

THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club

February 2016



The View from #18 Tee Box

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FEBRUARY/MARCH CALENDARS

Sun, February 7 - Superbowl. We will have a 12:00pm 9-Hole Shotgun Tournament. During the Game we will have a special menu: Denver Bison Burgers & Carolina Ribs.

Sat, February 13 - Valentine's Dinner Dance is back at PG&CC. Preferred Sonoma Catering is providing the Prime Rib dinner and DJ Chuck will spin some dance music. Members are encouraged to bring guests. Cost: \$125 per couple.

Club Officers

President
Mike Candau

Vice President
Donna Beels

Treasurer
Flip Lamson

Secretary
Peter Barufkin

Sat, February 20 - Gin Fizz Golf Tournament. 8:00am
Breakfast and Gin. 9:00am Shotgun

Fri, February 26 - Friday Night Mixer - \$500 Drawing Wine and
Canvas Night - Learn to Paint like Monet! Additional Fee
Required for Wine and Canvas Painting Party.

Thurs, March 3 - Annual Membership Meeting. Dinner at
5:30pm - Meeting at 6:30pm.

Sat, March 12 - Men's 2 Man Scramble

Sat, March 19 - St. Patrick Day Dinner. Cocktails at 4:00pm
and Dinner 5:00pm. Live Irish Music 5:30pm

Fri, March 25 - Friday Night Mixer - \$500 Drawing. Theme TBD

Sun, March 27 - Easter Brunch. 10:00am Brunch. 11:30am
Egg Hunt. Pictures with the Easter Bunny!

MARKETING REPORT *By Timo Rivetti*

The marketing & centennial committee are working on some ideas to improve our clubhouse & membership & we will be presenting these proposals at the annual general meeting scheduled for March 3rd.

It is imperative that as many members attend this meeting so we can discuss how we can get more members & increase our profile & social activities.

Spring is round the corner & this is a good time to invite friends, family & work colleagues to the club. Please see Chris in regards to guest passes.

The centennial committee is meeting Wednesday the 10th at 5.30. Please feel free to join us & participate.

LADIES BRIDGE *By Sandy Shuteroff and Judie Buskirk*

The 2016 Ladies Bridge Tournament has come to an end. We had 40 ladies play 3 weeks in a row. The big winners are **Barbara Madick** and **Joan Paddor**.

We have bridge groups on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Gail Whooley is giving beginning lessons and intermediate lessons on Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00am to 2:00pm beginning February 4th.

Please call if you would like to join us or have any questions. Sandy Shuteroff 707-762-9244, Judie Buskirk 707-484-0322 or Gail Whooley 707-763-6036.

9-HOLE LADIES REPORT *By Sandra Messer*

9 hole Ladies Division Opening Day, Tuesday, March 1, 2016

New and returning players, come one, come all to Opening Day of the 9 hole Ladies Division 2016 Season.



The day gets underway at 8:45 am.

Birdie, the Petaluma Chick and 9 hole mascot will be wearing her fancy hat. Birdie invites you to show off your fancy hat at our morning Breakfast and Season orientation. Those attending and planning to participate in the 2016 Season will need to bring a \$25 registration fee.

Mimosas, coffee, and light breakfast fare will be served while we mingle and the Season's calendar is introduced. After, we'll head out on the course for a casual round of golf.

RSVP to Sandra, 2016 Captain by Wednesday, February 24 at sandra@frontstoop.com or 707-981-8350. A headcount is necessary for food and beverage quantity, thank you!

GREENS COMMITTEE REPORT *By Harry Pearson*

First off, Happy New Year to all and thank you to those who supported my election to the Board of Directors.

I attended my 1st meeting on Jan. 20th, and am excited to be part of a very energetic and dedicated group, who seem extremely committed to helping guide the Club through some difficult times that we face.

I'd like to give a recap of what the Greens Committee accomplished in 2015.

If you've read some of my prior articles over the years, you know how Capital Improvements/ Deferred Maintenance, (CIDM), is collected; 15% for a total of \$41.25 of each member's monthly dues is separated out for CIDM.

Who uses it, (off the top 10% or \$4.12 goes into an Emergency Fund) with the remainder used by the House & Grounds and Greens committees. The two committees identify projects related to their area, which they would like to have funded during that particular year.

Greens works off of a 5yr plan and as one year ends; we add another year and plan to the end, always having 5 yrs. planned for. We have numerous categories related to the golf course we address that aren't included in Bill's Fairway's budget.

At the beginning of 2015, we knew we would have to pay for equipment leases that totaled \$20,431.13 for the year. We've just purchased a new self-contained spray rig which the Fairways Crew will use extensively, not only on the greens but fairways as well. Our 1st payment of this lease will be May 2016 @ \$719 per mo. This will bump our leases for 2016 to, approx. \$26,000 for this year.

In years past, we've made concessions to H&G, so in return, they pay 50% of our Exchange Bank loan. This loan was used to purchase 5 pieces of badly needed equipment in March of 2013. Their share is \$8,041 per year and this loan will come off the books in 2 yrs. So equip loans will total approx. \$34,000 for 2016 and this all comes out of CIDM money.

