadvantage to be facing the lobby doors. This disadvantage must be shared as equitably as possible.





Ryan



Heather



Howard



Jaime

## REMINDER OF INDOOR PLAY TIMES IN PALATINE

**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. 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 and court assignment were described on the preceding page. \$5 per day. There is no down time this month, as the holidays fall on weekends. Phone 847-202-5111, if you have questions.

**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. This facility isn't filling up this year like Falcon does. It may be best to bring your own foursome. \$5 per day. Questions? Call 847-991-1960.

**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.

## UGLY SWEATER TOURNAMENT UPDATE

This tournament for 16, fully vaccinated and masked Picklers will take place at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. As I write this, I am three Picklers short. I'd like to get those three and at least two who could substitute with minimal notice. There is an \$8 fee at the door, and masks are required the entire time in the building.

We'll vote on the ugliest sweater. The winner will receive a Palatine Pickler shirt of his/her choice in our next order. After this round robin tournament, we'll go to lunch at the Christmasy Kelsey Road House close by.

Email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com) to see if there's room. I'll request final confirmations in a few days.





Giuseppe



Gail



Ann



Bill



Cindy



Anne (pic by Karin B)



Chris



Dan



Debbie



Ann



Don (pic by Anne S)





Ari



Pat



Janet



Mary



Daniel



Mike



Frank



John



Brian



Gary



Jeff



Wendy





Tom



Carolyn



David

## UNTALL LADIES TOURNAMENT WASN'T SHORT ON FUN

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> eight diminutive Lady Picklers played a round robin tournament at Canlan Sportsplex. Here they are. Heather, Caryl, Jodi, (Bear), Nicole, Mary, Ann, Jane, and Cathy...







Jodi



Jane



Nicole



Heather



Cathy



Ann



Caryl



Mary



## QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY, FOR MEDAL WINNERS

November wasn't a big month for tournaments featuring Palatine Picklers. But the one of which I'm aware went well. Pickler Liz Chaplinski paired with *Jerry Huo* (not a PCC member) in South Haven, Michigan at 4.5 and took 1<sup>st</sup>. They considered this a good warm-up for Nationals. Congratulations, Liz and Jerry, and good luck.



You know, it's usually kind of accidental that I come across our medalists. IF you win a medal (or finish in the top 3 in a non-medal tournament, PLEASE email me with your photo, your finish, the division, the name of the tournament, its location, and the date. We all want to share the happiness of your success. I'm still at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com).

## FIND A GAME, ALMOST ANYWHERE

Picklers Mike and Dyan Bryskier discovered a website through which games can be arranged. You pick the time and place you'd like to play and give your skill level. The site contacts players of your level who have chosen that location. Everyone confirms through the site. It worked well for Mike and Dyan. The website is <https://www.playtimescheduler.com/login.php> Next time you're out of your geographical comfort zone, why not give it a try. And ... thanks, Mike and Dyan

## OUR 3.5 – 4.0 TEAM NEEDS A SUBSTITUTE CAPTAIN

Earlier in this newsletter, you read about our Thursday morning team that competes with Hoffman Estates, Libertyville, and DuPage at Canlan. Its Captain, John Kirschner, is going into snowbird mode after the holidays. That means we need a temporary Captain. John will give you contact information for all the horses in his stable. You need to select, seed gender and mixed pairs, and confirm they will show up for the match. Then, after the match, you can compile and send everyone the day's stats. It's a little work, but it's very rewarding. I know. I did it for this group for three years. So, if you're ready to pay back for all you've enjoyed in this club, email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com). **NEVER MIND ... Bob Bregenzer just volunteered to Captain. Thanks, Bob.**





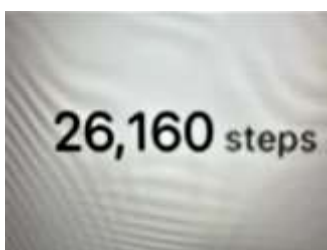
## THIS MONTH'S STEPPERS & WALKERS

All of you can get into this section of the newsletter next month. Just check the heart icon on your phone \*that you keep on your person), if you don't have a Fitbit. Just submit ([aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com)) any day's atats that show you walked at least 15,000 steps in a December day.

### SUPER STEPPERS (20,000+ per day)



Scot Beil



Karen Neetz



Scot Shatwell



### WORTHY WALKERS (15,000+ per day)



Karen Neetz



Bear Shatwell



Heather Schneider



Best Day!  
17,646

Clay Farnsworth



Scot Shatwell



### WE HAVE SOME HEARTY HAMILTONITES

The day after Thanksgiving was a bit on the chilly side, but at least twelve Picklers dressed warmly and had fun. Then Jenny and Bill brought warm-up treats were well-received.





## NOVEMBER'S NEWBIES

I welcomed 19 new members in November. However, I've yet to meet seven of those who joined online. When I do meet them, they'll appear as newbies in the next newsletter.



