

#### PalatinePicklers.com

palatinepicklers@gmail.com

#### **SEPTEMBER, 2024 NEWSLETTER**

#### ANOTHER MAJOR MILESTONE



Meet Hannah Chai. On Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> about 10:00 a.m. at Hamilton she became the **4,000**<sup>th</sup> **member** I have welcomed to the Palatine Pickleball Club. Though they are coming more rapidly than they did 9.5 years ago when I started the club, the club has grown by an average of 35 new members per month. As my emailed welcomes state, "We are surely the most welcoming, most nurturing, and most event-oriented club around – and we think we're also the friendliest and most fun."

As I write this, we have 4,031 members, 1249 of whom live in Palatine. Many more are in the Park District, but reside in Inverness, Hoffman Estates, or Rolling Meadows.

#### **INTRAMURALS AND MENTORING FOR REST OF 2024**

**INTRAMURALS** ... Our ongoing intramural program for intermediate (3.0-3.5) Picklers is every other Tuesday year-round. I've already made rosters for 9/3 so look toward 9/17 and every other week thereafter. To give this a try, email me at <a href="mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com">aokbarry@yahoo.com</a> with both your available dates and your MMDDYY date of birth. Each match pits the younger Picklers against more aging ones. This is for FUN; it's not that serious. Try it.

**MENTURING** ... Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday Mentorees are invited to register for the Mentoree Tournament on the morning of November 5<sup>th</sup> in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. This will be limited to the first 24 Mentorees to apply so do not wait. It will be two round robin tournaments (early alphabet of first names and latter half). You'll partner with each of your 11 peers for one game to 8 points. Let's put "I'm not good enough" to rest. You CANNOT impact the outcome. The top three Picklers will likely finish 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Why? Because you'll have been a partner of EVERYONE in the tournament. This has been fun for hundreds of Mentorees over the years. Then we enjoy lunch a mile away. email me at <a href="mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com">aokbarry@yahoo.com</a>.

#### CALL THIS A SHIRTY NEWSLETTER – I WON'T BE OFFENDED

I've been taking pics of fun, pickleball shirts for quite a while, but you haven't seen those pics in a newsletter. That's about to change. Not only will you see a LOT of Picklers' shirts, you'll see a LOT of Picklers, even many who are no longer with us, in Palatine Picklers shirts. Let's go.











Ann

Denise

Laurie

Linda

Lynn











Lynne

Dan

Debbie

George

Neal

BIRCHWOOD PICKLEBALL BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 11:30

FALCON BEGINS MONDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 8:30 TO 12:30



















#### **DON'T FORGET OUR PICKLER 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 <a href="mailto:grtfuldad@aol.com">grtfuldad@aol.com</a>.

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

25% OFF anything from Gammasports.com, with the code ba\_soderborg25

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











Dan Frank

Gerd

Don Anita











Satish

Sandy

Sandi





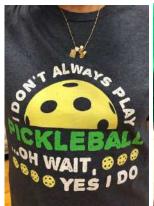






















Angelina

Steve

Wendy

Sue









Stephanie Sabine Pauline Patti



















#### LET'S TRY A PICTORAL PROMO FOR INTRAMURALS

A lot of Palatine Picklers have loved competing in these fun, team competitions, every other Tuesday (except for during the holidays) for more than two years. However, there should be dozens and dozens more who should be getting in on the fun. If you are even close to my intended 3.0 to 3.5 intermediate range, I'll put you on a roster. You WILL have fun. If your ability is either obviously above or obviously below our target range, at least you'll have had one enjoyable and full morning of pickleball ... and some great lunch conversation. I haven't given intramural gatherings the same coverage as I do tournaments, because there's 25-26 of them each year. However, I thought it may help you feel comfortable getting into the intramural stable, if you see we aren't that frightening. So here is the group I rostered for play on August 6<sup>th</sup>.



