



PalatinePicklers.com

palatinepicklers@gmail.com

DECEMBER, 2023 NEWSLETTER

GOTTA LOVE OUR MENTOREES

We stage two Mentoree Tournaments each year – one for the summer Mentorees and one for the winter Mentorees. Our summer group was limited to the first 24 to apply for the tournament. Many had to be assured their individual skill would not impact the outcome, as this would be two, round robin tournaments, 12 each (A-L and M-Z last names) ... Each participant partners with EACH of his/her peers for one game. So, no matter how well or poorly he/she plays, the outcome won't be impacted. The top three that day will be the top three. Here's our whole group of Summe Mentorees (well, at least the first 24 of the 135 Summer Mentorees to sign up for this fun event).



Seated: Cathy, Mary Jo, Susan, Stephanie, Marci, Shiela, & Patti. Standing: Peggy, Anna, Larry, Joanie, Charlotte, Ann, Carl, June, Jan, Judy, Emily, Mary. Sabine, Sue, Kathy, Pauline, Maureen, & Mark.

We divided this group into two tournaments of 12 players each. Here the top finishers:



A-L Group - Ann Buras 2nd, Larry Perman 1st,
Kathy Murray 3rd



M-Z Group – Patti Pinski 2nd,
Stephanie Douglas 1st, Pauline Kuebler 3rd

This great tournament took some administration. Here is the tournament staff.



Ron (Scorekeeper), Refs Lisa, Bob, Frank, John, Marv, Dennis, Bear (Ref/Photog), Neal, & Bill (Scorekeeper). A great tournament doesn't just happen. Thanks, Everyone.



And, of course, there's always the post-tournament lunch at Kelsey Road House. Fun times.

MAY STILL BE TIME TO GET INTO THE UGLY SWEATER TOURNAMENT

This annual event is always fun for all. This year it's Thursday, December 14th at Canlan Sportsplex, starting at 8:45. We will start by judging your outfit. Then we play. You can remove anything from your head or feet and any prop you carry. The rest stays with you all morning. Yes, an ugly T-shirt is legal, but may not score well on the judging. Of course, after the round robin tournament in which you'll partner with each competitor once, we go to lunch a mile away. If you hope to get into this tournament, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.



PALATINE PICKLERS' DISCOUNTS ON GOOD STUFF

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.

25% OFF anything from Gammasports.com, with the code ba_soderborg25

\$99 Paddles for \$75 Only one style – See or contact neal@picklecoach.com.

\$10 OFF Vatic Pro paddles ... https://vaticpro.com?sca_ref=3606076.ir5retg8qU Use code CHICAGO

2024 ANNUAL UNTALL LADIES TOURNAMENT

This has long been a favorite. Let's enjoy our no more than 5'2" Lady Picklers competing on Thursday, January 11th in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. All you diminutive Divas can email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to register for this fun event which is followed by lunch a mile away. You'll get there by 8:45 to pay their \$10 fee and warm up. This will be a round robin so you'll partner with all your fellow competitors once.

2024 INTRAMURALS

Second to mentoring, intramurals has been our most popular/successful program. This is for lower intermediate (3.0-3.5) Picklers. I'm starting a brand new spreadsheet so I need everyone interested in this fun Lake Barrington competition every other Tuesdays competition (no commitment beyond being available when you say you will be) to email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with your MMDDYY date of birth and the dates you expect to be available to be at Canlan Sportsplex by 8:45 a.m. Forget history. Start again. Though this is/has been a year-round competition, I'm offering only the first quarter dates at this time.

BTW this is a new year so 2023 Strikes are erased. Strikes are earned by saying you're not available after all, not responding at all to an invitation.



INDOOR MENTORING CAN ACCOMMODATE A LOT OF MENTOREES

Now that we're indoors in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington, we're ready to serve up to 48 (and a couple Alternates) every other Tuesday. We will have a Mentor for every court. We'll rotate them so you will experience the wisdom of three Mentors each 90-minute session. Our first session starts at 9:00 (please arrive early) and goes to 10:30. The second sessions go from 10:30 to Noon (and, maybe a few minutes more). After the 2nd session, those whose schedule allows will enjoy lunch a mile away, to get to know each other better.

Yes, mentoring is for brand new players, but it's also for those who have played a couple years and still want to work on their game. These sessions are by invitation only. Email me the dates you expect to be available. Then check your email on Sunday afternoons before those dates, to see if you're invited that week.

The upcoming mentoring dates are 12/5, 12/19, 1/16, 1/30, 2/13, 2/27, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, & 4/23.

