



PalatinePicklers.com

palatinepicklers@gmail.com

FEBRUARY, 2023 NEWSLETTER

WE TURN 8 THIS MONTH

Since last February I have sent welcomes to more than 700, new Palatine Picklers. In my humble opinion, there are three, primary reasons for this remarkable growth. First, there's our new and improved website, thanks to Webmaster John Pihl. People find it, love it, and want to be a part of it. Second, there is our mentoring programs. Free training for new and beginning picklers is a rarity, and we offer four sessions a week, from April to mid-October. Word of this travels far and wide and quickly. (Just check out the last several pages of the January newsletter to see the proof of that.) Third, for better or worse, most of you know that, whenever I see a face on the courts or in the gyms that I don't recognize, I'm not shy about asking them if they are members – and if not, let's change that. A fourth reason that many join, is their having heard about all the fun (rather than serious, competitive) tournaments we have ... all of which are followed by an enjoyable, informal lunch a mile away during which we get to know our "off the court" Picklers better.

Let's review some of these, in no particular order ... There's the annual "Untall Ladies" tournament which is covered later in this newsletter. There's the annual "Ugly Holiday Sweater" tournament complete with outfit judging. Along that line is the "Halloween Costume" tournament, also with judging. We have a ton of age-related tournaments ... "Ladies Closest to 60," "Oldest Men," "Youngest Ladies," "Men Over 70,"

"Wrong Hand," "Ladies 60-65," "Youngest Men," and many others. Then we enjoy the "Tree Toppers" tournament for men over 6,' "Pajama" tournament with outfit judging, family fun tournament for Members partnered with any non-spouse relative, half-court singles tournament, Lefties tournament, Red/Pink Couples Valentines tournament, the Bionic tournament for those with replacement body parts, our Widows tournament, and, I'm sure, several others. Of course, there are two, annual Mentoree tournaments during which Mentors serve as (only) referees who love seeing the advancement in skills in all the participants. ALL of my tournaments are round robin. This for two reasons. First, it lets participants get to play with a bunch of their Pickler peers. Second, it eliminates fears of "I'm not good enough," as no single player can impact to outcome. The top three players will likely finish as the top three, since, no matter how bad one player performs, he/she will be that bad with each of the other participants. We've also enjoyed the Picklers' Table Tennis tournament.



We've had a several out-of-Palatine events, over the years. We have had years of a four-club, upper intermediate (3.5-4.0) league, several club vs club 3.0-3.4 indoor season leagues, our 3.0-3.5 intramural matches that go year round, a couple club vs club matches (in Libertyville and Hoffman), and a fund-raising tournament held in Hoffman for the charity of a deceased member.

In the fall of 2021, I was asked by Sgt Dan to secure free courts in/near Highland Park, get six Mentors to be there at 7:00 a.m., with 24 paddles, to teach the game to 24 soldiers who had never played. That was a great morning for all of us.

We've sold almost 750 shirts bearing ths logo I drew in our first month. We've also sold patches/luggage tags with our logo and car window decals. We have a Facebook page, though membership in the PPC is not required for participation. Bear did a lengthy podcast for the Palatine Park District about pickleball in general and our club in particular. We've had promotional tables at a couple tournaments we didn't run. In other words, we've done a fairly good job of promoting our club, because we want as many as possible to enjoy both our sport and all the fun things we do and how welcoming and nurturing we are to new players.

We're one of the few towns in which systems are in place to assure everyone can play at their general level (competitive or rec) and play with a bunch of different partners and get equitable court time with everyone else there.

It hasn't been all about playing pickleball or table tennis. Our Social Committee has hosted several luncheons, both indoor and outside which have attracted 70+ (limits met) Picklers.





Over the months we have enjoyed meeting 46 Palatine Pickles in our “up close and personal” Pickler Profiles.

CURRENT PALATINE PICKLEBALL CLUB STATS

You’re reading the 97th newsletter I have published (with the help of MailMaster Greg Kuhs). In those newsletters, there have been 1,633 pages and 15,207 photos. I have welcomed more than 2,975 members to the club, including 868 who live within the Palatine Park District.

I was saddened to write five obituaries for Palatine Picklers who passed during our eight years, including one 1due to COVID. We’re truly glad for our strict protocols during the height of the pandemic.



These awesome patches are perfect for luggage , and pickleball bags. The decal would look great in your car’s rear windows. Each is only \$5. See Bear for patches and Bear or Linda O’Conor for decals.

