

# THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club

December 2015



The View from #2 Tee Box

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## DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDARS

**Sun, December 13 - Christmas Brunch with Santa**

**Fri, December 18 - Member Mixer - \$500 Drawing**

**Fri, December 25 - Christmas** PG&CC Closed

## Club Officers

### President

Michael Johnson

### Vice President

Donna Beels

### Treasurer

Flip Lamson

### Secretary

Patrick Smith

**Mon, December 28 - SIRS - Outside Tournament:** *course closed from 8:00am to 1:30pm*

**Fri, January 29 - Friday Night Mixer - \$500 Drawing**

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**MARKETING:** *By Timo Rivetti*

As we wrap up 2015, I want to say a BIG thank you to all the Board & Committee members that have served us this year with their time & efforts to maintain & keep this club moving forward.

The Centennial Committee had its 1st meeting & thanks to Clinton, Mark, Sandra & Therese for coming up with some great ideas. Please mark December 17th 2022 on your calendar for our 100th Birthday BASH at the club. We will be going with a 20's style theme complete with Roaring 20's music & fashions. Our next meeting is scheduled for this thursday Dec 10th at 5.30. Please join us as we prepare for other events, tournaments & ideas to spruce up the club house & facilities.

Happy Holidays!

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**ANNUAL JANUARY BRIDGE TOURNAMENT  
2016** *by Sandy Shuteroff and Judie Buskirk*

Our three-week Ladies Member/Guest Bridge Tournament is just around the corner. We already have 5 tables taken. The dates again are the 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2016.

There will be prizes galore, wonderful catered lunch by Debra Stratton, and lots of laughs. Lunch will be \$17.00 per person on each of the playing days. Entry fee will be \$30.00 per person. Lunch will be served at 12:00Noon. Bridge will start directly after lunch.

I know the time gets away from all of us, so grab your partner and give us a jungle with your names. Don't forget the deadline is **December 20, 2015**. Please call Sandy Shuteroff at (707) 762-9244 or Judie Buskirk at (707) 484-0322 to sign up or questions.

Looking forward to seeing you!



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## **GREENS COMMITTEE** *By Harry Pearson*

I encourage all questions, comments, (negative & positive), and suggestions. Recently, I've gotten several. Some from people who don't read the "Lie" and some from people who do. Everyone deserves and gets an answer. In my articles, I try to be open and informative, but unfortunately, not always brief and concise. In last month's article, I ended it by saying this month's article would describe the central computer control system that's being paid with assessment money, reporting on Fall maintenance and what the Green Committee has planned for 2016.

First, Fall Maintenance. If you've played recently, the course is in great shape. This isn't just my opinion, it's been told to me by several members. Greens are rolling fast and true, fairways and tees have come in nicely from the Fall Maintenance. Our goal in the Green Committee is not just to have great conditions now and then but all the time.

The last few years we've had problems with fungus on the fairways during the summer. We continue to over seed and establish perennial ryegrass in areas that are dominated by *Poa annua*. Perennial ryegrass is far more tolerant to summer drought and disease pressure which *Poa annua* cannot survive. The fall practice of over seeding has been completed and will also be mimicked next spring to further our efforts to establishing year round perennial ryegrass. That's not all. Bill has proposed and plans on implementing continuous over seed throughout the year. This is on a spot program basis. Problematic areas in fairways will be seeded and sprayed with fungicides as a proactive measure. We will be purchasing a new spray unit (paid through CIDM), in January, to make fertilizing and spraying fungicides on the course more efficient.

Fertilizer and fungicides are very costly. Bill's 2016 budget will likely be bumped up in fertilizer and fungicides. Unfortunately, other areas of his budget will have to be reduced to handle this. Combine this program with the new irrigation system, along with more attention to individually wire each sprinkler to better target dry & wet spots. Accomplishing this within a couple of years, we should have a good handle on controlling the fungus.

The Stratus II Central Control System. This is the new central computer control system we hope to purchase. I'll try to give you some of the main functions of this system. Our present system is programmed at the individual control boxes on the course. Changes are made daily to the irrigation program and need to be made at each controller. When these adjustments are made in the field there is no easy way to manage accurate flows as the program changes.

When a sprinkler is adjusted to run shorter or longer the overall demand of the pump station will either decrease or increase. Over time these decreases and increases can "creep" into overlapping programming or lack of consistent flow from the pump station. When these "creeps" decrease the programs become less frequent causing the pump to ramp on and off during an irrigation cycle causing unwanted pressure fluctuations and wear and tear on the pumps. With increasing "creeps" of manual programming the programs overlap and the system cannot irrigate at ideal pressure. This causes sprinklers to operate at a fraction of their potential.

The new central control system will have the golf course laid out on a screen and will give the maintenance staff the ability to change the irrigation program at the click of a button. Sophisticated software will automatically

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adjust flows so that each and every sprinkler station functions optimally. This will provide the flexibility to irrigate the golf course properly producing healthier and more sustainable turfgrass. Bill & Chris will be trained in this system with the help of Chanaan and Scott from CourseCo. There is also an option we may want to look into that measures rain fall in real time and either adjusts irrigation for small cloud bursts or is shut down for prolonged rain.

