



SUNNYVALE MEN'S GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2008

SPECIAL MEETING

Don't miss our special annual meeting!

On **Wednesday, October 15** the SMGC will hold its annual special meeting where we will hold the election for three board positions. Board members will also present their year-end reports. The three nominees are all incumbents – **John Szarka, John Balsley, and Jim Perko**. No other members were nominated during the September meeting, held September 17.

The special meeting will be held at the Lookout Inn at the Sunnyvale Golf Course starting at 7:00 pm.

GOLF ETIQUETTE: HOW'S YOURS?

Care for the Course

Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.

In order to avoid damaging the hole, players and caddies should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of a ball from the hole. Do not use the head of a club to remove a ball from the hole.

Players should not lean on their clubs when on the putting green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.



-from www.usga.org

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRESS

The Club Championship is still underway and the action so far has been fierce with some good scoring. The current status can be found on the website and the results will be reported in the October newsletter.

The Club Championship dinner and raffle will be held on September 20 at Nicolino's Garden Café in Sunnyvale, the same venue as last year. The **Geritol Band** returns this year!

The club is always looking for raffle prizes to be given out during the after-dinner raffle. This raffle is an important club activity as all proceeds help to defray the costs of running the club throughout the year. If you have anything golf-related to donate, please contact any board member. **Bob Johnson** has donated some nice golf swinging aids for the raffle. Thanks, Bob!

NEW MEMBER

We wish to welcome our newest SMGC member, **Pat Ramos** of Saratoga. Pat comes to us from the Sunol Valley Players Club.

We are sure that he will find the SMGC much more exciting in both our courses and our members. Welcome to the SMGC, Pat!

FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

You must have renewed your SMGC membership for 2009 in order to play any of these tournaments.

October 18, 2008 Delta View

Cost: \$65 with cart
 Director: Jay Dameron
 Phone: (408) 712-0227
 Field Size: 28
 First tee time: 9:00 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off date: Oct. 7

This is a terrific Pittsburg course. There were two designers involved in this golf course. Alister MacKenzie designed the front nine while Robert Muir Graves designed the back nine.

This course is unique in that it ends in a par 3, and what a par 3 it is! From the tips it is 223 yards over water and it's rated the 4th hardest hole on the course. The hole just in front of it is rated 18th and is a very short downhill par 4 that is drivable by even average-length hitters.

Blue Tees: Rating: 71.3, Slope: 133, Yards: 6,317

White Tees: Rating: 68.3, Slope: 125, Rating: 5,758

October 25, 2008 San Ramon Golf Club

Cost: \$69 with cart
 Director: Bob Heihn
 Phone: (408) 557-8653
 Field Size: 28
 First tee time: 9:00 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Oct. 6

Join us at San Ramon and make Bob Heihn's first tournament as a director a success. This course used to be called Royal Vista.

Many of the holes have undergone reconstruction recently to make them more difficult and undulating, in addition to adding fairway and greenside bunkers.

The first hole is a short dogleg right par 4. It looks benign, but the large tree in the corner always seems to get in the way. The signature 9th hole is a short par 4 with a true island green. A fantastic hole.

Blue Tees: Rating: 71.3, Slope: 125, Yards: 6,451

White Tees: Rating: 70.0, Slope: 119, Yards: 6,162

November 1, 2008 Spring Hills

Cost: \$55 no cart
 Director: John Balsley
 Phone: (650) 678-2191
 Field Size: 32
 First tee time: 9:00 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Oct. 22

Spring Hills is a little gem of a golf course. It's located against the western foothills of the coastal Santa Cruz Mountains in Watsonville. Don't let the short length fool you. The terrain, frequent OB's, water hazards, and many opportunities for a lost ball make it a challenge.

Owner and manager, Amy Preaseau, runs a nice shop there. They have a great selection of bags and pull carts. The nearby town of Corralitos has an excellent meat market and is a popular stop for restaurants in the Santa Cruz, Pajaro area. Stop by after golf and try their spiced cheddar bratwursts.

Blue Tees: Rating: 70.0, Slope: 127, Yards: 6,002

White Tees: Rating: 69.6, Slope: 125, Yards: 5,857

FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

November 8, 2008 Tilden Park

Cost: \$61 with cart
 Director: Les Cheong
 Phone: (408) 396-6902
 Field Size: 28
 First tee time: 9:00 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Oct. 27

Now that the last of the tree-sitters is gone from Berkeley, take the opportunity to play golf amongst the famed trees along the Berkeley hills. Tilden Park is very hilly with some tricky holes that will make you think carefully about layup and club selection.

