

# PalatinePicklers.com 

palatinepicklers@gmail.com

## JANUARY, 2024 NEWSLETTER

## HERE'S TO A HAPPY \& HEALTHY NEW YEAR

This headline is valid again. COVID is still in play, but almost all of us have all our vaccinations andf boosters (and RSV and flu also). So we should experience a winter with minimal impact. Let's start this newsletter with a truly fun, annual event ... our Ugly Holiday Sweater Judging \& Tournament.


Kneeling: Bob, Kim, Clay, Sheila, Pam Standing: Carole, Kathy, Chris F, Jeff, Patti, Chris D, Bear, Joanie, Donna, Debbie, and Karen. This is SO much fun. It's a shame we don't have even more participating. OK, one at a time.


All our Palatine Picklers tournaments are not only a lot of fun, they're also non-stressful. I run only round robin tournaments so you will partner with everyone for one game. You CANNOT impact the outcome. The top three will likely finish as the top three. No matter how bad you are, you won't hurt anyone's chances.


Sweater winners Bear $2^{\text {nd }}$, Karen $1^{\text {st }}$, Kim $^{\text {rd }}$



Forgot to get a photo of a bunch of us enjoying lunch, but five of us (Bear, Bob, Carole, Kathy, \& Sheila) then headed to Langendorf courts in Barrington to play some more. (Gave me 10k+ steps.) The fun never ends.


## RED/PINK VALENTINES COUPLES TOURNAMENT

Last year's was so much fun, let's make it an annual event. Married couples and SOs (and we have well over 100 of them) are invited to dress one in red and one in pink and play other happy couples on Thursday, February $8^{\text {th }}$ at the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. Yes, of course, we'll go to lunch afterward. You'll pay Canlan's \$10 fee at the lobby desk about 8:45 a.m. Email me your interest at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Thanks.

## LAST CHANCE FOR UNTALL LADIES TO, MAYBE, GET INTO THE TOURNAMENT

We've enjoyed three, Untall Ladies tournaments. Thursday, January $11^{\text {th }}$ is the date of our fourth. It will start at 9:00 a.m. at Canlan. This is for ladies who have not achieved an altitude of more than $5^{\prime} 2^{\prime \prime}$. It will be a round robin so you will play one game with each of your diminutive peers. Of course, you'll enjoy lunch when you're done playing, if your schedule allows. If you'd like to get in on this fun, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. I need two more for sure, but l'd like six more. Please play. You'll love it.

## SHIRTS ... BUY THEM \& WEAR THEM 1/19

More than 800 Palatine Picklers shirts have been purchased. Since COVID I haven't called for a "shirt day." Let's get back on track. Friday January 19 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ at Falcon, l'll call for a stoppage of play at 10:00 a.m. so all who are wearing a Palatine Picklers can gather in front of this red curtain and get photographed. Mark this on your calendar, as every photo day finds Picklers mumbling about having forgotten to wear their shirt.

Now, let's get shirtless Picklers into uniform. Go to PalatinePicklers.com and click SHIRTS. Do this on a computer, not a phone. Click SHIRTS and buy all you want right online. We'll tell you where to send your check. We need a preorder of 18 shirts, before we can place our order which takes about three weeks to get and print. Most of these puppies are only $\$ 18$, but we have sweatshirts and long-sleeve that may be more. Cotton shirts are even less. Please do not order a color that isn't mentioned by us. You wouldn't be happy.


## FORGOTTEN VOLUNTEER ... SO SORRY

I truly hate mental errors and senility. I tried to recognize all the 2023 volunteers in the December newsletter, but an unfortunate brain fart caused me to omit an obvious one. Bob McGowan replaced me as Intramural Statistician a few years ago. Within hours after receiving a photo of the scoreboard, he sends me a spreadsheet of individual and team stats for the morning's play. He has a magic software that does this about an hour faster than it took me. Thanks, Bob. We all love your work.

You'll find a photo of Bob's smiling face in the section of this newsletter featuring Worthy Walkers.

## ANNUAL, BIONIC BODIES TOURNAMENT

This year it will be Thursday, March $7^{\text {th }}$ at Canlan at 9:00 a.m. If you've had a hip, knee, shoulder replaced or have permanent metal, other than in your mouth, in your body, you're eligible to participate. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

Of course, we'll take all our bionic parts to Kelsey Road House a mile away for lunch, after I take a pic of our top three Bionic Picklers.


