



PalatinePicklers.com

OCTOBER, 2025 NEWSLETTER

WE NEED YOU TO SIGN UP ... CHOOSE ONE OR ALL

HALLOWEEN COSTUME TOURNAMENT ... Thursday, October 23 9:00 a.m. Canlan. Afterward we'll lunch in a Vampire environment a mile away. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

MENTOREE TOURNAMENT ... If you participated in summer mentoring at Sycamore or Hamilton, your eligible. The first 24 to email me will compete Tuesday, November 4th. Email me.

WEDNESDAY MENTOREES ... We CAN serve 24 students each morning at Sycamore. There are four more Wednesdays this final month so email me with each date you're available.

INTRAMURAL MATCHES ... Intermediate level Picklers play every other Tuesday morning in Canlan. Rosters change each match at Canlan. Next is October 14th. Email me to give it a try.

1st ANNUAL AUTUMN COOKOUT

Ann Buras and & Fred Valdez teamed up to offer Picklers a fall cookout at the Park District' golf course property a month before the annual fall picnic in the forest preserve. Fred was the designated griller of hamburgers and hotdogs. He'd start them at home and bring them for Jaime Sandoval to finish at the park. They wanted participants to play until 11:00 at Hamilton. Fred created a fun scoreboard to mount on



the south fence. Marti recorded the wins and losses of each game played by a cookout attendee. They got a couple prizes to give the two with the most wins. That proved to be Sam and Scott. Sam got a ticket to an NFL game, while Scott earned a thermal beverage cup.





WE HAD A GRAND TIME AT MOST GRANDKIDS TOURNEY



Alan (9), Carole (4), John (8), Angela (5), Deb (3), Diane (6), Marianne (13), Bill (2), Bear (5), Judy (8), Terry (5), Steve (6)

This is another annual tournament. We had a last minute withdrawal. Bill, with only 2 grandkids, stepped up to fill that slot, Thanks, Bill. As always we enjoyed lunch after the tournament.

Bear finished 3rd. Marianne and Bill tied for 1st/2nd.



LET'S GET READY FOR INDOOR MENTORING

Our outdoor Wednesday mentoring ends 10/29. YES, Thursday and Saturday will continue, until Mother Nature says it's time to quit.

The first Tuesday in November will be the Summer Mentoree Tournament. You already know that. Intramurals will be the following Tuesday. If paying attention you knew that too. So the indoor season at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington begins Tuesday, November 18th. I'll have 6 courts reserved to serve 24 Mentorees with 6 Mentors. Yes, you'll pay Canlan's \$10 fee, but who cares. You'll spend a half hour with each Mentor. Then you can join us for lunch a mile away. I'm not shy about saying you will NEVER find a better return on your investment, for developing your pickleball skills. We hear that all the time. And, by the way, your training investment is zero. We're free volunteers. Only Canlan charges a daily fee.

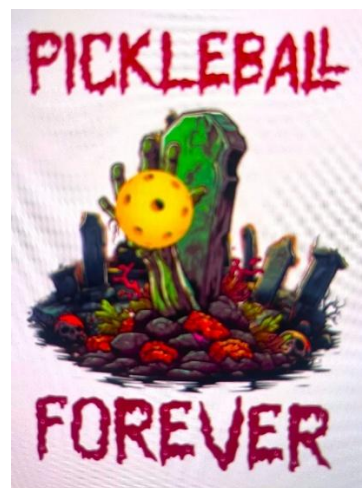
Our first, 3-hour session will be Tuesday, November 18th. Then every other week. PLEASE email me the Tuesdays you think your schedule allows you to participate. Oh, I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com. I'll invite 24 on Sunday afternoon. I keep track of who participates each week so I can balance the participation. If you do not get an invitation on Sunday, I'd really enjoy your not emailing me if you should come anyway. NO! Maybe next time.

JUST AS A REMINDER

In my world, "IF IT'S NOT IN AN EMAIL, IT NEVER HAPPENED." Still Picklers insist on texting me. NO! I cannot put a text in a folder so I know what I've exchanged with whom. Please stop with the texts. When I get one, if feeling generous, I waste the time to email the content to myself. Remember, I'm trying to cut down on the Palatine Picklers hours I invest. Thank you.

