



PalatinePicklers.com

MAY, 2023 NEWSLETTER

LOTS OF NEWBIES NEED LOTS OF MENTORING

and we're good at that. Our primary mentoring day is Wednesday. We conduct two sessions at Sycamore Park. 9:00 to 10:30 and 10:30 to Noon. We serve 12 students at each session, and invitations are required. You will spend 30 minutes with each Mentor that day. I have loaner paddles, and we supply balls. Just bring water. To get on an ETBA (Expect To Be Available) list, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com the Wednesdays through June (for now) that you THINK you'll be available to participate. If your availability changes, you must email me to take you off that ETBA list. Then check your email on Monday afternoon, to see if you get an invitation that week. We've served up to 180 Picklers over a summer, and can invite only 24 each week. Please include your phone number. Why? Because, if someone earns a strike by not accepting an invitation by 10 a.m. Tuesday, Kathy, our Mentoree Scheduler, may have to call you to ask you to fill the vacant spot. Strikes are earned by not accepting your invitation on time or by saying you cannot attend after all. We roll our eyes at your first strike. A second strike bans you from mentoring for the summer. A no-show bans you for the summer also.

Until it gets out of hand, we offer walk-on (no invitation needed) mentoring at Hamilton on Thursdays from 3 to 5. If you have not had your photo in the Newbie section of a newsletter, please tell me so we can remedy that. We want to get to know you. If you bring a friend who's not a member of the club, have them let me know. All mentoring sessions are exclusively for Palatine Picklers, but I can sign them up on the spot.

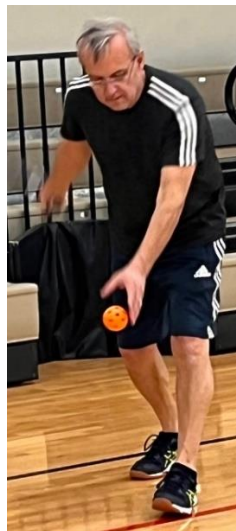
Exclusively for Picklers who, due to babysitting, golf, work, etc., are unavailable for either Wednesday or Thursday, we have Saturday, walk-on 3-5 sessions at Hamilton too.



Don



Karin



John



Silver



Gloria



Jim



Jaime



John



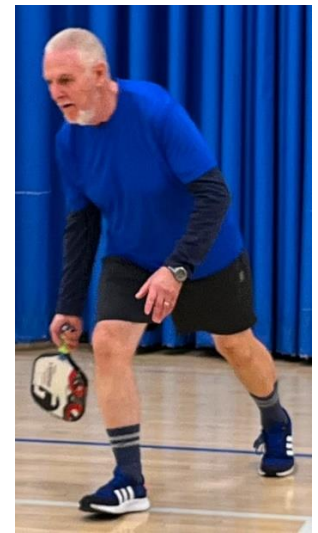
Johnny



Lucky



Stephanie



John



Kurt



John



JoAnne



Michael

INTRAMURALS NEEDS YOUR NEW – OR FIRST - DATES

So many of you are not on our upcoming Expect To Be Available dates for our lower intermediate intramurals matches. Even if you think you've signed up for dates, many of you haven't, and NOW I'm adding more. So please email me (even if you think it's again) with which of the following you Tuesday mornings you think you'd be available to play at Canlan: 5/9 5/23 6/6 6/20 7/11 & 7/25. I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

If you've never played in our intramurals, now is the time. If you think you're in the middle 50% of our members, that puts you into our desired skill range of 3.0 to 3.5. Unless I KNOW you're not close to that range, whether above or below it, I'll play you at least once. You deserve to experience this PURELY FOR FUN competition. Then we continue the fun by getting to know one another off the courts over lunch. Give it a try, by emailing the Expect To Be Available lists on which you should appear. I'm still at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

KNOW THAT INTRAMURALS WILL BE YEAR-ROUND ... I've learned the hard way not to trust Picklers to honor commitments made more than a couple months in advance. Here's a tip – When you give me dates you expect to be available, Enter "Maybe Canlan" on those mornings on your calendar. Then, if a conflict arises, you'll be reminded to email me to take you off that list.

