



PalatinePicklers.com

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FEBRUARY, 2024 NEWSLETTER

WE TURN 9 THIS MONTH

To paraphrase a famous movie line, If we build it, they will come. It was 9 years ago I started this club with my hand-drawn logo, about 18 members, and the idea of creating fun and beneficial programs for our members. It seems to have worked. We now have close to 3,700 members, mentor more than 150 newer Picklers each year, have a dozen or so fun tournaments each year for a wide variety of segments of our membership, have about 70 involved in intermediate intramurals, have a few social gatherings, and even “give back” with Feed My Starving Children. A summary of our fun 2023 will be found later in this newsletter

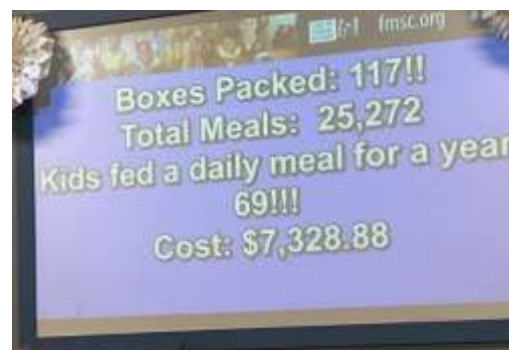
MAYBE STILL TIME FOR YOU COUPLES

On the morning of Thursday, February 8th we'll have our 2nd, annual Red & Pink Valentines Tournament. One of you wears red, the other pink. You'll enjoy a bunch of games against other couples at the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. Then, after the games, we drive a mile to have a fun lunch together. So, if you're married or committed, please email me that you'd like to celebrate Valentines Day with your loved one on our colorful pickleball courts. I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com. You'll play from 9:00 to about 11:45. Ability has nothing to do with the fun you'll have. You cannot impact the outcome. This is a round robin so you'll be good or bad against all the competitors. The top three will likely finish as the top three so do not feel self-conscious about participating. It's for fun.

GOOD TURNOUT AT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

In January we participated for the third, consecutive year at this popular charity. Besides being a feel-good event, it was really fun. I hope more of you will participate next time.

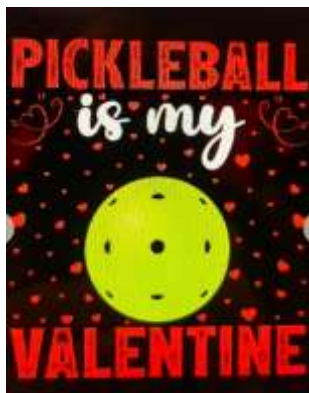




At the end of our session, we prayed for everyone from packers to delivery personnel, to consumers. We did well.

Participating Palatine Picklers were Bear Shatwell, Beth Bourgoin, Carole Dansdill, Charlotte O'Donnell, Chris Burbidge, Connie Kus, Dan Salbego, Deb Pusateri, Debbie Sherman, Janice Orłowski, Jeff Hitz, Joanie Wilmeth, JoAnne McNamee, Joanne Scholz, John Greene, Mary Pat Venetucci, Marueen Greene, Maureen Rosenbarger, Mike Kaminski, Sheila Lullo, and Tony Catalano.

Big thanks to Maureen Greene for organizing this event.



HAD ANOTHER OOPS ... SORRY, CAROLE

I thought I'd taken a photo of every participant in the Ugly Sweater Tournament, but somehow I did not have Carole Dansdill (on right) in that folder. I've plucked her out of the group photo to share now.

NEED TO REMIND EVERYONE ... I talk with a lot of Picklers. I'm sorry to say I don't even remember all their names. Many tell me they want to play in some tournament or intramurals or mentoring or want a certain shirt. Here's the hard and fast rule: If I don't get it in an email, it never happened. I spend hours each day opening emails in chronological order. I react and respond to each. Verbal stuff is long forgotten. You can have me email myself about your desire. That's fine. But if you do not get some response to an email, if only an emoji, I did not get your emailed desire. In that case please email again.



UNTALL LADIES WERE BIG ON FUN

This annual tournament was again a fun for all event. Though we had only eight diminutive divas this year, it was every bit as fun as when we've had more participate. Lunch was great too.



Natalie, Linda, Toni, Natasha, Karyn, Barb, Karen, Judy



Karyn, Natalie, Judy, Karen

Karyn 2nd, Toni 1st, Natasha 3rd

REVIEW OF GLARE COURT POLICY

This applies to Falcon's court nearest the lobby. Teams should split the time they have to play facing south (toward the lobby). So, if your game starts on this court, change sides when one team reaches six points. If you "migrate" to this court, change sides when one team has reached half the points remaining to win. If you arrive on this court with a 5-3 score, there are six points remaining so change when one team reaches 8. If you arrive at 6-3, there are five points remaining. Round 2.5 (half of the five) up to 3 so change when one team reaches 9.