OK, POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS ... PICKLR IS GIVING YOU MOTIVATION

Bob M and Bill P ... If ONE of you, or any other. tire-kickng Picklers will commit to organizing and running the monthly (often semi-monthly), fun tournaments, the MP Pickler will give you a huge motivation to replace me as the Fun Tournament Manager. Just ask me. We've loved these, creative, diverse group touranments for a decade. I WILL give you a list of all tournaments I've created and run, as well as a bunch of scoreboards I've made for them and balls, since Canlan doesn't have good ones. Come on. We've had dozens and dozens of fun tournaments ... one or two a month for years. Let's not let that tradition die, just because I've chosen to get just a little closer to my previously normal life. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com that you'll step up. Same for any Pickler willing to handle intramurals.



MORE INFO ON THE MENTOREE TOURNAMENT 11/4

For a decade there have been two, Mentoree tournaments each year ... one for the indoor Mentoree and one for the outdoor students. Each has taken the first 24 to apply. That's what I'm doing now. If you participated in outdoor mentoring, whether at Sycamore or Hamilton, email me you want "in." I have six courts reserved at Canlan in Lake Barrington. There will acrually be two round robin tournaments. One for the alphabetical first half of your first names and one for those later in the alphabet. Each court will have a ref ... mostly Mentors. You may even learn a thing or two. We will not offer advice, but we WILL call ALL rules. That will surely include some with which you are not familiar. We'll start at 9:00 and end just before Noon. Then we'll drive a mile to the Kelsey Road House where they will be ready for us to have lunch and, if you desire, a liquid libation. Again, these will be round robin tournaments which means you'll play 11 games, one with each of those in your tournament. So, no matter how well or how poorly you play, you CANNOT impact the outcome. The best three that day will almost surely finish as the top 3 and be honored in the December newsletter. PLEASE email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to register.



JUST A BIT MORE ABOUT MENTORING

October 29th is our last reservation-required, Wednesday mentoring session. The next organized, reservation required session will be 11/18 in Canlan which requires their \$10 daily fee. Those will be 3 hours with a half hour with each of 6 Mentors. Please email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to sign up for as many weeks as you'd like. After 3 hours you'll have earned your lunch at Kelsey Road House.

Our Hamilton sessions from 3:00 to 5:00 Thursday and Saturday will continue until the first, significant snowfall. Those are just walk-on, but please get there before 3:00. Once courts are assigned, it's a challenge to assign late arrivals to an appropriate court and may involve moving already assigned Picklers to another court. Not really cool.

REMEMBER OUR AWESOME HOLIDAY LUNCH AT SCHWABEN LAST YEAR – FORGET IT.

Sadly, that location is no more. However, Clay Farnsworth who organized that winner, was quick to find a great alternative. On Thursday, December 11th, from 11:30 to 2:30 we will enjoy pizza and salad and soft drinks (and drinks at the bar) in the Buffalo Grove Lou Malnati's. Our menu will be cheese thin crust, sausage deep dish, and peperoni deep dish, along with a gardensalad and non-alcholic drinks. We will bring desserts. This will NOT be a buffet. Rather, we will be served, like really important Picklers. Real drinks can be purchased at the bar.

The cost? Only \$23 per person paid in advance with a check to Clay Farnsworth or Zelle to Christine Farnsworth 847 370 6732. There will be Christmas music, as well as some singalongs. If you don't see him at Hamilton, you may drop off your check at their home at 611 E Suffield

Drive, Arlington Hts. Email him at claytonicus611@yahoo.com or call him at 847-421-3196 when you'll be coming.

This venue will accommodate 80 Palatine Picklers and Plus Ones ... That will be the first 80 to get money into Farnsworth hands.

AND, although this is a pizza lunch, let's not show up in Tshirts and jeans. It's a holiday luncheon so holiday, or at least nice, attire is appropriate. Thank you.



EDGE-BOUNCING ... THESE PICKLERS ARE REALLY GOOD



Kyle Yates is a top pro I watched at the 2019 U.S. Open. He was playing singles against Tyson McGuffin. Tyson called time out, and Kyle stayed on the court bouncing the ball on the edge of his paddle. Not once or twice but ... forever. Then he hit the ball way up, tossed his paddle in the air, caught it on the 3rd turn, and continued bouncing. I put the "Kyle Yates Challenge" in a newsletter. Whoever sends me a video of you with the most bounces wins a PPC shirt. I got a dozen videos. 17 finished 2nd. Our own Action shot editor Jonny Storm had 192. That will surely be the PPC record forever. This year two Mentorees are challenging each other for 2nd best in club

history. Currently Bill has that spot with 70, beating Nichole's 59.





