



SUNNYVALE MEN'S GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

FOUR-MAN CHA CHA CHA

For the **Memorial Tournament** in February we will be using a new tournament format called a 4-Man Cha Cha Cha. This format has been used in various golf events including NCGA events and is loads of fun.

With the 4-Man Cha Cha Cha each member of the team plays his ball throughout. But a 3-hole rotation exists for determining how many net scores are used to create the team score.

On the first hole (cha), the one low net ball counts as the team score. On the second hole (cha cha), the two low net balls count as the team score. On the third hole (cha cha cha), the three low net balls count as the team score. The rotation starts over on the fourth hole. For the Memorial Tournament, we may choose to mix up which holes serve as the cha, cha cha, and cha cha cha. This format allows the team to be aggressive on some holes (cha's) but conservative on others (cha cha cha's).

Another nice thing about the Cha Cha Cha format is that each person plays his own ball from start to end, and therefore we will be posting each person's score.

Sign up for the Memorial Tournament and try out this new format. We're sure it will be an extremely fun day to remember.

On behalf of the
SMGC Board of Directors,

Happy Holidays

Here's to a wonderful 2009 full of long,
straight drives and finally making
that hole-in-one!

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to **Chuck Richmond** of Pleasanton, who returns to the SMGC after a few years away. Chuck has been an active member of the SMGC including serving on the board as Vice President and President in the 1990's. Good to see you back, Chuck!

TOURNAMENT TALK

John Balsley directs our tournament at Sunol (Palm) on January 10. This Point Par event is \$69 with cart, and the first tee time is 9:05 am. The cut-off date is December 31. Please sign up online or call John at 650-678-2191.

We are playing in San Mateo on January 17 when the club returns to Poplar Creek. Les Cheong directs this two-man better ball event that starts at 9:30 am. Your tournament fee is \$69 per person including cart. If you don't have a partner, Les will find one for you. The cut-off date is January 3. Sign up online, or call Les at 408-396-6902 to play.

Jay Dameron takes our club to Livermore's Poppy Ridge on January 24. This point par event is \$79 with cart. The cut-off date is very early (**December 24**), so sign up now to play. If you miss the cut-off date, call Jay at 408-712-0227 to see if openings exist.

FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

January 31, 2009 Callippe Preserve

Cost: \$82 with cart
 Director: Jim Perko
 Phone: (408) 739-1159
 Field Size: 28
 First tee time: 9:24 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Jan. 16

This wonderful course in Pleasanton was on *Golf Digest's* Top 10 of America's Best New Public Golf Courses in 2007 in addition to being in the Top 10 of California Public Courses in *Golfweek Magazine*. There is a wide variety of holes on this course, from drivable par-4s to the par-5 18th which is 573 yards from the tips.

Enjoy the views of the surrounding landscape when you're on the back nine, and make sure you try their delicious buffalo wings in the restaurant after your round.

Blue Tees: Rating: 71.5, Slope: 130, Yards: 6,409

White Tees: Rating: 69.8, Slope: 125, Yards: 6,024

February 7, 2009 Spring Valley

Cost: \$62 with cart
 Director: Bob Heihn
 Phone: (408) 557-8653
 Field Size: 32
 First tee time: 11:30 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Jan. 24

It's been quite a few years since our club has played at this local course in the Milpitas hills. Don't let the short yardage fool you. Spring Valley's biggest protection against low scores are the fast, sloping greens. You must be below the hole in order to be able to ensure your 2-putt, and it is common to have your ball roll off the green on several of the back nine holes.

Even with the tough greens, there are some easy, short par-4s on this course where you can hopefully make up lost ground. Take advantage of the first hole, which is only 361 yards from the blue tees to one of the flattest greens on the course.

Blue Tees: Rating: 68.4, Slope: 113, Yards: 6,097

White Tees: Rating: 67.4, Slope: 110, Yards: 5,814

February 14, 2009 Laguna Seca

Cost: \$59 with cart
 Director: John Balsley
 Phone: (650) 678-2191
 Field Size: 28
 First tee time: 9:30 am
 Format: Low Net
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Feb. 4

We return to a very popular course for the SMGC. This Robert Trent Jones design in the Monterey area plays much longer than the yardage on the card due to the tree-lined fairways and the inevitable winds that pick up on the back nine.

