



SEPTEMBER, 2026 NEWSLETTER

OUR WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPDATED & IMPROVED

If you haven't visited PalatinePicklers.com lately, you really should. Niles Dhiman joined our club in March and immediately started making a difference. He replaced me as the one who crops, edits, and lays out our Newbies pages. Then he contacted me saying our website is OK,



but it could really need supercharging (or some such). Our Webmaster from Day 1 has been John Pihl. He was ready to retire. Perfect timing. Niles now wears that title too. He met with our Social Media Manager Cathy Marist and me to discuss potential changes. I understood nothing of what they were saying, but I loved their shared enthusiasm. Niles wasted no time. Within a few days he had a prototype (right term?) to show. This time Cathy sent hubby Jeff who is even more Techy than she. His show was really cool. Lots of tweaks and additions to be added, but it was good enough he took it live that week.

The photo is of Niles working on what he was showing Jeff and me. The site is now interactive and will have (if not yet) a calendar of all Palatine Pickler events and others of interest. You'll be able to see who's who in volunteer positions in the club. He even got Juan's popcorn and donation fundraiser Tweener Memo on there. It is still a work in progress, but I don't have to wait until January to declare that, at the February Park District Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Niles will be recognized as our 2026 Volunteer of the Year.

REALLY? EVERYONE IS HAPPY WITH THEIR GAME?

Some Wednesday mornings are coming up short of the 24 Picklers we can serve. Shocking. We've been doing these for 11 years, and that's never happened. You do not have to be a beginner to benefit from mentoring. I'm wondering if I'm the cause for low turnout. Yes, I'm currently a 1.5 to 2.0 (lousy), but pre-COVID I did have a tournament rating of 3.5/mixed and



3.4/mens. I coach better than I play or ever did play. And our other Mentors are far better than I. We have from total beginners to 4.0 participating in mentoring. You are NOT above a little drilling and monitored playing.

Our more organized sessions are Wednesday, 9:00 to 10:30 and then 10:30 to Noon. You'll share courts with three of similar ability and experience and spend 30 minutes with each of three Mentors. MOST come back again and again. Apparently, as have hundreds of

their predecessors, they like our mentoring. It's simple. Email our Mentoree Scheduler Rune at Rune.Karsbaek@gmail.com with the Wednesday mornings you Expect To Be Available. You'll be put on an ETBA list for that date. If a conflict arises, email Rune to remove you from that week's ETBA list by Saturday before the affected Wednesday. On Sunday, he'll

invite 24 of you to participate in one of Wednesday's sessions.



Thursdays and Saturdays from 3 to 5 at Hamilton do NOT need an invitation. Just show up a few minutes early. I'll wing the court assignments, but if I blow it, I'll have a couple of you change courts. We want you to be with appropriate Picklers. Again,

we serve from total Beginners to Advanced Picklers each day. Try it. You'll like it.



UPCOMING FUN TOURNAMENTS

To register for any of these, email Fun Tournament Director Bob at of these BobMcGowan1946@gmail.com. Each of these has been enjoyed for years in Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington from 9:00 to Noon, with lunch following. IF BOB DOESN'T ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR EMAIL WITHIN 2 DAYS, EMAIL HIM AGAIN.

MOST GRANDKIDS – 9/24 - Obviously, let Bob know how many you have.

FAMILY FUN – 10/8 – Partner with any non-spousal relative.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES – 10/29 – You'll judge costumes before playing. For play you may remove inhibiting costume parts.

IT'S "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN" TIME

Over the years Palatine Picklers have spent parts of many afternoons in Schaumburg assembling packets of food for hungry kids around the world. For the last few years Maureen Greene has coordinated this for us. We are now scheduled for 2:30 - 4:00 ON Wednesday, September 23rd. FMSC is located at 740 Wiley Farm Ct. Wear your Palatine Picklers shirt, if you have one or more.

To register email Maureen at MaureenTGreene@gmail.com.

CHECK THESE ALL-AMERICAN SAVINGS

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 EngagePickleball - Use discount code 20Jon

Selkirk discount code is Adv-JBradford

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

15% 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. You can demo their paddles too.