One of the fun, non-playing events we’ve had was the “Kyle Yates Challenge” which had Picklers send me videos of their bouncing the ball on the edge of their paddle. Thirteen Picklers submitted videos, with the winner earning a free Palatine Picklers shirt. The 2nd place Pickler managed 17, consecutive bounces. Coincidentally, this summer a Mentoree managed 41. However, Jonny Storm, often seen in our tournament medalist section of the newsletters and in this month’s walking section, ran away with this competition, with his 192 bounces. He was immediately banned from competing, should we have another such competition.

Another non-playing competition was to send photographs of all your pickleball shirts, to see who had the most. 2nd place was about two dozen. That was about half of what Lynn Weisbart had in her closet and drawers.

OK, three pages of looking back over eight years is enough (and, yes, I could keep going) so let’s see some of our Palatine Picklers in action now.



Alexa



Bill



Brian



Jenny



Karen



Pauline



Karen

DISCOUNTS ARE DOLLARS NOT SPENT

Neal Harris at **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 Gammaspports.com, with the code ba_soderborg25

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

UNTALL LADIES HIT HAPPINESS HEIGHTS

Sorry, Ann S. You left before I called everyone to the court for a photo. Yes, there were only 7 untall ladies this year. An hour before the event, one diminutive damsel texted she was under the weather so Bear had the fun of playing in games in which lobbing was easy. This was our third, annual Untall Ladies tournament. Of course, lunch afterward was enjoyed by all. Interesting how tall this lens makes Karen and Ann look. Not the case.



Karen, Linda, EJ (2nd), Debbie (1st), Lynne (3rd), Ann



Lee Ann



Marcia



Lori



Nancy

IF YOU'RE A NEW OR BEGINNER PICKLER, GET ON "EXPECT TO BE AVAILABLE" LISTS FOR MENTORING. IF YOU'RE A LOWER INTERMEDIATE PICKLER, GET ON SOME ETBA LISTS FOR INTRAMURAL COMPETITION.



Mike



Sharon



Jeff



Shelly



Silver



Mike



Mike

INTRAMURALS WILL BE YEAR-ROUND

Our 3.0 – 3.5 intramurals have been enjoyed for 19 weeks so far (one week we had to switch to a tournament). The young Whippersnappers on January 17th tied the Wise Ones, for the series. Each team has won 9 matches. Usually, at least half the 16 participants enjoy lunch after the match. I'd love to add you to some of the Expect To Be Available lists. Veterans note that I'm adding April dates for which you'll have to register. These events are round robin style. You'll partner with each of your 7 teammates once. Here are the scheduled dates: 1/31 2/14 2/28 4/11 4/25 5/9 5/23. Giving me dates means you go on that week's

UPPER INTERMEDIATE TRAVEL LEAGUE ENDS ITS RUN

For seven years the four-club, 3.5-4.0 league has thrived. COVID began impacting participation. Now neither Hoffman Estates or DuPage can field teams. Libertyville and Palatine will play some less formally now. This league and the Palatine team has changed management a couple times. Below, in chronological order are those who have made it possible all these years. Thanks, Picklers, for your dedication and leadership.



Bear Shatwell



then Jim & Brigitte Latal



then John Kirchner & Bob Bregenzer



BACK TO PICKLERS AT PLAY



Kevin



Karin



Larry



Michael

BIONIC BODIES TOURNAMENT

On Thursday, March 2nd at 9:00 a.m. in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington, a bunch of Palatine Picklers with replacement body parts will play in our 2nd Bionic Bodies Tournament. If you're not 100% natural, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to, hopefully, get into this event. First come first served.



Ann



John



James



Arnie



Bob



Bill



Bear



Brian



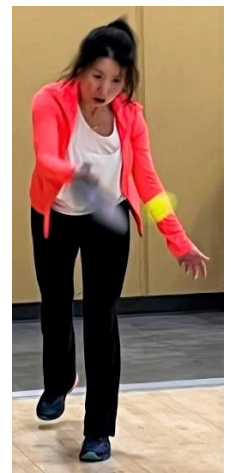
Dean



Sabine



Pauline



Mary

2nd WIDOWS EVENING SCHEDULED

Our first widows/widowers tournament and dinner was such a success last fall that it was virtually unanimously recommended we not wait a year to do it again. The second widows tournament and dinner will start at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21st at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington.

