



PalatinePicklers.com

palatinepicklers@gmail.com

MARCH, 2023 NEWSLETTER

ANOTHER PICKLERS MILESTONE

Last March I welcomed our 3,000th member Carina Lopez. That was pretty cool. (See photo.)



Now I've welcomed more than 3700 members since starting the Palatine Pickleball Club in February of 2015. Guess that suggests we'll reach 5,000 members in 2025.

I set up a meeting for February 21st with Ben Rea, the new Executive Director of the Palatine Park District. I am beyond elated. We should have, and certainly deserve, a win-win relationship with the Palatine Park District. After half an hour with Ben, I think we have it. We may not have a bunch of new courts this, or even next, year, but they ARE being explored.

2nd RED & PINK COUPLES VALENTINES TOURNAMENT

It was set up for 12 couples, one in red and one in pink. Then two injuries, an infection, and a breakup caused me to have to play match-maker. We ended up with four "hybrid" couples.



Brian & Mary



Cindy & Kurt



Denise & Charles



Howard & Janice



John & Jeanne



Kathy & John



Kevin & Amy



Marty & Laurie



Michael & Chris



Natalie & Bear



Scott & Mary



Shilpa & Brian



Scott & Mary 2nd, Mary & Brian 1st, Denise & Charles 3rd



The Kelsey Road House Valentines décor was magical. It was so dark I didn't think I could take pics. I just held up my phone and gave it a try. Was shocked to find I could edit the pics into almost OK condition. Sorry I didn't take pics of all the tables. By one attendee, we set a Pickler lunch record with 24 in attendance. Hope you'll all add lunch to the tournaments, mentoring, intramurals, etc. for which you sign up.



IN CASE YOU'LL BE ON/NEAR MARCO ISLAND

Palatine Pickler Mike Siemplinski invites you to enjoy some pickleball. He can accommodate 3 Picklers at a time. It's a gated community so you'll need to make arrangements with Mike. He's at MikeSiem@comcast.net. It's a popular winter destination so I hope you can connect.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY, PICKLERS.

WEAR GREEN, IF YOU PLAY AT HARPER SUNDAY 3/17

WIDOW (INCLUDES MEN) TOURNAMENT SET FOR 4/18

Our first Widow tournament and dinner were great on so many levels. This time we'll be playing at 9:00 a.m. in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. We'll play our round robin tournament and then go to lunch a mile away. For the record, if your spouse passed and you remarried, you will forever remain a widow, just a remarried one such as I.

Last time the pickleball was fun, but it was just a prelude. After ten minutes of small talk at dinner, I turned the conversation to more serious widow stuff. It was the first time some had ever been with only others who "get it." So therapeutic. Stories, memories, tears, laughter. All good. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com, if you'd like to join us for this widowriffic day.



ANOTHER PICKLE HAUS MORNING

I've reserved a bunch of courts from 10:00 a.m. to Noon on Thursday, March 28th. This will be \$22 per Pickler. I've paid for 4 Picklers on 6 courts. Will buy more as needed. You can pay me. When done playing on multiple courts (winners move up a court number, losers move down), we'll walk a few feet to enjoy lunch in the restaurant/bar. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com if you want to join this fun.

GREAT MONTH FOR SAVING THE GREEN

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 Gammports.com, with the code ba_soderborg25

\$99 Paddles for \$75 Only one style – See or contact neal@picklecoach.com.

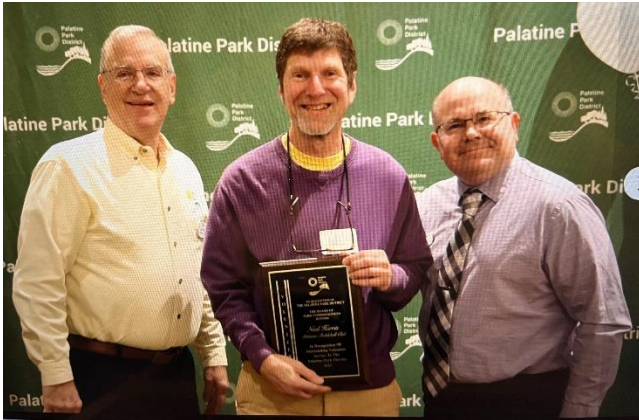
\$10 OFF Vatic Pro paddles ... https://vaticpro.com?sca_ref=3606076.ir5retg8qU Use code CHICAGO

