

THRU THE GREEN

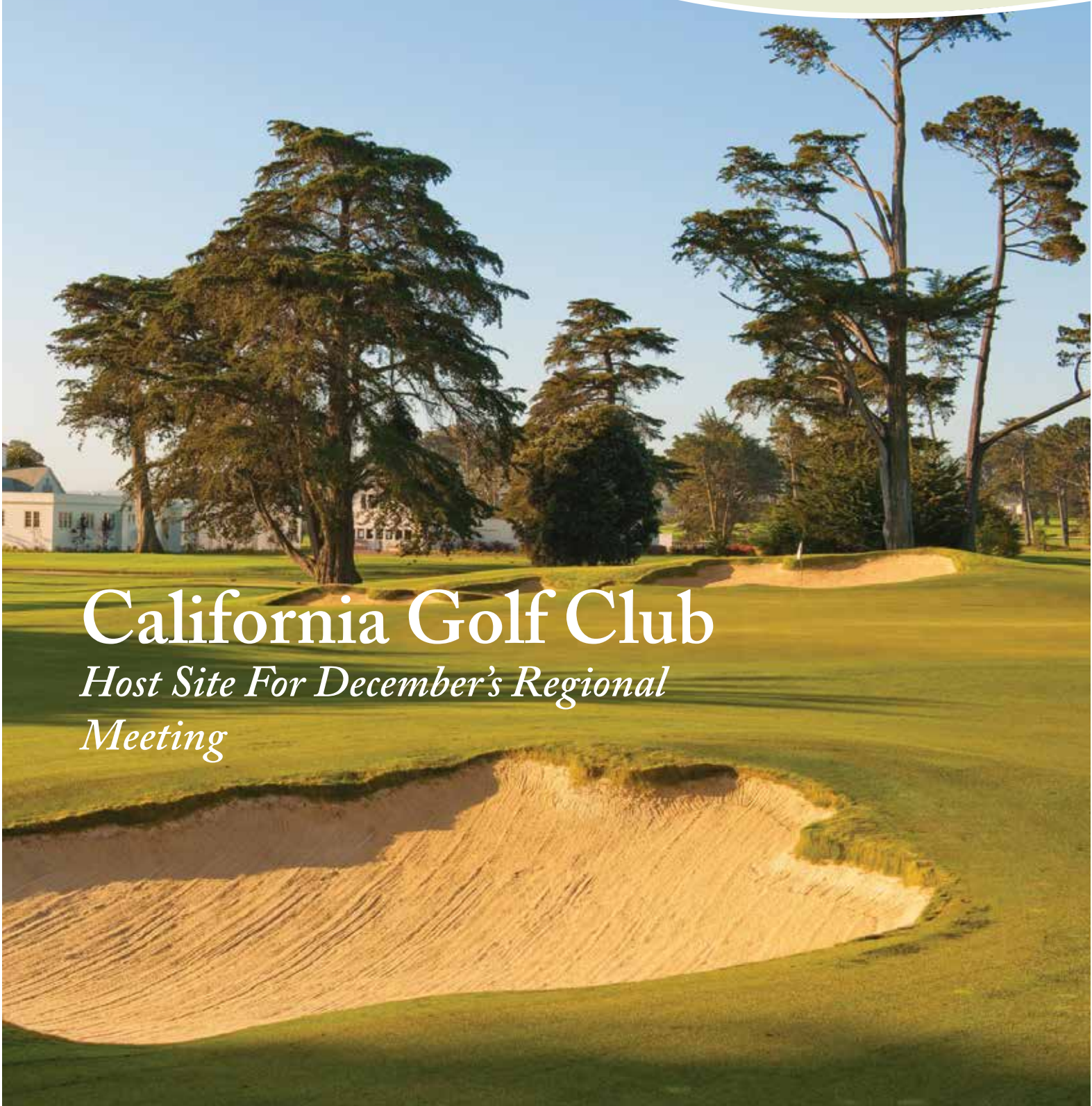
The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

December 2016 / January 2017



California Golf Club

Host Site For December's Regional Meeting



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California Golf Club, Host Site For
December's Regional Meeting

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Greetings From President Villagran

By **FERNANDO VILLAGRAN**, 2016 GCSANC President,
Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club

