

The Willow Park

GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2600, CASTRO VALLEY, CA. 94546

Issue: May/June 09

Club meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Next Club Meeting:

June 18, 2008 - 6:30pm
WP Bar Annex

Tournament Deadlines:

Wednesday, June 17

Club Officers:

Tony Paniagua

President
510-785-5866

Mike Jones

Vice President
925-837-2151

Doug Goodale

Secretary
510-886-6578

Robin Paniagua

Treasurer
510-785-5866

Directors:

Dave Albair
George Pekkari*
Daniel Gil
Al Hamilton
Joe Johnson
Tom Joseph

* Appointed to complete term of Steve Davis

Committees:

Tournament Chairman
Tony Paniagua
Handicap Chairman
Mark Hemenez
Membership
Larry Cobleigh
Webmaster
Daniel Turner
Newsletter Editor
Steve Falzone

2009 Tournament Schedule

Jun. 28	Directors – Major
Jul. 19	TC Surprise – 4 Club
Aug. 2	Away Tournament
Aug. 23	Presidents – Major
Sep. 12-13	+ Club Championship – Major
Oct. 18	+ Skins Competition
Nov. 22	TC Surprise – Red, White and Blue
Dec. 13	Regular

+ = Regular tournament PLUS special event

Presidential Focus

June Notes: So was it hot enough for you. Seems just a little while ago we were complaining about it being cold. I guess we now need to start complaining it's too hot and wondering when it will get cooler. Seems like a vicious cycle we play in but one I'm sure that is enjoyed by all.

It looks like our "Special Events Committee" has come up with a good idea for the closest to the pin competition. It appears the competition is for a bigger prize with the competition between players from the same teeing areas. I'm told that the holes will be rotated so the players can have a shot at the easier holes as well as the hard ones. Excellent work and thanks all around to Mike Jones and George Pekkari.

I also want to say a special thanks to Carol Pekkari and Chris Davis. If you don't already know they are the volunteers that try and get you to sign up for the 50-50 and the new closest to the pin competition. Thank You to both of you for doing an excellent job.

I want to also thank all of you who participate in the 50-50 raffle and new CP competition. As you know the money we generate goes into the general fund to assist in the expenses of the club. By doing this we have not had to increase membership fees or tournament entry fees. Doesn't mean we won't have to look at and consider it for 2010 but for now 2009 looks pretty good.

To give something back we will be having another raffle at the June tournament. This one you will not have to pay anything to

enter. All you have to do is enter the June tournament and finish the round. Do that and your name will be entered in the raffle. The winner will have their next tournament entry fee paid for by the club. This will not be valid for the Away or the September tournament. To further increase your odds the Officers, Directors and Board members of the club will not be eligible. The winner will be announced at the completion of the tournament. You will not need to be present to win. You will however be responsible to make sure your completed score card is received by the TC. The winner will be notified by email. I will also send out a broadcast message and include the winners name in the July newsletter

Speaking of 2009 and the budget, I thought I'd take a moment and give you a brief overview of the budget. As you know the bulk of the revenue generated comes from the collection of membership fees. We collected almost \$11,000 dollars this year. What you might not know is that we have a little over \$5,000 that is allocated before we start January 1. These are the club's fixed expenses. These include but not limited to NCGA membership fees, Phone bill, P.O. box rental, Web site rental, etc. Next is the non-fixed as the amounts vary year to year. The biggest on this list is the tournament prize fund expense. As you may know we have been allocating between \$6,500 and \$7,500 for this. If you do the math you will see that if not for the fund raisers we do each month the hit would be in the tournament prize fund.

I invite you all to attend a monthly meeting when you can. More details are provided by the Treasurer showing what we take in and what we spend it on.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday June 18, 2009 at Willow Park at 6:30pm. The meetings generally last less than an hour so it won't take much of your time should you wish to attend. All members are welcome to attend.

May Notes: In the April meeting the "Events Committee" gave a report outlining some suggestions. I think they have come up with some good ideas for some skill competitions for upcoming tournaments. The committee is composed of Mike Jones and George Pekkari. If you have any suggestions you would like to bring up for considerations or have questions on what they have come up with, please contact either Mike or George.