RETAIL WORKERS TOURNAMENT NOVEMBER 20TH

If you have EVER worked in retail, you are eligible for this Thursday tournament. Just email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. We'll play from 9:00 to almost Noon in the Lake Barrington Canlan Sportsplex. As always, for those whose schedule allows, we'll follow this with lunch at Kelsey Road House a mile away.

OUR 2ND TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

This was to be an annual event for Palatine Picklers. Then our Schaumburg venue with five tables went under even before the pandemic. Now edge-bouncing Bill has revived it in a new table tennis facility much closer. It will be from 10:00 to Noon on Saturday, November 22nd just west of the future home of the Bears. I'll take the first 12 to apply. The fee payable to the facility is just \$10. You may have noticed I called this a "table tennis," not "ping pong" tournament. Serves will be made by tossing a ball displayed in your flat palm straight up and made within the sidelines of the table. If we have time after the tournament, Bill is willing to mentor Pickler Pingers. Here's a link to the facility: <https://wp.chicagoitta.com>. Now try to be among the first 12 to email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.



SEPTEMBER NEWBIES



Alice



Amy



Bart



Brooke



Candi



Dale



Dave



Deborah



Diane



Doug



Erin



Gabby



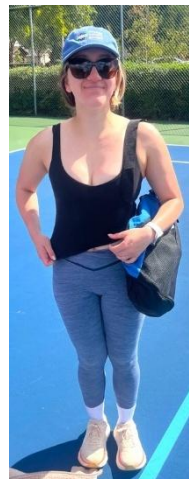
Ishpreet



Jane



Jenny



Jocelyn



Joyce



Karen B.



Karen C.



Ken



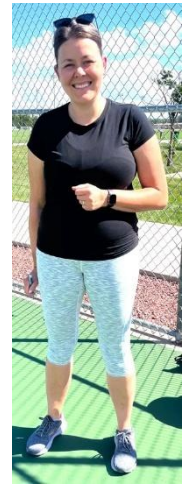
Lori



Lynn



Marianne



Martina



Mike



Milos



Oliver



Patricia



Paula



Renee



Saby



Stephanie



Tina



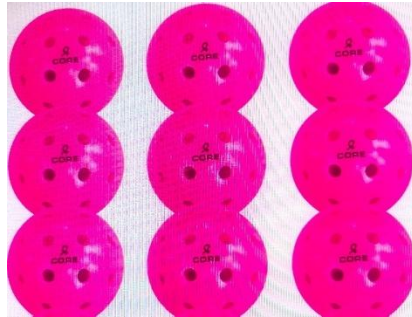
Tom



Younghwa



Young



IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)

28,430

Lois Farb



25,764

Ben Farb



WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)

19,926

Ben Farb



18,588

Lois Farb



16,225

Kathy Ford



16,177

Bear Shatwell



JOIN US HERE

You may be having your steps counted without even realizing it. If your phone is on your body, check to see if you have a little red heart icon. That's where you'll find your daily steps. If you have 15,000 or more steps in a day, 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!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET IN ON THE MEXICAN FUN

Don't let this be you wishing you'd signed up for the PALATINE PICKLERS'
WINTER PICKLEBALL IN PARADISE TRIP



DON'T LET THIS BE YOU!

Don't be left out in the



Let's soak up some sun and have a ton of pickleball fun!



DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY IN A BEAUTIFUL PICKLEBALL RESORT IN LOS BARILLES, MEXICO

Los Barilles B.C.S. is a beautiful and completely safe vacation destination located approximately 1 hour north of Cabo San Lucas. CHECK OUT THIS [LOS BARILLES VIDEO](#)

7 days, 6 nights at the luxurious [Hotel Palmas De Cortez](#) oceanfront resort including a complete pickleball package.

WHERE: [Palmas Pickleball Resort](#)

WHEN: January 14 – 20, 2026

COST: \$1,100 per person, based on double occupancy (airfare not included)

Los Barilles is loaded with great restaurants and endless activities. If a full week of pickleball sounds too much, you also can try :

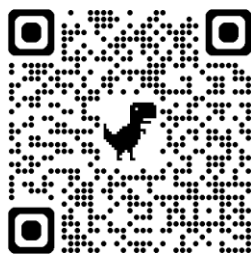
- Kitesurfing (Los Barilles is considered the kitesurfing capital of the world!)
- Kayaks and Paddleboards
- World class sportfishing
- Extraordinary Snorkeling and Diving
- ATV adventure rides
- Great hiking
- Beach horseback riding
- Or just hang out on the beach!

Do you prefer an Ocean view room? Garden view? Poolside room? Register soon to get your pick!

