



## JUNE, 2026 NEWSLETTER

### WHAT'S GONG ON WITH THE 14 & 68 PROPERTY

I wrote Ben Rea, Executive Director of the Palatine Park District. I'd reminded him it had been about a year since more than one hundred Palatine Picklers wrote him asking for at least part of those acres be designated for pickleball. I said that the gap which put Palatine well below all the surrounding suburbs in outdoor courts per resident has grown considerable, as several towns have added courts over the last year. I also shared that I'm often asked why, when Palatine is home of one of the largest pickleball clubs in the country, that we're so far behind in meeting the demand for court.

He responded right away. "For the time being, the space is being returned to turfgrass. The Park District just adopted their new, comprehensive masterplan, and we are determining how to implement the identified projects. We will be completing an additional study, to help masterplan the remainder of Meadowlark Park (14 & 68). I'll let you know when we get close to that process so you and your group can participate."

### HOW 'BOUT SAVING SOME MONEY ?

**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](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.

# MEN'S "TREE TOPPERS" TOURNAMENT

Eight tall guys competed in this annual fun event to see who would come out **ON TOP**. They played seven games to 13 partnering with each opponent once. John took first place, followed closely by Mike F and Kent. Most impressively, in the game when he partnered with lefty Mike C, John taught him the stacking formation to keep their forehands in the center of the court.



Dale, Tom, Fred, Brian, Kent, John, Mike C, Mike F



Kent                      Mike F                      Tom                      John                      Fred



Dale

Bryan

Mike C

Mike F 2<sup>nd</sup>, John 1<sup>st</sup>, Kent 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **NEW & IMPROVED PALATINE PICKLERS STAFF**

Over the past decade I have held all these positions. Guess you can see why I needed to downsize my day to day involvement. Thanks to all these dedicated volunteers.

Bob McGowan – Fun Thursday Tournament Manager

Cathy Maraist – Social Media Manager – and – Word Problem Solver

Karen Bryk – Action Shot Editor

Karin Beil – Facebook Page Manager

Linda O'Connor – Palatine Picklers Shirt Manager

Natalie Silverman – Walkers Manager

Nilesh Dhiman – Newbies Editor

Rune Karsbaek – Tuesday (indoors) & Wednesday (outdoors) Mentoree Scheduler

Sheila Lullo – Forwarder of Newbies' Membership Applications

Stephanie Douglas – Medalists Manager

**MENTORS** – Whether Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, or a combination of those, Below is a list of our current Mentors. Thank you all.

Adam Martin ... Bear Shatwell ... Bill Parry ... Bob McGowan ... Brian Knight ... Bob McGowan ... Brian Knight ... Chris Farnsworth ... Dennis Bourgoin ... Frank Wasilewski ... Greg Willard ... John Evans ... John Stepal ... Karyn Picchiotti ... Scott Brown ... Steve Lawler, Tom Sammons.

## **FREE MENTORING IS IN OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> SUMMER**

We've now worked with almost 1,000 Palatine Picklers, to learn the game, develop new skills, refine their play, etc. Our most productive summer program takes place on Wednesday mornings at Sycamore Park (Carpenter & Clark). We run two, 90-minute sessions for 12

Picklers each. The first is from 9:00 to 10:30, and the second from 10:30 to Noon. To participate email our Mentoree Scheduler Rune at [Rune.Karsbaek@gmail.com](mailto:Rune.Karsbaek@gmail.com). Every Sunday or Monday he will invite 24 students to attend one of these sessions. When you arrive I will assign you to a court with three other Mentorees of similar ability and/or experience. You'll spend your 90 minutes with them, while having a half hour with each of the day's three Mentors. Just bring hydration.

Then there are our "walk-on" sessions at Hamilton (across from Sundling Jr High on Smith). These are from 3 to 5 Thursday and Saturday. Though it involves a little more guess work, I'll still try to assign you to a court with compatible skill level Picklers. No need to email anyone. Just show up a little early to get warmed up. I'll hope to have enough Mentors for each court.

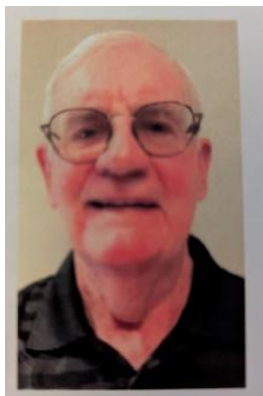
## **IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME AGAIN**

### **SUPER STEPPERS (20,000+ steps in a day)**



**20,559 STEPS PAM TALLARITO**

### **WORTHY WALKERS (15,000 – 19,999 steps in a day)**



**20,559 STEPS BOB MCGOWAN**

It's an ideal season in which to get a ton of steps. Just check your smart phone's little red icon or your smart watch and send your screen shot to Natalie, our Walkers Editor. She's at [NVictoria527@gmail.com](mailto:NVictoria527@gmail.com). Also please send a current head shot of yourself.