The ninth hole is a long par-4 that goes straight up the hill and will take two good long shots to get near the green in two. This is immediately followed by one of the toughest par-4s we play. The 10th plays downhill, but with OB left and hazard all the way down the right side.

Blue Tees: Rating: 70.7, Slope: 127, Yards: 6,161

White Tees: Rating: 68.9, Slope: 122, Yards: 5,739

FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

February 21, 2009 Memorial Tournament (Sunnyvale)

Cost: \$48 pp., no cart
 Director: Les Cheong
 Phone: (408) 396-6902
 Field Size: 48
 First tee time: 10:00 am
 Format: 4-Man Cha Cha Cha
 Tees: Back
 Driving Range: No
 Cut-off-date: Feb. 11

The **Memorial** is our annual tournament to remember those in the club that have passed away. It was not held last year due to scheduling issues, but it is back this year with a new, exciting 4-Man Cha Cha Cha format. Refer to the article on page 1 for details on the Cha Cha Cha.

This is a 4-man team event and *the teams will be drawn randomly* based on your handicap. The winning team will be memorialized on the permanent trophy displayed in the Sunnyvale Pro Shop.

Back Tees: Rating: 70.2, Slope: 118, Yards: 6,255

2008 CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF

The USGA and R&A have made their scheduled changes to the Rules of Golf for 2008. The changes generally fall into two broad categories: (1) those improving clarity of existing rules, and (2) those that reduce certain penalties to ensure they are proportionate.

This article does not in any way attempt to enumerate all the changes to the Rules. However, here are a few of the highlights.

Language was added to explicitly make it clear that exchanging *distance* information is not considered to be "advice."

In the past, you were allowed to hit the wrong ball out of a hazard. Now, you must identify the ball before hitting it, *even if it is in a hazard*. Therefore, it is now fine to lift, identify and replace your ball in a hazard.

It is now explicitly permissible to take a putting stance that is on or astride the line of putt if it is taken to avoid standing on another player's line of putt or prospective line of putt.

If a player's ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by himself or his partner (or caddies or equipment), the penalty is one stroke in both match play and stroke play. Previously, it was loss of hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play.

If you wish to read the USGA text on the changes to the Rules of Golf, get the document from our website at www.smgc.us/docs/2008Principal_Changes.pdf.

RECESSION PRICING

We are all feeling the results of the current recession. How will this affect the SMGC? To keep green fees reasonable and keep us playing this great game, the Board is negotiating the best possible prices and venues available. The courses and the SMGC will bend a little in these days of less disposable income. Please be aware that schedule changes or cancellations may occur, but we will do our best to maintain our "second to none" tournament schedule.

Thank you for your input and understanding,

- The SMGC Board of Directors

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Spring Hills November 1, 2008

First Flight

39 pts	Jay Dameron	\$40
36	Jay Kanemoto	30
35	John Balsley	15
35	Jay Kearney	15

Second Flight

33 pts	Brani Buric	\$35
33	Phil Smithson	35
32	Gary Ponzini	15
32	David Mak	15

Tilden Park November 8, 2008

First Flight

37 pts	John Balsley	\$40
35	Bob Joseph	30
33	John Sasser	10
33	Yongsheng Yang	10

Second Flight

43 pts	Lee Cooper	\$40
37	Aurelio Periquet	25
37	Steve Reynolds	25

Blue Rock Springs November 15, 2008

First Flight

38 pts	Tom Boydstun	\$40
37	Brian Silva	30
35	Jay Kearney	20

Second Flight

44 pts	David Carey	\$40
38	Mel Cottle	30
34	Brani Buric	20

Lone Tree December 6, 2008

First Flight

36 pts	Tom Fosdick	\$35
36	Yongsheng Yang	35
35	Matt Wassmer	20
34	Ray Wong	10

Second Flight

39 pts	Phil Smithson	\$40
37	Joaquin Guzman	25
37	Alan Depew	25
35	Dale Wilson	10