

# THRU THE GREEN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 1994

## THE MEETING PLACE

August 8, 1994

### Saratoga Country Club

Host Superintendent:  
Leon Snethen

**T**he Course: Saratoga Country Club was built 31 years ago. The architect of record is Robert Graves, although he will not take credit for the course as it was not built to his design. Many holes were changed and the course built with no bunkers. The members then decided where they wanted bunkers and went to work building them.

A lot of improvements have been made over the last eight years. Brian Bagley,

former superintendent, convinced the board of the need for the Cambridge Drainage system, which has worked extremely well and prevented the loss of parts of the greens during rainy seasons.

Three years ago, ground was broken on a master plan to lengthen the course and increase par to 72. Two new holes and a driving range were built, a complete new Maxi 5 irrigation system with a new VSD pump station installed. The next phase was to restructure holes 7, 8 and 9. This phase was voted down by the membership as they felt 8 and 9 were the two strongest closing holes they could have. So, that project, and completion of the master

plan, are in a holding pattern while a proposal is developed for the future.

Says Leon, "I hope you enjoy the course and play well. Remember, it is very tight and unforgiving to the errant shot."

**The Superintendent: Leon Snethen** was born in Enid, Oklahoma, "way back in the olden days." The only one of the cousins not raised on a farm, Leon's summers were spent helping grandpa down on the farm, harvesting wheat with combines and tractors.

After graduating from high school, Leon attended Phillips University where he studied Business Administration. But after two years, Leon decided he was

smarter than the professors, and ventured out on his own into the big, bad world of business. Before he was 21 he had acquired a wife and a son. A daughter followed three years later.

The family moved to Denver and was there for over 11 years while Leon tried to decide just what *business* he wanted to be in: equipment rental, construction estimation, cable television installation. He even had his own company for a while, managing 45 employees virtually on his own (a long story).

To paraphrase a popular quote, you can take the boy off the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the boy.

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## Supers and Pros Meet at the Creek

by Leon Snethen

The Superintendent/Pro Tournament was held July 11th at Silver Creek Valley Country Club with 137 superintendents, pros and guests in attendance. After a great buffet lunch, we started for the course. Host superintendent, Nick Checklenis, had the golf course in outstanding condition. He definitely had the pins in some challenging position. The 18th hole was tucked in behind a creek and waterfall, giving all of us a chance to go for the money or play it safe. It was terrific!

After much-needed cocktails, dinner was served. The food and service were excellent. Many thanks to Nick and the excellent staff at SCVCC, including **Chef Patrick Clark** for a fabulous meal.

We would like to give special thanks to the pro shop staff for their excellence in scoring the tournament. It was a very difficult scoring job, and they did it beautifully. Thank you...thank you...thank you!!

Jay Jackson, Club Pro; Duane Criswell, Asst. Pro;  
Tonya Myers, Shop Staff; Bob Blasing, Club House Manager

*(See Page 5 for winners)*



## Trophy, trophy, who's got the trophy?

I was just informed there is a perpetual trophy for low net superintendent for the Superintendent-Pro tournament. It has not been around for three years, as far as I know. We are taking anonymous tips as to its location. Call 408/253-0340, ext. 32, if you have information as to its whereabouts.

## Scholarship Research Update

The annual Scholarship/Research Tournament generated \$2,400 into the S/R account. Special thanks to **OM Scott Company** and **Far West Supply** for sponsoring the beverage cart at the tournament.

## Wanted Sites for Future Meetings

If you and your club are interested in hosting GCSANC at some time in the future, please call Bill Kissick at Salinas Country Club - 408/443-4566.

## And The Winners Are...

### Superintendent Low Gross

#### The Ayershire Trophy

Jeff Roberts	
Blackhawk CC	74
Bob Lopic	
Boulder Creek G & CC	77
Scott Lewis	
Menlo CC	79
Ed Stoke	
Santa Rosa G & CC	82
Mike Snyder	
Oakhurst CC	82

### Superintendent Low Net

Jess Pifferini	
The Links @ Spanish Bay	65
Lalo Pacheco	
Franklin Canyon	68
Bill Davis	
Peninsula Golf & CC	71
Jim Husting	
Woodbridge Golf & CC	72
John Martin	
California Golf Club	73

### Pro Low Gross

Mark Sherman	
Green Valley CC	72
Scott Hoyt	
Almaden CC	73
Charlie Gibson	
Windsor Golf Club	75

### Super-Pro Two Man Low Gross

Santa Rosa Golf & CC	
Ed Stocke/Val Verhunce	69

Blackhawk CC	
Jeff Roberts/Steve Crane	69

Windsor Golf Club	
Rick Hanson/Charlie Gibson	71

Green Valley CC	
Ray Storey/Mark Sherman	71

Almaden Golf & CC	
Mike Phillips/Scott Hoyt	72

### Low Net

Franklin Canyon Golf Course	
Lalo Pacheco/Gill Flynn	59

Silver Creek Valley CC	
Nick Checklenis/Jay Jackson	63

The Links at Spanish Bay	
Jess Pifferini/Rich Cosand	64

Santa Rosa Golf & CC	
Ed Stocke/Val Verhunce	65

Aptos Seascape	
Mike McCraw/Bruce Pluim	66

### Four Man Low Net

The Links at Spanish Bay	54
Jess Pifferini, Rich Cosand, Don Naumann, Jim Lipari	

Franklin Canyon Golf Club	55
Lalo Pacheco, Gill Flynn, Scott Olsen, David Perez	

Silver Creek Valley CC	57
Nick Checklenis, Jay Jackson, Jim Juarceys, Patrick Clark	

Parkway Golf Course	58
Ron Wakayama, Tim Flanagan, Ralph Villescaz, Bill Gabbert	

Santa Rosa Golf & CC	63
Ed Stocke, Val Verhunce, Al Meillon, Andy Bressoud	

### Affiliate/Guest Low Net

Bill Gabbert	
Parkway Golf Course	66
Don Naumann	
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply	70
Rich Coombs	
Windsor Golf Club	71
Patrick Clark	
Silver Creek Valley CC	71
John McEnery	
Santa Teresa Golf Course	72

### Longest Drive

Greg St. Germain - Pro	
Salinas Country Club	

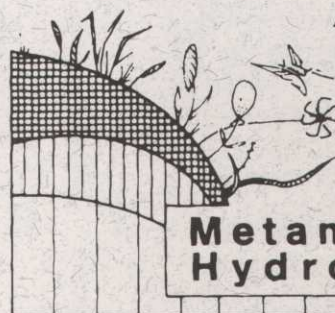
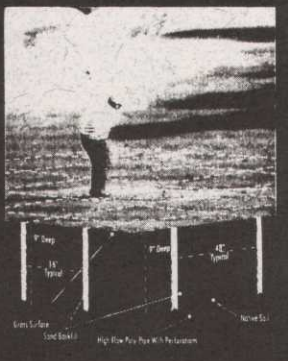
### Closest to the Pin

#7: Jim McGrath, 2'3"	
Santa Teresa Golf Course	
#15: Gill Flynn, 4'4"	
Franklin Canyon Golf Club	

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