This time let's expand the agenda to include sharing photos, anecdotes, poems, special gifts, etc. you shared with your spouse. As was discovered at the first dinner, this is one place you can be yourself. You can share your innermost thoughts and emotions, with zero threat of judgement. We have something in common that no one who hasn't been here can possibly "get." Whether you lost your spouse 30 years ago and have been married twice since then or you are actively grieving your recent loss, this is the afternoon and evening for you. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.



Satish



Terri



Trish



Steve



Sandy



Steve



Steve

PALATINE PICKLER CAPS HERE (later in this newsletter)

Thanks to the relentless researching efforts of Carol Hawes and John Guilfoil, we will soon have Palatine Picklers caps available ... and at great prices. Caps have been requested for quite some time, but it wasn't until Carol and John stepped up that we could make it happen. We will be offering baseball caps in a bunch of colors and also boonie hats (as in Mike Kaminski's). You pick your color. The car decal version of our logo (no Palatine Pickleball Club copy included) will be embroidered in dark or white thread. That will be the choice of our vendor who has a more experienced eye for contrast than most of us do. You should be able to see the caps, colors, and prices on our website soon, if not already. There will also be an email address to contact, to order your cap. As with our shirts, we'll need at least a dozen, before we can place our order to keep the prices shown. To reach that dozen, we can mix baseball caps and boonie caps. Thanks, Carol and John.



Carol



John



John



John



John



Juli



Kathy



Kim



Lisa



Mary Anne



Neal

MEET PICKLER JOHN EVANS

John Evans was born in 1955, the 3rd of 4 children. This was in Des Moines, IA where he spent his next 21 years. His father owned a grocery store which required 65-70 hour work weeks. At age 14 John started working there too. The insights he got there about the time and effort his dad spent to support the family increased the love and respect he had for his dad. They also showed him this wasn't the life for him.



John loved all the pickup games in many sports that occurred in the neighborhood, weather permitting, but he knew his skills were not going to support him. So, after graduating from Herbert Hoover High, he headed to Iowa State to become an architect. It wasn't long before John decided he'd rather build than design so, in 1977, he earned his degree in Construction Engineering. He borrowed \$200 from his dad to cover his first month's rent and took a job in Chicago with BR Abbott Construction, a small contracting firm. With a little time on his hands, he enrolled in night school at DePaul, and earned his MBA two years later. When the owner of BR Abbott decided to retire and close the company, John landed a job as a Project Engineer with Opus Corporation. While there he completed the required state exams and became a licensed professional engineer. In 1986 he was offered a position as the Construction Manager for Cadillac-Fairview, a national real estate

development firm that was opening a Chicago office. While loving the opportunity, the timing was challenging. It was the week that John and Barbara returned from their honeymoon. Starting their new life together AND starting a new job with a new company was a lot to process, but John became a Real Estate Developer. He was promoted to the Development Office where he stayed until 1991 when the entire development world came to a halt and he was among the many who were laid off. Fortunately, he was recommended for a position with Household International, a lending institution that was foreclosing on a number of projects. Until the real estate and construction industries recovered, he worked as Vice President of Construction.

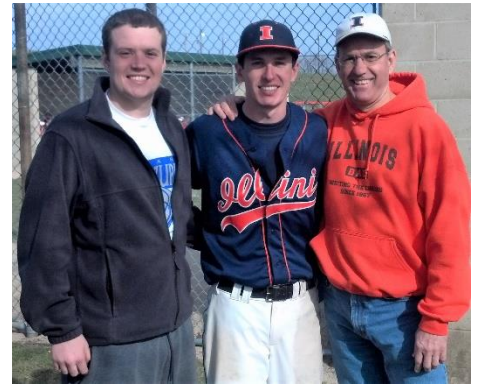


It was during this period that their three children were born. Christine was born in 1989 and is now a Student Advisor at UW-Madison, while completing her PhD. Chas came along in 1990 and is now a business consultant working as an Associate Director for Protiviti, focusing on regulatory and risk management for lending institutions. In 1992 Colin was born. He's now an Assurance Manager for RMS, concentrating on audits for broker/dealers. Colin stayed in Illinois, while Christine lives in WI and Chas and his wife are in NC.

At left are Colin, Christine, John, and Chas.

In 1993 John returned to the construction industry, when he joined Kajima Construction Services as Project Manager. By the time John retired in 2022, he'd risen to Vice President in charge of both Chicago and Cincinnati offices and an officer of the company.