Visit the trip website for more details and to register:

https://2026palatinepicklerpbvacation.blogspot.com/2025/04/blog-post_60.html

Or scan this QR code:



Question? Call our Mexican Pickleball Week Coordinator John Schehl at 847-287-2103 or email him at jschehl@sbcglobal.net.



YOUR OCTOBER 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 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.

WALKERS SEND TO mary.palatinepicklers@gmail.com

MEDALISTS SEND TO stephanie.douglas@sbcglobal.net



SYCAMORE MENTORING ENDS ... CANLAN MENTORING STARTS ... HAMILTON MENTORING CONTINUES

Our final Wednesday morning mentoring session will be October 29th. Our every other Tuesday morning mentoring in the Lake Barrington Canlan Sportsplex begins November 18th. Here are the dates: 11/18, 12/2, 12/16, 1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, & 4/21.

Our Thursday and Saturday 3-5 mentoring sessions at Hamilton will continue until we have the first measurable snowfall.

HOLIDAY LUNCH – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11th

Clay Farnsworth has booked Lou Malnati's at 85 S Buffalo Grove Road, Buffalo Grove for Thursday, December 11th from 11:30 to 2:30. Here's what he wants you to know:

1.) The menu will be cheese thin crust, sausage deep dish, and pepperoni deep dish pizza, garden salad, soft drinks, and dessert, all served family style. Alcoholic drinks can be purchased at the Malnati bar.

FYI, we will purchase some bakery goods for dessert at COSTCO to save a few \$\$\$\$.

2.) We will have Christmas music playing as well as a singalong set of Christmas songs for all to enjoy. If someone asks, I may even sing a song or two! Perhaps some karaoke from PICKLERS too!

3.) We can decorate the room about a half hour in advance, should we want to.

4.) Regarding the price, it'll be \$23 per person, paid in advance via Zelle to Christine Farnsworth 847 370 6732 or check made out to Clay Farnsworth

and sent to me at 611 E Suffield Drive, Arlington Heights, Illinois, 60004. No credit cards , cash is acceptable if they give it to me at Falcon or drop it off at my home.

In addition I must have an e mail (claytonicus611@yahoo.com) or phone call/ message (847- 421-3198) advising me as to who is coming when.

5.) We have capacity for up to 80 people, seated 8 per table in ten tables. It'll be open seating.

6.) I have to give Malnati's a head count 10 days before the event, so I'm asking folks to commit ASAP, and have their payment in no later than 11/24.

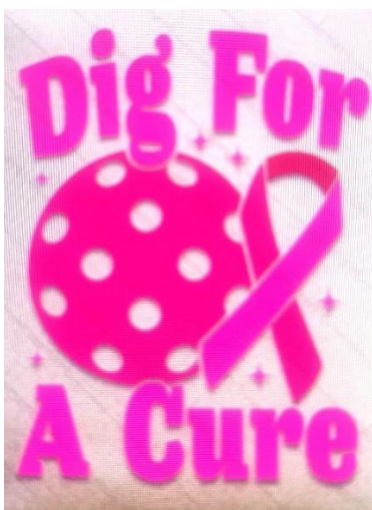
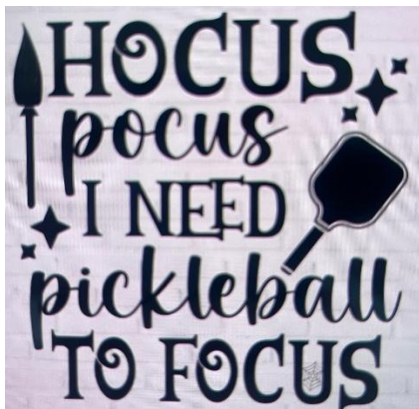
No walk in "day of the event" will be allowed due to giving Malnati's a head count for their food planning.

Last year we had 81 people so committing ASAP is advised. Spouses are certainly invited. Again our limit is 80 total people.

I will follow up with emails and Facebook posts after the October newsletter is out.

