



SUNNYVALE MEN'S GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

NCGA ZONE QUALIFIER UPDATE

Last month we announced that the first qualifying round for the NCGA Zone is at Sunnyvale on March 21. The top 10 teams plus ties from that round will advance to the second round to determine the four players that advance to represent the club against other NCGA clubs. That second round will be at Laguna Seca on Sunday, April 5.

If you have not already signed up, please do so now. If you don't have a partner, we will assign one for you.

TOURNAMENT TALK

John Szarka directs the club event at Santa Clara on February 28. The format is low net with the first tee time at 9:30 am. The cut-off date is February 18, so sign up online soon, or call John at 831-636-1408 to see if there is still room. The cost to play this tournament is \$73, including cart.

On March 7 the club will play at Skywest Golf Course in Hayward. John Balsley directs this point par event. The cost is \$62 with cart and the first tee time is 9:00 am. The cut-off date is February 21. Sign up online or call John at 650-678-2191 to play.

The club returns to Lone Tree Golf Course in Antioch on March 14. Bob Heihn directs this point par event. The first tee time will be 10:37 am and the cost is \$60 with cart. Sign up online before February 28, or call Bob at 408-557-8653 to play.

Our NCGA Zone Qualifier will be held at Sunnyvale on March 21. This is a two-man better ball event where the maximum handicap index is 18.4. Play will be at 90% the course handicap. The top 10 teams advance to the second stage. The cost is \$145 per team (no cart). Sign up online or call John Szarka at 831-636-1408 to play in this qualifier.

NCGA 4-BALL NET QUAL.

The SMGC local qualifier for the NCGA 4-Ball Net will be held April 4 at Palo Alto Golf Course. The 4-Ball Net is a two-man team playing better ball.

The highest index allowed is 36.4. Play will be at 90% of the course handicap using a maximum index of 18.4 for the calculation. Any player higher than 18.4 will play at 18.4. If the partners' course handicaps differ by more than 8 strokes, an additional 10% reduction will be applied to their course handicaps.

The one two-man team that advances will play a qualifying round May 21 at a course to be determined. If they play well that day, they will play the championship rounds June 29 and 30 at Spyglass Hills and Poppy Hills.

All teams that have made it to past championship rounds have said the experience was outstanding and the competition fierce. Perhaps this is your year to represent our club. Find a partner and sign up online now. If you don't have a partner, we will find one for you.

FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

March 28, 2009 Las Positas

Cost: \$67 with cart
 Director: Jay Dameron
 Phone: (408) 712-0227
 Field Size: 28
 First tee time: 10:00 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Mar. 18

If you have never been to Las Positas before, you have got to play it. It is relatively flat but has some difficult holes thrown in to keep you off-balance. You may be confused on the first hole by not knowing where to hit your tee shot, but the course becomes more predictable after that.

The 13th and 14th holes are a par 5 and a par 4 that combine to be over 1000 yards from the blue tees. Shoot even par on those two holes and you know that you're doing something right that day.

Blue Tees: Rating: 71.8,
 Slope: 128, Yards: 6,677

White Tees: Rating: 70.2,
 Slope: 124, Yards: 6,331

April 4, 2009 Palo Alto (NCGA 4-Ball Net Qualifier)

Cost: \$138 per team,
 no cart
 Director: Les Cheong
 Phone: (408) 396-6902
 Field Size: 44
 First tee time: 9:30 am
 Format: 2-man Better Ball
 Tees: Blue
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Mar. 21

This 2-man tournament is a normal club event in addition to our local qualifier for the NCGA 4-Ball Net competition. Please read the article on page one for more details on the NCGA 4-Ball Net requirements. The maximum index that can be used is 18.4 with a difference of eight strokes between the two partners.

Palo Alto is a fun course and is very challenging when the wind picks up. You can really let loose with the big stick here as most of the fairways are very wide open, but the holes are rather long, especially into the wind. High scores are common here, but so are very low scores, so groove your swing beforehand on the driving range.

Blue Tees: Rating: 71.2,
 Slope: 120, Yards: 6,580

April 11, 2009 Manteca Park

Cost: \$40, no cart
 Director: John Balsley
 Phone: (650) 678-219
 Field Size: 28
 First tee time: 9:00 am
 Format: Point Par
 Tees: Split
 Driving Range: Yes
 Cut-off-date: Apr. 1

This course is near the top of our club's list of golf courses in the area in all of the following categories: affordability, challenge, walkability, conditioning, and service.

Manteca is indeed an oasis in the middle of the valley. Come join the club at this wonderful golf course and relax in the comfortable restaurant after your round.

