



# ALTA SIERRA COUNTRY CLUB GREEN GAZETTE

VOLUME 44

ISSUE 6

June 2020



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## June President's Message

Charlie Ewing

Greetings Alta Sierra Community!

We are delighted that Nevada County has fared so well in terms of illnesses resulting from Covid19 and that businesses are opening back up for our wonderful community to enjoy - just in time for summer!

Here's the latest from Alta Sierra Country Club...

### **Golf:**

- Social distance golfing has been going strong this whole time and the course is in great shape! We will continue to practice social distancing strategies so that we can all enjoy golf while ensuring we all stay healthy. All are welcome - please tell your friends!
- Divot patrol is back every Tuesday to help keep our course stays beautiful.

**Food:** Please come on by the Snack Shack to enjoy delicious hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. We're aiming to re-open the restaurant for lunches by the end of June and hopefully dinners soon after depending on how lunches go and how our local community responds to eating out in general.

**Pool:** We're currently making a few repairs to the pool and should be ready for everyone to enjoy when we are approved to open.

The Board and I are thrilled that so many have been able to enjoy our beautiful golf course during this challenging time and are optimistic about our future as long as you and the greater community continue to golf and begin to come to the Club for food and events when that's possible again.

We wish you continued good health and hope to see you at the Club very soon!

*Charlie Ewing*



**Are you missing eMail Blasts?  
Are you receiving the Green Gazette On-Line?  
Would you like to?**

If you have not been receiving emails from the club recently it could be one of two things, either your email address has changed and you have not informed the club office or you have chosen to opt out to receive any emails (sometime this is done accidentally).

If either situation has been the case or there is another issue that you may have then what is stated above, please inform Doreen Lewallen via email at [danddlew@suddenlink.net](mailto:danddlew@suddenlink.net) so your email address can be updated within the Alta Sierra email database. Sometimes all it takes is to hit the refresh button for you. We do not want you to miss out on any future happenings at the club, especially as we head into the next few months.

Also check out our Facebook page on the Alta Sierra website. Go to [altasierracc.com](http://altasierracc.com). Just click on Facebook, which is located at the top of the page that first pops up. There is a lot of information that is posted and videos to watch regarding the club. Save Alta Sierra as one of your bookmark favorites. Thank you.

I'm not saying anything you all don't know, but this has been one crazy year. I'm not going to go into why because we all know the answer to that too. The good news is we stayed open. We were one of a handful of courses that stayed open with the exception of only a couple of days. We were here to satisfy the needs of golfers from San Francisco to Reno to the West and East and Redding to Stockton to the North and South. For this we can thank many people. First I want to point out the employees of the Club. Because of the nature of our business simply going home and collecting more money than you make on unemployment as the Governor wanted, was not going to do the golf course any good. With grass to mow, fertilizer to apply, a course to prepare for desperate golfers and a myriad of other Spring tasks to carry out, staying home and staying safe just wasn't going to work. You must also know that if one of my guys decided to go that route there was nothing I could do to stop them. This was a problem with many businesses that were still operating. It continues to be a problem now since there is still time left where they make more not working. My crew never wavered. They all were here, even those over 65 considered HIGH RISK, showed up every day and put in their normal days and duties. As we kept the course in tip-top shape golfers from all over were exposed to Alta Sierra for the first time. They shouted "thank you" and "great job" as we passed them. Comments on Facebook were very flattering as people that came and played called us a hidden gem and similar accolades, proclaiming they would be back and bring friends. The excitement was palpable and we felt good about a full parking lot, something we hadn't seen in successive

days for a very long time. Secondly I want to thank the members who went to bat for us amid a community with less than full support. As we were lambasted on the radio for doing something completely safe to anyone with common sense and targeted by neighbors jealous of us for practicing our freedom.

Now that it looks like the worst is over and the rest of the golf courses have re-opened we need to keep our focus on the future. We must make sure as golfers return, it is as good an experience as possible for them and with some of the houses in the area starting to move, the best case scenario is we pick up some new members this year. In order to do that I think we have to be flexible and consider amending some of our membership packages to better reflect the modern family and consider the ages and living arrangements of children and parents as kids are staying home longer and parents are having kids later in life. This is no time to be picky. This is time to greet people with a smile and bend over backwards to make it hard to choose anyone but us for their golfing enjoyment.

