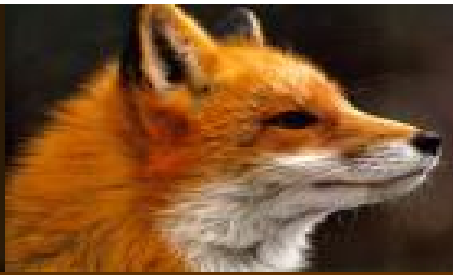


# The



# Fox

Volume IX Number 5

Ballston Spa Country Club 1925

August, 2007

## President's Letter

The past few weeks, three of my rounds at Ballston were with guests, six from out of town and the other three members of local clubs. All but one had played the course previously. My friends kept comparing the condition of the course to what they remember from their previous rounds at Ballston and also compared it to their home courses. Needless to say our course fared very well in both comparisons. When we discussed annual dues at Ballston vs. their courses, four of the guests asked how many do we have on the waiting list. Surprised to hear we had no waiting list, we discussed the memberships at their courses. Seven of the folks indicated their courses are experiencing a loss of membership. One of the courses was forced to go public.



*Dick Cody*

I know that many of us are perplexed that we are not at full membership. You may recall that we have 335 playing adults and have defined full membership at 375 playing adults. Each of us can help. Please use the coupons that you received in the mail this week from Tucker and give some of your friends an opportunity to play our course.

Over the next few weeks I will be meeting with representatives of courses in the area to discuss their membership status and some of the successful initiatives they have employed to maintain full membership. I'll share those conversations with you next month.

Enjoy our beautiful golf course.

## Superintendent's Report

I just have a few things to update everyone on. My crew and I have been busy with some small projects.

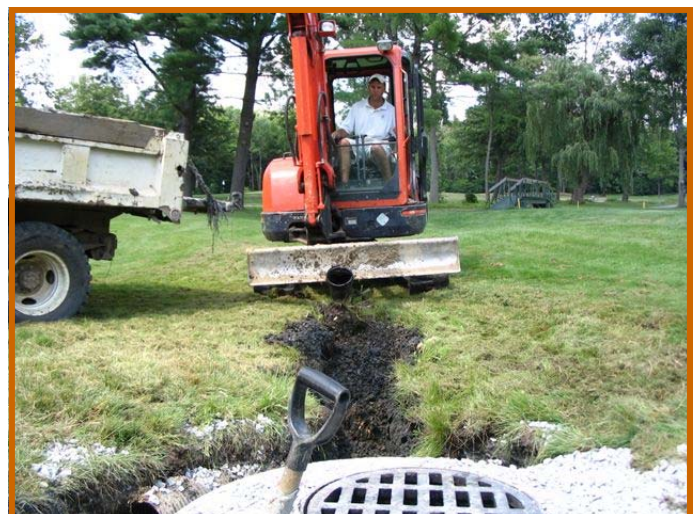


*Steve Solsky*

We installed a new irrigation line in the approach on the 3rd hole. The current irrigation head does not hit the entire approach. You might have noticed the dead area in front of the green. This additional head will ensure that the entire approach gets adequate water during a dry spell.

Another project that we have been working on is the brush clearing behind the 7th tee. A few years ago a couple of members cut some trees down to help the light situation on the blue tee. The area was never completely cleaned up and brush has since taken over. Our excavator made quick work of the brush by ripping everything out by the roots. The area was then raked out for stones and then seeded.

The next project that we are working on is the wet area behind the second green. This area will always be wet because it is the lowest spot around. I installed a concrete dry well and ran new drain lines to the dry well in hopes to use the tank to collect the water so it can be pumped out. The water will be pumped from the holding tank into the pond next to it and then make its way to the creek farther down stream.







From

The

# Golf Shop

## Member Events

The participation in the member events continues to be impressive. However, it is necessary for us to implement the payment policy to be made upon signing up for the event of choice. This will help the golf staff be more efficient during check in because we can focus on issuing scorecards, signing up players for golf carts and handling the pins and skins sign-up.

