



PalatinePicklers.com

palatinepicklers@gmail.com

DECEMBER, 2025 NEWSLETTER

MENTOREES' SEMI-ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

We stage two Mentoree Tournaments each year – the first for those who were mentored during the indoor season, and the second for those who were mentored during the outdoor season. This latter group met in Canlan on November 4th for two tournaments of 12 Mentorees each. I divided them alphabetically. We had a Mentor Ref on every court, and we had two Scorekeepers to record scores and total each participant's points.

As with the previous 20 such Mentoree Tournaments, EVERYONE had a great time. Here are our two groups:



Alan, Barb C, Chrissie, Diane, Barb F, Jacquie, Eileen, Alice, Bill, Angela, Dawn, Annette





Rose, Pam, Janice, Joe, Jim, Natalie, Maureen, Oliver, Karen, Joanie, Lauri, John



Annette 2nd, Bill 1st, Chrissie 3rd



Jim 2nd, Joe 1st, Pam 3rd

We have to recognize Bill for having a perfect score through 11 games.

IT TAKES A STAFF TO MAKE A TOURNAMENT GREAT



Refs ... Chris, Bob, (Scorekeeper Dave), Jeff, Larry, Bear, Dennis. Scorekeeper Carol came later.

THE DAY ISN'T OVER, WHEN THE TOURNAMENT ENDS ...



Dave, Dennis, Natalie, Karen, Joanie, Bill, Janice, Jacquie, Barb, Pam, Larry, Bear, Joe, Maureen, Annette, Jim ... fun post-play lunch a mile away in Kelsey Road House



NEED ALL INTERMEDIATES (3.0-3.5) TO EMAIL ME INFO

Our intended, new Intramural Manager John McGeowan has to bow out. He needs a new knee (as do I) So we need a new Manager. If interested, I'll send a sheet showing what you'd do.

If you consider yourself an intermediate level Pickler, email me your name, phone number, and MMDDYY date of birth ... and the dates you expect to be available to play. Here are your options through spring: 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26.

As a reminder, once you are invited on a Sunday, you have until 10:00 a.m. Monday to accept, or you earn a "strike." You should let me know before Noon Saturday that you won't be available after all. We'll overlook your first strike, but, if you earn a 2nd strike, you are banned from ALL Palatine Picklers organized events for the next six months.

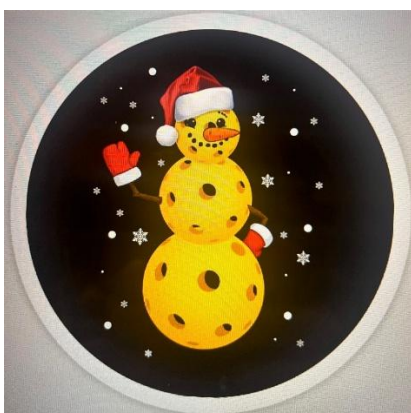
Intramural matches are round robins. Our two teams, Whippersnappers and Wise Ones, are made up of 4 men and 4 women which change each match. You'll partner with each of your seven teammates for one game. Arrive in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington by 8:45 to pay their \$10 fee and warm up a bit, before we get things going at 9:00. The match will end by noon. Then you can join for lunch a mile away at Kelsey Road House.

So far in 2025, 34 men and 46 women have played in our intramural matches. To get in on this fun, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.



BOB'S 1st TOURNAMENT - OLDEST 8 MEN, OLDEST 8 LADIES

Bob McGowan, our new **Fun Tournament Manager**, will start his career on **Thursday, January 15th** when he has our oldest men and women compete in these ann@gmail.com.ual side-by-side tournaments. You'll partner with each of your 7 teammates for one game. Just email Bob at BobMcGowan1946@gmail.com with your name, phone number, MMDDYY date of birth. If at least 12 want in, he'll enlarge the roster/s. Get to Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington by 8:45. We'll finish by noon. Then, if your schedule allows, join for lunch a mile away.



MARY'S RETIRING – NEED WALKERS & NEWBIES MANAGER



Mary Werling is retiring from creating the Walkers and Newbies pages, at the end of this year. Walkers can send you their proof of 15K+ steps in a day. I'll ask them to include a head shot of themselves too. If they don't, I can surely send you one. Look at any newsletter to see how to layout these pages.