MAYBE YOU CAN GET IN BIONIC BODIES TOURNAMENT

It's a long shot, but, if you have metal in your body (not mouth), email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Thursday 3/7 at Canlan is our round robin tournament. We'll play all morning and then go to lunch a mile away. This is our 3rd Bionic Bodies event. All have been fun. Get there by 8:45 to pay Canlan's \$10 fee and warm up.

NEAL WAS OUR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Like Cher or LeBron or Taylor, Neal is so known he doesn't need his Harris surname. He's been a Wednesday morning Mentor since the beginning eight years ago. He's also a Hamilton, early morning regular regardless of temperature. As a respected, certified pickleball coach, he's had dozens of Palatine Picklers take private lessons from him on his home pickleball court or at various park district facilities. On February 3rd ten of our Palatine



Picklers volunteers attended the annual Palatine Park District Volunteer Recognition

Luncheon. We enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and applauded the Volunteers of all the area organizations. We'll be sorry to see Neal and Mary move to Georgia this spring, but wish them well and thank him for his years of helping newer Picklers develop their skills.

Above Neal gets his plaque from Commissioner Terry Ruff and Executive Director Ben Rea. Our table (below right) had, from front left Marv, John, Kathy, Mary, Dennis, Neal, Kathy, Bear,



Greg, and Ronteer Hall of Fame) that shows me in blue shirt in front row.

I should also show the Honor Roll members' photo (basically the Volunteer Hall of Fame). I am in the blue shirt in the center.



MOVIE TRIVIA WINNERS

Though there were fewer entrants this time than the last time I ran a movie quote trivia contest, we had four contestants who identified at least half the movies. Tied for first place were Clay Farnsworth and Kevin Shatwell with 34 right answers of 50. Both are entitled to a free Palatine Picklers shirt. Finishing in third was Dan Salbego with 30. Finishing 4th was Natalie Silverman with 25 right answers. Congratulations to all who played.



Clay



Kevin



Dan



Natalie

Ad trivia quiz coming soon. Stay tuned. Another chance to win a Palatine Picklers shirt.

8 OLDEST MEN & 8 OLDEST WOMEN WILL COMPETE 3/21

This is another annual event for us. You'll partner with each of your competitors for one game. So, no matter how well or how poorly you play, you CANNOT affect the outcome. The top three Picklers will likely finish as the top three finishers. Then, if you're available, we drive a mile to have lunch together. If there's enough interest, I'll expand either tournament, or both, to accommodate 12 Picklers.

WHEN? These tournaments will take place in Lake Barrington's Canlan Sportsplex at 9:00 Thursday morning, March 21st. Get there by 8:45 to pay Canlan's \$10 fee and warm up. If you'd like to be considered for one of these tournaments, email me your interest and your MMDDYY date of birth at aokbarry@yahoo.com.



ANOTHER, POTENTIAL, COUPLES TOURNAMENT

I'm not going to reserve a Thursday morning at Canlan, until I see if we have enough interested and qualified Picklers. We'll have a "Long & Short of It" couples tournament, IF there are enough couples who differ in height by at least 8". If you two meet that requirement and would like to play, assuming the date works for you, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

BEST PICKLEBALL LEARNING VALUE – WELL, EVER

We have only four more, indoor mentoring sessions. Apart from Canlan's \$10 fee, these are free. They run from 8:45 to Noon, during which time you'll spend half an hour with each of six Mentors. You'll be assigned to what I try to make a compatible foursome. Then, if you have the time, you can join us for lunch a mile away. Our remaining dates are 3/12 3/26 4/9 4/23. If you'd like to be considered, email me your available dates at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Then check your email on Sunday afternoons, to see if you're invited that week. Thanks.