## MEET PICKLER FRED PHILLIPS

Born in Chicago in 1949, Fred Phillips grew up in Rodgers Park, graduated from Sullivan HS ('67) and Bradley University ('71) with a BS in Business and Marketing, after meeting Bev. They married in 1972 in Chicago. Rather than go into the family jewelry business, Fred used those connections to land a job as a Sales Rep for Speidel, the watch band company. Then he moved to Seiko, the watch company. For consistently making his sales quotas, he was made a President's Club Member. As the Midwest's \#1 Salesman, Seiko sent Fred and Bev to the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. After 29 years as a commission salesman, Fred took early retirement in 2000.


Bev and Fred had a small starter home in Arlington Heights, but with a growing family, they had a home build in Long Grove on a large lot with horses behind it. Both the Phillips and the horses are still there. However, in 2006, Bev and Fred bought a mountain home near Scottsdale in an area called McDowell Mountain
Ranch. 2023 photo there is below right.
Fred and Bev's $50^{\text {th }}$ anniversary photo is above left.
Their daughters, Jennifer and Brooke attended Stevenson HS. Jennifer went to U of I and then got her Masters at American

Village of Long Grove Newsu:zit:


Fred Phillips Retires After 40 Years of Service to the Village


University in Washington DC. She now works for the US State Department and is married to Gabino Villanueva who she met on assignment in Mexico. They live in Washington DC with their two daughters, Mattea (9) and Lucia (7).

Brooke went to Bradley, Mom \& Dad's alma mater, where she met her hubby Mason Kidd. Though they started in Seattle, they've moved to Buffalo Grove about six minutes from her parents. Convenient, as they have 14-year old Hayden and 11-year old Madison.

Two years after Fred and Bev moved to Long Grove, he was asked to become a member of the Village Plan Commission. He liked the idea of giving back to their new community. This, as all Village Government positions is strictly volunteer. Once Fred was retired from Seiko, he was promoted to Chairman of the Long Grove Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA). 40 years later he was the longest-serving Village Official in Long Grove's history. The Village Trustees named a street after him. Since retiring from public service, Fred and Bev spend 4-5 winter months in their AZ home.


## 2009 Family at Mt McKinley in Denali Park, Alaska

Fred has always enjoyed being athletic. He was Captain of his HS volleyball team. He also played ice hockey until he was 26 . Thinking that was old enough for that sport, he swapped his skates for skis. He started, as we all did, at Wilmont. Then moved up to Alpine Valley and, eventually, Utah and Colorado. Skied almost every mountain in those states and meet Bev for lunch and dinner. He checked off a bucket list item by skiing in Switzerland, while Bev enjoyed the more grounded activities. They did tour much of the country while there. Fred still enjoys Vail one or two weeks a year. He checked off another bucket list item, by skiing a Double Black Diamond Run in 2018.

Pickleball entered Fred's life at Midtown Athletic Club. He was walking to his tennis courts, when he saw/heard this strange game being played. He asked, "What's pickleball?" (sound familiar?) Pickleball immediately became his daily passion. Tennis got demoted to once a week. He joined the Palatine Picklers to meet new Picklers, make friends, and have more playing options. He's enjoyed meeting a ton of nice Picklers. While everyone loves to win, Fred is more about playing well than winning. Three years ago, Fred showed Hayden how to play and took him to Canlan. As a team they went 3-3. Then earned the same result at Wheeling. Hayden will be joining the Palatine Pickleball Club, making Fred a proud Grandpa.


During COVID Fred put up a pickleball court on their driveway. Now he tapes it mostly when grandkids come over.

Fred offered a postscript to his
 information. He was an avid boater from 199 through 2009. Water skiing was his summer favorite, just as snow skiing was
his winter sport. He actually skied the entire length of the Fox River, except for the no-wake zone. His Sea Ray had a fuel-injected V-8 so it could pop him up out of the water in a second.