John raised his kids, while living in Deer Park but has since moved to Palatine. He enjoyed coaching all three kids in soccer, his sons' basketball teams, and baseball, when it didn't conflict with soccer. Colin played a couple years of HS basketball and baseball. Chas enjoyed a much longer sports career. He pitched and played 3rd base for LZHS where he was All-Conference, All-State, and Captain of the Daily Herald Lake County All-Star team. Christine played soccer only her freshman year, concentrating more on band where she became a drum major and on studies which earned her salutatorian status in her graduating class of 500.



With work behind him, John decided to check out this pickleball thing. He called the Palatine Park District, and they referred him to us. From our website he chose to begin his play at Harper in March of last year. He's loved playing a lot at Hamilton and enjoys meeting all our "fascinating" Picklers. He finds their kindness, hospitality, and friendliness something that has made him appreciate pickleball and our club that much more.

In addition to pickleball, John continues to play golf and recently served as an officer of the Arlington Heights Twilight Golf League. Another hobby is reading. John Grisham and James Grippando are his favorites. He also enjoys volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg. This place is special to John, because it was constructed by Kajima, and he convinced them to complete the project at minimal to no profit, to support the charity's efforts. Other time is spent biking and includes an annual trip to Lanesboro, MN to ride the Root River Trail.



John's bucket list includes playing the old course at St Andrews. This is being discussed with several of his Iowa State golf teammates (at left is 40 year reunion of ISU Golf Team #2). Then there's a week-long rafting trip down the Colorado River (he's done several one-day trips here), a trip to Hawaii, and, hopefully, attending a national championship game featuring his beloved Iowa State Cyclones in either football or basketball. He's already checked off sky diving (above right).

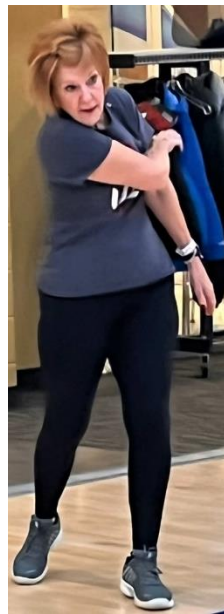


INDOOR MENTORING EXTENDED

Our indoor mentoring program at Canlan Sportsplex has been extended. So, those of you who are veteran Mentorees, consider 4/4 and 4/18 and email me again that you want to be on those lists too. Any newbies or beginners who haven't yet emailed me your "hope to be mentored" dates, here are those still remaining: Feb 7 Feb 21 Mar 7 Mar 21 4/4 and 4/18. Sessions are from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. (14 NW through Barrington a few miles to the Pepper Rd light. Right to the stop sign. It's the gigantic building on your right.) Canlan just raised their daily fee to \$10. If you need a paddle, I have several. You'll work with multiple Mentors in your 2.5 hours. (Yes, if necessary, you can leave early.) After the session, those whose schedule allows enjoy lunch a mile away. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Once on the lists, check your email on Sunday, to see if you're invited to that Tuesday's session.



