

Around Golf Club

5325 St. Andrews Arc
Leesburg, FL 34748
352-314-9000

www.monarchgolfclub.com

DECEMBER 2009

Welcome to the following Board of Directors Members elected at the Equity Members Annual Meeting on November 30.

Diane Christie
Lloyd Corbin
Gene Sass

Starting with the January issue of *Around the Club*, each newly elected director will be introduced.

From the Communications Committee
Lee Hitchcock, Chair

There were many things to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day this year, amongst them: family, friends, health, happiness and our club, which brings us together in this wonderful community. This past year was eventful, exciting, holding out hope for our future as The Monarch Golf Club at Royal Highlands. Member communications have been enhanced by revisions to our web site, monarchgolfclub.com, by webmaster, Tom Douglass making it easier to navigate and use as the information bulletin board for The Monarch, whether viewing it as a member or a guest.

Jeanne Hejduk has done a fantastic job with *Around the Club*, since becoming its editor-in-chief in July 2008. We all wish to thank Jeanne for her dedication and expertise in providing monthly updates and information

for club members in a newsletter format. Beginning with the January issue, Linda Fjeld becomes our editor-in-chief. Linda brings her experience in writing and marketing to *Around The Club* as she edits the newsletter part of the year in Royal Highlands and part in Minnesota where she and husband, Lee, spend their summers.

The next eleven months will test us as a club. There will be opportunities for all members to come together to capture the common goals of affordable golf and a stable financial future for The Monarch. There will be choices we will need to make. Welcome to those who always see the glass as half full.

We have begun a new fiscal year with an aggressive budget and a plan to see a successful conclusion to fiscal 2010. The budget includes a comprehensive marketing plan to increase outside play at The Monarch. This will help reverse 2009 revenue losses due to the loss of 30 memberships. The plan, but not the budget, includes marketing twelve-month renewable, no initiation fee memberships to further bolster revenue. More than 110 Players Cards have been sold providing purchasers with a discount on daily green fees and giving them a reason to play The Monarch. The current Players Card is good through April 2010.

The budget does include a dues increase beginning January 1, 2010 for all Members. In keeping with the pledge to Charter Equity Members, this will be their first increase.

From the Golf Committee

Ron Bouchard, Chair

CROWN CUP CONCLUDES—The men's match play handicap tournament has wrapped up with Ray Gardner as the champion. Ray prevailed over Frank Reickert in a hotly contested match. Twenty-four players participated in the gold tee division of this tournament. In the black tee division, the format was a double elimination without handicap. This format required a winner's bracket and a loser's bracket. If an individual player lost, he moved to the loser's bracket and played against other players until he realized a second loss. Paul Kitchen was the winner of the twelve-person field for this division. Congratulations to both Ray and Paul for some outstanding golf.

TURKEY SHOOT RESULTS—On Thursday, November 19, the annual Turkey Shoot Mixer was held. Eight four-person teams participated in the scramble that required a minimum of three drives per player. An ABCD player format was used. The winners with a 7 under par score of 65 were Mike Dennis, Lee Hitchcock, Betty Danish and Louise Mizinski. A scorecard playoff was used to determine the winners because the team of Dave Fitch, Wayne Sargent, Barb Krzyzanowski, and Margaret Cooper also shot 65 and took second place. Third place with a score of 67 went to the team of Steve Tibbits, Jim Dubsy, Lena Fitch and Kitty Bolier. Congratulations to these winning teams.

MULLIGANS FOR TREES—The Turkey Shoot Mixer was the first tournament where mulligans were sold to raise money to purchase and maintain trees. This program, conceived by Bob Bainbridge and Eldon Boom, sold mulligans at the price of two for \$5. The proceeds will be used for

purchasing and maintaining trees on the golf course. One hundred and forty dollars were collected and will be used in the future by Ramon Perez, our outstanding superintendent, for course beautification. We will sell Mulligans for Trees at similar events because it is a painless vehicle to raise money for this purpose.

THE CHRISTMAS OPEN—will be held on Friday, December 18 with an 8 am shotgun. **Note that this date is different than reported on the golf calendar.** The event will conclude with a lunch at the Crown and Shield. Mulligans for Trees will be sold prior to this event. This tournament will be the last tournament of the year so grab a partner and sign up. Sign up sheets will be in the clubhouse lobby beginning December 1. The format will be a step-back scramble with four-person teams. In this format, all team members hit their drives and the team selects one ball as the team drive. Whichever team member hits the selected drive, he/she does not hit the next shot. This format continues until the ball is holed out. Therefore, except for the drive where all four players hit, only three of the four players hit subsequent shots.

