



February, 2016 Newsletter

REVIEW OF YEAR #1

In two weeks your Palatine Pickleball Club will be one year old. It seems appropriate that we look at a few of the things that have happened in the past twelve months.

Our membership has soared to more than 250, making PPC the largest pickleball club in northern Illinois. We've named ourselves the "Palatine Picklers."

We've created our Palatine Pickler logo. This is currently being proudly displayed on 84, colorful T-shirts worn by PPC members.

We've shared monthly newsletters to keep everyone abreast of everything. These, along with other club information, are available for everyone to review in the Palatine Pickleball binder at Falcon's front desk. We've put Palatine Picklers on Facebook.

We've created and embraced five, weekly play times for the outdoor season. We've created a half-court, singles ladder tournament that lasted throughout this season.

We've staged a tournament that raised \$1240 for charity.

We've lobbied for improvements to both indoor and outdoor courts.

We've helped form, and are pioneers in, a travel league in which players from six clubs participate twice a month. We've also participated in two, club vs club travel matches.

We've encouraged members to participate in drills workshops that has clearly elevated the overall level of play in Palatine.

We've shared photos of Picklers in action in tournaments and travel games.

We've had Peggy bring her demo paddles to our events so members can experiment to find just the right paddle before buying.

Basically, we've tried to help members get the most enjoyment possible from our sport.

THANKS, FELLOW FOUNDERS

I'd like to thank Darrell Rutter, Tim Saunders, Debbie Paneral, Neal Harris, Kevin Wright, Dana Joseph, and Bob Roth for serving on the PCC Board during this first, challenging and all-important year.



CHUCK IS NOW OUR MONDAY MAN

Chuck Feinstein is not just one of the most skilled. Whether you call him the Master of Monday Ceremonies, the Dana Clone, or Assigner, Chuck is now in charge of getting us all onto courts and into games designed to be fun for all on Monday mornings at Falcon. Yes, Dana is still the First Lady of Fridays, and Wednesdays are still "Figure it out yourselves" days. Chuck welcomes your questions and requests for help with your play. We hope you'll take advantage of this valuable resource available to us.

SWITCH SIDE ON GLARE COURT

When playing on the northwestern court ... the one by the lobby doors, it is suggested that teams switch sides half way through. When one team reaches six points, switch. If you moved north from the middle court, figure how many points separate the leading score from 11 and switch when one team reaches that score. In other words, if you get on the court at 7-4, you'd switch when someone gets to 9 (2 points is half what the 7 needed to reach 11). The east side's disadvantage from glare is usually worth a couple points a game so switching sides "evens the playing field."

SHOO TO OUTDOOR SHOES

This is a reminder to shed your street shoes in the lobby. That means any shoes worn from your car to the gym. Bringing in salt and snow only adds to the already slippery floors on the courts. If you see someone walking right in without changing, it's more than OK to remind them to shed the street shoes once past the lobby.

LINCOLNSHIRE TAKES WALK-INS AGAIN

What I've been calling the Seymour Clinic for skills drills is once again accepting drop-in participants. Though that has changed, the discounted 10 days for \$90 mentioned in the January newsletter is still valid. Again, participation in these sessions has had a big impact in helping us Palatine "bangers" evolve into players willing to play the drop shot game at the no volley line. This is so imperative for taking our skill to the next level.

THANKS, PEGGY

By now most of us know Peggy Whitlow. She's the paddle lady who brings a variety of them to Falcon and tournaments. She encourages to demo a paddle before buying one from her. For this we are grateful. Now she's given us a \$30 donation to apply toward club expenses, primarily outdoor balls this summer. You can find her contact information on her business card at pickleballpaddleetc.com. Thank you, Peggy.

THINK OUR WINTERS LIMIT US TO INDOOR PICKLEBALL ?

If this is your mindset, you just may be in for a surprise. Check out this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyWMS-GlsCg>. Enjoy.

ECHO CHAMBER WEDNESDAYS

Have noticed that on some Wednesdays, you'd never have to sit down. There's always a court available. That's because twelve players and a few spectators are playing in the travel league in Barrington on those mornings. So you can plan to either attend or avoid those days, here are the dates the traveling Picklers will not be at Falcon: February 17, March 2, March 16, April 6, April 20, May 11, and May 18. If you'd like to watch the action of the four teams competing in both gender and mixed games, e-mail me or ask around Falcon how to get to the Canlan facility. Matches begin at 10:00 a.m.

PALATINE PICKLERS TRAVEL WELL

Through the first three competitions of the ten-match season, our Picklers are in second place. As expected we trail the powerful Hoffman (Prairie State Pickleball Club) team, but we are ahead of DuPage and the combined team of Libertyville and Park Ridge.

Each of the four clubs seeds their mens and ladies teams #1 through #3 and their mixed couples teams #1 through #6. Each of our pairs plays the pair from each of the other three clubs with the same seeding. So everyone plays six games to 15 (win by 1) in the course of the morning. Scores, not wins, are what's important to determining the standings so every point won or lost affects the team score.

The season seems to be enjoyed by all participants. I'm hopeful that next year the league will be expanded to allow two or three skill levels, even if means reducing the number of players on each team from twelve to eight players and playing on different days.

See you on the courts.



Bear Shatwell
Pickler Prez