



2014 Season Opener Newsletter

Pen Pushers of America



Golf Society

www.penpushers.us

Welcome Pen Pushers! This is our 13th season as the Pen Pushers of America Golf Society. We hope everyone has been getting ready for our first outing of the season. Your Pen Pushers 2014 committee met last month and have been working to firm up the schedule and get ready for our 2014 season. We have some exciting golf outings planned for everyone this year. Last year we continued to increase the membership and had some great turnouts at events as well. We are looking forward to having everyone back and hope to continue the trend with adding more members this year. Let's all help by spreading the word by bringing guests to each outing. Keeping the outings numbers up helps us guarantee good rates and let us schedule shotgun starts. This allows us to play quicker and have less waiting around. Keep up the guest invites and help others enjoy more golf!

The Website is now open for event registration, so if you have not done so already, make sure you sign-up ASAP for our first outing which is only a few weeks away. Our first event is the Irish Open at Lansdowne is on March 19th. We are all hoping our opener this year will again be a nice WARM day like we had last season. Our first and last outings of the season are always a little dicey with regards to the weather, as some of you recall last November at Raspberry Falls. Let's all hope for some more Global warming effect for our opener at Lansdowne. We will expect a good showing so... Go now and register for this great opportunity to play a course that is normally closed to the open public.



Speed of play was again, still an on-going issue last season; this year we are changing the 5 minute lost ball rule to **3 minutes**. Once you arrive at the location where you believe you hit the ball you have 3 minutes to find your ball. After 3 minutes you **MUST** take a 1 stroke penalty drop a ball, in bounds, where you feel the ball went. Even if it went out of bounds, Drop it, in bounds, and continue to play. Everyone **PLEASE** help those **Goat Boys find their balls** and encourage speed of play. If you cannot score on a hole, **PICK YOUR BALL UP!**

Handicaps- We still are "Tweaking" the handicap formula's to make the scores fair for everyone. This year, we again made some changes to the handicap adjustments that helps with getting people back on track when they have a bad game. At our last committee meeting, we discussed this year's changes. Steve Smingler, our new handicap Czar, will explain the details. Thanks to our past Handicap Czar Dave Watts who did an excellent job keeping track. We think our system is fair and will give everyone an opportunity to WIN.

Annual Dues- We need everyone to Sign-up, send in their \$50.00 membership dues, and get out there on the range and work on your game! Remember the \$50.00 memberships help pay for the trophies and ensure we have lots of food at each venue. Some of the clubs make us put down deposits, so we use the membership's dues to help with this. We are also creating another perpetual trophy for another event this year. Thanks for sending in your membership dues! (Mailing details provided later in this newsletter)

Let's all plan this year to make as many outings as we can and make this a GREAT year for our Pen Pushers golf society. This year we are giving awards for "Perfect Attendance"

2014 Committee Members:

Special thanks to John Fraim for his role as 2013 Captain. Let's all welcome in the 2014 Captain Brian Hogan and our new Vice Captain John Kravatz. We want to also give a BIG thank you to Dave Watts who is retiring as our Handicap Czar, He is turning over his spreadsheets to our new Handicap Czar Steve Smingler. Steve promises to keep everyone's handicap up-to-date and agrees to not to accept any bribes for handicap adjustments. Thanks to everyone who helped plan and worked our events last year. We appreciate your hard work and dedication! and welcome those who want to help out more in the future.



Here are your 2014 Committee Members:

John Sullivan – Chairman
 Paul Tierney – Vice Chairman
 Brian Hogan – 2014 Captain
 John Kravatz - 2014 Vice Captain
 Steve Smingler - Handicap Czar
 Jon Fraim – Event Coordinator
 Matt Jacobs – Event Coordinator
 Bob Caines – Event Coordinator
 Mike Rubin – Event Coordinator/Communications

Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2014 List of Events

Event:	Coordinator:	Dates:	Location:
Irish Open	John Sullivan	March 19 th	Lansdowne
Spring Challenge	Mike Rubin	April 16 th	Bull Run
British Cup (27 Holes)	John Sullivan	May 14 th	Stoneleigh
Founders Trophy	Matt Jacobs	June 18 th	Blue Ridge Shadows
Patriots Memorial (27 Holes)	John Sullivan	July 16 th	Shenandoah Valley
Summer Championship	Bob Caines	Aug 13 th	Loudoun Golf and Country Club
John Denale Memorial Captains Day Challenge	Jon Fraim	Sept 17 th	1757 Gulf Club
Autumn Challenge	Paul Tierney	Oct 15 th	Hidden Creek
Turkey Shoot-Out	Paul Tierney	Nov 12 th	Raspberry Falls

2014 Outing Rates:

We will again keep to last year's established, "Fixed Rate", of \$80.00 for each outing. Keeping this rate should help out with speed of registration (exact change) and keep costs consistent throughout the year. Each year the courses have bumped up their costs for Food and Greens fees. We have done everything we can to make our events enjoyable and good value while playing quality courses. Please help us out by making sure you have exact change for each event.