Andy



Brian



Caryl



Cathy



Chris



Cindy



Cookie



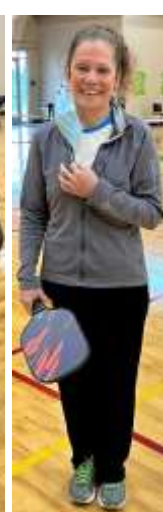
Jodi



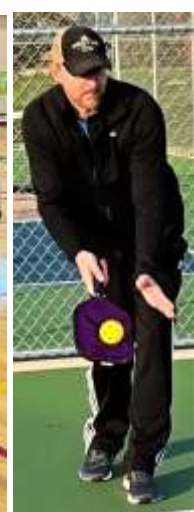
Joe



Marge



Pat



Rob

## 1<sup>st</sup> EVER INDOOR, SINGLES TOURNAMENT

OK, Boys and Girls, let's see if we can get eight Picklers who would like to test their prowess at full-court singles. If so, this will take place at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 1st. This is a unisex tournament. As with all my tournaments and events, this will be for only fully vaccinated Picklers who agree to properly wear a mask whenever in the facility. As is tradition after morning events, all whose schedule allows will go to Kelsey Road House less than a mile away for lunch following the end of play.

If interested, email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com). If I can't get at least eight Picklers for this event, I'll change it to a skinny singles tournament. Either way it will be a round robin. You'll play one game against each competitor. As a famous broadcaster perpetually said, "Let me hear ya now."



## OUR PICKLERIFFIC, NEW WEBSITE ALMOST READY

PalatinePicklers.com will have been worked to revamp the updates I sent him.

It's 95% complete now, and it too. I've seen it, but it's not

Now all the shirts will show Stein know what you'd like to

We miss not having John and we certainly appreciate John's



a new look and a new format. Webmaster John Pihl format and incorporate the year's worth of edits and

looks better than ever and performs better than ever ready for your eyes quite yet. Keep checking.

current prices. Why not browse them and let Anne add to your pickleball wardrobe?

Joyce on our courts, since they moved to Arizona, but great work for us.

## OUR FACEBOOK PRESENCE IS HAVING A BIG IMPACT

Virtually every day finds something new on our Palatine Picklers "page." I'm too cyberstupid to know what it is, but there must be a different word, since our presence is several pages. It is formatted very much like our website. It even shares some of the same information. It's attracting a lot of attention and stimulating a growth in our club's membership too. If you haven't visited it in a couple months, you owe it to yourself to see everything that's new and fun.

## NEED FUTURE FAVORS FROM MENTOREES

This past Sunday I consulted the list of 44 Mentorees who had said they expected to be available to participate in Tuesday morning's mentoring session. I carefully put together what I thought would be three, compatible groups of eight so we three Mentors would work with as narrow a range of experience and ability as possible. I then invited the selected 24 to Tuesday's session. They were given until 10:00 a.m. Monday to accept.

Of the 24 invited, 2 didn't respond at all, and 7 said they couldn't make it. Really? 9 of 24 required me to replace them in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Two more had to bail Tuesday morning. Replacing 11 took a lot of emailing and texting that would not have been needed had they emailed me earlier to remove them from this week's "expect to be available" list. I also had to shuffle the final 24 into (a little less) appropriate groups of 8.

I'm not sure Robin, our summer Mentoree Scheduler, ever had to replace 11 of her 24, but every week her invitation was turned down or ignored by some who had expected to be available. We don't get paid, but should we have to pay with our time for others' (finish this sentence appropriately for yourself)? PLEASE email me at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com), when something comes up that would prevent you from participating any day you thought you would be available. The two last minute emergencies are understandable and not a problem.







Well, Picklers, I must apologize for the déjà vu photo subjects. Of course, I'm vax'd and boosted, but I'm still high risk so am a bit uncomfortable indoors when I don't control the vaccination and mask protocol. Before the new variant hits us hard, I hope to get to at least Falcon to take some pics of long unseen Picklers.

If you're a beginner, let me know which mentoring dates work for you ... veteran Mentorees need to do the same.

Let's expand the steps per day section. Just email me, if your phone/Fitbit records at least 15,000 in a day.

Let me know that you'd like to have fun in our "Ugly Sweater" tournament. Skill is not even a factor. It's a round robin so you can't impact the outcome. It's just fun, and lunch will be even more fun.

If you're willing to share yourself, email me. I'll send personal profile questions that, when you answer them, I'll be able to profile you pretty well. We're all interested. Big surprise...I'm at [aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com).

Enjoy your holiday season.

Bear Shatwell,

PicklersPrez

[aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com)

FYI I would have worn my ugly Christmas sweater for this pic, but I'm saving it for the December 7<sup>th</sup> tournament. I may not be allowed to play until spring, but I still want to be part of the fun. It may be the only time I record tournament scores in something other than a shirt bearing the PPC logo. Hope you'll be there too.

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS