FALL’S FRANTIC FINALE

BY JOEL JACKSON

The FGCSA is a busy beat. We have a lot going on. Jennifer is answering the phones and emails every day and certainly makes her share of trips to host or manage our events. This fall will go down in the history books as one of the busiest for me travel-wise that I can ever recall. The first of September is always Fall Florida Green deadline time, so it’s naturally hectic. I made a trip to Sarasota on the 12th to cover the second joint West Coast-Suncoast meeting and “Across the Bridge” golf challenge match. Next I had to meet two deadlines for The Green Sheet and my monthly Golfdom column. The FTGA Turf Conference and Trade Show took up the last week of September.

On Oct. 5 the North Florida GCŞA premiers its Fall Classic at Amelia Island to honor longtime member Crash Hall and to host the fifth major FGCSA golf event to name the final member of the FGCSA Golf Team for the GCSAA Championship in San Diego. Our fall FGCSA board meeting will precede that on Oct. 4 at the Amelia Island Plantation Golf Club. The following Monday, Oct. 8, the West Coast holds its annual Bud Quandt Research & Benefit Tournament at the Feather Sound Club in Largo.

Two days later on Oct 10, Jennifer and I are in Lake Buena Vista attending an Ag Institute of Florida-sponsored “Lunch & Learn” session on using social media for business and association communications. The following week Jennifer and I will be gathering material for the November-December Green Sheet deadline, and on the 18th and 19th I’ll be heading down to Naples to cover the Everglades GCŞA’s annual CREW Tournament at the Old Corkscrew G.C. Meanwhile, Jennifer is hoping everyone has met the October deadline for names and contact information for the 2013 FGCSA Directory as she begins the process of laying out the publication.

On Oct. 28 I fly out to Kansas City for a GCSAA Environmental Programs Committee meeting, and five days later back in Orlando, I’m setting up our FGCSA booth at the 2012 Irrigation Association show on Nov. 4 at the Convention Center to network with potential sponsors and advertisers. The next day I’m airborne again, this time to Dallas to attend a day-and-a-half USGA Water Summit meeting with speakers from EPA, academia, the Green Section and our own Tim Hiers, CGCS.

The following week, on Nov. 13, it’s off to Birmingham to participate in the Alabama GCŞA’s first-ever assistant superintendent “Boot Camp” education event. On the plus side, all the travel does generate material and topics for my writing. Amid all this mayhem there are publication deadlines for my Golfdom and Florida Golf Central columns, and the Florida Green material is due again Dec. 7 and the Green Sheet process begins on the 15th. By now Jennifer has hopefully assembled the Directory, it has been proofed and is on its way to the printer. She does an amazing job of meeting planning managing the magazine advertising, the Green Sheet coordination and maintaining chapter communications networks.

Hopefully January will shape up to be a bit of a recovery and rehab month and you will have all your 2013 event calendars planned so we can begin again!