I will send you edited pics of each month's Newbies and their names. You just put their first names under their photo on a new page or two.

Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to apply to handle these, or at least one of them. Thanks.

And thank you, Mary, for your service.

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR 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 [EngagePickleball](#) - Use discount code 20Jon

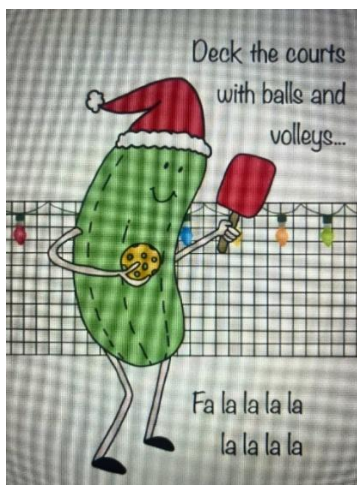
Selkirk discount code is Adv-JBradford

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.



UGLY SWEATER TOURNAMENT IS THIS THURSDAY

There's a chance there may be room for you. First to email me that you want in wins. You'll play one game with each of the other Picklers. We'll judge the sweaters. Then we'll play. Then we'll go to lunch. You can see if there's room for you by emailing me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

STILL TIME TO GET IN THE PPD 12/20 TOURNAMENT

It will be a round robin for groups of 8 players so everyone is guaranteed 7 games. The date is Saturday, December 20th, with both morning and afternoon sessions. The skill groups are 2.0 - 2.9 Beginner, 3.0 – 3.4 Intermediate, 3.5 – 3.9 Advanced Intermediate, and 4.0+ Advanced. Registration is \$35. No refunds after December 16th. Tournament reserves the right to combine brackets, if necessary. Check the flyer for details. For more info you may call Dan Hernandez, PPD Athletic Coordinator at 847-496-6243 or DHernancez@PalatineParks.org.

P-TOWN PADDLE BATTLE

(Pickleball Tournament)

Palatine
Park
District

Celebrate the holiday season with competitive fun at the 2025 P-Town Paddle Battle Tournament!

PRESENTING SPONSOR

THE OFFICIAL PICKLEBALL OF THE P-TOWN
PADDLE BATTLE PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

LOCAL ORGANIZATION

Palatine
Pickleball
Club

📅 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

🕒 **7:00AM-5:00PM**

📍 **COMMUNITY CENTER GYM**
250 E. WOOD STREET

💰 **FEE: \$35/PER PERSON**
PROG#: 404709

MORNING SESSION

CHECK-IN: 7:00AM
WARM UP: 7:30AM
GAMES: 8:00AM-12:00PM (OR COMPLETION)

- 01 2.0-2.9 Beginner
- 02 3.0-3.4 Intermediate
- 03 3.5-3.9 Advanced Intermediate

AFTERNOON SESSION

CHECK-IN: 12:00PM
WARM UP: 12:30PM
GAMES: 1:00PM-4:00PM (OR COMPLETION)

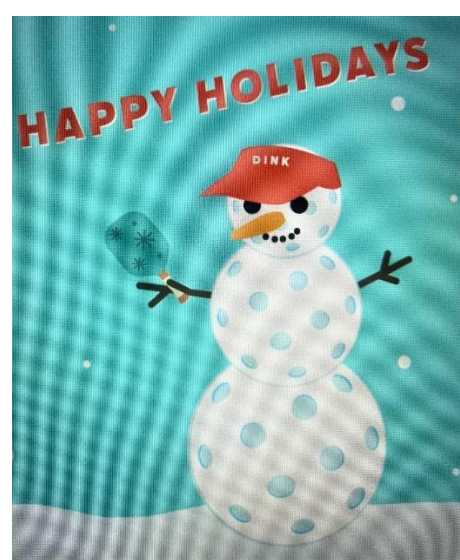
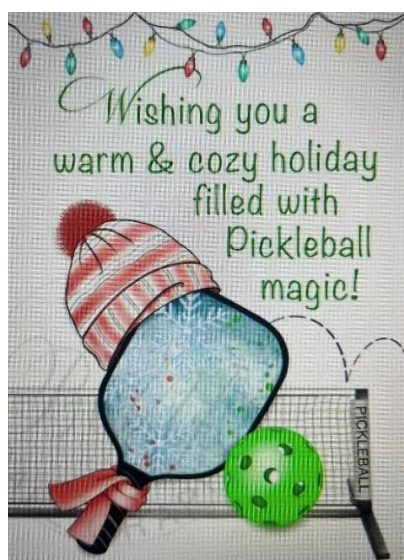
- 01 3.0-3.4 Intermediate
- 02 3.5-3.9 Advanced Intermediate
- 03 4.0+ Advanced