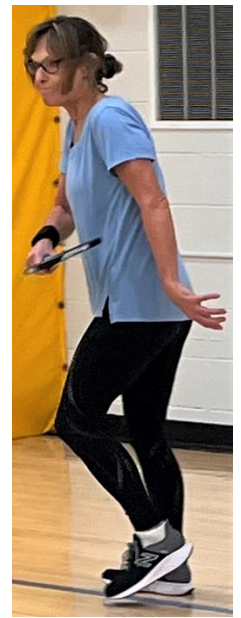
Carole



Carol



Debbie



Gillian



Ann



Brian



Dan



Denny



Fred



Dee Dee



Doug



Howard



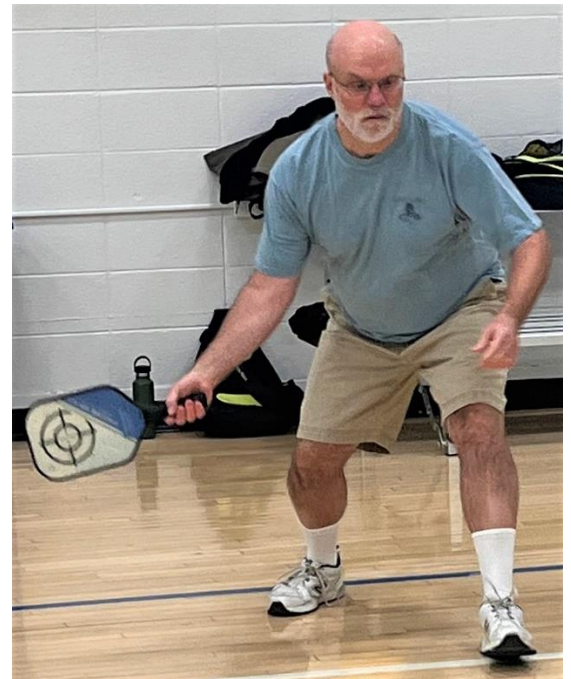
Doris



Debbie



Gene



Eric

THIS MONTH'S WONDERFUL WALKERS

For those who don't know, we like to honor those Palatine Picklers who get a lot of steps in a day. If you earn at least 15,000 steps, email me (aokbarry@yahoo.com) with proof of your achievement. If you surpass 20,000 steps, you'll qualify for Super Stepper status. Here are this month's wonderful walkers.

SUPER STEPPERS (20,000 STEPS/DAY)



Jonny Storm



Marcia Cohen



Jesse Cohen

WORTHY WALIERS (15,000+ STEPS/DAY)

18,628 steps



Bear Shatwell

18,334 steps



Steve Manis

16,716 steps



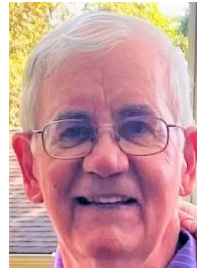
Scot Shatwell

16,635 steps



Kathy Ford

15,406 Steps



Bob McGown

30K TREKKERS

We have two Palatine Picklers whose hiking hits new heights. Here is a summary of steps surpassing 30,000.



Brandon Johnson



Jonny Storm

1st 42,951

Brandon

2nd 37,769

Jonny

3rd 34,917

Brandon

4th 34,102

Jonny

5th 33,071

Brnadon

6th 31,392

Brandon

7th 30,261

Brandon



Brian



Lisa



Georgie



Bob

ISN'T IT TIME TO GET ANOTHER (OR EVEN FIRST) PALATINE PICKLER SHIRT?

Just go to PalatinePicklers.com and click on shirts. Browse and order right there. Then send me a check. (ask)



