# PalatinePicklers.com palatinepicklers@gmail.com 

## JUNE, 2023 NEWSLETTER

DARK DAYS AT HAMILTON ... Be prepared. The Palatine Park District will have the courts resereved for their own programs on the following dates/times:
Wednesday, June 7-August 2nd 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 8th - August 3rd 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Friday, June $9^{\text {th }}-$ September $8^{\text {th }} 6: 00-9: 00$ p.m.
Courts will also be closed Friday, September $1^{\text {st }}$ for the annual Celtic Soccer tournaments. If weather causes delays, this down time may be expanded.

## NEWBIES BEING TOLD TO FIND NEWSLETTERS ON WEBSITE

We've reached the MailChimp max for free emailing of newsletters and Tweener Memos. I'm telling all Newbies to go to PalatinePicklers.com about the $5^{\text {th }}$ of each month to find the current newsletter. We'd still appreciate you clicking on UNSUBSCRIBE at the bottom of the email that brings the link to this newsletter. I'd like for those who participate in our programs (mentoring, intramurals, tournaments, socia/charity events, etc. to be able to receive my emails directly. If you're not involved in these, please unsubscribe and find newsletters and (soon) any Tweener Memos on our website.

## CHANGES ARE COMING

Before pickleball, I was already surely the Palatine Park District's first and second most invested volunteer. The hours and impact I had as President of Palatine Amateur Hockey and as Board Member/Team Manager/Yearbook producer ( 8 yrs ) for Palatine Boys Baseball consumed 20-30 hours a week, not counting time at games. Pickleball has blown that 30 -hours away so now I'm sure I'm the $1^{\text {st }}, 2^{\text {nd }}, \& 3^{\text {rd }}$ most productive volunteer in town. My wife Kathy has been incredibly tolerant, but when my laptop time for the club jumped from 30 to 40-50 hours a week, she says it's too much. I agree. Even without the grief the Park District is giving me about recruiting members, having them fill out membership info, and taking their photos on PPD property, I was ready to cut my hours. If no one wants to take over as President, here's my game plan. I'd like to hand off the management of Wednesday mentoring (and I do have a potential taker for this). I'll reduce the number of photos I put in newsletters. I may keep taking pics but use only the bests or most interesting ... and Newbies, of course. If willing to receive all my selected but unedited photos (with names) and assemble them on blank pages for me, that would be cool. I'm willing to still run intramurals, create/run fun tournaments, and mentor Thursday and Saturday. How 'bout handling the sections for medalists and/or walkers. How 'bout Picklers playing pics or Newbies? I'll provide each walker's photo and steps and all pics with names though l'll
let you edit/size them. You just put the pages together that l'll fit into the newsletters. So, if interested in being on the newsletter staff and saving these features, please let me know ... aokbarry@yahoo.com. Thanks.


## HAMILTONIANS ... PLEASE INVEST IN BALLS

"Anyone have a ball?" This is getting truly nonsensical. Come on. If you want to play at Hamilton, bring at least one ball, and have it on you. Waiting for someone to run to their car just slows things down. When Picklers head to a court, there should be at least four balls there. AND DON'T FORGET to get your name on each side of your paddle - upside down where the handle meets the blade so you can be called by name, rather than"blue pladdle, when it's your time to head to an open court.


REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR PADDLE - UPSIDE DOWN ON BOTH SIDES WHERE THE HANDLE MEETS THE BLADE - FOR PLAY AT HAMILTON

## HOW 'BOUT A COUPLE, FUN TOURNAMENTS?

HEAVY HITTERS ... This one is for male Picklers who hit the scale at 220+ pounds. We don't care about age or ability, only poundage - and we won't even ask just how much your qualifying weight is. Just be in the earliest to apply. This will be a round robin tournament for either eight or twelve of you big guys. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com that you want in this Tesday, July $18^{\text {th }}$ tournament in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. You'll pay their $\$ 10$ fee at the lobby desk. And, for those who can, we go to lunch a mile away after the tournament. Tuesday, July 18 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ 8:45 a.m. at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington.

