



**Inside this Issue:**

- President's Message
- PG&CC History
- Fairways and Greens
  - 18 Hole Ladies
  - 9 Hole Ladies
- January Calendar

# THE IMPROVED LIE

**Petaluma Golf & Country Club, February 2019**



## **President's Message**

*By Mike Johnson*

First of all, please allow me to extend warmest wishes to all our members for happy and healthy 2019! It is my privilege and pleasure to be your president this year. I am very excited to be associated with the excellent Board of Directors and our new executive team, Travis Berding(GM) and Jeff Hwang(Golf Professional).

We had many exciting things on tap for 2019. We are looking at phase 1 of the club house renovation project, extending the existing deck and adding new deck in front of the main hall into the Southeast corner of the building. Drawings are near completion and we will put up the plans in the common areas for member input.

The continuation of the cart path replacement plan is also on tap for fall of this year. The cart path from the tee box on #7 will be replaced and rerouted as the next phase of the project, all the way to the number 8 tee box and will connect to the concrete path at the beginning of #9.

As for the golf season, we also have many exciting changes and new opportunities to play tournament golf up on the Hill. We have expanded the tournament committee and had an excellent planning meeting for both men and,

## **PG&CC Board of Directors**

### **President**

Michael Johnson

### **Vice President**

Sue Berger

### **Treasurer**

Keith Brians

### **Secretary**

Harry Pearson

### **Director**

Wayne Guphill

### **Director**

Alan Brownlie

### **Director**

Larry Riis

### **Director**

Jeremy King

### **Director**

Brenda Roberts

women and juniors to get all of our events on the one calendar with hopefully no conflicts. Our new golf professional, Jeff Hwang has come up with some great new ideas that he will be implementing this golf season. There will be more golf tournaments for men, women, juniors and coed events. All of the details are not yet complete, but we will now have a woman's division and several of the traditionally Men's events. Hopefully, this will allow women who work during the week to play tournament golf on the weekends.

We are fortunate to have a full membership. As a result there are many new faces. Please introduce yourself to the many new members we have and welcome them to this great club.

One of the many things that make this club great are the many members willing to volunteer their time. If you are interested in increasing your involvement in the club, I urge you to speak to Travis. We have many committees that have openings to volunteer for and Travis is more than happy to discuss them with you. I am super excited for a great year up on the hill. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Docjohnswick@hotmail.com or 415-225-7625.

Fairways and Greens,

Mike Johnson



## **PG&CC History – Part 9**

*By Keith Brians*

This is a part of a series of articles about the club's history. Information about the club's early years is derived from digitized copies of the Petaluma Argus Courier available at the Petaluma Library using Newspapers.com. The Press Democrat and the Oakland Tribune were also used. The club's own records before 1943 have apparently been lost to history. However, the club's minutes and other historical pieces from 1943 on remain.

### **Play Continues 5**

The first round of the Intra-County Tri-Club tournament featuring the leading players from the Healdsburg, Santa Rosa and Petaluma clubs was played at Petaluma on Sunday, April 29, 1928. Petaluma's eight-man team emerged victorious by 31 points. The low gross for the day belonged to Petaluma's William Thomas, a 78. The better players in the event including Santa Rosa's Gus Lee and Petaluma's H.C. Scrutton did not play well, none breaking 79, but the middle of the line-up carried the day. Play was followed by lunch in the club house. Healdsburg hosted the second round on Sunday, May 13. Petaluma did not play well; their low gross score was 86 by H.C. Scrutton. Their poor play was blamed on the Healdsburg greens, which were much slower than what the team was used to. Santa Rosa beat Healdsburg by 3 strokes and Petaluma by 28 leaving Petaluma ahead by just three strokes in the first two matches. The third and deciding match was held on Sunday, June 3, at Santa Rosa. With one threesome remaining on the course and Santa Rosa holding a 4 stroke lead in the club house, Petaluma's last man

threesome remaining on the course and Santa Rosa holding a 4 stroke lead in the club house, Petaluma's last man

finished with a 7 stroke victory over his opponents, cementing Petaluma's three match victory over Santa Rosa by 3 strokes. Lunch followed play and was highlighted by presentation of the McNamara Cup to the Petaluma team. To celebrate the victory, Thomas Maclay hosted the team members, H.C. Scrutton, Grover, C. Stone, Magnus Vonsen, Jack W. Cavanagh, Eric Nissen, Dolph Hill, Bill Thomas and Emmett Olmsted Jr. at the Meadow Club in Fairfax for lunch and golf later in the week.

