2013 Season Opener Newsletter

Pen Pushers of America

Golf Society

www.penpushers.us

Welcome Pen Pushers! This is our 12th 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 2013 committee met last month and have been working to firm up the schedule and get ready for our 2013 season. We have some exciting golf outings planned for everyone this year. Last year we did a great job of increasing the membership. Our average number of players for each outing was an all-time high! We are looking forward to having everyone back and hope to continue the trend with additional 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 lets 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!



Speed of play was still an 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 your 1 stroke penalty (LIKE A MAN), drop a ball where you feel the ball went out of bounds or landed, and continue play.

Each year the Pen Pushers award our "**Golfer of the Year**"," Most Improved" and other accomplishments of the 2012 season at our first outing, the Irish Open. Look for some excitement as we make these presentations to our annual winners.

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 on March 13th. Lansdowne has always been a great opener for us, and is an opportunity to play a course that is normally closed to the open public.

Handicaps- Last year we made some changes to the handicap adjustments that helped with those high scores. We are tweaking the adjustment rules again this year to better give everyone an equal chance of winning. Thanks to our Handicap Czar Dave Watts who did an excellent job keeping track. We think the system is fair and will give everyone an opportunity to WIN.

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 memberships 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.

2013 Committee Members:

Special thanks to Steve Smingler for his role as 2012 Captain. Let's all welcome in the 2013 Captain Jon Fraim and our new Vice Captain Brian Hogan. Please welcome John Kravatz as a new committee member. Thanks to everyone who helped plan and worked our events last year. We all appreciate your hard work and dedication! - We welcome those who want to help out.

Here are your 2013 Committee Members:



John Sullivan – Chairman
Paul Tierney – Vice Chairman
Jon Fraim – 2013 Captain
Brian Hogan – 2013 Vice Captain
Steve Smingler - Committee Member
John Kravatz - Committee Member
Matt Jacobs – Event Coordinator
Bob Caines – Event Coordinator
Dave Watts – Handicap Czar
Mike Rubin – Event Coordinator/Communications

Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2013 List of Events

Event:	Coordinator:	Dates:	Location:
Irish Open	John Sullivan	March 13th	Lansdowne
Spring Challenge	Mike Rubin	April 10th	Bull Run
British Cup (27 Holes)	John Sullivan	May 8th	Stoneleigh
Founders Trophy	Matt Jacobs	June 12th	Blue Ridge Shadows
Patriots Memorial (27 Holes)	John Sullivan	July 17th	Shenandoah Valley
Summer Championship	Bob Caines	Aug 14th	Loudoun Golf and Country Club
John Denale Memorial Captains Day Challenge	Jon Fraim	Sept 18th	1757 Gulf Club
Autumn Challenge	Paul Tierney	Oct 16th	Hidden Creek
Turkey Shoot-Out	Paul Tierney	Nov 13th	Raspberry Falls

2013 Outing Rates:

Last year we established a "Fixed Rate" for each outing. We are holding the costs of all the outings this year again to $80.00. This 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 your golf day enjoyable and still be cost effective for the quality of courses we have on our schedule. Please help us out by making sure you have exact change for each event.

2013 Handicap Adjustments:

At the beginning of each year we make an adjustment of the handicaps for each person. The minimum handicap is 0 and the maximum is 36. For the beginning of the 2013 season we will adjust a member's raw handicap +1 stroke for each point where the rounded average 2012 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 2012 scores (1 event minimum) is above 36 points. Raw handicaps are rounded for use at each event.

We will continue the monthly handicap adjustment used in 2012. 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 2013, we have tweaked the rules to allow a maximum 0.5 stroke gain or loss for each month a score is recorded. 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. Dave Watts, the 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.

2012 Season Awards:

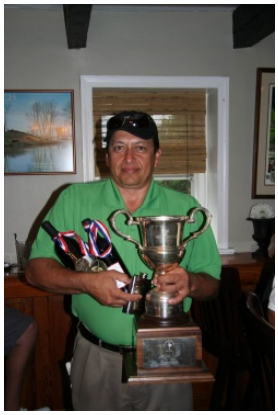
((To be announced and awarded at the Irish Open))

- Player of the Year
- "Big Dog" Long Drive Hitter
- Putting Champ
- Most Improved
- Birdie Master



2012 Recap of Event Results:

Event:	Location:	Date:	Champion	Goat Boy	Long Drive	Closest to the Pin	Putting Champion
Irish Open	Lansdowne	March 14, 2012	Doug Kim	Norm Aroesty	Phong Peverall	Skip Davison	Matt Jacobs
Spring Challenge	Bull Run	April 18, 2012	David Watts	Matt Jacobs	Brian Hogan	John Kravatz	Doug Kim
British Cup	Stoneleigh	May 9, 2012	Gary Pulino	Mike Rubin	Steve Smingler	Gary Pulino	Todd Davis
Founders Trophy	Blue Ridge Shadows	June 20, 2012	Doug Kim	Dave Watts	Jon Fraim	Bob Caines	Charles Han
Patriots Memorial	Shenandoah Valley	July 18, 2012	Charles Han	Chuck Roney	Steve Smingler	Steve Smingler	Mike Fallon
Summer Championship	Loudoun Golf and Country Club	August 15, 2012	John Kravatz	Charles Han	Greg Southwick	Blaine Keyser	Gary Pulino
John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	1757 Gulf Club	September 12, 2012	Doug Kim	Paul Tierney	Brian Hogan	John Sullivan	Gary Pulino
Autum Challenge	Hidden Creek	October 10, 2012	Steve Smingler	Andy Titus	Steve Smingler	Joe Lewis	Matt Jacobs
Turkey Shoot-Out	Raspberry Falls	November 14, 2012	Larry Brooks	Orcun Turkay	Gary Pulino	Doug Kim	Jon Fraim





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	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	7	Ken Tucker	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 9 of our Pen Pushers plus 2 guests joined a group from the Veteran's Administration on a golf outing to Myrtle Beach, SC. (thanks to an invite from Jon Fraim). We had 5 days of FUN, Sun and some golf along with some nights that some of us remember better than others. In all 44 golfers, and I use that term loosely, participated in a 4 day tournament full of highs and lows and a lot of lost balls. We also contributed greatly to the beer can/bottle recycling efforts in SC. In the end Jon Fraim had the best showing from our group but most folks won something. There are really too many stories to tell but, I will say that many of them would start the night Mr. Sullivan started to order Tequila shots and margaritas for everyone. One of my favorite ones would also involve Paul Tierney knocking in a birdie from the bunker off the rake after hitting his shot thin (don't bet against Paul in a tournament). Anyway a great time was had by all and I would highly recommend the outing to all when it comes around again in November; more info later from Jon Fraim.

Look for more on this later in the season for the 2013 Outing!

Upcoming Events and Activities:



Location: Lansdowne Golf Course, Norman Course
Date: **March 13th, 2013 (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 8th
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.**

2013 - 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 2013 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: jksully@hotmail.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 20135

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

