



Ballston Spa Country Club

Volume XIII Number 1

July 2011

The Fox

## President's Letter

*This letter was written before I received Dave Runyon's excellent article on the Tee it Forward program (page 6), being promoted by the USGA. My letter to the membership was triggered by a comment from a Member just after the May meeting, when he said, "We're forgetting why we're here."*

Have you ever had a moment when you're so embroiled in a task or a process that you lose sight of what motivated you to embark on it? If you're lucky, you have a "Wait a minute!" moment when you step back and chastise yourself for losing your focus and becoming entangled in the minutiae or the politics of the situation, but this doesn't happen often enough for most of us.

This was certainly the case in the late nineties when I served on a Board that was so into the political aspects of every issue that we never really remembered why we were there. While we were positive in each of our minds that we were working for the betterment of the Club and the Members we represented, the partisanship was deep and wide. We made today's Congress look like a fraternity reunion. Meeting for about four hours every two weeks, we hammered out points in winded tirades that eventually came down to a 5/4 vote divided exactly on party lines.

The Boards I've served on for the past four years are entirely different in that we have disagreed on some issues, but have always been mature and considerate of each other's positions and never really left a meeting without resolving the problem, almost always unanimously.

Despite this harmony and the dedication shown towards doing what is right for the Club, we (Board and Members) still need to remember why we all are at Ballston Spa Country Club. Eighty-six years ago a few golfers decided to build a golf course for their own enjoyment. They wanted to have fun. And that's why we're all here today.

Every week the Board gets comments from Members (Owners) about this or that. Mostly they are positive, or at least constructive, but occasionally they are not. Occasionally they belie the rationale behind the Charter Members mission when they founded BSCC. We're here to play a game. To have fun.

I am as guilty as anyone when it comes to forgetting this, but I'm going to try harder. We all have other tasks and issues going on in our lives, but BSCC is neither of these. BSCC is the place you come to, to forget the pejoratives of your life. It's our playpen. I certainly don't want to discourage Members' input and would encourage you to take any issues you have to the appropriate Board Member, not a Club employee.

Our newest Board has begun tackling issues in the same manner as the past few I've experienced and this is good news. It has a lot of experience, energy and talent as well as some new blood and a positive attitude – a good recipe for success. While we have some serious challenges to tackle, I will try to remind everyone that, in our decisions and policies, we not lose sight of why we started this great Club.

Tucker

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Steve Solsky

## Superintendent's Report

Finally, we have had a change in the weather this past month. The extremely wet conditions have gone away and we can finally get in some rounds of golf. I am sure you were as depressed as I was this spring with the overwhelming amount of rainfall. We went from one extreme to the next, wet and cool to dry and hot. The brief hot spell caught us off guard with watering. We had soggy wet conditions for so long that you wouldn't think you would have to water anything anytime soon. Sure enough, some of our drier greens were wilting only four or five days into our hot spell. Thank goodness the weather changed back to a normal temperature and the course has shaped up pretty well.

With the weather cooperating, my crew and I were able to verticut and topdress the greens. As you know this process is very important for the health of the green and also for the playability of the green. The verticutting machine pulls thatch out of the green and stands the grass upright. Sand is then applied to smooth the surface. This whole process needs to be done once a month and sand needs to be applied every two weeks. My hope is that the weather cooperates this summer so we can get on a schedule to do this very important maintenance program.

This month we were able to complete a few of our outstanding projects. The new landscaped area down around the bathrooms on #6 was completed. More plants were added and the entire bed was weeded and mulched. The area next to the 8th tee was finished. The tall trees were removed and new shrubs were planted in their place. The entire area was then edged and mulched. The goal of this project was to give the #8 tees and the 7th green sunlight for a longer period of time during the day. Also, the trees were so large that the roots of the trees were growing under the tees. It is very difficult for the grass to grow when it is competing with tree roots.

