

## Editor's Corner

By Steve Shumansky  
Perham Lakeside Country Club



### HAVING CONTACTS...

One of the most important things I have learned about this business, along with life itself, is having contacts. Sometimes it isn't what you know but who you know. It sure is a lot harder getting things done without having the right contacts. For instance, a weekend storm blew through my course, lightning hit somewhere close to my well and, poof, fried my pump motor. I later discovered not only the pump motor was shot, my VFD was also blown; it came in from the back side. Here it is, a Sunday morning, I call my pump guy at 7:30, he and his crew are there by 8:00, we get everything fixed, so we thought, and drop everything back down the well, fire the system up and the entire pump house shook like it did before we touched a single thing. Talk about a scary feeling, the well is about 15 feet from the building and it felt like we were in an earthquake.

Ok, next item, the VFD, 480 volts going in, 480 going out,

but the Hz weren't even close to what they should have been. 60 Hz being max and all we could get out of it was about 48Hz. Can you say, when is the fun going to start? Of course the wind is blowing, it's hot, and dry, even though we just had an inch and a half of rain the day before. I think, I have to get this up and running before too long, I sure can't wait until late Monday or even Tuesday. Our restrooms run off of the irrigation system and the course is packed with people. I call my VFD man at home about 11:00 Sunday morning. Guess what, he had the same drive I needed in inventory. All I remember saying is, don't go anywhere, I'll be right there to pick it up. And away we went.

**In a few hours my irrigation system was up and running.** My VFD man showed up bright and early Monday to check my programming to make sure I didn't forget anything and to just fine tune it for me. Now, between my pump guy and my VFD guy, that is service!! There is also a relationship there that a lot of people sometimes just don't understand. If either of the two businesses didn't really want to help me, on a Sunday, they didn't have to. Sure you might think, just call someone else then. But the fact of the matter is, treat people with respect, no matter who they are; someday you might need their help and they'll be there for you. One big thing I have learned in my tenure, people in the turf and agricultural business are usually willing to give a helping hand when called upon to do so. And somehow, show them thanks for doing so.

\* \* \* \*

**Our condolences go out to Dale Parske,** Turf Supply Company, for the loss of his father in July. Dale, you have always been a very good friend of mine and I am very sorry for your loss.

### SUMMERTIME BURN OUT...

Are you looking forward to fall? We're all past the hump, the 4th of July is long behind us, and for me, I look at the 4th as the peak, the rest is down hill. Do you catch yourself when someone asks you a question saying, "sure whatever"? Like, don't bug me with the little things, the no brainer things. Something as simple as a little isolated dry spot on the 18th green that shows up every year, why worry, it's only grass, once it cools off from the heat stress it's under, it'll be ok... besides, it isn't a matter of life or death, it's just grass. From talking to those of you I talk to on a regular basis, all I can say is THANKS!! I hope my telling you my problems have somewhat soothed yours a little and some of your problems have made many of mine seem like nothing. We all talk to each other, and when you feel like the sky is falling and the world is coming to an end, make a phone call to a friend and talk about it. It sure is better than paying a therapist and makes you feel even better hearing some of the things your friend is encountering. And when the burnout starts getting to you, take some time off, get outta there and do whatever relaxes you for the rest of the day. With that, I'll close, I hope your stress level is lower than your turf's.

See ya next month,  
Steve Shumansky  
Editor

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