The Margarita tasting scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> is expected to fill up fast, so please make your plans accordingly.

A reminder that the Senior Men's and Women's Club Championships are scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August, with the Men's, Women's and Junior's on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, block your calendars now.

## Golf Carts

The Golf Carts now have filled sand and seed mix bottles to be used for divots, please continue to replace divots when applicable.

Thank you for adhering to the policy of having two players per cart and a limit of two golf carts per group. Limiting the wear and tear on the carts and every little bit of gas conservation helps us all.

## Golf Lessons

The Junior Golf Program will be continuing on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 through August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Bag Tags

The Golf Shop staff is collecting a list of any Member who does not have a bag tag. If you are a new member, or simply do not have a current bag tag, please contact the Golf Shop to confirm the spelling and how you would like the tag to read - Mr. Mrs., Ms., Dr., nickname, etc.

## Holes in One!

Congratulations to the most recent Ace maker's!

#2 Bob DeMarco

#17 Maxine Tucker  
Todd Manderson



Steve and members of the superintendent's staff install a new sprinkler head between the cross bunker and the third green (above and below)



Above: The area around the extreme back tee on #7 has been cleared, raked and seeded. For those of you who have never played from this tee, you have a real thrill (or not) ahead of you should you try the hole from this tee once it is ready for play. The view is wonderful, the scores - maybe not so wonderful



## Board Notes

### Defibrillator

I'm pleased to report that we have purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which has been mounted in the Club House, located just inside the entrance door. After conducting research, we selected the Phillips Heart Start AED because of its ease of use. This AED was designed for the novice user. Once the green "On" button is depressed, you will receive audible voice prompt instructions to guide you through each step.

*John Paolucci*

Everything needed is contained within the red AED case. A demonstration video and other detailed information has been published on our Internet Homepage. Thanks Keith! I encourage you to view the video.

We hope it will never be needed!

### Golf Carts



I hope everyone is pleased with our new golf carts and that you are taking advantage of the divot repair bottles to fill your divots. The Golf Shop staff is responsible for filling the divot bottles with sand and seed mix each day. Please remember to report any golf cart issues, maintenance or damage to Todd or his staff, so we can have the cart repaired as soon as possible.



### Green Fees

The summer guest and public greens fees have been posted on our new bulletin board outside the Business Office and Golf Shop.

For your information the current rates are:

Guest rate \$40, includes cart  
Public rate \$55, includes cart  
Public rate for August will be \$65, includes cart

## 5 Year Plan Committee

**Bruce Kay is looking for a few good women. He would like to hear from 2 -3 women who would like to serve on his 5 year Plan Committee.**

**Contact Bruce through the office and let him know if you are interested.**

## Not For Profit Report

The Board has unanimously approved the program to move forward and change our club corporate status to that of a not-for-profit corporation.

Primary considerations include:

Becoming income tax-exempt.

Ownership of the club will not change.

Virtually every other country club in the area is structured this way.

Fact sheets are being prepared and will be made available in the near future.

In the next few weeks, each shareholder will be contacted by one of our members to allow for Q and A and to seek your support. Should you wish to talk to me with questions before that, simply leave a message for me at the business office

(885-1603) or call me directly ( 877-5344.)

If you have ideas for a name of the new corporation – tell us.

Why pay income tax if the Government says you don't have to pay?



*Jan Holick*

## Snack Bar News

Effective immediately, the snack bar behind #9 green will be open every day from 10 AM to 3 PM, with extra hours available on afternoon league days. Prepared sandwiches will be added to the menu.

Members may also call the restaurant from #8 or #9 to order food which will be ready 20-30 minutes after the call. The special number -701-0018-has been established and will be posted at the tee on #8 or #9.

Important – should the snack bar be closed during normal hours, snack bar prices will be honored for snack bar food/drink items inside the clubhouse. These services will continue as long as members support them.

If you don't have a cell phone, you might ask the beverage cart driver to place an order for you.