Also in the beginning of the year 2015, leaks from the lines servicing the clubhouse caused problems. There are 2 water pumps, one a 30 horse power pump that services the irrigation and a 10 horse power pump which services the clubhouse and a few irrigation lines. The lines were dug up and rerouted so that the 10hp pump services only the clubhouse and the 30hp now handles all the irrigation. This project was \$22,000 which we split, (\$11,000 ea.), with H&G. We spent \$7,600 in tree removal and another \$2,000 in tree planting in 2015. We also received a member contribution which allowed for the planting of 2 more trees.

Last year, we bought and installed 24 new more efficient sprinklers at a cost of just over \$6,000, (\$2,000 for a box of 8). This is part of our sprinkler replacement program which we budget for each year. It's been an ongoing project for close to 15 years. Sprinklers have a life span of about 15-20yrs. If you've read my articles; you know the present irrigation system was put in in 1989/90. We have over 600 sprinklers on site and we have about 120 left to replace. Bill Maeder has turned off over 100 of these sprinklers over the last few years to conserve water and be compliant, (which we are), with any drought restrictions. We spent \$129,000 on water in 2015 which is \$11,000 over budget but \$13,000 under what we spent in 2013. We believe that the irrigation upgrades funded by the assessment and CIDM will bring our water costs down in 2016.

In July, with the approval from the Board, we spent \$3,750 of our CIDM to commission Russ Mitchell to assess our irrigation system. He is a noted irrigation design expert and the person, who in 1989 designed our presently used system. In prior articles, I explained his recommendations which he produced in a report issued in September. The Board of Directors assessed the members \$500 each which funded Mr. Mitchell's 1st recommendation. This was to replace the control boxes with state of the art radio satellite linked controllers that linked up to a central computer system which would be installed at the maintenance building. This would allow all sprinklers to be programmed at the computer instead of having to go to each control box on the course and program it manually. Installation of this system costs \$98,000. My above description doesn't do this system half the justice that it will be able to do. The rest of the assessment money went to put a new roof on the clubhouse.

We proposed to the Board that completing the sprinkler replacement be our main project for 2016, which was Mr. Mitchell's 2nd recommendation, and was paramount to getting the full benefit of spending the \$98,000 on the computer and boxes. At \$2,000 for a box of eight, we projected \$30,000 to purchase 15 boxes which would total 120 sprinklers. This did not include the labor cost. This would be paid out of reserve 2015 CIDM and some of our 2016 CIDM.

Through Bill and Scott Wackowski, (V.P. of Agronomy for CourseCo), we were able to get an end of the year discount from Rainbird for the order of 120 sprinklers at \$20,520. Scott was able to negotiate with Par Consultants, which is the company who will be installing the controllers, a price of \$8,040, (CIDM), to install the 120 sprinklers during the time they install the boxes. The work is scheduled to begin Feb.1st and will take about 2 weeks to complete. So by the time you read this, it will be in some stage of progress. Upon completion, Bill and Chris will be trained in operating the computer system.

Bill marked every on course sprinkler with color coded flags. The colors depict sprinklers that have been replaced, ones to be replaced and ones that have been turned off. Mr. Mitchell's crew came out and digitally recorded each flagged sprinkler. This will then be put on a computer program and downloaded into the central computer at the maintenance building. Bill will then have a digital map of the course laid out on the computer to assist him in programming the sprinklers. This is included in the \$3,750 fee.

Scott was instrumental in setting up the irrigation program that is being used. He and Bill went out to every control box, (13 on the course), turned on every station, noted which sprinklers came on together and Scott documented this on a spread sheet. From there, he was able to come up with a program that turned on sprinklers that would allow even water pressure and not put a strain on the pump which causes dips and spikes, which would eventually lead to breakdowns of the pump. The computer will give daily readouts which will allow Bill to adjust irrigation daily.

Bill and Scott created a new agronomy program last year, prior to the Fall maintenance. In order to combat the fungus that takes over the poa grass on the fairways during the warmer summer months, they are increasing the over seeding of rye grass which is stronger than poa against the fungus. They will over seed during the Spring maintenance. They will be fertilizing and spraying fungicides more frequently based on a 12 week rotation of fairways. The new spray rig will help tremendously. The one we were using was purchased used from Sonoma as part of our 2013 equipment package mentioned above. While it served us better than

the one that it replaced and fit our budget at the time, it began breaking down regularly. Bill will have an increase in his 2016 budget for fungicides and fertilizer. These commodities aren't cheap, so the above described program is built on spot treatment.

On behalf of our committee, I'd like to welcome Steve Lambert to our committee. Steve, who is a Board Member, will make a great addition.

Also, speaking as a Board Member, I would encourage all of you to come to the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday March 3rd. I'm in the process of getting some volunteers together to fix a spaghetti dinner sponsored by the Club. We used to have dinners prior to the meeting and it's hopeful that we may get more people to attend. It's also a great time to reconnect and have the Board answer any concerns you may have or just give your suggestions or opinions. It is our club and it needs all of our input. Dinner will be at 5:30pm and the meeting will start at 6:30pm. Chris will be communicating on this with the membership and to make it a little more efficient, he'll be asking for R.S.V.P.'s. so we can have a ballpark on how much food to purchase.

