



MAY, 2016 NEWSLETTER

T V 4 U 2 C

Don't miss this. On both Friday, May 20th and Monday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m., you can catch finals action from the recent US Open Pickleball Championships. The CBSSN (CBS Sports Network) show will feature the Men's Pro Doubles finals. It will also have highlights from the Women's and Mixed Pro Doubles. Check to be sure you have that network. I had to search mine, but found it on my Comcast at channel 418. More US Open action can be found on www.pickleballchannel.com.

A PACK OF PICKLERS PACKED THE PLACE

While on the subject of this Naples, Florida tournament, let's give a high paddle to each member of our club who made the trip to be part of history at this first US Open. That group includes Joan Azeka, Cathy Carlsen, Chuck Feinstein, Holly Goldsmith, Rick Johnson, Rea Kulick, Kathy McWhorter, Tim Mottl, Hollis Pearlman, Sol Shatz, Sue Shatz, Lynne Weisbart, Rob Wilkinson, Greg Woodsum, and Melody Woodsum. Though now in the PPC, we also are friends with Ann Penstone, Ben Park, Craig Schaper, and Seymour Rifkind who also played.

More than 800 players from 39 states and 7 countries competed. If you want to mark your calendars for next year, the 2017 US Open Pickleball Championships will be from April 25th through April 30th.

PICKLERS PLACED

Joan Azeka won the gold medal in Women's 60+ Singles, and Sue & Sol Shatz took the silver in 3.0 Mixed Doubles. Huge congratulations to these over-achieving, peak-performing, medal-donning members.

OTHER TOURNAMENT HARDWARE

Mid-April saw another tournament featuring some Pickler presence. This was the Spring Swing Tournament in Rockford. Liz Chaplinski & Michelle Ryder took the gold in 4.0 Women's Doubles. April Volpe and Linda Gariano took silver in 3.5 Women's Doubles. Chuck Feinstein took silver in 4.5 Mixed Doubles and bronze in 5.0 Men's Doubles. Dana Joseph and Bob Huber took home the bronze in 3.5 Mixed Doubles. Congrats to all these winners ... and also to all the others who brought a Palatine Pickler presence to this event.

MORE FACES AT FALCON

From the feedback I've received, it's obvious I'm not alone in thinking we can't have too many pics of Picklers.



Jack S



Gail F



Fred C



Greg W



Debbie G



Heidi L



Neal W



Sol S



Sue S



Susan S



Larry S



Melody W



John F



Jeff D



Becky C



Anne S



Leslie L



Linda W



Teresa S



Stuart B



Scott R



Nancy M



Mary K



Jenny L



Bob H



Ralph C



Cathy M

NORTH SIDE SERVES 1ST

Somehow even a few veteran Falconites have seemed confused lately as to who begins their game on the Falcon courts. It has always been, and still is, the team on the North side that serves first. North is the side opposite the lobby. In other words, on the lobby side of the gym, the team nearest the curtain serves, and on the far side, the team under the glary windows serves.

SPEAKING OF THOSE GLARY WINDOWS

The Palatine Park District has informed me that those North side windows will have screens installed over the summer. When we begin play in the fall, our vision on the courts will no longer be impaired ... well, except for on the lobby court. Again, teams playing on that court should switch sides half way through their game, or their time on that court, if they migrated there mid-game. In other words, if you moved from the middle court with the score 7-3, the leading team has only 4 points to go. Half of that is 2 so switch sides, when one team reaches 9. If it's an odd number separating the leading score from 11, play the extra point, before switching sides.

FALCON SEASON ENDS FRIDAY, MAY 27TH

I know some of you who will show up at Falcon to play on Monday the 30th. When you realize you're the lone Pickler there, remember that you can head SE on Rand to Williams (the traffic light by Speedway), Turn right. (See next article.)

FALCON'S FATE IN FLUX

The Daily Herald released the news that Elementary School District 15 "is in talks with the Palatine Park District to swap the district's oldest school for Falcon Park." The Falcon facility would allow about 1200 students in the northeast corner of the district to be served more locally. The Park District would get the Gray M Sanborn School at Oak and Wood Streets, opposite their Community Center. Both parties are awaiting appraisals, before talks continue. Many details will have to be worked out relatively quickly, as the School Board will have to pass a resolution no later than August, for the required referendum to go to the voters in November. Whatever happens, I doubt that Falcon's fall pickleball season will be affected.

STARTING SYCAMORE DAYS & TIMES

Yes, we have twice the members we had a year ago. Let's see how many want to play on Palatine's outdoor courts. Starting on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th, we'll renew the schedule of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at Sycamore at 9:00 a.m. Sycamore Park is on Carpenter a block west of Williams or about three blocks east of Rohlwing. There are just two pickleball courts here. When the number of players has us sitting as much as playing, some of the more skilled players are sent to Locust a mile away where there are another two courts. . If we have too many showing up, I'll add Tuesday and Thursday morning times and suggest different days are intended for different skill levels.

Afternoon to evening play will take place at Sycamore every Thursday and Sunday at 4:00 p.m., starting June 2nd.

