



October, 2015 Newsletter

PICKLERS PROLIFERATE IN PALATINE

It was only 35 weeks ago that The Palatine Pickleball Club was conceived. As of Monday we stand at 214 members. It's safe to say that most who step onto a court to "just try" pickleball find our sport incredibly fun, personally challenging, and extremely addicting.

PRESIDENTIAL EDITORIAL ISSUE

Feel free to stop reading, if you're offended by editorializing. I've received a lot of input lately and feel a need to share things that, ordinarily, wouldn't make it into a newsletter. The popular phrase is, "You've set the bar too high." While I appreciate that recognition of effort, it's way off target.

YOU WON'T BE DUPLICATING ME

I am happy for starting and nurturing our club for the past eight months. My two, wonderful wives have claimed I'm incapable of moderation. I admit that, while holding leadership positions in Palatine Boys Baseball, Palatine Amateur Hockey Association, Northwest Chargers Hockey, and Palatine Senior Volleyball, I've surely set community records for volunteer hours and organizational changes that benefit participants. I also ran a virtual summer camp for the many Cubs teams of 9 & 10 year olds I've managed.

That's just me. I see it as payback. I've always enjoyed and appreciated my life and have felt I had "dues to pay" for my good fortune.

If I'd invested the time and effort on my business that I've spent on volunteer roles, I'd surely be wealthy. However, intrinsic rewards have always meant more to me than financial ones. I absolutely do not expect my successor to spend one-tenth the time I have invested as PPC President. There simply isn't a need for that.

The hard work has already been done. We wanted sufficient numbers to get the attention of the Palatine Park District, and we already have them. We wanted a logo, and we already have it. We wanted a source for club shirts, and we already have it. We wanted summer play times, and we already have them. (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m., Thursday 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 4:00 p.m. are well-embraced). We hoped to compete with other clubs, and we already have a format for competitions and contacts at a few towns' clubs. We don't need monthly newsletters. A quarterly e-mail would more than suffice. We already have a binder at Falcon with our bylaws, info on meetings, newsletters, and members' names. Without additions to it, that reference can show potential members for years to come what we're about. It doesn't need to be maintained or expanded, unless the new Board wants to do so. We've initiated a half-court singles ladder which justifies a second summer, with minimal oversight.

Please volunteer to help keep our club smashing and dinking along. We want it to continue to thrive, and **you** can make that happen, without a major investment of time.

APPLY NOW TO MOLD OUR FUTURE

To apply for a spot on the PPC Board, simply e-mail our Secretary, Neal Harris, with your willingness to serve. His address is neal@relax4life.com. Please do so right away. Though candidates for Board positions will be accepted through December 1st, your early application will be appreciated. From those who apply, the membership will elect six to serve on the Board for 2016. Once the Board is elected, they will meet to determine who will wear what hat. They need not keep the current position titles or descriptions. They're free to structure the Board and its goals for the year

as they see fit. So again, please choose to help shape the future of the Palatine Pickleball Club by e-mailing Neal today. Thanks.

ESTATE SALE

I apologize for this personal plug too, but it may be a win-win. Over the past month I've lost weight. That's due to two things...no time to eat and physical exertion well beyond what I could have imagined. Kathy and I have moved ... only three miles, but that was more taxing than moving three states would have been. This Friday and Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00 there's an estate sale at our old house. We're shedding a **LOT** of eclectic stuff that Jeanette and her staff from Platinum Estate Sales have creatively displayed. If you're curious as to what's being offered, check out <http://www.platinumestatesale.com/Upcoming-Sales>. She has 150 or so photos of all that they've set up over the past six days. Yes, we had more than 30 trips to Goodwill and three garage sales, before someone suggested an estate sale. It's hard to believe that we had this much stuff left after moving the things we felt we **really** needed. No, we aren't hoarders. Kathy was married for 28 years, when she lost Jim. I was married for 35, when I lost Kid. We've been married three years and each of us has two kids. That 66 combined years of family accumulation in 7200 sq ft of houses was more than we realized. See what you think.

THE SEYMOUR IMPACT

I probably should ask for a referral fee to be put into the PPC coffers. Still, the impact the Seymour clinics have had is definitely noticeable on Sycamore and Falcon courts. Picklers, yes our power-hungry Palatine players, are suddenly hitting dink shots. Several dozen of our members have participated in one or more of these \$10 sessions in Lincolnshire, and it shows. I've attended only one, because I wanted to oversee the Sycamore play. I'm looking forward to participating more in these drilling workshops next year. They ARE elevating the level of play on our Palatine courts. Please don't e-mail me asking to what I'm referring. Just look through past newsletters. These are available in the PPC binder at the Falcon desk, if you've deleted them.

ONE MORE TIME ?

Let's make one last shirt order this year. The traditional Ts are \$10. Ladies V-neck are \$11. We need a minimum of 12 shirts for me to place the order. Here again are the color options.



Ladies Ts are available in Cornsilk Yellow (shown), Lime, Azelea Pink, Sapphire Blue, and Sport Grey. Let me know what color and size you want and "show me the money." When we have at least 12 shirts, I'll place the order. This will be the last order of 2015 so don't procrastinate.

SUBJECTIVE SUGGESTION

It's been suggested that, due to mid-morning congestion, those of you who consider your talent to be in the better half of the Falcon players show up Mon, Wed, & Fri by 8:15. Let's get in some good games, before the gym fills and we end up riding the bench for, potentially, long spells.

LADDER LEADERS LEAVE LEGACY

The summer-long half-court singles ladder play has come to an end. Congratulations to Stan Jones for occupying the top rung. Runner-up Steve Erdmann and 3rd place Bear Shatwell have withstood the competition. Sure, Stan used the excuse of volunteering at a hospital to avoid last-week challenges, but we'll forgive him this time. This format of using only half the width of the full court to play singles is really a fantastic way to (a) have fun, (b) work on dinks and lobs, (c) practice precise placement, and (d) learn court positioning. If you weren't among those who played this year, hopefully you'll have a chance to enjoy the fun next summer.

CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM

I'll hit this one more time, because it's truly important. Residency and experience mean nothing. It does NOT matter how long you've played or how good you perceive yourself to be. All that matters is that you love this sport and would like to help the Palatine Pickleball Club continue to be a significant entity in the NW suburbs. Send Neal an e-mail showing your willingness to serve on the Board in 2016. Thanks.

THANKS

This is probably the last, lengthy newsletter I'll write. I'll conclude it by thanking each and every one of you for signing up to be a Palatine Pickler and for providing such beneficial input. Your critiques, your suggestions, and your likes/dislikes have helped to make our sport more enjoyable for all of us.

Bear Shatwell
PPC President