As the year goes along I will be establishing several committees chaired by the officers and directors of your club. A few may seek your feedback or even your participation on the committee itself. I encourage you all to take the opportunity to do so whenever possible. This will provide us with a better understanding of what the membership is thinking while also giving you a better insight of how the club is run and what we as officers and directors are doing to improve the club.

Tony Paniagua – Club President

Tales from the Deep Rough!

June Notes: Well our tournaments continue to draw well. May's tournament had 60 golfers. So far this year we are averaging 63 per tournament. Good to see all of you playing and please continue.

Congratulations to the two man team of Larry Becker and Tom Holmstrom. They recently represented our club in the NCGA two man best ball qualifier. As a team they recorded a net 57 at the Deer Ridge golf course. This placed them first and earned them a spot in the championship round later in June. I know you all are with me in wishing them continued success.

The results of our 4 man qualifier are official. The 4 players who qualified and will represent our club in the NCGA East Bay Zone qualifier will be John Hone, Charles Bigelow, Larry Becker and Mike De Santo Sr. Please join me in congratulating them and wishing them well in the qualifier in Monterey.

We will continue to play the ball down. I may make a few modifications for dirt areas so make sure you check the rules and information sheet on the first

tee. Please also be aware that we will be reducing the allowable time to look for a lost ball from 5 minutes to 3 minutes. It appears that some folks are far too attached to their golf balls and stretching beyond the 5 minute rule. We are doing a pretty good job of keeping the pace of play going and I'd like to see it continue.

The greens are continuing to look better and better every day. They are also starting to speed up some as well. They could be a little faster but I'd rather they be where they are now then lose them because they were cut to low. The rough is a little lower which still provides some penalty for getting in it but at least we can locate our ball. Thanks again to Bernie and his entire maintenance staff keep up the good work.

Just want to remind folks of two important things. First is that while all members are welcome to play in the club championship in September you will not be allowed to compete for the club championship unless you have played in at least 3 tournaments through August.

Second is that the Directors and Presidents major tournaments will be the prequalifying for a spot in the October skins. This will be a two tournament combined scoring so you will have to play in both to win a spot. In order to secure the spot you will have had to play in at least 50% of the tournaments through September.

That about covers it for this month...

May Notes: First round of the NCGA Regional Zone qualifier is in the books. The current leaders going into round two are John Hone(69) and Mark Hemenez(74) on the gross side. On the net side the leaders are Joe Johnson(66) with a three way tie(68) for the second spot between Geoff Eltrich, Charles Bigelow and Larry Becker.

Congratulations to John Hone on a great round. He came in with a score of 69. I'm sure he can tell you about how he left several more shots out there and it should have been a 62. Great round....

One change I have made for May and beyond is reducing the allowable time

to look for a lost ball from 5 minutes to 3 minutes. It appears that some are taking far longer than the 5 minutes to look so to help with pace of play I will institute this change.

Speaking of pace of play it appears that some groups still think it's country club golf and they are the only ones on the course. There is no excuse for groups coming in one or two holes behind the group in front of you. The goal on pace of play is a 4.5 hour round. We are not playing for millions out here. Please play ready golf and start your routine for your next shot while others in your group are preparing for theirs. I'm not saying don't go through your pre shot routine when it's your turn just do what you can to get ready prior to it being your turn. Please be considerate of those behind you and keep up with the group ahead of you.

The course conditions seem to be getting near excellent status. The greens are coming back as well as I've ever seen them. The only suggestion I have is to perhaps cut the rough a tad shorter in some places. I love the distinction between fairway and rough but we need a fighting chance to find it. I can't speak for others but one thing I'm noticing is pace of play slowing down as a result of looking for an errant tee shot in the rough. Don't get me wrong I like having the rough just would like to see it lowered just a tad. You guys are doing a terrific job on the course and it's looking as good as it's even been so whatever you are doing keep up the good work.

Tony Paniagua – Tournament Chair

"At Large" Columnist

Each month this column is from a different Officer, Director or Chairperson.

No Column submitted this month

2009 NCGA Outings

The 2009 NCGA member-only outings is out. Registration has begun on some of the early dates. Take a look!
www.ncga.org/about-ncga/member_outings/