



PalatinePicklers.com

MAY, 2025 NEWSLETTER

MENTORING HAS MOVED OUTDOORS

Except for our May 6th Mentoree Tournament in Canlan, Mentorees are now honing their skills outdoors. Our most popular sessions are Wednesday mornings at Sycamore on Carpenter at Clark. There are two, ninety-minute sessions – 9:00 to 10:30 and 10:30 to Noon. These are BY INVITATION ONLY. If you'd like to participate in any of these free mentoring sessions, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with the mornings you expect to be available. Then just check your email on Monday afternoon each week. That's when invitations are emailed. Just be sure to accept yours before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday. Failure to do so earns you a dreaded "strike." Two strikes, and you're benched for six months from all Palatine Picklers on-court events.

If you do not have a paddle. No worries. I have several loaners. If you don't have a ball. No worries. I supply them. Just bring a beverage and your enthusiasm. You will spend you ninety minutes sharing courts with three students I believe to be of similar experience and ability. You will receive a different Mentor each thirty minutes.

Over the years we have mentored several hundred newer Picklers. Each year they range from knowing absolutely nothing about the sport to having achieved intermediate status.



2 MORE DAYS OF MENTORING EACH WEEK

These 2-hour sessions are at Hamilton on Smith and are simply walk-on, no invitation needed.

THURSDAY ... from 3:00 to 5:00. and **SATURDAY** ... from 3:00 to 5:00

Some days we'll have 8 or 10 students. Others we'll have 25-30. Courts are not reserved so some days we have to get pretty creative to give ample court time to all mentorees.

FAMILY FUN TOURNAMENT – MAY 15TH

A few years ago we did this and had a lot of fun. This year we'll play on Thursday, May 15th. As are all my tournaments, this will begin at 9:00 in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. You'll pay their \$10 daily fee at the lobby desk. You will play all morning with any relative of your choosing, other than a spouse or significant other. Membership in the Palatine Pickleball Club is not required. You'll play one game against each of the other pairs. The length of your games will depend on how many couples we have. When we're done playing, we can enjoy some good food and drink a mile away in the Kelsey Road House.

Just email me with the name and relationship of your partner. I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

PALATINE PICKLERS'							FAMILY FUN DAY							TOTALS
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1 Adam & Danny	😊	8	5	8	8	1	8	1	8	3	8	0	8	66
2 Bear & Kim	7	😊	0	8	8	6	8	4	6	3	8	2	8	68
3 Cathy & Luke	8	8	😊	8	8	5	8	3	8	8	8	5	8	85
4 Cathy & Margaret	3	0	0	😊	7	4	2	1	3	4	6	2	6	38
5 Donna & Courtney	7	4	1	8	😊	3	8	5	1	5	8	3	8	61
6 Elke & Cora	8	8	8	8	8	😊	8	4	8	8	8	8	8	92 (2 ND)
7 Jeff & John	3	1	5	8	6	6	😊	0	8	4	8	0	8	57
8 Jim & Jimmy	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	😊	8	8	8	8	8	96 (1 ST)
9 John & RJ	3	8	1	8	8	5	4	3	😊	5	8	4	8	65
10 Kim & Kristine	8	8	7	8	8	2	8	3	8	😊	8	3	8	79
11 Lynne & Howard	3	2	0	8	1	2	1	3	1	5	😊	1	5	32
12 Masato & Jeff	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	1	8	8	8	😊	8	88 (3 RD)
13 Susan & Brittany	3	0	0	8	5	2	0	1	0	0	8	0	😊	27

Here's the scoreboard I made for our last Family Fun Day tournament. As you can see, with 13 teams, we played to 8. EVERYONE had fun. Ability doesn't affect that. With a round robin, the best teams WILL finish at the top.

It would probably be best, if your proposed partner has played and does own a real (not wood) paddle. Other than that base line, everyone is welcome to enjoy this fun-filled morning & lunch. Just email me. My address is above the scoreboard.

