



# THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club, December 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Mike Candau*

Another year is coming to an end and we should be thankful for all that we have during the holiday season. As we spend time up at the club, please drink and drive responsibly (or uber it). Per our Policies and Procedures, which are available to all members, bartenders DO have the right to stop serving people if they believe a member has consumed too much alcohol. There is no need to accost any of the bartenders if they stop serving you –it is for everyone's benefit.

The owners of Adobe Creek and a few of us met to discuss the possibility of PGCC buying Adobe Creek. We would have had to sell our property to pay for it. The board held an emergency meeting and decided against pursuing it at this point.

**PG&CC  
Board of  
Directors**

**President**  
Mike Candau

**Vice President**  
Donna Beels

**Treasurer**  
Flip Lamson

**Secretary**  
Peter Barufkin

**Director**  
Mike Morgan

**Director**  
Patty Haynes

**Director**  
Steve Lambert

**Director**  
Timo Rivetti

**Director**  
Harry Pearson

The board will be reviewing and implementing next year's budget in the coming weeks. We have not had a dues increase for 3+ years but that topic will come up. The increase would help offset increasing water bills (about \$140k this year). It would also help our CIDM (Capital Improvement/Deferred Maintenance). The CIDM funds the house and grounds committee projects as well as the Greens committee projects. Currently, these committees are strapped with lease payments that cut into their ability to improve PGCC. The board may propose these lease payments be moved away from CIDM, and thus, an increase would cover those costs and allow the two main committees to have more capital for much needed work.

At the beginning of 2016, we had 37 members on the resignation list with at least 10 people not paying any dues. Currently, we only have about 11 on that list and all but one is paying. We were also preparing to pay CourseCo \$7000/mo at the beginning of the 2016 with another increase due next July. The board was able to secure a longer lease with payments of about \$5000/mo. All of these factors will be considered for next year's budget.

We have 4 members running for the 2017 board. If any of you are interested the running in 2018, keep it in mind as we are always looking for new ideas.

Merry Christmas

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## **ANNUAL JANUARY BRIDGE TOURNAMENT 2017**

*by Sandy Shuteroff and Judie Buskirk*

Our three-week Ladies Member/Guest Bridge Tournament is just around the corner. We already have many tables taken. The dates again are the 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2017.

There will be prizes galore, wonderful catered lunch by in-house catering, and lots of laughs. Lunch will be \$18.00 per person on each of the playing days. Entry fee will be \$30.00 per person. Lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon. 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, 2016**. Please call Sandy Shuteroff at (707) 762-9244 or Judie Buskirk at (707) 484-0322 to sign up or if you have questions.



Looking forward to seeing you!

# FAIRWAY AND GREEN'S REPORT

By Harry Pearson

Here's hoping everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and that all of us have a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. My December articles usually recap what projects The Greens Committee was able to accomplish during the year, (2016), and what projects we are planning for the following year, (2017).

I've explained in a series of recent articles all about how we and House & Grounds, (H&G), are funded, 15% of each members monthly dues goes into the Capital Improvement Deferred Maintenance, (CIDM Fund), and what types of projects we plan for. For example, this year, through Oct. we have collected \$100,190 in CIDM money's. November's figures won't be available until about the middle of Dec. However, we are now collecting about \$10,850 on an average over the last few months due to new members joining and taking over memberships that were not paying dues or were owned by the Club, so we have increased our revenue over what it was the first six months of the year. We can estimate collecting about \$21,500 for Nov. & Dec. totaling about \$122,000 for the full year. Twelve thousand, (10%), will go into a 'Reserve Fund' which funds emergency projects and the remainder is basically split between House and Grounds and Greens.

As most of us know, towards the end of last year, (2015), The Greens Committee, with the approval from the Board, hired irrigation design expert, Russ Mitchell to assess our irrigation system. Russ designed the original system that was installed in 1989 and is a top name in the field. After spending hours walking the course, studying the maps and talking to Bill Maeder, (our Head Supt.), he came up with a 6 point plan that would improve our watering of the course and reduce normal watering 18-22%.

