2021 Season Opener Newsletter

Pen Pushers of America

Golf Society

www.penpushers.us

Welcome to the Pen Pushers of America's 20th season. It is hard to believe that our Irish Open in March will be our 168th event since we started this golf society. We hope to see everyone at our first event of the season, the Irish Open, March 17th, at Lansdowne.



2020 Pen Pushers Group Photo – (Find your ugly mug……)





With the Corona pandemic starting in early 2020, it was a difficult year for the world and for many of us who were trying to stay healthy and sane while respecting all the safety and social distancing policies. We are proud to say that we were able to hold all nine of our events with some changes to adhere to the safety requirements. To our knowledge, only one of our members has tested positive for the virus. He caught it while traveling out of state, quarantined for 2 weeks with minimal symptoms, and is back to normal "Corona life". With the vaccines being rolled out soon, hopefully this season we can get back to our normal post event banquets and social aspects of our golf society. But we will have to see how things go Corona-wise regarding safety and adjust our events accordingly.

Your 2021 Pen Pushers Committee Members met January 21st and has finalized the schedule of events for our 2021 season (attached later in this Newsletter). The meeting was well attended with 12 members and included our newest member and Vice-Captain Joe Radakovich.

There are a few new things that we are doing this season so please read all of this newsletter to make sure you are well informed and ready to go for the season. The Committee has put together another great schedule of events for the 2021 season.

Topics of interest in this Newsletter: (Please read it all)

- 2021 Committee Members
- 2021 Event Schedule
- Rules Review
- 2021 Membership Dues and Event Fees
- 2020 Season Awards
- Ryan Bartel Foundation Charity
- Ocean City Golf Trip
- 2021 Handicap Adjustment Changes
- Recap of 2020 Event Results
- Other Interesting Historical Stats
- Perpetual Trophies
- Photo Gallery

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. 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 public.

2021 Committee Members:

Special thanks to Chris Eller for his role as 2020 Captain. Let's all welcome in the 2021 Captain Pedro Lopez and our new Vice-Captain Joe Radakovich.



Pedro Lopez
Captain



Joe Radakovich
Vice-Captain

Thanks to everyone who helps plan and work at our events. Without these volunteer's hard work and dedication, we would not have our Golf Society.

John Sullivan – Chairman/Event Director
Paul Tierney – Vice Chairman/ (Web Master)/Event Director
Brian Hogan– Event Director
Steve Smingler - Handicap Czar
Mike Rubin –Communications/Event Director
Shane Langdon - Charity Organizer/ Event Helper
Pedro Lopez –Captain/ Event Helper
Joe Radakovich– Vice Captain / Event Helper
Chris Eller – Event Helper / Fall Group Trip Organizer
Bob Caines – Event Director
Gary Vanderheiden – Event Director /Helper
Jon Fraim – Event Director

Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2021 List of Events

Event	Date	Location	Coordinator:	Holes	Cost	Tee Time
Irish Open	3/17/2021	Lansdowne	Sullivan/Hogan	18	80	10:00am
Spring Challenge	4/21/2021	Bull Run Golf Club	Rubin	18	80	10 am Shotgun Start
British Cup	5/12/2021	Stoneleigh	Sullivan/Hogan	18	80	10:00am
Founders Trophy	6/11/2021	Heritage Hunt Golf and Country	Hogan	18	80	10:00am
Patriots Memorial	7/14/2021	Shenandoah	Sullivan/Hogan	27	80	10:00am
Summer Championship	8/19/2021	Loudoun Golf & Country Club	Caines	18	80	10 am Shotgun Start
John Denale Memorial	9/14/2021	Piedmont Club	Fraim/Hogan	18	80	10 am Shotgun Start
Autumn Challenge	10/20/2021	Rock Harbor	Caines/Hogan	18	80	11 am Shotgun Start
Turkey Shoot-Out	11/10/2021	Raspberry Falls	Vanderheiden /Hogan	18	80	10:00am

RULES Review!

