



Ballston Spa Country Club

Volume XII Number 7

October 2010

The Fox

President's Letter

As we approach the end of the 2010 golf season, the Board has already started working on the budget for the 2011 season. We have drafted a preliminary budget that we will continue to refine over the next four to six weeks.

I would like to address the realities of our budget in this final Fox of the year. Over the past few years, we have had relatively small dues increases. Those increases were expected to meet our increased expenses in the coming year. Those dues increases do not provide us with any significant increased revenue to put towards equipment or course projects. Our typical budget is always balanced (revenue equals or slightly exceeds expenses). The Board is always looking for places to save money in our budget and use that money for items in the budget associated with golf course maintenance. That might mean a few thousand dollars more in course labor or maybe additional money in maintenance because we know our equipment is getting older. While Steve does a great job finding quality used equipment, it ultimately requires maintenance sooner than new equipment would. New equipment however is often cost prohibitive and out of reach for us. For example, a new sprayer can cost over \$40,000 and that is more than we have collected in any year for our course improvement fund.



Rick Funaro

As a result of our budget being one that supports operating expenses only, the course improvement fund is critical in providing additional funds to purchase equipment, purchase a new pump for the irrigation system, lumber for a new bridge or other improvements to the golf course. That fund has netted us anywhere from \$22,000 to \$30,000 over the past years, depending on the amount requested from the membership.

The key to moving forward in a more accelerated manner is to increase our membership. At our current membership level (approximately 325 playing members), we generate roughly \$560,000 in revenue. That is about 60% of our total revenue. If we were to increase our membership to 375 playing members, that would potentially increase our membership revenue by \$80,000 to \$100,000 depending on the ratio of memberships (single vs. family memberships). That is three times what we generate in our course improvement fund in any one year. That would allow us to make more improvements, purchase some new equipment or start a fund for larger future projects.

We are certainly working hard to make BSCC as attractive as possible for potential new members. With Global Foundries starting to hire we are optimistic about our future membership levels. However, until membership increases, the course improvement fund remains key.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with a final update on how much we have saved this year in our credit card charges. Through August of this year credit card charges totaled \$6550. Through the same time last year our charges were \$11,985 for a savings so far this year of \$5,435.

I certainly hope you all enjoyed the 2010 season and I look forward to seeing you again next year.

If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints, please don't hesitate to contact me. My email address is tucats@nycap.rr.com or you may call me, (W) 395-6472 or (H) 371-1926.

October 2010

Ballston Spa Country Club

The Fox



Superintendent's Report

Steve Solsky

These past few weeks have been great weather wise for growing grass. Cool nights and sunny days have really improved the turf on the course. Although there are still some areas on the course that need to fill in, overall we are in pretty good shape. We will be aerifying all the greens, tees, and fairways this fall. As you know, this process is very important for plant health and is also a great opportunity to put down some seed in areas that have died over the summer.

After Labor Day, my crew and I started the long process of aerifying the course. We started with the fairways on the front 9. The aerifying process on the front 9 went as smooth as it could possibly go. The sun dried the plugs great allowing us to pick them up and break them up. We could not possibly pick up every plug on every fairway so we usually pulverize some of the plugs with a drag mat. All our equipment worked great and we had no breakdowns. The back 9 was a different story. The sun was not out and the plugs were not drying out. Consequently, some of the plugs were mashed into the turf and are still there. Eventually the grass will fill in around the smashed plug and the fairways will look like they did in the spring and early summer. Our new core harvester worked great. We collected a lot of plugs that we will use in future projects.

The greens will be aerified on the 29th and 30th of September. Due to the large number of outings and tournaments that we have this month, the greens aerification dates have been pushed back to the end of the month instead of after Labor Day like we used to do.

One problem about aerifying later in the fall is temperature. The temperature at the end of September is a lot colder than it is in the beginning. Consequently, the greens will take longer to fill in. The grass loves cooler weather to grow in but usually at the end of September you are dealing with frost every morning. Freezing temperatures do not help with growing grass. Your growth time each day become shorter and the grass takes longer to recover. It is important that the greens fill in completely before the cold days of winter end the grass growing season. The healthier the turf all over the course is when winter comes, the better it will be able to withstand the frigid temperatures, snow, and ice of the winter months. If we go into the winter healthy, we will increase our chances to enter spring healthy.