PETITE PICKLERS ... This one is for female Picklers who weigh in at no more than 150 pounds. Again, we'll take your word for it - no scale at check-in. This will also be a round robin for either eight or twelve ladies. You, too, are invited to lunch after the tournament. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com, to register. It is first come first served so don't think too long. Tuesday, July 18 ${ }^{\text {th }} 8: 45$ a.m. at Canlan


REMEMBER WALK-ON MENTORING AT HAMILTON ON THURSDAYS FROM 3 TO 5 AND, JUST FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T ATTEND EITHER WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY METORING SESSIONS, SATURDAYS FROM 3 TO 5.

## MEET PICKLER SCOTT BROWN

Though not necessary, Scott saved me the time it would have taken to write his profile. With only minimal editing, here is his story.

Scott was born in lowa in 1956, the son of a small country church pastor. Nine years later his family moved to Oak Lawn, IL where he lived through high school. As a kid he loved playing whatever sport was in season. There was a "gang" of neighborhood kids who played football in the street, basketball in the driveway, Indian basketball, softball, and tennis. Scott has fond memories of playing these with his Dad too.

At HL Richards High, Scott played trombone in the band, orchestra, and jazz band. He also played tennis. The summer after his junior year, with a bunch of his buddies, they won the Oak Lawn Park District Me's softball championship. (Most were too young to be in a league.) That trophy is one of the few Scott has kept.


Scott attended Bethel College in MN where he met Lynn. It was love at first sight for him, but it took a while to
 convince her. One of their first dates was playing racquetball. Eventually, they got a permanent court time at what is now Midtown on Hicks Road.
;When Scott got his degree in biology/chemistry and moved back to IL to sell medical equipment, Lynn got her nursing degree in Evanston. They were married in 1980 and have lived in Palatine ever since. They have three, adult kids - David, Jackie, and Kim who went to Palatine High where they played baseball, soccer, volleyball, and water polo. Their seven grandkids swim, play soccer, softball, lacrosse, and a little pickleball. Last year Scott helped his son, serving as an Assistant Coach for his grandson's Little League team.Grandpa knew when to quit competing with them.

The family has always been active at Meadows Christian Fellowship Church where Scott found time to play basketball softball, and racquetball with the
 guys. Scott says, "Faith, family, friends, and fun have always been part of the Brown DNA. Faith, hope, and love will always remain, but the greatest of them is love."


Scott retired from Nikon Instruments, after 40 years of selling research imaging systems, laboratory microscopes, and cameras. He met a lot of great people doing that and got to travel to 49 states and see a lot of emerging science. He now enjoys reading, being outdoors, and motorcycling. He stumbled on pickleball last September, while walking around Hamilton,


He thought it looked like more fun than walking so ended up in Bear's Thursday afternoon mentoring. He had no idea how addictive pickleball could be.Then he met Dennis at mentoring who really drilled the group. Then he met Marv at Falcon who really took us to school. Scott is still amazed at Bear's energy and commitment to the Palatine Picklers.

Since his start Scott has found out how social pickleball is and has met dozens of new friends. Many of them are couples but it took weeks to find that out. He's learned that there might be gradual improvement, but he game always humbles you. He's also learned that the net always wins.

While visiting his parents in Arkansas at Easter, Scott got to teach his brother and family how to play pickleball.
 Now even their Marine son is hooked. Scott's Da played golf and tennis, until in his mideighties when he switched to pickleball until 90.

Scott says he's learned a few things from playing sports for decades - teamwork, friendship, practice, discipline, commitment, and fitness. And always keep your eye on the ball. His perspective has changed over the years, and Scott has learned that life is fragile, precious, and goes by fast. So we should be grateful for all of God's blessings and share His love while we can. And, when life gets tough, God has promsed to be with us. One of Scott's favorite Bible verses is Joshua 1:9. "Be strong and courageous, for the Lord your God is with you."


Phil


Robin


Peggy


Pat


Rick


Mike


Nancy


Teresa


Susan


Vic


Marlene


Nancy


Chris

THIS MONTH'S MEDALISTS


Christine Towers \& Harry Nichelson Ipickle Arcadia - 3.0 40+- Silver


Colleen Novak \& Pat Fisher LZ Lifetime Fitness - 3.0-Silver


Courtenay Casaccio \& Connie Kus
LZ Lifetime Fitness - 3.0-3.5-Gold c


Pat Alma Garcia \& Christine Towers
CAPA Spring Open, Fountain Valley, CA - 60+ - Bronze

## HYBRID WHEELCHAIR DIVISION

Johnny Storm and Joe Sullivan had played well together in the past so suggested they enter the new Hybrid Wheelchair category at the U.S. Open. The occupant of the chair does not have to be disabled. He/she gets two bounces and can drive the front wheels into the kitchen. There is no gender distinction for this category so men, women, and mixed all compete together. Johnny and Joe are hoping to capture the gold next year.