NORCALENDAR

January 18

Affiliates Breakfast

Metropolitan Golf Links
Oakland

January 23

Annual Meeting

Santa Rosa Golf &
Country Club
Santa Rosa

March 13

GCSANC/USGA/NCGA

Regional Conference

Blackhawk Country Club
Danville

June 5

10th Annual Clifford &

Myrtle Wagoner

Scholarship & Research

Tournament

Peninsula Golf &
Country Club
San Mateo

August 21

Tri-Chapter Meeting

(Hosted by Sierra

Nevada GCSA)

Del Paso Country Club
Sacramento

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that we have just ended 2016 and are preparing for another demanding year in 2017.

In this, my last message as "El Presidente," I just would like to say "THANKS" to all the people that work to make this association one of the best in the country.

We had a great 2016 with meetings and venues that will be hard to match in coming years, but the Board of Directors is working diligently to make every coming meeting better, and selecting more great venues for years to come.

At the meetings we tried to cover topics that are important for us in our Northern California region, and attendance at these meetings showed us that we are all very interested in learning new things and opening ourselves to new topics in an effort to improve ourselves and our facilities. From new products and equipment, to new technology, to new relations, and more, there are many topics which enable us to increase our knowledge, and GCSANC is here to help facilitate that learning process.

Please keep attending and participating at every meeting that you can, and get involved by letting us know how we are doing via surveys, emails, or just giving us a call. The Board members of our beloved association are always open to hear what you have to say.

I hope you had the best holidays ever, and that 2017 is the best year of your life. I am looking forward to seeing everyone of you at our Annual Meeting at Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club on January 23rd.

Fernando

Fernando Villagran-Costello
Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club
fernandovillagran@hotmail.com

NEWS PRINT

In response to member requests, we are now pleased to offer full-color, printed copies of Thru The Green for \$40 per issue. To order a copy, to be shipped to you via mail, submit your name, address and payment information to mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com.

*To pay by check, send payment and contact information to
GCSANC, 2215 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95818.*




Letter From the Editor

By **SEAN TULLY**, *Meadow Club*

The end of the year certainly sped up on us as it normally does! Not only was I being rushed as I wrapped up my budget and business plan, but I also faced the challenge of finding time to attend school events for my three girls and make Christmas gifts for each of my family members.


The holidays are a great time to be thankful for what we have and what we can share with others.

Happy New Year!



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John Arnaz:

December 19, 1940 - December 5, 2016

John Duane Arnaz, 75 passed away on Monday, December 5, 2016. Son of Feliciano Arnaz and Nancy Davis, brother to Lucille, Joe, Felix, Mike, and Linda. Husband to Patricia Ann Arnaz for 52 amazing years. He was a beloved father to John, Toni, Jim, and Jeret, and a remarkable Papa to his nine beautiful grandchildren: Anthony, Elise, Tyler, Julianna, Alexis, Megan, Ella, Justin and Claire. John was a godly man, dad, hero, mentor and patriarch to many more. He was everyone's "Papa!"

John loved spending time with his immediate and ever-growing "extended" family. He was a 49er fanatic and season ticket holder who enjoyed the games with his boys, family, and friends for almost 20 years. But, more than anything, John cherished attending his kids' and grandkids' events. He was the organizer, host, and main fixture for all family events, including summer vacations, dining out, holidays, golf outings...he did it all.

In addition to an incredible family man, John was the first arson investigator for the San Jose Fire Department, and also owned his own tree moving business for close to 30 years.

John was a longtime member and supporter of GCSANC, and will be dearly missed by all.



A Blast From the Past: February 1972

Thru The Green

17TH GREEN ROSSMOOR GOLF COURSE

By **GEORGE C. DYE SR.**, *Superintendent*

If you would like to see a startled Green Superintendent, you should have seen the expression on my face the day I drove up to the 17th green on my round, and saw a 25 ton water truck on its side in the middle of the putting surface.

A tank truck from the construction area about 1/2 mile above 17 had a brake failure and could not stop at the water tank where they fill up, and rolled down the grade to the end of the street above the green where it could not turn, hit the curb and was airborne for about 150' before it landed in the middle of the green. The driver landed in the fairway 130' in front of the green—needless to say, he spent a couple of weeks in the hospital.

