



May 2017

www.BuchananFieldsGolfClub.com

It was a VERY wet winter. Seemed like the rains would never stop. And then they did! Could it have been because of this poetic plea that club member Steve Burton wrote and sent out several weeks ago??



Rain, rain you've overstayed, the game of golf we haven't played.
With all this rain I've gone stir crazy. My hopes of 18 are now quite hazy
I must admit—no golf, I'm lonely. I'm especially tired of "CART PATH ONLY."

Buchanan's nice, but only nine. Please bear with me while I whine

The rain's been needed, falling nice and steady. But holy cow,

ENOUGH ALREADY!!

—Steve Burton

Celebrating holes-in-one!

Gary Lucido had a hole-in-one on December 22, 2016 on hole #6. He used a 5 iron, distance 130 yards. Gary, of course, received \$200. But the club thought it would be a good idea to issue him a 1099 which is used for tax purposes. This was a joke but Gary was presented with a 1099 at one of our recent meetings. It would appear to the onlookers that a little tear appeared but we soon told him it was a joke. Gary enjoyed the \$200 insurance payout minus the many beers he bought. Congratulations, buddy.

Tino Frial got a hole in one while playing at Franklin Canyon Golf Club. He used a 4 iron for 165 yards on hole #11. Congratulations, Tino, but save the hole-in-one shots for our club and get paid better.

Dave Wallace, a longtime member of our club, also got a hole-in-one! It was a 171 yards, par 3 at Riverforest Country Club in Forsyth Georgia. He used a Cobra hybrid on April 28 2017. Congratulations Dave, but you missed out on the \$200 payoff at our club.

Congratulations to all!



BFGC rules of play adopted

At May's general membership meeting, rules of play for the Buchanan Fields Golf Club were adopted by a vote of the membership. The rules were developed by the Rules Committee, chaired by Ed Baldwinson.

Some highlights:

- ▲ Play all balls down, except when winter rules apply.
- ▲ No 'gimme' putts allowed—all balls must be holed out.
- ▲ When a maximum 6-inch bump is allowed in scrambles play, the ball may not be moved to a place that will significantly improve the lie. Balls in the rough must stay in the rough, balls in bunkers must stay in bunkers, and balls blocked by a tree must remain blocked by a tree.
- ▲ No more than 5 minutes may be taken when searching for a lost ball.



A complete list of relief allowed for immovable objects, including fences, on the course is provided in the rules. A copy will be posted on the bulletin board in the 19th Hole cafe, and more durable and portable versions will be developed for use by players.

The same meeting also saw discussion of proposed rules governing side betting. Two proposals were presented for consideration, and a third was made during the course of the meeting. No decisions was reached, and the new proposal was referred to the Rules Committee for review and recommendation.

**There are also many rules being changed by NCGA.
For a synopsis of those rules, see page 3.**

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

Rain hex
Holes-in-one!
BFGC rules of play

Upcoming Buchanan tournaments
Reno Tournament
Fall Classic

NCGA rules changes
Member Spotlight
Membership news

Basic golf etiquette
Christmas party update
Calendar of Events

Upcoming Buchanan tournaments

—Tournament Chair Dennis Donaghu

Our next tournament is the 18-hole Spring Championship on **May 20**. The deadline for signup is Saturday, May 13. It is an 8:45 shotgun start, and if you are not at your designated hole on time, you will not be allowed to play. Pay in the pro shop on the day of the tournament as with usual Saturday play. Cost will be the regular 18-hole rate plus a \$5.00 upcharge for the shotgun start.

The next tournament on **June 17** is the annual 49er Tournament that is played with just three clubs, 4-iron (or 4-hybrid iron), 9-iron and putter. It will be an 8:45 shotgun start followed by a BBQ (either hot dog or hamburger). The cost is \$20, the same as the last few years. This is a pay-in-advance tournament because of the BBQ, so checks made out to Buchanan Fields Golf Club (or cash) need to be sent/given to Treasurer Keith Conarroe or deposited in the slot under the computer in the pro shop. The last day to sign up, and pay, is Saturday, June 10.

On Saturday, **July 22**, we will play the second (summer) of the three Club Championship tournaments. It will also be an 18-hole shotgun start. Cost will also include a \$5.00 upcharge for the shotgun start, and payment will be made directly to the pro shop as with usual Saturday play.