L to R – Ron, Gerd, Bea, Mary Jo, Karen, Colleen, Pat, Bill, Janet, Dave, Pam, Jim W, Mark, Janice, and Jim S. Fewer than half of these Picklers are Hamilton regulars. Seven are former, or current, Mentorees. Each match finds a different group on the courts. Each time I arrange partcipants in birth order. The younger half of men and ladies comprise the Whippersnappers that week, while their senior peers make up the Wise Ones. A number of them will be on one team one match and the other the next. Right now there's only about three dozen Picklers in the stable. Sixteen are selected for each match (8 men and 8 ladies). I'd like to have 50 or 60 Picklers in the stable. You tell me which dates you Expect To Be Available. (Start with 9/17 and every other week thereafter). Then check your email on the Sunday afternoons before those dates, to see if you're rostered that week. Of course, if a conflict arises, you MUST email me to take you off that ETBA list by noon Saturday before the match – the earlier the better. So ... email me at <a href="mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com">aokbarry@yahoo.com</a> to get into our stable of intramuralists. Now for lunch ...



The intramural matches end just in time to drive a mile to Kelsey Road House for lunch.onding The food is excellent, the service terrific, the prices really reasonable, and the bonding perfect.

So why not email me right now with your availability. And do NOT say you're not good enough or you don't do tournaments. If you're not good enough, you'll be one and done, and no one cares. This is NOT a tournament. It's just three hours of play, without ten minutes between games. Again, I'm at <a href="mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com">aokbarry@yahoo.com</a>. I hope to hear from a couple dozen of you.









. Kim Mardy Marv Pat











Marilyn Jeff Gus Gail Gary



























**Brigitte** 



Bill



Bear



Barb

**HOW TO GET INTO WEDNESDAY MENORING** 

While Thursday and Saturday mentoring sessions are fun and helpful, Wednesday morning sessions remain the most beneficial. Each participant will share a with court with three students of similar experience/ability and spend half an hour with each of three Mentors. Just email me at <a href="mailto:AokBarry@yahoo.com">AokBarry@yahoo.com</a> with the Wednesdays you expect to be available. Then check your email on Monday afternoons, to see if you're invited to either the 9:30 or 10:30 Wednesday session. Of course, let me know to that you off the ETBA (Expect To Be Available) list, if a conflict arises.

#### **CHECK OUT THE ORIGINS OF PICKLEBALL**

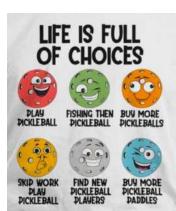
Pickler Jim Farina forwarded this documentary to me. Some of us already have our names on bricks at the historic site on Baimbridge Island so know this story well. I imagine most of you are not quite as aware so this will give you the history lesson worth knowing. Thanks, Jim.

Just click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kPJDi4LF1o

#### NOW BACK TO STUFFING SHIRTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER



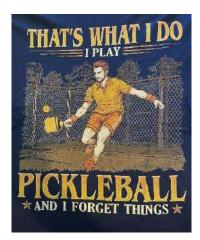
































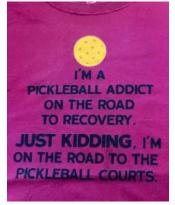
Marcia Martina Mary Linda Linda



















#### **OLDEST MEN & WOMEN TOURNAMENTS COMING UP**

This is a favorite every year. It will be Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington, starting at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will follow a mile away. As usual it's a round robin so you'll partner with each of your 11 peers for one game. Email me at <a href="mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com">aokbarry@yahoo.com</a> with your MMDDYY date of birth. The oldest 12 of each gender by 9/30 will be rostered. On 10/1 I'll everyone - those who made the roster and those who were too late.











. Chris Cindy Darrell Gil Janet









. Danny Jeff Joan





















Tracey

Susan

Steve

Scott



Paul







Miles

Nez Mike

### LOVED 2<sup>ND</sup>, LATE SUMMER PICNIC FOR HAMILTONIANS

On Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, Hamilton Picklers partied for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in Deer Grove Forest Preserve. Our new Social Director Chris Vaia, with assists from JoAnne McNamee and Karyn Picchiotti, organized this 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamilton Picklers picnic. About 40 attended. Humbly, I'll share that I was recognized again for my contribution to the enjoyment of PPC members. I was given



Picklers who were first to arrive







Later to arrive

One of Chris's signs

Corn Hole winners in middle Carole & . John, surrounded by runners-up Bob & Jossie







. Organizer Chris

Corn Hole tournament

Watchers

Chris brought croquet too, but the grass was so long it would take a sand wedge, rather than a croquet mallet to advance the ball. The number of desserts brought was incredibly, deliciously huge. Thanks everyone. Another pickleriffic day.