We rebuilt the green (6000 square feet). We removed the existing putting surface and top soil down 12", graded this surface the same as the putting surface was going to be, then designed our drainage system into this subgrade. The trenches in the sub-grade were dug 10" deep on 10' centers. We then put in 2' of 1/4" X 1/2" washed river gravel, installed 3" corrugated flexible drain line on top of gravel, then filled the trench to the top. Then we filled the basin with Antioch sand recommended by U.C. Extension Service. Now we wait 6 to 8 months for our putting surface to mature.



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Around we go...



The December 12, GCSANC Regional Meeting at California Golf Club.

Kevin Breen and Thomas Bastis
Discuss Drones



Pete Sandoval Matt Sanders Doug Wiggers
John Manchrazk Putting on 17th Green



Jeff Arneson Dale Engman
Playing Shots Into 9th Green

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2: put in good condition
3: to restore

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SAM SINGH SCHOLARSHIP - PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Administered by American Golf Foundation

In conjunction with the Annual Sam Singh Memorial Golf and Scholarship Tournament held at Tilden Park Golf Course in Berkeley, California, American Golf Foundation (AGF) offers scholarship funding for individuals pursuing golf course superintendent careers. The Sam Singh Scholarship Program does not give preference to employees of American Golf Corporation or their children.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT DETAILS

- AGF will award a one-time financial grant of approximately \$1,500.00 to one (1) recipient per calendar year. The exact grant amount will be determined after the annual Golf Tournament.
- The funds must be applied to tuition, fees, books, supplies and/or related expenses to further the recipient's education of golf course turf management.

ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA

- Candidate must currently be enrolled in an accredited college or university in turf grass, ornamental horticulture, or other program(s) related to golf course superintendent aptitude.
- For candidates not currently attending school, he/she must currently be employed in the golf industry, in a part-time or full-time capacity, AND show proof of upcoming enrollment, in turf grass, ornamental horticulture, or other program(s) related to golf course superintendent aptitude.
- Candidate must submit the completed a Sam Singh Scholarship application, including a personal narrative and one (1) letter of recommendation, prior to the application deadline date.
- Candidate must submit verification of golf industry employment and/or school documentation at the same time as the application.
- Candidate is expected to attend the Annual Sam Singh Memorial Golf and Scholarship Tournament and awards ceremony at Tilden Park Golf Course in the spring.
- The Sam Singh Scholarship Committee will work with each award recipient directly to ensure compliance with the terms of the grant, and AGF will retain case histories of all scholarship recipients.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- The Sam Singh Scholarship application will be available starting November 1st prior to the award year.
- Applications may be obtained, and also be submitted in its entirety by the due date of February 15th, through any of the following persons:

Organization	Contact	Telephone	Email
Sam Singh Scholarship Committee	Mike McCraw	(831) 345-8688	mikemccraw@comcast.net
Sam Singh Scholarship Committee	Mike Basile	(408) 315-3865	mike_basile@hotmail.com
American Golf Foundation	Kody Tokishi	(480) 838-1546	ktokishi@americangolffoundation.org

- The annual scholarship will be awarded to the most qualified and deserving applicant who demonstrates the greatest potential to pursue excellence in the field of golf course turf management.
- Announcement of the scholarship award recipient will be made by March 15th of each calendar year as determined by the Sam Singh Scholarship Committee.
- The Sam Singh Scholarship Committee reserves all rights to accept, review and make decisions on the winner, and all determinations are final.
- There will be no automatic renewal of the scholarship. Candidates must re-apply in any subsequent year and be subject to the same application process, with no bias to previous decisions.



Executive Director's Report

By **MARC CONNERLY**, *GCSANC Executive Director*

Welcome to 2017. I hope that you all enjoyed a happy and safe holiday season, and are looking ahead to a successful and prosperous year.

As the rain continues to pour in Northern California, we are reminded of just how cyclical the weather is. Two years ago many of us wondered if we would ever see precipitation again, all the while knowing at some level that the drought was certainly temporary, and this day would come eventually.

