



PalatinePicklers.com

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APRIL, 2021 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEW NORMAL IS EMERGING

No, we're not shedding our masks or hanging out with eight or ten friends, but we're experiencing little things that are reminiscent of pre-COVID days. I went into a store to buy birthday cards for grandkids. Hadn't been in a store in more than a year. With my second vaccination in the rearview mirror, I felt almost comfortable in there well distanced from other masked shoppers. It's such little things that energize us. Most who have been playing at Hamilton in March have received their shots. There's a feeling of relief everywhere. For younger Picklers yet to find vaccinations, keep trying. Register on a dozen sites and check them all several times a day. It's getting easier every day to find an appointment. Just remember that you won't be as fully protected as you can be, until two weeks after your 2nd vaccination, or only vaccination in the case of J&J. No, we have no plans to shelve the "touch only your own ball" policy this summer.

WE LOST A GOOD FRIEND LAST MONTH ... DARRELL RUTTER



Darrell was born in Lombard August 2nd, 1938. He passed in Elk Grove Village March 5th. For his last 30 years, he was a Palatine resident. He had three children ... Deborah, Eric, and David and three grandkids ... Dakota, Samantha, and Roxanne. Because he loved numbers, he became a CPA.

For six years he was one of the most recognized and respected of all our Picklers. I'll share what I wrote in his online visits... We've lost six Palatine Picklers, since I started the Palatine Pickleball Club six years ago. Each was extremely sad and hard, but I have to say only Darrell's passing brought me to tears. He was always there. He volunteered to be on my "get it started" Board of Directors. He volunteered to create early sign-up promotions. He ran a summer-long tournament. He always smiled, when he said, "Morning, Bear." He encouraged his partners and sincerely congratulated his victorious foes. He was the originator of playing with two forehands which I, and several others, copied. He was pretty impaired on mobility, but he always congratulated an opponent who, whether deliberately or because it was the right shot against anyone dinked him while he was too far away. Once Darrell drove to my house to give me a phone that had been left at the court, knowing (correctly) that I'd be the one the phoneless person would contact. To paraphrase an old Sara Lee ad, everybody doesn't like someone, but nobody doesn't like Darrell. His thigh-slapping, while yelling, "Over" may be the most remembered Picklers quote ever. Darrell Rutter will surely be missed. His family had made a shirt to give Darrell, but never had the chance. They'd like to share it with all of us.



Pickle in peace, our friend. You've certainly given us an example of the kind of individual we want to become.

THEY ENJOY BEING TOGETHER OFF & ON THE COURTS

Marion, Trish, Sandy, and Mary Anne (as they appear in order in the first photo) explore different towns each week on foot. They also play pickleball together, weather permitting, multiple times a week.



Photo 1 ... In Palatine in sleigh built by Fremd art-wood department.

Photo 2 ... exploring downtown Arlington Heights.

Photo 3 ... In Long Grove ... enjoyed trivia and coffee to go.

LET ME PUT THE CURRENT PANDEMIC IN PERSPECTIVE

Let's look, in alphabetical order, at the populations of the most popular towns from which we draw Picklers:

Arlington Heights	75,482	Hoffman Estates	50,841	Rolling Meadows	23,219
Barrington	10,290	Kildeer	4,024	Schaumburg	74,194
Buffalo Grove	41,062	Lake Zurich	19,915	South Barrington	4,923
Cary	17,936	Long Grove	7,963	Wauconda	13,655
Crystal Lake	39,974	Mt Prospect	54,604	Wheeling	38,499
Ease Dundee	3,191	North Barrington	2,982		
Fox River Grove	4,676	Palatine	68,407		

This gigantic swath of the NW suburbs accounts for 555,827 individuals and a gigantic section of our state. Imagine ALL of these populations being erased from our state. Yet, this represents less than has been wiped out by COVID-19 in the United States. And this killer may be surging again. I hope this image helps those who cling to nonsensical conspiracy theories see the reality. Wear the mask. Get the vaccine. Don't socialize outside your small bubble. Do it now, or you'll be doing it in two years. We're fortunate not to be in one of the few states that has an idiot Governor. Illinois is going in the right direction. Let's stay on that path so we can, maybe late this year or in 2022, return to a near, pre-pandemic normal. I won't republish it here, but, if anyone is still harboring resistance to getting vaccinated, PLEASE go to PalatinePicklers.com and search for the January, 2021 newsletter to read the long article about why vaccines are totally safe and totally necessary. Thank you. We're all in this together, and together we can get through it.