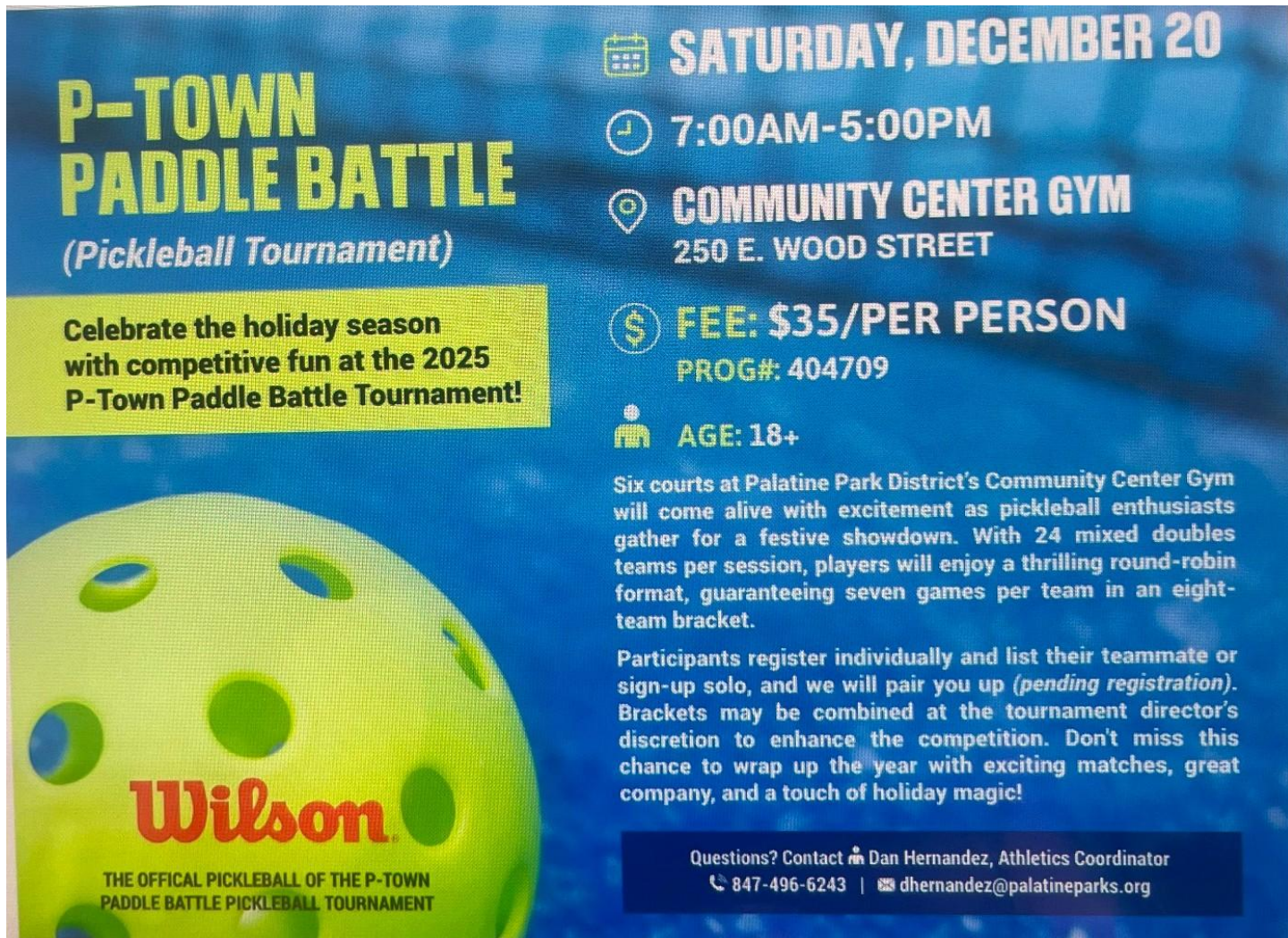
It will be fun, festive, and tasty!

Bear is asking everyone to please dress appropriately for a holiday party.



PALATINE PARK DISTRICT PB TOURNAMENT

Find your favorite mixed doubles partner and practice up for this late December tournament run by our Park District.



**P-TOWN
PADDLE BATTLE**
(Pickleball Tournament)

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00AM-5:00PM

COMMUNITY CENTER GYM
250 E. WOOD STREET

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

AGE: 18+

Six courts at Palatine Park District's Community Center Gym will come alive with excitement as pickleball enthusiasts gather for a festive showdown. With 24 mixed doubles teams per session, players will enjoy a thrilling round-robin format, guaranteeing seven games per team in an eight-team bracket.

Participants register individually and list their teammate or sign-up solo, and we will pair you up (*pending registration*). Brackets may be combined at the tournament director's discretion to enhance the competition. Don't miss this chance to wrap up the year with exciting matches, great company, and a touch of holiday magic!