Look forward to seeing you at the Club and the meeting.

Harry Pearson

HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL / GM REPORT *By Christopher Gay*

January goes out like a lion and February comes in like a Lamb? I don't think that is the saying but I WILL TAKE IT! The golf conditions are very good for this time of year so come on out and play! Golf carts are permitted off of the path.



I can't stress enough the importance of FaceBook - to get up to date information on the what is happening at the club. You do not even need to be "on" FaceBook. Just click the little Facebook Icon and browse our page!

Social Events!!!

Final Call for our Valentine's Dinner Dance Next Saturday! Be sure to sign-up now by calling 707.762.1057. For more information click here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/463505833841752/>

Our Annual St. Patrick's Dinner is set for March 19th at 4:00pm. Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at 5:00pm. We will have live Irish Music from "Speiread" starting at 5:30pm to approx 6:30pm. "Speiread" is Spirit in Gaelic and they will play all of the classics as well as provide some educational elements.

The Easter Bunny arrives early this year on March 27th. Our annual Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt will start at 10:00am with the Egg Hunt starting at 11:30am. Take Pictures with the Easter Bunny. More Details coming soon!

The PG&CC Junior Program !!!

Check our Junior Page by clicking [here!](#)

We are excited to announce our PG&CC Junior Program for 2016 - and this is going to be the best year yet! More information will be online very soon but here are the main details so you can begin to prepare for the season.

- PG&CC Junior Development Club:

This is an exciting brand new program for 2016 and the best part - your children join **AT NO COST!** This program focuses on the fundamentals of the swing, each aspect of the short game, as well as rules, etiquette, and sportsmanship. The PG&CC Developmental Program (ages 7-17) is a yearlong program with weekly clinics during the season and once a month clinics during the off season.

Included in the Junior Development Club

- Weekly Saturday Clinics (60 Minutes) April – September
- Monthly Saturday Clinics (60 Minutes) October - March
- 2 – 30 Minute Private Lessons per month at \$20 each (Normally \$35)
- Participation in Club Events designed for Juniors such as Team Scrambles, Junior Club Championships, play with Pro, etc.
- Entry into the USKids Learning program which includes: Free Hat, Learning Progression Scoreboard, Level 1 Bag Tag* and Achievement Pins* (*must be earned). Additional Levels are \$25 Each.
- Priority into PGA Junior League, if applicable
- Registration is required

- PG&CC Junior Camps

For juniors 7 to 17. Each camp consists of learning the Fundamentals, Swing Mechanics, Putting, Rules, etiquette and on-course play. Low student to instructor ratio. Includes entry into USKIDS Learning Program and Level 1 materials. Fee includes Hat, Bag Tag, Snacks and lunch each day.

All Classes are from 8:00am-11:30am. Monday through Thursday. Costs \$250 Per Camp. 10% Discount for multiple camps or multiple family members. 4 Camps:

- June 13 – June 16
- June 20 – June 23 – Girls Only
- June 27 – June 30

-
- August 1 - August 4

- PGA Junior League at PG&CC

The highly anticipated and extremely popular junior program: PGA Junior League is back for a 2nd year. This traveling league practices weekly and has several matches against neighboring clubs throughout the year. The regular season is from May to the end of July. Post-season begins in August.

This is not a beginner program and juniors should have some golf ability before signing up. We will have our first practice/tryout on May 7th at 4:00pm. On June 9th our practices will be on Thursdays at 12:00pm until August. All Thursday practices include lunch! The league has its own website for all of the schedule of activities and will be online beginning in March.

Cost for Program: \$200 for Members or \$250 for non-members

This is for juniors 9-13. Juniors under 9 would be considered if skill level is acceptable. Juniors must be no older than 13 as of July 31st, 2016.

The PGA Junior League Fees include: Team Uniform, practices, green fees, championship fees, Lunch, Bag Tag, year end BBQ, and instruction!

- PG&CC Little Hens and Little Roosters Golf Clinics

We can't forget the little ones! This clinic is for ages 3-6 years old. This very basic clinic is designed to show juniors how to hold the club and have fun. Clinic includes putting, hitting golf balls, cartoon cutouts, hitting marshmallows and stickers!

Saturday and Sunday from 1:00pm 1:30pm. Each session is \$35. A session is Free when purchasing a set of US KIDS Golf Clubs (starting at \$99.99) . 2 Sessions:

- April 23 & April 24
- September 10 & September 11

Check our Junior Page by clicking [here!](#)

Lastly - we have our annual membership meeting on March 3rd at 5:30pm (dinner) and 6:30pm meeting. If you would like to attend the complimentary pasta dinner - please RSVP by calling 707.762.1057.

See you on the links!

Christopher Gay, PGA

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

Petaluma Golf & Country Club | 1500 Country Club Drive | Petaluma, California 94952 | Tel: (707) 762-7041



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