



“News From Around The Bend”



**Maintaining the Quality of
Club Member Privileges**

A note to our Valued Blue Heron Members:

I cannot tell you how honored I am to be a part of the SFPUD and to pour my heart and soul out to the best golf course for many miles. I totally appreciate the opportunity to make this the greatest golf facility it can be. I know that things appear a bit grim at this time (with very little merchandise in the Pro Shop and a hold on our liquor license) but I have complete faith that the SFPUD and its true untapped value and resources will eventually be realized. This, in turn, will allow RGC to really capitalize on its full potential!

You, our members, who have stuck with us through thick (Save Mart Shootout) and thin (now), must be **rewarded** somehow for your loyalty and support. There has never been a doubt that you are the reason for RGC's survival and you will always be considered the true treasure of RGC. RGC is such a great place (the site, the course and the people) and its ability to operate on a "Bare Bones Budget" in these tough times is just another positive added to the many that will all pan out in the end.

This year's maintenance budget was just over \$400,000.00; which is almost \$300,000.00 less than last year's maintenance budget. Yet, the playing conditions and the raves about the course have stayed the same! We are blessed with great turf in a great environment with an excellent cultural and agronomic history. The Pro Shop and Café departments have really cut back and thrived with less. All of RGC's awesome staff must be commended and I thank them very much for their continued support and dedication to RGC!

I just wanted to thank you all for keeping the faith in the SFPUD and RGC. Enjoy our wonderful golf course! It will stand the test of time just as our core philosophy in maintenance attempts to do. Please continue to be patient because a bit more cash flow will heal all! Please pre-pay and get your friends to join....So we can continue to grow our RGC family!

Mike Stieler, CGCS

RGC General Manager

Blue Heron Member Holiday Referral Bonus

Riverbend Golf Club wants to reward you, our valued members, for recruiting your friends, family members, business associates, and/or co-workers.

For each person you refer from November 1, 2011 thru February 1, 2012, you will receive an entry for a weekly drawing for *one* free guest pass (including cart) to be given out at the end of the promotion.

For each person you refer that joins RGC and prepays for an annual membership; the BH Member Initiation Fee will be waived for your referred member and you will have earned *one free month* to be applied to your *annual* renewal period.

To refer any prospective member, please include the following information: Name, Address, Phone, Fax, Email and Relationship to the BH Member. Your referral may also contact any Pro Shop staff member.

Please help us recruit new members and rejuvenate our membership moving into the New Year!

Riverbend Golf Club... "over ten years of excellence."

Christmas Toy Drive

It's that time of year for giving thanks and for giving to those in need. To many children, the holiday season means presents, parties and fun with family and friends. However, the reality is that many kids won't have a Christmas this year. Coming from broken homes with little or no money, these kids are often lucky to receive a hot meal, let alone a brightly-wrapped gift. This is a great way to support a very worthy cause and bring smiles to the faces of children during a magical time of year.



During the month of December, please bring any unwrapped toys to be donated to our local Central California's Children's Hospital. Any one of our Pro Shop personnel will be happy to assist you!

Course Rating and Course Slope

Recently, the Northern California Golf Association came out and re-rated our golf course. Since we added a couple of new improvements over the years, we were in need of a re-rate. The purpose of a re-rating is to have your course rating and slope accurate enough so that your handicap index travels well from course to course, as well as from one set of tees to another set of tees on the same course. This is important so that players of different abilities can compete on an equitable basis.

Some of you may have noticed the results from the N.C.G.A. and are wondering why or how the course rating went up and the slope went down and vice versa on different sets of tees. The reason for this is that the course rating is based off a scratch golfer and the slope is based off of a bogey golfer. The course rating is calculated by yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of a scratch golfer under normal course and weather conditions. The slope is calculated from the difference between the bogey rating and course rating. The lowest slope is 55 and the highest is 155.

From the blue and black tees, the course rating went up and slope down. On the white tees, the course rating stayed the same and slope went up. The gold tees' course rating and slope went up. What this is saying is that the yardage and obstacles we added are making the course more difficult for the scratch player from the blue and black tee markers. But, from those tees, the longer yardage has taken some of the obstacles out of reach; therefore, making it easier for the bogey golfer. The slope from the white tees went up because of the new obstacles we added, such as bunkers. The obstacles have no effect on the scratch player from the white tees.

Just remember, this rating system makes the game of golf more enjoyable by allowing golfers of different abilities to compete against each other from course to course. For your handicap index to work properly, you must try and make the best score at each hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played and you must post every round for people to review.



'Hole In One'

Bob Blackwood

Hole #12 - 143 Yards - 8 Iron



December Calendar

- 1st Women's Club 9:00 Shotgun
- 7th SKINS 11:00 Tee Times
- 13th RGC Seniors 9:00 Shotgun
- 15th Women's Club 9:00 Shotgun
- 24th Christmas Eve - Holiday Rates!!
- Member / Public 9:30 Shotgun & Course Closes at 3:00 pm
- 25th Christmas Day - Course Closed!!
- 29th Women's Club 9:00 Shotgun
- 4th Cali Kids Golf 11:00 Shotgun
- 8th Women's Club 9:00 Shotgun
- 14th SKINS 12:00 Tee Times
- 21st SKINS 12:00 Tee Times
- 28th SKINS 12:00 Tee Times
- 31st New Year's Eve