Bob

Cathy

**Dennis** 

Donna









Gregg Gregg

Jenny

Karen



























Karen

Kathy

Pat

Patty









Nancy

Linda

Mary

Kim



























Kim

Kevin

Karen

Mike







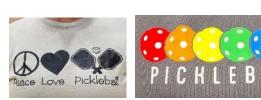


Natalie

Ron

Shelly

Tracy





























Thea

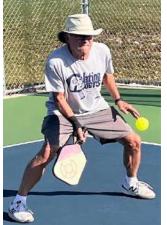
Terry

Steve

Kevin

Melody











Michelle

Mike

Mike

Kathy

John

THIS ENDS PART 1 OF THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

# THIS BEGINS PART 2 OF THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER MEET PICKLER JIM SULZER

Jim was born in Chicago in 1953. His work resume began at age 14 making donuts at Dunkin Donuts. He and attended Niles East HS in Skokie During summers he worked at a warehouse. He was on the fencing and tennis teams and earned MVP status in tennis. He enjoyed playing in local tennis tournaments and won his share of them in the 16 and under division. His competitive tennis ended with his HS graduation in 1971. During those HS summers, Jim worked in a large factory as a spot welder. However, because he was tall, they made him a painter. As a Foreign Exchange Student, Jim lived with a family in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Jim attended the University of Illinois. After his freshman year, he and (Pickler) friend left Skokie with \$60 and hitchhiked to Oregon and down the west coast. They were gone all summer and found strangers incredibly kind along the way. He graduated in three years with a degree in sociology and a minor in accounting. He went straight to U of I Law School, graduated at age 23. After the bar exam, rather than look for work right away, he of course headed to Alaska for a month. Then he began working for a small, general practice law firm. He wasted no time in branching out. He taught nights at a paralegal school, receiving "top teacher" award in his second year. Then he "retired" from law practice to travel the world. He met up with a good friend going to school in London. They spent the summer hitchhiking through Europe, from Amsterdam to Yugoslavia.



At right Jim thinks he resembles writer-comedian Larry David

With no thoughts of the future, Jim and his best 4th grade friend booked one-way tickets to

Sydney, with a stop in Tahiti. No plans or places to stay. Once in Tahiti they canceled their ticket to Australia and, instead, spent two months touring remote islands in the South Pacific including Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, and Cook Islands. They traveled mostly by small boats and an occasional, 4-seater planes. Young children would follow them, just to touch their white skin. They stayed with natives in open Fales with just a thatched roof, no inside or outside walls, no running water, electricity, or plumbing. The natives didn't have a concept of



private property. They'd routinely rifle through their backpacks. A highlight of the South Pacific was having dinner with the King of Tonga. Next came the north and south islands of New

Zealand. In two months they paid for lodging only the first night. Then they stayed In homes of people they met along the way. New Zealanders were incredibly curious about everything in America. Next came Australia where thy bought a car for \$300 and traveled the whole country over several months...up the east coast, the Great Barrier Reef, down the center to Alice Springs, and eventually to Perth where they sold the car for \$250 the day they left. Along their they picked up travelers to share the cost. While in Australia, Jim managed to find himself in a pool of water he should have avoided. He caught a "bunch" of leeches. They were painless except for Jim's attempts to cut them off his body.

From there they went to Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. Then Jim split with his friend and went to India for a quick visit. He had to get back home to the Moose Lodge in Marshalltown, IA to stand up in Phil Riskin's wedding.

Think that's enough adventure for one profile? Uh, nope. Jim went on a winter climb in the Rockies with no tent. They built snow caves every night and weare roped together, in case of an avalanche. Then he went igh altitude trekking in Nepal where he got sick with cerebral edema (swelling of the brain). That was the most painful experience of Jim's life. He went down to a high-altitude hospital. The cure was to go down as fast as possible. Next he went to the Chitwan Jungle where he caught a parasite in the water. He wound up back here in Lutheran General as their star patient. They sent all the interns and med students to gawk, examine, and ask questions, for days on end. Seems Nepal parasites are a rarity in Park Ridge. He was cured, though he lost 30 pounds in the process, and he was already skinny.