I have been using the new sprayer frequently this past month. The machine has been working perfectly. It is great to have a machine that is new and reliable. Over the past few years we have been only able to buy used equipment due to budget constraints. Used equipment may only cost half the price of a new piece but the machine has only half its life left in it. I want to thank the membership and the board for the purchase of this new piece of equipment. Chad and I have one less piece of machinery to worry breaking down.

### Guest Pass Promotion

For a limited time (July 1-27) you can buy Guest Passes for \$30 each (regularly \$42). These passes can be used anytime in 2011. There is no limit as to how many you can buy during this 4 week period and treat your friends, colleagues and family to some golf at our great course. We are hoping that the increased exposure we get from this promotion will bring in a few Members who otherwise would not have the opportunity to play the course. Guests must play with a Member and any individual may play only 6 times during the year, no matter how many Members invite him/her. The passes will be available in the Golf Shop on July 1st.

In addition, we are offering a coupon promotion to non-members through an internet marketing company called Groupon. This is an experimental limited time offer (a few days in July) aimed at a different market segment. We are using Groupon to attract people who are not currently Members to come and give our course a try and will closely monitor the results for future promotions.

We have limited the number of rounds available in this trial promotion to 200. They will be good only during the regular Mon-Thurs. period and tee times will be controlled through the Golf Shop so that Members are assured of course availability. These coupons will cost \$34 each, but they must be used so that only 1 golfer in each 2some or 2 in each 4some use the coupon, with the other players paying full price.



# From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

## **Nobody likes Slow Play**

How many of you like a ranger checking your pace of play? It makes you uncomfortable and it makes me uncomfortable because this is our biggest complaint that we listen to every weekend. This is a very touchy subject with everyone and I would like to make everyone aware of some of the issues that I see with this.

We now have more members than we have had in the 12 years that I have been here and it is frustrating to everyone who comes across it. Each and every player has come across this at some point. The way to think of the process is to make sure that you stay up with the group in front of you and not to just stay ahead of the group behind you.



Each and every player should be taking care of their shot before it is their time to play. Don't try to set up for your shot when it your time to play. Do it before hand. The last thing I would like to say on this matter is that each and every person complains about the slow play but no one individual is the reason why it happens. So lets all try a little bit harder and be aware of it. Remember it is also ok to let a group go through.

## **Lesson Tip**



The golf swing can be a complicated thing of beauty some days and other days it is the most frustrating thing that you can even imagine. I consider a good golf swing to be very simple. It is "One that Repeats". When the backswing starts, most players take the club away with their arms which causes the backswing to start too fast.

A good way to slow down your backswing is to start the swing with your left shoulder. (Right Handed Player) When the left shoulder goes down on the take away, the shoulders will turn more in a half circle which will give the player a full turn for their takeaway.

Try this move on your backswing and see if it will help make you more consistent on getting the club into the proper position at the top of the swing. If you would like to learn more about the golf swing and the game of golf, contact me at the golf shop and we can schedule a session.

## **Rules of Golf**

### 6-6b/6 Marker Disappears with Competitor's Score Card

**Q:**

In a stroke-play event, competitors were instructed to return their score cards at the scoreboard. Unbeknownst to a competitor, his marker leaves the course hastily at the end of the round and does not report to the scoreboard. He takes the competitor's score card with him. What should the Committee do?

**A:**

The Committee should make every effort to reach the marker. If unsuccessful, the Committee should accept certification of the score by someone else who witnessed the round, perhaps the marker's caddie or the competitor's caddie. If no one other than the marker witnessed the round, the score should be accepted without attestation by a marker.



# Green Committee Report



Summer is in full swing and the golf course is in super condition. Steve has been working his magic at all the right times to make our playing conditions top notch. This means he's at the club by 4am watering before the regular work day starts and back again sometimes that same day at 8pm spraying or mowing. If you see him out on the course don't hesitate to let him know how much you appreciate his hard work and dedication.