In May we'll have two Wednesday sessions by invitation plus walk-ons Thursday and Saturday.

WHAT THE HECK IS OUR INTRAMURAL PROGRAM ?

I get this question a lot. It's a fun, almost three-hour (7 games) morning at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington every other Tuesday year-round. It's for intermediate level players. If I know you are obviously above or below the 3.0-3.5 intended level, I'll let you know. Otherwise, give it a try. If it's a match for you, great. If not, I won't invite you back. No problem. It is SO not serious. I pit the older half of those playing each match against the younger half. We play and then we go to lunch, if your schedule allows. We've been doing this every other Tuesday

morning for more than two years. Each week I roster different Picklers. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com the Tuesday mornings you think you'll be available. For the near future those Tuesdays are 3/5 3/19 4/2 4/16 4/30 5/14 5/28. I'll put the next few month's dates in a future newsletter. Once I put you on an Expect To Be Available list, you need to check your email on the Sunday afternoons before those dates, to see if you're invited that week. Of course, if a conflict arises, email me to take you off that ETBA list. When a Pickler proves to be too strong or not strong enough for our intended skill range, I stop inviting them. No big deal. This is a no-pressure experience. You will partner with each of your seven teammates for one game. Win them all or lose them all, it doesn't matter. It may keep you from participating again, but it's still fun. I can't tell you how many times I've heard, "I didn't think I was good enough, but this was really fun." Every match finds different rosters. You'll enjoy playing with and against a lot of fun Picklers. (I don't invite those who I don't think would be fun.) Come on – stop thinking about it and just email me. It's a morning of no 15 minute waits between games and with other Picklers who are of at least somewhat compatible skill. And lunch is always good, affordable, and with excellent service and conversation. So email me, about the Tuesday mornings you think you are available. We've been competing for more than two years, and it's always been fun for all.



YOU CAN GET OUR LOGO ON MORE THAN SHIRTS

While thinking of our logo, I still have both car decals and patches with that logo for sale for \$5 each. The white ones look great on rear windows of cars, and the blue and yellow patches look great on back backs, luggage, coat zippers, etc.

YOU'RE GOING TO DO DOUBLE TAKES

You're going to see a few of us wearing Palatine Pickler shirts with WHITE logos on the front. Why? Because these are now available. On PalatinePicklers.com I've offered all the colors for each shirt on which our traditional navy logo will look good. Now you can open the "size" link and find all sorts of colors on which the navy logo wouldn't work BUT the new, white logo will look fantastic. It's only a buck more. So, is it time to enlarge your Palatine Picklers wardrobe? If anyone, other than Lynne Weisbart, has more PPC shirts than I, I'll buy your new, white-logo shirt. Just sent me the pics of all your Picklers shirts. I really like that logo I drew nine years ago so I keep buying shirts in different colors and styles to show it off.

OUTDOOR MENTORING OPTIONS

Our 9th season of Wednesday morning mentoring will begin May 1st. While traditionally at Sycamore, it's doubtful the work there will be done. If it's not, we'll meet at Locust Park on Morris, as we did last fall. There will be two, 90-minute sessions, from 9:00 to 10:30 and from 10:30 to Noon. These are weekly but by invitation only. If you'd like to participate, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with the dates (through June for now) you think you could participate if chosen. If you absolutely HAVE TO have either the early or late session, let me know that.

Then you have to check your email on the Sunday afternoons before your desired dates, to see if you receive an invitation that week. If you do you must accept that invitation right away. You actually have until 10:00 a.m. Monday, before I give you a dreaded "strike." (see below) I suggest you put on your calendar something such as "Maybe mentoring" on every date you give me. Then, if a conflict comes up, you'll be reminded to email me to remove you from that ETBA (Expect To Be Available) list.