On Friday, July 26, the new 18-hole Sonoma Mission Inn Golf Club and its club house, the former J. K. Bigelow mansion, formally opened with a pro-am tournament. Petaluma was represented by its pro, John Grady, and club champion Eric Nissen. Built by the Sonoma Mission Inn, the course featured long par fours and was reported to be one the most expensive courses built in California. Fairway grass seed was brought in from Los Angeles and Golden Gate Park. Radio commentator Henry "Bob" Roberts noted that the course would become one of the premier golf courses in Northern California and would help ensure the commercial success of the hotel and its hot baths. Harry Benton, H.C. Scrutton, Valente C. Mattei and J.E. Olmsted played there on Thursday, August 16, and found the course beautiful, but its unusual traps vexing.

Fall golf at the club began Saturday, September 22, with a golf tournament and luncheon. After lunch several members put on a skit about the rules of golf featuring Bill Thomas as an old-timer who knew all the rules and a newcomer to the game, played by Eric Nissen. Thomas acted out rule and etiquette violations, and Nissen promptly corrected his mistakes perhaps in the hope of reminding members in the audience who may have inadvertently or deliberately not observed them.

The Monday, October 29 annual meeting welcomed a record number of members. In contrast to the more formal meetings of the past, the event was casual. The fireplace was burning and members sat in comfortable chairs. The secretary reported the membership had increased by fifteen members and the treasurer reported the club was in better shape than it had been for some time and payment of obligations that had been put off could begin again. Hiring of a new professional was also discussed. Six applicants had expressed interest and it was hoped that a new pro would be in the shop shortly.

December 23, brought reports to the Argus Courier from drivers of a winter wonderland in the Valley of the Moon as icicles covering fences, trees and buildings put on a spectacular show. The sun was in and out of the clouds and when it broke through the icicles sparkled like diamonds and crystals.

The 1929 season literally started off with a bang on Sunday, February 17, with the introduction of trap shooting to the list of events. More than 70 members showed up for a breakfast of mush and cream, eggs and bacon or ham, coffee and rolls. Golf started with a driving contest from the first tee (now 3rd tee) which was won by Eric Nissen. Below the No. 9 green, trap shooting was set up with plenty of blue rock traps, ammunition and guns for those who didn't have one. The gun shots resounded around the course and may have spoiled some approach shots to the No. 9 green. To highlight the day, H. C. Scrutton had a hole-in-one on No. 7 (now 6th) green witnessed by Jack Cavanaugh, Eric Nissen, and Thomas Maclay. This was the second hole-in-one for Scrutton on the course, the first being at No. 5 (the cut-out green no longer in play below Ray and Millie Nizibian's house and no longer in play). Members also responded to a call for a collection for funds to pay for a new rough mower that was over-subscribed.

Abe Espinosa, nationally known for his iron shots and winner of the Chicago Open and the Western Open championships and described by Walter Hagen as "the finest iron player in the country," played an 18-hole exhibition match at the club on Friday, February 20. In a demonstration of iron shots before the match, Espinosa hit balls from the practice tee to the right of the No. 9 green "driving 35 or 40 balls into a tiny circle on the fairway about 200 yards away." About 30 fans followed Espinosa and the new pro Jack Neilsen, Eric Nissen, club champion, and Emmett Olmsted Jr. Espinosa shot a 39-37-76, coming up short on many holes, not knowing the distances. The hard greens also made stopping pitch shots on the greens.



## Fairways and Greens Report

By Harry Pearson

First off, on behalf of the Greens Committee, I would like to welcome Mark Thomas as the newest member of our committee. As I promised in my Green's Committee's Article in January's issue of the 'Improved Lie', below is the detailed information supplied by our Head Supt., Bill Maeder and Stacy Wallace who is the Head Supt. at Stone Tree and consults with Bill on agronomy issues.

