

THRU THE GREEN

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

Northern California Chapter
GCSAA



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EDITOR
Brian Netzt, CGCS
(415) 561-4615
bnetzt@palmergolf.com

ASSOCIATION MANAGER
Barbara Mikel
(530) 626-0931
bmikel@gcsanc.com

PUBLISHER
Shaw Kobre
(707) 569-8481
shaw@intheblooppublishing.com

MEDIA CONSULTANT
Emmy Moore Minister
(530) 666-6508
emmypga@aol.com

Office Notes

BY BARBARA MIKEL



The year 2013 marks the 81st anniversary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California. In 1932 the impact of the Great Depression was being felt by the greenkeeping industry but members successfully managed to organize, grow, and strive for education, networking, camaraderie and strength for all of golf.

From the 1932 President's Message, Will Rogers, the first president, wrote: "I would like to call the attention of every greenkeeper in our organization that the time of one day a month would be well spent in attending these meetings. We must never let up in our efforts to make our gatherings worth-

while so that on leaving we may have attained some knowledge of greenkeeping that we did not have before."

So that one day a month commitment was possible in 1932 in the midst of the depression! So, can it be so difficult to commit to your future in the upcoming year? The Nor Calendar has events scheduled through July of this year. Take a moment and mark your calendars and commit to making taking these opportunities for the personal smile, laughter, sharing of the face to face events in the education setting and on the golf course.

Many thanks to all our Holiday Meeting sponsors who provide the financial support for a great time of meeting and greeting old and new friends. Golf results are posted on page 13. A list of the Affiliate sponsors is on page 12. Give these pages a look and a thank you for all the support for a wonderfully relaxing and fun event!

The link to photos (taken by Emmy Moore Minister):

<http://www.gcsanc.com/events/photo-archive/2012-del-monte-holiday-meeting/>

Superintendent Institute Education links for the Excel templates used during the education session were forwarded to the attendees. If you missed them, contact the office.

Naumann's Nor Cal News

Tim Powers has left Crystal Springs Golf Course in Burlingame. Replacing Tim is **Darin Pakkahla**. Darin comes to us from Arizona. Crystal Springs is a CourseCo managed property....**Matt Wisely** has left Alameda Municipal Golf Course and is being replaced by **Danny Holmes**. Danny was most recently in Florida prior to his return to Northern California. Alameda was a Kemper Sports Managed facility and now is a Greenway Managed facility...Both Matt Wisely and Tim Powers are working with **Tom Gray** at CordeValle Golf Club in Morgan Hill....**Jon Christensen** is the new Supt. at Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton. Jon was the Supt. at Monarch Bay GC in San Leandro prior to his move. Both facilities are managed by American Golf Corp....**Sean McPhedren** is the new Super at Valley Hi Country Club in Elk Grove. Sean was the Assistant Super at Mayacama Golf Club prior to his move....



NorCalendar

FEB 6

**California Room at GCSAA
Conference & Show**

USS Midway, San Diego

MAR 18

**USGA/NCGA/GCSANC
Green Section Conference**

Sequoyah Country Club, Oakland

APRIL 14

**NCPGA, GCSANC & CMAA
Invitational**

Ruby Hill Golf Club, Pleasanton

JULY 1

**Clifford And Myrtle Wagoner
Scholarship & Research
Tournament**

Claremont Country Club, Claremont

DECEMBER 6

Holiday Golf and Dinner

Del Monte Golf Course

More Details?