On the golf course we are moving forward with the summer season managing the stress that comes with the heat and lack of rain. There are only 7 of us to manage 100 acres of turf, 20 miles of irrigation pipe, 100 miles of wire that connects 64 satellites and 1200 irrigation heads. There are also 10 mowers 8 vehicles and a handful of other implements that need constant attention, so as you can see we wake up every day with a lot to do and little time to do it.

The Nature Pic of the Month is one you will see again the next time we get a solar eclipse. It is a product of small beams of light shooting between the tree leaves creating the projections of thousands of eclipses on the ground



Hello All!

We hope everyone is staying safe during this crazy time in history! The club is currently up and running complying with the mandated Covid-19 guidelines. We are here to serve you and provide our patrons with the best experience possible. We have been working hard and word of mouth has been traveling about our beautiful course and the hidden gem of that we have in this community ! Our course is in great shape and people have noticed. With the way business on the golf course has been, the feeling around here is promising, encouraging, and I believe our future is bright. We are a Truckee/ Tahoe quality golf club that has been asleep for 30 years. We have recently brought on professional team to exploit this club for what it is "Northern California/Sierra Nevada's best kept secret" with their videography and photography skills they will show the world what Alta Sierra Golf & Country Club is, where we are on the map, and how beautiful we are. Please take time to notice us on Facebook and Instagram as we will take to these social media outlets to showcase

our golf course to the outside public and to you. When you do travel on over the social media world to check us out, Like us, Share us with you friends, and comment friendly on our post.

Our plan is to do whatever it takes to get back to normal, we appreciate all you support during this trying time.

Stay with us people, Alta Sierra Country Club is growing and will continue to grow with your support and positive words throughout the community. We have tap into to a market that did know we existed and we are very excited. Stay tuned

- \*Our snack shack is open and Chelli is providing outstanding lunches for our patrons, so please come on down and see her even if you are not playing golf. Snack shack is great place to grab a cold drink and some tasty food 11:00 – 5:00pm
- Golf Shop will open up its doors Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> (7:00am – 4:30pm)
- Marshal program will be starting June/July.

### Ongoing Instructional Programs

Private instruction will start back up June 1<sup>st</sup>. Clinics and Classes will start in July.

### Upcoming Events:

Big \$ Skins Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 11:00am SG

Par 3 Tournament Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>

TaylorMade/ Adidas Demo Day Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 2:00pm

Call Golf Shop for more Details ans/ sign up!



## Pro Tip

### Short Game Tip (Take Note!)

The chip and run should be the workhorse of your short game. It is the most reliable shot around the green when you can't putt. I would estimate that at least 95% of my short game shots (from within 20 yards of the edge of the green) are played with a chip and run technique, and the other 5% is made up of putts from off the green, pitches, and bunker shots. Getting the ball on the ground and rolling as soon as possible greatly increases the chances of the ball's behavior being predictable. That is not to say that a chip and run is *always* very low to the ground; just as low as possible. A chip and run style shot can be played with the most lofted wedge in your bag, in which case some people might refer to the shot as a "pitch and run." In many cases where the average golfer tries to pitch the ball up in the air, the "risk vs. reward" and the uncontrollable nature of a pitch (*especially from a marginal lie*) make it a poor choice.

### Short Game General Rules

- Putt whenever feasible (*i.e., IF the ball will roll rather than bounce*)
- Chip and run when you can't putt
- Pitch only when you have no choice

**\*\*Men's Locker Room (Locker's and Shower) and Club Storage is Open for our ASCC Member's\*\***

Take advantage of our lockers and club storage. You can rent out your very own locker to have a change of clothes here at the club. Also with our club storage we will take care of your clubs as if they were our own. Cleaned daily and safely locked up here at the club.

\*\*\*We only have 12 lockers left, Get one while you still can!\*\*\*

Annual Locker Fee \$60

Club Storage (Monthly) \$8

Call Golf Shop To Sign Up!

# Par 3 Tournament

## Sunday, June 21st

### 9:00am Shotgun



**Members: \$10      Non-Members: \$45**

**Includes:  
Greens Fee, Cart, Small Range Bucket,  
Entry into the Par 3 contest,  
Raffle Entry, 1 Drink Ticket**

**SIGN UP NOW at ASCC or  
call 530-273-2010!**

For more information visit:  
[www.altasierracc.com](http://www.altasierracc.com)

 [facebook.com/AltaSierraCountryClub](https://facebook.com/AltaSierraCountryClub)



11897 Tammy Way, Grass Valley, CA

### Club House

The club house is still closed but things have been happening behind the scenes.

