



# Chip Shots

June 2008

## President's Message

*Gregor Markel*

First, I need to start with a correction notice. In the May Chip Shots, the fees for the June tournament were published incorrectly. If you have entered the tournament using this form, you will be one dollar short for the one day tournament and two for the two day. Please contact the tournament chairment to clear this up. If you downloaded an entry form from the website, the entry fee is correct. It has been corrected for this issue of the Chip Shots.

June is the start of the "changing of the guard" so to speak for those who care for our course. The new golf course maintenance agreement will be in effect and the new maintenance staff will be on hand. Please take a moment to thank the members of the City Staff who have worked so hard over the past few years to make Las Positas a great course! Let's also take a moment to welcome the new contractor and their staff to the course. These folks are an integral part of keeping the conditions at Las Positas in top condition.

On that note, remember that you can do you part too in helping the maintenance of the course. Please remember to repair your divots on the greens (and at least one other if time permits) and fill your divots on the fairways. Taking an extra moment to do the little things will go a long way to helping keep our course in great shape. And your good habits may rub off on others in the club and outside the club who also have an impact on the course conditions. This summer looks to be a hot one, and with mandatory water rationing in place, we will need to do everything we can to help out.

Finally, please take a moment to read our Handicap Chairman's notes on our proposed new format for tournament handicapping for the LPMGC. I hope that everyone can provide some input to the board on this issue so we can do the best to provide a "level playing field" for all of the participants of our tournaments.

See you at the next meeting!❖

## Special Events!!

*Tom Geary and Mike Rimington*

The May General Membership meeting was held on May 7th at Beeb's Sports Bar and Grill. There were 12 members present. Our yearly putting contest got under way with a disappointing turnout of six members. Jim Palmer and Pat Moore took top honors in our first event of the year. We still have four more to go so we hope to see a better turnout next month!!

Congratulations to Tom Byrom who beat out Tom Geary on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole to win the Eclectic Horserace for the second time. Thanks to Jeff and his staff for putting on such a fun event. This men's club has a lot of great events through out the year for our members to enjoy. Thanks to Paul Senft for his Rule Forum, again we learned a few facts we didn't know

Putting contest begins prior to the June meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 pm lets see if we can have a better turnout.

### May Raffle Winners

Steve Hudson	\$15.00
Alan Casamajor	\$15.00
Jim Palmer	\$10.00
Tom Geary	\$10.00

### May Putting Contest Results

Jim Palmer	31	\$9.00
Pat Moore	31	\$9.00
Paul Senft	34	\$3.00
Tom Geary	34	\$3.00
Robert Scott	34	\$3.00

The next General Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 4th. at 7:00 p.m. at Beeb's. Hope to see you there !❖



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**Golf Humor**

Joe decides to take his boss Phil to play 9 holes on their lunch. While both men are playing excellent they are often held up by two women in front of them moving at a very slow pace. Joe offers to talk to the women and see if they can speed it up a bit. He gets about half of the way there stops and jogs back.

His boss asks what the problem is. "Well one of those women is my wife and the other my mistress," complained Joe. Phil just shook his head at Joe and started toward the women determined to finish his round of golf. Preparing to ask the ladies to speed up their game, he too stopped short and turned around.

Joe asked "what's wrong?" It's a small, small world Joe, and you're fired"

Reprinted from <http://www.ahajokes.com/>

**Coaches Corner**

*Jeff DeBenedetti*

**Yardage and how to get it...**

I used to be the type of player who always said, "I am a fell player and I am never going to need a range finder or Sky caddy to measure my distances on the course."

I was wrong....

A couple of weeks ago I played a tournament with the access to a range finder for both rounds. I didn't have to use it but it was there if I wanted to. By the end of the second round I didn't hit a shot without using it.

These devices give you your yardage quicker than stepping it off, and still leave you the ability to "feel" your way around the course. I would highly recommend players to give it a try if you haven't already. Just remember to use it quickly to help with the pace of play for the day.

There is nothing more frustrating than seeing players use a measuring device as a toy rather than a piece of equipment.

