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October 2018 Newsletter

## COMMODORE CORNER

**Hello Fellow Members!**



**Commodore Jack Chipak & WGO Chair Pat Chipak**

As your newly elected Commodore, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the present status of our club.

This past year has been a challenge to the Board of Directors in many ways. A slow start to the food service area, both in quality and delivery, membership levels with the financial obligation that it brings, and Mother Nature's effects in her incessant rain. The last one is easy: We have no control! The rain, over the season, has caused the cancellation of tournaments and significant loss in cart rental revenue.

On the brighter side, kitchen revenue has been up over the last few months with significant improvement in quality and delivery thanks to Food Service Manager Bob Sampogna, Chef Ross and a dedicated wait staff.

Membership, both in Golf and Clubhouse, has remained steady. A newly formed Membership Committee has been established to look into increasing membership rolls through media and print advertising along with new member incentives.

Along these lines, a new Kitchen committee has been formed to monitor and suggest ways to improve your dining experience. Our newly elected Board member Butch Schmaltz will be heading up the committee.

A new Communications committee is being formed to help Board Member and Club Publicist Chris Calder get out announcements throughout the year to keep the membership informed. If you have communication skills; Web skills, (WordPress) Social Media, InDesign or other layout program training, local newspaper contacts and/or other communication skill sets and would like to volunteer to help the Club, please contact anyone on the Board.

Last but not least, a Long Term Financial Sustainability committee has been formed to look into ways of securing short and long term viability through revenue enhancement and expense reduction.

All of these committees are staffed with past Commodores, present and past Board members, along with Club members at large, for the widest input of ideas. If you would like to volunteer your skills for any of the committees, please let anyone on the Board know. We can use your help!

One last note, you will all remember the bad wind storm we suffered about 5 months ago. We were able to negotiate a final settlement with the insurance company for damage done to the Pro Shop, course bathrooms, maintenance building due to the 12 fallen trees on the course. This settlement was in excess of \$108,000!

Employing a new insurance company, reducing our premium by \$10,000 a year, the above \$108,000 insurance settlement and the \$10,000 realized by the Last Man Standing raffle, headed by Vice Commodore Bill Bender, has put us in a much more stable financial position going into the end of the Club's fiscal year.

As you read this, the 2018 Scranton Canoe Club Season has come to a close. I hope the upcoming holiday season will bring joy and happiness to you and your family. I look forward to seeing all of you next April 1st when the Club's new season will start anew.

Warmest regards,  
**Jack Chipak, Commodore**

**P.S.** Shortly, you will be receiving an email survey from me asking for your opinions on how the Club is serving your needs. Feedback from you will be essential to the decision making process the Board will use on how the Club is run in the upcoming season. It is important, so please respond. Thanks!



**BINGO!** Our Bingo nights were really fun! Who knew? Nice buffets and some great prizes added to the excitement. Jim and Barb King display their winnings!

## 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JACK CHIPAK, Commodore, 570-650-3566; WILLIAM BENDER, Vice Commodore, 570-954-2200; MIKE HOPKINS, Secretary, 570-855-4655; MARK SCAPPATURA, Golf Course; 570-906-9887; BUTCH SCHMALTZ, Food Service, 570-563-2404; Peter Sehne, House Maintenance, 570-945-3282; ED COLEMAN, Pro Shop & Golf Events, 570-833-2939; Chris Calder, Publicist, 570-702-7448; Tom Wolff, Pro Shop & Golf Events, 570-933-1995; and Jody Fitzsimmons, Golf Course, 570-881-4579. Our Purser is DICK SCHWOEBEL, 570-677-7634.



Ann Marie Tyler, Beth Wolff, a lovely future member, and Nancy Connors 'manned' the grill at the Gazebo during the Wounded Warrior Tournament. Volunteers rock the SCC!



Doris Lindsley, Joanne Brunori, Kathy Meyers and Marie Price dance up a storm at our Margaritaville Happy Hour.



We had a nice turnout for our first Fire Pit Happy Hour! Members enjoyed pumpkin soup and kabobs while warming up by the fire. Thanks to all our volunteers!

## NEWS FROM THE PRO

Wow!! Where did the season go? I would like to thank everyone for another successful year here at the Canoe Club. We had a difficult year due to the rain that we received which seemed like every day but when we were able to golf we made the best of it. Tournaments were very well attended and we made sure to have fun and make it as exciting as possible. It is always a pleasure to have all the leagues we have at the Canoe Club and I would like to thank everyone for enduring the postponements and changes that occurred.

I will be giving lessons at Riverfront Sports in Scranton this winter. If you would like a lesson or are just looking for a way to get some swings in please contact me at my email [spencerlunger@gmail.com](mailto:spencerlunger@gmail.com) or give me a call at (570)335-8067. Again, I hope everyone has a great off season!