(New This Year) We have created the Pen Pushers Handbook.
Our golf society has grown to a size in membership that we can no longer rely on word of mouth to educate everyone regarding who we are, how we run our tour events, what our rules are. It is posted on the website for all to read and to know. It covers both general policies of the golf society (membership benefits, rules and policies) and our Event structure (Rules and Guidelines). We expect every member to have read this document before playing this season. If anyone has any questions or suggested input regarding what is in the Handbook, please reach out to a committee member It is new and we will be improving and evolving the document going forward.

Here are a few of our basic rules to remember:
Generally, we play by all USGA rules. Though we do have a few Pen Pusher exceptions and clarification.

SCORING – We play scoring the by the Stableford Scoring rules. It is modified to give 2 points for a Net Par, 1 Point for a Net Bogie, 3 Points for Net Birdie, 4 Points for Net Eagle and 5 Points for a Net Albatross. (Double Eagle).

No GIMME's - You must PUT OUT in order to score any Stableford points on the hole, and the ball must come to rest in the hole, no whining about the ball would have gone in if the stick was out, etc
The PICK UP rule, . (This is a Speed of play rule) If you have hit enough shots such that you cannot score on the hole, Please pick up your ball, declare that you are a "blob" for the hole, (record as "0" points, gross score as shots to earn "0" points).

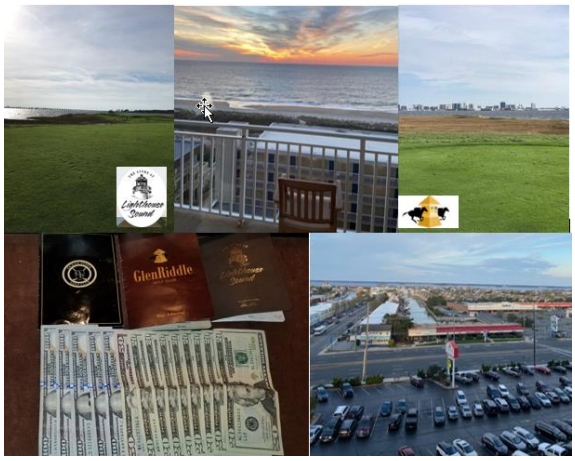
LOST BALL/ OUT OF BOUNDS – (This is a speed of play rule) If you hit a ball out of bounds or lose your ball the penalty is the same**,** ONE STROKE. Out of bounds and lost ball has the two options. Please read the Handbook Event Rules section regarding more details on this rule for requirements and options.

Closest to Pin winners must make Par or Better to win award.

Long Drive ball must be in our own fairway.

……Go to the **Pen Pusher Handbook** for more information and details.

2021 Fall Ocean City Golf Trip – Shane Langdon



Thank you to the 11 Pen Pusher Members and 5 guests that were able to join us last November 2020 for a quickly put together Ocean City Golf Trip for what we hope to be our first annual Pen Pusher's Tour on the Shore. It was a successful trip despite 7+ inches of rain the night before our first round! With that being said, Jon Fraim, Chris Eller, and Shane Langdon have put together plans for our 2021 PP OC

Tour on the Shore and are as follows.
Dates: Weekend of November 5-7
Courses: Lighthouse Sound Friday
War Admiral Saturday
Man O' War Saturday
Rum Pointe Sunday
Cost: Tentative around $200 per player for all 4 rounds

We will each be responsible to book our own accommodations in or around Ocean City for the 2/3 nights. Shane will be happy to make recommendations to anyone needing assistance.
The goal this year is to make this a MEMBER centric trip with the ability for a limited group of guests. We will play by our Pen Pusher rules and handicaps for all of our organized awards and accolades.

More info to follow.

We will have a May 31st 2021 deadline to sign up for the trip. For those who do sign up, we will not have to pay the courses directly for each round until October 31st, just in case something comes up and you need to cancel. More info to come though a separate email that will be sent out about the trip and we will also discuss at our awards presentation at Lansdowne in March.

2020 Tour Winners and Champion

The Pen Pushers Tour of Events the Tour Champion is our version of the FedEx Cup for our 9-event tour and is scored with the Grand Prix point system. The top 15 finishers in each of our events receive points, 20 for 1st place, 17 for 2nd, 15 for 3rd, 12 for 4th and each place after that gets one less point than the previous position down to 15th place receiving 1 point. You must be a member in good standing to receive Grand Prix points for an event. The member with the most total points for the season is our tour champion. In the event of a tie the committee selects the winner based on a tie breaker process.
In addition to tour champion title, we also award season tour titles in other categories.
All of these prizes and trophies will be awarded at the first event of the season, The Irish Open, at Lansdowne, March 17th. Congratulation to all of last year's winners.