These matches, like all tournaments I run, are FOR FUN. Of course, we all try to win, but they are NOT serious so please don't try to play the "I'm not good enough" card. You'll be missing out on something you'll really like. Based on your date of birth, you'll be assigned to either the Whippersnappers or the Wise Ones. You'll partner with each of your seven teammates for one game. You won't find seven, pretty competitive games at open play. This is where you want to be.

How it works is this – if you win or lose 7, or win or lose 6 two matches in a row, you probably won't be invited back, because you're not a good fit for this group. It's no big deal. I just want to keep this equitable for all.



Chris



Carolyn



Freddy



Janice



Jenny



Jeff



Marcia



Linda



Mike



Tom



Patrick



Tina



Ron



Silver

BEST OF THE OLDEST TOURNAMENTS

From those who applied to play in these, I rostered the 12 men and 12 ladies whose births were longest ago.



Clayton, Jeff D, Shelly, Bear, Neal, Brian, Bob M (front), Dave, Jeff K, Marv, Pat, & Bob G



Joette, Mardy, Chris, Janet, Sue, Alla, Marianne, Maureen, Debbie, Linda, Judy, & Natasha

We got off to a great start, with all 16 competitors on time. Every Pickler got to partner with each of his/her 11 competitors. As always those who had the time, enjoyed socializing over lunch a mile away.

You'll find the top three finishers from each tournament on the next page.



Bob McGowan 3rd, Marv Zwass & Pat Taylor tied for 1st



Alla Ginzburg (middle) 1st. Marianne O'Shea & Debbie Sherman tied for 2nd



April



Bill



Jim



Bear

FALCON'S LAST DAY OF PICKLEBALL IS FRIDAY, MAY 26

BIRCHWOOD'S IS THURSDAY, MAY 25

SAVE WITH PALATINE PICKLERS' DISCOUNTS

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

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

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

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 Big on West coast.



Bob



Dave



Chris



Dan



James



Kurt



Marianne



Paul

PLAY AT HAMILTON

Every dry morning by 8:00. Put name upside down on both sides of your paddle where handle meets blade.



Pam



Pat



Pat

NEW MENTOREE SCHEDULER HELLO, KATHY – THANK YOU, ROBIN

We are sad to say Good Bye to Robin Dubin (on right), after a few years of scheduling both indoor and Wednesday morning mentoring sessions. At the same time, we're elated that our super energetic Kathy Ford (on left) has volunteered to handle those chores. Apparently, Robin decided she'd had enough of not being able to play outdoor pickleball and golf all 12 months. She and Bruce are moving to enjoy the Southeast sun.

The Scheduler is responsible for taking the spreadsheet of those students who expect to be available each week and inviting 24 to participate in one of Wednesday's sessions at Sycamore.



ORDER PALATINE PICKLER CAPS

After years of not offering these, we now have two styles of embroidered caps and dozens of colors. Just visit **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



JoAnne



Lucky



Marv



Jesse

IF YOU DON'T PARTICIPATE IN OUR TOURNAMENTS, SHARE MEDALS FROM OTHERS, AREN'T A MENTOREE, OR DON'T PLAY ON OUR COURTS REGULARLY, PLEASE UNSUBSCRIBE

Thanks to the 50 of you Picklers who have done this. We REALLY appreciate that. How 'bout a few hundred or couple thousand more of you? YOU CAN FIND EACH NEWSLETTER (and soon Tweener Memos too) on PalatinePicklers.com. I'm about to NOT add newbies to our mailing list, even though a whole lot of them want mentoring or play intramurals, because we are flirting with the maximum number of direct recipients we can have on MailChimp. That's who maintains our mailing list. There must be 2,000 of you that fit the headline parameters. PLEASE click on "Unsubscribe" at the bottom of the email that bears the link to this newsletter.



Brian



Charles



Clay



Chris



Linda



Mike




Steve

PICKLERS PARTICIPATED IN FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN


This was the first time since pre-pandemic days that we sent a Palatine Picklers team to fill food bags for children around the world. Maureen Greene organized this effort for us. Thank you, Maureen. Let's take a look at the afternoon's efforts. Please sign up next year. So much good for so little, fun time.






