



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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