Saturday, **August 19**, will be the second of the special tournaments for which George Hall is giving extra prize money. Lots of people won prizes at the first special tournament in April, and this one should also provide lots of winners. In addition to the most accurate drive contest that we had in April, George would like to add a putting contest with the winner getting a 10-play card and the second and third place winners getting gift certificates. There will be more information on this tournament at the monthly meetings.

Also, don't forget to sign up for the Reno Invitational tournament that will be played at both Red Hawk courses **June 4-7**. And mark your calendars for the Fall Classic in Monterey **September 24-26**.

TOURNAMENTS ON THE ROAD!



They say golf is always testing your skill against your opponent's LUCK. And now it's that time again to try your LUCK at our upcoming Reno Anniversary Trip, June 4-7th. A Funtastic tradition of golf, gaming, dining and socializing. While it has been a wet and soggy winter, the forecast for Reno is 100 % FUN with a 50-50 chance of having 50 people.

We're excited to announce this event as a Reunion Tournament with Dave and Cheri Wallace coming all the way from Georgia and another surprise golfer to be named later. So see, our LUCK has begun already!!!



The organizers of this year's Fall Classic in Pacific Grove have released details of the event. Dates are Sunday, September 24 through Tuesday, September 26. Lodging will be provided by the Olympia Lodge in Pacific Grove (the same as last year's location). Participants may reserve rooms for two or three nights.

The first round of golf will be at Pacific Grove on Monday, September 25, with an 8:00am shotgun start. Tuesday's round will be at Monterey Pines, also with an 8:00am shotgun start.

For Monday's dinner we have approached Max's in Pacific Grove, a restaurant that comes highly recommended by several club members. Max's is usually closed Mondays, but they have agreed to open just for us. Service should greatly exceed last year's experience. Hopefully, that will be booked soon.

The organizers also plan a happy hour on both Sunday and Monday afternoons.

The availability of shotgun starts at both courses is dependent upon providing at least 40 golfers, including those who play only 9 holes. Early RSVPs via email to Fred Arras will help to secure those arrangements, so please contact him as soon as possible.

NCGA rules changes under consideration



The USGA, the rule-making body for golf in the U.S., is contemplating some significant rules revisions to take effect in 2019. The following synopsis is based on a story which appeared in Golf Digest. Here are some highlights.

1. They hope to combine and simplify current rules to reduce the total number from 34 to 24.
2. The time you can search for a lost ball will be reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes.
3. When taking relief, you will be allowed to drop the ball from any height, down to one inch above the ground, the grass, or anything growing.
4. It will no longer be necessary to remove the flagstick when putting.
5. There will be no penalty for accidentally causing a ball or marker to move on the putting green.
6. You will be able to remove loose impediments in hazards, including bunkers. Touching the sand in a bunker with your hand or club will not result in a penalty, so long as you are not testing the surface or placing the club directly behind or in front of the ball or making a practice swing.

This list is not complete. These changes are recommendations, for now. The USGA is seeking public comment before adopting them. There are currently no changes contemplated for stroke and distance penalties for out of bounds shots or for hitting out of divot holes, unfortunately. Even so, they may add a little practicality to golf's often obscure and difficult rules.

Membership news

The club has printed new business cards to lure in potential new members. You are welcome to take a few if you have use of them.

The first year membership fee is only \$86 (\$1.65 per week) and renewals are \$76 (\$1.45 per week)—such a deal! Please consider inviting your friends to play with us; your buddy can play a couple of rounds with us prior to joining to see if it's a good fit. We can always use more members—the more the merrier!

Also, George Hall, the Manager at Buchanan Fields, has agreed to extend the incentive offer for new members. When they sign up and pay, new members will receive a \$25 gift certificate good in the pro shop for green fees and/or merchandise! This effectively reduces the first year membership fee to \$61, which works out to only \$1.17 per week! How can you lose?



This issue's member profile is **Faye Donaghu**. Faye was born in Glendale, CA and graduated from California High School in Whittier. She then attended Chico State University where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and was the only woman in the Chemistry department. After graduation, she was employed by the American Potash & Chemical Corporation Research Lab in Whittier where she met her husband Dennis. While working at the lab, she led a research project to develop a new form of laundry bleach for Lever Bros. that resulted in a patent for American Potash.