Questions? Contact 🧑 Dan Hernandez, Athletics Coordinator
📞 847-496-6243 | ✉️ dhernandez@palatineparks.org

I am flattered that the Park District thought using my club logo would help add recognition, credibility and registrations. We're glad to help.

SHIRTS ARE JUST WAITING TO BE CUSTOM MADE FOR YOU

I enjoyed seeing up to four Palatine Picklers shirts being ordered by one Pickler last month. I think Joanie is trying to rival Lynne Weisbart and me for having the most club shirts. Stephanie Douglas ordered six a while back, and John Stepal isn't far behind. If you have only one or two, it's probably time to add more color to your Picklers wardrobe. Just go to PalatinePicklers.com and click on SHIRTS (on a computer, not your phone). I think we're over 800 shirts out there now. 2026 would be a great year to hit 1,000. Below is a pic of the 2025 Shirt Day. Join us.



BEFORE BEARS GAMES

After three, consecutive last minute comeback wins, after the Bears blew a lead, I know you'll want to be glued to your tv in coming weeks. However, that doesn't exclude pickleball. If you don't want the cold and wind at Hamilton, there are two other options. Most weeks Harper

College has pickleball in it's Southwestern building for \$10 (\$7 for old farts). And Foglia YMCA in Lake Zurich has open play also for \$10. Don't know how they handle it, but Harper has 3 courts for rec and 3 for competitive. As with Falcon, Birchwood, and Community, get you name at the top of both sides of your paddle, as you'll put it handle first into racks to determine the next four to hit the open court. So go play, before picking up your Buffalo wings and Octoberfest beer and settling in for another Caleb Williams show.

WE NEED MORE MENTOREES

Obviously, our club is the largest it's ever been. Yet this is the first year we haven't have had the 24 we can serve every other Tuesday in Canlan. I'd say half of those who have joined our club in the last year are beginners or near beginners. Why are you not giving me the every other Tuesday dates you'd be available for mentoring? Mentoring WILL make you better, and the better you get, the more you'll enjoy our sport. I invest the time and homework to put you on a court with three Picklers of similar skill/experience. Over your three hours, you'll spend time with each of several Mentors. It doesn't get any better than this. I get SO much feedback that three hours with us for free was SO much more valuable than the weeks for which they paid for coaching elsewhere. We're here, and we WANT to help you develop your skills and understanding of the game. So email me the mornings you expect to be available. I'll invite 24 (hopefully) of you on Sunday afternoon for that Tuesday's session. It's every other Tuesday in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington, from 9:00 to Noon. December 2nd and 16th will finish 2025. Then we start the every other Tuesday in 2026 on January 13th. April 21st will be our last indoor session of the season. Then we'll be back to Wednesday mornings on the Sycamore courts.

PICKLERS' NOT QUITE "PING PONG" TOURNAMENT

For the first time in about a decade, we held a Picklers **Table Tennis** tournament. Ping pong vs table tennis is akin to jungle ball vs volleyball. Rules are enforced. Many of our participants had to learn how to serve legally. The ball must be displayed in the open palm and tossed upward without spin, behind the endline and within the sidelines. That proved a challenge for several basement ping pong players.

Bill Shehadeh is a member of the Chicago International Table Tennis Academy in nearby Rolling Meadows. He arranged for the Palatine Picklers to have two hours at the greatly reduced rate of \$10 apiece on Saturday morning, November 22nd. I created a round robin format so each of the 8 Picklers played 7 games. The experience range went from "Which side of the paddle do I hit with?" to penholder slamming. It was great to see the more experienced players just volley with the newcomers. Palatine Picklers really are good people. It just happened that the two undefeated players, Oliver and John, met in the final match, like a Hollywood script. The winner earned the honor of getting to be stomped by Bill. It played out as scripted, but Oliver was still happy, and we got to see table tennis at the next level.