Think Jim was finally ready to give up the adventurous life? Not quite. He climbed Mount Kilimanjaro without injury or illness...took the Trans-Siberian Express out of Moscow, spent a week in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, hiked the W Trek in Patagonia, and walked up Mount Fiji in Japan. In later years he went to annual yoga retreats each winter in Yelapa, Mexico – not to do yoga, but to hang out with those who do. Curently, Jim takes annual music trips to Ireland and Scotland.

When Jim finally returned from his world tour, he opened a law firm with three friends. His main practice was in the area of adaptive reuse which consisted of representing developers n

the south and west lop who bought large, old, industrial or commercial buildings and converted them to "luxury," residential lofts. The projects lasted an average of five years, to acquire, rezone, rebuild, and sell. Of course, there were the obligatory lawsuits from dissatisfied buyers and condo associations. These lasted several more years. (Would-be buyers should talk to Jim. He has suggestions I won't share here.)

Jim met his wife Paula at the U of I when he was in law school. They moved in together a few months before he left to see the world. They adopted three great infants from Korea. Their oldest, Steven, is getting married next month. Middle son Michael has four boys (4 mo to 13 yrs). Daughter Megan was married one year ago in a beautiful, outdoor, Lake Forest wedding. All three kids remain in the area which make Jim and Paula very happy. Sadly, Jim and Paula divorced very amicably after 18 years, but remain very close friends. She was a great Mom.



Jim met his new partner, Char Jackson, riding the Metra train in 2017. She moved in during the pandemic. The house went from no pictures on the wall and two, tiny succulents to a home filled with a collection of odd stuff on the walls he never knew he needed (surprise) and about 100 plants everywhere. They hired a retired farmer to water them. Char's dad was iconic weatherman Harry Volkman. If your kids/grandkids watched Veggie Tales, Char was the character of the leek.

Phil Riskin introduced Jim to pickleball, after Jim had gone from tennis to racquetball to

squash. When a permanent injury ended his pursuit of squash, he was desperate for a racket/paddle sport. His first thought about pickleball was, basically, he was way too young. He's since had enlightenment. The Palatine Picklers are an amazing, welcoming group, and he's forever grateful to be a part of this group. He loves the camaraderie at any skill level.

Jim's passion is in education. He's a lifelong learner at The Graham School at the University of Chicago, since 2005. For 19 years he's taken classes in philosophy, history, literature, and religion. He serves on the Development Committee. He's also served on the Board of the



Montessori School of Englewood, a Chicago Public Charter School, since its inception 12 years ago. This is an area of hunger crime, and poverty. Parents want a safe area to raise their kids and have a good education. Jim volunteers there, teaching critical thinking to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. His attempt to use Socrates and the Meno that is taught to freshman at University of Chicago was a disaster, but Jim learned to appreciate teachers and their challenges. He also serves on the Board of a preschool in Englewood. He's a big believer in Head Start as the most cost-effective wat to leverl the educagtional playing field.

Favorite quote: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you an use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela.



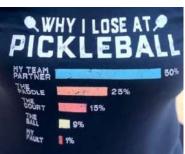


























Во

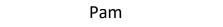
. Amy Daniel Ann











Pat

Ryan



































. JoAnne Joanne Jim Jim



























Jennie

Bryan

Frank









Dave Debbie Dave Donna







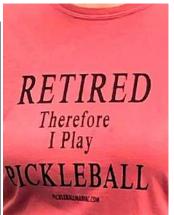


#### THIS ENDS PART 2 OF THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

#### **PART 3 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

















Kate

Kathy

Kathy

Mike









Tippi Ron Tom Suren

#### **GOVERNMENT WORKERS TOURNAMENT**

Whether in the military, post office, politics, teaching, or municipal service, I'd thought this tournament would attract at least a couple dozen Picklers. Oh, well, it's one and done. The eight who did want to play had a wonderful morning.