WE'D LOVE MORE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL PICKLERS

For more than four years, every other Tuesday morning has seen 16 Palatine Picklers playing in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. Who are these 16? Well, the faces change from week to week, but they all come from the 2400 who comprise our intermediate level players. We target the 3.0 to 3.5 level – those who believe there are as many Palatine Picklers with greater skill than their own as there are Palatine Picklers who aren't quite as skilled as they.

If you even think this may describe you, give our intramurals a try. Between 9:00 and Noon, you'll partner with each of your teammates for one game. Rosters change from match to match, but the younger half of the day's participants comprise the Whippersnappers, while their elders make up the Wise Ones. Obviously, some Picklers play on one team one match and the other team the next. After four years the teams are within a couple wins of each other.

Another fun thing about these competitions is that they are followed by lunch a mile away, individual schedules permitting.

To give it a try, email our Intramural Manager Chrissie at TonyandChrissie@earthlink.net. Be sure to give her your month, day, and year of birth too so she can put you on the appropriate team for your match. Over the weekend before your match, Chrissie will invite 16 Picklers from her Expect To Be Available list to play. You can give her as many dates as you expect to be available. The next match is September 15th.

WHY ARE MENTOREES IN SHORT SUPPLY?

Could it be that all but about 30 feel their games are beyond needing help or tweaks? Maybe many prefer to pay for help with their games, rather than, quite possibly, learning more for free right here from fellow Palatine Picklers. Could it be a fear of being embarrassed by their unpolished play? Maybe they work, golf, babysit, or get their hair done Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Whatever the reasons, we're puzzled why we've helped hundreds of Picklers on Wednesday mornings over the past decade, but some weeks now we have trouble scheduling just the 24 we can serve each week. Maybe someone knows a Pickler of greater ability who is in mentoring and finds that intimidating.

Here's the thing. Every Tuesday evening I do the research to assign each of the next day's 24 Mentorees to a group of four who share similar abilities/experience. Whether assigned to the 9:00 to 10:30 session or the 10:30 to Noon one, they will spend half an hour with each of the day's three Mentors.

Our Sycamore Wednesdays will continue through October 28th. To participate just email our Wednesday Mentoree Scheduler Rune at Rune.Karsbaek@gmail.com with the Wednesdays you expect to be available. Over each weekend he'll invite 24 Picklers to participate on Wednesday. In the event a conflict arises for you, please ask Rune to remove you from that week's ETBA list by Saturday before the impacted Wednesday.

LESS STRUCTURED are our Thursday and Saturday 3:00 to 5:00 mentoring sessions at Hamilton. Again, I'll attempt to put you on a court with compatible Picklers. Again, you'll spend time with multiple Mentors. These are "walk on" sessions. No reservations needed. Just plan to arrive BEFORE 3:00. DAYS LATER – Just realized I'd already coved this. Sorry, but it deserves a repeat. These sessions will continue at least through October. Then only on warm days.

WHEN CAN WE MOVE INDOORS ?

FALCON – Beginning October, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 8:30 to 12:30.

BIRCHWOOD – Beginning September 14th, Monday through Thursday from 11:30 to 3:30.

COMMUNITY CENTER – Thursdays starting 9/3, from 6:30-11:30 a.m.

HARPER (SE Bldg M) – Check TeamReach (code PPBall2023) for available dates/times

“NON-NATIVE” TOURNAMENT

The August Pickler fun event was the NON-NATIVES Tournament for those born outside of Illinois. The majority were born in Great Lakes states, but New York, West Virginia and Denmark were also represented. The battle for first place between Rich and John came down to the last game played. Everyone had a good time, and several players enjoyed lunch together at the KRH restaurant.



Joe, Rich, Carol, Jean, Kim, Rune, John, and Michael



Carol

Jean

Joe

John



Kim

Michael

Rich

Rune

John 2nd, Rich 1st, Michael and Joe 3rd (Tie)

PROTECTING EYES SHOULD BE A PRIORITY



Whatever the color, whatever the style, YOU should be wearing eye protection, whenever you are playing pickleball. If you're not wearing prescription glasses, get yourself a pair of pickleball goggles. Pickleball is getting a reputation for eye injuries. These can be painful, unflattering, costly, and sometimes permanent. For \$30 to \$100 you can protect your eyes.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SHIRTS, WHY NOT?