Another Great Reciprocal

Effective immediately, we have a reciprocal with Columbia Country Club, bringing our total reciprocals to 11. The course is very similar to BSCC and welcomes BSCC Members for the price of a cart. Please make your tee times through the Golf Shop.





From the Golf Shop

Todd Manderson

Golf Shop Credits

We are trying something new this year as I would like everyone to use up your credit on the books by October 31st. I have a lot of inventory in stock and would like everyone to use it by the following date. Maybe think ahead and get some of the X-mas gifts out of the way early to avoid the jammed malls later. I still have over 400 soft good items in stock which include rain shirts, golf shirts, wind vests, wind shirts, for men and women. The inventory won't last long so come in and use those certificates. All merchandise Credit is to be used for IN STOCK merchandise only. No special orders.



Eastern NY Senior Team Champion.

I recently joined 13 Senior players from Ballston Spa Country Club for a season ending golf event at Glens Falls Country Club. Each senior plays their own ball and combines their net score with my gross score for an aggregate total. I am happy to say that Peter McNamara and I combined for the win. Peter scored a gross 77 and combined that with his handicap for a Net 62 to go along with my 72 for a combined 134 and a 5 shot victory. Peter played very well that day and we won a Trophy that has been ongoing since 1940. We will have our names engraved on this trophy forever. Congratulations Peter on an exceptional round and I am glad that I was able to help you win the award. Good Job.



Pete McNamara

Congratulations to Kyle.

Kyle Greth, my assistant, is going to take the plunge and get married to his fiancé Amy Near. Kyle will be getting married on October 9, 2010. Kyle has been with me for 6 years and I would like to wish him all the best of luck in his new marriage.

In House Tournaments

The tournament committee will be putting the 2011 Tournament Schedule together soon for next year. Anyone interested in chairing one of the events for next season should contact David Fizer. We are always looking for Members to chair the events as they are nearing. Anyone interested in joining the tournament committee for 2011 can contact David

Fizer also or myself and we will get you involved.

Ballston Spa Ski Racing Team

As you all are aware of, my family and I are very interested in Downhill Ski Racing. This past spring, the Ballston Spa Board of Education has approved the merger of Ballston Spa with the Burnt Hills Alpine Racing program. The program is a self funded program and needs to raise money to offset the bus and mountain expenses. We will be hosting a golf event on October 11th at Ballston Spa Country Club in an effort to raise funds for the program. Anyone interested in participating can contact me in the golf shop. The fee is \$75/player and includes golf and cart and food. Anyone interested in helping with a tee sponsor can do so for \$75 or \$130 and the latter will include and entry into the event. Thank you for your support.

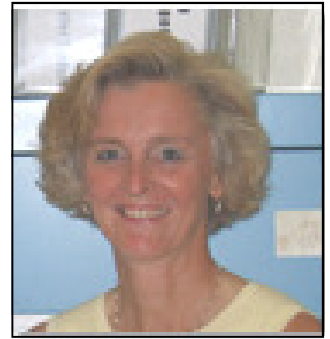


Kyle Greth

Congratulations to Kenny Bowler

Ken used a seven wood to ace the 6th hole earlier this month. This is Kenny's fourth hole in one!

Green Committee Report



It's hard to believe I'm writing this for the last issue of the Fox this season. It was a terrific summer for playing but very challenging for Steve and his crew. They stood up to a number of challenges through out the summer, from extreme temperatures to equipment failures and kept the course in great condition. Now that the cooler weather has arrived we expect the conditions to be even better throughout the fall months.

Like it or not, September is the month where necessary aeration takes place. As you know the fairways were aerified the first week of the month and by the time you read this the greens will also have been done. The process this year was much improved due to the purchase of a core harvester. This piece of equipment allows Steve to pick up the plugs more efficiently while also helping to stock pile them for future use. You probably noticed a good use of the plugs on hole #13, to redirect the existing cart path.