Visit www.gcsanc.com/events/next/

New Members

Chris Strange

Student

Douglas McCullen

**Bayer Environmental Science
Affiliate**

Jeremy Galvin

The Olympic Club

Class C Assistant Superintendent

Ronald Fukuyama

**Santa Clara Golf & Tennis
Class A Superintendent**

Darin Pakkala

**Crystal Springs Golf Course
Class A Superintendent**

Jim McKenna

**American Golf Corp
Superintendent Member**

Bernadette Ward

Student

President's Message

BY RODNEY MULLER



Notes From a Successful 2012

Are you ready for all the "Year in Review" shows that are produced this time of the year? I like to go back and recap the past year so that I can reflect on what has had meaning in my life. This time last year when I became President of the Association, I had both goals and a planned agenda. I had a strong idea of my duties and what was expected of me to lead our Association through another year of a poor economy and budget cuts, but as we Superintendents know, even the best laid plan can not be executed alone or without modifications. I think three significant factors contributed to our association's success in 2012 and I would like to recap those successes. Specifically, I have seen (1) social media, (2) Scholarship and Research Tournament and (3) our members' resolute support as defining contributions to 2012.

First, I want to point out how social media has played a part in last year's success. Brian Boyer, Dave Proctor and Barbara Mikel expanded our Associations visibility using Facebook and Twitter as tools. Through Twitter '@GCSANC' has had over 411 tweets, 551 following and 238 followers. Through Facebook GCSANC has 14,002 "friends of fans" who receive status updates concerning the

GCSANC, events and GCM industry news— all in real time. Many of the shared photos and updates came directly from you... our members. It's nice to see how many members are utilizing social media to stay involved in our association and events.

Next, I would like to share the success of our Scholarship and Research Tournament. Affiliate members Dave Wilber and Jim Sherman and Programs and Golf Committee members Tim Powers, Brian Boyer and Nick Checklenis proved again what it means to set the standard for this tournament. Through donations and auction items (and maybe a little competitive bidding on my part) we set a new record for revenue at this event. We also gave out \$7,000 in scholarships and donated \$6,000 to Dr. Jim Baird of University of Riverside for turf research in Northern California.

Of course we have to give thanks to host Superintendent, Jason Goss, and Sonoma Golf Club's General Manager, Mike Kosak along with their staff for supplying us with such a great venue. And additionally...was that the BEST sandwich you have ever eaten?

But the essence of 2012 was its members' unyielding support for the GCSANC. This Association could not survive on the support of



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the superintendent alone. That is, our Affiliate members and Sponsorship package holders continuously provided financial support and committee participation to our Association. Thank you for making our sponsorship program packages successful. Also, our Superintendent members sacrifice being away from work to attend meetings and events that help guide and strengthen our profession. And for that, I say thank you too.

Finally, I want to say THANK YOU for allowing me to serve the Association. Although it was a challenge at times to balance family, friends, and work with this service, it was truly an honor to be part of the history and legacy the GCSANC holds. Through serving the Association, I have learned new skills and now have the confidence to apply them to our profession.

Thank you,
Rodney Muller



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December 7, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSES ANTI-GOLF LAWSUIT AT SHARP PARK

SAN FRANCISCO. Judge Susan Illston on December 6 dismissed a federal court lawsuit aimed at closing the historic, San Francisco-owned Sharp Park Golf Course.

Brought by a covey of conservation groups led by the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sierra Club, the lawsuit alleged that public golf operations at Sharp Park are killing rare frogs and snakes, in violation of the federal Endangered Species Act. Wild Equity Institute, Center for Biological Diversity, et al. vs. City and County of San Francisco, et al., U.S. District Court, N.D. California, No. C11-00958 SI.

Judge Illston cited an October 2, 2012 Biological Opinion issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") that found golf at Sharp Park is "not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the California red-legged frog or San Francisco garter snake." The FWS issued an Incidental Take Statement, approving continued golf and related maintenance activities, subject to FWS restrictions on pesticides, golf carts, water pumping, and other practices.

"This is a common sense result," said Chris Carr, of the Morrison and Foerster office, lawyers for co-defendant San Francisco Public Golf Alliance, which brought the motion to dismiss. "And it should lead to a period of cooperation in which San Francisco and San Mateo County can work together to restore habitat for the species, while preserving historic and popular public recreation."

Sharp Park was created by master architect Alister MacKenzie, who built many of the world's greatest golf courses, including Augusta National, home of the annual Masters Tournament, and the Cypress Point Club.

