



Palatine
Pickleball
Club

September, 2015 Newsletter



TAKE TIME TO TUCKY

The Tucky Time Tournament needs your support. This is your club's 1st tournament. Help make it a winner. It honors a lovely lady and dedicated teacher who embraced our sport, and our club, with a passion. She went on to play in that "great pickleball court in the sky" five months ago. 100% of the proceeds from the Tucky Time Tournament are going to her charity, the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

The age group, round robin tournament takes place on the Fabbrini Park courts in Hoffman Estates, starting at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20th. That's in two weeks. Regardless of your perceived ability, we urge you to play. You'll have different partners for each of your games so don't feel you'd be letting your partner down ... everyone in your division will have the chance to share a court with you.

You must “pre-register” by e-mailing Tim Saunders at daniel_saunders@att.net with your intent to play and your birth date. The fee is only \$25 and will be paid **IN CASH** at Fabbrini before you take to the courts. What are the age groups? Will there be mens and womens divisions? How many games will you play? We don’t know yet. All this will be determined, only after we analyze all the participants. We’d like you to think none of these things matter. You’re participating for three reasons: (1) to have fun, (2) to donate to a charity that meant a lot to a fellow Pickler, and (3) to support your club’s effort to “do something nice.” As I write this, we have a couple dozen players pre-registered. If you’re one of them, thank you. If you’re not, please check your calendar. We could really use your support.

BE SURE TO BRING YOUR BEVERAGES. With a \$0 budget, we can’t supply them.

If playing the 20th doesn’t work for you, can you work for us? We need help at the tournament with registering participants, assigning courts, recording results, etc. Again, please let Tim, our Tournament Director, know of your availability.

FALCON SEASON ABOUT TO START

After playing several opponents at the Tucky Time Tournament, you’ll be primed to move your game indoors the next morning. Falcon’s Dana days begin Monday September 21st. The courts will be ours from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Starting at 9:00 Dana will begin assigning us partners and opponents for each game. Dana runs this open gym program on Mondays and Fridays for players 50 years of age and over. Wednesday the six courts are not restricted to 50+ers.

Again, the new fee structure has Monday & Friday players paying \$5 per day or buying a 10-visit pass which never expires for \$30. The fee to play on Wednesday is \$3, regardless of age or residency.

ALSO AT FALCON ...

It’s been a while since I’ve mentioned this so here goes. For members without e-mail or who want to revisit something in an earlier newsletter but deleted it, I maintain the Palatine Pickleball Club binder that’s kept at the reception desk at Falcon. Just ask to see it. It contains all newsletters, along with our bylaws, directors, and names of all members.

SYCAMORE STUFF

- **Parking at Sycamore Park** has attracted police attention. First, parking on either side of Carpenter west of the No Parking signs will likely get you a ticket now. Second, it’s happened only once to my knowledge, but parking facing the wrong way will likely get you an even more costly ticket.

- For anyone **closing the equipment bin**, please insert the padlock from left to right. This will avoid the next opener from practically having to stand on his/her head to work the numbers next time.
- It's been more than a month since I asked Keith Williams, Superintendent of Recreation at Palatine Park District, to look into **lining the Sycamore tennis court** to accommodate pickleball too. I e-mailed him this week to ask if he's had a chance to pitch this idea to the powers that be. We can hope. Having a third court would do a lot to alleviate our "wait to get on a court" time.
- The **mysterious iphone5** in the black case is finally returned to its owner. Having gotten no response at the park's lost and found and no response to the newsletter article, I went to the AT&T store. They were able to get into the locked phone to discover that Verizon had the account. On to Verizon to have them contact their customer and give him/her my contact info. Got a call a few hours later from a Hoffman pickleball player. It seems he had a legitimate reason to have his phone on the Fabbrini courts and was actually on his important call when they started yelling that he was due on the court. He quickly finished the call and tossed his phone in what he thought was his bag. Uh, nope. It was a lookalike bag owned by someone who played later at Sycamore. Whether the phone fell out of the bag when he/she left or was deliberately left for us to handle remains a mystery, but the mystery of who owns the phone has been solved.
- Thanks to Karen Beil, Don Bextel, Jeff Degner, Tina Labellarte, Tim Saunders, Jim Simmons, and Jeff Schrank for their donations which allowed the purchase of the dozen, new, orange balls now in play.
- There's no need to abandon Sycamore, just because the indoor season starts. Though I expect to move indoors, there will still be balls in the bin. **As long as weather permits**, swing by Sycamore and see if others want to enjoy the great outdoors a little longer. If not, you're only two miles from Falcon.

PICKLEBALL SERVICE

The Palatine Pickleball Club is only seven months old, but it's already time to think about next year. The new Directors will take over and elect their President in the middle of February, but it's already time for those interested in serving on the Board to let that interest be known. Existing Board members need to be re-elected, if they want to continue serving. The deadline for getting your name on the ballot is December 1st, but that will be here before we know it. Please don't delay. E-mail your desire to serve a one-year term on the board to our Secretary Neal Harris at neal@relax4life.com. There is no limit to the number of terms you can serve. Your application is for a Board position, not a specific position on the Board. The new Board will determine who will wear which hat.