**LAS POSITAS MEN'S CLUB  
TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE 2008**

**2008 LPMGC Schedule**

<b>JANUARY</b>	SAT. 19 SAT. 26	Individual Medal Individual Skins
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	SAT. 9 & SUN. 10	NCGA East Bay Zone Qualifier **
<b>MARCH</b>	SAT. 8 SUN. 16	Cha-Cha-Cha Individual Medal
<b>APRIL</b>	SAT. 19 & SUN. 20	NCGA Four-Ball Net Qualifier **
<b>MAY</b>	SAT. 10 SAT. 17	4 Man – 2 Best Ball NCGA Senior 4-Ball Qualifier
<b>JUNE</b>	SAT. 21 & SUN. 22	NCGA Net Am. Qualifier
<b>JULY</b>	SAT. 12 & SUN. 13	President's Cup **
<b>AUGUST</b>	SAT. 2 SUN. 17	Member-Guest Point Par - Stableford Club Championship **
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	SAT. 13 & SUN. 14	4 Ball Match Play
<b>OCTOBER</b>	SAT. 11 SAT. 18	4 Man – Gross / Net Beat the Pro
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	SAT. 8 SUN. 16	2 Man Razzle Dazzle
<b>DECEMBER</b>	SUN. 7 SAT. 13	2-Man Best-Ball Total 2-Man Best-Ball (Annual Charity Event)

**\*\*Indicates Major Tournament**

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All money won in tournaments are held "on the books" at the Las Positas Golf Course Pro Shop. All prize money won must be spent by end of October, 2008. No Exceptions Granted.

**LPMGC Twilight League**

Tournaments will begin on Thursday evenings in May. Keep Posted for dates and formats of tournaments.

**LPMGC Home-and-Home Events**

Home-and-Home tournaments will be announced at the General Membership meetings and sign-ups will open at that time on a first come-first serve basis.

**LAS POSITAS GOLF COURSE TOURNAMENTS**

**2008 LASPO Tournament Schedule**

<b>MARCH</b>	SUNDAY the 9th	LASPO Skins
<b>MAY</b>	SATURDAY the 3rd	LASPO Junior Benefit
<b>JUNE</b>	SAT 7th and SUN 8th	LASPO 2-Man Better Ball
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	SAT 27th and SUN 28th	LASPO Open

**Pro Shop Notes**

*Geana DeBenedetti*

There are a lot of great deals going on at the Las Positas Golf Course Pro Shop right now. Come on in and check out all of the merchandise!

- All bags and pull carts are 10% off in June
- Gift Certificates are available for Father's Day
- Gift Certificates are available for golf lessons. Sign up for a lesson today!

**Handicap Update**

*Pat Moore*

**Give Us Your Scorecards!**

We are currently reviewing the stroke hole allocations at Las Positas, and to do so, need to enter lots of scorecards into some software from the NCGA/USGA. So, please put your scorecards in the box by the computer.

Please note your course handicap on the card, as that saves time when I'm entering them in the database. I'll be bringing the results to the next few general meetings for discussion, so join us, and let us know what you think.

Thanks!!!

## LPMGC Slow Play Policy

The Las Positas Men's Club expects all groups in its tournaments to keep up with the group in front of it. If your group falls more than 1 hole behind the group in front of you, you will be considered a "slow" group, and subject to the policy as noted below.

POLICY: Members identified as slow-playing will be put on a list. This list will be published on the Men's Club bulletin board, in the Chip Shots and on the Club website. Members on the list will be given tee times at the end of any tournaments they participate in. To be removed from the list, you must not be warned for slow play in your next 2 tournaments.

You will be added to the list when you are warned for slow play by a member of the tournament committee (typically Jeff DeBenedetti and one or more of the golf shop professionals). You may also receive a "heads-up" about slow play from one of the golf course marshals first. This will not get you on the list, but should be taken as notice that you are in danger of receiving a warning from the committee if you do not catch up.

### Current Members on Slow Play List

*None* (let's keep it this way!!)