1. The 1st point was to replace the old control system with a new computerized central control and radio linked satellite controllers. The cost was \$92,700, including labor and this was funded through the \$500 per member assessment.
2. The 2nd point was to replace 160 outdated sprinklers. Many of these 160 sprinklers had been turned off over the last 2 yrs. due to drought conditions. We purchased 120 and installed the last 108 that were in use ( see below) to complete this category.
3. The 3rd point was to install new control wire from the valves to the control boxes which would allow individual computer control of all sprinklers instead of group sprinklers coming on in 2's, 3's or 4 at a time. The cost is \$52,950, contracted out plus \$20,000 for additional control box components, (\$72,950 total). Presently we are assessing consistently wet/dry areas and will do so again in 2017 to ascertain which areas would benefit most from individual wiring of sprinklers.
4. The 4th point was to add a 2nd sprinkler to each of the green side sprinklers to separate the irrigation of greens from the surrounds. Right now there are just a couple of sprinklers at the greens that water the greens and surrounds and this is very inefficient. During hot weather, a member of the grounds crew has to manually water each green in the afternoons to keep them from dying and this takes away man hours that could be used moving sprinklers on the course. The cost of adding the sprinklers is \$17,500, contracted out. We are planning to do this in 2017
5. The 5th point is to replace all valves and their saddles, (100), at a cost of \$70,000. We are presently replacing these when they break using in-house labor.
6. The 6th point is to install a complete new irrigation system at a cost of \$570,000. A laughing emoji here.

So here's what we did with our piece of the pie, ( \$55,000), in 2016. Having started a sprinkler replacement program 15 yrs. ago, (565 sprinklers on the course), we purchased the final 120 sprinklers in bulk for \$21,823.20. This was a savings of \$8,000 under the regular price. We took the savings and paid \$7,236 to have them installed for a total of \$29,059.20. We had the 3 trees by #5 green cut down at a cost of \$3,200. We renovated the #8/17 tee, in-house at a cost of \$2,000. Added sand to bunkers at a cost of \$600.

We also bought plants and flowers for landscaping at \$500 and spent about \$500 on drainage, done in-house on #1,3 and 5. This totals \$35,859.20. Oh I almost forgot the \$28,631.58 in equip. leases we will pay. Total of \$64,490.78. Unfortunately, because we will be \$9,000 over, it takes money away from H&G.

This doesn't include the \$8,041.68 that H&G pays for the Exchange Bank Loan we took in Spring of 2013 to purchase 5 pieces of equipment we badly needed. We requested to the Board at that time, to have H&G split the loan with us 50/50 to free up some money for us to be able to fund our projects. This loan will be paid off in January 2018. Also, we purchased a new spray machine this year and our 1st payment, (\$719.66), wasn't until April which means next year we will have an additional \$2,158.98 in payments over this year. We are not planning any equip. purchases for 2017 and are on a replacement schedule that will see us buy our next piece of equip. in 2018 when some of the present leases come off the books.

So for next year, Greens will pay \$30,790.56 in equip. leases and H&G will pay \$8,041.68 for a total of \$38,832.24 in equipment leases. If we use the 2016 figures for 2017, we will have approximately \$25,000 to do projects and H&G will have approximately \$47,000.

I think from all the comments I've heard from the members, we are very happy with the course conditions we've had throughout most of the year. The Greens Committee wants to make them better and set a high standard that is met each and every year. With the great work of Bill and his crew, invaluable input from our CourseCo experts, the support of the Board and the members along with the dedication of the Greens Committee, I have no doubt we can do this.

That is why my committee and I have asked the Board to take the burden of equip. leases out of our budget and put them in the operating budget. This would give us and H&G around \$55,000 each to do our projects. Unfortunately, this is the path we have to take so we can set and reach the standards that we as members, want and deserve. This may necessitate an increase in monthly dues and I hope everyone understands. We, the Board, will be having our budget mtg. the 21st of Dec. during our regularly scheduled mtg. and we will be discussing this topic.

Our projects for 2017 based on \$55,000 for Greens without equip. leases:

- Cart paths: \$0
- Tree removal: \$8,000 - \$5,000 for tree removal and \$3,000 for stump removal. We have trees we are selecting for removal at \$1,000 ea.
- Tree replacement: \$0. We hope to replace trees through our 'Memorial Tree' program. Inquire with Chris
- Bunker renovation: \$2,000 - and in-house. Left greenside on #6. Drainage, new sand & soften low side.
- Tee renovation: \$2,500 - Either #1 or #4. Give us your input.
- Landscaping. \$1,500
- Seal cart paths: \$2,000 We will fill in pot holes, in-house.
- Drainage: \$1,000 Continue to address the worst spots.
- Sprinklers: \$20,000 - We will add the sprinklers around the greens and install additional clocks in control boxes to address point #3 of Russ Mitchell's assessment
- Misc: \$1,000 - Address any miscellaneous issues that come up.
- Rollover: \$17,000 - This will be rolled over from 2017 to 2018. We will then use it with CIDM money from 2018 to fund concreting #7 & #8 cart paths working towards completing the cart path project that was started 15 yrs. ago.

I know this is a very long article but I want the membership to have all the information possible.

Please park carts fully on paths, check with clubhouse regarding keeping carts on paths or allowed to drive on the course and if allowed. Please be careful of spinouts. Please don't drive up to the greens unless you have a blue flag, fix ball marks and fill in divots.

Merry Xmas to all.