 Pack again soon! | fmisc.org | #fmisc

Boxes packed: 137!
Meals: 29,592!
Kids fed a daily meal for a year: 81!
Cost: \$8,581.68



We DID make a difference, and you can too next year. This will continue to be an annual, or maybe semi-annual, Picklers event. The numbers above are for everyone there that afternoon. We were the 3rd largest group. Hope you choose to join us next time.

Thanks to the following Picklers for volunteering their afternoon for this cause:

Ann Buras, Bear Shatwell, Bo Johnson, Brian Blome, Carol Hawes, Carolyn Glow, Cathi Cappello, Chris Burbridge, Dan Salbego, Debbie Sherman, Frank Wasilewski, Janice Orlowski, John Evans, John Greene, Kathy Shatwell, Laura Matuszewski, Mary Werling, Mary Whitehead, Maureen Greene, Pam Sammons, Pat Calabrese, Scott Brown, Scott Werling, & Sheryl Altschuler.

VISIT THE PALATINE PICKLERS FACEBOOK PAGE

Tracy Weslager administers this information center. She's able to have a lot of things on there that I can't justify putting in newsletters. That would include some tournaments, products, services, etc. Check it out.



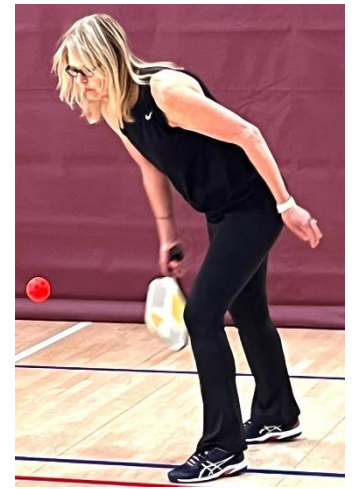
Alla



Mary



Keith



Susan



Sue



Tara



Valery



Vic

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR MEDALISTS



Chuck Feinstein & Tabitha Johnson – U.S. Open - 5.0 Mixed – Gold
with Derek Huff – 55+ - Silver ...
with John Leonard – 5.0 – 50+ Bronze



Nelson Prado & Dave Udchick – Hop'n It's Open – 3.5 12+ - Gold



Paul Kirawin & Bill Bradshaw - U.S. Open - 3.0 65+ - Gold

Italics indicates not a PPC member



Nancy



Mike



Steve



Rick

DAVE RUTTER'S MEMORIAL TATTOO

Darrell Rutter was a loved and respected, founding member of the Palatine Pickleball Club. He was our original two forehand Pickler. Darrell passed in March of 2021. His son Dave asked me to provide photos of his Dad. He wanted to get a memorial tattoo featuring one of those photos. Here's what he's gotten. Well done, Dave.





Debbie



Don



David



John



Larry



Kevin

DO YOU HAVE ANY FUN TOURNAMENT IDEAS ?

I'll be traveling a lot the next few months so don't have the time to get tournaments organized. However, I'm open to suggestions you have for specific groups of Picklers. Sorry we couldn't get eight lefties last month. That was only the second time in eight years I had to cancel a tournament. Email me at sokbarry@yahoo.com.

IT'S WALKING TIME

SUPER STEPPERS ... (20,000+ steps in a day)

25,364 steps



Dan Salbego

24,813 Steps



Jonny Storm

22,486 Steps



Scot Shatwell

WORTHY WALKERS ... (15,000+ steps in a day)