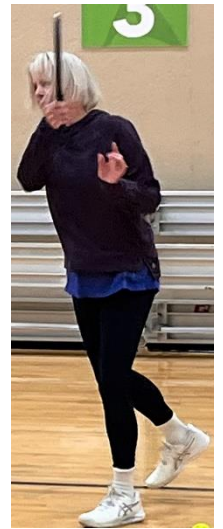
Penny



Joan



Diane



Mardy



Clay



John



June



Cindy



Heidi



Jay



Frank



Cathy



Laura



Chris



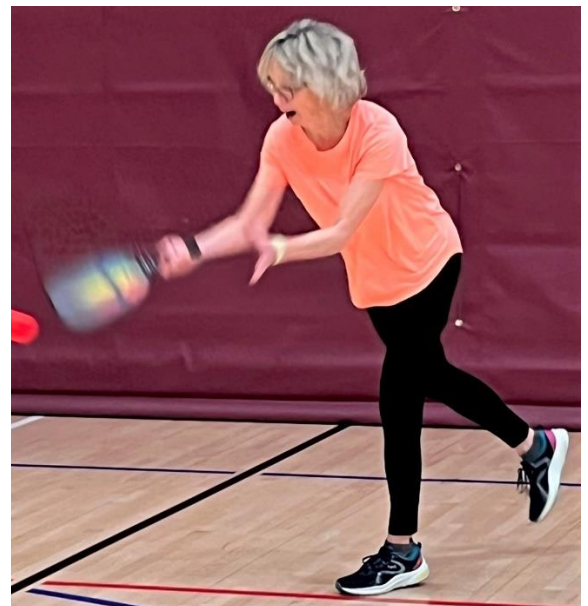
Jim



Ralph



Marv



Ann



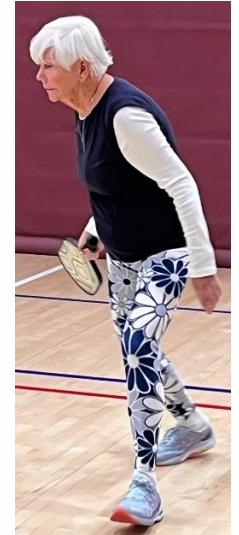
John



Paul



Jim



Marion



Mary



Mark



John



Dennis



Lori



Dave



Bo



Scott

MORE INTRAMURAL DATES FOR YOUR PLAYING PLEASURE

YOU should answer this question: Do you consider yourself in the middle 50% ability-wise of your thousands of members? If you do think a quarter are better and a quarter of them probably aren't quite as good, then you should email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with the Tuesday mornings (below) you THINK you'd be available to participate. Matches take place in the Canlan Sportsplex. They charge \$10 for the day. We play from 9:00 to about 11:45 and then, if your schedule allows, go to lunch a mile away. You will play with seven different teammates. Teams are the Whippersnappers (youngest half of men and women rostered that week) or Wise Ones. These are FUN matches, not the stressful stuff you may experience at tournaments for which you pay a registration fee. Our expanded match dates are 3/14 3/28 4/11 4/25 5/9 and 5/23. If you're more into numerical ratings, this is for 3.0 – 3.5 Picklers. If you're even close, I'll give you at least one play date.



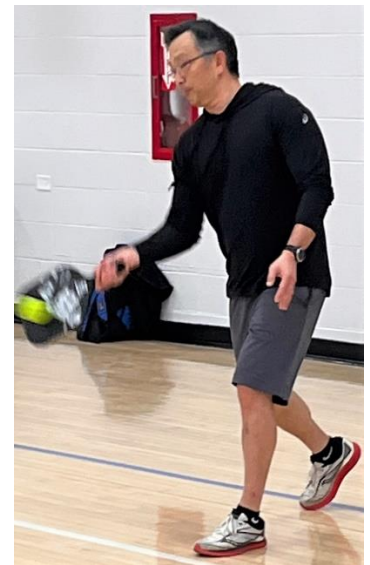
Steve



JoAnne



Jim



Jon



April



Johnny



Maureen



Sally

REMINDER ... PLEASE UNSUBSCRIBE

If you participate in travel team, intramurals, mentoring, or any of our fun tournaments, or even if you play regularly at Hamilton, Falcon, Birchwood, or Harper, please ignore this request. If we rarely see you, please do back to the email that bore the link to this newsletter and click "unsubscribe." You can still read the newsletters at your leisure. Just go to PalatinePicklers.com and find the newsletter you want in the library there.

Why do we want a whole lot of you to unsubscribe? Because we're quickly closing in on the number that MailChimp which brings you the newsletters will begin charging a monthly fee that is well beyond what we could handle. Thank you for helping us keep sending our communications to our most involved Picklers.



