2023 Season Opener Newsletter

Pen Pushers of America

Golf Society

www.penpushers.us

Welcome to the Pen Pushers of America's 22nd season. It is hard to believe that our Irish Open in March will be our 186th event since we started this golf society. We hope to see everyone at our first event of the season, the Irish Open, March 15th, at Bull Run.



Our First Event, Irish Open, moves to Bull Run this year. Our group picture will look more like this, this year. This is an old archive from 2014 showing players at Bull Run holding up Irish Open Trophy.

2023 January Committee Meeting

Your 2023 Pen Pushers Committee Members met in January and finalized the event schedule for our 2023 season (attached later in this Newsletter). We have a couple venue changes from last year that includes starting the Season Opener at Bull Run instead of Lansdowne, and we have a new golf course on the schedule this season, Stonewall Golf Club in Gainesville. In 2022 we had the inaugural Jeff Haymaker Memorial Event at Rock Harbor in October. Jeff's passing last September was a shock to all of us. He was a great guy who loved being part of Pen Pushers. We will continue to honor Jeff by making his memorial event in October a permanent part of our

annual schedule. We also continue to update the Handbook that captures how we manage our competitions and our memberships. A new version will be posted on the site a couple of weeks before the season opener event and we will send out a reminder to everyone to read it before the season begins. Thanks in advance to everyone for taking the time to read it each season.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Bull Run in March!

The Tradition Continues in 2023, Enjoy it!

Sully
Pen Pushers of America Chairman

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

- 2023 Committee Members
- 2023 List of Events
- Rules Review
- 2022 Tour Winners and Champion
- 2022 Tour Stats
- 2023 Upcoming Events and Activities- The Irish Open
- 2022-2023 OC Trip
- New Social Membership Status
- Golf Genius -No More Math Mistakes
- 2023 Membership Dues and Event Fees
- 2022 Season Awards
- Recap of 2022 Event Results
- Perpetual Trophies
- Code of Conduct
- In Memoriam

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…Why wait, go now and register for our opening event at Bull Run.

2023 Committee Members:



Kibok Lee
Captain



Jeff Haymaker
Vice-Captain
(Posthumously)



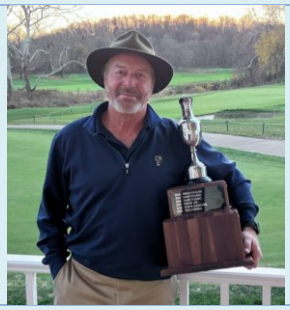
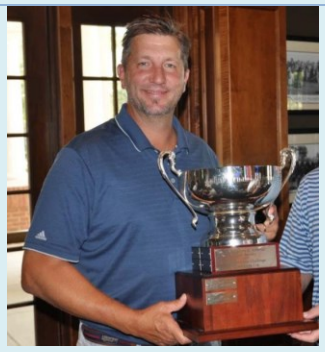
Joe Radakovich
2022 Captain

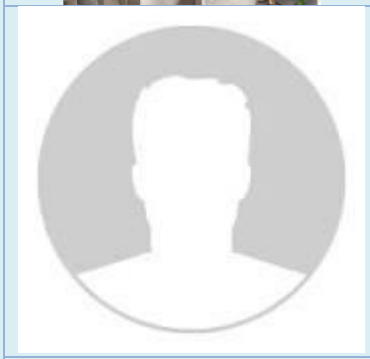
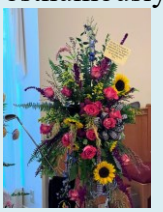
Special thanks to Joe Radakovich 2022 Captain. Your work and dedication to our events was much appreciated. Let's all welcome in the 2023 Captain Kibok Lee. For Vice Captain we had Jeff Haymaker teed-up to be this year's Vice-Captain. Your Committee Members voted to elect

him posthumously for this year's Vice Captain. Thank you Kibok for helping out with the putting competition again.

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.