Bob (NH)



Janet



Jeff



Syed



Teri



Susan



Julie



Liz



John (BM)



Neal



Bear



Betty



Mary



Pat

HAMILTON IS GOOD EVERY, GOOD WEATHER MORNING

This year we have enough Picklers who enjoy playing at Hamilton that there's no need to specify days. Certainly, any day that's at least 50 degrees will see Picklers on the courts by 9:30 seven days a week. Mondays could get a little crowded again this year, as the two northeast courts are reserved all morning for the 4.5 players.

Not wanting to make it a set time, let's just say that, if you miss or can't make a morning session, it may well worth your trip to get to Hamilton at 2:00. Odds seem at least 50-50 you'll find games awaiting you.

SINGLES PLAYERS WILL HAVE THEIR TIME TOO

We may be reserving these two courts on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 for singles play. If interested in participating, regardless of your ability to start, contact our Singles Coordinator Mark Schroeder at mark816@comcast.net.

REMEMBER THE HAMILTON POLICIES

BALL ... Each player should have his/her own ball and touch only that one all day. The bottoms of the nets have been lifted to facilitate rolling the ball back to its owner.

ONLY ONE GAME ... When all courts are full with anyone waiting, you are limited to one game to 11, win by 2. Then you must put your paddles in the paddle troughs...winners on top, losers on the bottom.

TOUCH ONLY YOUR PADDLE ... When you come off the court, the first paddle placer calls out the names on the first four paddles of the trough bearing the clothespin and moves the clothespin to the other trough.

WAIT YOUR TURN ... Only one person at a time should be at the paddle troughs. Wait for the person ahead of you to clear before looking to grab or place your paddle.

SEGREGATED PLAY, WHEN BUSY ... When courts are full, the north/left cage becomes designated "competitive," and the right/south cage becomes "rec." Go to the cage of choice, BUT, if you either win or lose three games there, put your paddle in a trough by the other cage.

POST-GAME CONGRATULATIONS ... This is done with a wave/wiggle of your paddle from outside the kitchen. Do not touch paddles or go for a fist bump.

CHAIRS AND BAGS ... Chairs must be placed outside the cages and placed at least 6' from any other chair. Bags may be placed or hung inside the cage by your court.

WANTING TO PLAY WITH ONLY YOUR FOURSOME ... Not a problem. When you finish your game, place all four of your paddles in the trough with fewest paddles. If there is not a multiple of 4 ahead of you, ask others who come off the courts to place enough paddles ahead of yours to assure you will go out as a foursome.

SINGLES ... When there are open courts, you can play singles as long as you want. When it's full, you must come off. Only if there are 22 or fewer players, can you put your paddles together in a trough and go out again, when it's your turn. Make sure there is a multiple of four paddles ahead of you. If more than 22 players are there and you still want to play singles, head to Sycamore, as you're done at Hamilton. To get to Sycamore exit the parking lot and turn right on Smith a few feet to Cunningham. Turn right and take it to the end. That will be Palatine High School. Turn right on Rohlwing and go to the 2nd stop sign. Turn a fairly sharp left onto Carpenter. In three blocks you'll see the Sycamore courts on your right. Park past the "No parking" sign, but not within 5' of a driveway. You're likely to find a court available. If not head to Locust. Turn around on Carpenter. Your third stop sign will be again Rohlwing. Turn left. After stopping at the only stop sign you'll encounter and to to the 2nd right. That's Morris. Turn right on Morris. The courts are ½ block on the right.