You see some of the 1,000 shirts we've delivered, virtually every time you come to a local court. You, obviously, enjoy belonging to the Palatine Pickleball Club or you wouldn't be reading this right now. Here's an idea. Quit reading for a couple minutes and go to PalatinePicklers.com. Check out the shirts available to you, find your favorite style/s and color/s, scroll down (not on cell phone) and place your order. Our Shirt Manager Linda will be in touch. Then, of course, come back to keep reading your September newsletter.

CALLING ALL SUMMER MENTOREES

It's not too early to try to be within the first 24 to register. Our Summer Mentoree Tournament will be Tuesday, November 3rd in Lake Barrington's Canlan Sportsplex, from 9:00 to Noon. I have structured some of the 20 of these I've run so that you partner with each of your 23 peers for one, short game. Lately, I've had two tournaments of 12 Mentorees, based on the alpha order of your first name. In either case, you'll have more fun than you can imagine. So, if you've participated in Sycamore or Hamilton mentoring this summer, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to sign up. BTW after the tournament/s, we go to Kelsey Road House a mile away for lunch. We always have 20+ who join us here.

Mentors, current and past will serve as refs for the tournament. I give them a list (which they surely know anyway) of faults we should call. This may well include some to which you have not been introduced ... so it may be a learning experience.

STRIKES SPAN ALL EVENTS

Just to be sure you understand, we share strikes. A strike at mentoring AND a strike at a fun tournament or intramurals, etc. gets you banned for all club events for six months.

DOES THIS TOURNAMENT WORK FOR YOU?

It's Saturday, September 26th, from 9:00 to 1:00. There are 16 spots for those under 3.0 and 16 for 3.1 and above. These will be round robin events so you don't need a partner. The cost is \$40 for Arlington Heights residents and \$50 for all others. ARC will supply water and snacks. If you have taken a class at ARC or have a membership, you can use that number to register online. Otherwise call 847-577-3025 or come to ARC at 600 N Ridge in Arlington Heights (WHERE YOU'LL BE PLAYING) to register. These should fill up fast so don't think about it too long.