For 2020 our winners are as follows:

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Brad Cooper
"Big Dog"
Long Drive Competition</td>
<td>David Kennedy
"Putting Master"
Putting Competitions -</td>
<td>Joe Radakovich
"Mean Green Machine"
Closest to Pin Competitions</td>
<td>Willie Merida
"Birdie Master"
Most Birdies at Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Todd Davis
"Most Improved"
Compared to previous season</td>
<td>Gary Pulino
"Lion Man"
Most gross score wins</td>
<td>Wil Fekeci
"TOUR CHAMPION"
Most grand prix points</td>
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At our first event this year, the Irish open, these awards we will presented for the 2020 season.

2020 Tour Stats:

	1st Place	#	2nd Place	#	3rd Place	#
Tour Championship Winner	**Wil Fakeci**	**82**				
Total Best 5 Stableford Scores	**Wil Fakeci**	**178**	**David Kennedy**	**175**	**Joe Radakovich**	**172**
Total Best 5 Grand Prix Scores	**David Kennedy**	**76**	**Chris Eller**	**60**	**Ross Charles**	**64**
Highest Average Finish w/ 5 events	**David Kennedy**	**8.3**	**Wil Fakeci**	**8.7**	**Ross Charles**	**9.0**
Highest Total Stableford Points	**Ross Charles**	**290**	**Shane Langdon**	**286**	**Will Fakeci**	**284**
Highest Total Grand Prix Points	**Wil Fakeci**	**82**	**David Kennedy**	**76**	**Ross Charles**	**75**
Total Wins	**Todd Davis**	**2**				
Total Birdies	**Willie Merida**	**17**	**Ross Charles**	**16**	**Gary Pulino**	**15**
Big Dog	**Brad Cooper**	**3**	**Brian Hogan**	**2**		
Mean Green Machine	**Joe Radakovich**	**2**	**6 others with 1 each**			
Putting Master	**David Kennedy**	**3**	**6 others at 1 each**	**1**	**4 others at 1 each**	
Most Events Attended	**Bill Brown**	**9**		**8**		**7**
	Ross Charles					
	Chris Eller					
	Wil Fakeci				**Brad Cooper**	
	Jon Fraim		**David Kennedy**		**Todd Davis**	
	Brian Hogan		**Mike Rubin**		**Pedro Lopez**	
	Shane Langdon		**Ralph Tener**		**Marc Steigerwald**	
	Kibok Lee				**Gary Vanderheiden**	
	Willie Merida					
	Gary Pulino					
	Joe Radakovich					
	Steve Smingler					
	John Sullivan					
Most Lion Man Wins	**Gary Pulino**	**4**	**Willie Merida**	**3**		
Most Improved	**Todd Davis**					

2020 Charity Recap- Ryan Bartel Foundation – Shane Langdon



https://www.ryanbartelfoundation.org/
As you may recall, our local Charity in 2020 was The Ryan Bartel Foundation. Their purpose and reason for existing is to support Suicide prevention and awareness in Loudoun County. Their program is offered to LCPS students and parents. I am proud to recall that we, the Pen Pushers of America, were able to provide a much needed $3,500 donation to the foundation in 2020. We now need to decide who the next charity will be that we target for our next donation. **Please reach out to me** slangdon9@gmail.com **with any suggestion you have for a local registered charity who's cause may be near and dear to you. We would like to announce our next charity at our March event at Lansdowne, so be sure to contact me before then.**

Side note, I have helped organize an annual Golf Tournament benefiting The Ryan Bartel Foundation that will be held on Monday April 26, 2021 at Lansdowne Norman Course. FYI this is not a sanctioned PP event but it is a way for us to continue to show support for that charity. More details to follow for those interested.

