



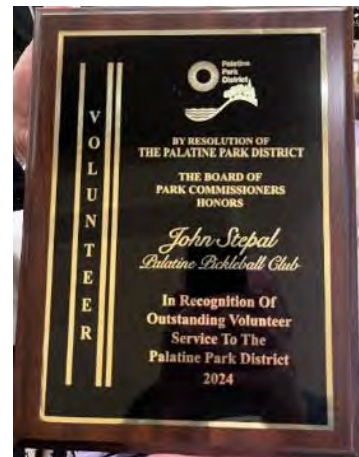
MARCH, 2025 NEWSLETTER

Let's start with the annual Palatine Park District Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. I always get a table for ten Picklers and invite those who have volunteered the most in the last year. Each year I write up "Why" one Pickler should be recognized as our Volunteer of the Year. Here's what I wrote this year:

John Stepal thought he'd give pickleball a try. He quickly discovered that the Palatine Pickleball Club offered free mentoring for new and beginning-intermediate picklers. So he signed up for a few sessions. Like so many others, he fell in love with the game immediately and hoped to be invited to every mentoring session. He even talked Marv, a Mentor and past Volunteer of the Year, into staying after sessions to work with him individually.

John was a sponge, absorbing and internalizing absolutely everything to which he was introduced. Only a few months after we introduced him to pickleball, I promoted him to Mentor. He took to teaching/coaching immediately and was instantly loved by all his students.

John currently teaches pickleball for the Arlington Park District. In that capacity he has referred many of his students to join the Palatine Picklers, for the added benefit of our mentoring sessions. John is the kind of member EVERY organization would want in a leadership role in their group.



PPD Superintendent of Facilities and Commissioner Jennifer Rogers gave John his plaque.



. Around from low left: Dennis, Karyn, Bear, Kathy, Ron, Marv, Linda, Bobbie, John, Frank

Twelve clubs and organizations also recognized their own Volunteers of 2024. PPD Executive Director also had all of us Honor Roll Members (Wall of Fame) stand at once for a little applause. The Guest Speaker was Kathy Millin, retired Executive Director of Partners for our Communities (POC). She entertained us with exploiting how much many of us have in common, along with exploring how much volunteer are appreciated and the impact they have. Two Spotlight Award winners were introduced. Then the sole Honor Roll Inductee was recognized. As always the food and service at Cotillion Banquets were exceptional.

TWO, FUN TOURNAMENTS THIS MONTH

AGING LEPRECHAUNS TOURNAMENT ... Thursday, March 13th 9:00 a.m.
in Canlan. This one is for Pickler Men at least 65 years old who will be wearing green on this day. To register email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

LADIES CLOSEST TO 60 TOURNAMENT ... Thursday, March 20 9:00 a.m.
in Canlan. You'll partner with each of your peers for one game. Just email me your interest **AND your MMDDYY date of birth**. I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

As after all my tournaments, intramurals, and mentoring, those whose schedule allows will join for lunch at Kelsey Road House a mile away from the Canlan Sportsplex.

INTERMEDIATE INTRAMURALS OUR 2ND BIGGEST SUCCESS

It's hard to compete with a free mentoring program that has helped, more than 500 newer Palatine Picklers get started right in their new addiction. That's been going on outdoors and indoors for 9 years. Our intermediate intramural program is only three years old and has served only slightly fewer than 100, but it's been loved by (almost) all who have participated. It doesn't take long to see if a Pickler is a bit over, or a bit under, our intended 3.0 to 3.5 skill range. I, hopefully, explain they're either too good or not quite ready for this program. No harm done, and we probably had a fun lunch.

What is it? It's basically a fun, full morning of pickleball with seven different partners. This is NOT serious, win at all costs, kind of stuff. Every other week I invite 16 Picklers (8 of each gender) to play for either the Whippersnappers or the Wise Ones, depending on their date of birth. You'll start by partnering with your same gender teammates for three games. Then you'll play four mixed games. Results are recorded on the scoreboard after each game. The team that wins the most of the 28 games played wins the day. After three years, The Wise Ones have a 2 match lead. You can see this is a fun and close competition about which no one really cares. It's just for fun, but it's great that, despite blowouts in favor of each team, it's REALLY close overall.