MEET A FEW OF AUGUST'S NEW PALATINE PICKLERS



Aileen



Alex N



Alex R



Bob G



Bob P



Charlie



Chris



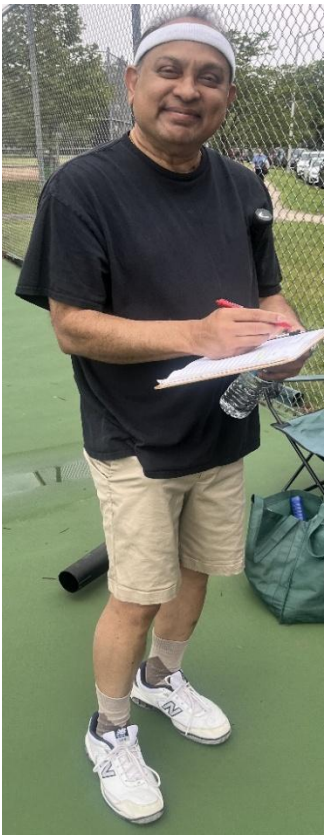
Dave



Eric



Gloria



Jacob



James



Jason



Jeff



John



Katherine H



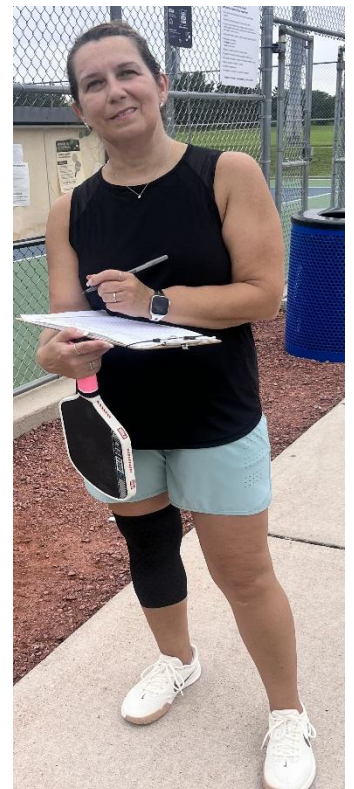
Katherine S



Kevin



Kumiko



Lily



Luke



Matt



Tanya



Terry

FRED VALDEZ'S FALL TOURNAMENT & LUNCH

This one is for Team Reach members (easy to join – register an account and download the app for Kildeer Picklr). It's Wednesday, September 16th. Tournament will run from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Kildeer Picklr, 20393 N Rand Rd, Kildeer. \$10 fee at check in. Up to 28 Picklers will be registered. Paddle up to determine next four players to play. Play to 11, win by 1. Record your wins.

There will be awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most points scored. Tiebreakers will be total points allowed.

THEN go to Hot Pockets, 365 W Northwest Hwy, Palatine for lunch. Cost is \$15 which includes unlimited steak tacos, nachos, soft drinks. There is a cash bar with \$3.50 draft beer, \$4 wine, and \$4.50 White Claw Seltzer.

Please sign up with Fred Valdez by 9/14 by emailing Valdez2424@yahoo or calling him at 708-712-7158. Enjoy.

PICKLERS IN ACTION



Alex



Andrea



Ann



Barb



Bea



Beth



Bill



Bill



Bob



Brian



Carol



Carol



Charlie



Chris



Chris



Chris



Chris



Chris



Chris



Chrissie



Cindy



Cissy



Clay



Dan



Dan



Dave



Dennis



Diane



Donna



Doug



Ekke



Gary



Gerd



Gloria



Howard



Janet



Janice



Jean



Jeff



Jenny



Jim



Jim



Jim



Jim



Joe



John



Juan



Judy



Julie



Julie



Karen



Kate



Katherine



Katherine



Kent



Kevin



Khin



Kim



Kumiko



Leslie



Lily



Linda



Lisa



Luke



Madeline



Mary



Mary



Matt



Matt



Max



Michael



Mike



Mike



Natasha



Noreen



Pam



Pat



Paul



Paul



Rich



Rick



Rose



Rune



Sally



Scott



Scott



Silver



Stephanie



Steve



Tanya



Terry



Tom

MT PROSPECT PICKLR TOURNAMENT

Our third, 32 Palatine Picklers tournament at the Mt Prospect Picklr was held Tuesday, August 25th. Two hours of fun for all. (Well, my stability issue from half a year of inactivity may be the exception. Last time I was on a cane. Before that I was top 10. Now last by a long shot.)





2nd Stephanie Douglas, 1st Bill Shehadeh, 3rd Amber Brown

Here are the top 16 (top half) scores.

Bill S 120 – Stephanie D 117 – Amber B 108 – Matt F 100 – Bill P 90 – Pete B – Juan O 83 –
Kathy M 83 – Mike C 83 – Carol H 82 - Karen K 81 – Chris K – Cindy L 76 – Jim S 75 – Pam T 75 –
Jesse C 73 Congratulations to all who participated.



Lunch at Jameson's Charhouse was an enjoyable bonding experience.

AH SR CENTER TOURNAMENTS STILL NEEDS PLAYERS



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
8:30 AM TO 1 PM

\$45
Per Person

- 10 Outdoor courts
- Round-Robin format
- No rain date
- Players receive tournament giveaway & Snacks

For more information
847.253.5532 or seniorcenter@vah.com

Register Online
QR code or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ahsc-inc-pickleball-tournament-tickets-1988404268694?aff=oddtcreator>



Beginner, Intermediate, & Advanced players still needed. Email me your division and a pic of your medal, but sign up for this round robin now while you still can. It's always a fun one.