*Sue Kahler*

Last month the first phase in the redevelopment of the area behind the 7<sup>th</sup> green was completed. A large section of tall trees were removed next to the middle and back tees on #8 and replaced immediately with a nice variety of new plantings. Thanks to the expertise of Green Committee member and landscape architect Steve McCorkell, the 8<sup>th</sup> tees and 7<sup>th</sup>

green will now get the sunlight they desperately need. Phase two of the project will be to continue the removal of taller trees that border Route 67 behind the 7<sup>th</sup> green and replace them with plantings similar to what was used in phase one. Completion of this phase will depend on the club's financial status later this summer.

The Green Cover Raffle for the past two seasons has provided enough revenue to purchase a total of 10 new green covers. Ultimately we need 20 to cover all of our greens so we are having a raffle similar to last year's, \$20 per ticket. The winners will be the ticket holders whose ticket number matches the 3 digit daily number drawn each day in September. With your help we hope to purchase at least 5 more covers this year. Please see a green committee member or Board member for your winning ticket.

Once again Turf Links is going to do soil testing on the greens. This is a check to make sure that the products we are using are ideal for the health of the greens. At the December membership meeting and again in the FOX I mentioned that this year the green mowers will be kept at a consistent height. The right products combined with consistent mower heights, occasional verticutting and deep-tine aerification followed by top dressing will all contribute to great a putting surface. The goal is to make all the greens as consistent as possible which I think we've achieved with these processes.



Lastly, with the wet weather we've had so far this season the bridge surfaces can be very slippery, especially after a day of constant rain. The plastic matting installed on the bridges on #1, #2 and #12 helps to avoid slipping. Please make sure you walk on this matting if the wood is wet. In addition, make sure your spikes are not worn down and that the bottoms of your shoes are free of grass. Even if your spikes are relatively new, the bottoms of your shoes can become clogged with grass rendering the spikes useless in avoiding slips. Each ball washer has a foot brush to help remove grass from the bottoms of your shoes. Have the pro shop check your spikes and have them replaced if they are worn down. Paying close attention to the condition of your shoes will really help prevent unnecessary accidents.

## *New Members*

If you see a new face, feel free to step up and introduce yourself. Make our new Members feel the BSCC Welcome. We have 45 new Members to date this year.

**Single A:** Chris Dragone, Don McCollum, Pay Hourihan, Joe Green, Al Funicello, Anthony Chmura, Ron Deperto, Scott Myers, Peter Crowley, Ron Pedrick, Craig Boyle, Joseph DeLong, Tom Kelly, Tom Brownell, Susan Landauer, Greg Cramer

**Single B:** Ed Charrette, Sean O'Brien,

**Family A:** John & Dorothy Nolie, Tom & Sandy Myers, Christine Bush & Skip Marcel, Gerald & Carol Sinsigalli, Randy & Jody McQuiston, Ed & Mary Esposito,

**Family B:** LUIS & Jennifer Pabon,

**Jr. Executive:** Elias Moskel, Tim Halpin

**Military:** Steve Yeager

**Student:** Tyler Hoosier, Josh Mauricio, Mark Kiley, Caleb Mosier, Zach Douglas, Luke Donah

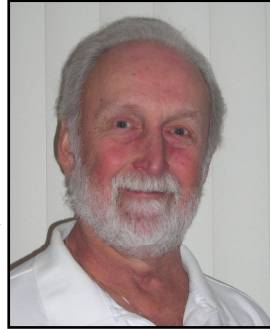
**Weekend:** Shane Scultz

# House/Restaurant Report



*Mike Zegarelli*

By the time you read this you will have had an opportunity to check out the new menu. Panza has added several additional selections along with your old favorites. In addition, the list now includes steamed clams every Friday and Roast Beef Buffet every other Saturday. Daily specials will also be offered. They will also be hosting several theme nights during the season (such as Italian, German, Polish, etc). In the past they have been enjoyed buy all. Information about special nights will be posted in the bulletin board at the left of the Bar door entrance along with email reminders. Please check them out.