19,136 steps



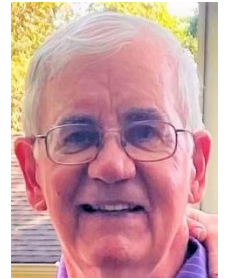
Dan Salbego

18,104 steps



Bear Shatwell

16,975 Steps



Bob McGowan

Steps
16,753



Mary Werling

15,998 steps



Kim Kelly

15,487 steps



Kathy Ford

15,016



Clay Farnsworth



Amy



Cynthia



Gillian



Judy



Diane



Dave



Carol



Bob



Bill



Laura



Scott



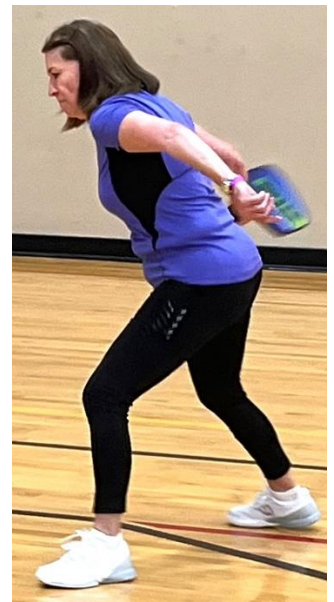
Pauline



Penny



Brian



Cathy



Jeff



Sally



Stsn



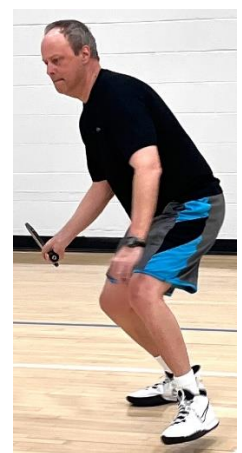
Steve



Beth



Carole



Phil



Nancy



Ann



Cindy

MEET PICKLER KURT CONRATH

This one is a real first. When a Pickler is willing to be profiled, I send a “profile prompter” list of questions that he/she may want to answer. Kurt, obviously, deleted it and got creative, if not complete. With some serious editing, here’s his self-written “profile.”

Interviewer: Today Bear asked us to profile local pickleball player Kurt Conrath from Inverness. I this winter/spring Kurt participated in the Palatine Picklers’ intramurals program. Welcome, Kurt. Let’s start with basic questions. How long have you been playing pickleball, and where do you play?

Kurt: Thanks. Glad to be here. Two years ago a friend invited my wife Sandy and me to play pickleball at Fabbrini Park in Hoffman. He mentored us, and we played weekly the rest of the summer. As winter approached I began playing at Canlan in Lake Barrington. Sandy and I also secured a weekly reservation at the Inverness Field House, with a small group of other Palatine Picklers. When summer rolled around, I started biking to Hamilton. I also biked to courts in Twin Lakes, WI where we have a lake house. I play about two days a week.

Interviewer: Last summer I saw you riding your e-bike to Hamilton. Do you bike a lot?

Kurt: I’ve always biked a lot. As a young teenager, I went bike-camping across Wisconsin with my older brother Craig. I started tracking my biking miles in 2020, basically when COVID started. Since then I’ve ridden about 10,000 miles. That’s roughly the perimeter of the lower 48 states. I did that in just over three years. I ride primarily in IL and WI, but I have biked neighboring states.

Interviewer: Has that 10,000 been all e-bike?

Kurt: No, primarily on an older Trek hybrid I’ve had for a while. About 2,000 miles on the e-bike, and a lot less on a fat tire bike. Sandy and I bought identical e-bikes just over a year ago, to extend the range and change the type of biking we do. We’ve done several overnight bike treks since then, staying in hotels. I use my e-bike regularly, as an environmentally-friendly alternative to my car which often sits unused for days. I bike to work, appointments, stores, and even to Canlan 11 miles away for open pickleball.

Interviewer: You said you bike to work. I thought you were retired.

Kurt: Maybe some would call it semi-retired. I walked away from the corporate world nearly four years ago, when I was 59. I couldn't be more satisfied with my life. After receiving a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Florida, I worked 23 years for Motorola and then ten years for Zebra Technologies. I probably had the most fun in my working life as a young engineer programming robots and other high-speed automation to do electronics assembly. Over time I did less fun stuff. Corporate job stress can be unhealthy, so when the time was right, and the opportunity was there, I said, "Adios."

Sometimes I biked to work at Zebra in Lincolnshire. Now I bike to school/work, in my job as a part-time substitute teacher in District 15 junior highs.

Interviewer: Oh, that's great. I've heard that schools everywhere have a real need for good, substitute teachers. The pandemic seems to have shrunk the pool of subs.