## WE HAVE PATCHES AND CAR WINDOW DECALS FOR \$5

Bear has patches. Both Bear and Linda O'Connor have window decals. Several cars in pickleball parking lots are boasting these. How 'bout yours? The patches are perfect for luggage, key rings. Backpacks, etc. Let me know what you want ... aokbarry@yahoo.com.

## IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)


WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)


Sheila O'Gara


16,246
Annette Grabowski


## 15,835

Scot Shatwell

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

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

## PERPETUAL MEDALIST SUE COLE WANTS YOU TO DO SOMETHING ... HERE'S WHAT SHE WROTE ME

I hope you can do a short article to encourage people to play in State Senior Olympic tournaments in 2024. To qualify for US senior Olympics 2025, which is going to be in Des Moines, you must play in a state tournament. This is a huge, fun tournament. Actually, there is also a walkers event. Sr Olympics are held every two years and were in Pittsburgh this year.


Mentors Dan and Frank work with 4 Mentorees
Wet courts didn't dampen our enthusiasm. Just no running.


## JANUARY IS COOL - SO ARE OUR 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.
$\mathbf{2 5 \%}$ OFF anything from Gammasports.com, with the code ba_soderborg25
\$99 Paddles for \$75 Only one style - See or contact neal@picklecoach.com.
\$10 OFF Vatic Pro paddles ... https://vaticpro.com?sca_ref=3606076.ir5retg8qU Use code CHICAGO

## YEA, MEDALISTS



Donna Beechick \& Angelo Grande . APP US Indoor Championships 3.5 60+ Mixed - Gold


Donna Lewens \& Christine Towers
Stop Alzheimer's Now Tournament 3.5 - Grand Champions


Daniel Koste \& Ari Cohen WPY Qualifier for US Amateur Championships $3.540+$ - Gold


Christine Towers \& Teri Indelli - Turkey Smash Tournament - 3.5-2 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ Place

Centre Court Club in Hanover Park holds weekly King \& Queen of the Court tournaments. Daniel Koste seems to have a hobby of winning the 3.75-4.25 level ones. He enjoys letting a number of ladies wear that title.


Names in italics are those of non-members.

## OUR $3^{\text {RD }}$ PALATINE PICKLER HANDYMAN



When Hamilton opened I hired Jim Blair to make four PVC paddle tubes to hang in both cages. Then I hired him to make the handle first paddle racks for Falcon. Think PPD hired him for Birchwood's racks. Then during COVID Jaime Sandoval installed lifts for all the Hamlton nets so "touch only your own" balls could be putted back to their owners. Now Jesse Cohen created this Competitive=Recreational indicator to point to the pair of paddle racks that goes out nest at Falcon. The pair of racks has it's own Winners or Losers who go next. The Falcon staff agreed to store Jesse's invention with our racks between play days. Thanks, Jesse.


REGISTRATION NOW OPEN-SPACE IS LIMITED

8
Foglia YMCA, 1025 N Old McHenry Road, Lake Zurich, IL

$\$ 50.00$ non refundable entry fee per person

(1)8:45am to 2:30pm.
Light refreshments will be provided.

Round Robin Tournament 48 player spots available consisting of 3 skill levels: 16 beginner, 24 intermediate, 8 advanced.

Medals will be awarded.
Space is limited, waitlist will be utilized.
Email: Laura.Matuszewski@mydensitymatters.org if you would like to be added to the waitlist.



## MEET PICKLER TRACEY GRADY

Tracey was born in Sarasota, New York in 1966. In high school she swam and played water polo. We'll jump right into her having been
 a Property Manager for an apartment complex. She's a divorced mother of two. When Sean was born with spina bifida, Tracey became, through the state of Illinois, the Personal Assistant for him. She remains a stay-at-home Mom. Sean is 28. He graduated from Palatine High School and attended a transitional school downtown for two
 years. Sean is an athlete. Since he was 7 he has played sled hockey and baseball in the summer. He shares Mom's love of the Packers and Cubs.

In Sean's first tournament of the year (Cleveland, OH), He won MVP.
Daughter Riley is 24. They also have a cat named Lambeau (you'll see why). Riley is busy getting her Masters in May and, two years later, her Doctorate in Forensic Psychology with emphasis on children.