Long known as "the poor man's Pebble Beach," Sharp Park has been a Pacifica gathering place since its opening in 1932. It is the historic home of a middle-class and ethnic minority golfing clientele, and in 1955 hosted the inaugural tournament of the Western States Golf Association, one of the country's oldest and largest African-American golfing societies. Sharp Park is designated an "historic resource" under the California Environmental Quality Act, and recognized as historic by the Pacifica General Plan, the Pacifica Historical Society, and the Cultural Landscape Foundation of Washington, D.C.

Sharp Park has been the focus of a four-year political and legal tug-of-war between advocates of public recreation and historical preservation on the one side, and the environmental groups led by CBD on the other. In December, 2011, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance calling for closure and conversion of the golf course into a frog and snake sanctuary. But the ordinance was vetoed by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, who in his veto message called for San Francisco and San Mateo County to work together for a "balanced approach" to save public recreation at the golf course, while recovering habitat for the species.

"With this important step behind us," said former Pacifica Mayor Julie Lancelle, "the dream of restoring the public treasure that is Sharp Park can move forward." Golf course preservation, combined with habitat recovery, is supported by San Francisco Mayor Lee, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission, unanimous resolutions of the Pacifica City Council and San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and by Congresswoman Jackie Speier.

Contact:

Richard Harris: Richard@erskinetulley.com (415) 290-5718

Bo Links: bo@slotelaw.com (415) 393-8099

For past press releases and news stories, see: <http://www.sfpublicgolf.com/news.html>

Honorary Member Gratitude



SLOTE & LINKS

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January 10, 2013

Mr. Rodney Muller, President
Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California
c/o Empire Ranch Golf Club
1620 E Natoma St
Folsom, CA 95630

Re: Recognition as Honorary Lifetime Membership in GCSANC

Dear Mr. Muller:

This afternoon, I got a call from Emmy Moore-Minister who informed me that my dear colleague, Richard Harris, and I have been named Honorary Lifetime Members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California. As Emmy may have imparted to you, my schedule is so hectic these days that I can't join you next Monday when you announce this special distinction at your meeting. Hence this letter. I wanted to convey to you and the membership how deeply touched I am by your thoughtful gesture.

As a 20-year member of the USGA Green Section, I have come to know, admire and appreciate the work done by golf course superintendents all over the world. I have a particular bias for my home turf (no pun intended) as I feel we not only have the greatest collection of golf courses anywhere right here in our own backyard, but in Northern California we also have the greatest group of superintendents who work so hard to preserve and sustain these precious places.

The work of a superintendent is one of the hardest jobs there is. You've got to guess the weather every minute of every day, and Mother Nature never calls in sick or takes a mental health day. You have to battle budgets and fussy (often uninformed) golfers and management personnel. And no matter how well you groom the course, there's always someone to contend the green was too fast; or too slow; or the rough too high; or too low; or something else perhaps that butterfly making noise in the next meadow- that wasn't just perfect.

You know exactly what I'm talking about.

But they never pat the superintendent on the back when he aerates a green to keep it healthy; or when he sands the fairway to enhance the turf bed; or when he trims or removes a diseased tee to provide light and air movement; or cuts his hand repairing a piece of equipment so the club or course can squeeze another few years out of it. Yet all of this, and so much more, is part of the job.

I have also come to love speaking on these issues and trying, in my own way, to teach golfers and non-golfers alike the important work that golf course superintendents perform. People need to hear

this message and I am happy to be a foot soldier in that effort. I love telling folks that when there was a severe drought in Georgia a few years back, who did the state call on for advice on how to manage water? They called on the golf course superintendents, of course, because they, as much as anyone, know that reality inside and out. In every respect, you folks are the truest environmentalists of all.

But I know this award is not really about my efforts to spread the word. It is, in every fitting respect, a treasured recognition for the work Richard and I have undertaken to save and restore Sharp Park, that Alister MacKenzie classic that stands for so much and is in such jeopardy. Recognition from the GCSANC means everything to us. We could not- and cannot do what we need to do without support from you. So please know that we accept this recognition humbly, gratefully, and knowing that we are now part of that wonderful, incredible brotherhood of men and women who are so vital to the future of the game.