LONG LAST NAME TOURNAMENT

If your last name has at least eight letters, you are eligible to play in this tournament on Thursday, May 29th. Of course, it will begin at 9:00 in Lake Barrington's Canlan Sportsplex. The first 16 to apply will get to compete. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to register.

MIKE'S ON MARCO



Mike Siemplenski winters at his second home on Marco Island where he's one of 18 who play on their private court.

MOST OF US HAVE LOTS OF COMPANY



This chart gives a general idea of where picklers rank among their playing peers.

YOU MAY LOVE YOUR PALATINE PICKLER \$AVING\$

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 I

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.

RADICAL IDEAS MAY BE REALLY GOOD IDEAS

Competitive Game Balancing by Mentor Jeff Balicki

A good approach to balancing teams is to pair higher-level players with each other to improve skills, increase fun, and create more balanced future games.

Here's how it could work...

A. Competitive games are easier to achieve when:

1. Everyone is near the same skill level, or when some players willingly adjust their play to keep the game competitive.
2. Everyone plays by the USAP rules and in the spirit of the USA Pickleball Sportsmanship Guide.

B. Currently: Matching a higher-level player (HLP) with a lower-level player (LLP) on each team, while seemingly fair, causes some undesired consequences, which go beyond the immediate game:

1. More unbalanced future games are guaranteed as it ensures at least one HLP and one LLP in each of the following games.
2. Targeting LLPs while avoiding HLPs. While this is a good strategy to win, it can often be less favorable to learning, improvement, equal participation, and fun. In the long run, most of us value long-term performance gains over winning games.

C. Proposed: Pair together the HLPs (higher-level players) with the understanding that they will play cooperatively until the other team threatens to win, with these expected benefits:

1. Longer rallies (more fun!), mostly ending with either the LLPs (lower-level players) winning the rally or an unforced error.
2. Better learning, improvement, and fun opportunities by temporarily elevating the play of LLPs (easier balls to hit) and moderating the play of HLPs (focusing on keeping the ball in play). No one gets better by playing a HLP and targeting their LLP partner, yet it is often done. Learning and improvement are slower when balls are hit too fast to be controlled and points are short.
3. In the spirit of learning, LLPs may ask HLPs to confirm their understanding of why they lost a rally. This helps with "on the spot" learning and hopefully will feel non-threatening. HLPs shouldn't offer help unless asked.
4. In the spirit of improvement, HLPs should hold back only to the point where they can maintain their good habits while still emphasizing placement over power. Some self-imposed limitations might be hitting slower serves, more drop shots, not being the first to speed the ball up, and not taking advantage of opponent immobility. One variation might be to play longer than necessary from the transition zone, practicing drops and resets, to show both the importance of getting to the non-volley zone line and how to do it without rushing.
5. In the spirit of fun, perhaps we can all try to see more "nonjudgmentally" and be more curious as to why the opponent's shot worked.
6. After the game, a more balanced pairing will move to the 'W' and 'L' racks.
7. HLPs and LLPs are relative to the players on the court, and some players may be either, neither, or both throughout any given day. We all were (and are) lower-level players at some time.

D. Other Solutions Used Currently:

1. It's always ok to paddle up in the L rack, if you're more comfortable there.



2. It's also ok to leave open spaces for someone else to fill in so that you can play with a later grouping.
3. It's not ok to jump ahead of anyone or to move anyone back in the rack or remove them from the rack.

LAST INDOOR OPEN PICKLEBALL DAYS

Birchwood ... Thursday, May 29thWe

Falcon ... Friday, May 30th

Community ... Monday evenings 5:30-8:30 throughout the summer

Harper ... TBD Check the Palatine Picklers Facebook page or Team Reach for Jay's updates

PHOTO DAY

Wednesday, April 23rd was our annual Photo Day. I missed kicking out one unshirted Pickler. Sorry and shame on him. Thanks to front desk Rich for volunteering to be our photographer. He did a great job. We had about 40 Picklers in our Palatine Pickler shirts. It was a fun morning.



