

CENTRAL MASS SINGLES GOLF

Central Mass Chapter - American Singles Golf Association — September 2011

SEPTEMBER 17TH - BUTTERNUT FARMS GOLF CLUB

July News

Our July events were held at Crystal Lake Golf Club, Sandy Burr Country Club, and Highfields Golf Club.

Of the 32 players at Crystal Lake, several of our friends from Hartford made the trek to this great Rhode Island course.

Even our old friend Gene Rozea showed up for this one. It was good to see him again. North Carolina seems to be treating him well. We collected golf balls to go to soldiers in Afghanistan. We gathered over 300 balls for the soldiers. I'm sure they appreciated them. **Armand** returned to his winning ways at Crystal Lake. Rounding out his first place team were **Harry Mackenstain, Tina Cullina, and Betty Shankel**.

Sandy Burr also had a large turnout with 28 players. Among the first timers were players who learned of our chapter through our new Meetup site and some new faces from the Boston Chapter. Newbies included **Patrick Connor, Stephanie Doty, Donna Kennslea, Sue O'Neil, and Dave Mactavish**. We hope to see them again real soon. Once again **Armand** led the way with the help of **Patrick Connor, Ellen Helmrich and Carol Bingham**.

Our final event in July was held at the popular Highfields Golf Club. Thanks to **Russ Avery** for bringing in some new

blood from Connecticut. They proved to be formidable opponents and broke **Armand's** sweep of July events. Coming in first was the team of **Mike Riley, Kathy Rovnak, Butch Tremblay, and Linda Carillo**. Check out our events scheduled for August on our website as we have added a new course to the schedule, Shining Rock.

Tip of the Month

Great Drills to Fix a Snap Hook

To help fix your snap hook you have to eliminate one of the many potential causes of your over-active wrists. Here are some drills to help you.

Our first drill is a simple one – grab a low-iron, choke down on the shaft, and start hitting balls. Choking down on the shaft will actually limit your wrists ability to rotate during your swing.

Our second drill – grab a low-iron, split your grip (but focus on having them in a neutral position) and start hitting balls. By splitting your grip, your wrists cannot get too far under the club on the downswing, and should help with better timing through impact.

Our third drill – grab a couple clubs in your hands and start swinging. You've probably tried this drill to warm-up before a round, but much like a fat putter grip re-

duces your chances to yip a putt with your wrists – the thicker club (and added weight) will accomplish two things: reduce wrist movement and encourage a smoother transition and tempo.

Our fourth drill – setup three balls in a row, a clubhead's width apart and setup, and focus on hitting the middle ball only.

This specific drill helps duck hooks caused by swing path issues.

Our final drill – Swing a thick rope. While swinging this rope, focus on rotating your hips, and not sliding them. The rope will help with your timing and tempo of your swing, upper body and lower body.

August News

August was a busy month for Central Mass. We had four events scheduled at Raceway Golf Club, Shining Rock Golf Club, Heritage Country Club and our annual Ryder Cup match scheduled against the Hartford Chapter. Raceway is always a fun place to play. They have a great ice cream stand and it is also one of the best deals as you can enjoy a Raceway burger at the completion of your round that is included in the fee. What could be better, golf with your friends, burgers, and ice cream! The format for this tournament was similar to the Ryder Cup format with teams

NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATION

Upcoming Events Include (see SinglesGolf.com/events)

- Sacramento Chapter's High Sierra Holiday, Reno, NV- September 9-11, 2011
- The Battle at Hilton Head - Hilton Head Island, SC - November 10-13. www.SinglesGolf.com/BattleAtTheBeach
- New Year's Weekend Event 2011/2012 - December 29, 2011-January 1, 2012. Two Locations - Palm Springs & Florida
Details at www.SinglesGolf.com/NewYearsInFlorida & www.SinglesGolf.com/NewYearsInTheDesert

Office Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm, M-F (Eastern)

LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

Regular Meeting Date: Third Thursday of each month

Next Meeting: TBD

Meeting Location: Check website for details

Our Website: <http://www.centralmass-asga.com/>

Our Hotline: 1-888-465-3628

(See next page for list of officers and board members.)

To join, renew dues, make a change of address, phone, etc., call National Hotline at left.

**Central Mass Chapter
of the
American Singles Golf Association**



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of two playing 6 holes scramble, 6 holes alternate shot, and 6 holes play your own ball. **Carmine Plumley** and **Jan Yost** were the big winners here, capturing first place overall and also winning the play your own ball portion. **Russ Avery** and **Janet Carter** won the scramble portion and **Armand Flynn** and **Diana Swenhall** won the alternate shot portion.

Shining Rock was next on our schedule for August. We had another large turnout for this one with 28 players. We even had the President of the Albany Chapter, Marion Gongola, join us for this one. This was a popular format with the A and B players playing their own ball and the C and D players playing a scramble. It seemed to work well for everyone. Winning this event was **Kim Tartarini**, **Les McCoy**, **Butch Tremblay**, and Marion Gongola.

Our final regular scheduled event for August was at Heritage Country Club. While this one did not have as large a turnout as other events, a great time was had by all the players. Placing first at Heritage was **Mike Riley**, **Les McCoy**, **Russ Avery** and **Carol Bingham**.

Our Ryder Cup match was scheduled for August 27 at the Tradition Golf Club in Wallingford. Unfortunately, Hurricane Irene had other plans and the bad weather caused the event to be cancelled. We are currently looking into rescheduling but with the dog days of summer dwindling down it may be hard to find an open date for each chapter. Stay tuned for future updates on this event.