# The Old Men and the Tee

For the minutes it takes to read these lines, our culture's enduring obsession with youth is officially suspended. Our subject is America's least exalted demographic: old men.

Old men play golf differently than the rest of us. Some play it well and some play it poorly but, as a class, their journey from the first tee to the last is worth studying. You can both improve your score and deepen the game's pleasures by paying attention when the elders lace up their spikes.



My own education began in a foursome that included three artificial joints: two hips and a knee. The orthopedic hardware was bolted to the bones of three men in their eighties, all residents of a gated community in Florida that includes my wife's mother. I joined them for a round during an annual holiday visit.

They eyed me warily as I walked toward them with the starter. I learned later that my own age was almost a deal breaker. As a reasonably fit "kid" of sixty, they feared I might disrupt the octogenarian rhythms of their round. We exchanged greetings, handicaps, picked teams and teed off. What followed was a post-graduate education in good manners, good fellowship and, in the end, what's so good about the game.

Like many retirees, they drove flamboyant golf carts: custom paint jobs, sound systems, flashy hood ornaments. There was the unmistakable echo of the Chryslers and Cadillac's they drove fifty years ago. One, apparently the group's quartermaster, had a year's supply of pencils and scorecards at the ready, wrapped in rubber bands and meticulously arranged in what, otherwise, appeared to be a medicine cabinet: Advil, prescription meds, band-aids, tubes of mentholated muscle cream, disinfectant and multiple grades of sun block. Sir Edmund Hillary conquered Everest with fewer provisions. Clearly, this would be no ordinary round of golf. This was a pilgrimage and the lessons unfolded on every fairway.

Golf Cartography - Old guys frequently have an encyclopedic knowledge of the natural world. After all, they've spent seven or eight decades walking around in it. If you're lucky, they'll map out the golf course for you, its landmarks, landscape and wildlife. Learning that your ball has come to rest under a "bougainvillea" and not a generic "bush" may be small consolation but it will better connect you to the golf course and, as the details accumulate, sharpen your appreciation of its architecture. Knowing that the bird cartwheeling overhead is an American kestrel, can turn an out-of-bounds tee shot into an occasion of wonder. Stop counting strokes and give more thought to the canvas you're playing on.

There's No Swing Like An Old Swing - Their swings are miraculously constructed. In the best of them, there's a hint of the 50's Ben Hogan; in the worst, an homage to the same decade's Bob Hope. In all of them, you'll see ingenious compensations for body parts that don't work quite as well as they used to. Their swings aren't uniformly pretty but they're predictably consistent and give new meaning to the term "muscle memory". Remember, they've been tutoring their neuromuscular junctions since Ike was in the White House. Because their testosterone is taking flight, they worship at the altar of timing and tempo more than young Turks do. During your next round, genuflect with them and watch your score improve.



Splendor in the Grass: Because they grew up during America's first mass exodus to the suburbs, these guys love to landscape. They repair divots and rake bunkers unfailingly. They minister to ball marks on the green as if they were bruises on a granddaughter's arm. They know, from the hard-won experience of guarding their own health, that living things need looking after. Whether you play at a private club or a pockmarked muni, leave every golf hole in better shape than you found it.

Take a Lesson - Remember, you're in the presence of men who have stopped punching the clock and can still afford a tee time. They have more or less successfully retired. They may not be able to lead you to the next Google, but any elder foursome can be full of sage advice on money, marriage and generally managing your life. Ask them about their lives and careers, turning points and blunders. Take notes.

The Wonders of the Wager: With their business careers behind them, a golf wager awakens a slumbering will to win. It is a kind of business deal, isn't it? Strokes are ferociously negotiated and the stakes, typically small, are agreed upon. They started playing golf when Byron Nelson ruled the sport and a buck was still a buck. It's not about the cash, it's about the contest and the unspeakable pleasure of extracting another ten spot from the flinty, New Englander they've been playing with since 1975. Bet smart, bet small, and play fiercely down the stretch.