Let me close with two thoughts. First, whenever someone congratulates Richard and me on "winning" the Sharp Park case, as many have recently in the wake of the trial court's dismissal of that unfounded environmental claim, I must say that I feel like the superintendent who has just gotten past the member-guest with everyone raving about the quality of the greens. I know full well that a storm may blow in, or a heat wave descend, that will ruin everything. That is to say, we are in a good place now, but we have to keep on keeping on, if we are to get the job done.

And secondly, let me take a moment to express as best I can the gratitude for the work of your incredible organization and every member in it. I tried to do that in a little poem called "Guardians of the Game," which is a verse about golf course architects and superintendents- the folks who create and in every real sense sustain the places where we play the greatest game of all. What follows is a paraphrase of what I wrote, morphed if you will permit the phrase, so it hones in on superintendents alone (the architects can wait for another day): (*See next page*)



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*Those whose skills have shaped the land
And caressed the earth with able hands
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They've given golf its storied ground
Where greatness lives, yet makes no sound
To answer back, for just one day
To offer thanks from those who play
Whose triumphs here, all shine in grace
Saluting those who tend this place*

* * * * *

*Ever more, I wonder
Who'll know golf's name?
Who'll be the ones
To play the game?
Yet I know, golf will be found
By people seeking higher ground
I sense we'll always find a throne
On which to rest golf's crown
If the course remains forever more
The sacred game's most hallowed ground
And to those men whose hardened skills
Bring forth the game from ancient hills
They may be faceless, with no name
To forget their work would be a shame
The labored on, and sought not fame
They lent their hands when the challenge came
And that's why they shall remain
The truest guardians of the game.*

Thank you again for this incredible honor. In the days, months and years to come, I will do my best to prove myself worthy of your judgment.

Here's hoping we all meet again soon somewhere down the fairway.

Sincerely,

ROBERT D. LINKS

RDL/r

cc: Ms. Emmy Moore-Minister
Mr. Richard H. Harris, Jr.

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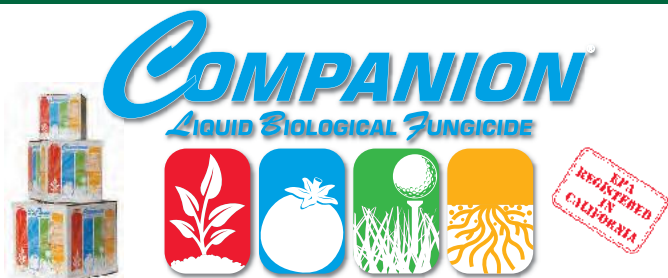


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January 11, 2013

Mr. Rodney Muller, President
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Northern California Chapter
Empire Ranch Golf Club
1620 E. Natoma St.
Folsom, CA. 95630

Re: Thanks to GCSAA, Northern California Chapter

Dear President Muller,

This is to thank you and the Northern California Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for the great honor you do me and my compadre Bo Links, in naming us Honorary Members of the GCSAANC.

When I was a young university golfer at Stanford in the mid-1960s, I was on the golf course hitting balls on a warm Spring evening as the sun was setting into a fog bank rolling over the Coast Range to the west, and the thought came to me clearly: "This is what Heaven looks like." That epiphany has never left me: I regard a beautiful golf course as sacred ground. And I regard Greens Superintendents as keepers of sacred grounds.

So you and the GCSAANC do me more honor than maybe you know to invite me into your fraternity. Until now, I have thought that becoming a Super would have to wait until some future incarnation - the reward of a life particularly well-lived. But with this Honorary Membership, there's no waiting. So I gladly accept the

honor, which I consider to be an instance of True Grace.