. Matt, Angela, Marcia, Dave, Marianne, Adam, Gail, Terry

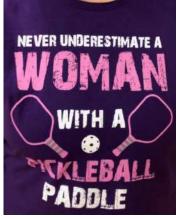
Dave won Marianne & Matt tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### **ANOTHER REVIEW OF WHAT EARNS A "STRIKE"**

Despite write-ups and in-person reviews, we rarely go a week without issuing a strike, either for mentoring or intramurals. Invitations are sent two afternoons before the event. They must be accepted by 10:00 a.m. the next morning to avoid a strike. To come off an availability list, my must email me by noon Saturday, to avoid a strike. If you contact Mentoree Scheduler Kathy with anything but acceptance, it's a strike. 2 strikes, and you're on 6-month suspension.



























Bob

Carol

Carole

Charlotte









Debbie

Frank

Fran

Freddy



























Don Heather

Henry

Caro

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Jaime Jeff

Jill Joane

















#### WE DID IT DURING COVID - WE CAN DO IT AGAIN

We each had to have our own ball and touch only that ball. So every court played with 4 balls. Let's get back to everyone taking a ball to the court. It will move things along better.

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Erin Pat Dori Bob









Jill Larry Julie Linda



























Judy

Bill









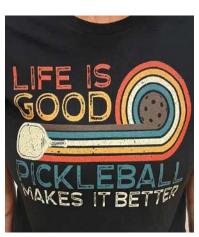
Maureen Karen Karen























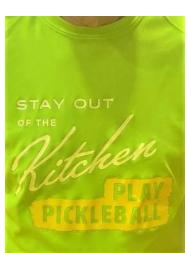


John Pat John



















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. Jim Joanie Stana Sue Steve









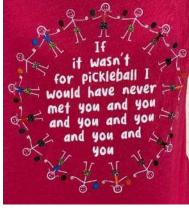


Jane Howard John Susan Cindy





























JoAnne

(sorry)

Judy











Lisa

**Becks** 

Kaleigh

Arlene

Dave





















Jim

IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

## **ULTRA SUPER STEPPERS (30K+ in a day)**



30,653



Jeff Colish

Jonny Storm

#### **SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)**



27,888

27,037



24,146



**Matt Fiorito** 

Jeff Colish

Ben Farb



23,085

20,366



**Scot Shatwell** 

**Denise Hopkins** 

#### **WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)**



18,721

**Denise Hopkins** 



18,556

**Matt Fiorito** 



17,664

Ben Farb









16,200 Kathy Ford

Jesse Cohen



15,754

Sheila O'Gara

15,523



**Bear Shatwell** 

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

Many of you don't 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!









Bill

Greg Ken Lori





. Lee Debbie Fred Debbie

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. Wendy Carin Hayden Karin

#### **MEMBERS' MEDALS**



. Patty Eagleton WI Masters – 65-69 . Gold



Rich Walker & Rick Johnson - 6 Co Sr Games – 70+ - Gold



Masato Suzuki & *Daniel Leon* – 6 Co. Sr Games – 70+ - Silver









Patty Eagleton & *Gail - Ed Falkenberg* & Patty Masato Suzuki & *Daniel Ed Gordon* & Sue Cole – WI Masters - WIMasters–65-69–Gold WI Masters–Silver *Leon*–WI Masters-70+ Bronze Mixed - 80+ - Gold

#### HAMILTON WILL BE CLOSED TO PICKLEBALL

The annual Celtic Cup Soccer Tournament will force the pickleball courts to be closed from Noon, August 30<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday morning, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. To say the parking lot will be needed is an understatement.

#### 3rd ANNUAL AH SR CENTER TOURNAMENT IN 2 WEEKS

Below is an email from Paul LoBue from the AH Senior Center. Once again he's having Jose run their fundraising tournament. This year, sadly, our Dennis Bourgoin remains on the injured sti reserve list. He's been the lining genius the last two years. Paul needs a number of volunteers, often Palatine Picklers ... especially a couple to line the tennis courts.

If you are able, please email Paul that you're willing to volunteer. He'll have numerous jobs for you, but mention that you'll give lining courts a try, if you can.