MASKS ... While these are not currently required, they're still a good idea. Though many, if not most, of the usual Hamilton Picklers are past their 2nd vaccination, we could still be carriers of COVID. Particularly now that the South American variant is so close and we don't know yet how effective our vaccinations are against it, why risk it for yourself or others. Yeah, you may have to remove your glasses or pinch your mask as tight as it was intended, but that's a small price to pay to keep all Picklers safe.

I'm more than willing to do it, but please don't make me play Pickleball Police. Respect our policies. Thanks.

MEET PICKLER LARRY SHOEMAKE

This is a really nice, humble, talented guy. It was in 2016 that he showed up at Sycamore to try this game. 50 years of tennis was getting hard on his hips and knees. (He did have a hip replacement in 2018.) Great. I was glad to introduce him to the game and play with and against him. I was probably a 3.3 or 3.4 back then. I played two games with and against him and told a fellow Pickler, this guy is better than I am, and he's played for 25 minutes. Guess decades of competitive tennis helped him a bit.

Larry was born in Muskogee, OK, the oldest of 3 kids. He grew up and got his B.A. from Northeastern State College. The M.A. came from University of Texas Austin. His M.B.A. was also earned there. Then he attended Loyola University Chicago, to earn his Masters of Education.

Larry entered the job market in the Agricultural Chemicals industry, and moved to railroads, social services, and senior living. He achieved Vice President status and managed several departments, including marketing, logistics, purchasing, and information technology.

He served in the USAF reserve as a "Grunt."

He married Connie 16 years ago. He has a total of four kids, from 27 to 35 years of age. No grandkids yet.

At this time, Larry and Connie have no pets.



. Kids Justin, Sara, happy parents Larry & Connie, & Brent



Two good friends from college join Larry

Larry's hobbies include reading (history, science fiction, & mysteries), travel, movies, and mysteries.

Among the celebrities he's met are Billie Jean King (tennis, duh), Jerry Jeff Walker (country singer), and Fabio Viviani (Chef at Bar Sienna and on Celebrity Chef). Here's a photo of daughter Sara and son Brent enjoying Chef's creations. When not hobnobbing with celebrities, Larry enjoys reading (history, science fiction, and mystery mostly), travel, movies, and music.



What has Larry checked off his bucket list? A lot of traveling, including Paris, Versailles, Rome, Venice, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, and Istanbul. He and his wife spent 4 days hiking/backpacking from the North Rim to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. He's visited New York City, including 2 trips to Yankee Stadium.

What's still on his bucket list? He'd like to do a lot more traveling, especially here in North America.

What he's enjoyed most about the Palatine Pickleball Club is the camaraderie.

In what does Larry take considerable pride? Retiring early and giving back to the community in the latter portion of his career and his retirement. He spent a dozen years on the Not For Profit Board of Friendship Village in Schaumburg, the last two as Chairman. He was a volunteer coach of a Special Olympics softball squad of men. He and Connie have recently hosted a boy from El Salvador for Healing the Children, while he was here for a life-improving surgery not available in his country. (See right photo above.)

As for a motivational or inspirational phrase he likes, he replied with a Chinese proverb ... "He that knows patience knows peace."

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Most of the pics in this newsletter are from Hamilton. Those with a grey wall background were taken at Neal's Warehouse. Most pics I've taken. Those with NH were taken by Neal Harris. Those with BM were by Bob McGowan, and those with KT were by Kenny Thakker.



Chris



Ari



Cam



Roshan



Steve



Sue



Vicki



Steve



Shelly



Joshua



Larry

ANSWER TO THE MOST POPULAR QUESTION

Windscreens will be installed at Hamilton mid-April. I've asked if we can have the flag (ribbon) replaced atop the fencepost in the middle of the Hamilton cages. That really helps determine the wind direction which helps us adjust our serves and subsequent shots.



Amy



Jeff



John



Liz

YOUR MONTHLY REMINDER OF DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE 2U

As always you get 5% discount on ANYTHING from pickleballcentral.com, when you use the promo code CRPalatinePB. You get 10-20% off Paddletek paddles when you tell Chuck (847-877-7770 or grtfuldad@aol.com) you're a Palatine Pickler. And you can get 20% off ANYTHING on engagepickleball.com, when you use the code 20jon.