I know that you have honored me and Bo in recognition of our ongoing work to save the Sharp Park Golf Course. We have worked hard, but it is a team effort of the several thousand members of the San Francisco Public Golf Alliance. The Superintendents have been part of the team, with your donations of money, connections, and psychic energy to the cause. Also important to the effort is Sharp Park's own Superintendent, Wayne Kappelman, a GCSAANC member who does extraordinary work, in very challenging circumstances, to keep golf playable at Sharp Park. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Wayne in this letter.

The effort to save public golf at Alister MacKenzie's Sharp Park is far from over. There are many years and many political, bureaucratic, legal, and financial obstacles between us and our goal. But the effort is worthy, and together we will succeed. Thanks for your help and encouragement.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the January 14 annual meeting of the GCSAANC. So I have asked Stanford Superintendent Ken Williams to accept the award on my behalf. Thanks for your understanding.

Far and Sure.

Richard Harris

cc: Robert "Bo" Links
Emmy Moore-Minister
Ken Williams
Wayne Kappelman

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Holiday Meeting

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▲ Liz Lopic DHR Construction with sponsor board.



▲ The Ligon's hit the dance floor.

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▲ Enjoying the evening.



▲ Mr. and Mrs. Dan Rogers.

Golf Results

Holiday Party, 12-7-2012, Del Monte Golf Course
Gift Certificates, Pebble Beach Company

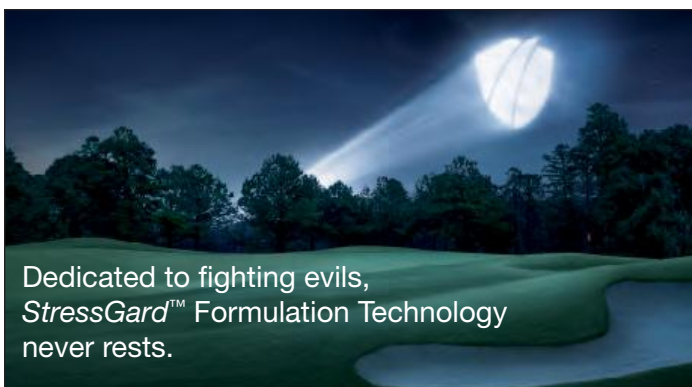
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2nd Place Gross	David Hayes	75	\$75.00
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1st Place Net	Brad Langley	70	\$100.00
2nd Place Net	Terry Grasso	70	\$75.00
3rd Place Net	Tom Bevan	70	\$50.00

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#14	Mike Phillips	6'7"	\$75.00
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Running Because I Care

BY DALE SIMPSON

On December 8, 2012, I ran in the Walnut Creek International Half Marathon. I didn't run because I am a good runner or because I even like to run. Neither of those two statements are, necessarily, true of me. I ran with Team World Vision to raise money to provide clean water for people in Africa. You see there are hundreds of thousands of people in Africa that don't have access to clean water. At least they don't have access to clean water the way you and I have. Thousands of African children die every day because of the lack of clean drinking water. They die from diarrhea and other illnesses related to drinking unclean water. World Vision is a humanitarian organization that is working to provide clean water to remote villages all over Africa by installing clean water wells. The only way they can do this is by various fund-raising efforts. One fund-raising effort that has been a huge success is through marathons and half marathons all across the World. In the Walnut Creek International Half Marathon alone, Team World Vision raised \$150,000. Think about it, \$50 will supply one child in Africa clean drinking water for life. So, with the money raised by Team World Vision, 3000 African children will have clean water for life and will not have to suffer from the illnesses and possible death related to drinking unclean water.

Through my fund-raising efforts, I was able to raise \$1000 for Team World Vision.

I was able to do this in large part because of the generosity of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of Northern California, who donated \$500. This would not have been possible if it weren't for each and every one of the Members who support the Association. I am so proud to belong to



an association that cares and supports, not only its Members, but truly cares for people in need all over the World. This is not the first time that the GCSANC has supported me in my efforts to make a difference in the World. The GCSANC also supported a mission trip to Thailand in 2008, where I helped in distributing wheelchairs to disabled people there who could not otherwise afford a wheelchair.