Kurt: That's true. When the current school year started, I set a goal of working one day a week, and I've pretty much stuck with that. To me it's community service with some nominal pay. It's a way I can give back in an area of need. When my kids were young, I coached them in a combined 16 seasons of soccer and basketball. Besides spending special time with my kids, I looked at that as another community service. As a sub I have taught every subject offered at the junior high level. Math, science, and STEM classes mesh well with my engineering background. I have a personal interest in history too. I also love to read so enjoy reading/writing classes, and I've done a lot of PE subbing, along with band, orchestra, French, Special Ed, and even adaptive PE.

Interviewer: I've also heard that you work as an Election Judge. Tell us about that.

Kurt: Recent threats to the democratic process, coupled with my interest in U.S. history motivated me to get trained and certified as an Election Judge. I've worked two elections now. I've started reading biographies of ALL the U.S. Presidents in order. This started by reading Ron Chernow's "Hamilton," before seeing the Broadway play based on that book. Then I read his bio of Washington which gave a complementary perspective on that period. After that I just kept going. I read several books ABOUT THE PRE-Civil War era and six biographies of Lincoln. I'm currently at President #32, FDR.

Interviewer: OK, so school sub and Election Judge, both quasi-volunteer jobs. Doing anything else?

Kurt: This year I have become involved in a "food rescue" activity at Willow Creek Church. They call it "gleaning." We drive a route to grocery stores and "rescue" boxes of soon-to-be expired foods. Last year we distributed over two million pounds of food to people in our community. The last two years I've also volunteered with the Chicago Area Mountain Bike Riders, to do trail building. Recently, we've been working in the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve on MTB and walking/running trails through the woods. I love riding my fat tire bike on these trails, particularly when snow-packed.

Interviewer: Wow, so, in addition to pickleball, you've got a lot going on in your retirement.

Kurt: I do have one other job I haven't mentioned. Sandy is a Master Gardener and in training at Chicago Botanical Garden's garden Design program. She started a business out of our home called SOW Pretty Gardens. She specializes in planting "Container gardens," large, decorative pots filled with amazing color and texture. She is the talent but has appointed me her COE (Chief of Everything Else). So I do her accounting, web design, editing, and manual labor. Check out our web page... <https://www.sowprettygardens.com>

Interviewer: Any time left over for vacations or travel?

Kurt: This year Sandy and I went to New Zealand for three weeks in February. Lots of hiking, biking, and white water rafting. We stayed on a sheep farm and rode a couple scenic trains over mountains and along the coast. Bike-trekking and lake time are awaiting us this summer.

Interviewer: Well, Kurt, thanks for taking time for this interview.

Kurt: My pleasure. Hope to see you on the pickleball court.



Hope you enjoyed this profile. I hope a lot of you will be willing to be added to the 50 Picklers who have been profiled so far. If so PLEASE ask for my Profile Prompter questioner. Kurt's profile took me longer to edit than I'd prefer. It was interesting, and I respect the time it took Kurt to create it, but please let me write your profile from the information I suggest you give me. There's a lot more we'd have enjoyed learning about Kurt that wasn't here. I love Kurt's creativity in this unique "profile." If you'll let us get to know you a bit better, just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com and ask for that profile prompter. Thanks.



Always love seeing Palatine Picklers running into themselves out of state.

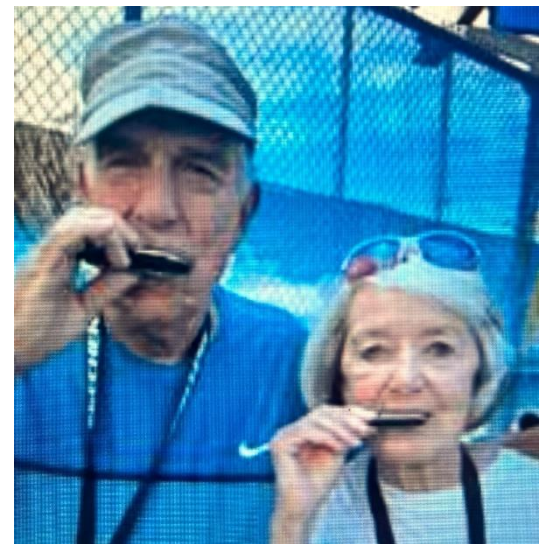
This time Ann Lawrence found Mike Petrovic on the slopes in Keystone, Colorado

OUR PERENIAL U.S. Open attendees got written up

Terry and Susie have been coming to Naples for the US OPEN for the last 6 Championships. They come each year to support players from suburbs near their home in Long Grove, IL, and even played one year.

