



CHARTER

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McKenzie's —

Believe it or Not

by Mike McKenzie

Not many golf courses anywhere have an antenna field throughout their course. The United States Naval Academy Golf Course is such a place; containing numerous poles, antennas, and towers, ranging from 20 feet to 800 feet. Most of this towering spaghetti web is now past history. Today only one remains; the giant 800 foot tower behind our #8 green. All of the other antennas have been removed and I must say the course looks quite different.

By now your probably asking yourself how an 800 foot tower behind a green can cause problems: let me explain. In May and June of this year the tower and it's support lines were painted. The paint was applied by brush and gloves; a primer yellow, five sections of red and four of white. We had

several greens and tees with a lot of paint on them, but nothing too serious. Number eight green had to have some spots cut out with a cup cutter.

A bigger headache was that the painters worked Saturday and Sunday during the Club's Championship Medal Play. The painters wanted us to close the golf course that weekend! Of course the decision was to play, regardless of the conditions. Besides an eventual Club Champion, many members won paint splattered sweaters and jackets.

A few weeks later on May 11, an antenna worker was trapped for three hours by his safety lines, and had to be rescued by the Maryland State Polices' Sikorsky Helicopter. It was a breathtaking rescue which lasted about fifteen minutes. The helicopter lowered a cable to the worker and after he was safely hooked up, he swung out over our #18 tee and pulled into the helicopter. To compound this, there was the added congestion of two assistant helicopters resting on our #9 fairway, along with rescue vehicles from the fire department, police, rescue squad, marines, paramedics, and the usual gawkers.

If all this isn't enough, this final episode should provide the Coup de grace to the story. The man that mows the fairways for me came in and told me that the painters had spilled large amounts of red paint and that the wind had blown the paint onto our #12 tee and the surrounding rough. I went out and looked at the paint damage; it did not look too serious, so I kept on driving. A few days later Tom Malehorn, salesman for Pro-Lawn Products, visited the course and he was talking about the courses in the area having Red Thread. I suddenly realized that I had made a hasty decision about the paint damage in the rough. Tom and I went out and looked again and sure enough, it was Red Thread. The old adage still holds true; get out and give the area a thorough going over — on your hands and knees if necessary!

President's Comment:

The weather so far this summer has been different to say the least. So far we have used very little irrigation compared to other years. For those on city water, that sure helps the budget. But those who have been around a while haven't relaxed much. They are still waiting for the August let down.

August brings our annual Mid Atlantic Picnic. I hope everyone plans to attend and enjoy the facilities.

Our June meeting started a Match Play Tournament, and was enjoyed by all who played. It will be interesting to see who the best Match Play player is. Thanks to Kenny Braun for the work involved.

Participation at most of the meetings has been good. If you know someone who is not attending, give them a call, and try to get them to the next meeting.

Remember to notify your host, if you plan to attend a meeting.

Sam Kessel

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