PICKLE HAUS WAS PICKLERIFFIC

On Thursday, January 19th. 32 Palatine Picklers hit the courts and enjoyed food and drink at the two-month old Pickle Haus in Algoquin. We played on eight, fenced-in, soft floored, colorful courts for one hour and then walked a few feet to the restaurant which was totally ready for us. I had assigned Picklers to each of the numbered courts I'd reserved well in advance. Weekday rates until 4:00 p.m. are just \$44 per hour. So for \$11 each, we all had a great time. At lunch I surveyed each table as to who liked and who disliked the courts. There were five who chose "disliked." All five said it was due to glare from windows. When I mentioned that I had just spoken with Ben, Pickleball Director there. He'd said blinds were on back order, and white walls will be darkened. So I asked again, if glare was not a factor, like or dislike the courts. 100% liked the Pickle Haus courts and will look forward to returning. I'll plan our next visit for mid-March.



Pickle Haus was/is a class act. Lunch prices were totally reasonable too, and they have a full bar. They gave us the royal treatment, and we loved it. I will schedule another Pickle Haus morning/lunch in a couple months. Watch for it, as you will want to see what a state of the art pickleball facility is like.



BEAR MAKES EXCEPTION TO “AT LEAST \$80” ADVICE

Frequently, Mentorees come to the court with what I call a “toy paddle.” They may be wood or came in a set of four with a couple balls for about \$19.95. I have long advised that, when they want a “real” paddle, they should look for one that has an original price (may be on sale for less) of at least \$80.

Lately, I’ve read a lot of great reviews on the Friday paddle. Don’t know if it’s true, but I read these paddles are not allowed in sanctioned play, because they don’t have a model. It’s just Friday, the company name that appears on them. Maybe true, maybe not. Doesn’t matter to 98% of us. The reviews were positive, from all level of players. So I partnered with another Pickler, and we bought two Fridays for \$104. I paid \$52, and I like it as much as my Paddletec Tempest Wave I bought for \$140 several years ago. So now I have to tell Mentorees to buy a paddle that has an original price of at least \$80, unless you buy a Friday.

BIONIC BODIES CAN HANDLE 3 MORE METALIC PICKLES

This annual tournament for Picklers who have replacement parts or other metal in their bodies (other than mouth) will be held on Thursday, March 7th at 9:00 a.m. in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. I want to cut off registrations at 16. I currently have 13. So, if you have to go through the “special” TSA line at the airport and happen to be available on Marh 7th, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to say you want “in.” Once the play ends, we go to Kelsey Road House a mile away for a fun lunch.

HEY, INTERMEDIATE PICKLERS, GET ON SOME ETBA LISTS

For almost two years, every other Tuesday at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington, we have had eight men and eight ladies do the “battle of the ages.” The youngest comprise the Whippersnappers. The more senior half are the Wise Ones. Each Pickler partners with each of his/her seven teammates for one game. Wins determine which team wins the day. In case of a tie, total points determines the victorious team. As I write this, the teams are tied at 22 matches won. If I think about it, I’ll replace that sentence, after I have the results of the January 23rd match. If you’re an intermediate level Pickler, email me the dates you think you’d be available. They’re every other Tuesday, from 2/6 through 5/28 for now. I’ll put you on those **Expect To Be Available** lists. On Sunday afternoons before each match, I email 16 invitations to play. Rosters change each match. After play, we enjoy lunch together. Let me know. I’m at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)



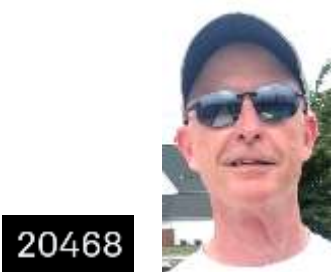
Jonny Storm



Dan Salbego



Bear Shatwell



Dave Capello



Mary Werling

WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)



Bear Shatwell



Dan Salbego



Sheila O'Gara



Marcia Cohen

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 recognized as a Worthy Walker or even Super Stepper.

LOVE OUR VALENTINES DAY DISCOUNTS

5% OFF anything sold on PickleballCentral.com, when you use the code CRPALATINEPB. Act quickly. This may already be eliminated. That's their plan.

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 Use code CHICAGO



ROSES ARE RED
VIOLETS ARE BLUE
I CAN'T SAY 0-0-2
WITHOUT YOU!



