

DELAVEAGA GOLF RESULTS

AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS

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The GCSANC Golf committee has worked very hard with the PGA in forming a mutual gift certificate redeemable at a Pro shop of your choice. In the future all golf prizes earned at monthly meetings will be presented in this gift certificate. keep reading "Thru The Green" for details.

If you or someone you know has a golf prize coming and they have not received it, please let Jean LaDuc or Steve Good know.

Control of our irrigation systems would seem to have come full circle. The beginning of "automatic" irrigation started with a night waterman who "manually" placed a sprinkler in a quick coupling valve (QCV). Since the irrigation lines normally had water under pressure to the QVC, the night waterman often ended up as wet as the turf he was watering. The benefit of this type of system was that the night waterman could talk to the superintendent and water only those areas needing water by just using the quick couplers in that area. The disadvantage of this system was that often times every area that was watered received the same amount of water, i.e. all sprinklers would be put in the QCV's for 40 minutes. If the golf course was large and the night waterman had to use 50 sprinklers, the length of each run time depended on how long it took him to get around the course as he was installing the sprinklers.

As demand increased for more control, superintendents requested a system that used pop-up sprinklers that they could group together. This "bank" of sprinklers was opened, then 12 or 14 sprinklers would come on. In this way, a golf course with 1200 sprinklers could be controlled by just 100 valves. Now each valve (hooked up to a

station at the controller) could be adjusted for shorter run times and the valve could be operated by a controller that "told" it when to operate. These first control systems used the same three basic components that we still use:

- *1. a controller (tells the sprinkler when to run and for how long);
- *2. a valve (allows water to get to the sprinkler);
- *3. control lines from the controller to the valve (typically either electric wire or hydraulic tubing).

As the number of sprinklers assigned to each station decreased (for more control) number of controllers on the golf course increased. In an effort to cut down on the time that it took to program an irrigation system, manufacturers designed systems that used a central controller that would send a start signal to groups of satellite controllers. This allowed the superintendent to determine his run times in the field, but set his start times in the office. While this made for easier programming, systems were still watering shaded areas the same as sunny areas and flat terrain the same as sloped areas.

Next month: Completing the circle on control.