Though she has lived in New York, New Jersey, California twice, Louisiana twice, Alabama, Texas, and Illinois, she has lived in Palatine for 35 years.

Tracey takes pride in raising intelligent, kind, compassionate, and funny kids who have grown into adults that fascinate her. She's also proud of having become comfortable with taking Sean on trips. And she's proud of having trained for, and competed in, the Lambeau Field 5 K walk this past July. Yes, she's a diehard Packers fan and enjoys watching NFL games. Fortunately, she also enjoys the Cubs. She and Sean had a wonderful trip to Knoxville, TN. On the way they visited the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, OH and the Rock and Roll Hal of Fame and a Cleveland Guardians baseball game. At right Tracey and Sean are seen visiting her parents' gym in Knoxville.


Tracey loves going out to eat, not liking to cook. She loves and collects nutcrackers. She's a fan of playing Scrabble and watching movies. She likes going to the gym, taking walks, and doing jigsaw puzzles. She is also very involved with her church, Presbyterian Church of Palatine, volunteering in several areas.

In March, 2023 she decided to get healthier and stronger. It's been challenging but rewarding. She's dropped 75 pounds. That's given her more confidence and persuaded her to give pickleball a try. She's learning the sport, thanks to "the amazing people with the Palatine Picklers." She feels the Mentors are amazing and so generous with their time and talents.


Everyone she's met has been wonderful. Tracey also likes our website,


Facebook page, and Bear's monthly newsletters.
Tracey's sister and family live in Green Bay so she visits often and has enjoyed several games at Lambeau Field (remember her cat). She suggests not getting her started on the Packers. She'd have to be physically stopped.


As for bucket list items, she has several. Holding season tickets for the Packers, owning a house on a lake or ocean near a small, friendly town, vacationing in Hawaii, and traveling to Scotland and Ireland with Sean.

In closing Tracey wants you to know she is truly inspired by her kids.

## GAME PLAN CHANGE FOR 2024 INDOOR MENTORING

Given the 150+ mentorees we served over the summer, I thought we could serve 48 a week over two, 90 minute sessions. The interest in sessions in the Canlan Sportsplex has been far below my expectation. So all 2024 sessions will be three hours long (9:00 to Noon). We have enough Mentors to handle six courts. You'll spend a half hour with each of us. Here are the dates: Jan 16 Jan 30 Feb 13 Feb 27 Mar 12 Mar 26 Apr 9 \& Apr 23. If have to leave or arrive at 10:30, let me know. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com your expected availability.

Those of you who have already asked to be put on various Expect To Be Available lists do not have to give me your desired dates again. As always invitations will be emailed Sunday afternoons before the mentoring dates. Just be sure to accept them before 10:00 a.m. Mondays.

For you newest Picklers, you needn't have a paddle to participate. I have plenty of loaners.


## LOOKING TO RECRUIT MORE INTERMEDIATE PICKLERS

For the last couple years we have enjoyed playing every other Tuesday morning in the Canlan Sportsplex. Each match pits the younger half of participants (the Whippersnappers) against the older half (the Wise Ones). We are Picklers who are roughly in the 3.0 to 3.5 skill level range. While rostering the 8 men and 8 ladies for each match is not a problem, I know we have a LOT of other Picklers who would love to play seven fun games without a lot of time between games. Then, those of us whose schedule allows go to lunch a mile away. If you consider yourself a lower intermediate to middle intermediate level Pickler and have some Tuesday mornings available, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with the dates you expect to be available. Then look for an emailed invitation on Sunday afternoons. Our play dates for the first quarter are as follows:

9-Jan $\quad$ 23-Jan $\quad$ 6-Feb $\quad$ 20-Feb $\quad$ 5-Mar $\quad$ 19-Mar $\quad$ 2-Apr $\quad$ 16-Apr $\quad$ 30-Apr $\quad$ 14-May $\quad$ 28-May If you've already given me Tour Expect To Be Available dates, great. I you haven't, or if you're not sure you have, check your calendar and email me all the date lists on which you should appear. Of course (VERY IMPORTANT), if a conflict arises, email me to take you off the list. For those dates you give me, I suggest you enter "Maybe Canlan" or some such, to remind you to cancel, if something comes up that would prevent you from participating.