So here are the upcoming intramural dates: 3/4, 3/18, 4/1, 4/15, 4/29, 5/13, 5/27. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com those you anticipate being available to participate. Be sure to mark on your calendar "maybe intramurals" or something to remind you to email me, if a conflict arises. I send invitations to 16 Picklers on Sunday afternoons. If you fail to accept by 10:00 a.m. Monday, you earn a dreaded "strike." Email me by noon Saturday to take you off that week's ETBA (Expect To Be Available) list. Or you earn your first "strike." If you earn a second strike, you are benched from intramurals for six months. It's all about common courtesy. Those who have been benched say it seems like years. Bottom line: If you say you'll be available, be available, or let me know early you won't be. Easy peasy.

FYI I try to make the participation somewhat equitable. In a notebook I hand-write all the guys and ladies who are on the ETBA list for a given week. Then I put Xs or Os for did they participate in any of the last three matches. That helps me invite the most deserving 16 Picklers. I then arrange them in birth order, to make the rosters of each team. Yes, it's not uncommon for a Pickler to be a Whippersnapper one match and a Wise One the next.

I hope this explains all you need to know to realize you REALLY should give intramurals a try. So email me, again, at aokbarry@yahoo.com. I look forward to your email. You'll love it.

PALATINE PICKLERS FIND EACH OTHER IN OTHER STATES

It's so much fun to learn of Palatine Picklers running into other Palatine Picklers in other states. Marcia and Jesse Cohen outdid themselves, finding PPC members in three different towns.



Howard & Bunny – Marcia & Jesse
in Palm Desert



Larry with Marcia & Jesse
in Palm Springs



Jesse & Marcia with Sheila
in La Quinta



Anne found Jenny & Bill last month – Now she found Marueen in Siesta Key

CORRECTING AN OOPS

In the January newsletter I totally missed showing the top sweater finishers in the Ugly Sweater tournament. So here are our Pickler winners. Sorry for my oversight.



Pam 1st



John & Kent tie 2nd-3rd



Bear 4th

CALLING ALL NEWBIES, BEGINNERS, & THOSE WANTING TO LEARN OR PRACTICE MORE SKILLS

Our mentoring program has been LOVED by hundreds of Palatine Picklers. It started nine years ago and has served many hundreds of newer Picklers. Whether we have to tell you that spherical thing with holes is a pickleball or need to reinforce your reflex volleys at the kitchen line, email me the dates you would like to increase your knowledge and skills. Our indoor schedule runs every other Tuesday morning (9:00 to Noon) in Lake Barrington's Canlan Sportsplex. They charge \$10 a day. You, and three others of a perceived similar skill & experience level, will spend half an hour with each of six Mentors. And it's free. We routinely hear Picklers say they learned more in these three hours than in three weeks of costly lessons elsewhere. Our remaining, indoor sessions are 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, and 4/22. Please email me the dates on which you expect to be available to participate. I'll add you to those Expect To Be Available (ETBA) lists. Then just check your email on the Sunday afternoons before those dates. That's when I send invitations. It's a REALLY good idea to put "Maybe mentoring" on your calendar for dates you give me. Then you'll be reminded to email me to remove you from any ETBA list for which a conflict arises. FYI if you do not accept an invitation, you earn your first "strike." If you get a second, you're banned from mentoring for six months.



We keep hearing, "I was nervous about signing up, as I don't even know rules and am no good." Then those same individuals say, "That was awesome. I learned so much, and everyone was really friendly." Yeah, that sums us up. We are here on our own time, because we all WANT to help you enjoy your pickleball more, and the more you understand and grow in the sport, the more you enjoy it. So email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with the dates (above) you think you' be available to join us in Canlan.

GOTTA LOVE PALATINE PICKLER DISCOUNT\$

5% OFF anything sold on PickleballCentral.com, when you use the code **CRPALATINEPB**.

10-20% OFF Paddletek paddles from Chuck at 847-877-7770 or grtfuldad@aol.com.