On our schedule for September are Kettle Brook, Butternut and Townsend. These are three of the favorite courses in our chapter. Please check the schedule and our website, and sign up for these in the coming weeks.

Tip of the Month

Chipping with Control

When faced with short chip shots around the green, you should be getting up and down with ease. Consider a short-chip shot like a modified putt.

Here are some suggestions to help make these short chips more automatic.

1) Choke Down – For this short shot, you will need the added control and reduced power that a choked down club produces. This forces you slightly closer to the ball and should help you judge dis-

tances more accurately.

2) Acceleration – The number one fault of amateurs around the green is the deceleration. It's hard to notice if you're not looking specifically for it, but if your chipping is extremely inconsistent, I'll put my money on it that you're deceleration.

Even on these short shots you must be accelerating! **Let the length of your back-swing dictate the amount of power your chipping stroke generates**, never the speed of your follow-through. Far too often do I see players "chipping" with long back-swings that are slowing down as they near the ball. For pretty much every kind of chip, you must follow-through to ensure the ball gets out cleanly... acceleration ensures this happens.

3) Putt It – When chipping, your stroke is identical in length and style as a putt to the same target. With a proper chipping setup, the ball will be positioned slightly further back in your stance, resulting in a downward blow that pops the ball over the long grass and gets it rolling soon after it hits the green. Apart from ball position, the stroke is identical to a putt.

Practice this swing and use these tips and start saving your strokes.

About Our Members

Happy Birthday to these members:

Bill Carlson - 10/01

Armand Flynn - 10/13

Patricia King - 10/13

Kathleen Scanlon - 09/02

Elizabeth Shankel - 10/07

Anne Wales - 09/19

These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)

Albert Richardson - 09/30/2011

These members recently renewed:

Peter Folta

Mike Hobby

Andrew Lipasti

Kathleen Scanlon

Elizabeth Shankel

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)

Jefferey Goodrow - 08/31/2011

Robert MacDonough - 07/31/2011

Mary Parslow - 07/31/2011

Ronald Pichette - 07/31/2011

Lenore Prueser - 07/31/2011

Brenda Smith - 07/31/2011

Our chapter currently has 39 members.

ASGA NATIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN SINGLES GOLF ASSOCIATION — SEPTEMBER 2011

BATTLE AT THE BEACH - HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC

WESTIN HOTEL AT PORT ROYAL - NOVEMBER 10-13, 2011

The national office of the American Singles Golf Association (ASGA) has announced another great opportunity for singles to meet, greet, fall in love then battle it out on two great golf courses. **Venue:** Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

This year, we'll be at the **Westin at Port Royal** in Hilton Head. We'll play two rounds of golf with optional day-of-arrival and day-of-departure golf as well. Details are still in the making.

Dates: November 10-13. **Cost:** Only \$349 (per person, dbl. occ.), includes two rounds of golf, cocktail party (cash bar), cook-out at the course, final dinner Saturday night. In addition, if you purchased one of our packages and attend this event, you'll receive \$25.00 off the New Year's event in Florida. If you walked in off the street, you'd end up paying over \$550.00 if you arranged this on your own!

With over 30 golf courses in the area, Hilton Head Island off the southern coast of South Carolina is simply the natural place to be when it comes to playing golf in the Fall. The weather is cool but not cold and the island is filled with great places to shop and resorts to visit. All-in-all, mix the beautiful weather with the great golf and many friends from across the country, and you've got the making for a great golf weekend. U. S. Air flies directly into Hilton Head Airport (Airport Code: HHH) which is just 15 minutes from the Westin and Savannah Airport (Code: SAV) is about 45-55 minutes away, so check your local airline to see what's available. Once you're on property, you won't need a rental car as there should be plenty of members with cars to get you to the courses each day. So be sure to make some friends!

So to get all the details on this fun-filled event, visit the website at www.SinglesGolf.com/BattleAtTheBeach (website for this event will be up by Sept. 6 at noon). If you'd like to register over the phone, call us at 704-889-4600 after the sixth.

New Year's Location: East & West Coasts

ASGA members will again be treated with two choices as to where to go for New Year's this year. Our Palm Springs chapter will again treat you to some great golf at Indian Wells and the national office will host an event Florida once again. For details on each, please visit www.SinglesGolf.com/NewYearsInFlorida or www.SinglesGolf.com/NewYearsInTheDesert. Details on the

Battle At The Beach

Hilton Head Island - SC

Nov. 10-13, 2011



Florida event will be posted on the website by September 10.

Elect Your New Chapter President in October

Each year, according to your bylaws (www.SinglesGolf.com/bylaws), your chapter is required to hold elections for a new chapter president which has a term running from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. Presidents who have served less than one full year are

eligible to run again. So be thinking about who'll lead your chapter in 2012.

Then, in November, your chapter should elect its four committee heads (golf, social, membership and communications). This gives the newly elected president and opportunity to put together his or her team for 2012. Everyone takes office January 1. The new Board appoints other positions such as the Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Committee Heads.

Reflections on Nine Eleven

It's often been said that time moves quicker the older we get. Remember, it took forever to get to 18 or 21? I remember 9/11 ten years ago like it was yesterday. I was on the phone with past



president of Baltimore chapter of ASGA, **Cathy Heuer** when someone said "a plane's crashed into the World Trade Center." How odd that was. The plane looked so small on TV because the building was so large. Over 3,000 lives were lost shortly thereafter. The ripple effect continues this day with the victim's children living without parents and the levels of security we encounter every day, not only at the airports

but with credit cards and identity theft issues. But at the end of the day, we know the things that matter the most now matter more, such as love for our family, our friends and the special relationships we develop through ASGA.

-- Tom Alsop, President / Founder, ASGA
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