As a wedding gift to her husband (on their 50th anniversary) a couple of years back, Susie gave the gift of "Alright I'll play with you at the US Open!" They did and they won Silver in the 75+ 3.0 Division.

Each year, Terry brings his trusty old harmonica and plays for his friends, some of the players on the court, and actually anyone who will listen! When asked his favorite song to play? "The Pickleball Theme Song." When asked, he said it is his own creation, and then played it for me. What a delightful couple and such enthusiasts for the sport of Pickleball and The OPEN!



TIME TO MEET SOME OF THIS MONTH'S NEWBIES



Alicia



Allen



Andrea



Andy



Betsy



Bill



Bonnie



Charles



Clayton



Gary

**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR PALATNE PICKLERS CAPS
ORDER SHIRTS TOO ... RIGHT ON PALATINEPICKLERS.COM**



Gayle



Ilona



Jackie



Jamie



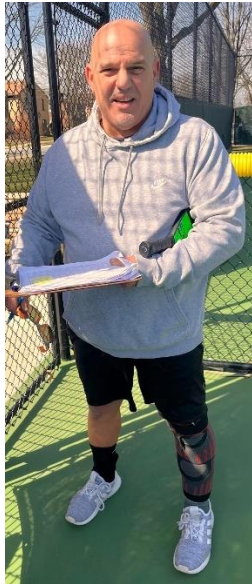
Jan



Janet



Jill



Jim



Karen



Kathy



Larry



Lisa



Margaret



Marianne



Mark



Mary



Melissa



Patrick



Rick



Rosie



Scott



Sean



Stanley



Stephanie



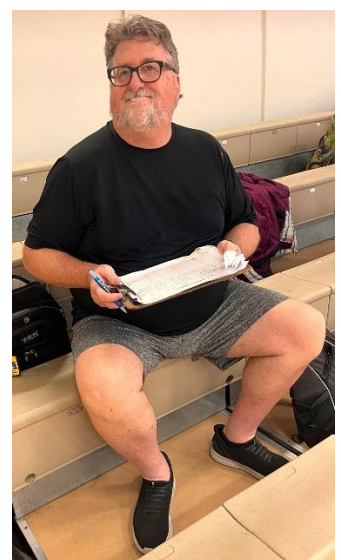
Tara



Teresa



Tina



Tom



Vicki

INDOOR MENTOREE TOURNAMENT SERVED UP A SMASH

May 2nd 24 Picklers who had participated in our indoor mentoring program since November competed in a 23-game round robin tournament at Canlan. Everyone felt it was a smash hit of an event. Afterwards 16 of us continued the fun over lunch. Here are some memories from the morning.



Kneeling: Elaine, Cathi, Cathy, Teresa, Paul, Sabine, Mary Standing: Robyn, Nancy, Jeanette, Amy, John, Barb, Mary, Joette, Sheila, Cynthia, Stephanie, Joan, Nancy, John, Laura, Dave



Front: Scorekeeper Kathy Back: Refs Bob, Dennis, Bear, Cindy, John, Frank Middle: Mary 1st, John & Sabine tie for 2nd





Let's review ... I've opened July Wednesdays for Expect To Be Available lists. Same for 3.0-3.5 intramurals. Order your shirts on our website. Order your caps as directed.

Thanks to the 24 Mentorees who chose to play in our semi-annual Mentoree Tournament.

Please get your name upside down on both sides of your paddle where the handle meets the blade, if you want to play at Hamilton.

Please unsubscribe. I won't be adding Newbies to our mailing list. All can find newsletters on Palatinepicklers.com.

Happy Summer, Picklers.

Bear Shatwell, PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com