BARRINGTON BANG FOR THE BUCK

Here's the deal (no pun intended). About 15 minutes west of Falcon is the Lake Barrington Canlan facility. That's where Ann & Joe Tuszynski (Palatine Picklers who have played regularly at Falcon) have negotiated an indoor bargain for their Lake Barrington Shores pickleballers. Ann has generously opened this up to us the Palatine Picklers (she shared that their group also plans to go by "Picklers").

Here's the Monday-Wednesday-Friday morning fee structure. \$30/month for unlimited play ... \$35 for a 10-visit punch card (as with Falcon, no expiration) ... \$50 for a 20-punch card. There's no need to notify Ann or Jim (at Canlan) of your intent to play. Just show up at/after 9:00 a.m.

From Falcon, exit north...left on Hicks to light...take 12/Rand northwest to next light...left/west on Lake Cook Road to 3rd light...Right/North & NW on Route 14/NW Hwy about 2 miles...right/North on Pepper Rd. When road bends left, turn right. It's the big building immediately on left.

IT'S NOW AN EXTENSION LADDER

Our summer-long, half-court singles ladder is being extended. Originally scheduled to end when the indoor season begins, the tournament is being extended to the end of October. There's still time for any of you to get in on this. If both players agree and you get there early enough (say 8:00-8:15 a.m.), your match may be played indoors.

Again, for anyone who doesn't know, you join the ladder on the bottom rung. You can challenge either the run above or two above you. You play to 15, win by 2. It's played just like doubles only on half the court, divided down the center line. It's great for developing your drop shot, lob, passing shot, aiming, and court position. Currently, Stan Jones sits on the coveted top rung.

NEW SEYMOUR TIMES

What we call the "Seymour Clinics" are now being conducted at new times. These drilling sessions in the racket club on the Marriott Lincolnshire grounds are now held at the following times on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 11:00 for beginners ... 12:30 for those up to the 3.5 level (which includes most of us) ... and 2:00 for those 4.0 and above. The 15-20 from our club who regularly attend feel the \$10/day fee is money well spent. There's no advance registration. Just show up with your paddle and be prepared to drill for 90 minutes.

WE SAW SOME OF THE BEST

A couple dozen Palatine Picklers were among those at the August 30th pickleball exhibition and mentoring session in Lincolnshire. Seeing national caliber players and champions perform was entertaining and inspirational. With a mentor at each of 18 courts, everyone got a chance to play while receiving tips on technique and strategy.

TRAVEL TEAM TRIUMPHS THIS TIME

Jeff Degner, Steve Erdman, Linda Gariano, Neal Harris, Pam Lindberg, Debbie Myers, Marianne O'Shea, Debbie Paneral, John Pihl, Joyce Pihl, Tim Saunders, Bear Shatwell, and Scott Stubig comprised our second PPC Travel Team. Exactly half of this team had played in our first match. You may recall reading or hearing that Hoffman Estates managed to avoid losing any of the twelve matches we played against them. The Libertyville team met the very same fate, when they played Hoffman. That got both Frank, their captain, and me excited about a match that wouldn't be lopsided. We played on their indoor courts and had a fantastic time. Most matches were competitive, and our Picklers emerged victorious in a majority of them.

Obviously, there is more interest in playing on one of our travel teams than there are spots available on the 6-man 6-lady roster, but we'll try to get everyone with an interest on a team at some point. I've spoken with other clubs about having multiple teams of different skill levels. This will lead to matches which can be competitive for all. If you have an interest in representing the Palatine Pickleball Club on a travel team, let me know. I can't guarantee you'll find yourself on one, but I can guarantee that, if you don't let me know of your interest, you won't play on one. Both Frank of Libertyville and I tried something to expand the involvement. We each had 7 men and ladies on the roster and tried to balance everyone's playing time. It proved to be a confusing disaster for all of us. Future travel teams will have 12 members.

One encouraging difference from our first to our second travel competition was the increase in dinking. We're spending a little more time dropping shots into the kitchen. As we saw while watching the national caliber players, this is where the game is played at higher levels. Participation in the Seymour Clinics has certainly contributed to our club's gradual move toward better play.

VIRTUAL PICKLEBALL OPEN HOUSE 9/14

There is a 9-noon open house at Falcon with free play on Monday, September 14th, one week before the indoor season starts. Calling it "virtual pickleball" may be an exaggeration, but while you will have paddles, balls, and nets, you'll play without lines.

They were pulled for routine gym maintenance and won't yet be replaced. This free day is the perfect time to buy your passes. Getting yours early just may let you bypass the long line expected the following week.

SHIRTS SUIT EVERYONE TO A 'T'



In case you missed it in the August newsletter, ladies cut Ts are now an option for your PPC wardrobe. These are available for \$11 in cornsilk yellow (shown), lime (similar to the lime on our regular Ts), azalea pink (lighter), sapphire (lighter than our regular blue), and sport gray (identical).

The regular Ts that dozens of men and women Picklers are wearing are only \$10. Just get your style, color, and size request, along with your money to Bear. Find me at Sycamore any of our five playing times or send a check to Bear Shatwell, 853 N Sanborn Drive, Palatine, IL 60074. I have only two or three on the waiting list now. Once I've received payment for at least a dozen shirts, I'll place the order.



No matter how we hold our paddle ... no matter how we strike a pose, being a Palatine Pickler is fun. See you on the courts,

Bear