For 2016, the Green Committee has planned on spending its CIDM money by: leasing to buy, (5yrs@\$719 per mo.), the aforementioned spray unit (this will commit us to over \$30,000 in equipment leases for 2016). This doesn't include the \$8,040 House & Grounds is contributing each year to the Exchange Bank Loan which will be paid off in Spring of 2018. Releveling #8/17 tee, tree cutting and replacement, purchasing 120 sprinklers and \$30,000 to finish our sprinkler upgrade started in early 2000's which will fulfill recommendation #2 in the Russ Mitchell report on upgrading our irrigation system.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

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## **FOOD & BEVERAGE COMMITTEE** *By Mike Morgan*

We've recently purchased four wine barrels that, with the help of Ray Nizibian, will be converted to bistro-height tables for use in the hall. The plan is to place them against the windows overlooking the 9th fairway for lunch time diners and for casual fireside drinks at events in that room. Ray will construct quality oak tops with a stained finish to complement the barrels sourced from the local Kunde Winery.

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## **TOURNAMENT REPORT** *By Christopher Gay*

**Night Golf!** (11/6) With 27 players the Night Golf Tournament is quickly becoming a PG&CC favorite. We are planning 2 events for next year so please be sure to get those dates on the calendar! The night golf brought out a great mix of players. The 3rd place team shown here is proof of the mix. From left: Peter Barufkin, Julia Barufkin, Ruth Giacomini, Jill Cheda, and Brenda Roberts.



**November Men's Medal Tournament:** (11/7) The monthly tournament was held and Ross Leask won net with a 69. The Low Gross winner with 80 was Greg Plattner!

**Young vs Old:** (11/14) 32 players played in this tournament which is also known as Flat Bellies vs the Round Bellies. This year the Flat Belly (Youngsters) WON. The teams are flighted by age and depending on the ages

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of the players they are on the Old or the Young Team. This year to be in the "Young" group one would have to be 65 or younger.

**The Thanksgiving Shootout.** Winners of our annual Thanksgiving Day Tournament are: Jon Banister with a Gross 38. John Candau won with a net 29! Young John Candau is becoming a strong opponent - so watch out for this young talent.

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## **HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL / GM REPORT** *By Christopher Gay*

The holiday season is here and the start of a new year is only 23 days away.

There is still plenty of golf to be played! The golf course is in great condition and handling the rain very well. Holiday Sales are everywhere! Be sure to check our prices before buying that special someone a golf gift - we have a price match guarantee!

Here are the top things you need to know!

**1) Santa is coming to PG&CC.** Our annual Brunch with Santa is set for December 13 at 11:00am with Santa arriving at 12:00pm. This is a great opportunity to take pictures with Santa. The brunch is provided by Preferred Sonoma Catering. After pictures Santa will read the kiddies "T'was the Night Before Christmas" and there will be a cookie decorating station for the kiddos! Reservations are required so please call us as soon as possible so we can give an accurate count to the Caterer. Please call 707.762.7056 or email [admin@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com](mailto:admin@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com)

**2) Employee Holiday Fund** In November all members were sent a mailer asking to donate to the employee holiday fund. If you misplaced this item or forgot to send in your donation - please email me at [cgay@courseco.com](mailto:cgay@courseco.com) or call 707.762.1057 to make a donation. This fund is divided among all employees including the bar staff, golf staff, maintenance and admin. Thank you very much!

**3) Friday Night Social - December 18th 4pm to 6pm.** Come to the club and get into the Holiday Spirit with the Silver Belles Carolers and have a chance to win \$500! Our last non-winner was Ron York. This event will be an open bar from 4pm to 6pm and we hope to see you there!

**4) Earn \$275.00...** the number #1 source of new members is you! So call your friends or other golf partners and get them to join. Each new member you bring to the club you **Earn \$275**. After 6 months as a member in good standing, those new member will also receive a credit of \$275.00.

**5) Rain = cart path only.** Due to wet conditions it may be necessary to have carts restricted to the path. Please check with the golf shop to determine the Golf Car rule of the day.

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**6) Christmas Day Closure** - The Golf Course/Club will be closed all day on Christmas Day (12/25).

**7) Tuesday Night Dinners...** have concluded for the season. If a member wishes to cook a meal - please give us plenty of time to get the word out to the other members.

**8) Club Information:** Please check our Website or Facebook to be updated on everything PG&CC. Look at [www.petalumagolfandcountryclub.com](http://www.petalumagolfandcountryclub.com) often so you don't miss a thing!

**9) Golf Lingo Lesson:** Do you know what is a Stimpmeter? Or have you heard someone referring to the "stimp". A stimpmeter is a device that measures the speed of the green and a "stimp" is the relative speed of the greens. The stimpmeter basically looks like a yardstick that has a notch at one end and is grooved down the middle. The superintendent will place a ball on the notch and slowly lift the stimpmeter at one end until the ball rolls out. This is done in multiple directions and the average amount the ball rolls out is the "stimp". Our target stimp is 9.5 or 9'6" of roll out. Despite everything you hear on TV - the PGATour average stimp meter is 10.5 and they try very hard to get every golf course they play to be at this constant speed. It is also not an exact science as a stimp will change slightly from green to green and is depending on time of day. A ball will roll faster when the greens are freshly cut and dry but will slow down slightly by late afternoon. Currently, our greens are rolling at 10' which is the upper limit to what the contours of the greens can handle. Any faster and balls will not stay on #9 green.

Have a great holiday!  
Christopher Gay, PGA

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**Facility Calendar of Events are Online on our [Facebook Page](#)**

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