The Killer Short Game - Every golfer has had a \$5 Nassau slip from his grasp as some old guy gets up and down on a crucial hole. This is their wheelhouse, where they swallow the indignity of being out-driven by seventy yards, offer a sly wink and go one-up on the match. Because they're on life's final lap, they know that how you start matters less than how you finish. Inside 20 yards, this wisdom is decisive. It doesn't hurt, of course, to have memorized every subtle swale on the golf course and they have. If you're lucky enough to meet one of these masters of the short game, share a beer with him after the round and pick up a tip or two.

Enjoy the Journey - When you tee it up with a man in his eighties, you might well be witness to his final round. As fit a fellow as he seems, the basic laws of probability insist that next week's foursome may be a man short and he knows it. I thought more than once when one of my foursome made his way to the bottom of a bunker that he may never come out. And that he might not mind that at all.

This must explain, in some measure, the simple joy they take in the journey. They generally play without anger or angst and, in an age of ball caps worn backwards and brawling basketball teams, they'll connect you to a gentler time.

They are the game's true historians and the keepers of its enduring civility. That golf remains such a grand, old game is largely thanks to the grand, old men who continue to play it.

**Thanks to Ed Lake**

## **Up to \$65.00 Off**

Use this coupon to introduce 4  
friends, neighbors,  
colleagues or relatives to Ballston Spa  
Country Club.

You have recently received two coupons such as the ones on the left.

The purpose of these coupons is to make it easier for you to introduce our Club and our great course to friends, colleagues and family, in the hope that they will be induced to join.

Please use these coupons with this purpose in mind.

Each Member or Family will be restricted to one coupon.

Each coupon will be honored for foursomes only. Pro-rating a coupon for less than a foursome will not be allowed. If you have less than a foursome, the foursome rate will apply, should you choose to use the coupon.

## **Up to \$47.00 Off**

Use this coupon to play with three  
guests at  
Ballston Spa Country Club.

**This coupon will be good for a round of  
golf, with cart, for**

# Tournament Committee Report

The July 4<sup>th</sup> Mixer was rained out and rescheduled for Labor Day.

## 2007 Men's Member Guest

As chair of this event, I would like to thank the following:

President Dick Cody for doing the calling for sponsors as well as handling the emceeing of the Calcutta.

Our Pro Todd Manderson, his assistant Jim Rossi and the rest of the Pro Shop staff - as always an A1 job was done by this crew.

Our superintendent Steve Solsky and his crew for the outstanding condition of our course. We got many nice comments as to the greens and all the off season work that was done.

Our main man in the kitchen Keith, and Richie in the restaurant for putting out a nice spread for the two days! All the wait and beverage cart staff for their putting up with our requests for those days also.

Our sponsors:

Tim Provost - Sneering, Monahan, Provost, Redgrave Title Agency, Curtis Lumber, Harold Townley - Wheeler Funeral Home, Ballston Spa National Bank, Pepsi, Quants Foods, Hill and Markes

Pete McNamara - Smith Barney

And last but by no means least, out hole in one sponsors, Jim and Tina Koehler - Scotia Dodge

To our two members, Mike Zegarelli and Paul Steves, who played as markers in the flight that needed another team to even it out.

Thanks to everyone that competed and I hope enjoyed themselves.

*Steve Ludwin*

Hope we have 60 teams next year!



## 2007 Tournament Schedule

<b>August 16</b>	Thursday	Women's Mini Member/Guest	4:00	SGS	2 BB of 4	Sue Kahler/ Beth Todd
<b>August 17</b>	Friday	Margarita Tasting	5:30	SGS	9-hole Scramble	Tom Hudy/Todd Manderson
<b>August 18-19</b>	Sat/Sunday	Men/Women Sr. Club Champ	9:00	TT	Match Play	Stan Ziobrowski
<b>August 22</b>	Wednesday	Men's Guest Day	12:30	SGS	BB of Partners	Tom Hudy
<b>Sept. 1 - 2</b>	Sat/Sunday	Men's Club Championship	8:00	TT	Stroke Play	Tom Hudy
<b>Sept. 1 - 2</b>	Sat/Sunday	Women's Club Championship	11:00	TT	Match Play	S. Naftzger / K. Oppedisano
<b>Sept. 1 - 2</b>	Sat/Sunday	Junior Club Championship	8:00	TT	Stroke Play	Tom Hudy
<b>Sept. 3</b>	Monday	Labor Day Mixer	1:00	SGS		J. Taylor / S. Mansfield