**Spencer Lunger**  
Head Golf Professional

## 2018 CHAMPIONS!



**Alex Altier and Jody Fitzsimmons pose with their 1st Place Trophies and Spencer Lunger at the 3-Day Winner's Ceremony.**

## 2018 TOURNAMENT WINNERS

**Opening Stag:** Mike Hopkins; **Commodore Cup:** Peter Sehne and Hank Hewitt; **Summer Slam:** Warren Rozelle and Michael Vassil; **3-Day:** Jody Fitzsimmons and Alex Altier; **Handicap Women:** Bette Connell; **Handicap Men:** Ryne Luce; **Match Play:** Corey Cuneo; **Men's Club:** Michael Lynch; **Women's Club:** Happy Daily Hazleton **Super Senior:** Huck Tench; **Westington:** Chris and Corey Cuneo; **Fall Classic:** Jody Fitzsimmons and Ryne Luce; **Closing Stag:** Corey Cuneo and Ryan Nelson; **Women's Member Guest:** Marci McDermott and Cheryl Farrell; **Member-Member:** Ed Connors and Ryne Luce

**NOTE:** Board Members Wanted! Due to family and work related responsibilities, Jason Wimmer and Marie King have resigned from the Board. We are currently looking for tech savvy Members to apply for the open Board seats. You must be a member for 3+ years.



## LAST MAN STANDING!

What a fun event and successful fundraiser for the Club!

Special thanks to Tom Wolff, Pete Sehne, the Benders and Members who sold and purchased tickets. Great buffet and lots of fun! Congrats to winners!



## NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Wow! What a year it has been! Mother Nature was relentless all season! Let's start from the beginning. April 1st is always our goal to open the golf course however, the weather is and always will be the deciding factor as to when we can open. We cannot allow play on frozen and/or dormant turf because the damage that will occur cannot repair itself. Additionally, the damage that will occur typically does not appear right away. April 1st came and went with snow and cold temperatures. It was 23 degrees when I arrived at the club on April 9th. Warmer temperatures were finally expected later that week and we were able to get the course opened for the year.

The later part of April and into the month of May was wet and cool. We were fortunate to be able to complete our greens aeration without too many weather issues. On May 15th we experienced a severe thunderstorm



Ryan Luce, Carmen Caputo, Michael Lynch, Art Brunn Jr. and Chris Beahan pose on #9 during the 2018 3-Day Member-Guest.

with heavy rain and strong winds. The winds blew down several trees, one landing on the course restrooms and a second one landing on the maintenance building while I was inside trying to stay safe from the storm. Fortunately, my friends at Brown Hill Tree Company were able to drop everything they were working on and came to help us with the cleanup process. Additionally, we had several members come help cleanup debris scattered throughout the course. The rain continued into June. Luckily, the week of our 3-day member guest we had one of the only few good weekends we had this past summer, weather-wise. We received 11.58 of rain since opening till July 1.

Then the real fun began with battling rain and heavy rain on a regular basis. Normally, by July we are set in a routine of mowing various areas of the golf course on a regular basis, but this year's rain events prevent us from doing so. Instead, we were forced to mow whenever we were able to and mow where ever we were able to without causing damage to the turf and equipment. Heavy rains continued to cause washouts in our bunkers which is a very labor-intensive project to get them back in shape. Waterlogged soils made it difficult to maintain areas. Our greens drained and performed very well.

Our tee and fairway aeration was set for August 7th. The weather forecast was good for this day with little chance of rain. Instead of using a typical aerator, I chose to rent a Verti-quake machine. This machine cuts slits in the ground to allow water a place or channel to run off and help dry the ground faster. This machine was working very well until a stray thunderstorm popped up and dropped just over an inch of rain on already saturated ground. We were not able to finish this process.

To date we received 44.27 inches of rain! Typically, from April to October we receive an average of 24.14 inches.

I hope everyone has a wonderful winter and a holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone once again in what I can only hope will be a drier 2019.

**Patrick D. Healey, Jr.**  
Golf Course Superintendent



Carmen Caputo and Bill McDermott, 2018 3-Day Member-Guest Co-Chairs announce winners in front of the ProShop.

## WGO GOLF FOR A CAUSE



*The WGO raised \$5,125.00 for the Lake Winola Fire Department during the annual Golf for a Cause event. Many donated gift baskets, sponsored holes and hit a few balls to help the ladies make this year's cause a success. Event coordinators were Ann Marie Tyler, Georgette Mecca, Karen Riviello, Sharon Karasack, Pat Mould, Chair Roberta Kelly, and WGO President Pat Chipak. Nicely done ladies!*

## 2018 INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE!



No luck for the Irish this year! Congratulations to the International Team in their win against the Irish in one of the favorite events every Fall - the International Tournament. Winners choose the celebratory dinner for next year's event. Hmmnn. Dinner suggestions?



Honor Guard at the International Tournament. Thanks again to Robert Farrell for his help in organizing the tip off! The International Challenge has turned into one of the most enjoyable events of the year!



2018 Commodore Sean McDonough poses in front of the Clubhouse fireplace with his wife Kelly, and family. Thank you Sean for your dedication to the Club, Course, Clubhouse and Membership.