As you see above, Johnny and Joe took silver in their 3.5 division. Johnny is actively working to make this hybrid event a part of Illinois tournaments. Johnny and Joe are at the left above. This proved to be a fan favorite event. Interestingly, East Naples, FL has two wheelchairs that players may reserve for play. Hope we get to witness this action in the Chicago area soon. Good luck in making this happen, Johnny.

## SIX COUNTY SENIOR GAMES' DATES ANNOUNCED

There seem to be more sports than ever in this years games which run from July $6^{\text {th }}$ to the $27^{\text {th }}$, all over the suburbs. The pickleball competitions are as follows: Thursday, July 6th 8:00 a.m. Women's doubles ... Saturday, July $8^{\text {th }}$ 8:00 a.m. Men's doubles ... Sunday, July $9^{\text {th }}$ 8:00 a.m. Mixed Doubles. These are age group ony - no skill level differentiations. You can sign up online at www. ILipra.org. If you have questions or would like a prospectus of all the events, call 847-804-4876.

## HOW 'BOUT A FL CHAPTER OF THE PALATINE PICKLERS?

This was the idea of Mike Siemplenski. He told me there are so many Snowbird Palatine Picklers within 30 miles of Naples Florida, it would be great to organize. I loved the idea so agreed to publicize it. If you spend any time in that area and would enjoy bonding with other Palatine Picklers, email Mike at
MikeSiem@comcast.net. I'd be happy to pay the set-up charges for Palatine Picklers Florida Chapter shirts.


## A MESSAGE FOR MENTOREES ...

Some of you are emailing or calling Kathy to supposedly add yourself to, or remove yourself from, Expect To Be Available lists. Please don't do that. Kathy can't do that. She has to email me with your info when you do so I can update the Mentoree Availability spreadsheet. Your only contact with Kathy should be your acceptance of an invitation she sends you Monday afternoon. If you want to add or delete dates, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Thanks. Strikes (not answering an invitation by 10:00 a.m. Monday or saying you can't attend after all) waste enough of her time finding subs for you. Please don't waste more of her time having her send me stuff that should have come to me in the first place. Thank you.

## DON’T FORGET YOUR 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. Use code CHICAGO.


## I'D LOVE AN EGO TRIP

Normally, I'm not one to shine the light on myself. But now, as I look at downsizing my involvement, I'm thinking I've had a positive impact on a lot of people. A few years ago, I was nominated by a Pickler for the Pickleball Hall of Fame. I was turned down, maybe due to inadequate info. In reading the qualifications, I think I may have a shot, if some of you think I've done enough. In the first 3 pages of the Februrary, 2023 newsletter (in the palatinePicklers.com library), you'll find a summary of what l've created since drawing our logo eight years ago. I've welcomed 240 Newbies and created a few tournaments since then, but you'll get the idea. If you so choose, you can nominate me (Bear Shatwell) at https://pickleballhalloffame.com/phof-contributor/.

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## MORE PICKLERS FOR INTRAMURALS WANTED

Every other Tuesday morning all year round, 16 of us (different Picklers each time) compete from 9:00 until about 11:30 in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. These fun matches are for the $50 \%$ of Picklers who are in the intermediate ( 3.0 through 3.5) range. It pits the younger Picklers against the older 8 who are rostered that week. Each participant partners with each of his/her seven teammates for one game.

I'm adding more dates here so, even if you've been playing, let me know the dates you expect to be available (aokbarry@yahoo.com) and then enter "maybe Canlan) in the 9-Noon spot on your calendar. I send invitations to those I roster on Sunday afternoon. Accept by 10:00 a.m. Monday or risk being replaced. Thanks.


## IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)


## WORTHY WALKERS (15k+ in a day)



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

Many of you don't realize it, but you phone may be tracking your daily steps. If you have a little, red heart icon, that's where you'll your daily steps. If you get 15 K 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.


## HAMILTON LOTS WILL BE CLOSED SOMETIME

The Palatine Park District has let me know that the Hamilton parking lots will be closed for resurfacing the week of either June $5^{\text {th }}$ or June $12^{\text {th }}$. When this happens, we are invited to park on Cunningham (north of the cages).