2014 Handicap Adjustments: - *Steve Smingler Handicap Czar*

At the beginning of each year, we review the handicaps and the past season's scores of each member for potential handicap adjustments. The minimum handicap is 0 and the maximum is 36. For the beginning of the 2014 season we will adjust a member's raw handicap +1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2013 score (3 event minimum) is below 30 points. We will adjust a member's raw handicap -1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2013 scores (1 event minimum) is above 36 points. Raw handicaps are rounded for use at each event.

We are going to make a change to the monthly handicap adjustment used in 2012 and 2013. Monthly handicap adjustments equal +0.1 stroke adjustment for every point scored at that event that is below 36 and -0.1 stroke adjustment for every point scored at that event that is above 36, added to your prior month raw handicap. A score of 36 incurs no handicap adjustment unless that player is the event winner. For 2014, we have tweaked the rules to allow a maximum 1.0 stroke gain or loss for each month a score is recorded (previously .5). Of course this does not apply to the winner where the monthly event winner's handicap is adjusted -3 strokes as well as -0.3 strokes for each point scored above 36 points.

The purpose of all of the handicap adjustments is to bring the members handicaps in line with their Stableford scores and create a level playing field where all members have a chance to win the event. Steve Smingler, the new Handicap Czar reserves the right to make all handicap rule interpretations and rule changes and arbitrary adjustments are made to the handicaps of those members who whine and moan about the rules or their handicaps.

We would like to thank Dave Watts, our outgoing Handicap Czar for his many years of dedicated service setting up and maintaining the handicap spreadsheets.

2013 Season Awards:

((To be announced and awarded at the Irish Open))

- 2013 Tour Champion (Golfer of the year)
- "Big Dog" Long Drive Hitter
- Birdie Master
- Mean Green Machine
- Putting Master
- Eagle Awards
- Perfect Attendance
- Most Improved



Doug Kim with **Tour Champion Bag** awarded for 2012

2013 Recap of Event Results:

Event:	Location:	Date:	Champion	Goat Boy	Long Drive	Closest to the Pin	Putting Champion
Irish Open	Lansdowne	March 13, 2013	Michael Moody	Orcun Turkey	Jon Fraim	Michael Moody	Gary Pulino
Spring Challenge	Bull Run	April 10, 2013	Michael Moody	Hilario Diaz	Larry Newell	Bob Caines	Jon Fraim
British Cup	Stoneleigh	May 8, 2013	Jon Fraim	Ziki Zuck	Jon Fraim	John Sullivan	Clifton Edwards
Founders Trophy	Blue Ridge Shadows	June 12, 2013	Matt Jacobs	Dave Watts	John Kravatz	Steve Smingler	Larry Newell
Patriots Memorial	Shenandoah Valley	July 17, 2013	David Watts	Harrison Young	Paul Tierney	Michael Moody	Harrison Young
Summer Championship	Loudoun Golf and Country Club	August 14, 2013	Bob Caines	Steve Smingler	Jon Fraim	Steve Smingler	Steve Smingler
John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	1757 Golf Club	September 18, 2013	Gary Pulino	Chip Swartz	Gary Pulino	Brian Hogan	John Kravatz
Autum Challenge	Hidden Creek	October 16, 2013	Subash Penmetza	Mike Rubin	Jon Fraim	Steve Smingler	Jon Fraim
Turkey Shoot-Out	Raspberry Falls	November 13, 2013	John Kravatz	Matt Jacobs	Gary Pulino	Gary Pulino	Brian Hogan

Other Interesting Historical Stats:

Statistic	Score / #	Name	Year	Course
Lowest Goatboy	1	John Denale	2002	Bull Run
Highest Goatboy	29	Dave Watts	2004	Stoneleigh
Lowest Champion	16	Jed Fotchman	2002	Bull Run
Highest Champion	50	Todd Davis Dave Watts	2011 2012	Shenandoah Bull Run
Lowest Score	0	Vernon Hardy	2002	Bull Run
Total # Championships	5	John Denale Steve Smingler Mike Fallon Matt Jacobs	N/A	N/A
Total # Goatboys	9	Paul Tierney	N/A	N/A
Total # Closest to Pin	7	Steve Pera	N/A	N/A
Total # Long Drives	10	Jon Fraim	N/A	N/A
Total # Putting Championships	6	Larry Brooks	N/A	N/A