AWESOME UPDATE TO COUPLES' RED & PINK TOURNAMENT

Here's the deal ... Even if you've already signed up for this tournament, email me again (aokbarry@yahoo.com) that you're good for lunch. If you haven't signed up, please do so NOW. Kelsey Road House has agreed to reserve spaces in their VERY Valentines decorated basement for us, complete with Alex, their IMHO most awesome waitress to serve us. I do need to give them an actual count. This WILL be memorable. I've seen it. To paraphrase Sally Fields' famous quote, they like us. They really like us. And I guarantee you'll like them. Great food, great service, great prices.

I STILL HAVE DEMO, \$\$\$ PADDLES FOR YOU TO TRY

You've likely read about this offer in previous newsletters, but I usually have three paddles that sell for \$250-\$280 with me so you can try one before you buy one. I have two Ben Johns Joola paddles and one holy Selkirk. Just ask to try one for a game. I thought it made sense for you to take one of these, popular paddles on a trial run, before committing to such an expense.

LET'S TALK SHIRTS

For the first time since COVID came calling, we had a Photo Day. Here are the Palatine Picklers who wanted to be remembered for loving their club this year.



This just may be the largest number of “well dressed” Palatine Picklers in a photo ever. The two Grand Openings I hosted at Hamilton in 2019 was, at least, close. This time was without the incentive of a lot of donuts (four dozen) and Crown Royal bags (70 taken). Guess this means Picklers just love being Picklers.

Get your first or 15th shirt by going to PalatinePicklers.com and clicking shirts (on computer, not phone). Select your style and size and ONLY COLOR I'VE DESIGNATED (don't click on other colors). Add \$2 to the price (sorry, haven't had a chance to have Webmaster John increase those shown). Scroll down and place your order. We need 18 preorders, before we can place our next order.

BREAKING NEWS ... YOU CAN ORDER DARKER SHIRTS WITH WHITE LOGO

It seems complicated. I haven't yet bumped the shirt prices on the website the \$2 they should all be. So here's the news – Now you can order any shirt color (not limited to those I suggested) offered on the “click on” colors. The darker colors not on the suggested list will need white ink logos. We will absorb the set-up charge, but you need to add \$1 per shirt (most will then be \$21). You can thank Joanie Willmeth for this change. The pressure she was putting on me was unBearable.

Again, all those \$18 shirts on the website are now \$20. If you want white on a darker color, it's \$21. When I get a break from the daily Palatine Picklers stuff, I WILL update the website in a few areas.

Love hearing several stories about a Pickler wearing a club shirt in another state and having it be recognized. Our awesome club is known far and wide. Thank you for spreading the pride.

MEDALISTS A RARITY THIS MONTH

Only Daniel sent me any info and photo about tournament success this month. I believe this is the least successful month for Palatine Picklers in years. Daniel's success is a team success. I'll let him explain it.



We won a team handicapped tournament that capped at 14.8

Our team was myself, *Ron Uy*, *Abby Delott*, *Haley Jeanes*

We had to play rally scoring men's doubles, women's doubles, and two sets of mixed doubles. There were 10 min rounds and if tied 2-2 at the end you played one sudden death mixed doubles for 3 min. There were 8 teams in this and it was round robin. We went 6-1 and beat the team that was tied with us for 1st so we won on head to head.

Seems a pretty profitable day for this team. Congratulations. As always, non-PPC members are in *italics*.

WHENEVER YOU MEDAL IN A TOURNAMENT, EMAIL BEAR

We all like to see and celebrate the successes of our fellow Palatine Picklers. What I need is the name of the tournament, its location, the division in which you played, your partner's name if not singles, and the medal you earned. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

YOU TELL ME YOU ENJOY THE PICKLER PROFILES

It's fun to get to know our Picklers "up close and personal." Since December, 2020 I have enjoyed bringing you profiles of 52 Palatine Picklers. How 'bout you let us get to know you too? All you have to do is ask me to email you my "profile prompter." Then answer the questions you like, add whatever other information you'd like and email it back to me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Of course, attach some photos of you doing anything but pickleball. I'll write your profile, from the information you give me. Do you do needlepoint? Do you have a pet pig? Were you a Room Mom? Ever been fly fishing? Have 22 cousins? Afraid of clowns? We want to know.

JANUARY NEWBIES



ANDREA



ARCHNA



BOB



BRUCE



CJ



CHERYL



CHRIS



DIANE M.



DIANE K.