## MORE DATES FOR BOTH INTRAMURALS AND MENTORING

OK, INTRAMURALISTS ... Let me know your availability. I've added August now, but here are all the upcoming dates ... 6/6 6/20 7/11 7/25 8/8 and 8/22. Let me know your anticipated availability ... aokbarry@yahoo.com

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MENTOREES ... Here are your upcoming dates ... 6/7 6/14 6/21 6/28 7/5 7/12 7/19 7/26 8/2 8/9 8/16 $8 / 23$ and $8 / 30$. Let me know on which ETBA (Expect To Be Available) lists you'd like to appear. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.


## ANOTHER COINCIDENCE ANECDODTE

Kathy and I went down to Monmouth College last weekend, to celebrate the Illinois Gamma chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon's 75 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ anniversary. LOTS of Sig Eps from 19 to 95 years of age were there. The Emcee was Brad Nahrstadt, past President of our chapter and holder of numerous offices in the National Sig Ep organization.

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He's a highly successful, recently retired attorney in the Chicago area. Another speaker chided him about pickleball. I had to follow up on that. After his hours of introducing speakers, etc., I asked him about his involvement in the sport. After a minute or two, we learned we'd exchanged a few emails in May, when he joined our club. As I write this on $5 / 28$, he'll make his Palatine debut tomorrow on Hamilton's competitive courts. Palatine Picklers seem to be everywhere. I love it. Hope that Florida chapter of our club gets started.


HOW TO ORDER YOUR CAPS
First, select your color at
https://www.sportswearcollection.com/colors?site=VEYHZXBZHU for baseball caps or The Game GB400-Ultralight Booney (sportswearcollection.com) for Booney hats. Then send your selection to http://PicklerCaps@gmail.com.

## WANT TO PLAY AT A GIVEN PLACE \& TIME?

Then you need to start using the TeamReach ap. Our original code is 9966pal. You can enter when and where you would like to play. It may take a while to get Picklers accustomed to checking this a few times a week so pick a time a few days in advance.


## THANKS, PAT, FOR THE AWESOME "PLAY TO

 95 SIGN Pat Morgan has put his woodworking skills to good use, to benefit our Hamilton play. We had a sign, but it was pretty plebian. Thanks, Pat, for adding class to our organized, crowded play.Page 19 of 26


## WE'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU

Over the years I have, now with Scott, profiled 50 Palatine Picklers. It's time to let us get to know a little more about the you we don't see on the courts. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com, and I'll send you profile prompter questions. You don't have to write anything, other than very objective responses to those prompts. I will write your profile. You'll just share some interesting (yes, you are) aspects of your life so far. Of course, you'll also provide some photos of you involved in anything other than pickleball. Please don't be shy. I've gotten feedback that Picklers really love these "up close and personal" glimpses of their Pickler peers.

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Bo


Anne


Bill


Bob


Jesse


Sue


Ann


Dave


Carol


Alla


Toni

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## HAMILTONIANS INVITED TO A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Mark J Coplon frequented Hamilton's courts a lot, sometimes with his brother-inlaw, Pickler Gary Thompson. Unfortunately, Mark suffered a heart attack and stroke and passed away on May $4^{\text {th }}$, after six weeks in the hospital and one month shy of his $70^{\text {th }}$ birthday. For those who would like to pay their respects and remember Mark, his Celebration of Life is set for Friday, June $30^{\text {th }}$, from 5 to 10 p.m. at Chandler's Chophouse, Grille \& Banquets. That's at 401 N Roselle Road in Schaumburg. It will be held in the Augusta Room. Beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