Yet, as we enjoy the rising water storage levels and Sierra snowpack, certainly we are advised to remember the lessons learned by the recent crisis, to remain diligent in our water stewardship practices, to continue nurturing the relationships with our water providers, to continue communicating the proper messages to the public and media, and to continue setting an example, as an industry, of what it means to be environmental leaders.

As we look at the year ahead, GCSANC has many of our key events lined up, with dates and locations finalized. Check the NorCalendar on the preceding pages for details on the GCSANC/USGA/NCGA Regional Conference and the S & R Tournament. Of course, we also have the Affiliates Breakfast upcoming, as well as the Annual Meeting, and are very close to solidifying the details for Field Day and the Institute. Details for the Tri-Chapter meeting (hosted this year by the Sierra Nevada Chapter) may also be found in the NorCalendar.

Very soon, GCSANC will be unveiling our new website. I have had a chance to see the design orchestrated by incoming President Sean Tully, and it is very impressive, user-friendly, modern, and easy to navigate.

In the upcoming months you will also hear an increased focus by GCSANC on promotion of the Rounds 4 Research program. Funding research is a big priority of the Board, and R4R is a very easy and efficient way for the association to raise money to fund much-needed research.

Please take heed of the requests for donated rounds, and take the little time necessary to donate rounds to the program. Just a little effort by all of us can lead to big rewards for the association and the research needs of our region.

Thank you for your support of GCSANC, and feel free to contact the GCSANC office at any time you have a question or need. We are here to assist you!



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From the Field

By **JEFF JENSEN**, *GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region*

As we close out 2016, I would like to thank all of the GCSAA of Northern California members for their support of GCSAA and my position over the past year. You are a truly remarkable group of professionals committed to the betterment of the golf. While we continue to face our share of challenges, we have the right people, resources and attitude to address them head on.

As we ring in 2017, there are some changes and announcements with GCSAA of which you should be aware:

GCSAA recently hired Michael Lee to serve as Manager of Government Affairs. Michael will work under Chava McKeel and oversee the Grassroots Ambassador Program.

Michael previously worked as the State Director for U.S. Senator James Inhofe (chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works) in Oklahoma City, OK, where he managed staff in the Senator's state offices, facilitated meetings/campaign events/fundraising efforts, monitored district politics and issues, served as the lead interface between the Senator and grassroots organizations in the state and worked with local, state and federal officials.

Michael advised the Senator on priority issues such as water infrastructure and transportation.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Grassroots Ambassador Program (open to Class A, B and C members), please don't hesitate to contact Michael at mlee@gcsaa.org

EIFG recently announced that the 2017 Rounds 4 Research auction will take place May 1-7. Rounds 4 Research started in 2012 to generate resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future. The program has raised \$565,000 since its inception.

Funds are generated by securing donated rounds of golf (defined as a foursome) from facilities and then made available to the public through a nationwide online auction at biddingforgood.com, which has over 650,000 users in its database. Facilities can specify restrictions on the rounds (including days/times, blackout dates) when making their donation.

Eighty percent of the funds that are generated by the donated rounds will go back to the participating chapter for research

projects, education and scholarships. The remaining twenty percent will cover administrative, technical and national marketing costs of the program.

GCSAA is asking superintendents, PGA Professionals, club managers and owners to consider donating rounds to the auction. Donations can be made online at www.rounds4research.com, and your donation will help ensure the long-term future of the game.

Once again, thank you for a great 2016 and I look forward to working and playing some golf with all of you in 2017. Happy New Year to you, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on Twitter @GCSAA_SW for daily industry updates.

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Assistant Superintendent Profile: Sean Sherbert, Spyglass Hill Golf Course

By **PETE BACHMAN**, *San Jose Country Club*

It's always great to showcase some of the up and coming talent in our industry. Northern California has some of the richest history in golf, with great courses and hardworking crews that keep them in exceptional condition. For this issue, we interviewed Sean Sherbert, Assistant Superintendent at Spyglass Hill.

PB: *What made you decide to get into golf maintenance?*

SS: There was a job open at a local golf course, I needed a job and I was broke, so free golf sounded pretty good.