Welcome to your New 2023 Committee Members

John Sullivan	Chairman/Membership Chairman/Event Organizer		**Kibok Lee**	Captain/Event Helper
				
Brian Hogan	Co-Vice Chairman/Director of Events/Communications		**Chris Eller**	Event Helper/ Fall Ocean City Trip Organizer
				
Joe Radakovich	Co-Vice Chairman/Event Helper/Golf Genius Manager		**Bob Caines**	Event Organizer
				
Steve Smingler	Handicap Secretary		**Gary Vanderheiden**	

				– Event Organizer/Event Helper
Mike Rubin 	Treasurer /Event Organizer		**Jon Fraim** 	Event Organizer/ Fall Ocean City Trip Organizer
Paul Tierney 	Website Master			We are always looking for more help. Please Volunteer!
Shane Langdon 	Charity Organizer/Fall Ocean City Trip Organizer		**Jeff Haymaker** 	Vice-Captain (Posthumously)  ***"We were truly fortunite to have had Jeff as a member of the Pen Pushers of America, We will truly miss him"***

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Pen Pushers Golf Society: 2023 List of Events

Date	Event	Location	Holes	Max Attendees
2023-03-15	Irish Open	Bull Run Golf Club	18	40
2023-04-13	Spring Challenge	Stonewall Golf Club	18	40
2023-05-17	British Cup	Stoneleigh	18	40
2023-06-09	Founders Trophy	Heritage Hunt Golf and Country	27	40
2023-07-19	Patriots Memorial	Shenandoah	18	40
2023-08-10	Summer Championship	Loudoun Golf & Country	18	40
2023-09-12	John Denale Memorial	Piedmont Club	18	40
2023-10-04	Autumn Challenge Jeff Haymaker Memorial	Rock Harbor Golf Course (BOULDER)	18	40
2023-10-22	Shore Tour in OC (Fri Sat Sun)	Various	18	20
2023-11-08	Turkey Shoot-Out	Raspberry Falls	18	40

Policy and Rules Review:

We have updated the Pen Pushers Handbook. to include a section on "Code of Conduct" and other rule and policy clarifications. Something new, when you pay your membership fee, you are committing that you have read it and will adhere to it. It should not be a big deal, but we wanted everyone to know what is expected and what is not tolerated at our events. (See at the end of this document).

The Handbook is there because 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, and 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 still 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. We do have a few Pen Pusher exceptions and clarification.

- **SCORING** – Our events are scored by the Modified Stableford scoring format. Points are scored in the following manner: 1 Point for a Net Bogie, 2 points for a Net Par, 3 Points for Net Birdie, 4 Points for Net Eagle and 5 Points for a Net Albatross. (Double Eagle).
- **No GIMME's -** You must PUTT-OUT in order to score any Stableford points on the hole, 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 also 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 have two options. Please read the Handbook Event Rules section for more details on this rule.
- **Closest to Pin winners** - must make Par or Better to win this award.
- **Long Drive** - ball must be in our own fairway.
- *Go to the **Pen Pusher Handbook** for more information and details.*

2022 Tour Winners and Champion

The Pen Pushers Tour of Events is our version of the PGA FedEx Cup. Our 9-event tour is scored with a Grand Prix point system. Everyone who plays in each of our events receives points. The member with the most total points for the season is our tour champion. In addition to our 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 Bull Run, March 15th.
For 2022 our winners are as follows:



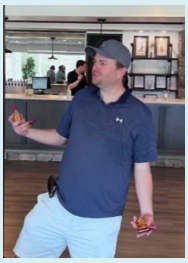
Hogan/Lee/Merida
(playoff at the Irish Open to determine)
"Big Dog"
Long Drive Competition



Ross Charles
Brian Hogan
"Putting Master"
(playoff at the Irish Open to determine)
Putting Competitions -



Gary Pulino
"Mean Green Machine"
Closest to Pin Competitions



Ross Charles
"Birdie Master"
Most Birdies at Events



Ross Charles
"Lion Man"
Most gross score wins



John Sullivan
"TOUR CHAMPION"
Most grand prix points.

At our first event this year, the Irish open, we will present the awards for the 2022 season.

