



PalatinePicklers.com

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JANUARY, 2025 NEWSLETTER

UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER TOURNAMENT



Jeff, John, Karen, Jim, Clay, Kent, Bear, Pam, Cathy, Natalie, Annette, Mary, Deb, Carole, & Lucy. Didn't realize it until now, but Gail missed this photo. These 16 Palatine Picklers enjoyed a truly fun morning and early afternoon of sweaters, pickleball, and really festive lunch.



Annette



Bear



Carole



Cathy



Clay



Deb



Gail



Jeff



Jim



John



Karen



Kent



Lucy



Mary



Natalie



Pam

WINNERS: (possible 140 points) 1st Pam with 130. 2nd Karen with 127. 3rd Bear with 125. Carole 4th with 124.

CHRISTMASY LUNCH FOLLOWED



3rd ANNUAL DENSITY MATTERS PB TOURNAMENT

DATE: Sunday, February 16th

LOCATION: Foglia YMCA, 1025 N Old McHenry Rd, Lake Zurich

WARM-UP: 8:45 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/RULES: 9:15 a.m.

PLAY BEGINS: 9:30 a.m.

COST: \$50.00

BEGINNER (3.0 and below): 16 openings

INTERMEDIATE (3.1-3.9): 24 openings

ADVANCED (4.0 and above): 8 openings

REGISTRATION: <https://mydensitymatters.org/calendar/pickleball-tournament-2025-02-16/>

For the third, consecutive year, the tournament will be run by Jose Sosa.

EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION: Charcuterie Class in the multipurpose rooms beside the courts. Spectators and significant others of players are invited to join this fun. The class will run from 11:00 to Noon. The cost is \$40 per participant. The class can accommodate 30 participants each of whom will receive the tools to create a delicious charcuterie board. The class will be led by Personal Chef Ann Wayne.

REGISTER: <https://mydensitymatters.org/calendar/charcuterie-for-your-cutie/>

LEARN MORE ABOUT MY DENSITY MATTERS AT mydensitymatters.org.

CALLING ALL INTERMEDIATE PICKLERS

Our Intermediate Intramural matches began in 2022 and have been contested every other Tuesday, except during the holidays, ever since. They are so much fun that I'd really like to see more Palatine Picklers get in on these fun mornings. You'll surely play with different teammates each time you hit the Canlan courts. Picklers arrive by 8:45 to pay their \$10 fee and warm up a bit. I get things going at 9:00. Your team will have four men and four ladies. You will partner with each of your teammates for one game. We'll finish about 11:45 at which time all whose

schedule allows gather a mile away at Kelsey Road House for lunch. (Great food, great service, reasonable prices, and separate checks.)

The target talent range is 3.0 to 3.5. That includes at least half of our membership. If you wonder if you fall within that range, ask any Pickler you think is a bit better than you. If you still don't know if you are appropriate, I'll roster you once and see if you fit or are a bit above or below our idea of intermediate.

Each Sunday I arrange all those on the "Expect To Be Available" list for Tuesday in order of their dates of birth. I then indicate in which, if any, of the last three matches each has played.

I try to balance participation as much as is possible, while still keeping matches competitive. It's worked out well. As I write this, the Wise Ones (older half) have a 33-31 lead over the Whippersnappers (younger half) in the 3-year series.

For those of you who are shy about playing in a tournament, this is not that. These are purely for fun events. You get more playing time than you do at open play, and almost all your games will be more evenly matched which adds to your fun.

Here are the upcoming match dates: 1/7 1/21 2/4 2/18 $\frac{3}{4}$ 3/18 4/1 4/15 4/29 5/13 5/27. Email me the dates for which you'd like to be added to the Expect To Be Available (ETBA) list. Then check your email on the Sunday afternoon before those dates, to see if I've rostered you that week.



NOW LET'S RECRUIT MORE MENTOREES

Mentoring has, for nine years, been THE big draw for the Palatine Pickleball Club. Even more than our popular intramurals or the dozen, ever-changing, fun tournaments we enjoy each year. Over the years we've improved the play of roughly one thousand students ... all at no charge. In the outdoor season, we have two Wednesday sessions by invitation and both Thursday and Saturday walk-on sessions.

Our indoor season (November through April) is actually our most beneficial. Our every other Tuesday morning sessions are from 9:00 to Noon in the Lake Barrington Canlan Sportsplex. They charge a \$10 daily fee. During your morning, you will spend 30 minutes with each of six Mentors, while sharing a court with three Picklers of, I expect to be of similar ability.

Check out a few pics from a recent Tuesday morning.