## 2007 BSCC Outside Tournament Schedule

<b>Monday July 30</b>	Ballston Spa Pop Warner	12:00	SGS
<b>Monday August 6</b>	Knights of Columbus	9:00	SGS
<b>Monday August 13</b>	BHBL	12:30	SGS
<b>Monday August 20</b>	Caddy Shack Classic	12:00	SGS
<b>Monday August 27</b>	BSEF	1:00	SGS

# The Winners' Circle

## 2007 Men's Member/Guest

### A Flight

1st: Bill Frank - John Barcz  
2nd: Dan Vignone - Eric Peterson

### B Flight

1st: Stan Ziobrowski - Norm Korniak  
2nd Tied: Tucker - Jim Fisher  
Doug Calvey - Greg Calvey

### C Flight

1st: Ed Schwenke - Jim Swift  
2nd: Bob DeMarco - Jeff Hartnett

### D Flight

1st: Bob Hartman - Mike Sivik  
2nd: Tony Reed - Joe Rogerson

### E Flight

1st: Mark Rider - Rob Rider  
2nd: Peter McNamara - Jack Ryan

### F Flight

1st: Dick Cody - Gus Cody  
2nd: Ron Penpraze - Bill Purdy

### G Flight

1st: Mike Lavigna - Mike Lavigna Jr.  
2nd: Peter faith - Steven Faith

### H Flight

1st: Joe Kerbelis - David Rosebrooke  
2nd: Winston Wachtel - Tom Bentley

Overall Shoot-Out Champions:  
Mark and Rob Rider

## 2007 Women's Mem/Guest

### Gross A Flight

1st: Suzie Mansfield, Flo Liberatore  
Susan Kahler, Betty Chiffolo

2nd: Brenda Adams, Susan Harnden  
Beth Bassett, Pat Mayne

### B Flight

1st: Debbie Cottrell, Dianne Ashley  
Maxine Tucker, Sandy Peters

2nd: Mimi Jakob, Jan Federice  
Joann Lampman, Pat Reynolds

### Net A Flight

1st: Peggy O'Day, Kris Youmans  
Betsy Drambour, Barb Green

2nd: Beth Todd, Sandra Frankel  
Barb Terpenning, Mary Law Powell

3rd: Sharon Naftzger, Lavette Perkins  
Paulette Martin, Patricia Piacente

### B Flight

1st: Tina Koehler, Sue Lundberg  
Sharon O'Connor, Stephanie Brown

2nd: Sharon Nevins, Donna Vanzandt  
Rosanne Greenwood, Cindy Levernois

3rd: Pat Furphy, Kathy Gill  
Jeri Carr, Noreen Ravish

## Men's 2 Man Scramble

### Garcia Flight

1st Gross: Dan Vignone  
Dave Wellington

1st Net: Ken Stevens,  
Jim Breitinger

### Stricker Flight

1st Gross: Tom Hudy  
Chris Brady,

1st Net: Jim Bryant  
Stan Ziobrowski

2nd Net: Tim Ball  
George Mahoney

### Els Flight

1st Gross: Brian Bergin  
John Caputo

1st Net: Dan Loewenstein  
John Paolucci

### Woods Flight

1st Gross: Ed Schwenke  
Bruce Kay

1st Net: Mike Farina  
Paul Dunklebarger

## The Martini Open

1st Tied: Debbie Cottrell  
Jack Cottrell  
Josh Cottrell  
Katie Billa

Sue Delanoy  
Peggy O'Day  
Dave Myers  
Brad Clark

Cindy Walkanowski  
Stan Walkanowski  
Pat Joseph  
Miles Joseph

## Senior Men's News

The Senior Men's  
Annual  
Tournament Will Be  
Held in September  
This Year

-Bruce Kay

## Women's 2 Woman Scramble

### Ochoa Flight

1st Gross: Joan Taylor  
Sue Delanoy

1st Net: Sue Kahler  
Suzie Mansfield

### Sorenstam Flight

1st Gross: Brenda Adams  
Beth Bassett

1st Net: Rayette Johnson  
Lauren Petraske



# Parring the 19th

As soon as you strike the ball, you know the putt will be spectacularly short of its intended destination. As you idly wonder how the ball/green combination has suddenly become Velcro, and are speculating on which component is the hook and which the loop, you hear one of your playing companions say it: "Hit it Alice!"

Another inevitable Golf Cliché.

It's getting old. I fight the urge, often unsuccessfully, to mouth the trite expressions we have embedded in our golf lexicon. You should too. If we all got a little more creative, our golf rounds would be appreciably more entertaining. Don't you think?