If you're hoping to still get into the tournament, here's the registration form This is round robin so no partner needed. Here's the registration link: <a href="https://arlingtonseniorsinc.com/">https://arlingtonseniorsinc.com/</a>

#### **Paul LoBue**

From:lobuep1234@gmail.com (email Paul at this address to volunteer)

Hi Jose and Bear,

We're excited to share that we're planning to host our 3rd annual Pickleball fundraising tournament for **players 55+ on Saturday, September 14th** this year. Last week we sent emails to our previous players, giving them an opportunity to register first. Today, we're opening the tournament up to all interested players. We'll have 10 courts this year, so we'll be able to host 80 players.

Please feel free to share the attached registration flyer with anyone that you think might be interested. Also, please encourage them to register as soon as they can. We filled up pretty quickly last year. Again, register at <a href="https://arlingtonseniorsinc.com/">https://arlingtonseniorsinc.com/</a>

Thank you both for your support during the past several years, it meant alot to all of us supporting the A.H.S.C.

Paul

P.S. We also need volunteers to help set up and clean up. Just email me.

#### **UPDATE ON DONATING USED PADDLES**

Just get them to Arnie Walker. If you don't see him at Hamilton, you can email him at hi ace0722@yahoo.com. Good cause, and good way to get rid of unwanted paddles.

## **AUGUST NEWBIES**



















































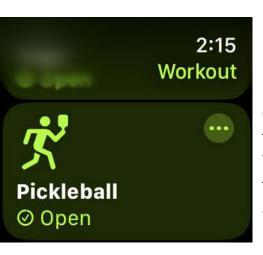








**DO YOU HAVE AN APPLE WATCH?** 



Here's another contribution from Jim Farina. If you have an Apple Watch, did you know that Pickleball is one of the activity options available on the Workout menu? You can log your time on the court, total calories, active calories, and heart rate.





## WE HAD OUR "MEN IN BLACK" PHOTO ... NOW IT'S "PRETTY IN PINK"

Once again, purely by coincidence, Brian Knight noticed these four on the court next to his and took this photo. They are Lois, Sally, Lisa, and Cindy. Fun coincidence.



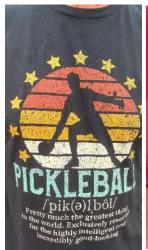




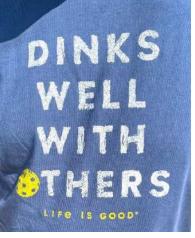
Kathy



Jonny









#### THAT'S ALL, FOLKS

I'd been looking forward to doing a shirty newsletter, for more than a year. I began working on this since mid-July. Thought it would be fun for you to laugh at some shirts and see a lot of well-dressed Picklers, including several friends who are no longer with us. It's been nine and a half years since I hand-drew our logo and had it printed on a dozen, cotton shirts. Now we have all sorts of color and style options and even caps, car decals, and patches bearing it.



Sandwiched between all the shirts were a few things I hope you saw. First is our annual Oldest Men and Oldest Ladies tournaments on October 3rd. Then there were a couple appeals to intermediate level Picklers to send me their MMDDYY DOB and every other Tuesdays (beginnig 10/3) they could play in intramurals all morning. So much fun. I also invited newer Picklers to send me the Wednesday mornings through the end of October they expect to be available for mentoring. We saw action from the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hamilton Picklers Picnic. I love that we're getting more and more walkers sending their proof of 15,000+ steps in a day. The semiannual Mentoree tournament November 5th will accept the first 24 to apply. We met the adventurous Jim Sulzer and learned of the origins of pickleball. We now know what to do with paddles we no longer use. We learned to exploit the versatility of our Apple Watch. And, yes, we reviewed the "strike" policy for

mentoring and intramurals. We also learned indoor pickleball starts on the 3rd of THIS month. We saw our Government Workers tournament results.

In case you're wondering, there are 542 photos in this newsletter. That's 186 more than our 2<sup>nd</sup> place newsletter. It's also ten pages longer than our 2<sup>nd</sup> longest newsletter. I'm taking September off from running tournaments. Sorry.

Hope you enjoyed this one. I assure you its records will NOT be broken.

Happy pickling.

Bear PicklersPrez aokbarry@yahoo.com