Organizer Bear, Patty, Natalie, Kevin, Alice, Oliver, Chrissie, John, Kathy, Venue Securer Bill



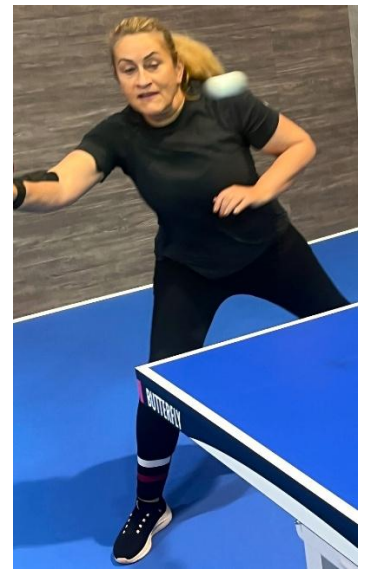
Alice



Chrissie



John



Kathy



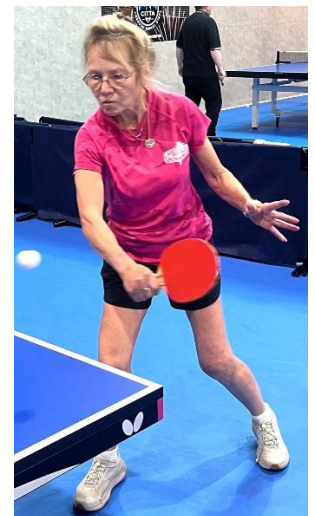
Kevin



Natalie



Oliver



Patty



John 2nd, Oliver 1st, Patty 3rd

VISITOR AT THURSDAY COMMUNITY CENTR PLAY



Joanie, Karen, Nichole, Chipmunk, Bob, Deborah, Nancy, Kathy

RETAIL WORKERS HAD A FUN TOURNAMENT

It seems many of us worked in clothing stores. It was fun to compare notes at lunch. Here we are all ready to play.



Eileen, Dale, Pam, Jim, Kent, Marcia, Mark, Nichole, Joanie, Judy, Tammy, Natalie



Marcia 2nd, Mark 1st, Bear for Nichole (I helped win her last 2 games, when she had to leave)

LOST & FOUND

Things get left at all our venues. They, somehow, end up in my trunk. Here are three from mid-summer. If not claimed, I'll take the jacket and hat to Goodwill. I'll see if the ring has any value. If so, it will be a Palatine Picklers donation.



Ladies jacket from Hamilton Hat from Sycamore mentoring "Wedding ring" from Hamilton

If you can relate to one of these, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Otherwise, bye bye.

WE HAVE A NEW MENTOREE RECORD FOR EDGE BOUNCING



For seven or more years, we have kept track of the Mentoree and the Club record for confirmed edge of paddle ball bouncing. Originally, I called it the Kyle Yates Challenge, after watching him bounce forever, flip his paddle and keep bouncing, etc. Our Action Shot Editor, Jonny Storm, has our club record with a videoed 192. This year Mentoree Nichole Greening surpassed Table Tennis Bill's 70 with 82 witnessed bounces two weeks ago. She wants 100 before the end of the year. Her 82 is the 2nd best in club history.



IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)

19,650



Kathy Ford

18,910



Diane Schrieber

17,681



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 mary.palatinepicklers@gmail.com by the 20th of the month. You too can be featured in this walker-honoring section!

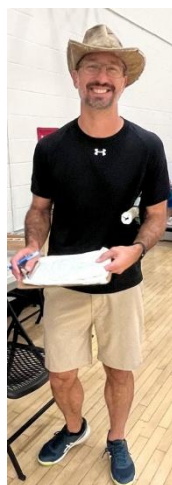
NOVEMBER NEWBIES



Bob



Boris



Charlie



Chengguo



Dale



Dave



Gary



Joan



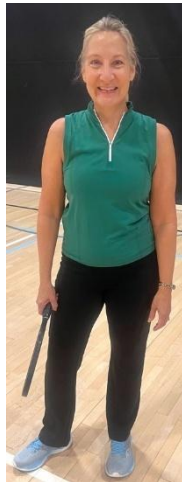
Kim



Lynese



Mary



Noreen



Sharon



MARV AND FRED ARE COVER STARS

Marv Zwass and Fred Phillips (both profiled Picklers) were honored as Wheeling superstars on their current catalog.