ERNIE



JAMIE



JANICE



KARL



KATE



KENT



LYNN



MARGARET



MICHELE



MINH



MONIC



PAULA



ROBIN



SAMI



SUE



TERI



TERRA



TIM



TOM



WENDY



WYN



WIN A PALATINE PICKLER SHIRT

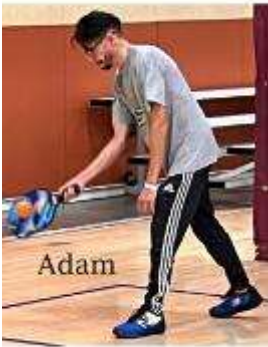
It's been quite a while since I ran a just-for-entertainment trivia contest. Do NOT cheat. This is for you recall only. Here are 50 numbered movie quotes, purely from movies I like. For the most part I've kept them from movies from the '80s through 2000, as that's the appropriate time frame for most of our members. Email me your guesses. at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Be sure to include the number of each guess. It's fine if you want to give multiple answers. I'm thinking of one movie, but there may be multiple that fit. I won't check others for accuracy, but if you include mine in your guesses, that's fine. Whoever gets the most right will win a shirt of their choosing. Have fun.

- 01 I gave it a cold
- 02 Sorry, Ghost Rider, the pattern is full
- 03 You're five foot nothin, one hundred and nothin'
- 04 I'm a very good driver
- 05 Fly yes. Land no
- 06 How about a nice game of chess
- 07 Ten Second Tom
- 08 The sh*tter's full
- 09 Nah. Needs garlic
- 10 I married Rambo
- 11 That's going to leave mark
- 12 Mary Clarence
- 13 Show me the way to go home (sung)
- 14 Marla Hootch
- 15 I'll make it

- 16 Get off my lawn
- 17 We have a long way to go and a short time to get there
- 18 What we have here is a faillya to communicate
- 19 That's not a knife
- 20 Why did it have to be snakes
- 21 Ya dead, Sanka
- 22 Cuz damn
- 23 One ping only
- 24 Roads? Where we're going we don't need roads
- 25 I'm the king of the world
- 26 You can't handle the truth
- 27 If you build it, he will come
- 28 I'll have what she's having
- 29 You're killing me, Smalls
- 30 Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn
- 31 But what I do have are a very particular set of skills
- 32 I carried a watermellon
- 33 This was no boating accident
- 34 I'm going to make h8m an offer he can't refuse
- 35 Houston, we have a problem
- 36 I have got to get me one of these
- 37 The sausage king of Chicago
- 38 I could have been a contender.
- 39 To infinity and beyond
- 40 Do or do not. There is no try
- 41 It's in the hole
- 42 Here's looking at you, kid
- 43 Atta boy, Clarence
- 44 I am serious, and don't call me Shirley
- 45 Show me the money
- 46 I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice Chianti
- 47 There's no place like home
- 48 My precious
- 49 Captain my captain
- 50 I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore

Yes, there are some slam dunks. Hopefully, there are enough challenges that I don't have to create a tie-breaker. In the next month or three, I'll do this for advertising quotes. Picklers have had fun with these contests in bygone years.

HERE'S JONNY STORM'S SHARING OF PICKLERS IN ACTION



Adam



Al



Alan



Angie



Ann



April



Art



Barb



Bear



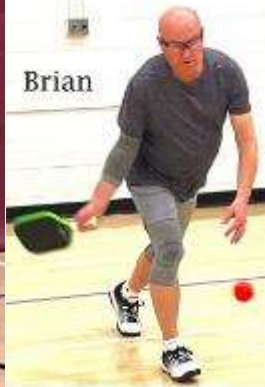
Bill



Bo



Bob



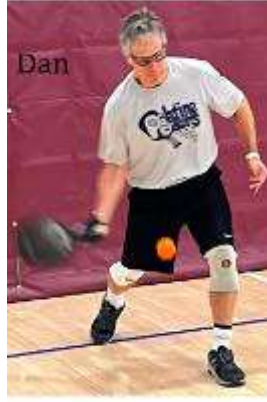
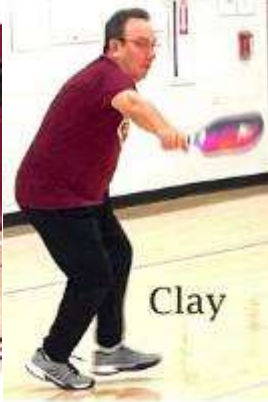
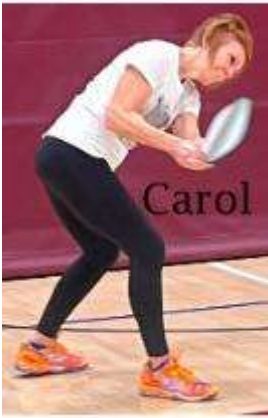
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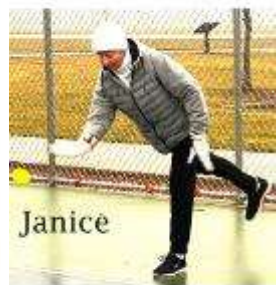
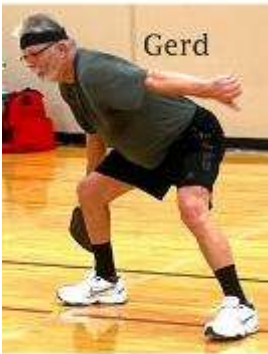
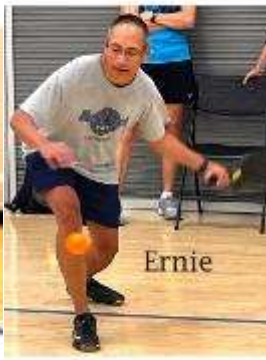