ANSWERED THE CALL FOR 15,000+ STEPS IN A MARCH DAY



Lynn Perkins 19,109



Bear Shatwell 17,984

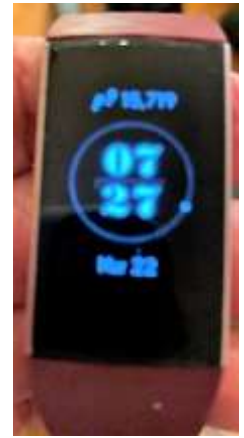
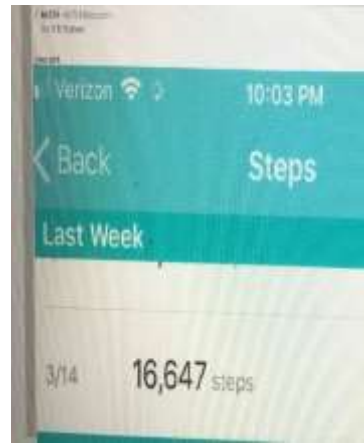


Karen Neetz 16,647



Anne Stein 15,719

See proof of their recent steps on the next page.



As large as our club is, and as athletic as most of us are, it's surprising only four of us walked more than 15k.

MEET PICKLER CONNIE KUS

60 year old Connie was born in Chicago and lived in Cicero until she was in 6th grade. Her family then moved to Downers Grove she got her While there she the Society of Society in which always looked Engineering her senior year, the 1983 plaque



Bachelors degree in was active in the Women Engineers she served as forward to, and still Open House. She was for her activities and hanging on the wall for sSt Pat awardees, in the Engineering Hall.



Industrial Engineering in 1983. engineering community, including and the Industrial Engineering President her senior year. She does, the annual U of I annual awarded the Knight of St Pat award academics. Her name remains on

After graduating Connie spent the next 32 years working at Motorola in manufacturing, engineering, project management, and quality. In the process she attended night school to get her MBA from Northern Illinois University in 1991. She managed projects in both two-way radio and cell phone businesses, but a favorite project was in 1999 when she worked on the design of the NFL Headset. Motorola had secured an NFL sponsorship, and she and her team were tasked with designing a headset for coach-to-coach and coach-to-quarterback communications (that prominently displayed the Motorola name.) It was fun to bring to market and see week after week in every NFL game. Connie and team hold a design patent for that headset. With the sponsorship having ended in 2012, you will see other headsets and branding today.

Sports and Connie are pretty synonymous. In high school she played on the volleyball, softball, basketball, and tennis teams. At U of I the educational demands were too high for school teams. She played intramural volleyball and softball. After college she enjoyed park district softball and volleyball and bowled in several



regional leagues. She loves golfing 2-3 times a week, often with Palatine Picklers she's met. She is a member of the LPGA Amateur Golf Association. She ended 2020 with an 18.3 handicap index.

Connie's love extended to winter sports too, especially downhill skiing and snowshoeing. This year she's taken two trips out west, one to Beaver Creek, CO and one to Lake Tahoe. She's happy that Chicago area snow this winter has been ideal for snowshoeing in area forest preserves.

Connie met Bear at mutual neighbor's party. Of course, he started talking pickleball to which she responded with those all too familiar words, "What's pickleball?" He walked back home to return with a paddle and ball. After a few bounces right there in Moon's (in the club) living room and a description of the game, Bear invited her to a mentoring session. That was it. She was hooked. That was three years ago.

She has enjoyed traveling around the world with family and friends. 2020 trips, of course, were cancelled, but she enjoys remembering previous trips, such as to Iceland in 2019. She's also toured New Zealand and China and has visited France, England, Spain, and Italy. Her Motorola positions enabled her to travel to Penang, Malaysia, Singapore, China, and the UK. She added a few days to her business trips to see local sights.