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

25% OFF anything from Gammasports.com, with the code **ba_soderborg25**

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

5% OFF anything in Badminton Warehouse in Schaumburg, by mentioning Palatine Picklers

10% OFF anything purchased at Strings Attached IN Arlington Heights, when you mention Palatine Picklers.

RED & PINK VALENTINES COUPLES TOURNAMENT

Twelve pairs of Palatine Picklers, one in red and one in pink played one game against each of their 11 competitor pairs. Prior to starting play, though, I wanted to get photos of each pair. Sadly, three couples missed getting in line for me to take their pic. So I had to do with what I had. Sorry.



Sergio, John M, Char, Natalie, Tina, Bob, Ann, John B, Bear, Jesse, Marcia, Cindy L, Michael, Cindy A, John A, Jeff, Cathy, John G, Maureen, Stephanie, Larry, Denise, Charles, Cynthia, Mark



Bear, Ann, John



Cathy & Jeff



Cindy & John



Cindy & Michael



Cynthia & Mark



Denise & Charles



Jessee & Marcia



John & Maureen



John & Tina



Natalie & Bob



Sergio & Char



Stephanie & Larry



Days most successful Picklers:

Sergio & Char 2nd

Larry & Stephanie 1st

Cynthia & Mark 3rd

WHEN WILL INDOOR MENTORING END & OUTDOOR BEGIN?

April 22nd will be our last Canlan mentoring session until November. Our “by invitation,” Wednesday, Sycamore mentoring will begin May 7th. Sessions will be from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to Noon. Walk-on Hamilton sessions from 3 to 5 will begin Thursday, May 1st and, for those who cannot attend either Wednesday or Thursday due to babysitting, golf, work, etc., Saturday, May 3^d.

WHEN DO INTRAMURAL MATCHES END?

Never. They will continue to be held every other Tuesday in Canlan, until the twelfth of never, except during the year-end holidays.

LET'S REVIEW FALCON POLICIES

Rec – Competitive racks ... When there are enough Picklers to justify, we specify the 2 left paddle racks are for rec players, and the two on the right are for competitive. There is an arrow located between the two pairs of paddle racks. It will indicate which group goes out next. Whoever takes out the next for paddles to go out should also switch that arrow AND move the winner-loser tinker toy thing to the other rack.

Glare court policy ... There is an obvious advantage to being near the lobby on the southwest (lobby) court. That's why you want to switch sides half way through your remaining game. If you migrate to that court. So, if you migrate there with a score of 7-4. There are 4 more points for the winning team to play. Half of 4 is 2. 2 plus 7 is 9 so you change at 9. If the score is 6-5 when you arrive on the glare court, there are 5 remaining points. Half the difference to 11 is 2.5 so you round up to 3 and swap sides at 9. It does require 4th grade arithmetic, but I think we can all handle it. Just announce “Switch at __,” when you arrive at the court.

HEY ... I WANT TO PROFILE YOU

I have enjoyed writing 59 Pickler Profiles (see February newsletter to see who and when). AND Picklers have enjoyed getting to know more about Picklers with whom they've played. SO ... email me that you'd like to receive my Profile Prompter. It asks a number of questions. Your responses allow me to construct a, hopefully interesting, story of your life. I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com. We would like to get to know you better.

REMEMBER LINDA HYCNAR ?

I enjoy recalling Palatine Picklers who have moved away but stay in touch. Linda is one of those. She moved to Florida a couple years ago. Here's her update. Even when she was here, pickleball was, sadly and rarely, her second sport. She was big time into horse shoes.



. Linda and boyfriend Ralph Her house (We saw it under construction) see below

. Linda won 1st in Women's Class A (highest) in the Florida State Tournament.