In addition to the below, we plan to bring the crew up to full strength by hiring another crew member. This will give us Bill, four full time crew members, (instead of the present three), and the mechanic who is full time and helps out on the course when he is not working on equipment. We have been down a crew member for 2 seasons. During May through Sept., we add a part timer to water.

Here is the info.

The number one reason for core aeration is the physical removal of organic matter, which enables us to replace this material with uncontaminated sand. If we do not perform this practice on a consistent basis, the organic matter levels will increase causing problems with physical soil properties of the putting surfaces. This will lead to other problems such as disease, shallow rooting and most importantly to the golfer a soft, spongy playing surface. The grass is constantly producing organic matter through the normal growth process, so core aeration along with the need to input fresh sand into this environment will continue to be the most important cultural practice performed on a golf course to maintain quality putting surfaces.

With that being said, it should be a goal to impact 20% to 25% of the total surface area of the greens each year with core aeration and sand topdressing. The current use of ¼" tines on a 2" x 2" spacing impacts 1.23% each treatment. As you can see, we are only impacting less than 3 percent. As a result of this low impact program, an excessive amount of thatch has accumulated in the top 2" of the soil profile, contributing to soft surface conditions and excessive moisture retention near the surface.

My recommendation would be to use ½" tines on 1" x 2" spacing twice a year, which will impact 9.82% each treatment, getting us close to the 20% goal. The ½" tines are not that much larger than the ¼" and it allow us to remove more material and input more sand into the profile. Healing time is approximately 2 weeks depending on soil and ambient temperatures. The greens are extremely playable the first week.

Along with that Bill could use small solid tines once a month from May – August, along with continuing his verticutting and topdressing program. The correct solid tines will not affect play at all. We would roll right behind this procedure and the golfer will not be affected.

If everyone is agreeable with that, we could stay with the dates Travis provided. After the first season (2019) of implementing this procedure, we can sit down as a group and adjust if needed. I am confident, this will get us going in the right direction. I look forward to your feedback.

As always, especially now, please adhere to cart path only when in force, fix ball marks, divots and rake traps. Please email me with your suggestions, constructive criticisms or compliments for the crew at [hp1852@yahoo.com](mailto:hp1852@yahoo.com).



---

## 18-Hole Women's Section

By Eileen Ostroff



Pictured above: Eileen Ostroff, Sue Berger, Claudia Little, Lois Skarsten, Kelly Downey, Joan Johnson, Ruth Giacomini, Sandy King

A big **CONGRATS** goes out to Sue Berger upon being elected Vice President for the Board of Directors. I know she will do a fabulous job.

I am so proud of the women of our club. We were able to donate over \$1000 to **Mentor Me**. The funds were collected during our golf year and at the Annual Holiday Party. **Christmas Cheer** was very appreciative of the pick-up truck load of gifts for their program. These gifts were donated by attendees of the Annual Holiday Party. We will, also, be making a donation to the **Junior Golf Program**. Thank you so much to all who participated by donating cash and gifts to these worthy causes.

We're sending representatives to the Women's Golf Association of Northern California (WGANC) Regional Meeting Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

There are lots of changes being discussed in the Women's Section, as well as the golf club as a whole. We hope to keep you posted as these are solidified.

**Open Days** are mounting up: Almaden 3/5 Discovery Bay 3/5 Contra Costa 3/7

Green Hills 3/7 Copper River 3/7 San Juan Oaks 3/11 Belmont 3/12 Del Rio 3/12 Granite Bay 3/12 Diablo 3/14 Merced 3/14 The Villages 3/21 San Jose 3/28

Looking forward to April Open Days: Half Moon Bay 4/9 Richmond 4/9 Berkley 4/11 Cold Springs 4/15

Peninsula 4/18 Woodbridge 4/18 El Macero His N Hers 4/25 Elkhorn 4/30. Look for further information via TeamSnap.

**March 6<sup>th</sup> begins our golfing year with our Kick Off. Tee off is 8:30.**



## **9-Hole Petaluma Chicks**

*By Lois Skarsten*

March 5th is the start of the Ladies 9 Hole play. All ladies are invited to join with or without a handicap. We have beginners and experienced golfers and everything in between. We welcome everyone to play with us on Tuesdays. Check in is 8:30AM and we tee off at 9AM. We are playing an abbreviated game the first two weeks. Be here in time for breakfast.