While living in Southern California, she indulged her interest in flying by earning her pilot's license at the Long Beach airport. All went well until, during her solo cross country flight, the engine on her single engine plane iced up and quit over the mountains between Long Beach and Bakersfield. While gliding down to look for an emergency landing spot on the Grapevine highway, the engine warmed up enough to be restarted, and the flight continued without further problems and was successfully completed.

Faye and Dennis moved to Pleasant Hill in 1972 as the result of a job transfer. With their young son Trevor at home, Faye took up another career as a metal sculptor, doing the craft show circuit including the Gilroy Garlic Festival, Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival and many of the holiday Harvest Festivals. Following some 20 years as a sculptor, Faye's interests focused on the new computer technology of desktop publishing, thus beginning her current career as a graphic designer. She spent several years working as a contract employee working for Unisys on Mare Island, publishing service and repair manuals for ships and submarines. When Unisys closed down, she became an independent graphic designer—and still is.

Being self-employed has allowed Faye to indulge her other passion, golf. In addition to the Buchanan Golf Club, she also belongs to the Wednesday Buchanan Women's Club and the Tuesday Franklin Canyon Women's Club. She enjoys playing with all of them and really enjoys the friends that she has made. She is still waiting for her first hole-in-one, although she did come within an inch earlier this year on the 17th hole at Diablo Creek. Oh, for half a turn more!

Missing Frankie!

Ed Gates has let us know that Frankie has completed her radiation treatment for now. She is gradually improving but still taking most of her nutrients are coming through a feeding tube. She is able to take in some limited liquid orally. Come back soon, Frankie!

Basic golf etiquette

It's important to have a good time when playing golf. To that end, here are a few pointers for how to conduct yourself when out on the course.

➤ On the tee — be unobtrusive and follow the balls

We play "Ready Golf." This means that whoever is ready to tee up and drive should go ahead and do so. If you're playing from the white tees, and you tee off before a blue tee player, as soon as you know where your ball will end up move off the tee box and out of the way of the golfer behind you. The same goes for women playing from the red tees.

It's considered rude to stand directly behind someone teeing off; stand off to one side.

Once the person on the tee addresses the ball (gets into a golf stance with the club behind the ball), it's time to stop moving around and quiet down for as long as it takes to hit the ball.

Remember, some of our members have, to one degree or another, vision problems. Try to keep an eye on their ball; they often have no idea where it went, and losing a ball because no one was paying attention can be really frustrating. If you're the one with poor eyesight it won't hurt if you turn to your teammates and ask them to keep an eye on your ball.

➤ On the fairway — be ready to hit, even out of turn

Generally, the person farthest from the green hits first. That being said, play "ready golf." If you're ready to hit before anyone else, go ahead and hit. No one will care, and it will speed up the game.

If you're standing by your ball wondering whose turn it is and everyone else is looking at you, it's a good bet that it's your turn. Also, if no one else has a club in their hand, it's time for you to hit. When (not if) you lose a ball, take a couple of minutes to look for it, then move on. A wise man once said, "If you're just starting out playing golf, don't use a ball you can't afford to lose."

Remember to replace your divot! There would be a lot fewer holes in the fairways if we all did this.

When a player finishes their pre-shot routine and addresses the ball, stop talking and moving around.



➤ On the green — Out of sight, out of mind!

Try not to leave your bag in front of the green. When your group is done putting and ready to move to the next tee box, walking towards the group waiting to tee off delays them. It's just as easy to leave your clubs on the side or back of the green. That way, when you leave the green, you're already walking away from the group behind you.

When you get to the green, fix a ball mark (or two). A very short video demonstrating the proper way to do this can be found here: goo.gl/JlZn2K. If we all did this, the greens would be much smoother.

When others are putting, courtesy requires you to stand as unobtrusively as possible. This means out of their direct line of sight, not directly in front of or behind them, even if you are standing off the green. (When playing in a scramble, your teammates may actually want you to stand behind them to see the path of their putt; it never hurts to ask.) Do not walk across the green while someone is putting.

When putting out, care should be taken not to walk or stand on another player's line, prior to or past the hole. Seriously, it's not difficult to avoid, and putting a footprint right in your teammate's way is considered rude and isn't good for the team.

