The annual GCSANC Christmas Party and golf tournament returns to a familiar site, Rancho Cañada Golf Club, in Carmel. Those who have made the December event an annual stop on the NorCal tour may remember the days when many participants would arrive full of holiday cheer on a tour bus, and the tournament was capped with a crab feed hosted by the late Larry Lloyd. Much has changed since those days, gone are the buses and the crab. The tournament is now named in Larry’s honor. Yet through it all the spirit of the event is still very much alive.

Rancho Cañada, who’s name has been synonymous with the event, is home to two 18 hole championship courses. The West Course, noted by its towering cottonwoods and the Carmel River are a familiar site for many tournament goers. The courses are complemented by the recently remodeled clubhouse and banquet facility which will serve as the site for the dinner and party.

Tournament chairperson, Blake Swint, has made some minor changes to this year’s format and he believes they will result in a better tournament. “One of the concerns has been the distribution of gift certificates for tournament winners,” Swint said. “This year, with the earlier start, the tournament will be scored and the gift certificates passed out shortly after golf. This will give the winners a chance to conveniently purchase merchandise redeemable at the pro shop.” The Ayrshire and Larry Lloyd Memorial trophies will be presented at the banquet where the winners will be properly recognized.

Relaxing in the holiday cheer will no doubt be Host Superintendent Tim Greenwald and his Assistant, George Young. Greenwald, in his twelfth year as Superintendent at Rancho Cañada, has hosted nine of these events during his career. “It’s always exciting.” Tim says. “The weather usually adds to the challenge, but our crew always seems to respond to the task. They take great pride in the course preparation and deserve a lot of credit.”

Knowing the role Greenwald and Rancho Cañada have played in the history and success of the tournament and party, count on another great event.