Let me know at aokbarry@yahoo.com which dates you'd like to appear on the Expect To Be Available lists. Of course, let me know if you HAVE to be in either the early or late session. After these dates, we'll go back to Wednesday mornings outdoors. Whether that's Sycamore or Locust remains a mystery. I'll let you know.



THINKING OF A BIG BUCK PADDLE ... YOU CAN TRY THREE FOR FREE

Bear has three paddles that sell for \$219-\$280 new (about \$100 less used) on PickleballCentral.com. I have Joola Ben Johns Hyperion DFS 14 mm graphite paddle (\$219.95) ... Joola Ben Johns Perseus CFS 16 mm Carbon Fiber paddle (\$249.95) ... AND Selkirk Vanguard Power AirS2 (\$249.99). I have these in my back pack wherever I play. They are yours for one game. Several Picklers have loved what they tried and ordered them. I hope to expand the loaning library in the months ahead.

DECEMBER'S INDOOR PLAY TIMES

FALCON ... Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 8:30 to 12:30, except 12/25 and 1/1.

BIRCHWOOD ... Monday THROUGH Friday (Friday is new) 11:30-3:30, except 12/25, 12/26, and 12/29.

COMMUNITY CENTER ... Mondays 5:30-8:30 12/4, 12/11/ & 12/18 ... and Thursdays 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon all month.

READ ABOUT HARPER OPEN PB TIMES LATER IN THIS NEWSLETTER



WE CAN SERVE A LOT MORE MENTOREES

Yes, this is a déjà vu. That's because I need to hammer this opportunity home. We can serve 50 students every other Tuesday. Let me know if you can attend one or either of the sessions – 9:00 to 10:30 and/or 10:30 to Noon. Then you can join for lunch a mile away. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com your availability. Then check your email Sunday afternoons, to see if you receive an invitation for that week. Of course, if you give me a date that becomes a conflict, email me to take you off that Expect To Be Available list. You WILL spend a half hour with different Mentors. We have served several hundreds of students over the years, and almost all praise our program. Many say they learned more in 90 minutes with us than they did in weeks of lessons for which they paid. You do not have to be a new player to apply for mentoring. We have been happy to serve Picklers for multiple years. Maybe some participate because they have 90 minutes of guaranteed court time. No paddling up and waiting. That's fine. Send me your availability. We want to help you improve your skill and enjoyment of the game.

For our first, indoor mentoring on November 21st, we had two mentors for every court. We can serve 50 students per week, but only 17 had signed up for this date. Yeah, the holidays create conflicts, but please sign up to be on the Expect To Be Available lists for the early 2024 dates. Last year we ran 3-hour sessions on six courts, and had more who wanted to participate. I felt we could serve more with our more traditional 90-minute sessions. If I don't get a LOT of you signing up, I'll revert to 3-hour sessions.



ABOUT THE ACTION PHOTOS

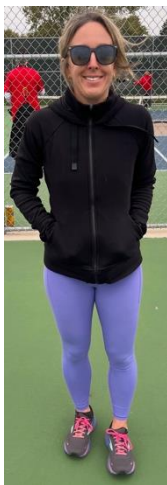
I take quite a few photos – well, fewer than I did when I did all the cropping, editing, and layouts myself (don't want to overwork volunteers). Now I send even pretty low quality pics to Jonny (action pics) and Mary (Newbies & Walkers). I learned that Palatine Picklers really want to make it into a newsletter. Dozens of times I've heard about someone not having been in a newsletter for three or four months. So I'm including even photos which are a bit embarrassing to me. I don't want any Pickler to feel he/she isn't newsletter-worthy.

HAMILTON WILL BE OPEN ALL WINTER*

We enjoyed playing outdoors all winter long last year, whenever the courts weren't snow-covered. It may have been two years ago that I put a photo of a bunch of us there, when the temperature was 18 degrees. *If there's snow on the courts, the Palatine Park District will justifiably lock the courts to avoid overly zealous players from scraping the painted courts with metal shovels.

Just my observations, but, if you use hybrid/indoor-outdoor balls, they'll last a lot longer. Particularly in cold weather, outdoor balls break pretty easily. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, please don't throw the ball in the trash. Toss them in the huge, yellow container. We have two Picklers who want to make craft projects using them. Thanks.

MEET A FEW OF THIS MONTH'S NEWBIES



ALLISON



ANNA



BILL



COLIN



DONNA



HEDY



JACEK



JEFF



JIM F.



JIM P.