WALK-ON MENTORING SESSIONS

We offer walk-on mentoring (no invitation or reservation needed) on Thursday at Hamilton, from 3:00 to 5:00, beginning April 18th. I admit this has me concerned. We've added more than 700 members in the last year, and even the number of non-members has grown. This time is the least used at Hamilton, but even last year we started a few sessions with only a couple courts for a couple dozen Mentorees. It always worked out. Our sheer number of Mentorees staring at players on the courts usually worked to shoo them away. Some newer players even joined the club and joined our sessions right away. But ... this could be one of those times the need for more courts in town becomes really obvious.

THE EASILY AVOIDED “STRIKE”

Here’s the deal... We volunteers invest a LOT of time trying to enhance your pickleball experience. We REALLY hate you wasting our time. We’ll overlook (I didn’t say “forgive”) your first strike, but if you get a second, you will be out of mentoring for the rest of the outdoor season. Here are the four ways you can earn a strike:

- 1) Fail to reply to an invitation to participate by 10:00 a.m. Monday.
- 2) Reply that you cannot participate. (11th hour emergencies excluded)
- 3) Be a no-show (again, 11th hour emergencies forgiven)
- 4) Contacting Mentoree Scheduler Kathy with ANY message other than acceptance of her invitation. EVERYTHING else about mentoring should come to me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

I will add that, anyone with a strike is likely to be selected to participate less often than those who play by the rules. I really hate to have to preach about common courtesy, but history has proven it’s necessary.

NOW FOR THOSE WHO WORK, BABYSIT, GOLF, ETC.

For all potential Mentorees who are unable to attend EITHER a Wednesday or Thursday sessions, I created Saturday 3:00 to 5:00 mentoring sessions. These, too, are walk-on at Hamilton. They will begin April 20th. Again, let’s hope enough courts are available for us. Also these sessions are walk-on. Just come. No invitation needed. You DO have to be a member of the Palatine Pickleball Club to participate so, if you’re not a member, go to PalatinePicklers.com and click HOW TO JOIN. I will have loaner paddles for all newbies who have yet to get a “real” (\$80+ or Friday) paddle.



MEET PICKLER GERD LOOFF

Gerd was born in Bremerhaven, Germany. He then lived in Hamburg, until moving to Detroit in 1983. It was there that he met Jill. They have now been married 35 years and have 2 kids. Alexandra is 34, and Kevin is 32. In 1992, the Loeff family made Chicago their home. Gerd and Jill now reside in Lake Zurich.

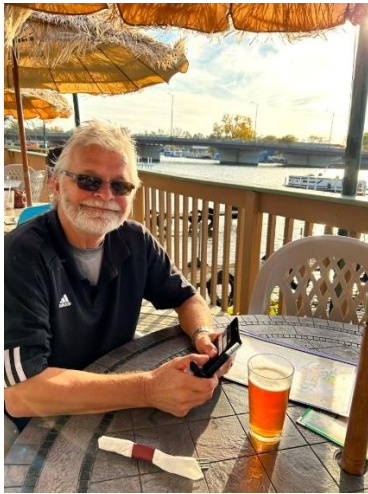


Having begun in high school, Gerd played organized soccer until his doctor sidelined him at age 58. He did an apprenticeship in International Freight Forwarding and Logistics and then held a starter position. He completed mandatory, 15 months military service and then moved to Hamburg in a supervisory position. Then he got into sales, before being transferred to Detroit to open an office for the Germans. He experienced several mergers, before being transferred to Chicago as Divisional VP.



After 16 years with one company and 8 with another, he started Signs By Tomorrow, a signs and graphics company in Arlington Heights. After college both Alexandra and Kevin joined the business. Now in it's 23rd year, they are running it. Gerd stays involved as Mentor, Accountant, IT guy, Warehouse Manager, etc. In the photo above left, you see Gerd, Jill, Kevin, Kelsey (his GF), Alexandra, and Asher (her BF). In the team photo above right, you find Ryan, Jill, Gerd, Kevin, Jason, Alexandra, & Dimitry

He was introduced to pickleball by his Palatine son and live-in girlfriend Kelsey last fall at Hamilton. That's where they met Bear and got introduced to the Palatine Pickleball Club and all their great offerings, including mentoring classes. He has been impressed with the mentoring program and with how well everything is organized and managed by Bear. Without soccer, Gerd needed to find a new hobby, and he found it in pickleball.