Let's look at the sort of thing we should be trying to improve upon and how we can do it. For example, if you hit a putt too long, someone might say "Hit a house!" This was funny the first 100 times you heard it, but the last 10,000 times have not elicited a lot of yuks. When you first heard it, it was comical because, unless you are playing McGregor Links, there is very little chance that there will be a house anywhere close to your over-putted ball. \*

BSCC Member Ron Symanski has gotten the whole idea of what I'm talking about, because he yells "Hit a Chicken!" when his putts are overly enthusiastic. Ron has taken a cliché and modified it to be different and funny. For the time being, anyway.

Way to go, Ron!



Another way we can be different while using the same sort of over-used phrases, is to use them sarcastically. When someone in my group hits a ball right at the flag, but the shot is obviously woefully short, either by fozzling it terribly, or popping it up in the air, I'll yell "Be the right stick!" This is much better than a straight "Well, at least you had the line!" Similarly, if someone in your group makes a ridiculously bad misread on the direction and/or length of a putt, it is fun, but also dangerous if you don't know them well enough, to say "Go in the hole!" just before the 10 foot putt comes to rest 8 feet from the cup. A wide-eyed "How did that not go in!?" spoken with an innocent expression of sympathy, is just as effective. The overly sarcastic "Good read!" just doesn't cut it anymore.

Then we have the option of adding comments to hackneyed phrases, such as "You're on the dance floor!" A follow-up such as "But nowhere near the band." or "Too bad you can't dance." adds a certain *je ne sais quoi*, not to mention an atmosphere of imminent, personal, physical harm, that can be quite exciting.

Other banal phrases that are simply stating the obvious, but in a humorous way, can be dealt with as well. Take "Never up, never in", or the alternative, but onerous "It's been proven that 92% of all putts short of the hole don't go in." It's tempting to respond "No shit, Sherlock!", but how about, "Not true at all. Dave Pelz has proven that to be a myth, through extensive national studies of putts logged scientifically in a controlled lab environment." This isn't a funny response, but it is a discouraging one. Your playing companion will make a mental note to avoid more of these retorts to his clichés in the future, and maybe he'll get more original.



Another expression of the obvious I abhor is "Nice golf shot!" Well, yes, I did make a shot that was better than my skill level warrants, but I believe the only shot I can make under the present circumstances is a "golf shot". It's not like we're bowling. Although, come to think of it, instead of "Nice golf shot!" it would be more interesting to say "That's a strike!" or "It's a home run!!", or possibly "Touchdown!!!" or "Goallllllllllllll!!!"

In any event., we need to start thinking outside the cup. The next time you hit a putt with too much chutzpa, forget about repeating Gary McCord's tired "Full flaps!" and yell "Hit something that will stop you, or at least slow you down somewhat!"

Believe me, your golfing companions will enjoy the variety you've just brought into their round.

\* This is going to get me into trouble. I just know it.



Tucker