Sue Kahler

One area of the course which continues to concern the owners is the health of our greens. Our greens were very healthy early in the season but showed distress during the long hot stretch of weather in July and August. The Green Committee recently discussed what can be done to keep them healthy all season. To achieve better consistency, next season the height of the greens mowers will be increased slightly and maintained at a consistent level all season. A very slight increase in mower height will encourage root development, reduce the need for constant watering and prevent mid-season burn out when the hot, dry weather arrives. Continued use of the roller along with frequent deep tine aerification followed by verti-cutting and top dressing will also be done to make sure the greens are smooth.

As is true at the end of every season there are a lot of projects that need to be done to put the course to bed for the winter. **This year's Project Day will be October 23rd, starting at 8:30am.** We need your help completing a long to-do list such as cutting back all the grasses and perennials, feeding the shrubs, help to lay sod, remove overgrowth around tees, etc. Many hands make light work so with a large group of volunteers we should be able to get all the work done in a few short hours. Hope to see you the morning of the 23rd.

Finally, the 2011 budget is in development. While a dues increase is always a primary concern at budget time we will be focusing on developing an equipment purchasing plan and separate budget. Hopefully we will be able to implement such as plan in the very near future. It's hard to believe I'm writing this for the last issue of the Fox this season. It was a terrific summer for playing but very challenging for Steve and his crew. They stood up to a number of challenges through out the summer, from extreme temperatures to equipment failures and kept the course in great condition. Now that the cooler weather has arrived we expect the conditions to be even better throughout the fall months.

Thanks for another great season at Ballston Spa and as always please see a green committee member if you have any questions or concerns. Have a wonderful fall and happy, healthy holiday season.

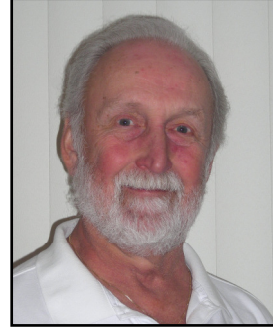


House/Restaurant Report



Dick Cody

Thanks to every Member who supported our restaurant this year and what a good year this has been with our caterer Tony Panza. From our very first meeting with Tony last winter, his focus is constant - take care of the membership. No issue was insignificant, Tony guided his folks to take care of members. When there is a potential scheduling conflict with an outside event, the first words from Tony "We can accommodate if it doesn't conflict with Member activities and their use of the clubhouse". You may remember that Panza's catered at McGregor Links thus affording us an opportunity to contract with a restaurateur familiar with operating a restaurant at a golf club.



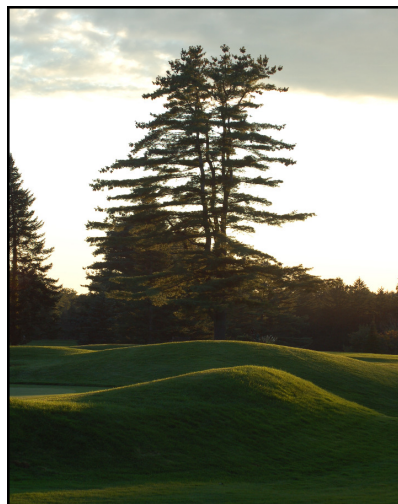
Bob Mishamir

Chef Jim Rhoads and staff have provided us with good food and service. We met every week with Jim and Todd Manderson to discuss the events of the past week and events for the week ahead. We also discussed any concerns and requests by members, the restaurant and Golf Shop staff. We wish to thank Jim and Todd and their respective staff for cooperation and the effort they all put forward to make this year a very good restaurant and golf experience. We have started to discuss next year and hope that you will feel free to provide your thoughts to Rosanne Greenwood and any of the board members.

On Friday September 17th Chef Jim Rhoads prepared an excellent Spanish meal for 40 Members and guests. This was the fourth "theme" banquet of the summer preceded by the Italian, German and Pig Roast. There will be an Indian theme meal prepared by Jim and fellow Panza chef AJ Jayapal in October. These banquets are special and offered at a reasonable price. Watch your email and signs around the club for the date. Don't miss it!

Is anyone interested in watching Saturday or Sunday afternoon football at the club? Panza will offer food and beverage specials if we are interested. Please contact us or see Jim Rhoads personally.

The 2010 Photo Contest is Barely Alive & Well!