It is SO great to see so many Palatine Picklers in our club shirts in one place at the same time.

IF YOU PARTICIPTATED IN CANLAN MENTORING, EMAIL ME...

We've loved having 24 Mentorees in many, Mentoree tournaments. Only half that has signed up for the May 6th tournament. Come on. IF you attended mentoring at Canlan, EMAIL me at aokbarry@yahoo.com that you'll participate in this fun, season-ending tournament. We volunteer a ton of time for you. We enjoy this reward at the end of a season. We love seeing how much you've developed and have fun introducing you to new rules. I NEED 24 of you to register for this tournament. Only half of that have registered. Just do it. It's fun. So is lunch afterward. Last year we had 23 at lunch. It was great. Absolutely every Mentee should apply.

IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)

Steps
24,215



Diane Schreiber

24,179



Dan Salbego

23,428



Ben Farb

20,456



Jeff Greenberg

WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)

19,490



Dan Salbego

19,471



Ben Farb

18,329



Lois Farb

16,299



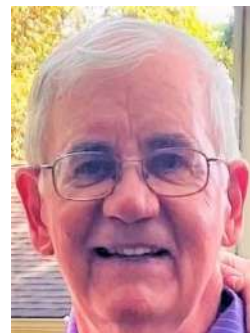
Joanie Willmeth

16,096



Bear Shatwell

15,728



Bob McGowan

CHECK YOUR PHONE (LITTLE RED HEART) & JOIN US HERE

You may not 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. You'll be featured in this walker-honoring section.

PAJAMA PARTY TOURNAMENT WAS SO MUCH FUN

We had only eight participants this year, but what we lacked in quantity, we made up for with quality. Afterward seven of us enjoyed a 2-hour lunch. Let's take a look.



Howard, John S, Natalie, Tommy, Pam, John L, Nichole, Scott, Karen, Tom, Judy, & Bear
I should repeat that ALL my tournaments are round robin. You'll partner with everyone once.



Bear



Howard



John L



John S



Judy



Karen



Natalie



Nichole



Pam



Scott



Tom



Tommy

JUDGING THE PAJAMAS

Each PJ'd Pickler was judged on a scale of 1 to 10 by each other participant. So there was a possible 120 points. Four of us scored over 100. 89 was a somewhat distant 5th. Here's our 5.

Karen 1st 109Pam 2nd 103Bear 3rd 102Howard 4th 101

TOURNAMENT RESULTS John S 1stScott 3rd Tom 2nd

PERHAPS BEST PERSONAL PICKLER ACCOMPLISHMENT OF 2025

Marv Zwass, our funny summer Mentor, our best lobber, our all-round good guy, our most likely to call compliments from the bench, has hit eight (8) ATPs. For you newer players, that's "Around The Post." He hit balls that had been hit across and out of the court around the post into the corner. Many players don't get one in a lifetime. Congratulate him, when you see Marv.



APRIL NEWBIES



AIKO



ALICE



ALLEN



AYA



BARB



BILL



BRIAN



CHARMAINE



CHIKA



CHRISTINE



CHUCK



DAWN



DOUG



EILEEN



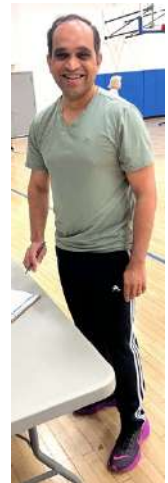
ELIJAH



GRACE



HIROKO



JAY



JOAN



JOY



KAORU



KENY



LISA



MARIO



MAY



MIKE



MONICA



MORRY



NICHOLE



RANGRON



ROSE



SHOKO



TOM



TONY

ENJOY YOUR **\$AVING\$**

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Ann



Jenifer



Joe



Lynn



Mike



Jeff



Tina



Tom



Natalie



Chris



John



Judy

NOW FOR SOME MEDALISTS



Will Bennett & Daniel Koste
Carvana PPA IL Amateur
Championships - 4.5-5.0 35-49 -
Bronze