Mentors Dennis in blue and Frank in gray



Mentor Ron in gray



Mentor Bill in all black



. Mentor Mary in black over red



Mentor John in green



. Mentor Jeff in gray

Mentor Bear was taking these photos

This doesn't look too intimidating, does it? If you aren't ready for intramurals, you should email me the mentoring dates you expect to be available. They are 1/14 1/28 2/11 2/25 3/11 3/25 4/8 4/22 After that we're back outdoors on Wednesday mornings. So email me your doable dates. I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Then check email on Sunday afternoons, to see if you're invited that week.





WERE YOU BORN IN ILLINOIS? NO? THEN THIS IS FOR YOU

In a couple weeks, on Thursday, January 16th to be specific, we're having our first "Non-Native" tournament for Picklers born elsewhere. Should be fun. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to register for this fun event. Then, of course, we go to lunch for some non-pickleball conversation. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to register.

BECAUSE WE'VE HAD TOO MANY BENCHED FOR SIX MONTHS

Not my favorite topic, but it seems we need to review "strikes." If you ask to be put on an Expect To Be Available (ETBA) list, we actually expect you to be available. When you make that request, PLEASE put "Maybe Canlan" or something on your calendar to remind you to email me to take you off that ETBA list, should a conflict arise. Here are the ways you can "earn" a strike:

- 1) Not respond to a Sunday afternoon invitation to participate in mentoring or intramurals before 10:00 a.m. Monday.
- 2) Respond saying you cannot attend after all.
- 3) Contacting Kathy (our Mentoree Scheduler) with ANYTHING other than "I'll be there."
Everything else has to come to me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

I won't say we forgive a strike, but we will overlook one. If you earn a second strike, you are banned from mentoring or intramurals for six months. We REALLY don't like wasting time replacing you. When 6:00 p.m. Sunday comes, those not invited to participate on Tuesday are free to make other plans. Sometimes it takes several attempts to replace a striker. NOT fun.

I'm reiterating this policy, because I've had to bench a couple offenders for six months last month. I hate doing that, but we do believe we have earned some common courtesy. Brand new policy ... if someone gets benched for six months twice, they're banned for life from that event.

SHIRT ORDERS ARE DWINDLING ... PLEASE CHANGE THAT



Thanks to Linda O'Connor who, a couple years ago, took over from me the shirt orders. She tells me the online shirt orders are low. Please go to PalatinePicklers.com on your computer (not phone) and order your shirts. Do me a favor. Each shirt ordered is a "warm fuzzy" for me. It's almost ten years since I hand-drew that logo. I kind of like seeing it on roughly 1,000 shirts now. Join the "Half Dozen" club. There are at least six of us who own six or more PPC shirts. Remember that now you can get white copy on darker color shirts. (The above photo was taken a couple years before this option was available.) Order your shirt now so you'll have it before our next, well-dressed photo op in March.

SIGN UP FOR THE COUPLES RED & PINK TOURNAMENT

This year our annual Valentines Red & Pink couples tournament will be Thursday, February 13th. It gets started at 9:00 in Canlan in Lake Barrington. If you're a couple, one of you must wear red, while your partner wears pink. You do not have to be married or even SOs. Find a compatible partner (no restrictions) and sign up. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to register. See below how happy last year's participants were? Email me. After the tournament we'll drive a mile for lunch in a very Valentine-oriented environment.



MYSTERY LADY IDENTIFIED

If you happened to notice in the December newsletter, not all the Picklers in the Feed My Starving Children group photo were identified by name.



The lady between Joanne and Angela was called “Mystery Lady.” I’ve known Ann Lawrence for years but, for who knows what reason, didn’t recognize her. Sorry, Ann.

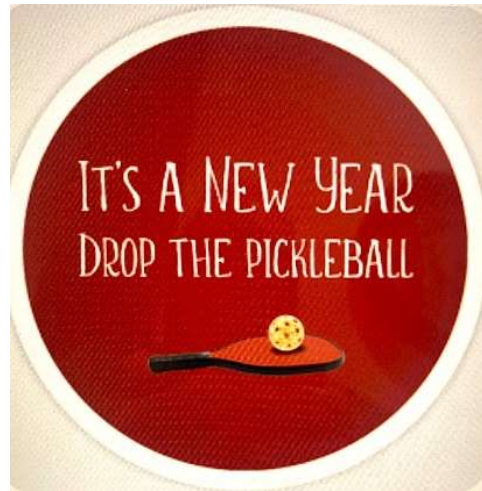
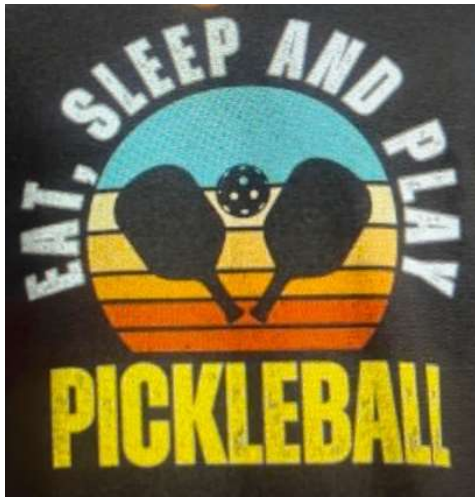
GLARE COURT POLICY