Upcoming Events and Activities: The Irish Open

Location:	**Lansdowne Golf Course, Norman Course**
Date:	**March 17st, 2021 (Wednesday)**
Time:	9:00 – 10:00 Registration, Putting Competition, driving range 10:00am Tee off
Prizes, Awards and Meal:	(Directly after the golf – as usual) Champion, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin, Goat-boy, Putting Champion, and Lion Man
Entry Fee:	$80 - Includes Golf, Practice Range, Prizes, Awards, and Food

Use web site if you are a member,
or call John Sullivan at (703) 622-0084

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.

2021 Membership Dues and Outing Fees:

You should all know that Pen Pushers of America is a not-for-profit, fully volunteer managed and operated Golf Society. There are no paid employees here. Our goal is to create a golf experience for our members that is fun, challenging, fair, competitive, and rewarding, with members who are fun to play, and all at the best possible cost value to our members. Our events are funded in two ways, 1) membership dues, and 2) event registration fees. In recent years, as a result of members asking to play "nicer courses", we have added a few higher end courses which has challenged our funding budgets. We also try to make the prizes and awards as nice as possible, but it is always a challenge to balance the cost with the value.

Having said all of this, we still feel that we have created the best golf value in America!

We will continue this year with our "Fixed Rate", of $80.00 for each event registration fee.
Annual Membership Dues: will also be $80.00 for the season of 9 events.

2021 - 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 2021 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 should also pay annual dues then. Otherwise, please send an e-mail with your intent to be a member to: penpushers@gmail.com , and follow the payment instructions from Mike Rubin. **For your GUESTS**: e-mail guest information to the same address.
- **Members who want to bring guests:** register them on the website and pay for them when you make your payment.

Annual Membership Dues: $80 (**Still the greatest golf value in America!)**
Payment also by electronic payment method.

Payment Process Changes:

Last year, in response to Corona safety concerns, we started taking payment for events up-front, the week before each event, by means of electronic payment. A BIG THANK YOU! to Mike Rubin for stepping up and managing that for us. This season we are going to continue to do payment this way. We are working towards combining the process of registration with launching a payment page on the website when you register for an event. We are still working on this so the fall back is to do it like last year where Mike will send out instructions by email.

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 (or in rare instances negative) and the maximum is 36. for the beginning of each season, we will adjust a member's raw handicap +1 stroke for each point where the rounded average prior year's scores (3 event minimum) is below 30 points (Maximum Adjustment will be 2 points up). We will adjust a member's raw handicap -1 stroke for each point where the rounded average Prior Year scores (1 event minimum) is above 36 points. Raw handicaps are rounded for use at each event.

For the monthly adjustment for the winners and non-winners will be on a graduating scale based on handicap. For the monthly adjustment we will use the average score for that event minus the high and low scores (Avg. Score). The Average Score is a better indication of the course difficulty and weather conditions.

Monthly Winners Handicap (HC) will be adjusted based on the players HC for that event as follows:

Beginning HC 0 to 10.4 -2 and -.1 per point over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 10.5 to 20.4 -3 and -.2 per point over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 20.5 to 30.4 -4 and -.3 for points over Avg. Score
Beginning HC 30.5 to 36 -6 and -.4 for points over Avg. Score

Non-winners HC will be adjusted by the same tenths of a points system as above based on HC for that event for scores above or below Avg. Score. The monthly adjustment will be limited to +/- 5 times the appropriate tenths of a point adjustment. A score of Avg. score, less high and low score, incurs no

handicap adjustment unless that player is the event winner. These adjustments are made because it is much easier for a higher handicapper to shoot 5 to 10 points better than their handicap than it is for a lower handicapper.

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.** We had 9 different winners in 4 of the last 5 years

Steve Smingler, 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.

Lion Man Awards



The Lion Man is the person who shot the Low Gross Score of the Day, (or the best golfer of the day). In the past, we elected to only allow the Lion Man to win once per season. Now, several of our winners won the award more than once with Gary Pulino winning it four times and Willie Merida winning it three times. Gary Pulino now has the distinction of winning it the most with 15 wins to his total. Congratulations to our GRRRREAT Lion Men!