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## **MEN'S TOURNAMENT REPORT**

*By Christopher Gay*

November had three events: the Medal on 11/5, the Bricks on 11/9, Young vs Old on 11/12! We also held 2 away games at Silverado and Sea Ranch!

This month's winners:

Men's Medal – Greg Plattner 78 Low Gross. Ron Fedrick 68 Low Net

The Bricks – Jason Morris wins the Red Jacket!

Young Versus Old – Team Young Win (Flat Bellies)

Next on the list of Tournaments:

- Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – Men's Medal Play 8:30am Shotgun. \$25 Entry. Includes Lunch and Beer.
- Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> Night Golf 5:15pm
- Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> Men's Medal Play 8:30am Shotgun. \$25 Entry. Includes Lunch and Beer.

See you on the tee!

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## **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

*By Christopher Gay*

As a reminder – the club and golf course will be closed on Christmas all day

Normal operating hours on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

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## **HANDICAP FLAGS**

*By Christopher Gay*

Please adhere to the golf cart rules for the day. The Greens Committee would like to remind our membership:

- If you need to drive your carts close to greens and tees – please ask the bar for a handicap flag.
- If you are driving close to the greens please take carts around the back of the green and not in front.

Thank you!

# NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

By Christopher Gay

Don't miss the biggest party of the year! The Committee has added an open bar to the party from 8:00pm to 10:00pm. Please sign-up now by calling 707.762.1057 – we need to provide our caterer with accurate numbers soon! This party features one of the biggest cover bands in the area – “the HOTS”. A ton of food, live music, 2 hour open bar – just bring your dancing shoes and get the party started!

Petaluma Golf and Country Club

# NEW YEARS EVE

Saturday, December 31st 8PM

Live Music by: THE HOTS

Heavy Appetizer Menu

- Passed Appetizers
- Crab Cakes
- Chicken Sliders
- Creole & Coconut Shrimp
- Cheese Station
- Charcuterie and Crudites
- Tamale Bar
- Santa Maria Grilled Tri Tip
- And More!

Hosted Bar from  
8:00 pm to 10:00 pm  
Cash Bar from 10pm to 1am

\$100 p/p  
\$115 p/p after  
December 15

RSVP by calling Cat Parratt 707.364.1004  
Or Robin Guptill 707.291.4058

## DECEMBER CHRISTMAS FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

December 16<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm – 6:30pm!

*By Christopher Gay*

Live music from Miles Mckenzie, our infamous \$500 drawing and plenty of appetizers! Join in the festive celebration with your fellow members! Someone in attendance will win a signed magnum bottle of Balletto Pinot Noir!



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## WANT TO EARN A FREE MONTH OF DUES?

*By Christopher Gay*

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.

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## TUESDAY NIGHT DINNERS YEAR-ROUND

*By Christopher Gay*

Our Tuesday Night Dinners will continue throughout the year. Members are still encourage to sign up; however, in house staff will ensure there is ample food each Tuesday. Look for specials and reduced pricing during the winter.

# DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Holiday Party 4:00pm	2 Sunset Bar 5:30- 7:00pm	3 Men's Medal
4	5	6 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	7 Ladies Christmas Cocktail Party 4:00pm – 7:00pm	8	9 Sunset Bar 4:30pm- 6:30pm	10 Hall Rented Holiday Party 4:00pm
11 Santa Brunch 11:00am	12	13 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	14	15	16 Sunset Bar 4:30pm- 6:30pm	17
18 Hall Rented Holiday Party 4:00pm	19	20 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	21 <i>Board of Directors Meeting 6pm</i>	22	23 Christmas Happy Hour and Member Social 4:30pm- 6:30pm	24
25 Club Closed – Merry Christmas	26	27 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	28	29	30 Sunset Bar 4:30pm- 6:30pm	31 New Year's Eve PARTY



# JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	2	3 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	4	5 <b>Holiday Party 4:00pm</b>	6 <b>Sunset Bar 4:30pm- 6:30pm</b>	7 <b>Men's Medal 8:30am Shotgun</b>
8	9	10 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	11 <b>Bridge Tournament Day 1</b>	12	13 <b>Sunset Bar 4:30pm- 6:30pm</b>	14
15	16	17 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	18 <b>Bridge Tournament Day 2</b>  <i>Board of Directors Meeting 6pm</i>	19	20 <b>Sunset Bar 4:30pm- 6:30pm</b>	21 <b>Event in Hall 5:00pm – 11:00pm</b>
22 <b>Crab Feed</b>	23	24 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	25 <b>Bridge Tournament Day 3</b>	26	27 <b>NIGHT GOLF 5:15pm Shotgun</b>  <b>Sunset Bar 4:30pm- 8:00pm</b>	28 <b>Event in Hall 5:00pm – 11:00pm</b>
29	30	31				