---

## **2019 Ladies Bridge Tournament Results**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Barbara Madick and Joan Paddor
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Clair Pass and Debby McLaughlin
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Allie Andrew and Janet Althouse
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Barbara Tencer and Naomi Tickle
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Place – Pat Souza and Barbara Guggamos
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Place – Angie Fredericks and Marilyn Lombardi
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Place – Margaret Kullberg and Gail Wooley
- 

## **Socials**

FEBRUARY 8: Movie Night: Cars. Meet Sally and Luigi from 5:00pm to 6:00. Special Menu will be available starting at 5:00. Movie starts at 6:00pm

FEBRUARY 13: Golf Seminar: Rule Changes in 2019. 6pm to 7:30pm

FEBRUARY 16: Gin Fizz. 8:00 am Breakfast and 9:00 Shotgun

FEBRUARY 22: Member Social! 5:30pm to 7:30pm. With special menu. Don't forget our BOUNTY drawing could be up to \$1,400.

MARCH 8: Movie Night: Incredibles. Special Menu will be available starting at 5:00. Movie starts at 6:00pm

MARCH 16: St. Patrick's Dinner. 5:00 – 8:00pm

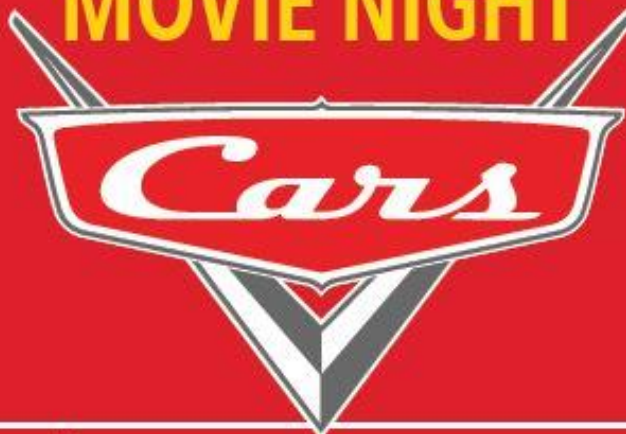
MARCH 29: Member Social! 5:30pm to 7:30pm. With special menu. Don't forget our BOUNTY drawing could be up to \$1,500.



PETALUMA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



**MOVIE NIGHT**



**FEB 8 | STARTS AT 6:00PM**

**SPECIAL GUESTS: SALLY AND LUIGI 5:00-6:00PM**

**SPECIAL MENU WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING AT 5:00PM**

*RSVP'S NOT REQUIRED*

1500 Country Club Dr | Petaluma, CA 94952 | [petalumagolfandcountryclub.com](http://petalumagolfandcountryclub.com)

# MEN'S GIN FIZZ TOURNAMENT

Saturday | February 16th | 8AM Breakfast | 9AM Shotgun



**\$20** *Breakfast,  
Gin Fizzes & Golf*

**\$10** *Breakfast &  
Gin Fizzes Only*

---

**GUEST PLAY FOR FREE!**

---

Please sign up in the tournament binder at  
the bar or send an email to Jeff at  
[jhwang@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com](mailto:jhwang@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com)


Deadline to sign up is  
**Wednesday February 13th**

(707) 762-7041

[www.petalumagolfandcountryclub.com](http://www.petalumagolfandcountryclub.com)



# FEB 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01 02
						<i>Men's Medal</i>
					Happy Hour 5:00pm-7:00pm	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
					Movie Night: Cars 5:00-8:00pm	
		<i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	<i>Junior Committee Meeting 1:00pm</i>		<i>House and Grounds Meeting 5:30pm</i>			<i>Gin Fizz 8:00am Breakfast 9:00am Shotgun</i>
		<i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	<i>Golf Rule Changes Seminar 6:00-7:30</i>		Happy Hour 5:00pm-7:00pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			<i>Greens and Fairways Meeting 5:00pm</i>		Social Mixer '\$1.4K Bounty' 5:30 - 7:30pm	<i>Event in the Hall 5:00 - 11:00 Sponsoring Member Chad Fillingner</i>
		<i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	<i>Board Meeting 6:00pm</i>			
24	25	26	27	28		
		<i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>				