By the way, I was able to complete the 13.1-mile run in 1:40:25. I know, as golf course superintendents, you are all doing the math to figure out the mile/minute average. Hopefully, you all came up with 7-minute 40-second mile average. I did all of this dressed up as Kid Rock! Not too bad for an old man, huh? A little tip for anyone that is thinking of running in a half marathon. Blue jean cut-off shorts are a bad idea! I have to admit that as I trained for this, my competitive juices started flowing. But, at the end of the day, my purpose and motivation for running was clearly stated on the back of my team jersey and was the Team World Vision motto: "I run because I care." I just want to thank each Member and the Board of Directors of the GCSANC for the financial support that you have given me in raising money for clean water in Africa. The GCSANC is an association that truly cares for its Members, the environment and people all over the world.

NorCal Blogs

A formal education got most of us in the door of many clubs, but first-hand experience is how we have made a name for ourselves. With the popularity of Golf Course Superintendent Blogs, what better way to get a first-hand experience?

With our newest addition of *Thru the Green*, we want to introduce you to some of the blogs that are in your area. There are many talented superintendents in the GCSANC that are regularly blogging which we hope will further your education in the ever-changing business of growing grass.

Brian Boyer, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club
www.cinnabarhills.blogspot.com

Austin Daniels, Monterey Pines
www.montereypinesmaintenance.blogspot.com

Kevin Breen, La Rinconada
<http://kevinpbreen.blogspot.com/>

Josh Clevenger, Claremont CC
www.claremontturf.blogspot.com

Ken Williams, Stanford
<http://sgcsuperintendent.blogspot.com/>

Doug Ayres, Coral de Tierra
<http://corralmaintenance.blogspot.com/>

Brian Bagley, The Villages Golf and CC
<http://villagesgolfmaintenance.blogspot.com/>

Rodney Muller, Empire Ranch
<http://empireranchgcm.blogspot.com/>

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Superintendent Profile, Thomas Bastis



Too many times we hear about Superintendents being burnt out from the stress of what is turf management. It is certainly easy to do with start times that border on ridiculous and go until the end of a 6pm board meeting because those board members work “regular” hours. Some can do that day in and day out, but for most of us mortals, it helps to have something that gets us away from golf; a release. For Bay Area Superintendents Thomas Bastis and Kevin Breen, they have found their release through running and I don’t just mean a jog through the park.

When did you have the idea to do this run and why did you decide to do it now?

I’ve had this bucket list run on my mind for at least a year but it’s been something that I know I could only attempt if I had a clear window of 3 months of solid running and not the other Mtn. biking, and kayaking that would distract me. Then I had a couple of people do it earlier in the year and I went through something called “FOMO” Fear of Missing Out. That’s kind of where I get that little extra motivation to do longer or harder miles. My normal motivation for doing longer miles comes from how good/bad a week I have had....

What is the name of the run or trailhead?

The run is called R2R2R or Rim to Rim to Rim. You start on the south side of the Grand Canyon at about 7,000 feet and head down the South Kaibob trailhead or Bright Angel. After about 2 hours and 5,000 feet of solid descent, you cross the Colorado River utilizing a suspension bridge and continue on the Arizona trail through Phantom Ranch across the canyon floor. I think it is after another 3ish hours of running that the pitch of the North Rim begins going very vertical and finally tops out at 8,000 ft. Half done and 23 miles down...23miles back.

How long have you been involved with adventuring/ultrarunning?

Myself and fellow superintendent Scott Bower (Martis Camp) started in 2004... I think. I started running a lot more because it is a great base of training for the other disciplines; kayaking and Mountain Biking. I’ve recently started picking each one of the disciplines to concentrate on for a year and compete in one big event. For instance, I spent a chunk of training time 2 years ago and completed the Tahoe Rim100 mtn. bike race, another year a 300 mile kayak race from Tampa Bay to Key Largo. It keeps thing different and I end up learning so much from hanging out with people that, that is all they do.