2022 Tour Stats:

Stat	1st Place	#	2nd Place	#	3rd Place	#
Tour Championship Winner	**John Sullivan**	**235**	**Mark Dudek**	**225**	**John Fraim**	**199**
Total Best 5 Stableford Scores	**Marc Steigerwald**	**169**	**Dudek/Nielsen/Ross**	**165**	**Davis/Fraim**	**161**
Total Best 5 Grand Prix Scores	**Marc Steigerwald**	**163**	**John Sullivan**	**155**	**Chris Nielsen**	**148**
Highest Average Finish w/ 5 events	**Marc Steigerwald**	**3.6**	**Chris Nielsen**	**5.4**	**Chris Burrell**	**6.4**
Highest Total Stableford Points	**John Sullivan**	**270**	**Mark Dudek**	**268**	**John Fraim**	**257**
Highest Total Grand Prix Points	**John Sullivan**	**235**	**Mark Dudek**	**225**	**Jon Fraim**	**199**
Total Wins						
	9 Different Winners	**1**				
Total Birdies	**Ross Charles**	**16**	**Brian Hogan**	**13**	**Merida/Pulino**	**12**
Hole in One						
Big Dog	**Hogan/Lee/Merida**	**2**				
Mean Green Machine	**Gary Pulino**	**2**	**7 others with 1 each**			
Putting Master	**Charles/Hogan**	**2**	**7 others at 1 each**	**1**		
Most Events Attended	**Todd Davis**	**9**	**Ross Charles**	**8**	**Chris Eller**	**7**
	Mark Dudek		**Brad Cooper**		**Shane Langdon**	
	Jon Fraim		**Alan Egge**		**Chris Nielsen**	

	Brian Hogan		**Gary Pulino**		**Tino Sahoo**	
	Kibok Lee		**Andrew Reamer**		**Gary Vanderheiden**	
	Joe Radakovich		**Ralph Tener**			
	Steve Smingler					
	John Sullivan					
Most Lion Man Wins						
	Ross Charles	**3**	**Gary Pulino**	**2**		

Upcoming Events and Activities: The Irish Open

Location:	Bull Run Golf Club 15000 Bull Run Estates Drive • Haymarket, Va 20169
Date:	**March 15st, 2023 (Wednesday)**
Time:	9:00 – 10:00 Registration, Putting Competition, driving range 10:00am Shotgun Start Tee off
Prizes, Awards and Meal:	Hot Dog at Turn, Buffet Dinner(Directly after the golf – as usual) Champion, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin, Goat-boy, Putting Champion, and Lion Man
Entry Fee:	$100 - Includes Golf, Practice Range, Prizes, Awards, and Food

Use web site if you are a member, www.penpushers.us

This Year we are moving our Kick-off Event to Bull Run GolfClub

2022 – 2023 Fall Ocean City Golf Trip





Once a year the Pen Pushers pack up and head to the beach for a Guys Weekend of Golf. This year our "Shore Tour" did not disappoint. With weather much better than the prior year, the boys shared lots of golf and probably a little too much beer and alcohol. This was our second "official" Ocean City - Pen Pushers Autumn Tour Event, Shane Langdon, Chris Eller and Jon Fraim organized a fantastic 3 days of golf at some premium courses: Lighthouse Sound, Glen Riddle, and Rum Pointe. The format was Pen Pushers Modified Stableford points daily, total Stableford points (3 days), and some 2-man team blind draws for each day. It was well organized, and the courses were in perfect shape. We were lucky enough to have a few Pen Pusher "Heritage Members" join us for the weekend: Ken Tucker, Chris Hughes and Norm Aoresty. They were Pen Pusher regulars for our first 10 years, had moved to Ocean City a while back and were able to join us for the event. It was great to see them and take their money…. but, in the end, it was Shane Langdon who took top honors for the weekend.