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

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

Divisions are (1) 2.0-2.9 morning (2) 3.0-3.4 morning (3) 3.5-3.9 morning
(4) 3.0-3.4 afternoon (5) 3.5-3.9 afternoon (6) 4.0+ afternoon

Register at

<https://ilpalatineweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/search.html?Action=Start&SubAction=&subtype=&primarycode=&keyword=PADDLE&keywordoption=Match+One&module=AR&multiselectlist value=&arwebsearch buttonsearch=yes>

The earlier you register, the more likely you will be to get in and get the time you prefer.

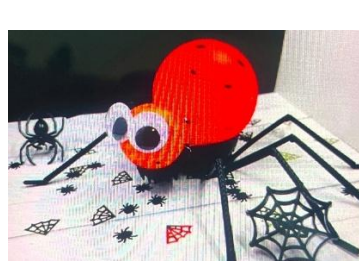
BEAR NEEDS 2 EVENT MANAGERS

MAKE THAT WE ALL NEED 2 EVENT MANAGERS

INTRAMURAL MANAGER ... For three years dozens and dozens of intermediate (3.0 – 3.5 or so) Palatine Picklers have truly enjoyed intramural matches in Canlan every other Tuesday morning year round. I've enjoyed running these fun matches. I still do even though I'm no longer good enough to play regularly. However, whether one of you volunteers to be our new Intramural Manager or not, the last match I'll manage will be December 9th. And, no, I will not say, "Oh, well. Guess I'll have to keep running these things." I have made a one-page summary of what I've done to see these run smoothly. I've shared it with two, potential volunteers, but no takers yet. You do NOT have to follow my, admittedly anal, methodology. You just need to get 1 men and 8 lady Picklers in the gym by 9:00 a.m. every other Tuesday. **We NEED a new INTRAMURAL MANAGER.** Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to apply.

FUN TOURNAMENT MANAGER ... I've enjoyed creating fun (as in not serious) tournaments for different segments of our membership. Here's a sample, some annual ones ... King/Queen of the Court for many age groups ... Table tennis ... Oldest 8 or 12 for both genders ... Youngest 8 or 12 for both ... Family Fun (partner w any non-spouse relative) ... Marathon (play Falcon, then Birchwood, count games/steps/wins ... Wrong hand ... Lefties ... Bionic (metal in body not in mouth) ... Untall Ladies (5'2" and down) ... Tree Toppers (Guys over 6') ... Pajama (judge then play) ... Widows ... Singles ... Red & Pink couples ... Halloween Costume (judge then play) .. Ugly Holiday Sweater (judge then play) ... Heavy Hitters (200 lb+ men) and Petite Picklers (150 lb max ladies) ... Pickle Huse K/Q of Court ... Most Grandkids ... Health Care Workers ... Retail Workers ... Non-Native (not born in IL) ... Aging Leprechcauns (oldest X men in March) ... Long Last Name ... Close to July 4th birthday ... Teachers ... etc.

I'm also resigning from creating and running these fun. One or two a month, mostly round robin tournaments at the end of 2025. Obviously, these are a LOT of fun. They deserve to continue. Most are annual. I keep adding new ones. Let's keep the fun going. **We NEED a new FUN TOURNAMENT MANAGER.** Apply by emailing me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.



ARLINGTON PARK DISTRICT PB TOURNAMENT 11/15

On Saturday, November 15th from 9:00 to no later than 1:00, a round robin tournament will be held at the ARC (Arlington Recreation Center), 660 N Ridge Ave (near 14 & Euclid). This is for players 25 and over who have a skill rating from 2.5 to 3.5. Limit of 32 players. The fee is \$40 for those within the Arlington Height Park District and \$50 for all others. There are two ways to register. If you belong to the ARC, or if you have taken ANY class there, you can register at www.ahpd.org. Otherwise, you need to visit the ARC to register and pay.



WAHOO! ONE PICKLER STEPPED UP

After this year's Ugly Holiday Sweater Tournament, **Bob McGowan** will be creating and running the Fun, monthly or semi-monthly, Thursday Tournaments at Canlan. Bob isn't new to volunteering for us. For years he has crunched the numbers and come up with stats from each intramural match he has me send to participants.

When he comes out with his first tournament, please give him the support he deserves. Sign up for that, if you're in the targeted group.



AGAIN – PLEASE SIGN UP FOR INDOOR MENTORING

It won't start until Tuesday, November 18th, but so far I have only half of that week's desired Mentorees on the Expect To Be Available list. Each week we expect to serve 24 Mentorees for three hours. Each will spend half an hour with each of six Mentors. All for Canlan's \$10 daily fee. Guaranteed you cannot get a better return on your investment than our 11, indoor mentoring sessions. The dates appear 5 pages above in the story with the SYCAMORE MENTORING ENDS headline. Please email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with all the dates you think you could participate. I will send invitations on Sunday afternoons.

