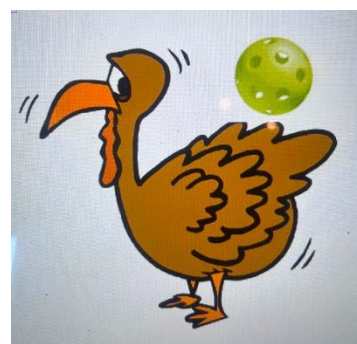




NOVEMBER, 2025 NEWSLETTER



TOO MUCH FAKE NEWS – I AM NOT RETIRING

Jay Cozza, apparently, has quite a following. He mistakenly posted on our Facebook page and, maybe, Team Reach that I was retiring. Seems not many read my retraction of that in the comments. At the end of 2025 I'm handing the baton for fun, creative tournaments to Bob McGowan. And, while I won't be running intramurals any more, John McGeown has stepped up start running these matches in January. I've begun training him, but have 2 months to finish that job. With Bob and John taking over these two time-consuming jobs, that leaves 80% of what I do still on my plate.

I will still mentor 4 times each week in the summer and every other week for 3 hours in the indoor season, and both Thursday and Saturday 3-5 at Hamilton, until we have measurable snowfall. I'll still reply to a ton of emails every day. I'll still assign courts to 24 mentorees during the indoor season and mentor them. I'll still research fun, holiday pickleball artwork for our newsletters which I will continue to write. I'll still take (far fewer) photos of Picklers in action. I'll still publicize tournaments run by any Palatine Pickler, no matter where they are. I'll still take and edit pics of Newbies to send to Mary Werling to put on pages I'll put in each newsletter. I'll still take and edit action shots and send them to Jonny Storm for to add names and send back for me for the newsletters. I'll still send any medalists that are mistakenly sent to me to Stephanie Douglas and incorporate her work in the newsletters. I'll still welcome each Newbie I either sign up in person or am sent by Shiela Lullo who receives them from our website. I'll still put in newsletters the participants photo and the winners for each fun tournament Bob runs. I'll still lobby for our growing needs with the Park District. I'll still play "Pickleball Police" for problems at courts. I'll still promote Feed My Starving Children. I'll still

settle rules disputes. I'll still plan our annual Photo Day. I'll still write my closing editorials. I'm just trying to get down to 25 hours a week on the laptop for the Palatine Picklers. I'll still select 10 of our volunteers to enjoy the PPD's annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and write a nomination for our Volunteer of the Year. This is NOT retiring. I couldn't (yet) do that to you. However, if any of you would like to do all this stuff, I will be more than happy to actually retire. Again, I'd like to finish my book – Guide for the Newly Widowed. I was about half way through writing it, when the Park District asked me to start a pickleball club in 2015. It's been a full-time gig ever since.



NOW HOW 'BOUT SOMEONE TO MANAGE THURSDAY & SATURDAY MENTORING?

This would be one of the easiest jobs I'd like to pass on to another Pickler. I can give you email addresses and phone numbers of all who have mentored either indoors or out. You'll just try to schedule 3-5 Mentors for each of these 3:00 to 5:00 mentoring sessions. These have had 3 to 5 courts of students all summer. They will continue only until the first, measurable snowfall. You can make any announcements, maybe have everyone do the ball bouncing drill we do every week (without moving feet, bounce a ball 10 times on the forehand side of your paddle, 10 times on the backhand, and then alternate forehand to backhand 10 times). Then assign everyone to courts which seem appropriate. Mentors you schedule will help with that. I will give you the balls you need.

1st PICKLR TOURNAMENT WAS A WINNER

Last month I ran the largest tournament we've ever had. We had 32 Palatine Picklers invade the Mt Prospect Picklr for this. I'd prepared 32 clipboards and attached to each a scoresheet participants would take with them. Every 15 minutes I blew my whistle. Play stops (games had no end only time restraints). Winners moved to the next higher numbered court. Losers moved to the next lowest numbered court. They noted if their first name was first or second in the alphabet with their former partner and paired with that same ordered Pickler of the two they met on their new court. We played eight games with a bunch of different partners. It was as awesome as the Picklr facility itself. Here's our group of Palatine Picklers who competed:



There some ambiguity as to who is in which row, but here's my best guess. Front: Karen, Christine, Mark, Mary Jo, Natalie, Nichole, Leslie, Pam. Middle: Judy, Annette, Mary, Stephanie D, Colleen, Bill, Bear, Brian, Tom B, Fred, Tom Sa Back: Joanie, Tina, John, Scott B, Scott P, Jim, Tom Sp, Larry. Sadly, Bart, Debbie, Rose, and Stephanie C missed this photo op.

