

Tide Timber Trail

From the Desk of the DOG

by Vito DeSantis, PGA Director of Golf (DOG)

April showers bring **May** bridge closures? I cannot believe that by the time this article is published we will be at thirty days to B-Day. No not birthday but bridge closure day. I hope that everyone has plans to stay close and play lots of golf. Hopefully the six-week window the Department of Transportation (DOT) is giving us quickly shrinks to four weeks and we can all go back to crossing the Canal on wheels instead of by boat.

As most of you know **April** is usually aerification month for most golf courses but we have chosen to move the aerification of our greens to **Friday–Monday, May 1–4**. This will allow us to maximize the playability of the Golf Course as long as possible up to the closure of the bridge. So remind all of your golfing friends on the other side of the water that when other golf courses are punching and sanding their greens, our putting surfaces should be healthy and smooth.

By now most of you have heard the word that Port Ludlow Golf Club has made the decision to close the Trail Nine. For most of the golfing community this came as little shock, but for some it came from left field. I want to convey that this decision was not made easily and every possible scenario was exhausted to keep Trail viable. Soon after its opening in the early 90s, it closed quickly for much needed renovation and re-tooling to make it a more playable nine holes. After the golf boom of the mid 90s and a contraction of players finding the game of golf, we, like many other golf courses, have seen rounds and golf membership steadily decline from record highs to near record lows. Add in the sputtering economy and the market we find ourselves in today, we decided to focus our efforts on the original Tide and Timber Golf Courses to make them the very best they can be. I have heard many rumors since the closure of the Trail Nine and I can assure you that if rounds go up and membership rebounds and the economy steadily rises, Trail will too!

With this said, Port Ludlow Golf Club is in the midst of a very exciting membership drive. If you have ever thought that you wanted to become part of the Port Ludlow golfing family, now is the time. Please contact the Golf Shop as soon as possible to discuss membership options and to schedule a tour. Act quickly; the membership drive will end **Tuesday, June 30** this year.

News from the Niners

by Beverly Browne, Publicity

The welcome social on March 19 was well attended. Everyone picked up their handbooks and should have a complete list of the games and the rules. There were minor changes in the constitution and bylaws. The aim was to eliminate repetition and tighten the writing.

Scheduled games for the ladies start on **Thursday, April 2**, on Timber followed on **Thursday, April 9**, with a game on Tide. Tee times for the Lady Niners **Thursday** play begin at 8:57 a.m. Further morning games for ladies are on **Thursday, April 16**, on Tide and **Thursday, April 30**, on Timber. Ladies and gentlemen will play a couples game at 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, April 23**. A social at the Beach Club will follow the play. Sign up at the Pro Shop to play and check your e-mail for tee times.

Plans are already under way for the annual Rally for the Cure, a charity event aimed at providing funds for furthering the fight against cancer. The Committee, chaired by Betty Quisenberry, met in March to assign tasks and make decisions about sponsors and other aspects of the event. Ladies can start shopping for a new pink outfit to wear. In past years it has been a highly successful fundraiser for the Susan B. Komen Foundation—plus being a lot of fun.

Men's Niners, following tradition, play on Tide when the ladies play Timber. Gentlemen should check their handbooks for the schedule of games and the Internet for tee times, www.plmga.org/niners2009schedule.htm. This month's games are: **Thursday, April 2**, Modified Stabelford; **Thursday, April 9**, 4-Man Best Ball; **Thursday, April 16**, Couples Shotgun at 3:00 p.m.; **Thursday, April 23**, Odd/Even and **Thursday, April 30**, Irish Four Ball.

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MGA Kicks off Season

by John Cragoe

The Men's Golf Association (MGA) season kicked off on March 4 with a four-man team event. The tournament winners were the team of Bob Smith, Terry Oswald, Dave Wheeler and Ken Avicola. Their combined score was 19 under par. The second event of the season saw nearly 40 members joining with the grounds' crew, pro-shop and Niblick's staff for lunch and golf. The members expressed their appreciation to the staff for all their hard work throughout the year.

In **April**, the MGA will have five events beginning with a two-man team, 6-6-6 tournament. In this format six holes are played counting one best ball, six on an alternate shot basis, and six in a scramble. On **Wednesday, April 8**, the first of the monthly qualifying events for the annual Medial Tournament will be played. On "tax day," **Wednesday, April 15**, four-man teams play one best ball. The season-long Eclectic begins the following week, which is also the first qualifying event to accumulate Ludlow Cup points.

The MGA spring meeting will be **Wednesday, April 15**, 4:00 p.m., at the Bay Club. There will be a cash bar and the MGA will provide food for all members. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The evening's program will include a very interesting history of the Port Ludlow Golf Course. Come and learn who scored the only hole-in-one ever on Tide 9.

This year the MGA has added a new trophy to be presented at year-end. The member who scores the most Closest-to-the-Pin wins throughout the season will be the MGA's Most Accurate Golfer. Bob Smith got a great start on opening day winning two of the four Closest-to-the-Pin awards.

WGA in Full Swing

by Turney Oswald, Scribe

April finds ladies' golf in full swing at Port Ludlow. The Women's Golf Association (WGA) Opening Day celebrations are **Tuesday, April 7**. Beth Weaver and her Committee have organized a full day of golf and a delicious luncheon around a French theme. The first member meeting of the year will follow lunch at the Bay Club. By having Opening Day in **April**, we hope to welcome some of our snowbirds back to the fold. We look forward to their arrival and hope they bring the sunshine home with them.

Many of the gals have been playing organized golf since early March and have found the Golf Course in great shape, especially the greens. If your game seems a bit

rusty, it may be time to schedule a lesson with Ryan, Brian or Vito. We are lucky to have such a great teaching group here at Port Ludlow and plan to have a few clinics for the members in the near future. Of course, I am reminded of a quote I read once that said, "If you want to get better at golf, you need to go back and take it up at an earlier age!"

On **Monday, April 20**, a team of Port Ludlow golfers will travel to Dungeness for the first TOP match of the season. TOP stands for Teams of the Olympic Peninsula and gives us a chance to play team match play against teams from Port Angeles to Gig Harbor. Good luck, ladies, in your first match.

Last year's Cinco de Mayo couples' event was so popular that we are repeating it again this year, so watch for the sign-up sheet and be part of festive celebration. It will be held on **Sunday, May 3**, and will include golf, dinner and Mexican music!

Don't forget to check out the goods in the Pro Shop. A new outfit is almost guaranteed to improve your game! Well, maybe not, but it will make the Pro Shop happy.



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