Chris



Geoff



Karen



Gary



Pat



Ron



Sarah



John



Chris



Jim



Soo



Chris



George



Linda



Tina



Jim



Tom



Scott



Bill



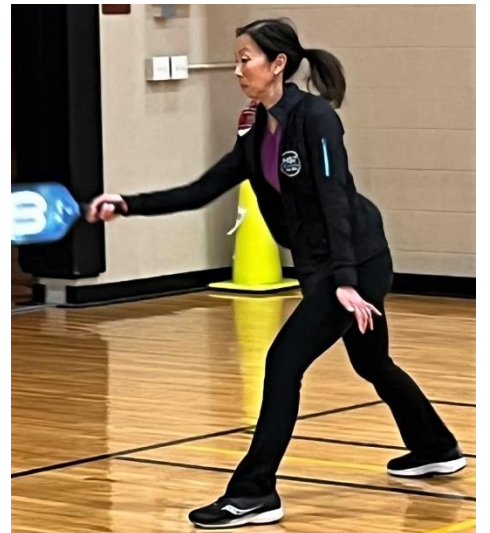
Kathy



TJ



Tommy



Nara



Not a fan of a solo pic, but Brian was still there, when I thought I was done

LET'S WELCOME OUR NEWEST NEWBIES



Amy



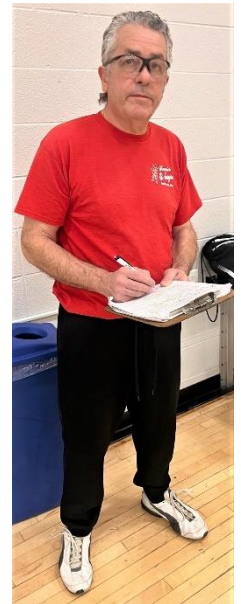
Amy



Ann



April



Armand



Brian



Chris



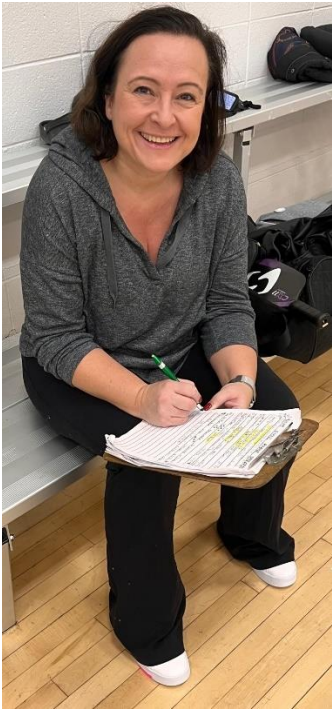
Doug



Garrett



Gary



Georgie



Gerald



Jim



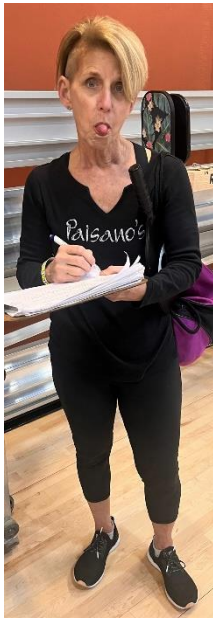
Jon



Karen



Kari



Kathy



Kevin



Larry



Lee





Mary



Nancy



Nara



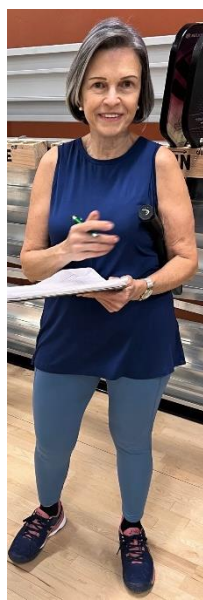
Paul



Penny



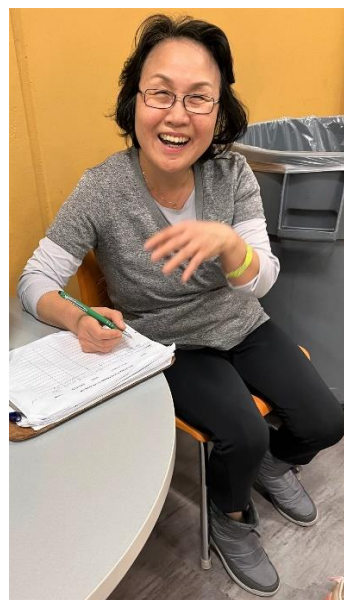
Phil



Regina



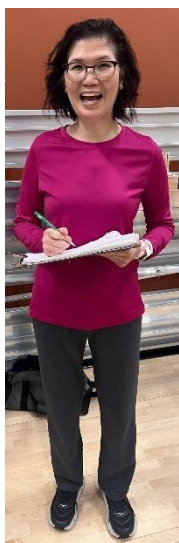
Ricardo



Soo



Susan



Susan



Tom



Toni



Vanessa



Yong

RED & PINK COUPLES TOURNAMENT

On Thursday February 2nd, eight couples dressed in Valentine's red and pink attire and competed in our 2nd couples tournament. Needing eight couples but having only seven, Bear proposed to Dee Dee to be his wife du jour. She accepted. After a fun for all, three-hour tournament, nine of our sixteen continued the fun over lunch. Below are our happy couples and our top three finishers.



Kneeling: Chris & Clay and Marcia & Jesse Standing: Debbie & Bill, Mary & Brian, Therese & Patrick, Dee Dee & Bear, Cindy & Michael, Tina & John.



Bill & Debbie finished 2nd, having won 6 of 7 games and finishing with 86 points

Mary & Brian finished 1st, winning all 7 games and finishing with 91 points

Bear & Dee Dee (who left before photo) finished 3rd, winning 6 of 7 games and finishing with 84 points

MEDALISTS WHO LET ME KNOW (KNOW THERE ARE SOME WHO DIDN'T)



Dotti Berry & Masato Suzuki – Tucson Sr Olympic Festival – 4.0 70+ - Bronze



Jerry Louis & Joyce Pihl – Desert Ridge Open – 70+ 3.5 – Gold



Lynne Weisbart – Boca Raton Masters – 3.0 65-70 Singles - Bronze ... AND Round Robin 3.0 Mixed – Bronze

- Anyone in italics is not a member of the Palatine Picklers Club.
- We like to see Picklers' successes in tournaments. Please send me pics and details at aokbarry@yahoo.com, whenever you've had a medalrific day on the courts. Thanks to these three.