Most who have bought a bunch of Falcon passes before the price HIKE are familiar with this. For newer Palatine Picklers, let’s review it. I designated the Falcon court nearest the lobby as the “Glare Court.” There is a distinct advantage to be on the lobby side, when playing on this court. Consequently, it makes sense to share that advantage. So ... when you “migrate” to that court, note your score. Subtract the leading score from 11. Then divide it by two, rounding up. Add it to the top score. When the leading score reaches THAT score, you change sides. For example, you arrive at the Glare Court with a a score of 6-4. $11-6=5$. Half of 5 rounded up is 3. Add 3 to 6 and, bingo, you change sides when one team reaches 9. Easy peasy and fair for all.

THANKS, JESSE



We are fortunate to have three Palatine Pickler Handymen. Jim Blair was the first. He created ALL the “next up” racks, both PVC and wood. Then came Jaime Sandoval who first raised the Hamilton nets during COVID so balls could be putted back to their owners (touching only your own ball was the policy). He’s repaired several nets too and hung our Hamilton wind sock. (Yes, I’ll give him a replacement this spring). Then came Jesse Cohen. He created the “Rec – Competitive” arrow for when there are four paddle racks in Falcon. Now he’s made a “Play to 9, win by 1” sign for Falcon. It’s perfectly functional, but we should re-acknowledge Pat Morgan’s wood burned work of art sign we use at Hamilton. Thanks, Jesse. You saw a need and filled it perfectly.



START 2025 WITH PALATINE PICKLERS **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**.

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

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON WAS MOST ATTENDED EVENT EVER

Clay Farnsworth orchestrated this fantastic get together. More than 80 Palatine Picklers enjoyed the festive environment, fantastic food, fun socialization, and fine entertainment at the Schwaben Athletic Club on Thursday, December 19th. And it was for the incredibly low price of \$20 apiece. This event's attendance barely surpassed a Lamplighter lunch a couple years pre-COVID. Take a look ...



Clay and Chris made all this happen Schwaben identified our tables with these centerpieces





. Clay sang both Christmas and popular songs and conducted Pickler participation songs too



FUN FACTS TO START THE NEW YEAR

The Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and Pickleheads have published their annual pickleball participation report. For the third consecutive year, pickleball has grown in the US by at least 223%. There are now 13.6 million players here. That trails number 1 soccer which boasts 14.1 million players. Pickleball will certainly be number 1 by the end of 2025. Male picklers outnumber females 59% to 31%. The average age of the American pickler is 46. 67% of the courts in the US are outdoors, while 33% are inside.

Locally, the Palatine Pickleball Club added 560 new members in the last twelve months.

IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)

22,897



Jeff Colish

WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)

17,434



Bear Shatwell

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. It seems most of our regulars were too consumed with holiday activities that they either didn't do their usual walking or they forgot to take a screen shot and send it to me. Hope we have at least a dozen for February.



DECEMBER NEWBIES



DAVE



DAWN



JOHN



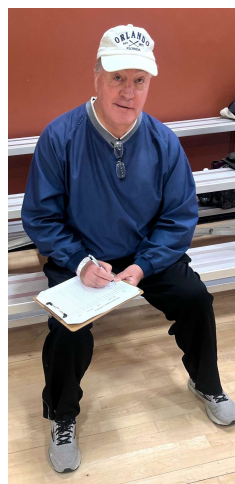
KATHY



KIM

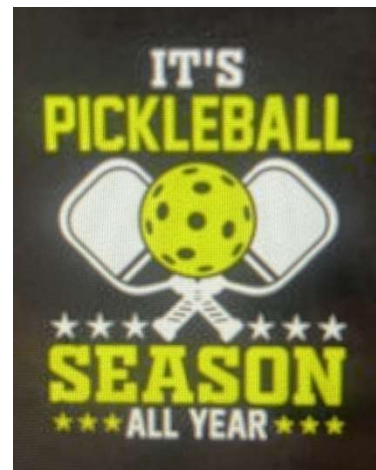


PING



WOODY

As with our Walkers, it seems our normal volume of would-be Newbies were too busy to play pickleball wherever I was playing. I already have a lot more for February's newsletter.