## EMAIL BOB TO JOIN THE FUN OF THESE TOURNAMENTS

All our fun tournaments are on Thursdays at the Lake Barrington Canlan Sportsplex from 9-12.

**SINGLE PICKLERS** – June 11<sup>th</sup> – All Picklers not currently married or in a serious relationship.

**BIONIC BODIES** – June 18<sup>th</sup> – This annual favorite is for all who have metal in their bodies, other than in their mouths.

**RED, WHITE, & BLUE** – July 2<sup>nd</sup>. All you need to do is don yourself in some of each of those colors.

**REGISTER BY EMAILING BOB** – He's at [BobMGowan1946@gmail.com](mailto:BobMGowan1946@gmail.com).

## HOW DID OUR LONG LAST NAMERS DO ?



Scott, Barb, Noreen, Howard, Marcia, Bill, Natalie, Linda, Joe, Judy, Rune, & Deborah



Deborah 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bill 1<sup>st</sup>, Linda 3<sup>rd</sup>

Now straight from our new Newbies Editor Niles Dhiman...

**THIS MONTH'S NEWBIES**



Bob



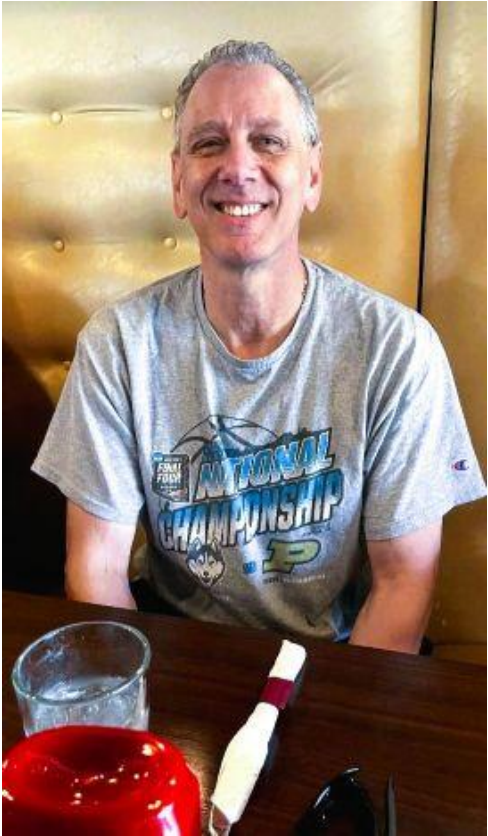
Dana



Emmet



Finn



George



Gil



Jake



Jason



Jenny



Jodie



Julia



Kathy



Kim



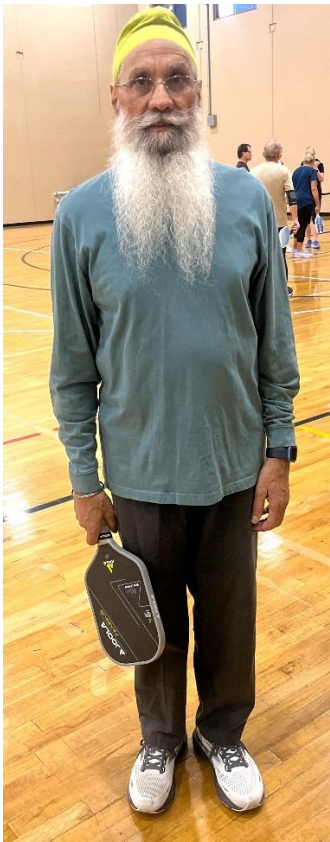
Marlene



Mike



Mike



Mohinder



Moreen



Paul



Rachael



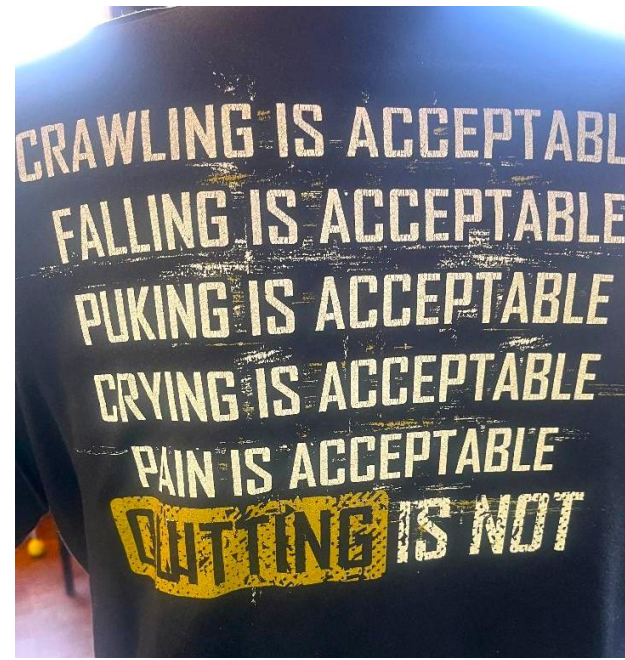
Sally

## JUST FOR FUN



On the left Karen Bryk and Chrissie Looper celebrate their Mentoree record of 47 consecutive reflex volleys