The first hole remains one of the toughest opening par 4s in the area. The back nine doesn't get much easier, and the par 3 11th hole is one of the tougher three-shotters we play, especially if you are on the back tees.

Blue Tees: Rating: 70.8, Slope: 124, Yards: 6,294

White Tees: Rating: 68.8, Slope: 119, Yards: 5,823

TOURNAMENT TALK

Start off the new golf season on September 27 at one of the best public golf courses in the area – San Juan Oaks in Hollister. John Balsley hosts this point par event that starts at 11:30 am and cost \$85 including cart and practice balls. This is a bit pricier than other courses we play, but you will understand why it's worth it when you play it. Give John a call at 650-678-2191 to play.

Jay Dameron directs Manteca Park on October 4. This is a bargain at \$39, carts not included. This point par event starts at 9:00 am, and the cut-off date is September 26. Sign up online or call Jay at 408-712-0227 to play at Manteca.

Pajaro Valley is our venue on October 11. Jim Perko directs this 2-man better ball event that costs \$62 per player (carts not included). The cut-off date is October 3. Sign up online or call Jim at 408-739-1159. We will find a partner for you if you don't have one, so don't hesitate to sign up.

4-BALL UPDATE

Congratulations to **Jay Dameron** and **Bob Heihn** for moving on to the next round of the NCGA Net 4-Ball competition. They shot a net 61 at Shoreline on August 21 against many elite teams to tie for third place. Poppy Hills will be the site of their next rounds on September 22 and 23. Great shooting, guys! We're rooting for you.

SUNNYVALE CHANGES

Now that the tee boxes have been rebuilt, we have seen a slightly different golf course than in the past. The following are some of the most obvious changes.

The par 4 fifth hole used to have two tee box locations. The one on the right which created a very tight dogleg right is now closed. Only the left tee box is open, making the hole a bit straighter. The par 4 eighth hole has been made a bit longer and straighter. You no longer have to flirt with as many trees in order to find the fairway.

Finally, the 10th hole has been extended a bit, with the hole playing about 20 yards longer than it used to. Still reachable in two but you really have to bust two good shots.

The overall length has increased by a few yards and the course is in the process of being re-rated. We will give the numbers once they are determined.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you have not renewed your SMGC membership, now is the time. This will automatically renew your membership with the NCGA. *You must renew in order to play in any of our future tournaments.* The cost is \$125 to renew, the same as last year.

Renewal forms were provided in last month's newsletter and can always be found on the website at www.smgc.us/news/renewal2009.pdf.

Be sure to renew now, otherwise you will pay a re-initiation fee of \$15 if you wait until after October.

FIGHTERS ON THE COURSE

Many of us take golf seriously, and when we spend the whole day chasing the white (or yellow) ball into 18 holes, we sometimes forget about other things. Last week while I was warming up for the club championship, trying to will in five 3-footers in a row, I saw **Don Anderson** approaching the practice green. Don had just undergone a successful major cancer operation in late August.

Don looked great and had a huge smile on his face. I asked how he was doing and he said he felt great, and was looking forward to the next few minutes as this was the first time he had a club in his hand since the operation. I then was able to appreciate how little my round would mean that day, or any other day. That smile on his face and his mere presence was enough for me to appreciate how insignificant our sport is, and that without our good health, playing golf would be one of the last things on our minds. When there are many more important things in life to fight for, why spend the emotional energy fighting your swing every Saturday for five hours? Enjoy the game, savor the day! Laugh off the bad shots and save your fight for the important things such as the good health of you and your loved ones.

-Les Cheong

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Swenson Park August 16, 2008

First Flight

37 pts	Dave Quattrone	\$40
36	Bob Joseph	30
35	Jay Dameron	20
33	Larry Lopez	10

Second Flight

39 pts	John Szarka	\$40
35	Aurelio Periquet	30
34	Justin Periquet	20
33	Phil Smithson	10

San Geronimo August 30, 2008

First Flight

37 pts	Dave Quattrone	\$40
35	Bob Joseph	30
29	John Balsley	15
29	Jim Perko	15

Second Flight

41 pts	Ben Magana	\$40
37	Rick Colen	30
33	Walter Parubrub	15
33	Yongsheng Yang	15