. Connie & Jan at the Great Wall of China Terracotta Warriors in China at Glacier Lagoon in Iceland

Loving cruises, she's cruised the Mediterranean, Baltics, Panama Canal, Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii, and the St Lawrence Seaway. Now that she's retired, she looks forward to post-COVID travel. She still wants to visit Egypt, Hong Kong, Japan, and Australia. Her bucket list includes visiting National Parks in the U.S. and going on a safari in Africa.

Connie's parents still live in the house in which she grew up in Downers Grove. Her two, younger brothers live with their families in the Chicago area. Most of Connie's travels have been with her active parents, her brothers and their families, and her partner Jan. Connie and Jan have lived in Palatine for 27 years, after spending 8 years in Schaumburg. Connie is President of her subdivision's Neighborhood Watch Group and recently took over as Chair of her neighborhood's Advisory Team. They plan neighborhood events, including block parties, neighborhood clean-up, and support for local families.

Her favorite thing about the Palatine pickleball Club is the great people she has met on the courts. She (duh!) thrives on the competitive aspect of the game and loves playing in close games, win or lose.

One of her favorite mantras is, "Do it while you can." You never know what the future holds so take the opportunity to travel, spend time with family and friends and enjoying everything that life gives you.

And now you know a bit more about Connie Kus. Just FYI she seems totally incapable of having a negative thought or reaction to anything. Her glass is always overflowing.



Ann



Pat



Rick



Carol (VD)



PROMOTIONAL CELEBRITY PICKLERS

The Wheeling Park District, after extensive tryouts and auditions found the perfect pair to demonstrate how much fun pickleball can be, even when playing in a wrong-hand tournament. They selected Bob Goldstein and Linda Mihel from the Palatine Picklers to promote their pickleball programs. Congratulations, Bob and Linda.



Chris



Bill



Frank



Mary



Craig



Joan



Dennis ("Mac")



Tracy

WHO ARE OUR MOVIE QUOTE EXPERTS ?

In March we ran the first of several quizzes for movie (and commercials) quotes. Several played, but we hope for more next month. We had 50 movie quotes and 50 commercial quotes. Here are our top performers.



1st John Allen with 23



2nd Kevin Shatwell with 21



3rd Clay Farnsworth with 20

WHO REMEMBERED OLD COMMERCIAL QUOTES ?



1st John Allen with 39



2nd Steve Shapiro with 38



3rd Kathy Shatwell with 34

MEET PICKLER JIM MUSGRAVE

Jim comes to us from an impressive tennis background, but we'll get to that. He's 70 years old and was born in Lynwood, CA. He is the last of four siblings. He's lived in LA, Houston, Pittsburgh, and Mt Prospect. He attended Forest View High School, before going to Illinois State University. He earned a B.S. in Business Administration. He's been married to Lisa for 4.5 years. He has 3 daughters ... Maggie 49, Joanna 45, and Kim 38. He's accumulated 7 grandkids ... Cassie 26, Cameron 20, Zoe 19, London 10, Mason 9, and Emma 6. He and Lisa live in Palatine.

Since college (well, even before) his life until recently has been all about tennis. He was Head Pro and Tennis Director in north and northwest suburbs of Chicago for 47 years. Most recently he was Tennis Director at Midtown Chicago and Platform Tennis Director and Tournament director at Midtown Club Palatine. Adds Tennis Director, Midtown Bannockburn and Tennis Director at Midtown Palatine.

This photo was from his time on the Tennis Director of the Year, Club Special Achievement Award there. the Chicago District Tennis Illinois State High School Singles for from Hersey HS. Add Pro/Coach also Musgrave (yes, daughter) and Susie



ISU tennis team. He was later Regional Corporation of America. He earned National He was Tournament Director of the Year at Association. HE also earned Pro/Coach 1988 his work with Champion Brad Rosenbaum at ISHS Doubles Champions for Margaret Hernphill from Fremd HS.

He learned pickleball at Midtown He's been playing about 3 years.

Club here in Palatine and on the internet.