CREDIT BOOK USAGE- All golf credits earned between January and November 30 must be used by December 31. Those credits not used will be erased from members' accounts. There are several good buys for the holiday season in the pro shop so use your credits for yourself or a family member.

TEE TIMES ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY—Tee times will usually be used on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Shotgun starts in lieu of tee times will be used if there are outside groups scheduled to play or if special or seasonal maintenance is required.

From Your Handicap Committee

Christine Tibbits, Chair

To GHIN or not to GHIN

As members of the Monarch Golf Club, we have the **option** of maintaining a handicap index. That handicap index is calculated by the GHIN system, a computer program used by the Florida State Golf Association to compute handicap indexes. In January of each year, our Club is billed for our participation in the GHIN system. For 2010, the cost of participation in the GHIN System will be the same as it was for 2009 – \$28 for Monarch Golf Club Members and \$33 for non-members.

Participation in the GHIN system is totally separate from membership in the Monarch Golf Club. Quite a few of our members do not participate in the GHIN system, because they do not participate in competitions that require a handicap. They just want to play golf for the fun of it and do not want to worry about posting their scores.

However, if you want to play in tournaments or other competitions at our Club or other clubs, you need an established handicap. Participation in the GHIN system takes care of that requirement for you.

If you don't care to have an established handicap, **you can choose not to participate in the GHIN system. All you need to do is let the Handicap Committee Chairperson or our General Manager know before the end of December so that the Club is not billed for your membership in January.** If you do not notify the Committee or the General Manager that you do not want to participate, you will be billed the \$28.
[Please also be aware that individual

membership in the Florida State Golf Association is entirely separate from participation in the GHIN system. Participation in the GHIN system is only available through one's golf club.]

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Contact me at cttibbits@yahoo.com or 874-5598.

Important Notices

- Effective December 1 the pro shop and range close at 4 pm.
- The box for an hourly employees' holiday gift is located in the clubhouse through December 22. Cash or checks made payable to The Monarch at Royal Highlands are acceptable.
- The course will be closed for public play on Christmas Day. Members and their guests may play without charge. However, only members' carts will be authorized on the course.
- Members who have not spent their Crown & Shield minimum by December 31 will be billed the remaining balance on their January 2010 statement.

Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening – and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented.

--- **Arnold Palmer**

Nifty-Niners Announcement
Gene and Pat Sass, Coordinators

Take the opportunity to introduce a non-member friend or neighbor to our beautiful course by inviting them to come along with you to Nifty-Niner Golf. We meet at 12:45 pm every Tuesday. (There is a sign-up sheet on the table in front of the pro shop.) It is an afternoon to meet new people and play nine holes of fun, non-pressure golf.

We play lots of scrambles and games such as "No Putter on the Green", "Three Mulligans", "and Devil Ball", etc. We also frequently have chipping and putting contests and special dinners after golf at the Crown & Shield, including free drink coupons and special meal rates. It's a great way to get members and non-members together for a good time. Remember, many of you got hooked on golf in much this same way!



A SPECIAL HOLIDAY REQUEST

Dear Fellow Members.

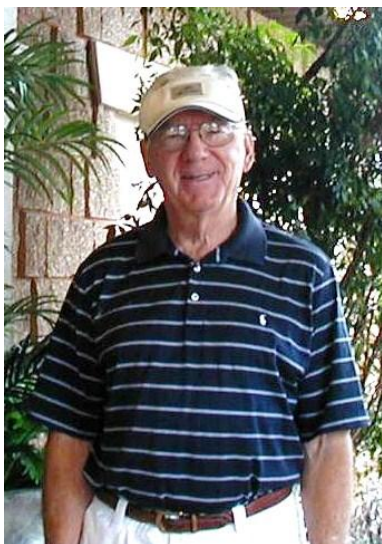
Last year we had a wonderful food drive for the children of Minneola Elementary. As one of the people who handed out the food to the needy families, it was heartwarming to see these struggling people walk out of school with at least three bags or more of groceries to help sustain them over the holiday break. Chuck and I have again decided to help. This all came about when the social worker/counselor and my daughter (special education teacher) decided to forgo the customary angel tree because too many of the children were stressed about not having enough to eat over the two-week break. The Monarch Golf Club came through with flying colors last year. If it not had been for the Monarch, the food collected at Minneola Elementary would have allowed only one bag per family. We did an outstanding job in contributing.