Don't tell Wheeling, but neither Marv nor Fred is a Wheeling resident. They're just awesome Palatine Picklers, and that is almost always enough to be honored.

WHAT YOU'LL DO AS OUR NEW INTRAMURAL MANAGER

Intermediate intramurals is our 2nd most successful event, behind ONLY mentoring. It's not that hard. I'll have Picklers email you their name, availability, phone number, and date of birth. You'll create a spreadsheet with this info. You put x under each date they give you. On Sunday afternoon you invite 8 men and 8 women for Tuesday morning. Arrange all by DOB. The younger 4 men and women are on the Whippersnappers, while the older half comprise the Wise Ones for this match. I'll give you the scoreboard and dry erase pens. Write Picklers names by either DOB or alpha order. Mail me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Get things going at 9:00. Tell them what court is which court number and have winners record the scores. Fingers behind paddle determine who serves. Change sides at 7. Play to 13 win by 1.

If you'd like to give back to the club that's given you so much by becoming our Intramural Manger, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

PICKLEBALL CLUB MAGAZINE LIKES US

Last month I received an email from Brady Watkins, Owner/Publisher of this monthly magazine. He wanted to know when he could call and talk with me for half an hour. We set a time. Then we had a 45-minute conversation. He asked me to send several photos which I did. We will be featured in the December issue. Consequently, I will put a summary of the article, or even a link, in our January newsletter. We're not likely to be cover stars like Marv and Fred, but this is still pretty exciting.



ONLY ONE NOVEMBER MEDALIST ... REALLY? EMAIL US YOUR SUCCESSES

Val Braden & Joyce Pihl – Monster Smash PB Tournament – 4.0
70+ - Silver Congratulations, Ladies. Val is in italics, because
she is not a member of the Palatine Pickleball Club (yet?).

If you win a medal in a tournament, email your name, partner's name, tournament name, division, and your medal color. Also include a photo of the two of you with your medals.

Email that to Stephanie Douglas, our Medalist Manager at Stephanie.Douglas@sbcglobal.net. Thanks.