Sycamore Park is on Carpenter one block west of Williams. From Rand, head south on Williams to the 4th stop sign and turn right for one block. From the center of Palatine, take Hicks north to the Carpenter light. Turn right and go about a mile, until you see pickleball courts on your right. Please obey the signs and park legally. Last year, the police did come around checking.

YOU'LL WANT MORE THAN A PADDLE

For those of you new to Palatine's outdoor play, there is no water fountain and no nearby seating. Bring something to drink. While many bring chairs, it's better to bring your own, rather than count on one being available for you. You won't need to bring pickleballs. There should be enough in the big bin just outside the fence. Ask any of the regulars for the combination that unlocks both padlocks. Also, it's worth mentioning that there is a porta potty near the Sycamore courts but not by the Locust courts.

NEW FACEBOOK CLUB

If you haven't joined yet, check out "Northwest Illinois Pickleball." If you wish just click "Join Group." It's one more resource for your pickleball pleasure.

6-COUNTY SENIOR OLYMPICS TAKING REGISTRATIONS

Once again the pickleball competitions of the 6-County Senior Games will be held on the Fabbri Park courts in Hoffman Estates. All competitions will be doubles, and participants must be on site by 8:00 a.m. Women's takes place Tuesday, July 14th, Men's is Thursday, July 16th, and Mixed is Saturday, July 18th. Competitions will be within each 5-year age group. The age of the younger of your pair determines your group. Age groups are 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, & 95-99. I think if you're over 100, you should get a gold medal for showing up with a paddle. You can register online at www.ilipra.org/assets/LatestNews/6ctyseniors15finalrt.pdf. Here you'll find the prospectus that shows all the events, venues, times, fees, etc., along with your registration form.

TRAVEL LEAGUE ENDS INAUGURAL SEASON

The Palatine Picklers who participated in the 4-team travel league did our club proud. We finished 2nd for the 10-match season. Hoffman had the horses all year, never failing to finish each day on top. Once, however, our Picklers lost to them by less than 1%. Thanks to all who represented our club on the Canlan courts. That group consists of April Volpe, Bear Shatwell, Bill Myers, Cathy Carlson, Dana Joseph, Debbie Myers, Debbie Paneral, Don Bextel, Hollis Pearlman, Holly Goldsmith, Jeff Degner, Jim Roland, Joan Naughton, John Forshall, Kenny Thakker, Kevin Wright, Larry Shoemake, Linda Gariano, Linda Mihel, Liz Chaplinski, Lynn Perkins, Mark Vrtacnik, Marv Zwass, Michelle Ryder, Mike Rosenblum, Neal Harris, Pam Lindberg, Ralph Cook, Rob Paneral, Sandy Barreca, Scott Stubig, Steve Erdmann, Sue Cameron, Tim Saunders, and Tina Labellarte.

With only a few hiccups this first season was very successful and fun for all. Next season will see some refinements, expansions, and fresh leadership. Our own Dana Joseph will run the travel league for the Canlan Sportsplex. It's too early for details, but we're hoping to have travel play for multiple skill levels. This will not only make the league/s more competitive, but it will allow more of our members to have more chances to experience travel play.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE SUMMER-LONG LADDER

Last year a number of us had fun with this “Half-Court Singles Ladder.” Participants may challenge the person on either the run directly above them or the player two rungs up. If victorious, the player’s name replaces the loser’s and shoves him/her down one rung. If the challenge was two rungs up, the middle player moves down to the vacated rung left by the winner. Challenge games are played at any mutually convenient time and place. Games are to 15, win by 2. One game is all that is played, but one of these games is enough.

The game has all the same rules as doubles, only it’s played on a court only 10’ wide...in other words agree on your court being either the right or left side of a pickleball court, and start playing. Players will change ends when one reaches 8 points. Each player serves only until he fails to score a point. With no partner, there’s no second serve before the sideout.

This game is truly a drill on all the things you need to improve your game...accurate serves, court position, drop shots, lobs, moving your opponent around, controlling the no-volley line, etc. You’re likely to find rallies last longer than they do in our doubles games. After the initial few weeks, everyone should be experiencing competitive games, as the stronger players will climb the ladder, while the weaker ones compete for the lower rungs.

Your skill level has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not you should sign up for this ladder. Most who played last year were surprised how fun this is and how much it taught them, especially about court position.

If you’re going to be gone for a month, no problem. In that case, it’s as if your rung is frozen and the player a rung or two below you can challenge one rung higher than normal. When you return, you’ll be exactly where you were when you left.

To sign up for this ladder event which will run from early June right up to the start of the indoor season, just e-mail me with your name. (Yes, I have your e-mail address, but I’d rather not get e-mails that say simply, “I’ll play in the ladder” and have to scroll through 300 e-mail addresses to find yours.)

Once we’re going, Jim Simmons has volunteered to maintain the ladder and send weekly updates to all who all participants. You may have noticed I’m very protective of your e-mail addresses. Other than one member has wanted the address of another for a just cause, I don’t share them. Jim this summer and Darrell last summer are the only ones to receive Pickler addresses.

Please sign up now so we can start with a long ladder. Late comers, of course will be welcomed and put on the bottom rung, but we’d all rather have everyone experience the chance for a full summer of challenge games. Thanks.

That’s all, Folks. See you on the courts.

Bear Shatwell, Pickler Prez