Not much has changed at Minneola Elementary. It is an elementary school of a little over one thousand students. It is now a Title 1 school, which means that they get extra funds to help with the number of students that are poor. Of the thousand plus students, over 400 are on free or reduced lunches, and the scary fact is that they have identified at least 15 of those students as homeless. They know there are probably more. Keep in mind that Minneola Elementary has been rated an "A" school since we moved here. This is a group of teachers and administrators that are trying their best for these kids.

We can help by contributing food. Monarch Members really came through last year and I hope we can do it again. When you see "buy one get one" specials, please think of contributing one for the kids. Especially good items are: peanut butter and jelly, breakfast cereals, rice, instant potatoes, soups, canned meats, Velveeta cheese (because it doesn't need to be refrigerated), cans of fruit or ravioli, pancake mix and syrup, spaghetti sauce with the spaghetti, or anything else you can think of that kids could eat or heat up for those lunches and breakfasts they will not get at school.

There will be a box in the lobby at the clubhouse for any donation of food that you can make. Thank you in advance for being so generous.

Sincerely,
Dona Nash



New Member – Nick VanDewerker

Nick and his fiancée, Terri, moved to the Royal Highlands November 1 of this year from Parker, CO. Prior to his retirement in 1995, Nick was an engineer for 35 years with Lockheed Martin. Terri recently retired from her career as an RN.

As vice-president of product assurance, Nick spent several years working on a spaceship to Mars at Cape Canaveral.

As a new member of the MMGA Nick looks forward to playing more golf and getting better acquainted with fellow Monarch members.

CROWN AND SHIELD CALENDAR December 2009

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- *Sign up for a house charge account and receive a 5% discount on all food and beverages.*
- *Bar and restaurant will be closed on Sundays. Beer and wine are available in the pro shop.*
- *Bar will be open until 5 pm on Mondays.*
- *The restaurant closes at 3 pm and bar closes at 5 pm on Wednesdays.*

Note: Bar will be closing early on the following days for these special events:

- ✓ **December 7 – Mr. Breezz – Dinner & Show**
- ✓ **December 12 – Black Tee Invitational – Dinner & Show**
- ✓ **December 19 – Birthday Bash**

NOTE – THE RESTAURANT WILL NOT BE OPEN FROM 3 PM ON DECEMBER 24 THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 (with the exception of lunch on Saturday, December 26) DUE TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

December Entertainment and Events

December 7 – Mr. Breezz



Mr. Breezz has been with us several times and we are always asked to bring him back. His wonderful singing either makes you want to get up and dance or just sit at your table and enjoy his melodies. Because it is now the holiday season, there will be gifts under the tree that will be raffled off. Join in on the fun to start the season right. We just may have a Santa Claus if we are all good boys and girls.

Menu choices:

- Chicken Tetrazzini W/Noodles - \$12.75
- Herb Roasted Pork Loin - \$13.50
- Potato Encrusted Grouper - \$14.50

Sign up by calling the Crown & Shield – 314-3908

Monday, December 28 – Fine Dining Night

Need to meet your Crown & Shield minimum for the year? Join your friends and neighbors for a wonderful fine dining night with the following menu choices:

- Chesapeake Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes (8 oz) - \$41.00
- Twin Canadian Cold Water Lobster Tails (8 oz) \$41.00
- Milk Fed Herb Marinated Veal Chops – (10 oz) - \$33.00
- Omaha Black Angus Filet Mignon Wrapped in Bacon - \$33.00

With the above choices, you will enjoy cream of lobster bisque with cream fraiche, garnished with shrimp.

The salad is a mix of arugula and radicchio tossed with wild mushrooms, roasted red peppers, Cilanginni mozzarella and shredded Asiago cheese served with sweet roasted garlic balsamic vinaigrette.

The meal will be capped off with Poached Cabernet Bartlett pears, stuffed with double cream French brie, laced with raspberry compote and rolled in a light puff pastry served with French almond whipped cream, all under a spun sugar dome.

What a fabulous way to end the year with a relaxing fine dinner. Last year was a huge success and this year looks like it will be the same.