I didn't have time to total all scores in time to take a pic of our top 3 as usual, before we headed to lunch. Here are our top ten finishers: 1 Bill, 2 Larry, 3 Christine, 4 Tom B, 5 John, 6 Fred, 7 Scott B, 8 Leslie, 9 Gerd, 10 Bear. This was such a fun format, because partners kept changing so the true top 10 weren't all in there, and some of the bottom 10 (including me) made it. The top few, of course, were the top few.

A bunch of our 32 enjoyed lunch at Jameson's. That was fun too – and good. Here you see Scott, Tom Sa, Bill, Scott, Annette, Jim, John, Judy, Fred, Tina, Bear, Karen, Mary Jo, and Colleen.



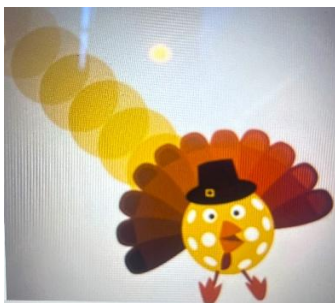
Do not forget that the Mt Prospect Picklr gives Palatine Picklers a lower membership fee. Instead of their \$139/month (or \$1390/year), they'll let us pay only \$119/month. If you're a senior Palatine Pickler, that drops to \$109. Quite a few of OUR members are THEIR members already. Pickler Mark was playing there when we were. He waved happily. After our tournament, Scott B said he planned to join. The place is simply awesome. There's even free popcorn. Just be sure to identify yourself as a Palatine Pickler.



HEY MEXICO-BOUND PICKLERS – DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH PALATINE PICKLERS SHIRTS ?

When we were in Jamaica, we were usually “well dressed.” Sadly, circumstances prohibit my participating in this Mexican pickleball paradise vacation. I'd love to put a lot of pics of our members in their club shirts playing in the February newsletter. I really do not know, if you can still get in our good deal. If you're just beginning to think it would be as much fun as it will be, email John Schehl at JSchehl@sbsglobal.net. He's our Mexican Week Coordinator. He'll know, or he'll find out. For shirts go to PalatinePicklers.com and click on shirts (NOT on your phone).

Not heading to Mexico in January? Guess what. You can upgrade your wardrobe too. We have a LOT of awesome Palatine Picklers shirt in numerous styles and a lot of colors. If you're still living with just one or two PPC shirt, come on – get with the program. A whole lot of us have at least six. You should join us.



INTRAMURALS WILL CONTINUE



Thanks to John McGeown, we WILL have every other Tuesday intramurals in Canlan, from 9:00 to Noon. Kelsey Road House can still count on the Palatine Picklers raising their daily bottom line. BUT, John need you to sign up for Tuesdays which work for you. Here are your intramural dates: 1/6 1/20 2/3 2/17 3/3 3/17 3/31 4/14 4/28 5/12 5/26 for now. It will be every two weeks forever, except for a holiday break. John's email is lmcgeown@comcast.net. Get him off to a good start. Email him all the dates you expect to be able to participate..

Again, intramural is for intermediate level Picklers. Roughly, that equates to 3.0 to 3.5. If you're uncertain, give it a try. If you go 0 or 1 for 7, or if you go 6 or 7 for 7 games, you may not be invited next time. You're either not quite ready or you're beyond our ability.

STILL ROOM FOR A FEW MORE AT OUR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

We had a great time last year at Schwaben. Clay Farnsworth has arranged for this year's holiday luncheon to be at the Buffalo Grove Malnati's. It will be from 11:30 to 2:30 on Thursday, December 11th. Dress in holiday attire and bring an appetite. Lots of pizza, salad, and dessert for only \$23. There is, of course, an open bar too. I had a lot more info in this article, but today (Friday), Clay let me know it is SOLD OUT. You can still get on a waiting list. Just call Clay (847-421-3198).