2020 Lion Man Winners

LION MEN Winners	Event	Lion Man Winner	Gross Score
	Irish Open	Gary Pulino	79
	Spring Challenge	Gary Pulino	78
	British Cup	Willie Merida	71
	Founders Trophy	Willie Merida	75
	Patriots Memorial	Gary Pulino	75
	Summer Championship	Brad Cooper	76
	John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	Willie Merida	74
	Autumn Challenge	Ross Charles	75
	Turkey Shoot-Out	Gary Pulino	73

2020 Recap of Event Results:

Event	Irish Open	Spring Challenge	British Cup	Founders Trophy	Patriots Memorial	Summer Championship	John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	Autumn Challenge	Turkey Shoot-Out
Location	Lansdowne	Bull Run	Stoneleigh	Heritage Hunt Country Club	Shenandoah Valley	Loudoun Golf and Country Club	Piedmont Club	Rock Harbor-Boulder	Raspberry Falls
Date	3/18/20	4/15/20	5/20/20	6/12/20	7/15/20	8/20/20	9/15/20	10/21/20	11/11/20
Champion	Ivan Bruzonic	Steve Smingler	Willie Merida	Jon Erickson	David Kennedy	Brad Cooper	Todd Davis	Bill Brown	Todd Davis
Champion Points	35	36	38	43	38	39	35	38	43
Goat Boy	Mike Rubin	Wil Fekeci	Chris Eller	Chuck Najjoum	Forrest Miles	Ralph Tener	Steve Smingler	Todd Davis	Bill Brown
Goat Boy Points	11	18	19	27	22	22	18	17	23
Long Drive (BIG DOG)	Martine Gidono	Shaun Cavan (G)	Brad Cooper	Chris Nielson	Shane Langdon	Brad Cooper	Brian Hogan	Brad Cooper	Brian Hogan
Closest to the Pin	Joe Radakovich	David Kennedy	HG Michael	Michael Collens (G)	N/A	Larry Newell	Bill Brown	Steve Smingler	Joe Radakovich
Putting Champion	Dave Kennedy	Tony Lamirata (G)	Dave Kennedy	Shane Langdon	Willie Meida	Todd Davis	Adam Kennedy	Dave Kennedy	Willie Meida
Lion Man	Gary Pulino	Gary Pulino	Willie Merida	Willie Merida	Gary Pulino	Brad Cooper	Wili Merida	Ross Charles	Gary Pulino
Lion Man Raw Score	79	78	71	75	75	76	74	75	73

Other Interesting Historical Stats:

	Score / #	Name	Year	Course
Lowest Goatboy	1	John Denale	2002	Bull Run
Highest Goatboy	29	Dave Watts	2004	Stoneleigh
		Bob Caines	2011	Shenandoah
		Subash Penmetsa	2015	Loudoun
Lowest Champion	16	Jed Fotchman	2002	Bull Run
Highest Champion	50	Todd Davis	2011	Shenandoah
		Dave Watts	2012	Bull Run
Lowest Score	0	Vernon Hardy	2002	Bull Run
Total # Championships	8	Steve Smingler		
Hole in One	1	Charles Han	2012	Shenandoah
		Jon Fraim	2019	Piedmont
Total # Goatboys	12	Mike Rubin		
Total # Closest to Pin	9	Gary Pulino		
Total # Long Drives	20	Jon Fraim		
Total # Putting Championships	14	Gary Pulino		
Total # Lion Men	15	Gary Pulino		

Perpetual and Photo Gallery Trophies:

We have a perpetual trophy for each of our nine events. All the past winners are captured on each trophy. Congratulations to all those Pen Pushers winners!



March
Irish Open
Ivan Bruzonic



April
Spring Challenge
Steve Smingler



May
British Cup
Willie Merida



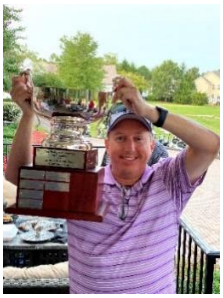
June
Founders Trophy
Jon Erickson



July
Patriots Memorial
David Kennedy



August
Summer
Championship
Brad Cooper



September - Captain's Day Challenge John Denale Memorial
Todd Davis



October
Autumn Challenge
Bill Brown



November
Turkey Shoot-Out
Todd Davis