JOANNE



JOETTE



JOHN B.



JOHN L.



JULIE



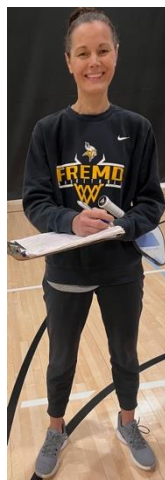
KAREN



KATHY



KIM



MARISA



MINA



NATALIA



RISHI



SHARI



SHEILA



SRI



TATYANA



TRACEY



VLAD



YAN

HAVE SOME HARPER HAPPY TIMES

Harper is now back on our pickleball schedule. Here's their play days and times.

Sunday ... 6 courts all month 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. limit: 40 players

Monday ... 3 courts all month, except 12/25 and 1/1 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. (limit 20)

Wednesday ... 3 courts all month 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. (limit: 20)

Friday ... 3 courts all month 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. (limit: 20)

Fees are \$10 or \$7/Seniors or monthly pass for \$45 or \$35/Seniors

Numbers of players will be limited so try to show up early.

IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPER (20K+ in a day)



✓ 28,532

Dan Salbego

WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)



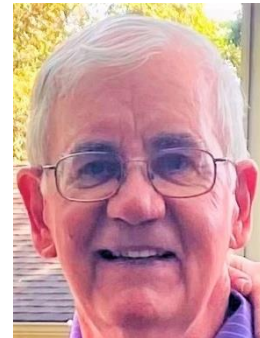
18,943 steps

Bear Shatwell



✓ 18,325

Dan Salbego



16,577 Steps

Bob McGowan



16,018 steps

Kevin Shatwell



15,620 steps

Sheila O'Gara

CHECK YOUR PHONE (LITTLE RED HEART) & JOIN US HERE

You may not realize it, but your phone may be tracking your daily steps. If you have a little, red heart icon, that's where you'll find your daily steps. If you get 15K or more, just take a screen shot and email it to me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. You too can be featured in this walker-honoring section next month.



TIME FOR OUR NEXT “FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN” AFTERNOON

Palatine Picklers have truly loved two of these afternoons. We spend less than two hours in Schaumburg bagging powdered sustenance that will feed children in areas of the world where food is scarce. Our FMSC Coordinator is Maureen Greene. She's arranged for us to participate Thursday, January 4th from 2:00 to 3:45. If you'd like to join us, email Maureen at MaureenTGreene@gmail.com. And it's tradition to wear a Palatine Picklers shirt, as we'll be informally competing with other organized groups.

WANT TO TRY ALGONQUIN'S NEW PICKLE HAUS ?

This long-anticipated pickleball/golf facility opened two weeks ago. Yes, it looks beautiful. An



hour of court time is \$44. I was thinking it would be fun to have 4, 8, or even 12 of us give it a try. Let's look at Thursday morning, January 18th at 10:30. We play for one hour for \$11 apiece and then head to their attractive restaurant for lunch. If you'd like to be part of this exploration, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

2023 PICKLERS VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank these individuals for helping to make the Palatine Pickleball Club even more amazing this year than it has been the past eight years. The larger it grew the more time I invested in everything Picklers. While I was only a minor member of our Social Committee. was only one of several Mentors, and only played some at Harper, the following individuals took all these other tasks off my pickle plate over the years. My gratitude is immeasurable, and the entire membership is grateful for them making sure our club continues to be the most welcoming, most nurturing, best dressed, most social, most event-oriented club anywhere.

Bill Buesing ... Thurs & Sat summer Mentor, Tues indoor mentor and Tournament Scorekeeper
 Carol Hawes ... Palatine Picklers Cap Order Taker/Placer and Accountant
 Dan Salbego ... Tuesday indoor Mentor
 DeeDee Belovicz ... Thursday and Saturday summer Mentor
 Dennis Bourgoin ... Wed, Thurs, Sat summer Mentor, Tues Indoor Mentor, and Tournament Ref
 Frank Wasilewski ... Thursday summer Mentor, Tuesday Indoor Mentor, & Tournament Ref
 Greg Kuhs ... MailMaster maintains mailing list and sends newsletters & Social Committee
 Jay Cozza ... Runs Monday nights at Hamilton and all Harper open play
 John Guilfoil ... Delivers caps to buyers
 John Pihl ... Our PalatinePicklers.com Webmaster
 John Stepal ... Thurs & Sat summer Mentor, Tues indoor Mentor, and MentoreeTournament Ref
 Jonny Storm ... Does the page layouts for our newsletters' action shots
 Kathy Ford ... Replaced Robin early this year as Mentoree Scheduler
 Linda O'Connor ... Processes shirt orders, collects, picks them up, bags, tags, and delivers them
 Linda Cherney ... Social Committee
 Lisa Von Busch ... Thurs & Sat summer Mentor, Tues indoor Mentor, & Tournament Ref
 Marv Zwass ... Wednesday summer Mentor and Mentoree Tournament Ref
 Mary Werling ... Edits my pics and does layouts for both Newbies and Walkers
 Maureen Greene ... Coordinates our "Feed My Starving Children" afternoons
 Neal Harris ... Wednesday summer Mentor
 Robin Dubin ... First to succeed me and serve for years as Mentoree Scheduler