- A new rug has replaced the buckled wooden floor in the men's lounge.
- The restaurant, bar and hallways rugs cleaned and are looking as good as can for older rugs.

### Pool

We are still waiting for state and then county guidelines to let us know when we can open. It's still up in the air. However, we are making pool and pool area repairs now so when they open us up we can move quickly.

### Snack Shack

Snack shack opening and how it is doing would be good to hear. It's doing very well. Chellie is a super star. Closed on Tuesdays

If you see something that needs to be addressed:



# Divot Patrol is Back

Robin Van Meter

**Volunteer! Every Tuesday morning at 8:00 am.**



## Men's Club Activities Update

As the golf course remains open, our club is still under some regulations which prevents us from having access to the restaurant, bar and having larger gatherings. Due to the uncertainties ahead, we have revised our Calendar of Events for the remainder of the year. It is difficult to lose 3-4 months of tournaments and events and try to complete them all in the remaining months ahead. With that said, there will be some events that we cannot fit into the calendar. Once our Executive Committee meets later this month, and the Calendar is confirmed, I will publish it to all of you.

## President's Trophy Days

Since there will be no GRS events in June, we have decided to utilize each Wednesday as a means to make-up our lost President's Trophy Days. June 3, 10, 17 and 24 will be President's Trophy Days. There will be an envelope in the Pro Shop for you to submit your scorecards after your play on these Wednesdays. If you cannot play on the specified Wednesday, you can submit your scorecard after your next completed round prior to the following Sunday evening. So if you play on the following Thursday and Saturday, you must submit your card for the Thursday round. On your scorecard, please indicate tees played ie: B, G, C, or S and also list your handicap for that day and be sure to post your score so I can confirm your information through the USGA portal.

## GRS #3 Event

Our next scheduled GRS event will be on July 15. It will be the 2 person Club Championship. So find a partner and we will have sign-ups around the second half of June. Last year's winners were Jody Laffins and Jack Kennedy.

## GRS #4 Event

The GRS #4 event will be the Men's Invitational scheduled for August 28 and 29. Find a male partner who is not a men's club member, who has a valid GHIN# and save the date. More information on this will be coming soon...

## NCGA Qualifiers

The Senior Four-Ball Net is still on the schedule for August. Gobby and Harris qualified for this event and will play at a local facility in August to qualify to go to Monterey.

The 4 person event was cancelled by NCGA and will not take place this year.

## Team Play

Pending any further changes due to Covid 19- Here is the schedule for our Team Play for 2020.

July 11- North Ridge at Alta Sierra

July 25- Alta Sierra at Ancil Hoffman

Aug 8- Alta Sierra at Sierra View

Aug 15- Alta Sierra at North Ridge

Aug 29 - Ancil Hoffman at Alta Sierra

Sept. 12- Sierra View at Alta Sierra

\*\* Aug. 29 will get re-scheduled due to our Invitational. Date to be determined..

## Rules/Definitions Quiz

A very disappointing turnout for this activity. Only 2 men's club members participated, Rusty Witwer and Cliff Ostrander. Thanks to both of you for taking part and for your interest in doing something different. Rusty won the contest !!! Congrats..... So, Message received loud and clear... No more quizzes and we'll try not to venture too far outside the box... If anyone would like the answers, shoot me an e-mail.

## Women's 18 Holer's

Julie Harris

The month of May brought a lot more ladies out to play on Thursdays. Even though there were no shotgun starts, competition or after-golf gatherings, we still had lots of fun getting out there with our pals. Debe Wilson has graciously been reserving tee times and putting foursomes together for the ladies interested in playing on our normal Thursday mornings. We tried to set a good example of social distancing and over-all we were successful. No hugging, no close-knit gossip groups and just a lot of fun golf. The last couple weeks of May we were excited about supporting the opening of the snack shack and enjoyed sitting around the spaced out tables.

And here's the news we've all been waiting for three months to hear -- official competitive golf for the Ladies will start June 4, kicking off with Captain's Trophy. With some quarantine restrictions being lifted and a new normalcy emerging we can finally have our 8:30am shotgun starts on Thursday. We will have organized games planned each week, sweeps will be paid out and the EC tournament will continue. There will be adjustments of course, but we've figured out ways to pay sweeps, cross check the scoring and

have closest to the pin competitions without physical contact and touching. I'm sure we will be able to tweak and adjust our methods as we move through this.