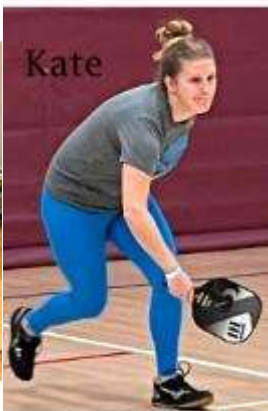
Brian



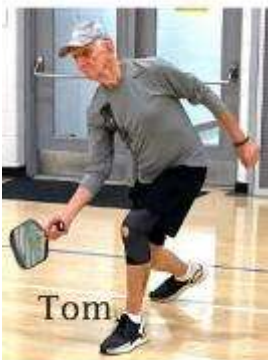
Brian











BEAR REMEMBERS 2023

Each February, I look back at some of the things we've enjoyed from our beginning in 2015 and/or our last year. I'll just look at the last year this time. I wrote two or three obituaries for Picklers, but let's look at happier events.

Though 18 of us spent an amazing pickleball week in Jamaica two weeks before 2023, I reviewed it all in January so will include that. We had educational evenings at RUSH, including prevention and treatment of shoulder injuries. We added Mentors John, Ron, Lisa, Bill, Frank, Dan, and Dee Dee to the mentoring staff of Dennis, Marv, Neal, and me. We profiled 7 Palatine Picklers. We honored just one Pickler of the Month – John Stepal. We celebrated, with the Park District our Volunteer of the Year – Robin Dubin. We added caps to compliment the more than 800 Palatine Pickler shirts we've sold. A couple dozen Picklers participated in our 2nd Feed My Starving Children afternoon. In addition to monthly Worthy Walkers (15K steps in a day) and Super Steppers (20K), we recognized the eight Picklers who managed 30k+,



including Brandon Johnson's 42,951. Four Picklers chose to lighten my load – Mary Werling assumed editing & layout of both Newbies and Walkers for newsletters, Jonny Storm took over layout of edited pics of Picklers in action, Linda O'Connor took over all shirt orders, and Kathy Ford succeeded Robin Dubin as our Mentoree Scheduler. We reviewed three times that members met other members in other states. Our membership grew to 3,667, with at least 1,122 living within the Palatine Park District. We mentored more than 150 Picklers. We enjoyed a surprise picnic in my honor by some very generous Hamilton regulars. We enjoyed a send-off breakfast for Neal Harris who will be moving this spring. We had a fun picnic at Twin Lakes. I changed our "include in newsletter month to the 21st to the 20th. Bear bought three (to start) pricey paddles as loaners to try before Picklers buy. I'll end with 2 weeks after 2023, since it was arranged in 2023 when I prepaid for 32 Picklers and eight pickleball courts at the 2-month old Pickle Haus in Algonquin (reviewed in this newsletter).

During 2023 we also enjoyed some fun, original, round robin tournaments. These included 3rd annual Untall Ladies ... Red & Pink Couples Valentines ... My Density Matters ... 2nd annual Bionic Bodies ... Widows ... Indoor and outdoor Mentorees tournaments of dozens of Mentorees ... Oldest Men ... Oldest Ladies ... Lefties ... Petite Picklers ... Heavy Hitters ... 3rd annual Halloween Costume ... 3rd annual Ugly Holiday Sweater ... and Unshort Ladies. All of these, as well as indoor mentoring, and intramural matches are followed by lunch, to get to know each other off the courts. I also welcomed 716 Palatine Picklers, bringing our membership to 3,667.

Since 2015 I've written 1890 pages in newsletters and published 17,478 photos (98% mine).

2023 was great, but let's look forward to our 10th year being the best ever.

Bear Shatwell

PicklersPrez

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