Thanks also to Jenny Buesing, Carol Hawes, and Scott Brown who served as sub Mentors.

These individuals have not only made my life far more manageable and let me spend a few hours a week with Kathy, they've also made your Palatine Picklers lives so much more rewarding. If I missed anyone, I apologize. It wasn't intentional.

HAMILTON CAN BE FREEZING FUN

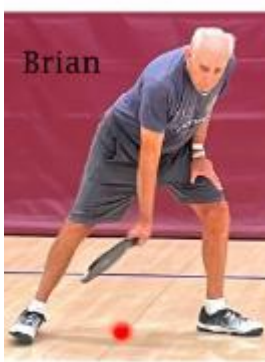
We've been there by 7:30 every morning, despite temps in the 20s. The temps are handled by layers. The wind is a humorous variable. If possible use hybrid (indoor/outdoor) balls. They last.

AND WHEN BALLS BREAK AT HAMILTON

To remind you do NOT throw broken balls in Hamilton's garbage can. Put them in the big, yellow container. We have two Lady Picklers who use them for craft projects. First come first served.

FINALLY SOME PICKLERS IN ACTION









Diane



Don



Don



Emily



Eric



Frank



Frank



Fred



Fred



Gary



Gary



Gillian



Greg



Howard



Jane



Janet



Jenny



Jesse



Joanie



Joe



John



John



John



John











Soo



Stephanie



Steve



Steve



Steve



Sue



Sue



Susan



Susie



Terry



Tina



Tom



QUALITY MEDALISTS OVER QUANTITY

This is the fewest medalists in a ... well ever in a month, but it's our almost ever-present octogenarian medalist Sue Cole who travels the states to embarrass non-Palatine Picklers. Of course, I'm kidding, but it is impressive how often she appears in so many newsletters and from so many locations around the country. This time Jerrie Howe and Sue Cole played in the Nationals in Dallas in the 3.5 75-79 Division and got Bronze.

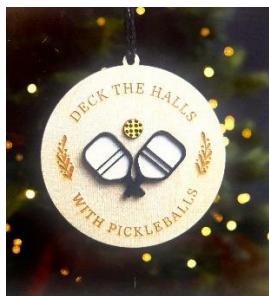


YOU'VE SEEN THEM EACH MONTH LET'S REVIEW 2023'S WALKERS

Anne Stein ... Annette Grabowski ... Bear Shatwell ... Ben Farb ... Bob McGowan ...
 Bobbi Campbell ... Brandon Johnson ... Carol Frenda ... Clay Farnsworth ... Dan Salbego ...
 Dave Cappello ... Gary Thompson ... Heather Schneider ... James Austin ... Jeff Hitz ...
 Jesse Cohen ... Jonny Storm ... Kathy Ford ... Kathy Shatwell ... Kevin Shatwell ... Kim Kelly ...
 Lois Farb ... Marcia Cohen ... Mardy Manis ... Mary Copeland ... Mary Werling ... Scot Shatwell ...
 Scott Beil ... Sheila O'Gara ... Steve Manis ... Sue Freiburger

OUR ULTRA WALKERS (30K+ steps in a day) DESERVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Bear Shatwell ... Ben Farb ... Brandon Johnson ... Dan Salbego ... Dave Cappello ... Jonny Storm ...
 Kathy Ford ... Sue Freiburger



IT'S BEEN 6 MONTHS WITHOUT A PICKLER PROFILE

Between December of 2020 and June, 2023 you met “up close and personal” fifty Palatine Picklers. These fifty simply answered a bunch of questions I asked on a form. They didn’t have to write their story. I did that. They just give some background and found some fun photos of them doing anything other than pickleball. I hope some of you will email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com and ask for that form. A LOT of Picklers have asked to see profiles again. It's really fun to know more about our peers.