CONGRATS TO THIS MONTH'S BEST WALKERS

SUPER STEPPERS (20k+steps in a day)

21,394



Bob McGowan

WORTHY WALKER 15K+ steps in a day

18,502



Bob McGowan

17,562



Phil Cooper

16,661



Bear Shatwell

16,222



Joanie Willmeth

✓ 15,749



Dawn Cooper

THIS MONTH'S MEDALISTS



Juan Ortiz & *David Lewis*
APP Vlasic Classic - Men's Wheelchair
Doubles - Silver



Brigitte Latal & Scott Stubing
APP Vlasic Classic - Mixed Doubles
3.5-4.0 / 65+ - Bronze



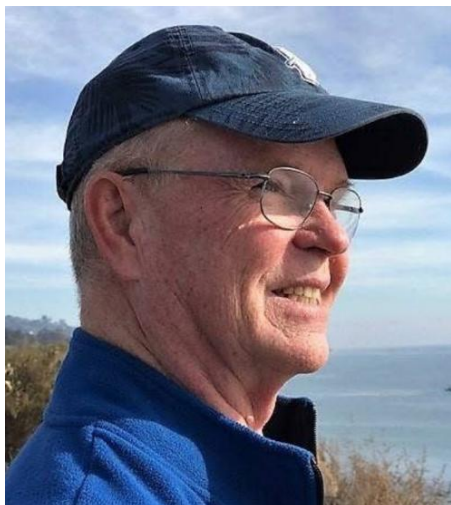
David Spearman and Chuck Feinstein
APP Vlasic Classic
Men's Doubles Senior Pro / 60+ - Gold



Stephanie Douglas and Larry Perlman
Bridge Communities PB Tournament -
Intermediate - Bronze

I CERTAINLY GOT PUT IN MY PLACE

Once upon a time I played on the competitive courts and had a tournament rating of 3,4 for men's matches and 3.5 for mixed. Maybe those days are gone forever. These days I've been trying to rebuild muscle in atrophied legs to regain balance (long story). I may think of myself



as about 54, but my chronology is higher. Falling is not an acceptable option. The last couple weeks I've awakened with hip & back pain that has me sweating within minutes. I've "played with several Picklers (always wait until 9:00 so many competitive Picklers will be gone) who have seemed OK with covering for my immobility, and I've appreciated that. Now I wonder if they were just being overly polite. This week one Pickler spoke his mind. "Why are you even here?" "This is a nightmare." I had thought my 4 mentoring sessions a week, dozens of photos taken, 30+ hours a week on laptop doing newsletters and other Pickler stuff, playing pickleball police

when necessary, having created dozens of fun tournaments and leagues and intramurals, and having built this club to almost 5,000 members would have earned me the right to occasionally waste ten minutes of your life. Obviously, I was wrong. I need to build up muscle and balance, if I hope to get back into intramurals where I had a winning record. Playing pickleball is nowhere near as much fun as when I was mobile, but it's still more fun for getting muscle-building steps than walking on my treadmill. I started this club to get people feeling better about themselves, develop their skills, make friends, and have more fun than they would without it. Due to various injuries, all the activities at which I was better (volleyball, table tennis, tennis, squash, miniature golf, darts, bags, golf, and even bowling) are off my table. Pickleball is what's left. I won't quit, but if you see you'd be in a foursome with me, I have no problem with your moving one to three paddles ahead of mine so you won't have to endure the nightmare of sharing a court with me. I'd rather play with other Picklers anyway.

NOW SIGN UP FOR THINGS – You'll find details in articles above. Weekly Wednesday morning mentoring – every other Tuesday morning intramurals - Fred's Wednesday, 9/16 tournament and/or Hot Pockets lunch – AH Sr Center tournament Saturday 9/19 (to play and/or help set up, etc.) – Feed My Starving Children Wednesday 9/23 - ARC tournament Saturday 9/26 - Family Fun tournament Thursday 10/8 – Halloween Costume tournament Thursday 10/29 – Summer Mentorees' tournament Tuesday 11/3 - and Ordering shirts on our website.

Whether indoors or out, enjoy your pickling.

Bear Shatwell
PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com

Hope you like this Facebook retro
stamp version of my photo above

