



## March, 2016 Newsletter

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### NO PICKLEBALL

Due to spring break activities for our (distant) future Picklers, Falcon will not be hosting pickleball on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> ... Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> ... and Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Normal play will resume on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### OR IS THERE?

Weather permitting, let's play at Sycamore on those days. 9:00 a.m. is a great time to begin play. For those who have yet to play there, Sycamore Park is at the corner of Carpenter Drive and Clark Drive here in Palatine. Take Rand/12 to Williams (Speedway station 2 lights SE of Dundee/68 or 2 lights NW of 53). South on Williams to 4<sup>th</sup> stop sign. Right on Carpenter 1 block. From a southwest location, take Hicks North from NW Hwy/14 past the police/Marriano's light to next light. Right/east on Carpenter past 4 stop signs to Sycamore Park.

Bringing a chair and a beverage is advised. There are two pickleball courts and one tennis court which isn't lined for pickleball but is still usable for non-purists. About the time we have 16 players on hand, I send some to Locust Park a mile away and give them enough balls. Locust has the identical layout, two pickleball courts and one tennis court.

### SPEAKING OF SYCAMORE

Getting the outdoor season off the ground is always a bit tricky, until the indoor season ends. Will anyone be at Sycamore? What time should I get there? Is it warm enough? Those questions cross many minds. I suggest, if you prefer to play outdoors, you get there at **precisely 9:00** a.m. Last year several players told me they showed up, but no one was there. I had to tell them that two or three of us were there until 9:10, before giving up and heading home. Yep, the "nobody was there" folks had usually arrived about 9:15. If, by 9:05 there aren't at least four there, you can still head over to Falcon for a full morning of play.

Once Falcon's season ends, this year's schedule for Sycamore and Locust is as follows:

Monday ... 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday ... 9:00 a.m.

Thursday ... 4:30 p.m.

Friday ... 9:00 a.m.

Sunday ... 4:00 p.m.

If we get too crowded, since we now have twice the membership we did last summer, we can add days or times and designate them for more or less competitive players. One way or another, we'll have a great summer of pickleball in Palatine.

## SHIRTS SOLD OUT IN 1 DAY

Well, that's not entirely accurate. They didn't "sell out." When Scott Rosen told me this past Friday that he wanted a Picklers shirt, I had to tell him we'd recently placed an order, and I need at least a dozen prepaid, before I can give the vendor our order. I said it may be a few months, but I'd see what I can do to expedite it. I started asking everyone there if they'd like to buy a (or another) Tshirt. Before I left the gym, I had enough to place the order.



If you've been thinking about hopping on the colorful, PPC, fashion bandwagon, now is the time. Whether it will be your first Picklers shirt or your 5th (two members have four colors already), **PLEASE let me know THIS WEEK.** I'll place the order Friday. The traditional unisex T is available in S to XL for \$10. XXLs are \$12.

We also have V-neck, ladies Ts in a softer yellow, a darker blue, lime, and gray. Everyone who ordered on Friday but didn't pay at the time needs to pay me this week...AND make sure I mark it down that you've paid. More than once I've had multiple people handing me money for shirts or travel team dates, while I'm on the court. If you don't see me write it down, please e-mail me a.s.a.p. that you did pay me.

This order will put the number of Picklers shirts being worn on courts and around town at over 100.

# LOBBYING IS A SHADY BUSINESS

I have it on very good authority that our quest for shades to cut the glare at Falcon is making progress. The Palatine Park District has been looking into pricing and trying to make decisions. Keith Williams, Superintendent of Recreation, said they can't budget to do everything at once. We agreed that screening the upper windows on the east side (opposite the lobby) would have most impact. Yes, the worst glare is on the lobby court, but that's only one court. All three courts east of the curtain are hindered by balls vanishing in thin glare.

## PUTTING PICKLER NAMES TO FACES



Anita



Bob

Sandy



Dana



Lauren



Jay



Lucky



John



Debbie



Micki



Don



Alex



Linda



Henry



Kenny



Mary



Linda



Anne



Bill



Carol & Judy

## WHAT'S UP WITH APRIL 4th ?

Perhaps, you've actually read one of the notices in the lobby or gym. Maybe, you've heard a hushed rebellion in the making. Possibly, you're now screwing up your nose and saying, "Huh?" Well, notices were posted saying that starting April 4th, there will be no "Dana Days." Your multi-pay account will not be honored (until fall), and no Dana or Chuck will be on hand to keep law and order. Mondays and Fridays will be run like Wednesdays ... in other words, not run at all. You will pay \$3 each day to play.

To say this hasn't been well-received would be an understatement. I've heard talk of looking for another town in which to play those mornings. I've even heard of spitefully paying the \$3 with 300 pennies. I've also heard a strong player like the idea of no longer "being forced to play with someone who can barely get the ball over the net." Though this announcement has met with strong emotion on both sides, the vast majority of those with whom I've spoken want the Park District to reconsider. Chuck **is** available to run Mondays and Fridays. On your behalf, I've written the PPD asking them to reconsider their original decision, for several reasons. (1) They'd make more money, as more players will show up. (2) Those who do show up will get equitable playing time. One lady assured me she waited 45 minutes between games one Wednesday so stopped coming. (3) Many players enjoy being assigned partners. There's no pressure to be everyone's friend and play with those of different abilities, simply because you're both available. Chuck and Dana put players on each court that should make a good competition. That makes for much more enjoyment than either playing down to, or being pounded by, your opponent.

Bottom line: It's in committee. Having Chuck run Mondays and Fridays is being seriously discussed behind closed park district doors. No decision has been made. So **be prepared to pay \$3, starting Monday, April 4th ... but bring your prepaid card along**, in case both it and Chuck are your card are being used.

## MORE WHO'S WHO IN PICKLERVILLE

If you don't see yourself in these pages, don't take it personally. I had some time between games on two days so pointed my phone at anyone to whom I could get close. Sorry that the distance and a slow shutter made for a lot of blurry pics, particularly since most have been cropped to a fraction of their frame.



Cathy



Janice



Marti



Millie



Marv



Pam



Pat (& Dori)

## NOT DONE YET



Sally



Wendy



Satish



Neal



Scott & Karin



Tim



Tom



Mike



Terry & Mark

## TRAVELING PICKLERS RELISHING SOLID 2ND

Through half of our ten match season, our traveling teams have kept us in second place, behind Hoffman (Prairie State) and ahead of LibertyRidge (combined team of Libertyville & Park Ridge) and DuPage (players from several towns there). April should be a slow news month so, maybe we'll look at some of the pairings and game results. Every other Wednesday in 2016 we've sent 6 men and 6 ladies to represent us. No two teams have been, or will be, the same. Each pair is seeded 1st to 3rd for gender games and 1st to 6th for mixed doubles games. They play one game to 15 against the similarly seeded team from each of the other three teams.

Happy pickling. See you on the courts.

Bear