Four great shots from our Members. I'm asking our 2 judges to give me the winners as soon as possible. The winner gets 2 guest passes, the runner up gets 1 guest pass. The results will be emailed in early October.

Good luck!

Handicap Committee Update



David Fizer

This year the handicap committee has intentionally taken a rather low profile in an attempt to remain as supportive as possible, and not too obtrusive. There have been a few questions asked about certain handicapping scenarios of which we have resolved. By and large the participation the members have taken in the GHIN system and its guidelines has been very good – thank you all for that.

Next year we have plans to provide even more support in that we will be posting more information and getting closer and closer to true compliance. One of the first steps to getting us up to speed is to make sure that our course is rated properly. Through a rather lengthy scheduling process it was decided that Thursday, August 19th would be the day of the re-rating. Another member of the handicap committee and I met the re-rating team at the club at 8am and this is where the fun began. Initially, the re-rating team was understandably standoffish and once they saw that we were making no attempt to influence their opinion or process, they warmed right up. As for the re-rating process; trust me when I tell you it was more thorough and comprehensive than I could have ever imagined. Please picture 5 people, all from the NYSGA (New York State Golf Association), going hole by hole, all taking measurements from 8am until just before 1pm. They took measurements from virtually every possible spot a ball could go. They measured every hazard, fairway angle and distance from where they estimated a scratch golfer and bogey golfer alike could/would hit the ball. There were measurements from the center of the fairway to not only the edge of the fairway, but to the rough then to what they called the extreme rough or out of bounds / woods etc. This was done at several different distances from each set of tees. After this was completed on a certain hole they would gather on the green and make assessments of what severity the green was and how it could affect play. Furthermore, they had a stimp meter that they used to judge the speed of our greens; by the way our greens that day were running at an 8.6 on the stimp meter.

To summarize the day – I would simply say it was a pleasure to get to see the process that was used to rate our course and that I feel very comfortable that our course rating will be accurately reflected when we get the report back. The person in charge of the re-rating informed me that it can take anywhere from 2-3 months to get all the data into the program and get the results from the re-rating days activities. One thing I did address was that when many others come to our course they never seem to play to their handicap rating – they all seemed to think that the re-rating will help.

One question that has already been asked is how my handicap change once the new rating goes into effect. Basically, it will change gradually with each score you enter (at the new rating). We will not go back and adjust the scores or apply the new course ratings for previously played rounds. Another good thing will be that this re-rating will likely go into effect at the very end of our golfing season thus enabling everyone to begin next year with the new rating.

Mixed Member/Member

Gross

- 1st:** Sue Kahler/Matt Riggins
2nd: Suzie Mansfield/Dave Fizer
3rd: Heidi Harkins/Jimmy Bryant

Net:

- 1st:** Roxanne Andrews/Jack Cottrell
2nd: Cindy Walkanowski/Stan Walkanowski
3rd: Penny Monnat/Steve Monnat
4th: Barb Ashbee/Bob DeMarco
Ron Penpraze/Mary Law Powell
Debbie Cottrell/John Andrews

Women's Club Championship

- 1st:** Anne Jorgenson
2nd: Sue Kahler
3rd: Max Tucker
4th: Suzie Mansfield

We're always looking for Members to help out with planning tournaments. It's not difficult and it helps us fill the tournaments. Please call Dave or a member of the tournament committee to let them know you want to help.



Parring the 19th

Having dealt with my two golfing weather phobias (rain and wind), I would like to complete the trifecta with a third meteorological blight on my handicap, that being cold weather and its many manifestations. Because I am a Canuck, one would think a lot of my golfing experiences in sub-zero (Celsius) temperatures would have occurred "north of the 49th" as we Hosers like to say. But no, pretty much all of my golf in frigid atmospheric conditions has occurred in the contiguous 48.



Tucker

I have a knack, it seems, at arriving at southern golf locales on beautiful sunny days with above average temperatures and no plans to golf that day. This is the Weather Golf Gods having a little yuk at my expense, as the next (golfing) day always morphs quickly into a Canadian Arctic air mass (Oh! The irony!) that would fast freeze Jerry Lee Lewis's great balls of fire.