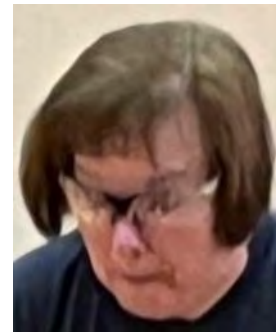
IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)



21,596

Karyn Picchiotti



20,265

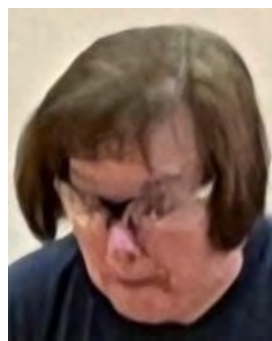
Jacquie McKeugue

WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)



18,075

Bear Shatwell



15,787

Jacquie McKeugue



15,589

Mary Werling

If your phone has a little, red heart icon, you'll find your daily steps there. If you get 15K+, take a screen shot and email it to me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. You too can be featured here too.

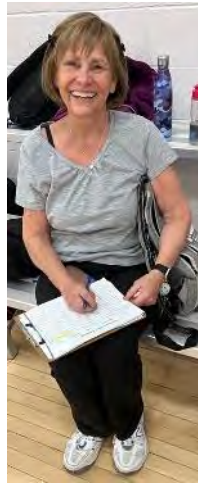
A LIGHT MONTH FOR NEW MEMBERS



ALICIA



CHAR



CHRIS



DIANE



JOE



LAURA



LISA



MARCI



RAY



SERGIO



THERESA M.



THERESA W.



VERA

Though few in number, these Newbies showed high energy and enthusiasm.

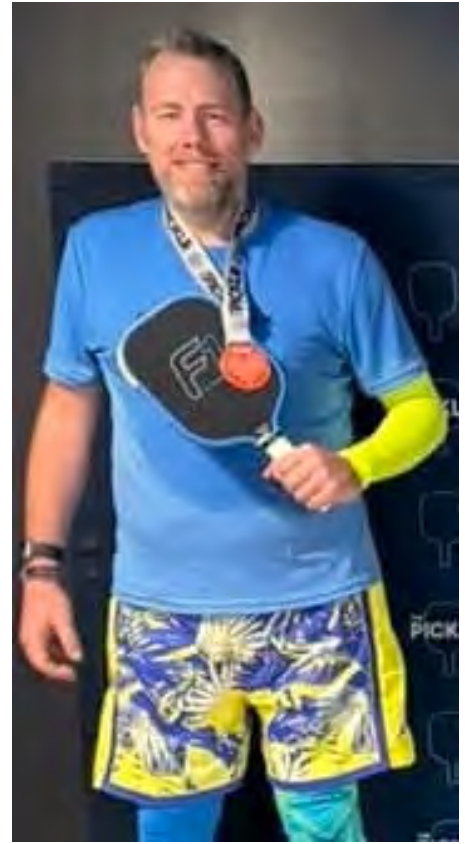
MEDALISTS FOR MARCH



Bo Johnson Silver & Steve Lawler Gold – MyDensityMatters - Lake Zurich – Intermediate Court 1



Dan Salbago Silver - MyDensity Matters - Lake Zurich – Intermediate Court 2



Dan Koste – I love PB tournament Villa Park Picklr – 3.5 singles - Silver



Christine Towers & Myron Levin - I Pickle Winter Classic, Whittier Narrows – 3.0 50+ - Silver



Larry Perlman & Stephanie Douglas - I Heart Pickleball, Mt Prospect Picklr - 3.0 Gold

MEET PICKLER JUDY (JEWEL) KRAKOWIAK

Judy was born March 11, 1945 in Chicago where she grew up. Her parents are in photo on the left. She's first generation Irish, from a family of 7. She was the youngest, with a lot of older brothers so she naturally became a tomboy. She loved all sports and still does. When she was 12 she was in the finals of Chicago Silver Skates. Though she didn't win, she got her falling around the final turn managed to get her photo in the Sun Times.



She attended St Mel's Grammar School and Providence High School, graduating

in 1963. Throughout she was involved in sports – track, basketball, volleyball, and baseball.

Judy loved her neighborhood, particularly her two great friends Kitty and Diana. The three have stayed close through the years. They are in the photo on the right.



She worked several office jobs and hung out in the neighborhood Irish bar. Then she married its owner, Michael McGuinn. One day Michael brought home a puppy. They decided to have a contest at the bar, to name him. Boozer was the winner. See photo on left.