Regarding his bucket list, Jill loves to travel. They are trying to phase her out of the business so travel can be their main focus.

Our final photo shows Gerd enjoying a burger and beer break in Algonquin, while on a bike ride with Jill.

Gerd has enjoyed participating in many indoor mentoring sessions and was even invited to test his skill in a couple intramural events.

IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)

23,209



Anne Stein

22,286



Bear Shatwell

20,814



Annette Grabowski

20,479



Dan Salbego

WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)m



19,304

Dan Salbego



17,766

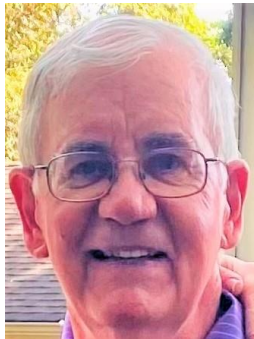
Bear Shatwell



17,123

Janice Becker

16,970



Bob McGowan

16,054



Jessee Cohan

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

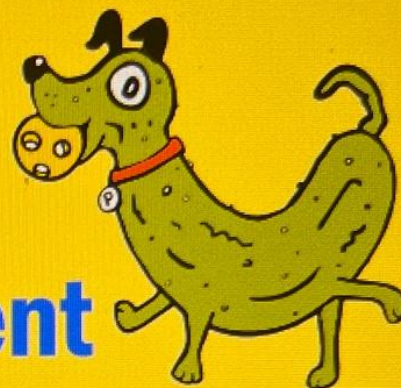
You may not realize it, but your phone may be tracking your daily steps. If you have a little, red heart icon, that's where you'll find your daily steps. If you get 15K+ or 20k+, take a screen shot and email it to me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. You will be featured in our next newsletter.

JOSE SOSA'S UPCOMING COUPLES TOURNEY

ADDISON PARK DISTRICT

"Spring Fling"

Pickleball Tournament



**REGISTER
EARLY
TO SECURE
A SPOT**

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Addison Park District Centennial Recreation Center 1776 W. Centennial Place Addison, Illinois 60101

Mark your calendar for the "Spring Fling" Pickleball Tournament. It will be held across six courts at the Addison Park District's Centennial Gym on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Registration will be limited to 24 mixed doubles teams for each session. The tournament will follow a round robin (scramble) format, eight teams in a bracket, guaranteeing 7 games. Winners will be determined by total wins in their bracket (total points will be determined by tie breaker). Participants will register as a team, playing 7 games with their partner. Brackets may be combined at discretion of tournament director.

Share this information with your pickleball friends, and lets put on a great tournament!

Register online at addisonparks.org (you will be required to create an account) or call Dan Hernandez at 630-233-7275 - extension 6205. Use codes to register for appropriate level.

Register Here →



MORNING SESSION

Check In: 7 am
Warm up: 7:30 am
Games: 8 am to 12 pm (or completion)

Code	Level	Team Fee
202601-01	2.0-2.9 Beginner	\$70
202601-02	3.0-3.4 Intermediate	\$70
202601-03	3.5-3.9 Advance Intermediate	\$70

AFTERNOON SESSION

Check In: 12 noon
Warm up: 12:30 pm
Games: 1 pm to 4 pm (or completion)

Code	Level	Team Fee
202601-07	3.5-3.9 Advance Intermediate	\$70
202601-08	4.0+ Advance	\$70



THE OFFICAL PICKLEBALL
OF THE SPRING FLING TOURNAMENT



FEBRUARY NEWBIES



ALEXIS



AMY H.



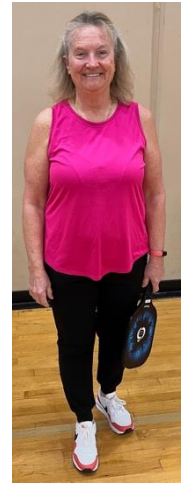
AMY W.