I invest the time on Mondays to research everyone and try to put groups of four on each court that are of similar ability and experience, to maximize benefit of all participants.

Last year we had 24 Mentorees each session. That is our goal this year. Please make it happen.

70+ TOURNAMENT

As with everything in 2025, this tournament fell far below the participation of last year. I had hoped again to run one tournament for the 12 most senior ladies and another, simultaneously, for our eldest dozen men. Not even close. Still, we had fun.



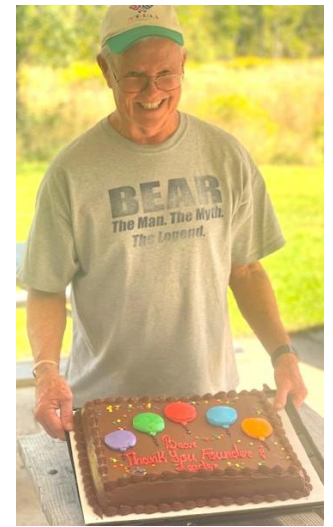
Mark, Judy, Tom, Bear, Marv, Dave, Terry, & Steve

Mark 2nd, Marv 1st, Terry 3rd

3rd YEA FOR BEAR PICNIC WAS WONDERFUL

I don't even know how to cover this. I do what I do for this club as a way of "paying my dues" for all life has given me. I was shocked two years ago, when a Hamilton picnic turned out to be a celebration of me. Almost embarrassing speeches were made, a clever framed poetic poster was given to me, and a gift certificate for Capital Grill too. I was blown away. I was less surprised, but still in the "You don't have to do this" mindset last year. This year I knew Freddie was going to make a "Yea Bear" speech and I get some gifts. Uh, WOW! The best thing about all this thankfulness was Kathy getting to see what the dozens of hours I spend on the

computer and at mentoring and intramurals and fun tournaments mean to Picklers. So many friendships have resulted from my having started and nurtured this club. It doesn't make up for how much I've neglected her, but she does see it's not without rewards. As I write this, I have not yet opened several envelopes I was given. Freddie gave us an unbelievable amount of money collected from fellow Picklers "to enjoy in our retirement." I/we are beyond grateful. I shall email all who contributed, but not right away. I sent 48 invitations today for things this week, and will also have to determine court assignments for another, hopefully, 24 for Wednesday mentoring, and still have a few things to get into the newsletter. Thanking everyone is a front burner thing, but it's not as time-sensitive as these other priorities. (I'm writing this at 9:45 p.m. on Sunday.) Freddie (Glenn) Fredricksen was the brains behind this event, with some help from Chris Vaia. Enough rambling. Let's see a few pics from the picnic.





I cannot convey how much it means to me to be appreciated for my efforts to make your lives just a bit more enjoyable. This was a very humbling day I was so glad to share with Kathy. Thank you.

Thanking everyone IS a priority. However, this week I have several more time-sensitive, Picklers' events that are consuming my time. I hope to give my thank you considerable thought this weekend.



JONNY STORM HAS A TOURNAMENT FOR YOU IN THE WHEATON PICKLR

The flyer to the left gives you an overview of this Fri-Sat-Sun tournament just before Thanksgiving.

Jonny does a great job of putting names on the action shots I send him. He does a great job of collecting gold, 5.0 medals. I bet he does a great job of running fun tournaments too.

Many of us have seen now how fantastic Picklr facilities are. Why not give this tournament a try. Then, of course, send info about your medals to Stephanie Douglas at stephanie.douglas@sbcglobal.net for the next newsletter.

PICKLERS AT PLAY



Alice



Andy



Angela



Barb



Bear



Bill



Carol



Carole



Cathy



Clay



Deb



Debbie



Debbie



Gerd



Jacquie



Tina



Jenna



Jim



John



John



Judy



Kevin



Khin



Marianne



Mary Jo
Long



Masumi



Maureen



Mike



Natalie



Nichole



Oliver



Polly



Steve



Tina



Tommy



IT'S BEEN A BUSY SEPTEMBER

We had fun with our 2nd annual Most Grandkids tournament. The summer has shown a remarkable slowdown in everything. After ten years of having 40+ on the ETBA (Expect To Be Available) list for Wednesday mentoring, lately we haven't even always had the 24 we can serve. Twice intramurals has had to have one or two play as the opposite gender. Once I had to cancel the match, because there weren't enough signed up. This program is only three years old, but I've always had to select rosters from twice to three times the players I needed. We went from last year's 12 men and 12 women with plenty of Alternates for the 70+ tournaments down to one tournament with 8 participants. It's a really strange year.