Daniel Koste & Liz Engquist
Carvana PPA IL Amateur
Championships – 3.5-4.0 35-49 -
Silver



Larry Perlman & Stephanie
Douglas – Spring Fling –
3.5 – Gold



Joyce Pihl & Val Braden – Tucson
Golden Ticket Tournament – 3.5
Gold



Mike Malek & Ron Haaker – Ace
Pickleball Club – 3.5 50+ -
Bronze



Daniel Koste – Carvana
PPA IL Amateur
Championships – 3.5 – 4.0
19-49 – Singles - Silver

FAMILY FUN TOURNAMENT NEEDS YOU

On Thursday, May 15 you can have a ton of unusual fun on pickleball courts. Recruit any relative to whom you're not married and play against other couples that may not play together often. 9:00 in the Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. Your sister-in-law or step-son, or nephew or 2nd cousin or whomever doesn't even have to be a Palatine Pickler. Of course, afterward we have lunch a mile away. On the next page you'll find the scoreboard from our last Family Fun Tournament. You'll note that pairs differed widely in pickleball skill, but absolutely everyone had a great time. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

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3 Cathy & Luke	8	8	😊	8	8	5	8	3	8	8	8	5	8	85	
4 Cathy & Margaret	3	0	0	😊	7	4	2	1	3	4	6	2	6	38	
5 Donna & Courtney	7	4	1	8	😊	3	8	5	1	5	8	3	8	61	
6 Elke & Cora	8	8	8	8	8	😊	8	4	8	8	8	8	8	92	
7 Jeff & John	3	1	5	8	6	6	😊	0	8	4	8	0	8	57	
8 Jim & Jimmy	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	😊	8	8	8	8	8	96	
9 John & RJ	3	8	1	8	8	5	4	3	😊	5	8	4	8	65	
10 Kim & Kristine	8	8	7	8	8	2	8	3	8	😊	8	3	8	79	
11 Lynne & Howard	3	2	0	8	1	2	1	3	1	5	😊	1	5	32	
12 Masato & Jeff	8	8	8	8	8	7	8	1	8	8	8	😊	8	88	
13 Susan & Brittany	3	0	0	8	5	2	0	1	0	0	8	0	😊	27	

2ND

1ST

3RD

(2ND)(1ST)(3RD)

Just to circumvent fears of newer players, Jim and Jimmy NEVER hit the ball hard. Elke and Cora didn't hammer anyone either. Masato hit hard but never at anyone. You need not fear. And, because it's a round robin, you cannot affect the outcome. The best pairs will finish at the top. So please find some, maybe long lost, relative and email me ... again

aokbarry@yahoo.com.



John



Barb



Bear



Anu



Steve



Tony



Ming



Mary



Leslie



Marcia



Mardy

WIDOWS UNITE

This is for real life widows, not pickleball widows. Those of us who have joined the club no one wants to join will play at Canlan from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Then we WILL have dinner a mile away and do some sharing we can't with DGIs (non- widows who "don't get it.") Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. This will be our 3rd widow event. The others were both fun and rewarding.