Speaking of Captain's Trophy, our monthly low-net competition ..... we missed the months of April and May. We plan to make those up over the next few months, fitting them in between other scheduled games. We also missed our 27-Hole Tournament in April, not to mention our fabulous Ladies invitational in June. Needless to say, a lot of work needs to be done on the calendar of events as we move forward.

Since it's uncertain whether we'll have a Ladies general meeting in June it's worth mentioning our June birthdays!

Jean Metz – June 24

Linda Kennedy – June 25

It's exciting to know that we are finally able to trade in days of cleaning, reading, TV, jigsaw puzzles, yard work and sheer boredom with Ladies golf days! We missed US!

## Nif-Tee Niners

Sandy Laffins / Ann Podielski

The pandemic has not affected Niner play. We are unique since we only have eight members. We had a group playing every week in May. We also started our modified Eclectic in May. The ASCC Nif-Tee Niners are scheduled to host a WNHGA Open Day on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hopefully the Timbers will be open and we can welcome Northern California Nine Hole Ladies to our course.

Here are the May results.

May 7<sup>th</sup>

Carlene Ott

Judy Dwelle

No Low Gross or Low Net this week.

May 14<sup>th</sup>

Low Gross: Carlene Ott 65

Low Net: Sandy Laffins 38

May 21<sup>st</sup>

Low Gross: Carlene Ott 52

Low Net: Judy Dwelle 32

May 28<sup>th</sup>

Low Gross: Teri Robbins 56

Low Net: Carlene Ott 39

Par on #15: Carlene Ott

CTP #15 Carlene Ott

No Birthdays in June

As we are getting ready to begin tournament play, there may be some questions about the rules of golf and how to apply them during the pandemic. Below is a short overview what was adopted by the USGA.

## **USGA GUIDANCE IN APPLYING GOLF'S RULES AND POSTING SCORES FOR HANDICAP PURPOSES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC- UPDATE: MAY 18, 2020**

There are a number of options available to a committee running a competition in Phase 2 to ensure that the key principles of scoring are adhered to while also being mindful to minimize the possibility of exposing players to coronavirus. This guidance is intended to guide clubs playing golf in Phases 1 and 2, noting that competitions should only begin during Phase 2.

### **BUNKERS AND BUNKER RAKES**

It is a normal part of the game to place a responsibility on all players to smooth sand in a bunker from which they have played. Committees have many options as to how to treat bunkers, which are largely dependent on the resources available.

In some cases, a committee may decide their best option is to remove all bunker rakes from the course. When this is done, it is possible for a player's ball to come to rest in an unmaintained area of sand. This can be treated as a ground under repair condition and a normal drop can be made.

At minimum, it would be advisable to encourage players to try their best to smooth the disturbed area with a foot or a club after playing their ball from a bunker.

### **MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOLE; NOT REQUIRING THAT PLAYERS HOLE OUT**

To minimize the possibility of exposing golfers to coronavirus, a number of methods have been employed to modify the hole so that players no longer need to reach into the hole to remove a ball.

These have included some courses setting holes so that the hole-liner remains an inch or two above the surface of the green while others have placed various objects into the hole or around the flagstick (such as foam pool noodles or plastic piping) so that a ball is unable to fall to the bottom.

A round played under these conditions will result in an acceptable score for handicap purposes using the most likely score guidelines (see Rule 3.3 of the Rules of Handicapping).

### **SCORECARDS AND SCORING**

Committees have a number of options available when trying to minimize the possibility of exposing players to coronavirus through the handling of scorecards.

For each of the options below, the committee should consider how best to limit common touch points and ensure that social distancing is maintained at all times.

#### **Electronic Scoring**

As part of the 2019 modernization of the Rules, the use of physical scorecards is no longer required. Everything can be done electronically, including the player and his or her marker certifying hole-by-hole scores and returning those scores to the committee.

A committee may allow electronic scoring to be an option to ensure each player's hole-by-hole scores are received and that both the player and his or her marker certify those scores.

The marker would email or text the hole-by-hole scores to the player and the committee (this could even be done by taking a picture of a scorecard if that is where the scores were kept).

#### **Physical Scorecards**

If physical scorecards are the preferred method to keep a record of hole-by-hole scores, the committee may wish to alter traditional methods slightly to limit shared touch points and ensure social distancing is maintained.

**Published Monthly by  
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