HALLOWEEN COSTUME TOURNAMENT

This annual event was as much fun this year as ever. For the first time, we had four Picklers tie for 3rd place in the costume judging. That was fun. We also had a heck of a battle for first place in the tournament between Greg and John. Then most of us had fun at lunch. Even my Kathy, the 1st Lady of the Palatine Picklers, joined us. Take a look.



Greg, Linda, Natalie, Bear, Joanie, John S, Chrissie, Karen, Evelyn, Howard, Ann, John B, Carole



Ann



Bear



Carole



Chrissie



Evelyn



Greg



Howard



Joanie



John B



John S



Karen



Linda



Natalie



Costumes Chrissie 2nd, Carole 1st, Bear, John, Natalie, Tournament John S 2nd, Greg 1st, Ann 3rd and Joanie tied for 3rd



Lunch Carole, Bear, Kathy, Natalie, Joanie, Evelyn, John B, Ann, Chrissie, Howard



Joanie celebrating her tie for 3rd in the costume judging

TIME TO CHECK OUR DI\$COUNT\$

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.

THIS MONTH'S MEDALISTS



Daniel Koste
Naperville Picklr Singles Slam
Men's Singles
Under 40
3.5-4.0
Bronze



Maggie Walker and Annie Vallecer
APP Chicago Open
Women's Doubles
50+
3.0 - 3.5
Gold

UGLY **HOLIDAY** SWEATER PICKLERS MUST EMAIL ME AGAIN

The judging and tournament will be Thursday, December 4th at 9:00 a.m. in Lake Barrington's Canlan Sportsplex. Several of you have already emailed me you'll participate. That's the good news. The bad news is that spreadsheet has mysteriously vanished. The only thing I haven't tried is seeing if my Best Buy Geek Squad can find previously saved versions of it in the cloud. MEANWHILE, whether you already signed up or are just now thinking about it, please email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com that you will join in this annual, fun event.



PING PONGING PICKLERS HAVE A TOURNAMENT

It will be Saturday, November 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the Chicago International Table Tennis Academy, 3660 Edison Place, Rolling Meadows. This is off Rohlwing Rd a block south of 14. You'll pay the facility just \$10. This has been arranged by Pickler Bill Shehadeh. I'll make it a round robin tournament. I ran one of these about eight years ago, but our venue went out of business. I'm looking for this to be an annual event. Email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

HAVE YOU FLIPPED A BURGER OR STOCKED A SHELF?

If you ever worked in a retail environment, then sign up for the **Retail Workers Tournament**. It's Thursday November 20th in Canlan at 9:00. Of course, it's a round robin so you'll partner with each of your competitors. This one is a first time tournament. Email me at (see above).

EVEN IF NOT GOING TO MEXICO, ORDER YOUR SHIRT NOW

You may own one or three Palatine Picklers shirts. More than 600 have been bought. Still, there are colors and styles you don't own. If you don't own even one, why the heck not? They help advertise your favorite club and greatly increase your chances of getting your pic in a newsletter. Besides, they are cool. Shirt Manager Linda O'Connor cannot place an order, until she has 12 shirts wanted by Palatine Picklers. You can order as many as you want on PalatinePicklers.com. Just use your computer, not your phone. Darn, we look good!



Don't forget that these shirts make great holiday gifts. If you have/will have several shirts, email me how many. Let's see if you're in the league of me, Lynne Weisbart, Stephanie Douglas, or John Stepal. Warning: three or four won't do it.