Nacho



Mary



Mary



Jenny



Hiroko



Ivan



Gretchen



Bob



Dawn



Annette



Bill



Gary



Ernie



Geoff



Elaine



Gerd



Deborah



Deek



Don



Jeff



Debbie



Geri



Jim



Jeff



Karin



Kay



Kevin



Kenny



Karyn



Karen



Karen



Karen



John



Jeff



Marv



Janet



Allie



Dan



Doug



Jesse



Joanie



Kent



Marianne



Mario



Mike



Natasha



Peg



Tom



Linda



Carole



ste Linda



Linda



Nancy



Peggy



Stephen



Tom



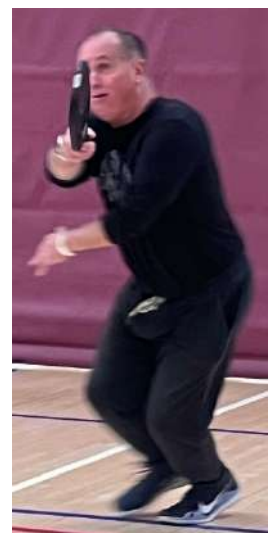
Scott



Sue



Sheila



Tim



Jaime



Bill



Brian



Chris



Ray



Marti



Natalia



Christine



Masumi



Nichole



Rich



Mary



Kenny



Angie

EMAIL CAN BE CONFUSING OR MISLEADING

I receive a LOT of Pickler emails each day. It's possible I accidentally trash one or two. It's possible yours goes to spam which I check, maybe, twice a year. Here's a given: I respond to EVERY email I read, if only with an emoji. We had a Pickler to whom I'd already given a strike for not accepting an intramural invitation show up for our match. He showed he had responded before the 10:00 a.m. Monday deadline. I didn't get it for whatever reason so replaced him at 10:00 Monday morning. If I'd gotten it, I'd have sent a happy face or something. SO if you do not get an email from me after you sent one, I DID NOT GET IT. Please send it again. Don't assume I just ignored you and everything is fine.

SORRY FOR REALLY BAD PHOTOS

As you know I take a ton of pics. Some are pretty good. Some not so much. I usually choose to put even the bad ones in newsletters. I figure Picklers like to see themselves recognized, even if not in the best light. Also, if they are at all recognizable, it will help others remember their names which is a big goal of mine.

WE'RE READY FOR YOU TO REGISTER FOR MEXICO

As you all should know by now, we're hoping to have 30-40 Palatine Picklers get to the Palmas Pickleball Resort an hour north of Cabo San Lucas on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026 for a week of pickleball and resort fun. We'll fly back on Tuesday, January 20th.

Our Pickler Coordinator for this adventure is John Schehl. (JSchehl@sbcglobal.net) He has prepared a presentation of, we think, all you could want to know about this trip. Just click on this link: <https://2026palatinepicklerpbvacation.blogspot.com>

Be sure to let me know at aokbarry@yahoo.com, when you've registered so I can keep count.

WHY AM I HAVING TO BEAT THE BUSHES?



We keep getting larger – or should I say huger? Yet I’m working harder to fill our fun tournaments, intramurals, and mentoring. I don’t get it. I do know that SO many Picklers don’t go to PalatinePicklers.com to get the newsletters early each month. That’s surely the biggest part of this problem, and I don’t know how to remind them that that’s what they have to do to know of our upcoming events.

Here's what's coming up: Thursday, May 15th Family Fun Tournament for Picklers partnering with any non-spousal relative ... then Thursday, May 29th Long Last Name Tournament for individuals with at least 8 letters in their name ... then Thursday, June 12th from 4:00 to 7:00 then dinner for Widows Tournament.

Yes, I want newer Picklers to try for Wednesday morning mentoring sessions ... and ... intermediate level Picklers to get on

the Expect To Be Available lists for every other Tuesday intramural matches ... but, even more than these, I want you to check out the January, 2026 Mexican pickleball week and sign up.

We had 20 for Jamaica. I’ve told Mexico we’ll have 30-40. Please make it so.

Again, I’d like to thank all our Mentors, our Mentoree Scheduler Kathy Ford, our Newbie application forwarder Shiela Lullo, our Newbies and Walkers Editor Mary Werling, our Playing Picklers editor Jonny Storm, and our Shirt Lady Linda O’Connor.

Enjoy your spring.

Bear

PicklersPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com