Jim's hobbies are pickleball of course, golf, and watching Lisa's tennis matches and tournaments, local, sectional, and national. He didn't mention it, but let's assume he's a pretty proud parent.

While enjoying Las Vegas, he and Lisa were called down from the balcony to meet Donny Osmond



He's checked off his bucket list national parks and more than 30 countries and territories. Remaining on that list are visiting the remaining four states and more world travel.

having visited 48 states, including several

He's enjoyed meeting so many Palatine Picklers, especially Gary Thompson, Larry Shoemake, and Ari Cohen with whom he's become very special friends.

He likes the phrase, "In a world where one can be anything, be kind." See more, fun photos on the next page.



Hiking in Sedona with Lisa



Grandson Cam's graduation from AF boot camp



Little Grand Canyon (IL) w Carly



Amsterdam part of honeymoon



Norway part of honeymoon



Jim met a friend in the Everglades

And now ... CLAY FARNSWORTH'S SONG QUOTES QUIZ

Send Clay (claytonicus611@yahoo.com) your guesses. Write the number and your "hit" answer. Extra half credit for the singer/s. Let's see if any Picklers can do as well with songs as with movies and commercials.

- 01 I'm as helpless as a kitten up a tree
- 02 The purpose of a man is to love a woman
- 03 Please lock me away and don't allow the day
- 04 Take my hand, take my whole life too
- 05 I was born n Little Rock, had a childhood sweetheart
- 06 The road is long, with many a winding turn
- 07 What is it good for ... absolutely nothing
- 08 Blocking out the scenery, breaking my mind
- 09 But he can't be a man cause he doesn't smoke the same cigarettes as me
- 10 I don't like you, but I love you
- 11 Someone left the cake out in the rain
- 12 Searchin' in the sun for another overload
- 13 How can I hurt when holdin' you
- 14 I thought love was only true in fairy tales
- 15 I don't need no money, fortune or fame
- 16 I don't wanna be a tiger, cause tigers play too rough
- 17 I remember all my life, raining down as cold as ice

18 And it's whispered that soon, if we all call the tune, then the piper will lead us to reason
 19 I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me
 20 Friday night and the strip is hot ... Sun's gone down, and they're about to trot
 21 We can try to understand the New York Times effect on man
 22 Had an old gold Chevy and a place of my own
 23 Sitting cross-legged on the floor
 24 Before you won my heart, you were a perfect guy
 25 Bought a ticket to the west coast. Now he gives them a stand-up routine in LA
 26 One of us is changing, or maybe we just stopped trying
 27 I've seen lonely times when I could not find a friend
 28 Around Nassau town we did roam, drinking all night, got into a fight
 29 I'm astandin' on a corner in Winslow Arizona
 30 A feeling deep in your soul says you were hal now you're whole
 31 This stone is genuine like love should be
 32 I left my home in Georgia, headed for the Frisco bay
 33 The time to hesitate is through, no time to wallw in the mire
 34 Before this dance is through, I think I'll love you too
 35 His mother told him someday you will be a man, and you will be the leader of a big old band
 36 I've made up my mind to live in memories of the lonesome times
 37 When I had you to myself, I didn't want you around
 38 Don't you feel it growin' day by day
 39 Lord, we don't need another mountain. There are mountains and hillsides enough to climb
 40 When my soul was in the lost and found, you came along to claim it
 41 We're caught in a trap, I can't walk out
 42 Thunder only happens when it's raining
 43 Losing you would end my life you see, because you mean that much to me
 44 Let's not be L7. Come and learn to dance
 45 Life would be ecstasy, you and me endlessly
 46 She said hello, hey, Joe...you want to give it a go
 47 Second verse same as the first
 48 You make my heart go giddy up
 49 Nibblin' on sponge cake, watching the sun bake
 50 Pride can hurt you too. Apologize to her



Mike



Debbie



Gail



Mik

MARCH'S MEDALISTS



Tonny Derrico & Cathy Carlson ...
Southern Tropics, Naples, FL ...
3.5 60-64 ... Silver & 19+ Bronze