THANKS TO SUMMER MENTORS ... Dennis Bourgojn, John Stepal, Steve Lawler, Greg Willard, Tom Battisti, Frank Wasilewski, Bill Parry, Karyn Picchiotti, Jeff Balicki, Bill Buesing, Dan Salbego, Scott Brown, Chris Farnsworth, Ron Haaker, Bob McGowan, and Bear Shatwell. These

Picklers have stepped up to volunteer time to help newer Picklers grow their skill and appreciation of our sport. **AND, MENTORS, PLEASE EMAIL ME THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO BE A REF FOR THE TUESDAY 11/4 MENTOREE TOURNAMENT.** I'll email you a list of all the faults I want you to call. Of course, it's 9:00 to Noon at Canlan. We need six Refs. First to apply win. Then we go to Kelsey Road House for a fun lunch. I would also welcome two scorekeepers. I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

AGAIN ... CAN I FIND A THURSDAY & SATURDAY MENTORING MANAGER?

We're almost done for 2025, but, as much as I love working with the newest Picklers, I'd love to have these times off. Kathy deserves to see me occasionally. It's not as difficult as some tasks already accepted. Just get 3+ Mentors to show up, and assign courts. If a Mentor yourself, do whatever the heck you want ... drills, dinking straight and diagonal, different games, serves, 3rd shot drops, reflex volleys, lobs, 14' games, wrong hand games, games with post-point instruction, whatever.

I'll still handle the **much** harder Wednesday (summer) and Tuesday (indoor season) mentoring, but would appreciate these easier days handled by YOU. Please email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to apply for this rewarding job. Thanks in advance.

PERSONAL WHINE ... PLEASE refrain from texting me. I can't file texts. I always say, "If it's not in an email, it never happened." You could probably even remember my email address. It's aokbarry@yahoo.com. Thank you. BTW my email address appears a bunch of times in each newsletter.

OCTOBER NEWBIES



Anna



Bart



Brian



David



Dennis



Jessica



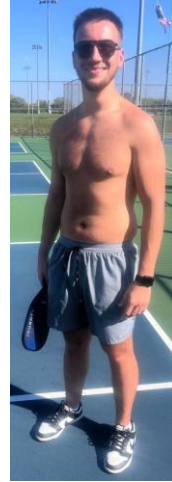
Jim



John



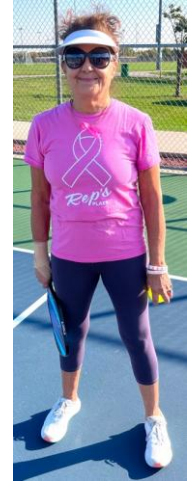
Karolyn



Maciek



Marcia



Mary Richards



Mary Rogers



Pam



Patricia



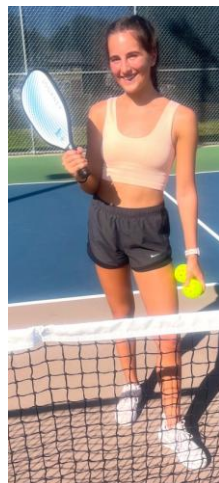
Ram



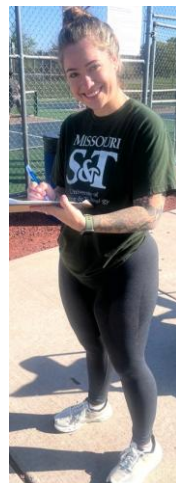
Riley



Robert



Sara



Taylor



Yan

IT'S WALKER RECOGNITION TIME

ULTRA SUPER STEPPER (30K+ in a day)

31,882



Natalie Silverman

SUPER STEPPERS (20K+ in a day)

28,399



Natalie Silverman

26,356



John Havlir

21,636



Kathy Ford

20,326



Steve Manis

WORTHY WALKERS (15K+ in a day)**19,514**

Sheila O'Gara

19,465

Kathy Ford

17,546

Natalie Silverman

16,598

Annette Grabowski

16,471

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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE REST OF 2025

Tuesday, November 4th ... Summer Mentorees' Tournament in Canlan for 24 Mentorees 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Tuesday, November 11th ... Intramurals in Canlan 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Tuesday, November 18th ... First Indoor mentoring in Canlan 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Thursday, November 20th ... Retail Workers Tournament in Canlan 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, November 22nd ... Table Tennis Tournament ... 3660 Edison Place, Rolling Meadows,
10:00 to Noon