## WHERE IS THE CANLAN SPORTSPLEX ?

14 NW through Barrington. Once past the Hart Rd light with all the car dealerships, your next light is Pepper Rd. Turn right and go to the stop sign. It's the building on your right that is just slightly smaller than the Pentagon.

## AGAIN ... I HAVE 3 EXPENSIVE PADDLES YOU CAN TRY

I hope to add another or two, but until then, I have in my backpack three $\$ 250+$ paddles. These are for anyone considering buying one to try before pulling the trigger. Some Picklers have bought one after trying my demos. At least one decided not to buy one he thought he wanted, after demoing it. If you can find one of these on pickleballcentral.com, search for a used one and save about $\$ 100$. Of course, use our code CRPALATINEPB to save another $5 \%$.

## JANUARY, INDOOR OPEN PLAY AVAILABILITY

Falcon ... Opens January $8^{\text {th }}$ and will have open play each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 12:30.

Birchwood ... From the $2^{\text {nd }}$ through the $5^{\text {th }}$ 8:30-12:30. Then Mondays 5:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday \& Thursday 11:00-3:30.

Community Center ... (limited to first 50 for 6 courts) Wednesday the $3^{\text {rd }} 5: 30-8: 30$ p.m. Then Monday 5:30-8:30 p.m. ( 6 courts) and Tuesday and Thursday 6:00 a.m.-Noon ( 3 courts).

Harper College Bldg M ... Monday 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:30-11:30 a.m. (limit 40 players. Bldg M is in the SW corner of the campus. Enter from Algonquin Rd. It's the first building on your left. You don't have to, but you may want to bring a ball you can see.


## OUR DECEMBER NEWBIES





MATT


MITAL


NANCY


NATALIE


PAUL


PAULA


SHEILA


STEVE


TRACEY


VERNON


VINEET

## AND OUR DECEMBER VETERAN PICKLERS








## LOOKING FORWARD TO A PICKLERIFFIC NEW YEAR

We're moving into our third year of intermediate intramural competition. It's been a great program for so many Picklers. This lets intermediate Picklers play seven games in less than three hours, with virtually no waiting. AND the post-match lunches have been loved by all. It's so much fun to get to know one another off the courts.

We're now offering 3-hour mentoring sessions to 24-26 Mentorees every other week. They'll get tips from up to six Mentors. It's free, apart from Canlan's \$10 daily charge. Lunch follows.

We can only hope the Palatine Park District turns Sycamore into 4-6 pickleball courts. That would let us serve more Mentorees throughout the outdoor season. We have more than 1100 Palatine residents in the Palatine Pickleball Club, and there are many others in the Palatine Park District but who live in Rolling Meadows or Inverness, etc. Of course, there are also surely many local players who have yet to join our club.

Glad to return to profiling Picklers. Please ask me for my profile prompter questions, and let me profile you too. We'd really like to get to know you. ALL Picklers are worth knowing.

Last summer we served 140+ Mentorees, most hoping to be among the 24 we could serve on two courts and a multi-lined tennis court each week at Sycamore. Meanwhile there are six, beautiful, new tennis courts at the golf course that often went unused. Add tje tennis court at Locust and the ton tennis courts at Palatine High School and Harper College, and it's pretty obvious there are far more tennis courts in town than pickleball courts, although there seems to be far more pickleball players than tennis players. I have emailed the Palatine Park District Board of Directors about the need for more pickleball courts. I think they think I'm the only one in town who advocates for more pickleball courts. The workers at Sycamore told me they were done working there until spring so there's still time for what certainly seems a more sensible plan to be implemented. Let's hope.

Untall ladies, you may still have time to get into our January $11^{\text {th }}$ tournament. Just email me your desire. And please don't think you're not good enough. It's not that kind of tournament. It's a round robin. You'll partner with each of the participants for one game so you can't jeopardize anyone's chances of finishing in the top three. It's all for fun.

Pickler couples should don their red and pink shirts and sign up for the February $8^{\text {th }}$ Red/Pink Couples Tournament.

Mentorees and potential Mentorees need to email me the Tuesdays they expect to be available to participate.

HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A PICKLERIFFIC 2024

Bear Shatwell<br>PicklersPrez<br>aokbarry@yahoo.com