Michael loved Ireland. They visited Judy's family several times. She had

two aunts who were Nuns. They loved spending time at their convent. "It was beyond anything you can imagine." They sang, danced, laughed, and ate. Each Sister was amazing and helped to create some of Judy's best memories. Judy and Michael had three wonderful years, before he passed away. Judy and Michael fill the photo on the right.



Then Judy went to Wright Junior College, to become a physical education teacher. While there she won volleyball and baseball titles. In her second year, she and her sister-in-law Maureen took the US Postal Service test. She passed and took the job, as the salary, health benefits, vacation time, and pension were way better than she would have had as a PE teacher. So she



quit school and began her USPS career in 1975. It was there that she met her second husband Fred. They married in 1986 and bought a house in Schaumburg. He, too, was an athlete and taught her to golf, fish, play tennis, racketball, and downhill skiing. They raced a bit at the ski resorts they frequented. They traveled a lot. Fred and Judy's photo is on the left.

Judy spent her last 15 years at USPS in Consumer Affairs. She helped put together a program to give presentations at grammar schools about the history of the Post Office. Her group also handled the Santa letters. She gave presentations on stamp collecting and the many benefits for women working at the USPS. After 30 years with the postal service, she (and Fred) retired in 2005.

Fred had been married previously and had three daughters. That allowed Judy to become a Grandmother and a Great Grandmother. Fred gave her the family she always wanted. Their house was

always full. They took care of everyone in both families – parents, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. After 21 years of marriage, Fred died of cancer in 2007. See Granddaughter, grandson, & great grandchildren.



Judy has traveled to 40 countries. She's zip lined in many of them. She's paraglided in the Alps and in Africa. She's done two tandem parachute jumps. She joined Roosevelt ICL classes over 55. She attends classes and teaches an art class.

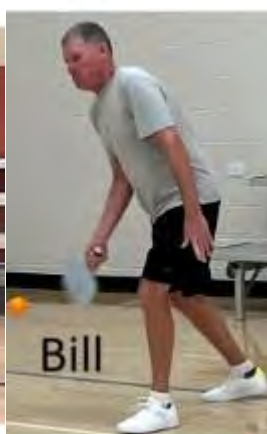
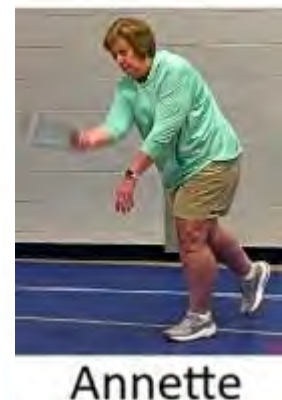
Photos: African lion was released a few months later ... Fishing in Iceland ... Paragliding in the Alps ... Snorkeling by the Great Barrier Reef.

She was looking for more activity so tried pickleball. It wasn't a good experience for her and Nancy. They then went to Birchwood, met some Palatine Picklers, and they welcomed and helped them. Judy has nothing but great experiences with our club. She took advantage of our free mentoring, and found each Mentor had something new to add. She has made new friends through pickleball. She plays three times a week. She's been playing just short of two years.

Judy has checked off many of her bucket list items, but still wants to fly in a glider, visit Greece and France, and visit more national parks.