*Bob Mishanin*

Jim Rhoads has wished his students farewell as he retires from teaching and will now in the BSCC kitchen full time. Please congratulate Jim on his retirement.

You should be enjoying the services of our **snack shack** at the 9<sup>th</sup> green and the services of the **beverage cart**. Please make sure that you take advantage of these services. The hours for the Snack Shack and cart are:

Shack	Weekend	8am – 12pm
Cart	Sat	11am – 5pm
	Sun	12am – 5pm
	As needed for leagues and tournaments	



Our members are not bashful and freely express their compliments and critiques. do so to Chef Jim Rhoads, his staff and any member of the BOD.

Please continue to

# Panza's

## ON THE GREEN

July is a busy month here at Panza's On The Green. To begin with, I have now retired from teaching so you will see me at the club more.

James has returned to Panza's Restaurant and will fill in here as needed, but we have a new cook. Our new full time chef is Tim Neal. Tim has been with Panza's for several years after working at the Publik House, Rusty Nail and Bentley's. Tim opened the Round Lake Restaurant as sous chef. He is a member of the American Culinary Federation and was the Sous Chef of the Year in 2009. He has hosted many wine dinners and recently did a Chaines des Rotisseurs dinner. Tim is excited about being at the club. Stop by and say hello to Tim.

On another note, Liza has been getting ready to move to Florida and Kim who also works at the Publik House will be working Tuesday, Friday, and Saturdays. Say hi to Kim too!

We have a new menu in place and the response is exciting. Friday nights are clam nights and the second and fourth Saturdays will be Roast Beef Buffet nights.

Here is our schedule of events for the month of July:

July 2<sup>nd</sup> German Night  
July 9<sup>th</sup> Roast Beef Buffet  
July 16<sup>th</sup> Beach Party  
July 30<sup>th</sup> Roast Beef Buffet

And every Friday in July is Clam Night

Watch for more details on the posters in the restaurant.

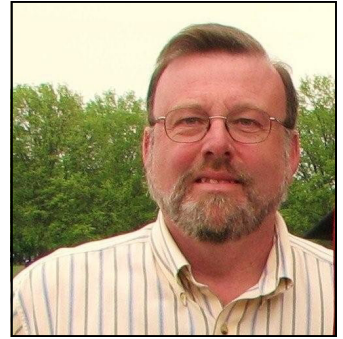
Jim Rhoads



# Are We Having Fun Yet?

Golf is supposed to be fun. We play it for enjoyment, for exercise, and to spend some time with friends. It is not supposed to always be torturous and frustrating.

To that end, the USGA has instituted a new program called the "tee it forward" program. Their thinking is that people should play from correct teeing areas to make the game more fun and to speed up play. You have no doubt seen ads to promote the program on the USGA's telecast of the US Open tournament. Are you playing the correct tees? According to the United States Golf Association's new "Tee it Forward" campaign you might not be.



*Dave Runyon*

Here is the basic formula:

Tour players should play a 7,600-plus-yard golf course.

Players hitting their tee shots the following distances should play from tees totalling the following lengths for 18 holes:

300 yds — 7,150–7,400 yds	250 yds — 6,200–6,400 yds	200 yds — 5,200–5,400 yds
275 yds — 6,700–6,900 yds	225 yds — 5,800–6,000 yds	175 yds — 4,400–4,600 yds
	125 yds — 2,800–3,000 yds	
	100 yds — 2,100–2,300 yds	

We're not talking age here, just distance. Handicaps will be the same because as you move up, the slope rating and the index will change. The whole idea is to have more fun. The fact that it will definitely speed up play is also a bonus.

One big detriment to this program is the inherent ego problem that many golfers have. To move up a tee (or even two tees) is a real kick in the ol' manhood. But when the golfer sees that he can now get home on all the par fours, and even give the par fives a run, it becomes moot.