On the bright side, I kept adding courts for our Picklr tournament, until I capped it at 32 Picklers. And our Thursday and Saturday walk-on mentoring at Hamilton have usually had at least five courts. Could it seem too hard to email me the Wednesday mornings Picklers are available for mentoring? Maybe it's just easier to walk on, no email necessary, no commitment. It is a little discouraging to us Mentors to be willing to devote 3+ hours to helping you with your game, and have so few interested. We HAVE enjoyed a few veteran Picklers coming back for a tune-up. That's great. Maybe potential Mentorees see me play and know I'm a Mentor. Yes, I am terrible these days, but I really can teach better than I play.

We are so grateful that Bob McGowan has stepped up, to take over our fun tournaments. I hope Nancy is OK with the bunch of scoreboards I'll be giving him. If no one volunteers to take over intramurals the balls I give him will empty my my trunk. If someone does want to see intramurals continue into 2026, I will be very happy to secure more balls for that program ... and it has only one scoreboard.

WHY I WON'T ENTER ANOTHER SCARECROW CONTEST



Two or three years ago, I thought it would be fun to have our Picklers enter the annual Palatine Scarecrow contest. We picked up a huge cross in concrete and did whatever we wanted. We had seven Palatine Picklers working on him in our garage. He's wearing a Palatine Picklers shirt. He has a pickleball head. He has a common knee brace, pickleball paddle with pickleball, even a tendonitis Bandit on his arm. He's in gym shoes, and there's a sign at the bottom saying "Stay out of the kitchen." He even has a Palatine Picklers cap. I thought ours was certainly in the top 3. Then an old lady judge wheeled her walker up, studied it for a while, and asked, "Does it have a theme?" Really? Goodbye, Scarecrow contest.

Thanks to the 100 Picklers who have written Ben Rea, Executive Director of the Palatine Park District to ask that the 8.5 acre Park District property at 68 & 14 that had been a stable be turned into a pickleball facility ... maybe with our first indoor swimming pool too, or indoor and outdoor pickleball, with wash room/s, fountain, shade, and seating. It's the obvious choice for the future of that property. As I write this, we have 4564 members, 1452+ in the Palatine Park District. Since the first page of the July newsletter showed just how far Palatine lagged behind 15 other NW suburbs in outdoor courts per capita, it has gotten considerably worse. Other towns are building courts, seemingly, at breakneck speed. We're now worst of 17, not 15. Again, think of the irony. The Palatine Pickleball Club is one of the largest in the country. Yet its hometown is the worst for supplying courts. In one move the Park District could put Palatine back atop the NW suburbs for pickleball. You can still let your voice be heard. Email Ben at brea@palatineparks.org. After 100+ emails, he certainly gets that we have too few courts in town. Just let him know you think that 14 & 68 property is ideal for a truly classy pickleball facility. An indoor swimming pool is the only other reasonable option, but the property is large enough for a class pickleball facility AND a pool. I fought tooth and nail for lined tennis courts, then separate pb courts, and finally Hamilton, and then kitchens of another color. Now I'm fighting for a pickleball facility that will put Palatine back on the suburban pickleball map. It would be great to run tournaments that could actually generate revenue for the PPD.

Rapidly approaching is the 10/23 Halloween Costume Tournament. We judge costumes. Then we play (headwear and footwear may be removed). Then we have lunch in a very Vampire environment a mile away. Email me you'd like to join this fun.

OK, if you have **ever** worked in retail, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com that you want to play in the Retail Workers Tournament on Thursday, November 20th. All my tournaments (except Mentorees) are Thursday mornings at Canlan in Lake Barrington, from 9:00 to Noon. Then lunch.

Then my last running of a fun tournament will be our annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Tournament. This year it will be on Thursday, December 4th from 9:00 to Noon in Canlan. I'll try to get us in a very decorated basement at Kelsey Road House for lunch. Email me.



Again, we need one of you to keep the intramural program alive. It's a lot of fun for intermediate level Picklers. I can send you a one-page summary of what I've been doing to make it work every other week for three years. Just ask me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.



Don't forget to sign up for both the Palatine Park District tournament and the Fall Brawl tournament in the Wheaton Picklr.

This wraps up my Halloween and Breast Cancer October newsletter. Enjoy this special month.

Bear

PicklersPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com