Tuesday, November 25th ... Intramurals in Canlan 9:00 to Noon

Tuesday, December 2nd ... Mentoring in Canlan 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Thursday, December 4th ... Ugly Holiday Sweater Tournament In Canlan 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Tuesday, December 9th ... Intramurals in Canlan 9:00 to Noon

Thursday, December 11th ... Holiday Luncheon In Lou Malnati's In Buffalo Grove, 11:30 to 2:30

Tuesday, December 16th ... Mentoring in Canlan 9:00 a.m. to Noon

PICKLERS AT PLAY





Linda



Linda



Lisa



Lucia



Marcie



Max



Michael



Mike



Nancy



Patty



Phil



Ricardo



Ryan



Sally



Steve



Ted

ANOTHER INDOOR OPTION FOR PALATINE PICKLERS

ACE PICKLEBALL CLUB

The **ACE Pickleball Club** in the Des Plaines/Mt. Prospect area is inviting anyone in the Palatine Picklers to **try the club for Free on Saturday, November 8th from 6am to 9pm!**



PALATINE PICKLERS, YOU ARE INVITED TO TRY ACE PICKLEBALL CLUB IN DES PLAINES FOR FREE ON SATURDAY NOV 8TH FROM 6A-9PM!!! SIMPLY SHOW THIS FLYER ON YOUR PHONE OR PRINT IT OUT FOR A FREE DROP-IN!

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR PALATINE PICKLERS WHO SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE BELOW BY NOV 30TH 2023!

ACE PICKLEBALL CLUB

**DES PLAINES, IL
727 W GOLF RD
847-674-1080**

**LIMITED TIME OFFER FOR PALATINE PICKLERS
\$109/MONTH OR
\$1090/YEAR**

At Ace Pickleball Club Des Plaines we offer:

- 13 premium cushioned championship sized courts
- a warm-up zone with 1/2 disk court, dinking wall, stretching bands, mats, and warm up machines
- Safety padding on all walls and fencing.
- Premium upgraded anti-glare lighting
- OPEN PLAY ALL DAY - NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED
- ball machine reservations
- available private court reservations
- free clinics, classes, and leagues
- free APC Championship Series Tournaments
- COMING SOON! Ping Pong!
- we accept SILVER SNEAKERS, RENEW ACTIVE, ACTIVE AND FIT, AND MORE! CALL TODAY TO SEE IF WE ACCEPT YOUR FITNESS INSURANCE PROGRAM AND SECURE AN EVEN BETTER RATE!

The address of the club is 727 W Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL (near the intersection of Hwy. 83 & Golf Road). Call ACE at **847-674-1080** for more information and check out their website:

<https://www.acepickleballclub.com/desplaines-il>

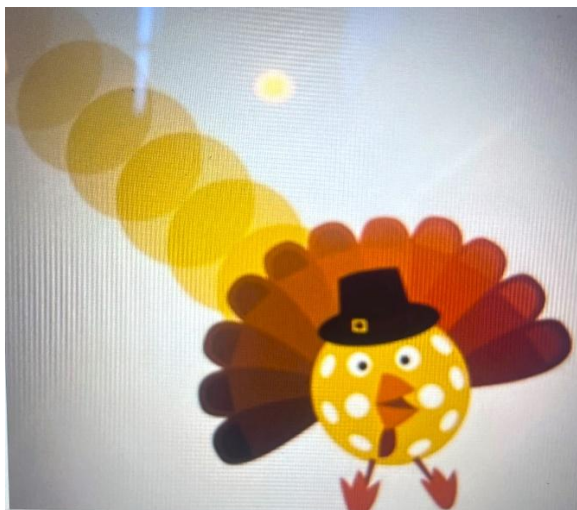
Potentially save even more on your membership - In addition to the membership rate listed in the flyer, ACE also accepts a variety of fitness insurance programs that some of you may have as part of your Medicare/health insurance plan (i.e. Silver Sneakers. Renew Active, Active and Fit, One Pass and more!)

If your insurance plan/Medicare supplement offers this as a benefit, you are eligible for a Free Mid-Day Membership (Monday thru Friday 11am to 3pm) at ACE, and you can upgrade your Free membership to an Unlimited Membership for \$69.00 per month!

Call ACE at **847-674-1080** for more information.