OUR ANNUAL UNTALL LADIES TOURNAMENT IS 2/27

This one has traditionally been one of the most fun tournaments of the year. As always it is in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington, starting at 9:00 a.m. To qualify you must not have grown higher than 5'2". You'll partner with each of your diminutive peers for one game. When we're done, I get to enjoy your company at lunch a mile away at Kelsey Road House. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. If you qualify don't second guess yourself. You WILL have fun so email me. Don't even think about thinking you're not good enough for a tournament. That excuse doesn't cut it for any of my tournaments. You CANNOT impact the outcome. If you play poorly, you'll do so with every one of the participants. The most skilled three Picklers will almost certainly finish in the top three. Just come and enjoy a lot of fun pickleball and lunch.

THIS MONTH'S TOURNAMENT MEDALISTS

Uh, yeah. That would be none, zilch, zippo, nada, zero, squat, etc. No Palatine Pickler, as far as I know, has earned a medal in any tournament in the last month. Think this is a first, and, of course, we have more members than ever before. IF YOU EARN A MEDAL in any tournament, email me (yeah, still aokbarry@yahoo.com) with the tournament name, location, partner, division, and medal color ... and include a photo of the two of you with your medals. Just to put something here, I'll put a pic of Jonny Storm, our action shots name editor. Found this pic on Facebook. He was with a bunch of others so must have had a successful team event. He's a big dill in the Picklr venues.



UPDATE ... I lucked into getting Palatine Pickler Rick Johnson to share his successes of the last few months. He hasn't been a slacker. Any name in *italics* is not a PPC member.



. Tom Ratzki & Rick Johnson
. Nebraska Sr Games
. 65-69 – Gold



Tom Ratzki & Rick Johnson
Wyoming Sr Games
65-69 – Gold



Rich Walker & Rick Johnson
Wisconsin Sr Games
70-74 - Gold

AND NOW OUR MONTHLY ACTION SHOTS



Angela



Ann



Ann



April



Barb



Barb



Bill



Bob



Bob



Bob



Brian



Carol



Chris



Chris



Cindy

Ccc



Connie



Colleen



Dave



Dawn



Dawn



Deb



Debbie



Diane



Diane



Don



Don



Don



Donna



Elise



Evelyn



Fred



Fred



Garrett



Gary



Heather



Howard



Jack



Jacquie



Jaime



Janice



Jay



Jeff



Jeff



Jesse



Jill



Jim



Jim



Jim



Jimmy



Joanie



John



John



John



John



John



Karyn



Kate



Kathy



Kathy



Kathy



Kevin



Kim



Larry



Lisa



Lucy



Marcia



Marianne



Marv



Mary Jo



Mary



Mary



Mary



Masumi



Maureen



Michael



Mike



Mike



Ming



Nancy



Natalie



Natasha



Phil



Phil



Ron



Rune



Scott



Sheila



Shila



Steve



Ted



Terry



Theresa



Tom



Tom



Tom



Tom



Vera

The unidentified lady on the 4th line is Cindy. We'll forgive Jonny Storm, our Action Namer, for this oops. His whole family is suffering from RSV. Hold them in your thoughts and prayers.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A TERRIFIC 2025

I truly hope you've had a wonderful holiday season. Now it's time to wish you a happy 2025, as has been done by graphics on many of the previous pages. 2024 was a great year for the Palatine Pickleball Club. Great growth with 560 new members, several new tournaments, lots of old favorite ones, a ton of new Mentorees, increased Mentoring staff, an awesome holiday lunch, new volunteers, and more. I don't now how we rank in membership among the country's pickleball clubs, but we must be up there. I'd be shocked if we're not the most event-oriented club in the country. With roughly 1,000 sold, we may have more club shirts on courts than other clubs too. I'll probably repeat all this next month. That's our 10th anniversary, and that's kind of a big dill.



I hope any of you who were not born in Illinois, email me (aokbarry@yahoo.com) to get into the Thursday, January 16th Non-Native tournament. This is a first-time event, but it will surely become an annual tradition. Feel free to recruit a spouse, significant other, friendly stranger, etc. and sign up for the 2/13 Valentines Red & Pink tournament. One of you wears red and the other pink. And, again, afterwards we'll lunch in a very Valentiney environment.

I'm signing off with a photo of Kathy and me. Though a lpng-time member, he's not yet playing with us (just with daughter and SIL and me) – hope to get her into mentoring this year. However, she's the MVP of the Palatine Pickleball Club. She tolerates my spending 30-50 hours a week on laptop & scoreboard Palatine Picklers stuff, in addition to playing every day that I'm not mentoring. When available she does come to our social events, including our PPC Brunch

Bunch, at 11:15 at Jelly Café on Fridays. (You're all welcome to join us.)

OK, enough. Have a great 2025, and please get involved in as many of our club activities as possible. Thanks.

Bear Shatwell

PicklersPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com