LET'S SEE SOME PICKLERS PLAYING





Bob



Brad



Brian



Brian



Brian



B
R
U
C
E



C
A
R
O
L



Carol



Carole



Char



Charles



Chris



Chris



Chris



Chris



Cindy



Cindy



Clay



Cynthia



Danny



Deb



Debbie



Deborah



Denise



Diane



Don



Doug



Evelyn



Fred



Gary



Geoff



Gerd



Geri



Gordon



Greg



Heidi



Ivan



Jack



Jacquie



Janet



Janice



Jeff



Jeff



Jeff



Jeff



Jeff



Jen



Jenna



Jenny



Jesse



Jill



Jim



Jim



Jim



Jim



Joanie



John



John



John



John



Jonathan



Judy



Karen



Karen



Karen



Karen



Kate



Kathy



Kathy



Kathy



K
A
U
D
R
E
E



Kevin



Kevin



Kim



Larry



L
E
S
L
I
E



Linda



Linda



Lisa



Lisa



Lori



Marcia



Mark



Marv



Mary



Mary



Mary



Mike



Mike



Mike



Mike



Mike



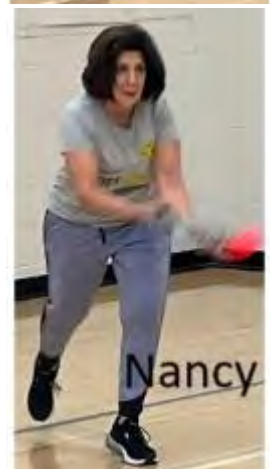
Mike



Nancy



Nancy



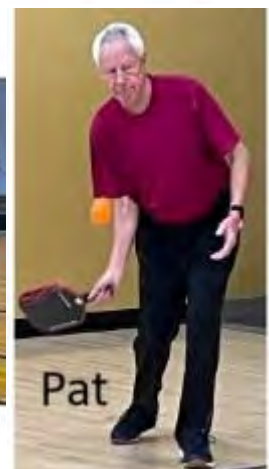
Nancy



Natalia



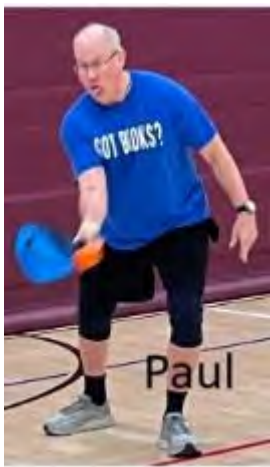
Pam



Pat



Patti



Paul



Peggy



Polly



Ramesh



Ricardo



Rich



Robin



Ron



Ryan



Scott



Sheila



Sheila



Stephanie



Steve



Steve



Sue



Susan



Theresa



Therese



Tina



Tom



Tom



Tom



Tommy



Vida

UNTALL LADIES WERE A LITTLE SHORT – OF PARICIPANTS



In only a few days, we went from having eight ladies and an Alternate to being two shy of the required eight. Janice and Bear filled those vacancies so this annual event could still take place. Of course, our scores didn't count.



Marcia 2nd, Bindoo 1st, Judy 3rd
Bindoo won 87 of a possible 91 points. Marcia had 72, Judy 70.

Cathy B, Karen, Janice, Bear, Marcia, Cathy D, Bindoo, Judy

Lunch or 7 of us was great too.

'TIL NEXT MONTH ...

As we begin our 11th year as the Palatine Pickleball Club, I want to thank all of you for making us a truly great club. The friendliness, the sportsmanship, the welcoming, the nurturing, and the respect for one another sets us apart. Sure, our mentoring programs, decent website, fun tournaments, and intramural matches do cause pickleball players and newbies to join the club ... but it's your interaction with them that keeps them happy and coming back. Thank you.

Last year at this time, I had 40 Mentorees on the Expect To Be Available lists, from which we'd select 24 to participate in our every other Tuesday, three hour mentoring sessions – half an hour with each of six Mentors. The last three weeks, we didn't even fill six courts. Makes no sense. This is surely the best, FREE learning experience for new and newer players ANYWHERE. We Mentors WANT to help you develop your skills and enjoy our great game more. If it makes shy newcomers feel more comfortable, I spend the evening before each session reviewing past mentoring notes, experience/level expressed on membership applications, etc. to assign four Picklers of similar ability and experience to each court. You'll stay with your three peers throughout the morning. Our next mentoring session in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake



Barrington is 3/11 ... then every other week through the end of April. Please give me the dates you expect to be available to participate. At noon we enjoy lunch together.

Now – time is kind of short for the **Aging Leprechaun tournament** for guys 65+ wearing green. It's 3/13. Email me to register. I'm still at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Afterward, we'll have lunch.

Our annual **Ladies Closest to 60 tournament** is 3/20 in Canlan at 9:00. Send me your MMDDYY date of birth. You may get in, if you're 45 or 75. Just email me. I'll let you know if you make it.

Happy pickling from Rusty and me.

Bear

PicklersPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com