Steve Lawler & Josh Camden ...
Btown Throwdown, Bloomington
3.0-3.5 19+ ... Silver



Greg Kuhs & Linda Cherney ...
Leprechaun Shootout ... Ft Myers
3.0 mixed 60+ ... Gold & 19+ Bronze



Joyce



Clay (NH)



Derek



Jaime



Dave



Brian



Jay



Arnie



THANKS, NEAL, FOR THE WINTER WAREHOUSE

Neal Harris secured use of a large, vacant warehouse in Lake Zurich for use as a pickleball haven for homebound Picklers this winter. He got Picklers to volunteer to help line two courts and got nets. There has been no heat or water, but dozens of Picklers have enjoyed playing masked and with their own balls in Neal's Pickleball warehouse all winter. He's sent out schedules for open play each week, taken reservations, and brought no more than 12 Picklers for each two-hour play session throughout each week. This has been a huge commitment of time. The building is now under contract so this playing opportunity has vanished, but it remains appreciated. Thanks, Neal, for all you have done to give us play in dark times.



Karen



Frank



Linda & Kelly



Howard



Barb



Kenny



Betsy



Janice



Brian



Leo



Chandra



Jim

ONE PICKLER'S NOSTALGIC FANTSYLAND

Charles and Denise too Hopkins created a fanciful basement "fun cave." This should prompt many memories.





Thanks for sharing this fun, Denise. Hopefully, this prompts others to share unique, interesting or fun stuff too.

INTRODUCING A NEW FEATURE ... SNIPPETS

Not all Picklers are as willing to share their lives with us as the 14 whose profiles have appeared in recent newsletters have been. However, they're happy to share a segment of what would be their profile. I'm calling these "snippets," and we'll start with those from two Pickler ladies, Melody Woodsum and Teri Merrill.

MELODY WOODSUM'S PROFILE SNIPPET

I have been playing pickleball for 5 years. I started as a rec player, but I've moved to tournament player who played in the very first US Open. While playing in one tournament, I noticed an error and new what rule could have been applied. the match, I was referee. Hmm OK. With the help and husband Greg, I have and a referee. I went successfully level. Hard work and this. I referee to give sport. I have local tournaments to Referee. Now I ref top matches. This led me become Referee Tour at several of this role, I was asked Referee, when Byron Freso was unable to travel to Florida in January. I realize I will never be a pro player, but I am proud to have reached the top level of refereeing for USA Pickleball.



When discussing this after challenged to become a That was 3 1/2 years ago. encouragement of my progressed both as a player from a 2.5 player to competing at the 4.0 lessons helped me achieve back and expand our progressed from reffing becoming a Certified level pros in medal to the opportunity to Coordinator for the APP Pro their nationwide stops. In to fill in for Tour Head

WE'RE NOT THERE YET !

We've come close, but a small segment of us can blow it for all of us. It is NOT time to shed masks or hang with a group. Let's all get vaccinated and work together to end COVID by 2022.



TERI MERRILL'S PROFILE SNIPPET

This young lady summer, when I she heard. I at Hamilton by own equipment, leap to join the natural her pro bono rest of us. They In a recent her pro bono



was standing outside the fence watching the action last explained a bit of what pickleball was all about. She loved what signed her, and she added husband Rick. They started playing themselves with paddles I loaned them. Then they bought their but still liked playing by themselves. This spring they took the rest of us. They loved our acceptance of beginners and our mentoring. In a recent newsletter, work can be seen at his spring they took the leap to join the loved our acceptance of beginners and our natural mentoring. newsletter, work can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruymInrBhp2rEjGMs71zHA>

Rick is a VP Deputy Palatine and attends Willow



Council for a national law firm. The couple lives in Creek Church.

Sorry, I didn't have enough space here, because I hate having anything just hang in

copy to surround Rick's photo. Therefore, I'm just filling white space.

So ... how 'bout sending me form that prompts the info I Melody and Teri and send about you too . Send aokbarry@yahoo.com.

something about yourself? I'll be glad to send you the need for a full profile. Or you can follow the lead of me a snippet. We really would like to get to know more whatever you're willing to share to Thanks.