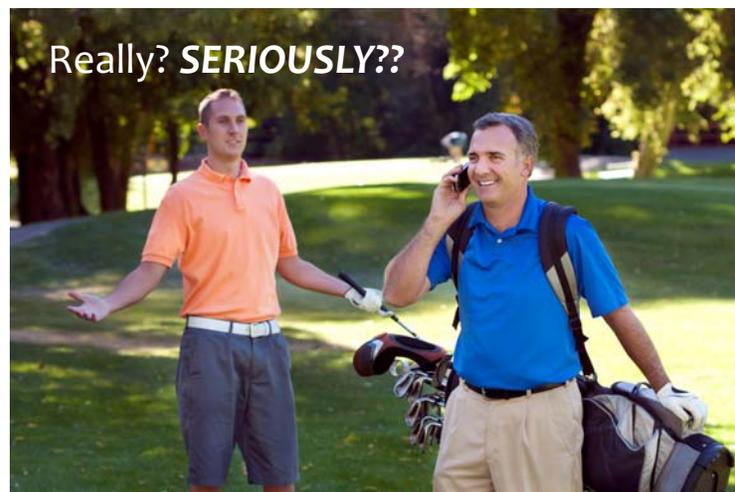
Putt in order of longest to shortest putt. If you're "away" or "out", be ready to putt. If you're ready to putt before the person farthest from the hole, go ahead and putt. It won't bother anyone else, and will help speed up play.

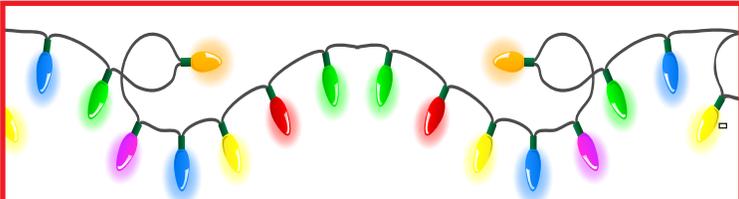
Pay attention to your shadow. If your shadow is within sight of the person putting, stop moving; if your shadow is on the line of the putt, move so that it isn't.

When your group is done putting, don't stand around discussing your performance or marking your scorecard; those things can be done just as well at the next tee box.



On the course or at the "Clubhouse" courtesy and kindness go a long way. JUST SAYIN'!





THE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY IS RELOCATING!

Looks like we may have a new place! Fred contacted the Moose in Concord and had a meeting with the Manager. He has agreed to provide the same level of service and the same menu we have gotten at the Moose in Martinez. We are signing a contract in the near future and should be set for December 2nd for our annual Christmas party. If you are interested in helping, please contact Fred Arras. Our members have been very generous in donating items for our silent auction. If you have any items we could possibly use in this silent auction, please let Fred know.

The Moose is located at 1805 Broadway St in Concord. The actual lodge has limited parking, but there are several parking lots nearby. Parking has not been an issue in the past. If you get a chance, you may want to do a run by to check it out.

CALENDAR *of Events*

May 20	18-hole Spring Championship tournament
Jun 7	49-er tournament
Jun 4-7	Reno Tournament (open to all golfers!). Contact Geoff Goselin for information at (415) 710-4271
Jul 22	18-hole Summer Championship Tournament
Aug 19	Special Tournament with putting contest
Sep 24-26	Fall Classic Tournament (open to all golfers!). Contact Fred Arras for information at fredarras@comcast.net.
Dec 2	2016 Holiday Party at the Moose Club in Concord (5:30pm). \$10 for members or \$15 for guests.

A bit of history about George Hall

I recently had the honor of dining with Bill Hall, George's brother. George is the Manager at Buchanan Fields Golf Course. Bill told me that George was a very good swimmer in the day and was on the same swim team as Mark Spitz!



I confirmed this with George who said they swam at the Pleasant Hill Swim Club on Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill. George was 14 years old at this time, the approximate same age as Mark. He knew their family well.

George also related a story about a time when Mark took a dive under the pool which was covered in black plastic at night. This would not have ever been a problem except it was at night and someone turned off the pool lights. This disoriented Mark who did not know how to get out. George came to the rescue by pulling off the plastic just in time.

—Fred Arras

Who doesn't love a good golf joke?



It took me seventeen years to get three thousand hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course. —Hank Aaron