## LPMGC Tournament Results

Saturday May 10 - 4 Man – 2 Best Ball Results

	<b>Team</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Prize Fund</b>
1st	Rene Drumtra	119	\$76.00
	Walt Ehlers		\$76.00
	Larry Coppa		\$76.00
	Steve Santos		\$76.00
2nd	Larry Morris	121	\$60.00
	Andy Weyer		\$60.00
	Steve Oxsen		\$60.00
	Dave Weyer		\$60.00
3rd	Tom Geary	126	\$46.00
	Robert Scott		\$46.00
	Josh Traynor		\$46.00
	Jerry Traynor		\$46.00
	Dennis Carr		\$46.00
	Randy Talarico		\$46.00
	Jay Valles		\$46.00

**LPMGC - NCGA NET AMATUER QUALIFIER**  
**June 21-22, 2008**

This individual tournament is two in one: You can compete in Saturday's men's club tournament or both days if you wish to try to qualify for the NCGA event. Play will be at 100% handicap. Prize money will be paid on Saturday only, lap money on Sunday. Entry prize money for Sunday will be used to send the three low-net qualifiers to the NCGA Qualifier.

NCGA Qualifier: You must have 20 posted rounds to play in the NCGA Net Amateur Qualifier. Qualifiers should be able to play in the Qualifier on September 25<sup>th</sup> (location to be determined) and the Championship on October 27-28 at Poppy Hills. You must declare your intent to try to qualify on the entry form below.

Entry Deadline:  
Thursday, June 12 at 5:00 P.M.  
In the Las Positas Golf Course Pro Shop  
LPMGC  
917 Clubhouse Dr.  
Livermore, CA. 94551  
Attn: TOURNAMENTS

Entry Fees: Sat. only \$45/Sat.-Sun. \$90

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**LPMGC - NCGA NET AMATUER QUALIFIER**  
**June 21-22, 2008**

	Qualifying	
Name _____	Yes	No
Name _____	Yes	No
Name _____	Yes	No
Name _____	Yes	No

Request, not required

- Early, requires front 9 completion in 2 hours or less
- Late

**All prize money must be spent by end of OCT. 2008**

*Please Print Your Name Clearly*  
*Provide all \$\$\$ for Group Entries*  
*Checks Only Please!!!*  
*Make Checks Payable to 'LPMGC'*

# Handicap Update

*Pat Moore*

## Notice of Proposed Change to Tournament Handicap Adjustment System

**Background:** Our current system for applying a local index for Las Positas tournament play is based on reviewing for exceptional tournament scores, and when a player has two exceptional scores within a 6-month period, calculating an index based on the two scores, comparing it to the NCGA index each month for 4 months, and using the lower of the two. While this is not a bad system, after using it for almost 2 years, I believe it does have some weaknesses in terms of insuring that our tournament handicaps accurately reflect our members' "lowest potential scoring abilities" (USGA description). I think that these weaknesses are related to the small sample size (only 2 exceptional scores driving the process) and the relatively short window of using the local index (only 4 months).

**Proposal:** Continue to use tournament scores as the main driver for any handicap adjustments, but expand the sample size and time frames. I would recommend using a rolling database of our last 12 tournament rounds (roughly 6-7 months, based on having 2 tournament days in most months, but some non-postable rounds). I've developed a spreadsheet that calculates a "T-index" for all rounds played, using half of the rounds played (minimum of 2), and then comparing that T-index to the NCGA index each month. If the T-index is lower by more than 1.0, we would use the T-index for that month's tournament. (The 1.0 would just reduce the work our tournament folks have to do in adjusting indexes, and 1 stroke more or less is probably not significant).

I would post the spreadsheet on the website at the beginning of each month, so that everyone could see whether they would be playing to their NCGA index or T-index that month. This would also help peer review, as we could all see everyone's tournament results. I've been tracking this for several months now, and the results are interesting. Typically, only 5-6 members would have been adjusted (about 5% of those who played in a tournament), so it is not a huge impact. The low figure is also due to the fact that the tournament rounds are unadjusted (any big numbers are include) while the NCGA index is adjusted. From that perspective, anyone who has a T-index lower than the NCGA figure has clearly demonstrated "lower potential scoring ability" (at least at Las Positas) and should be adjusted.

Please go to the website and check out the spreadsheet or come to the next few meetings, and give us some feedback. Or, send me an e-mail with any comments. We discussed it last month for the first time, and received positive feedback from the members there. The plan would be to implement it beginning in January, 2009; this would give all members plenty of notice and time for discussion.