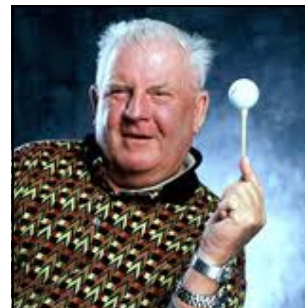
Lower scores are what all golfers should be most interested in. Not just who hits it the farthest. The second problem for many courses is the problem of actually building tees for all these yardages. My answer is quite simple. Do the measuring and set the tees on the fairway. No need to build elaborate tees unless you see that the forward tees are getting more play than the others. Supply and demand. But let your players determine that.

One Idea I read is for the tees to be numbered; ditch the colors; no guy will play aqua or red tees. What do you think?

You can read more about the program on the USGA's web site at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org)



## *Parring the 19<sup>th</sup>*



*Tucker*

When golf ball companies offer multi-million dollar endorsement contracts to top players, you know it's not a commodity industry. Though golf balls return a better than average profit to manufacturers, they seem like a commodity to most of us, because they are an item necessary to the playing of the game and my friends seem to go through so many of them each year.

Golf balls are expensive. With this in mind, we all make special efforts to use as few as possible during the season. However, our attempts at minimizing our golf ball consumption are often vetoed by our love of a fresh egg. Once a ball gets too dirty or ratty we assume it's ready for the shag bag. We may do this prematurely in some cases, as balls are keeping in round much longer than they used to, but we do it anyway, because there is no feeling quite like unsheathing a new sleeve of your favorite balls, watching the shiny white beauties tumble into your hand.

The major reason we buy balls though, is because they get lost. Notice the passive form of the verb. We don't lose them, they simply get lost. The rules offer us encouragement to find a stray ball, but the lost ball rule is probably ignored by more players than any other; they simply plop down another somewhere in the vicinity, and carry on, usually taking a one stroke penalty. No one wants to hit a provisional off the tee, this being an open and visible admission of ineptitude, not to mention pessimism and a fear of testosterone leakage. Once the ball can't be found, there is a similar resistance to returning to the tee or location of the last stroke.

So we look. Most of us look for the ball in places we would like to find it, rather than where the ball probably is. Others remind me of the old story of the drunk looking for his watch under the streetlamp. When asked if this is where he thought he lost it, he replies no, but the light is much better here.

If it is difficult to get to where the ball most likely is, we go to more accessible portions of the jungle in the hope that we got a good bounce or, if looking for a playing partner's ball,

we take the path through the woods, feigning interest in the search without risking poison ivy.

There is nothing more certain in a golfer's mind, than the fact that an opponent's ball is so irretrievably lost in a place no man has gone before, that it is a complete waste of time looking for it. But we spend the obligatory five minutes. Some four-somes have set routines, fanning out in a sweep that covers the maximum area in the least time, declaring a ball lost if not discovered in the drive-by search.

The other extreme is the individual who only walks on the fairway when it is necessary to hit his ball. He spends

all his non-hitting time scouring the rough, emerging at the green with burrs and the detritus of various flora attached to him. And usually a pocket of balls, often giving his playing partners an inventory, such as "Got 3 Titleists, 2 Top Flights and a Flying Lady!"

The ball retriever issue is another aspect that must be dealt with here. Real golfers who walk and carry their bag, hate to load their bag with any extra weight such as a retriever.

They selfishly assume some one else in the foursome will have one they can use. If not, they take the hit on ball usage. This is a despicably self serving attitude, but I'm going to continue to do it anyway.

The absolute worst thing you can do, is play a ball that is obviously yours, and yours alone. Sure, you can mark your ball with a special dot somewhere for identification, but no one but you knows it's yours. A few years ago I got a deal on a few dozen logo blackouts that were excellent balls, but they had this huge black blob on them, driving people at the Club crazy when I putted, and generally drawing a lot of mockery. The worst part though, was when people began returning a ball to me, knowing it had to be mine, and reveling in the act of describing the inappropriate part of the course where it had been found, sometimes erupting into an hilarious, spirited speculation as to what hole I might have been playing at the time.