Blue Tees: Rating: 71.2,
 Slope: 123, Yards: 6,478

White Tees: Rating: 69.7,
 Slope: 118, Yards: 6,131

FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

April 18 and 19, 2009 Director's Cup (Sunnyvale)

- Cost: \$130 per person, no cart
- Director: John Szarka
- Phone: (831) 636-1408
- Field Size: 48
- First tee time: 10:00 am
- Format: Low Net
- Tees: Back
- Driving Range: No
- Cut-off-date: Apr. 11

The Director's Cup is a two-day SMGC Major event. Don't let the players leap frog over you in the Player of the Year standings. Play this event because POTY points are *doubled*.

The format is 36 holes of Low Net stroke play over the two-day weekend. You can specify who you would like to play with on Saturday. The pairings for Sunday will be based on the standings in each flight. There will be three places in each flight.

There will be food after your round of golf on Sunday along with the awards ceremony. Stick around and collect your trophy!

- Back Tees: Rating: 70.2,
- Slope: 118, Yards: 6,248

MORE CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF

The December 2008 newsletter talked about some of the Rules of Golf changes in 2008. Members have mentioned that these were quite interesting and wanted to know some of the other important changes. This article will mention a few more changes to the game we all love.

Recall that it is now required to identify your ball before playing it, even if it is in a hazard. There is one interesting exception to this rule, though. There is no penalty if a player makes a stroke at a wrong ball that is moving in water in a water hazard. Any strokes made at a wrong ball moving in water in a water hazard do not count in the player's score.

How do you know if a ball was moved by an outside agency, such as a dog taking it, or a squirrel batting it around the ground? In the past, the rules were left up to your interpretation. Now, they are more concrete. It is a question of fact whether a ball has been moved by an outside agency. In order to apply this Rule, it must be known or virtually certain that an outside agency has moved the ball. In the absence of such knowledge or certainty, the player must play the ball as it lies or, if the ball is not found, proceed under Rule 27-1.

In the past, you could not move a flagstick lying on the green or simply being held while someone was putting. The flagstick must have been attended, otherwise it could not be moved. Now, the new rules allow the flagstick to be moved even when it isn't being attended. In other words, if someone in your foursome is putting and you think the ball may hit the flagstick lying on the green, feel free to move the flagstick out of the way as it is no longer a penalty.

You can find a link to the USGA document on all these principal rules changes on the SMGC home page, www.smgc.us.

NEW MEMBERS	<p>Please join us in welcoming Matthew Brailey of San Jose and Steve Saiz of Concord to the Sunnyvale Men's Golf Club.</p> <p>Matthew and Steve, we look forward to playing with you, and we hope to see you at one of our club events soon!</p>
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TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Poplar Creek - January 17, 2009

62 net	B. Buric / J. Kearney	\$35 ea
62	S. Reynolds / D. Nixon	35
64	M. Cottle / G. Ponzini	20
66	L. Cheong / L. Lopez	5
66	T. Boydston / J. Balsley	5
66	B. Nelson / J. Perko	5
66	A. Janjua / N. Rahman	5

Poppy Ridge - January 24, 2009

First Flight

37 pts.	Arif Janjua	\$40
36	Andy Zutler	25
36	Ray Wong	25
32	Bob Joseph	5
32	Jim Perko	5

Second Flight

35 pts.	Ettore Minor	\$40
34	Phil Smithson	30
32	Brian Silva	20
31	Dale Wilson	5
31	Barry Franklin	5

Callippe Preserve - January 31, 2009

First Flight

34 pts.	Ray Wong	\$40
33	Arif Janjua	30
31	Jay Dameron	10
31	John Balsley	10
31	Jim Perko	10

Second Flight

37 pts.	Masa Fuchigami	\$40
34	Mario Orsi	25
34	Nadeem Rahman	25
33	Brani Buric	10

Spring Valley - February 7, 2009

First Flight

38 pts.	John Balsley	\$35
38	Rob Hartman	35
37	Bob Heihn	20
36	Jim Perko	10

Second Flight

34 pts.	Dennis Nixon	\$40
33	Rich Brennan	30
32	Rick Colen	20
31	Don Diluzio	5
31	Jay Kanemoto	5

Laguna Seca - February 14, 2009

First Flight

67 net	Ettore Minor	\$40
72	John Szarka	30
73	Larry Lopez	15
73	Richard Dalton	15

Second Flight

66 net	Dale Wilson	\$40
70	Gary Ponzini	25
70	Rich Brennan	25
72	Brani Buric	10