This has happened twice. Once at Myrtle Beach on March 7 (Average air temperature: 68 degrees). My son and I had arrived the day before in glorious sunshine and 75 degrees. On the morning of March 8th, I listened to a starter at the first of our scheduled golf courses tell me that the wind chill was 18 degrees and that he couldn't let me out until it warmed up.

Years later, I arrived the day before our annual golf orgy in Ocean City, Maryland, again in March (Average temperature: 60 degrees) to outstanding mid-seventies temps and not a breath of wind. Next (golfing) day, we awoke to a cocktail of wind and a 38 degree air temperature mixed lightly with rain. There was only one course open that day. Fortunately, they boasted having the world's best Bloody Mary. It was definitely appreciated, but the thing I remember most about that fine drink was that at the end of our round, the ice was still intact in the plastic tumblers. That's cold.

Ocean City is the location of many a climactic calamity, with its strong winds and roll-the-dice temperatures. On one fine day in late March I sat huddled in a zipped-up cart, shivering, waiting for our turn to attack a peninsular par three over water. The Ranger had advised us to hit about 5 clubs more than the distance would normally require, due to the hurricane force winds, so we were making dungeon humor jokes and calculating our club choice (driver) on the 150 yard hole. We were right on the inland sea and my partner, visibly shaking from the cold and wind and rain, turned to me and said, "All I need to see right now is the freakin' Edmund Fitzgerald go by and I'm outa here".

Much the same weather was prevailing in southern New Jersey at the Atlantic City Country Club one year. The Amazing Max was playing with three of us macho males in a cold driving rain, racking up pars and a lot of cash in the process. I still remember the moment when, huddled behind the cart, watching Max stripe yet another ball onto a distant green, my fellow male golfer turned to me and said "When the hell is she going to pack it in? I'm dying out here!" Our male egos would not let us quit before the female, and it cost us dearly.

OK. So far we have dealt with a rapidly moving gas and a cold liquid, however, there is another element, a solid, that is often associated with cold. That's right, my barometric buddies - snow.

The only time I played golf when it was actually snowing was in a tournament run by June and Kenny Bowler's two sons, aptly named The Open Container Invitational Golf Tournament (the Tournament, not their sons), held one year at Galway Golf Club on December 4th. That is not a typo.



Big, wet snowflakes filled the air on the second nine and I watched the group ahead of us contemplating what to do about a ball that went onto a pond ("onto" because there was a thin covering of ice.) The determined golfer waded into the pond, asked for his hockey stick (this will be explained in a future column - it was a very unusual tournament) and slapshot the ball off the pond. The greens were whiting up quite rapidly by the end of the round and the wet snow grew the golf ball significantly, depending of course, on the length of the putt. Breaks were neither readable nor of any significance.

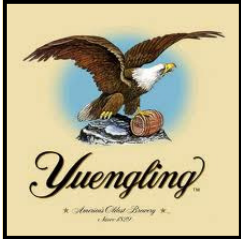
So there you have it, a frigid finale to my meteorological triumvirate of golfing neuroses. As we head into the Fall, I can only wish you sunny skies, calm winds and warm rounds.

Yeah, that'll happen.



ON THE GREEN

The summer may be over but Panza's on the Green is welcoming fall with these specials beginning in October.



Starting **Sunday, October 4** it's "Wings & Yuengs" from 4 pm – 7 pm. Get a dozen wings and a can of Yuengling for just \$9.00

Gather your friends for a "Deck Closing Party" on **Saturday, October 16** from 3 pm – 5 pm
2 for 1 draft beer and FREE Chili –
This special is available **ON THE DECK ONLY!!!**
No exceptions



Our delicious Sunday Brunch starts on **October 17** from 11 am – 2 pm.
We will offer a carving station, omelet station, pastries, juices, and the list goes on.
Just \$19.95 and reservations are recommended
Brunch will be offered each Sunday depending on turn out.

Our Halloween Brunch on **October 31** will feature ghoulish dishes along with a costume contest complete with prizes.

Oktoberfest!
Saturday, October 23 6 pm – 9 pm
Entrée specials and German beer
Choose from Wiener Schnitzel & potato pancakes and other German selections



It's not too early to book your holiday parties! Call us!

Stop the Presses!

This Just in!

Thursday, October 21st, 6:30 PM

East Indian Buffet Dinner

Watch for posters & emails for more details!