PICKLERS AT PLAY



Debbie



John



Joanie



Karen



Masumi



Dave



Bill



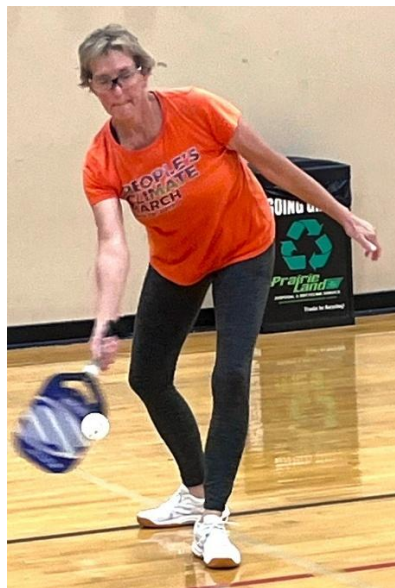
Ron



Natalie



Mary



Mary Jo



Marv



Jim



Kevin



Dave



Fred



Alice



Barb



Bill



Cindy



Chris



Cindy



Dale



Connie



Dawn



Ann



Annette



Don



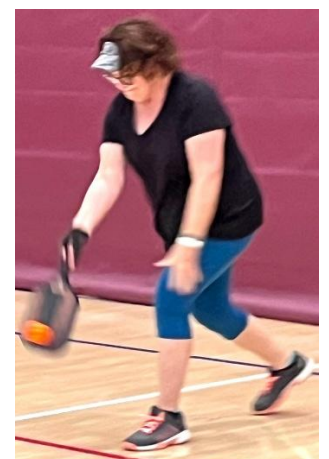
Chris



Deborah



Eileen



Janet



Debbie



Gerd



Jim



Pam



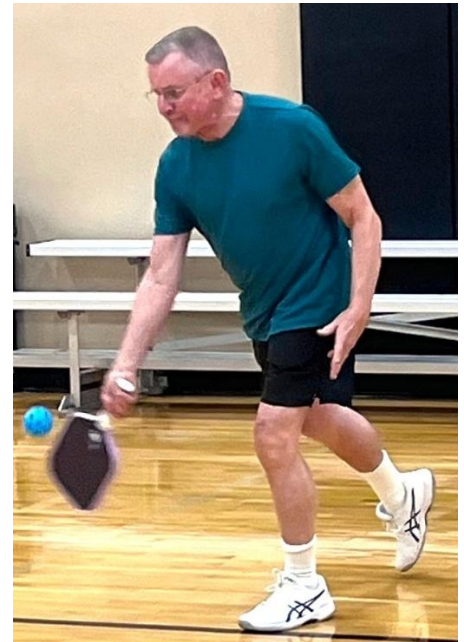
Oliver



Maureen



Mary



Mark



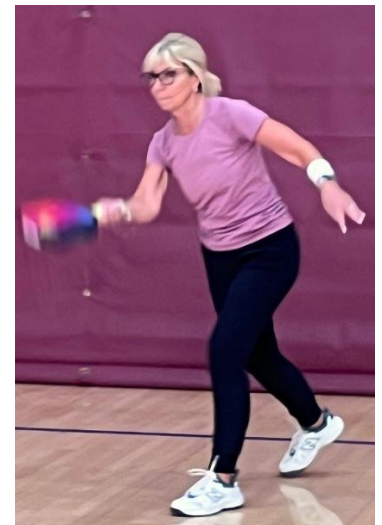
Marsha



Lauri



Linda



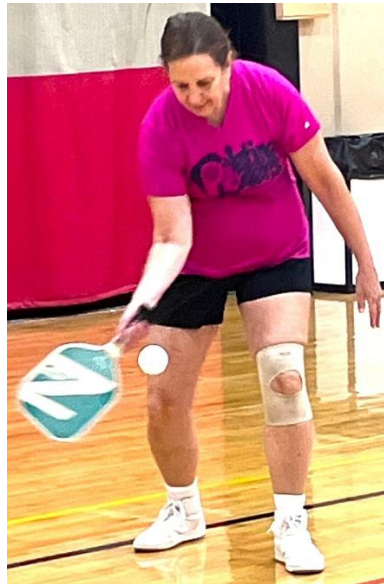
Lisa



Tammy



Scott



Tina



Rose



Chrissie



Bob



Chris



Diane



Jim



Boris



Linda



Noreen



Joanne



Tom

HAPPY HOLIDAYS – LET’S MAKE 2026 TRULY PICKLERIFFIC

As we near the close our 11th year as the Palatine Pickleball Club, we can take great pride in all we have enjoyed and achieved. I’ll surely revisit much of this in the February newsletter. That will be our 11th anniversary. Still, we can look our more than 4600 members as a sign we have done a lot right. The four things that come to mind are (1) our newsletters, (2) our free mentoring programs, (3) our myriad, fun tournaments, and (4) our bi-weekly, intermediate intramural matches. These are unique to our club. Well, a few other clubs do have newsletters, but hardly like ours.



2025 was a strange year in that fewer Picklers participated in any of our events than in prior years. I frequently had to beat the bushes to fill tournaments or intramurals. Even mentoring sessions often suffered vacancies. That had never happened in the ten years we’ve offered mentoring. It’s particularly puzzling, given the dozens and dozens of beginning and newer players who have joined the club this year. I hope in the new year you all will want to participate in some of our unique round robin tournaments. All are followed by an optional lunch a mile away where we really get to know one another off the courts.

I hope many of you will allow me to write a profile on you. I know I’ll be writing one on Nichole Greening for the

January newsletter. I'll be happy to add yours too. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com and ask me to send you my Profile Prompter. Just answer some questions, add anything you'd like, and send it to me, along with several photos of you. I'll do the rest.

Please do consider volunteering to run our intramural program. It brings so much joy to so many. I hope you'll also think about putting my edited Newbie photos on a page and putting first names under them. We also could use a replacement Walker Editor.

Thanks for your support. Now go on and enjoy a pickleriffic holiday season.

Bear Shatwell

PicklersPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com