WANT TO ENJOY A COUPLE TOURNAMENTS WHILE KEEPING SCORE? OR BEING A REF?

It's quite possible I still need two Scorekeepers and a few Refs, for the Tuesday 11/4 Mentoree Tournament. It's in Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington, starting at 9:00. YOU will not be required to pay their \$10 daily fee. We've always had 6 Refs, one for each court and 2 Scorekeepers, one for each scoreboard, Please email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com to volunteer.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING, PICKLERS

FEEL FREE TO SKIP THIS NONSENSICAL PARAGRAPH. Just thinking of sports terms ... Picklers can get pickled. That's bad. Bowlers can get turkeys. That's good. Basketball players get fouls. So do baseball players. Turkeys are fouls. Hockey players have slap shots. Picklers have slice shots. Tennis players have aces. Baseball players run bases. Track runners have dashes. Picklers have smashes. Golfers have bunkers. We hit occasional klunkers. Pool players have shots that bank. Picklers have shots that tank. Swimmers make splashes. Picklers love good bashes. Football players enjoy a good blitz. We enjoy good hits. Horseshoe players love a ringer. Picklers learn not to be in the back court, linger. Balloonists rely on hot air. Picklers believe in playing fair. Ski jumpers fly high. Picklers love dinking on the back court guy. SCUBA guys make bubbles. Baseball guys hit doubles.

We've had an excellent month, but we're still coming up short on virtually everything. We NEED a lot more Mentorees for Canlan's every other Tuesday mentoring, starting Tuesday, November 18th. Need more Mentors to email me their availability. Need more intermediate Picklers to email me their every other Tuesday availability, starting November 11th from 9:00 to Noon. More Picklers who have EVER worked in retail are needed for their Thursday, November 20th tournament. We'd like to see many more sign up for the Saturday, November 22nd 10:00-Noon table tennis tournament. We want more to join our annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Tournament on Thursday, December 4th. The December 11th Holiday Luncheon has a waiting list for you.

Please don't forget to get a screen shot of your steps and email it to Mary Werling (mary.palatinepicklers@gmail.com), when you get at least 15,000 steps in a day. It would help if you also send her a (just) head shot of you.

I'd like to thank most everyone at Hamilton, Falcon, Birchwood, and Community for tolerating me on your court. A reinjured right shoulder, two hip problems, and a knee that gives out (to be replaced early in 2026) have reduced me from a 3.4/mens and 3.5/mixed to a 2.0 on good days. I do NOT run. If my knee gives out and I go down, my last sport will almost certainly become history. My injuries have taken volleyball, table tennis, tennis, racquetball, pool, free throws, squash, bowling, basketball, badminton, golf, coaching baseball, miniature golf, and even bags off my options. Pickleball, surely the worst of my sports from the start (but 2nd to only volleyball for fun), is the only sport I can still do. I usually leave courts, before sharing a court with anyone



a 3rd time, as playing with/against a much weaker player lessens the fun. I've had a great sports career and earned trophies and medals in all the sports above, even pickleball. I don't run, because I don't want to risk a fall.

This has been way TMI, but I truly am appreciative of your acceptance. I think of myself as about 52 years old, just hosting myriad injuries. However, my chronology says I turn 80 this month. Guess that's why I did this nostalgic look back at more athletic times.

I have to share how much it has meant to me for all the Picklers who have told me how glad they are that I started and grew our club. It has changed so many lives. Self-respect, pride, fun, exercise, friendships, new social groups, spin-off pickleball groups, coming out of a shell, learning through mentoring growing skills, enjoying fun tournaments, etc. THAT is why I have done what I've done. For me it's just paying my dues. I'm enjoying a wonderful life. I've married the two finest ladies I've ever met, had two great sons, now two awesome bonus daughters, five wonderful grandkids, comfortable homes, rewarding jobs, some fun cars, my share of abilities, etc. If you'd like to "pay your dues," sign up for some of the upcoming events or volunteer to be a Scorekeeper this Tuesday morning in Canlan. Let me know

Happy Thanksgiving, Pickler Peers

Bear

PicklerPrez

aokbarry@yahoo.com