Pen Pushers November Myrtle Beach Golf Outing Recaps:

By Steve Smingler

This past Fall nine of our Pen Pushers plus five guests of Ziki from Israel (some of us had some deep conversations with them over a few beers) and Dave Butcher (a friend of Sullivan's joined us all the way from San Francisco) to play with a group from the Veteran's Administration on a golf outing to Myrtle Beach, SC. (thanks to an invite from Jon Fraim). The golfers from Israel may not have access to many golf courses over there but, they do love their golf and were a welcome addition to the group. We had 5 days of FUN, Sun, good eating & drinking and some golf along with some nights that some of us remember better than others. There were some fun trips to Broadway at the Beach and Jon Fraim driving up to Wilmington Airport to pick up Fallon. We played all 3 courses at The Legends that included free breakfast and lunch with 2 beers plus the very challenging Tidewater course. In all 54 golfers, and I use that term loosely, participated in a 4 day tournament full of highs and lows and a lot of lost balls. A few of us that finished too late to do a replay one day participated in a putting and chipping competition with some wild betting going on – I'm not sure if John ever paid his buddy Dave though. I also think this trip was the final straw that made Norm Aroesty finally break into his piggy bank and purchase new clubs this winter. I understand that his old hickory shafts are being donated to the golf hall of fame. In the end Gary Pulino had the best showing from our group but most folks won something. I was asked to provide some pictures from this outing but, what happens in Myrtle stays in Myrtle if you know what I mean. Anyway a great time was had by all and I would highly recommend the outing to all when it comes around again in November.



Look for more on this later in the season for the 2014 Outing November 7th to 11th from Jon Fraim!

Perpetual Trophies



Of the nine events we have each year; seven of them have Perpetual Trophies. Our goal is to have a Perpetual Trophy for each event, so each year we try to add one or two more.

Last year we added two trophies for the Summer Championship and the Founder's Trophy. When we add a perpetual trophy, we always put the names of the past winners on it. This year in addition to adding another event trophy, we are adding a "Tour Champion" perpetual trophy for our "Golfer of the year".

Here are some of our past winners holding our other Perpetual Trophies:



British Cup



Irish Open



Patriots Challenge



Turkey Shootout



**Captain's Day Challenge
John Denale Memorial**



Summer Championship

Upcoming Events and Activities:

The Irish Open

Location: Lansdowne Golf Course, Norman Course
Date: March 19th, 2014 (Wednesday)
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 Registration,
Putting Competition, driving range,
11:00am Tee off



Prizes, Awards and Meal: (Directly after the golf – as usual)
Champion, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin, Goat-boy, Putting Champion
Entry Fee: \$80 - Includes Golf, Practice Range, Prizes, Awards, and Food
Event Registration: Use web site if you are a member,
or call John Sullivan at (703) 622-0084

Registration Cut-off: March 10th

Lansdowne is still a private course. Only “special events” allow non-members to play there. So, this is a rare opportunity to play a course that is not open to the general public. We are urging everyone to bring a guest, who would be a potential member,

So... find a golf buddy and talk him into joining us for a great day.

2014 - Membership Renewals

It's that time of the year again! It's important for the funding of the upcoming events to get renewal fees collected ASAP. Thanks for taking care of this straight away!

- **Past Members:** We have activated your account for registration on the website for 2014 events. You can now go to the web site and register for events. Call or e-mail Paul Tierney if you forgot your log on ID and PASSWORD. If you register for the Irish Open you can pay annual dues then. Otherwise, please send an e-mail with your intent to be a member to: penpushers@gmail.com , and mail your check as described below.
For your GUESTS: e-mail guest information to the same address, and/or call John Sullivan.
- **New Members:** Send your contact information: Name; Postal Address; E-mail; Phone(s); who nominated you, Handicap, etc., with \$50 check to the address below.
- **Annual Membership Dues: \$50** (Still the greatest golf value in America!)
- **Checks should be made out to: Pen Pushers**
- **Mailed to: Pen Pushers of America: C/O John Sullivan**
19836 Frasier Hill Lane
Bluemont, VA 20145-2032

It would be greatly appreciated if you could mail in your dues ASAP or better yet, bring them to the first outing. Thanks

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John Sullivan
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**Don't Forget to Sign-Up for Our
First Outing March 19th
Irish Open at Lansdowne**