PB: *What is your proudest accomplishment in the industry?*

SS: Becoming an assistant for the Pebble Beach Company

PB: *Who would you consider your most influential mentor in the industry?*

SS: Chris Dalhamer, Director of Golf Maintenance for the Pebble Beach Company

PB: *Where did you grow up?*

SS: In the East SF Bay Area

PB: *Your best nicknames?*

SS: Big Sherb, Sherbie Sherbs

PB: *If you could drive any vehicle, what would it be?*

SS: Time machine

PB: *Curly fries or regular, and why?*

SS: Curly, regular fries need ketchup. I don't like having to accessorize my meals.

PB: *What is the funniest thing you have ever seen on a golf course?*

SS: At my first course there was a guy who would play every day and always brought one of those automatic, self-propelled push carts with the remote. While walking down a fairway talking with his group, his cart went straight into a drainage slough that was so black and mucky the clubs disappeared. He spent the next hour walking in the slough in nothing but his tighty-whites looking for the clubs. Never found them as far as I know. . .

PB: *What is one thing that most people don't know about you?*

SS: I love photography.

PB: *What was your lowest score playing golf, and where?*

SS: 79 at Poppy Hills, from the tips, in a storm, and it will NEVER happen again.

PB: *What is your favorite manual labor job on the golf course?*

SS: Cutting cups-it has the biggest effect on how the course is playing.

PB: *Greatest piece of advice anyone has given you?*

SS: My grandfather told me to find something that I love to do and find a way to make money at it.

PB: *If you had to survive on a deserted island for 1 year, aside from food and water, what 5 items would you bring with you to occupy your time?*

SS: My golf bag, a bike, a gun, pad of paper and a pen

PB: *If you had your choice, what would you do in retirement?*

SS: Travel the world

PB: *Favorite sports teams?*

SS: Oakland Raiders & A's

PB: *If you could have lunch with anyone, past or present, who would it be and why?*

SS: My Father, he was the biggest influence on my life and I miss him daily.

PB: *What is your favorite golf maintenance related quote?*

SS: "I guess we're playing for keeps now. I guess the kidding around is pretty much over. I guess it's just a matter of pumping about five thousand gallons of water down there to teach you a little bit of a lesson." -Carl Spackler



GCSANC Regional Meeting: California Golf Club

By **SEAN TULLY**, *Meadow Club*



On December 12th, GCSANC held a regional event at Cal Club hosted by Thomas Bastis, CGCS, and his staff. The focus of the event was the role technology has in our work, and what options are out there to allow us not only to do a better job, but also to share our work with others.

Being in the Bay Area, we see the effect that technology has as we get to see some of these ideas take shape well before others even hear of the latest startups coming to the marketplace. One thing the Bay area is known for is its ingenuity, and I think that we learned in this meeting that we have some members that are on the leading edge of using technology at their golf courses.

Eric Wiggins was the first speaker, and he discussed the use of Dropbox at Cal Club, where he is one of the Assistant Superintendents. Sharing documents and large files along with the ability to view information while on the course has been a huge time saver and allows them to keep accurate information. <https://www.dropbox.com>

I gave a talk on Google Drive and Google Earth, and how we use them at Meadow Club to share information and keep a shared calendar to which my staff has access. The use of forms in Google Drive is a great way to gather data in a quick and efficient manner. Google Earth is a great way to highlight work both planned and completed, mapping disease or grub activity to show effect of management practices, and to show changes to a course over time. <https://www.google.com/drive/>
<https://www.google.com/earth/>

Kevin Breen, Superintendent at La Rinconada, gave a talk that covered the use of data loggers and Google Earth, incorporation of WIFI over his property, and the use of drones. Kevin shared with us how he uses some GPS apps on his phone to identify areas that need work or the scope of a weed infestation that needs spraying. Kevin is incorporating WIFI across his course, something that first started with the need to communicate data from his well, and in the near future will allow his staff access to WIFI signal across the whole property.

We have seen as technology improves that having access to WIFI on the property can be very advantageous— especially where there is a lack of cellular service.

Drones are a big source of information at La Rinconada, where they can fly the entire property while using an infra-red camera and producing an image that Kevin then shares with his staff to identify wet/dry areas on the course, helping to reduce water use.