## I'VE MET A LOT OF MAY'S NEWBIES SO HERE WE GO...



Allen


Barbara


Beth


Betty


Bob H1


Bob H2


Bobbie


Brad


Carl


Deb


Eileen


Frank


Fred


Gayle


George


Heather


Ira


Iwona


Jay


Jay


Jeanne


Jeff


Jim


Joanne


Kaki


Katherine


Kathy



Penny


Phil


Robin


Ruth
Sandy
Sue
Sue


## QUICK REVIEW OF MENTORING

I started the Mentoring program seven years ago. The goal was to get new picklers (well, Picklers, as Mentorees have to be members of the PPC) going in their new addiction with a great start, knowing basic rules, positioning, shot selection. Techniques, etc. Since then we've mentored more than 500 newer players. If you're new to the game or want a $1^{\text {st }}$ or2nd year tune up, sign up for Wednesday mornig sessions. These are invitation only. Send me at aokbarry@yahoo.com the Wednesday mornings you Expect To Be Available. I'll put you on those ETBA lists. Then check your email Monday
 afternoons, to see if you got an invitation for that Wednesday. You will NOT get every week you'd like. We have a ton of wannabe Mentorees. We're told this is the best, free training program in the suburbs. If you're new, please don't be shy. We WILL treat you gently and with respect. Though less structured and subject to court availability and the number of Mentorees who show

up, Thursday afternoon at Hamilton 3:00-5:00 has been embraced too. We WANT to help you develop your skills and knowledge. Email me your available Wednesday morenings at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

## WEBSITE IN NEED OF UPDATING

I hope to give our website a much needed updating this month. It's needed it for a couple months, but it hasn't been high enough on my priority list to address. A ton of newbies Now that I'm backing off what l'll be doing for the club, I'll have time to get to that finally. Entering and welcoming Newbies, updaing Mentoring availability and assigning Wednesday courts, running intramurals, mentoring two afternoons, starting both Wedesday mentorees, dozens of daily emails, selecting/editing pics, dealing with outside sources wanting a piece of us, etc. have been more pressing. Thanks for your patience.

## LET'S KEEP THIS CLUB ON TRACK ... THAT NEEDS YOU

Let me summarize the staff I'd love to create for our newsletters. Wihout volunteers, some features will have ended.

1) Walkers Editor ... Take pics and steps and names I give you, edit them, and create a page (any way you wish).
2) Newbies Editor ... I'll give you pics and names. You edit them and put them in allpha order on pages of your choice.
3) Medalists Editor ... I'll have Picklers send YOU their pics and details. You won't have to do as I did in searching pickleballtouraments.com for names you recognize and chase them down for pics and details. (You won't know all the Picklers). Edit the pics, get the details below or beside them any way you like using whatever software you want.
4) Wednesday Mentoree Manager ... Actually, I'll keep handling this, until Neal moves and Big John mentors weekly.
5) Action Shot Editor ... I'll keep taking pics, toss the poor ones, send them to you to edit, size, and place on pages however you choose.
6) Fun Tournament Coordinator ... You can create your own tournaments and run with the ideas I give you. You'll receive all the interested Picklers, create the format (I can help), create the scoreboards (I'll give you several), and run the event.
7) Intramural Manager ... I'll supply you with the Picklers who are available for each match, along with their dates of birth. You select your rosters, invite them, create teams based on DOB (I'll supply), fill in the scoreboard I'll give you, and run the events every other Tuesday year-round.
8) Profile Manager ... I don't mind continuing to turn raw info into a profile, but I'd be happy to relinquish this task, if we have a people-loving writer who would love to bring objective information to life.

Obviously, the newsletter will look different in the future. If Picklers step up and accept some of these positions, pages will differ in style, type size, format, etc. There may be large white spaces between pages, etc. It doesn't matter. We'll still be giving Picklers all the information and photos they want. Mismatched pages, photos not facing the middle of the page, grammatical errors, etc. may be fingernails on the blackboard to me, but I don't care. I WANT the club, and the newsletters, to thrive. I'm ready to love being just Editor in Chief writing only newsy stuff.

In closing this newsletter, I REALLY want to thank my awesome bride for having tolerated my being on my laptop every waking hour not on the courts, eating, or sleeping.


Starting and growing the Palatine Picklers has been the most rewarding endeavor of my life, and I have been blessed with so many. I got involved in youth hockey and boy's baseball, and now pickleball, to "pay my dues." I have been so blessed in my life that I knew I had a lot of dues to pay. I'm finally comfortable with feeling I've just about covered that tab. I'd like to now continue paying that by finishing my book, "A Guide for the Newly Widowed ... or anyone who knows one who is." Needless to say, pickleball kind of sidetracked me from that goal.

We may just have the most awesome, welcoming, nurturing, event-oriented, fun pickleball club in the country. I hope some of you will step up to keep it that way. Now it's time for me to say, "Hi, Kathy. Let's do something fun together."

Happy pickling.
Bear Shatwell
PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com