Have you run from an early age?

I think I had a normal childhood but don’t remember running a ridiculous amount. I was always able to pass the Presidential Physical fitness test in only running the running portion. I ran in high school but not college. I was more into biking in college but didn’t have enough time to really have a go at it.

How does running hours on end compare to being a superintendent?

Running is a bit like maintenance...if you do a little bit each day, you can stay in reasonable shape. If you don’t run often...it’s a mess. I think the running long hours or racing for days has taught me not to look at how longer the entire race is but to break down things into digestible parts. Kinda like eating an elephant...one bite at a time. I guess I’m just looking at a bigger elephant than most people care to think about.

Do you get more perspective on your job while running? What did you gain from this experience?

I have definitely solved a lot or have had a lot of time to think about problems. I rarely get angry...so I don’t run to blow off steam-not that a bit of stress is lost while running. A couple of things I get from running:

1. I think my members and even friends enjoy hearing some of the crazy stories or it’s easy to talk about something other than turf with me as a result.
2. Having another passion besides the golf course puts a lot of my time management in perspective.
3. If I want to run...I have to be more organized and efficient or it just doesn’t work.
4. Now that I have convinced another superintendent to run locally, (Kevin Breen) I am able to pass ideas, thoughts, and questions past him. The other guys we run with love it because it can be interesting stuff to hear.

What’s next on your list?

Next on the list running: maybe the Lost Coast in Northern California, the Napali Coast in Kauai and back to Patagonia, Chile for a 10-day adventure race in the Torres de Paine.

Surprisingly, running hours on end has a lot of similarities to a superintendent’s job. Throughout any run, a person goes through an emotional roller coaster. There is the initial feeling of being strong, then you get tired, a pain may pop up, you’ll think you can’t finish, and then finally your strength is back for the finish.



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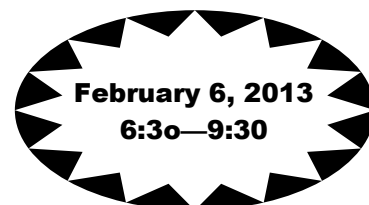
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Happy New Year to all of our GCSA of Northern California members. I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season. As we start a new year, I just wanted to cover some items that will hopefully assist you and your facility.

The FCC narrowbanding regulations went into effect Jan. 1 requiring all commercial licensees to migrate their systems from 25 kHz (wideband) to 12.5 kHz (narrowband)

or a technology that achieves equivalent efficiency. The FCC made this change to ensure more efficient use of the spectrum and to relieve congestion that will result in increased channel availability for public safety systems. This change will affect your hand held radios, irrigation remotes, etc. If you have not made the switch to narrowband, I would recommend doing so as the FCC will be levying fines on those not in compliance. All VHF/UHF equipment certified since 1997 has 12.5 kHz capability. Check with your vendor to see if your existing equipment is narrowband-capable or needs modification/replacement. If you would like more information on this, please contact me as I have a PowerPoint from the FCC that covers the basics. Toro and Rain Bird also have information on their websites.

We are quickly approaching the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego Feb. 4-8. I want to remind you of the free education that will be offered on the trade show floor Feb. 6-7. "Answers on the Hour" sessions will cover a variety of current issues in course and facility management and "Tech Tips on the Half" offers industry experts sharing the latest developments in turf technology. Additionally, don't forget to visit the Partner Pavilion (booth 4050) as staff and members of golf's allied associations will discuss growth of the game initiatives. As a superintendent, see how you can contribute to attracting and retaining players.

Last but not least, don't forget to donate a foursome from your facility to Rounds 4 Research. The first auction dates for 2013 will be announced soon. You can donate online at www.rounds4research.com and 80 percent of funds from the auction of the round go back to the chapter in which the round was secured. The funds can then be used by the chapter for turfgrass research, scholarships, advocacy, education and environmental programs.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and make sure to follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW. I look forward to seeing all of you at conference and show in San Diego.

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