ANNA



AUDREY



CINDY



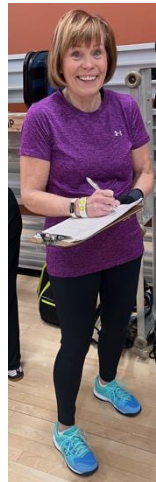
CITLALI



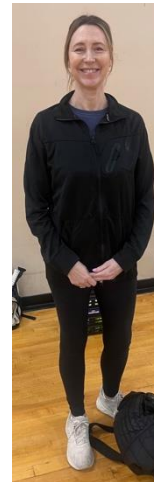
DAN



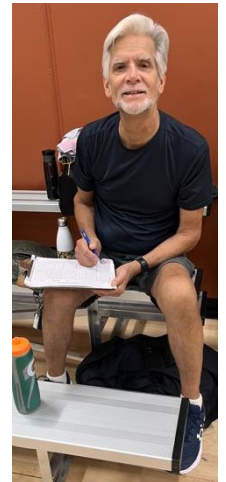
DAWN



DIANE



ELISE



FRED



GEORGE



HACKIE



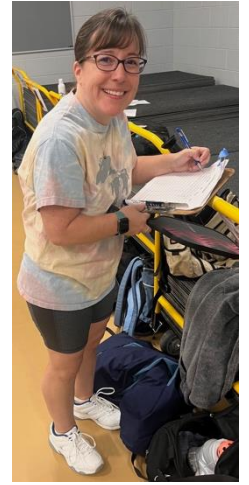
JAMES



JANICE



JEANIE



JEN



JENNA



JIM



JOANN



JOHN D.



JOHN F.



JOHN H.



JUDY



JULIE



KAY



KEN



KIM



KURT G.



KURT S.



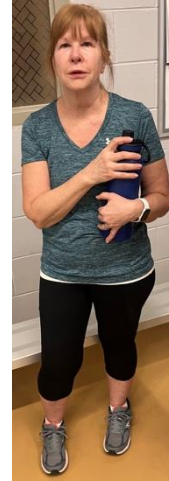
LEE



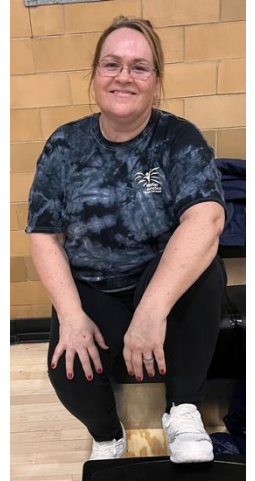
LINDA



LISA



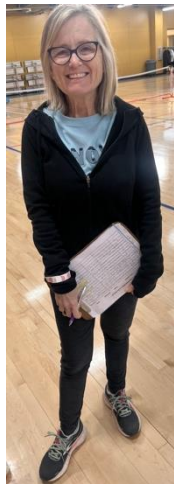
LORI



LYNN



MARCIA



MAUREEN



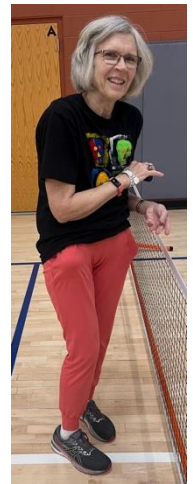
MEDDIHA



MIKE F.



MIKE J.



PEGGY



PHIL



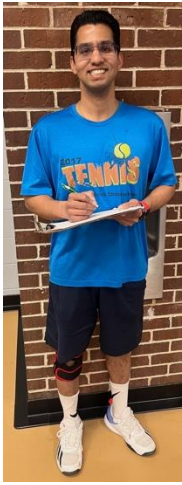
ROSALIE



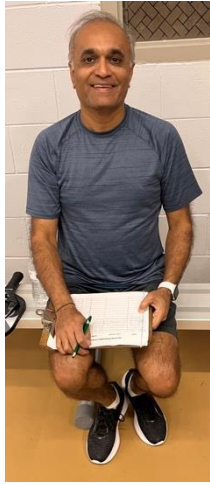
ROSE



RUDY



SHASHANK



SHIRISH



SUE



THERESE

Thanks to Mary Werling, for editing, sizing, and laying out all these photos of Newbies. This is an awesome help to me. She did the same for the section honoring our walkers.