The good part, is that I had found the ultimate means of finding my lost golf balls.





# *We Are the Champions, My Friend*

*(And we'll keep on golfing to the end)*

## **Men's Member/Member**

### **A Flight:**

**1st:** Mark Thornhill Sr., Mark Thornhill

**2nd:** David Fizer, Tom Shannon

**3rd:** Rich Vanbuskirk, Matt Riggins

### **B Flight Gross:**

**1st:** Mike Ray, Jud Sabey

**2nd:** Jack Cottrell, John Andrews

### **B Flight Net:**

**1st:** Dan Lowenstein, Don McCollum

**2nd:** Fred Dente, Pat McGann

### **C Flight: Gross:**

**1st:** Walt Smith, John Keyzer

**2nd:** Gary Lyons, Mark Sisson

### **C Flight Net:**

**1st:** Bruce Kay, Ken Stevens

**2nd:** Jim Bryant, Don Gallagher

### **D Flight Gross:**

**1st:** Stan Walkanowski, Pete Jorgenson

**2nd:** Joe Fredette, Steve Ludwin

### **D Flight Net:**

**1st:** Gary Brenenstuhl, Joe Kerbelis

**2nd:** Winston Wachtel, David Lane

## **Men's Guest Day**

### **Gross**

**1st:** Tom Hudy, Rich Sniffen, Bill Frank, Chris Brady

**2nd:** Ed Rufer, Mike Young, Pete Kanches, Bob Cooper

### **Net:**

**1st:** Skip Marcel, Jeff Marcel, Chuck Sovern, Sam Sien

**2nd:** Bruce Kay, Ken Stevens, Ed Duval, Mike Lavigna

## **Women's Member/Member**

### **Gross:**

**1st:** Anne Jorgenson, Cindy Walkanowski

### **Net:**

**1st:** Brenda Adams, Suzie Mansfield

**2nd:** Lauren Petraske, Rayette Johnson

**3rd:** Penny Monnat, Betty Thornhill

## **President's Cup**

### **Women**

**1st:** Kris Youmans

**2nd:** Brenda Adams

**3rd:** Barbara Krause

**4th:** Heidi Harkins

**T5th:** Suzie Mansfield  
Donna Nevulis  
Pam McGuire

### **Men:**

**1st:** Bruce Kay

**T2nd:** Mark Thornhill Sr.  
Keith McNab  
John Keyzer  
Steve Monnat

**T6th:** Ed Esposito  
Scott Meyers  
Steve Monnat  
Jim Oppedisano  
Jim Bryant

## **Opening New Members' Scramble**

**1st:** Shane Schultz, Keith McNab, Barb Ashbee, Garry Millard

**T2nd:** Joe DeLong, Don McCollum, Gary Lyons, Pam McGuire

Mark Kiley, Mark Stisson,  
Mike Radzewich, Al Squire

## **Men's Match Play Club Champ.**

### **Championship Flight**

Mark Thornhill def. David Fizer 3&2

### **First Flight**

Bill Frank def. Rick Funaro 1 up

### **Second Flight**

Ron Penpraze def. Ron Symanski 2 up

### **Third Flight**

Gary Lyons drf. Jim Orkins 4&3

## **Wine Tasting Scramble**

**1st:** Kris Youmans, Betsy Drambour, Larry D'Alberto, Peggy O'Day

**2nd:** Kathy Harkins, Donna Nevulis, Brenda Adams, Beth Bassett

## **Upcoming Events**

**Martini Tasting: July 8th**

**4 Person Scramble: July 9th**

**Sr. Club Championship July 16-17**

**Women's Member/Guest July 22-23**