On the right is a shirt that caught my eye at Brandt's of Palatine. Thought you'd like its message.



## SEMIANNUAL MENTOREE TOURNAMENT

Twice each year we have a tournament for those Palatine Picklers who have participated in our mentoring sessions. In November those who participated over the summer compete. In May those who took part in our indoor sessions play. We invite 24 students to each and then divide them by alpha order of first names into two groups of 12. Each group has its own round robin tournament.



Our two Scorekeepers somehow escaped my camera on this day, but thanks to Karen Bryk and Kathy Ford for their service. Our Mentors who served as Referees this day are John Stepal, Marv Zwass, Dennis Bourgojn, Frank Wasilewski, Bear Shatwell, and Tom Sammons.



Eileen, Barb, Jim F, Chrissie, & Jacquie Back- Barb, Joanie, Charmaine, Doug, Allen, Joe, & Dorie.



GROUP 2: Front - Mohinder, Scott, Lori, Kathy, Natalie, Karen – Back – Scott, Rune, Mary, Mike C, Mike F, & Linda



Group 1 Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chrissie 1<sup>st</sup>, Joe 3<sup>rd</sup>



Group 2 Mike F 2<sup>nd</sup>, Linda 1<sup>st</sup>, Lori 3<sup>rd</sup>



Lunch at Kelsey Road House always follows. Attending this day are Joe, Bear, Dennis, John, Kathy, Frank, Mike F, Natalie, Joanie, Barb, Rune, Jim, Karen, & Chrissie.



Chrissie celebrating her victory  
Margarita flight



Joanie commiserating her last place  
finish with a Margarita flight

### THIS MONTH'S MEDALISTS



Jonny Storm & Lawrence Katsy  
US PB Open, Naples, FL – 5.0  
40-49 – Gold



Shanon Kowalski & Jonny Storm  
US PB Open, Naples, FL – 5.0  
40-44 – Bronze



Marcia Cohen – St Jude  
Tournament – Division  
Winner

# PICKLERS IN ACTION



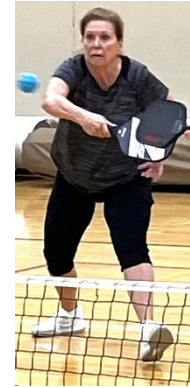
Brian



Chris



Bob



Charmaine



Bryan



Chris G.



Chrissie



Dan



Deborah



Don



Dorie



Doug



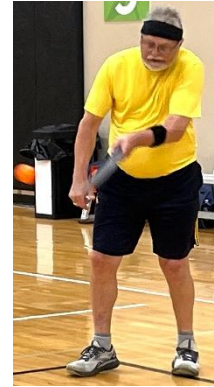
Eileen



Gavin



Gene



Gerd



Gil



Jacquie



Jamie



Janet L.