FEBRUARY PALATINE PICKLER MEDALISTS

My Density Matters Tournament in Lake Zurich



Kurt Conrath – 1st Court 4 Intermediates Dan Salbego – 2nd Court 2 Intermediates David Holtermann – 3rd Court 4 Intermediates Shilpa Terwilliger – 3rd Court 6 Beginners

A total of 14 Palatine Picklers competed in this tournament.

Boca Raton Curaleaf Open, Boca Raton, FL



Ray Jenkins & *Tony Peyrolia* – 3,5 70+ - Gold
Italics indicates non-member

PLEASE REMEMBER TO EMAIL ME (aokbarry@yahoo.com), with the tournament, division, medal, and partner, if you weren't playing singles. We want to see more Picklers' successes.



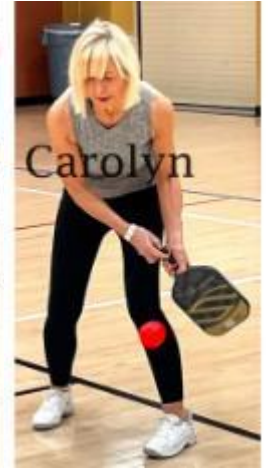
OUR NEW WHITE LOGO SHIRTS ARE LOOKIN' GOOD

Joanie and Bear model their purple Pickler shirts. Having the white logo option doubles the number of colors you can choose for your next Palatine Pickler shirt.

Check them out at PalatinePicklers.com. You can order your shirt/s at the bottom of the shirt page, if you're on a computer. Phones may not have that option.

PICKLERS APLENTY PLAY PLENTY WELL









Jaime



Janet



Janice



Janice



Jay



Jeanie



Jenna



Jenny



Jerry



Jesse



Jill



Jim



Anna



Jim



Joanie



John



John



April



John



John



John



John



John



John



Karyn



Kathy



Kenny



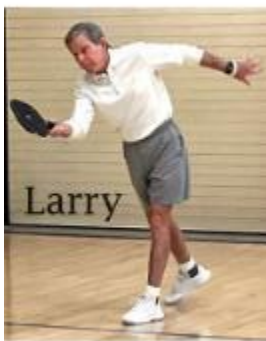
Kim



Kurt



Kurt



Larry



Laura



Lesa



Linda



Lisa



Marcia



Marisa



Mark

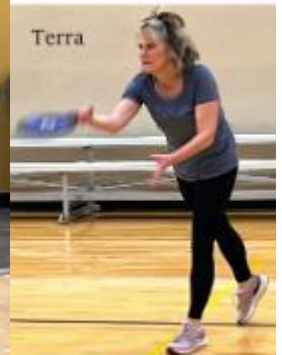
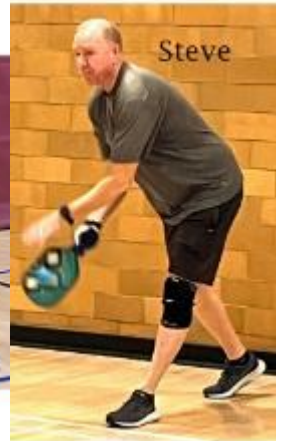


Mary



Mary







WHO'S IN FOR WHICH?

Next week is our annual Bionic Bodies tournament, 3/21 finds our oldest men and ladies playing, 3/28 we play and dine in Pickle Haus, 4/18 widows play and lunch, and someday there may be a tournament for couples whose heights differ by at least 8". Let me know. Enjoy your March.

Bear Shatwell, PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com