I gave another presentation, this time on Twitter and how it can be used as a tool to share what we do on the golf course with golfers and with others in the industry and beyond. Twitter is a quick and easy way to share ideas and communicate with golfers in a way that is familiar with the younger golfers that are out there today. The Twitter feed can also be linked to your course's website to get the information out to a wider audience. For some, Twitter is something they just don't want to use, but

Continued on page 13

there is another way to share the content by that involves just a couple of steps on your phone using text messaging. Twitter is also a great way to get to know other Superintendents from your area and all over the world, learning new things along the way. <https://support.twitter.com/articles/100990>

Javier Campos, Assistant Superintendent at Cal Club, gave a detailed talk about their use of ASB TaskTracker to develop and manage staff and jobs on the course. Javier shared some tips and things they have learned while using the program, such as the ability to make changes to the schedule while out on the course, or even while off property at a meeting. The ability to track hours and cost of jobs is great information to adjust to what you are seeing from a budgeting perspective, and also provides information that can be shared with owners or Green Committees. https://www.advancedscoreboard.com/tasktracker_info.php

Kevin Hauschel, Assistant Superintendent at Meadow Club, gave a talk on our use of the GreenKeeperApp to document and manage disease management, pesticide use, and GDD tracking of PGR's. Kevin also mentioned the incorporation of Weather Underground and their weather station on our property, giving us an accessible weather station for our golfers and for us to

better calculate our GDD scheduling. <http://greenkeeperapp.com/marketing/>

Brian Boyer, Superintendent at Cinnabar Hills, was our last speaker, and he shared with us how to start a blog to detail one's work and other information that can be used to share with golfers and the public in general. Brian does some great work with his blog to highlight the work on the course and the myriad of water issues both on the course and off. Have a look: <https://cinnabarhills.blogspot.com> https://www.blogger.com/about/?r=1-null_user

I would like to thank personally Glen Smickley, the GM at Cal Club, and Thomas Bastis for hosting our event. Thank you! I would also like to congratulate our three Assistant Superintendent speakers, who showed a firm grasp of their topics and held their own in front of their peers!

Moving forward, please let the GCSANC Board know if there is any topic or any ideas that you would like to see covered in a meeting or newsletter article. This meeting and our talk on technology came from a dinner conversation at GIS that Thomas and I had, and grew from there. What are you doing or working on that you would like to share with your fellow members?



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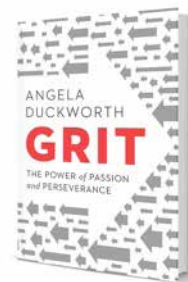
Out of Bounds

By **SEAN TULLY**, *Meadow Club*

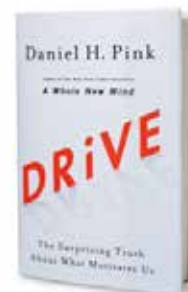
In the past, I have relied on podcasts to share some different content with our members. Recently, I have been trying to read some books that can help me to better understand areas that I can improve upon for my work and also other areas in my life. The longer I stay in this business, the more I am asked to know about things I didn't learn in school, like how do I get the most out of my employees, or how can I better understand the younger generation that I am looking at to fill positions on my crew.

Growing grass has become the easiest part of my job, while I balance the rest of my day with budgets, payroll, and safety concerns. I find the challenge of learning more about what accounts for success and how I can grow personally from what others are doing to adapt to the same changes that affect me on a daily basis in a positive way.

One book that I initially heard being discussed on NPR caught my attention. The book, written by Angela Duckworth and called "Grit: Passion, Perseverance, and the Science of Success," looks at the idea that success can come from perseverance and the will to succeed, and that it can have more to do with success than the often perceived knowledge or talent in a given field. More details may be found at <http://www.npr.org/2016/05/01/476346709/forget-talent-success-comes-from-grit>.



A second book is "Drive," by Daniel Pink. In it, the author makes his case for the best way to motivate people and find satisfaction at work and other areas of one's life. Pink describes our need to direct our own lives, by bettering ourselves and the world around us, and by learning and creating new things. In doing this, he also digs into what motivates people, and identifies three areas that drive and motivate people— autonomy, mastery, and purpose. Here is a short youtube video that illustrates some of his thoughts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6XAPnuFjJc>



Nothing stays the same, and adapting to an ever-changing world allows you to function better in all aspects of one's daily life. At least that is what I keep telling myself!

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