Janet



Jason



Jeff



Jerry



Jenna



Jim M



Jim F



Joanie



Karen A



Karen B



Khin



Kent



Karen P



Kathy



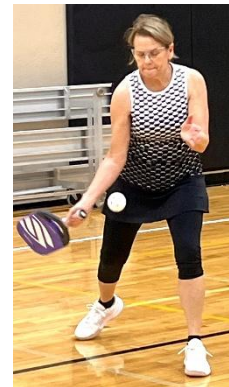
Kim



Larry



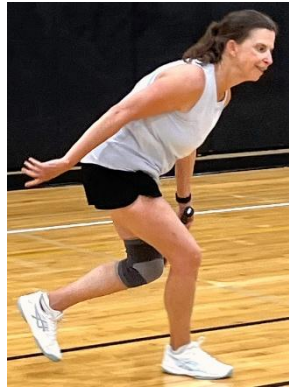
Linda



Leslie



Lori



Maria



Marv



Mary



Mary Jo



Mary



Michael



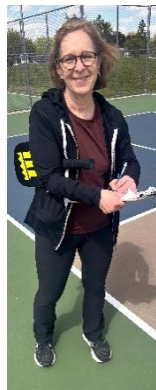
Mike F



Mike C



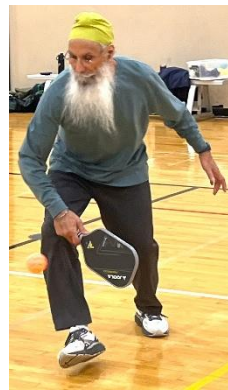
Rick



Moreen



Rune



Mohinder



Natalie



Ron



Rose



Scott F



Scott P



Terry



Steve F

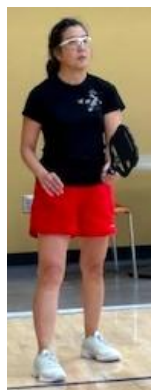


Steve M

**PHOTOS FROM JAIME**



Diane



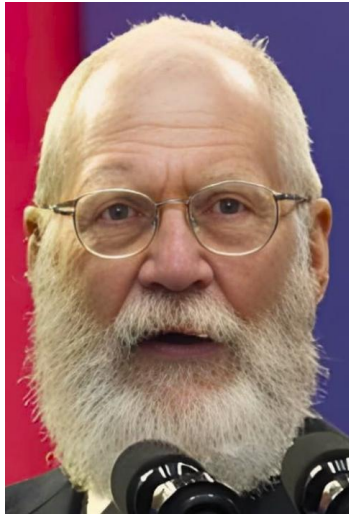
Susan



Tommy

## HANDYMAN TO OUR RESCUE

Back at the opening of Hamilton, I contracted our ever-ready and willing handy man, Jim Blair, to create four PVC paddle troughs, two for the north cage and two for the south. They've



worked perfectly since 2019, until this spring. One tube in the north cage came loose and hung at an angle for a while. (Don't know how long, as I'm on the IR and rarely show up to take pics at Hamilton.) Then it was taken by someone as a souvenir. When I heard about this, I contacted Jim right away. He prepped a new PVC tube and installed it immediately – and at a bargain basement price too. Thank you, Jim.

I thought I had a recent pic of Jim, but he wasn't around the few days I was this spring. So I'm doing the next best thing. I'm posting a photo of Davis Letterman, simply because there is quite a resemblance. If you see Jim, tell him thanks and that you recognize him from the photo of David Letterman.

## QUICK REVIEW OF HAMILTON PROTOCOLS

First, you should have your name upside down on both sides of your paddle, on the blade where the handle meets it. Then stand it on its head in an appropriate paddle trough on the south fence. Just arriving? Put it in the rack with the fewer paddles so you'll get to play sooner. The top rack is designated "W" for winners of their last game. "L" is for 2<sup>nd</sup> place pairs. Paddles should be moved to the left, when four are pulled out to go to the open court. There is a clip at the left end of that tube which is moved to the other tube when those four paddles are removed. It tells which tube's paddles will go out next.

When it's getting crowded, competitive players will be asked to rack up in the north cage. The number of waiting paddles on each fence will determine how many of the north courts will be for competitive. It usually starts slow so the west (parking lot side) court remains for rec players for the time being.

When there are 24 players present, no singles or triples are allowed. You must rack up after each game. If four of you want to play together, no problem. Put your paddles together in either tube, making sure the number of paddles to the left is divisible by 4. If there are only 7 paddles to the left, ask one of those coming off the court to move ahead of your four. (or 2 or 3 of them)

If you break a ball, do NOT throw it out. Toss it in the yellow bin. Some creative picklers make projects with them.

Remember that ONLY the receiving team can call a ball “out.” If they can’t agree on the call, the ball is considered “in.”

## IT’S FINALLY A WRAP

This newsletter required help twice from Geek Squad, twice from our Word expert Cathy Maraist, and my having to retype and edit several pages more than once. Due to vacations, I did some work that lately would have been done by our volunteers. It kind of seemed like the “good?” old days. I’ll be doing the Action shots for July, as Karen will be visiting China. I just hope my laptop woes are behind me by then.

Tomorrow (the first) I expect to hand my laptop to Geek Squad for a two-week repair. It’s under warranty, but I needed to finish the newsletter so had to buy a remote keyboard for this afternoon/evening’s work. Fortunately, I can still get and send email on my phone.

Please your calendar and let Bob know if you can play in the Singles tournament, the Bionic Bodies tournament, or the Red, White, & Blue tournament. Of course, email Rune with your Wednesday availability for mentoring and Chrissie for your every other Tuesday availability for intramurals (be sure to include your MMDDYY date of birth). For now, send your mug shot and proof of steps to me. And send your medal performances to me. I’ll assemble them and get them to Natalie and Stephanie respectfully.

Hope you all have a pickleriffic summer.

Bear Shatwell

PicklersPrez

[aokbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:aokbarry@yahoo.com)



First Lady Kathy & Bear