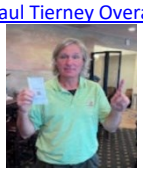
Shore Tour Day1 Winner
Mike Rubin



Shore Tour Day 2 Winner
Norm Aroesty



Shore Tour Day 3 Winner & Wrap-up
Paul Tierney Overall Winner Shane Langdon





The Shore Tour is now on the schedule for the end of October this year. Make sure you registered now and pre-pay your $150 Dollar deposit to reserve your spot.

2023 New Social Membership Status

We have decided to create a new membership for the guys who want to come out and just have fun with the Pen Pushers group and not be part of the actual competition. We are calling this new membership, Social Members. It is similar to playing as a guest, where their scorecard results are not counted towards handicap, winner, Goat Boy etc. This is for situations where someone might have been injured or playing with a bunch of friends, or just otherwise want to play for fun.

2023 Golf Genius -No More Math Mistakes



Last year the Pen Pushers started using a golf scoring software program called Golf Genius. This software is used by many golf clubs to manage Tournaments and Golf Outings. It provides a stable quick way for us to input each member's scorecard and Golf Genius will correct the mistakes on the spot so our awards will be validated before we hand out the trophy. We used it for the last half of last year's events. With the success of this program we have decided to use it full time to manage our events so that individuals will no longer be responsible for the correctness of their Net and Points on their event golf card. Last Season members would frequently make math errors or other incorrect entries on their score card causing changes to winners and members to be otherwise DQ'ed from an event because of errors or omissions. Joe Radakovich is our resident expert and will continue to be the manager of our Golf Genius scoring at each event. This year we plan on getting another Pen Pusher involved in this system to have a backup for Joe. Joe, thanks for stepping up and helping us out learning and setting it up for our use.

2023 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 with, 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, there has been a big increase in demand for tee times at golf courses everywhere. This increased demand has been driving course fees up 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!
This year we will keep our "Fixed Rate", of $100.00 for each event registration fee.
The hundred dollars automatically includes a portion for the charity, and everyone is now automatically paid into our Raffle that will be included at the conclusion of each event. This year's events have all gone up in price due to food and wage increases by the clubs. We strive to keep our events affordable for everyone. Annual Membership Dues help offset the increases that the club's charge us. Please pay your dues as soon as possible as we have had to make deposits for our events early.

2023 - 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 2023 events. You can now go to the web site and register for events. Call or e-mail Paul Tierney if you forgot your login ID and password. If you register for the Irish Open you should also pay annual dues then. Otherwise, please send an email with your intent to be a member to: penpushers@gmail.com, and follow the payment instructions from Mike Rubin. **For your GUESTS**: email 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: $100 **(Still the greatest golf value in America!)**
Please pay your membership dues ASAP. This allows us to make deposit payments for our events to reserve the dates for our events. Payments are only accepted by electronic payment methods: Venmo and PayPal.
Contact Mike Rubin if you have any problems with the payment process.

2022 Recap of Event Results:

Event:	Location:	Date:	Champion	Winning Points	Goat Boy	Goat Points	Long Drive	Closest to the Pin	Putting Champion	Lion Man	Gro Sco
Irish Open	Lansdowne	3/16/22	Brian Hogan	34	Nick Emery	17	Andrew Reamer (G)	Pedro Lopez	Ross Charles	Brian Hogan	
Spring Challenge	Bull Run	4/13/22	Ross Charles	38	Mike Rubin	22	Brian Hogan	Ross Charles	Jon Fraim	Ross Charles	
British Cup	Stoneleigh	5/11/22	David Kennedy	32	Chris Nielson	19	Kibok Lee	Joe Radakovich	Brian Hogan	Gary Pulino	
Founders Trophy	Shenandoah Valley	6/15/22	Tino Sahoo	43	Ralph Tener	22	Willie Merida	Gary Pulino	Ralph Tener	Marc Steigerwald	
Patriots Memorial	Heritage Hunt Country Club	7/15/22	Bruce Bibb	38	Alan Egge	18	Willie Merida	Brian Hogan	Brad Cooper	Ross Charles	
Summer Championship	Loudoun Golf and Country Club	8/18/22	Marc Steigerwald	37	John Borghard	16	Kibok Lee	Chris Nielson	Brian Hogan	Williebaldo Merida	
John Denale Memorial - Captains Day Challenge	Piedmont Club	9/13/22	Kibok Lee	33	Kenny Engram	16	Brad Cooper	Gary Pulino	Chip Ikwild	Kibok Lee	
Autumn Challenge	Rock Harbor-Boulder	10/19/22	John Sullivan	34	Brad Cooper	14	Joe Sturm (G)	Joe Sturm (G)	Ross Charles	Ross Charles	
Turkey Shoot-Out	Raspberry Falls	11/9/22	Gary Vanderheiden	39	Steve Smingler	22	Brian Hogan	John Slye	Marc Steigerwald	Gary Pulino	