LONG AWAITED CAPS AND HATS AVAILABLE NOW

You can now order Palatine Picklers baseball caps or Boonie hats in a wide variety of colors.

Baseball Caps \$16 Choose your color at <https://www.sportswearcollection.com/p/valucap/vc300a?site=VEYHZXBZHU>

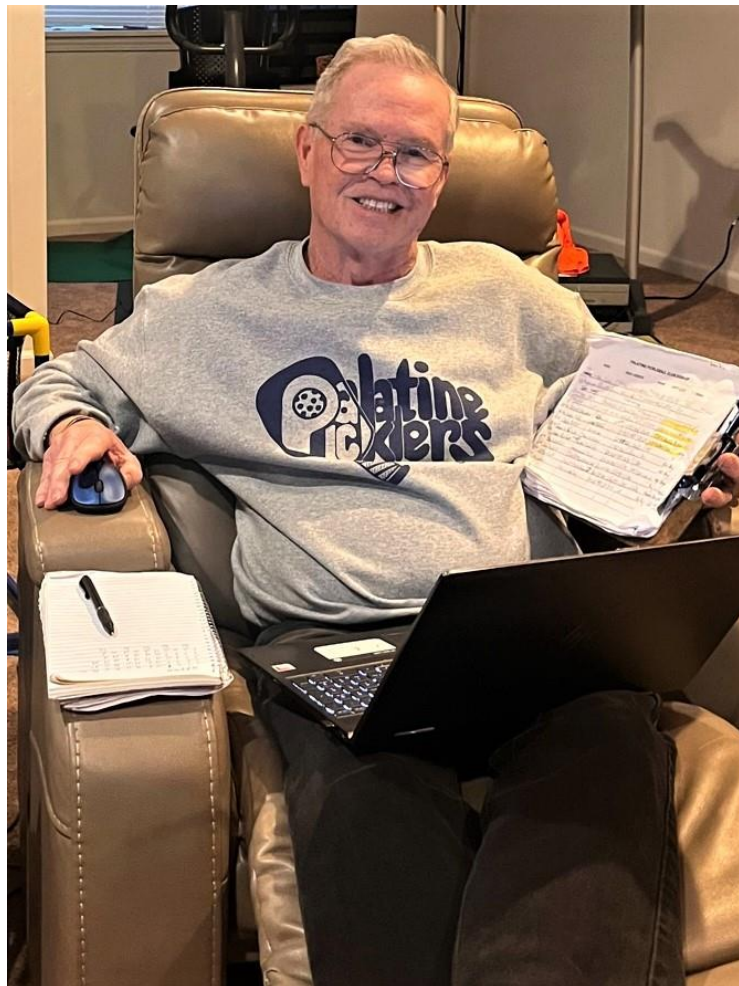
Boonie Hats \$31.50 Review colors at https://www.sportswearcollection.com/p/the_game/gb400?site=VEYHZXBZHU



The logo won't be in a square as shown. Our embroiderer will determine if it will appear in navy or white, depending on the color cap you select. To order your cap go to PicklerCaps@gmail.com. Place your order. You'll be told to whom and where to send your check. As with shirts we need a dozen, before we can order.

WHERE AND WHEN TO PLAY INDOORS IN PALATINE

Again, the easiest way to see where you can play and at what times, go to the app store and download the Palatine Park District app. Open it and click on “gyms.” That will show you the times of open play at Birchwood, Falcon, and Harper.



Well, Picklers, it's been an exciting year so far. We'll be sporting Palatine Picklers caps this spring. We've extended indoor mentoring through April. We've enjoyed the Untall Ladies tournament and the Red & Pink Valentine Couples tournament. We no longer have to look through newsletters to find Birchwood's play times. We've welcomed a lot of new members, most of whom I've yet to meet so their photos aren't in this newsletter. We're getting more of our middle 50% into our intramural program (which is year-round). Now we just need a few more of you to ask me for my "Profile Prompter." I give you a bunch of questions. You just answer those with which you're comfortable, add any other things that are important to you, and email that to me, along with a few photos of you not playing pickleball. I will write your profile. You just give me the information I need. That's it for now. Until next month, enjoy a happy Valentine's Day.

Oh, the photo on the left is I finishing this newsletter, tabulating intramural stats, and welcoming a bunch of newbies.

Bear Shatwell
PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com