Jim



Chris



Donna



Don



Lori



Norbert Dave Ray Jeff

vacationing on Sanibel Island



Katy



Connie



Josh



Kathy



John



Rick



Terry



Sue (BM)



Tom



Carol

(Initials after names ID a photographer that wasn't I ... NH=Neal Harris, BM=Bob McGowan, KT=Kenny Thakker, VD=Val Domain)

WE NEED SHIRT ORDERS

It has been 8 months since I placed our last shirt order. That's the longest between orders, by five months. Come on, Picklers. I need only five more shirts to place an order. We're about to enter short-sleeve weather so wicking T-shirts should be a major part of your summer wardrobe. Terry Layton has been waiting for his sweatshirt for seven months. I have several large shirts on our pending order, as my size has changed. We NEED you to pop for, usually, \$17. Whether you want one Palatine Picklers shirt or 15, please email me (aokbarry@yahoo.com) with your desired style/s, color/s, and size. The pandemic has caused a lot of us to gain or lose weight. That means we need new shirts. Please order them now. Your shirt options can be seen on PalatinePicklers.com.

FALCON PLAY IS AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE AND UNCROWDED

Everyone wears a mask whenever in the facility. Players touch only their own ball. Up to six players will be assigned a court they must stay on or beside. A max of 24 players can be in the gym at a time. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday there are two, two-hour sessions for which you must sign up at least a day early. The same can be said of Birchwood for Tuesday and Thursday sessions for up to 12 players.



On this court Chris, Bill, Howard, and Janet are enjoying play without the wind factor found at Hamilton.

MENTORING SESSIONS TO START MAY 19

The May newsletter will have full details, but the 2021 format will be identical to that in 2020. Masks will be required at all times. Participating Palatine Picklers must have their own ball/s bearing their name and touch only that ball all morning. Four students will work with one mentor on one court for one hour. There will be two morning sessions each Wednesday. You can sign up for sessions, after receiving the May newsletter. If selected for a session, you'll be notified on the Monday before your session.

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR PROFILE INTO A NEWSLETTER ?

Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. I'll send you the questions that we'd like to have answered, to get to know you better. If you wish to skip one or two, no problem. If you want to add things not asked, great. Do you need to be an author? Absolutely not. I'll use your information and write it up for easy reading.

Again, we'll be glad to share a "snippet" of your favorite part/s of your life. Just send me info and pic/s.

LET'S MEET OUR NEWBIES

As always our newest members will be introduced in alpha order. Because "What are we up to now?" comes in second to only, "When do the windscreens go up?" among all the questions I receive, I'll share that this group pushes the number of welcome emails I've sent to new members to 1,813. I apologize to those whose photo I either forgot to take after signing them up and those who are the victim of a stuck shutter resulting in a photograph of the green court, rather than a happy, new Pickler. Please remind me to get your pic, next time I see you. You'll appear in the next month's collection of newbies.



Andrew



Anna



Art



Baloma



Denny



Ellis



Glenn



Jake





Jayne



Jenna



John



Kevin



Lauren



Matt



Mike



Mike



Nicole



Sheelagh



Wayne



William

HAPPY EASTER ... AND HAPPY PICKLING, PICKLERS



I have to say it's great to be able to publish some current photos of Picklers on/by the courts once again. While it's reminiscent of previously normal times, we need to remember there's a huge difference. Hopefully, we have none, but if any Pickler is hesitant about getting vaccinated, please go to our website and reread the article in the January, 2021 newsletter that responds to every conceivable reason for your hesitancy.

For my closing photo, I'm wearing a "Hit me with your best shot, 2021" shirt. I'm ready to continue doing what it takes to beat the pandemic. I hope you are too.

Meanwhile, Really Big Bear and I are ready to cheer our Cubs to a great season.

Bear
PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com

I just reviewed this newsletter and found one photo duplicated. If you can tell me who it is, I'll give you \$2 of the shirt you buy now.