Perpetual and Photo Gallery Trophies:

We have a perpetual trophy for each of our ten events. All the past winner's names are captured on each trophy.

Congratulations to all those Pen Pushers winners!

2022 Perpetual Trophy Winners: (Click each picture to see Event Photos)



2022 Irish Open
Brian Hogan



2022 Spring Challenge
Ross Charles



2022 British Cup
David Kennedy



2022 Founders Trophy
Bruce Bibb



2022 Patriots Memorial
Tino Sahoo



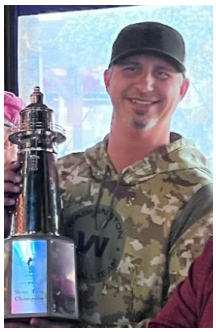
2022 Summer Championship
Marc Steigerwald



2022 John Denele Memorial
Kibok Lee



2022Autumn Challenge
John Sullivan



2022 Shore Tour
Shane Langdon



2022 Turkey Shoot-Out
Gary Vanderheiden

Pen Pushers of America Golf Society:
Code of Conduct

Pen Pushers Golf Society is an organization of gentlemen who play golf. It is expected that Members and their guests are honest, courteous, polite and respectful while at our events. This Code of Conduct helps to explain why we have a code and describes what we mean by the term "gentlemen". This Code of Conduct has been developed to ensure a safe, friendly and respectful place for members and guests to gather in the spirit of cooperation, relaxation, good will, fun and friendly competition. The Code of Conduct differs from rules in that it addresses acceptable/unacceptable behavior. In the event of unacceptable behavior, the committee retains final review and disciplinary authority to impose suspensions and/or expulsions of members from membership.

All members and guests are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that:

- Is respectful and reflective of personal integrity, honesty, and responsibility to members, guests, and course staff at our meetings. This same integrity, honesty and good will are expected whether at the clubhouse, in the parking lot or on the golf course at a Pen Pusher sponsored event.
- Does not insult, harass, talk down to, scream at staff, members, and/or guests and does not create unnecessary strife and divisiveness.
- Does not damage the character, integrity, good will, property, or community perspective of Pen Pushers Golf Society.
- Observes proper golf etiquette while at Pen Pusher events. This includes observing event and local rules, proper speed of play, and adhering to Pen Pusher scorecard practices for accuracy and completeness.
- Accepts responsibility for the conduct of their guests.
- Abides by all rules and policies as specified in the Pen Pusher Handbook.
- Avoids unsafe circumstances/activities for oneself, or other individuals.
- Serves as an ambassador for Pen Pushers when out in the community. We are all representatives of Pen Pushers Golf Society.
- Acknowledges that Pen Pushers is a family social environment that prohibits the use of obscenities and/or loud boisterous behavior in an offensive or threatening manner.
- Precludes member or guest from over intoxication, for both the individual and collective safety and well-being of all Pen Pushers members.
- Acknowledges and meets all financial obligations.

Commitment Note:
By paying Membership dues each year, the member confirms that they have read and understand this document and agree to follow and help to enforce this Code of Conduct. If a member is witness to an infraction of this code, they are obligated to report it (with discretion) to a committee Member as soon as possible.

In Memoriam

This year we lost a great friend and fellow Penpusher. Jeff Haymaker. Jeff was selected for this year's Vice Captain. Your Board members elected to select him posthumously. Jeff we will all miss you!

