Thursday, December 31 – NEW YEAR'S EVE



Ring in the new year with a prime rib dinner with all the fixings including a bottle of red or white wine or a bottle of champagne for a low price of \$33.60 per couple.



All Tuesdays in December – Southern Country Cooking



Buffet Menu

Fried chicken, cole slaw, mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, vegetables and biscuits. Price - \$9.50 plus tax & tip

NOTE – OTHER MENU CHOICES ARE NOT OFFERED ON TUESDAY EVENINGS WHEN THERE IS SOUTHERN COUNTRY COOKING. Reservations are recommended.

Game Days at the Crown & Shield

Monday and Wednesday from 1-4 pm are game days at the Crown and Shield. Wednesday offers Mah Jong only. Contact Dona Nash, Marilyn LaFauci, Evelyn Weasner or Carolyn Case for more information.

December Wednesday Lunch Specials

December 2 – French Dip w/Fries and a mug of beer or soft drink - \$7.00

December 8 – Chicken Po’ Boy w/Fries and a mug of beer or soft drink - \$6.50

December 15 – Reuben w/Fries and a mug of beer or soft drink - \$6.50

December 22 – Sausage, Peppers, Onion w/Fries and a mug of beer or soft drink - \$7.00

December 29 – Hamburger w/Fries and a mug of beer or soft drink - \$7.00

December Thursday Happy Hour Meals

Dec. 3 – Roasted Pork Loin –Drink Special Fuzzy Navel

Dec. 10 – Beef Enchiladas – Drink Special Margarita

Price is \$13.15 including entrée, soup, salad, bread stick, starch & vegetable

NOTE: No Happy Hour on December 17, 24 and 31

Finger foods with a drink feature will be offered from 5-6 pm with Happy Hour drink prices. Dinners served from 5-7 pm.

Make reservations for your group today by calling 314-3908.

Friday Night Fish Fry Night

Generous serving of fried crisp filet of fresh catch in season with French fries and coleslaw - \$9.49. You can also order off the menu.

NOTE: No fish fry on December 4 and 18.

Remember, the above prices do not include the 5% discount for using a House Charge Account that is available to everyone.

Events at the Crown & Shield for December

Dec. 1–Southern Country Cooking
Dec. 4–Lake County Seniors-Lunch Only (closed to public)
Dec. 5–International Police Assoc. (Closed to Public for Lunch & Dinner)
Dec. 7–Mr. Breezz-Dinner & Show
Dec. 8–Southern Country Cooking
Dec. 12–Black Tee Invitational (Closed to Public)
Dec. 14 – Men’s Match Play Luncheon
Dec. 15–Southern Country Cooking
Dec. 17–MWGA’s Closing Dinner (Closed to Public)
Dec.18-Christmas Open-Lunch Only
Dec.18-Kitchen’s Reception Party (Closed to Public for Dinner)
Dec. 19–Top of the Hill Birthday Bash (Closed to Public for Dinner)
Dec. 22-Southern Country Cooking
Dec. 28-Fine Dining Night
Dec. 29–Southern Country Cooking
Dec. 31-New Year’s Eve Prime Rib Dinner

Crown & Shield Happy Hour

Monday, 12-2, Tuesday, 4-5, Wednesday 12-2 & 4-5, Thursday, 4-6, Friday 4-5

Restaurant Hours (subject to change due to special events)

Monday 11-5–Hot dogs and snacks (bar only).
Tuesday 11-3 – Southern Country Cooking – 4-7 pm
Wednesday 1-3 Lunch –CLOSED FOR DINNER
Thursday 11-3 – Lunch -- Happy Hour Dinner Specials 5-7 pm
Friday 11-3 – Lunch -- Fish Night 4-7 pm (10% discount from 4-5:30 pm)
Saturday 11-5 – Lunch & Dinner (unless there is a special event)
Sunday- Bar and restaurant closed – beer and wine available in the pro shop

Check the web site for flyers and special meal announcements

Note from the editor

As many of you know, this is my final issue as editor of Around the Club. Thank you to each person who faithfully contributed an article each month highlighting the major events in their area of responsibility. Please join me in welcoming Linda Fjeld as your new editor. Linda brings a wealth of experience to the position. She can be reached at lindafjeld@comcast.net or 435-0003. Happy Holidays!
Jeanne Hejduk