Here are the fifty whose profiles have appeared in newsletters, in order of appearance in newsletters: Bear Shatwell ... Clay Farnsworth ... Jeff Degner ... Jenny Buesing ... Neal Harris ... Gary Thompson ... Jaime Sandoval ... Lynne Weisbart ... Marv Zwass ... Anne Stein ... Bob Goldstein ... Bob McGowan ... Gillian Steele ... Marsha Miller ... Robin Dubin ... Conie Kus ... Jim Musgrave ... Melody Woodsum ... Terri Stein Merrill ... Ari Cohen ... Howard Rosenberg ... Janet Parry ... Kristine Oliva ... Tom McNulty ... Don Bextel ... Mary Knight ... Bill Parry ... Pat Taylor ... Gene Grochowski ... Patrick O’Connell ... Tracy Weslager ... Julie Ganzer ... Nicole Verlotta ... Karen Koziol ... Pat Morgan ... Pam Sammons ... Bill Buesing ... Ryan Dreier ... Nancy Smearman ... Marcia & Jesse Cohen ... Chris Burbidge ... Jim Simmons ... Hayden Harris ... John Evans ... Bill Myers ... Ann Buras ... Kurt Conrath ... Scott Brown.

How ‘bout it? Please don’t tell yourself that your life hasn’t been that interesting. That’s what half of the above fifty said, but they proved themselves wrong. My questionnaire will let you discover that. Ask me to send it to you, while you begin looking through your photographs. You can send as many as you wish. I’ll choose those I think will enhance your story the most. In case you missed it the last half dozen times, I’m at aokbarry@yahoo.com. In the immortal words of one most of you will recognize, “Make it so.”

2nd MY DENSITY MATTERS PB TOURNAMENT

When/where? Sunday, February 4th at 8:45 a.m. in the Foglia YMCA in Lake Zurich. 6 courts, 2 Beginner, 3 Intermediate, 1 Advanced. \$50. You can register at mydensitymatters.org. Click “Events” and then “Pickleball.” For more information contact Laura Matuszewski, Director of Development & Public Relations, My Density Matters. You can reach her at 847-312-0884 or Laura.Matuszewski@mydensitymatters.org. FYI we had a lot of fun here last year.1

1st UNSHORT LADIES TOURNAMENT LONG ON FUN

We ended November with another fun one. This time found our unshort ladies (at least 5'7") competing over seven games. Then ALL of us went to lunch.



Joanne, Kathy, Angie, Anna, Carol, Mary, Joanie, Pam



Pam 2nd, Carol 1st, Angie 3rd



We LOVE how Kelsey Road House pampers us

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I Googled how to express holiday wishes for different religions/cultures. Wow! This newsletter isn't big enough for me to wish everyone a happy season. So, meaning no offense to other members, I'll go with the most popular two ... Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

IT'S BEEN A PICKLERIFFIC YEAR

Let's start with those who have made my life easier. Mary Werling edits my photos and does the layouts for both the walkers and the Newbies. Jonny Storm does the layouts for the action shots. Linda O'Connor took over everything about shirts, except for writing the check. Carol Hawes and John Guilfoil introduced caps to wardrobe. We mentored 136 students on Wednesdays and a whole lot more at Hamilton. Adding to Dennis, Neal, and Marv, we now have John, Dee Dee, Ron, Lisa, Bill, and Frank on our Mentoring staff. In 2023 I welcomed 692 new Palatine Picklers. We enjoyed a "give back" day at Feed My Starving Children. We welcomed Kathy Ford as our new Mentoree Scheduler. Our Palatine resident members topped 1100. Our overall membership hit 3600. I got three expensive paddles for Picklers to try before buying. Community Center added a couple days to our indoor playing options. We had a breakfast to honor Neal's contribution to our club before he moves south. We had a picnic for Hamilton early birds to thank me for my service. We have a mystery Sycamore future which a member of the Park District told me will not become the obvious 4 pickleball courts but will have a smooth surface for the 2 pb courts and 1 multi-lined tennis court. We did have six months of profiled Picklers. We also had a bunch of fun tournaments ... Pink & Red Valetine Couples ... Bionic Bodies ... Untall Ladies ... Widows ... Oldest 8 Men ... Oldest 8 Ladies ... 2 season-ending Mentoree tournaments ... Petite Picklers ... Heavy Hitters ... Halloween Costume ... Unshort Ladies ... and Ugly Holiday Sweaters. Yeah, that's a pretty good year.



Thanks, Picklers.

Bear

PicklersPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com