

Moose Memo

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!!!!!!!!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday and a safe New Year. It seems like the 2008 year came in fast and furious but if you are like me, I am ready for the new year. As I write this letter, the weather is in the mid-sixties with sunny skies and several members are busy making plans for a little golf today. We in the deep South are so fortunate that we are able to play golf year round with very few exceptions. We did have some much needed rain the past couple of weeks and with the grass trying to prepare for Winter, the course is in great shape for golf. I really enjoy the quick greens and short rough at this time of the year.

As I write this letter, I am also reminded that with the new year here Castlewoods Country Club has already many special events planned for 2008. I spoke with Ken Peacock and Ronnie Schmitz over lunch the other day and they have been planning this year's events for the Men's Golf Association along with Duke Simmons and Michael Slack. In fact, back by popular demand the Castlewoods Men's Golf Association will host a steak dinner Thursday, January the 24th at the clubhouse. How does a side of beef hanging off your plate, a baked potato, salad and desert , all for \$10.00 sound to you? The doors will open at 6:00 PM and we will have a sign in sheet and collect the MGA dues for 2008. Beer is provided and Dinner will be served at 6:45 PM. Immediately after dinner Ben Nelson will be available for Q & A on his 20+ years as a tournament director on the PGA and Champions tours. Ben, a Jackson native was the club pro for twenty years prior to joining the tour and he is well respected on the PGA tours and nationally known as a rules official. Following Ben there will be a brief business meeting that will outline our MGA tournament schedule and plans for the 2008 season. There's plenty of new and exciting

things with the MGA for 2008, so please mark your calendar and don't miss this meeting and dinner.

Those of us who have handicaps in the computer systems will also need to renew your annual handicap fees for the 2008 year. You will also notice that this \$20.00 charge will be billed to you on your February statement.

If you would like to have a handicap, but do not currently have one in the computer systems, please fill out the form in your current statement and return with your January payment. Junior fees are \$16.00. All of these fees go directly to the Mississippi Golf Association.

The week just prior to Christmas saw Castlewoods Country Club's Fun Group put on their 5th annual Santa Showdown. The field of 14, two-man teams played the yearly tournament with Duke Simmons and his partner John Oxley placing first in the gross division with a fine 66. Second place in the gross division was Shane Humphries and Grady Lodes with a solid 67. In the Winner's circle from the net division was Michael Slack and Dwayne Townsend beating out fellow competitors Denny Howell and Tim Coulter in a scorecard playoff. Both teams carded a 66. Those are nice scores considering the format allowed air horns to be used during swings and nix-nays for each team member could be used three times per player. Thanks to all who participated in the event.

As many of you are aware, Castlewoods and the neighborhood has seen more than it's share of vandalism this past year. I cannot understand why people these days have so little respect for other's property and possessions. This past week, several kids who live in the area used their golf cart on the course and around the neighborhood to destroy and tear up several areas. This is not the first time such acts or activity have occurred on or

around our properties. I just felt it was necessary to at least make public our stance on such acts. It is our intent to catch, charge and seek the maximum penalty allowed by the law for any acts of vandalism. We did catch and charge those responsible for this last act and we are in the process of filing the case. I hope that each and everyone who lives or works in the neighborhood will join us in the future to help prevent such activity and report any and all such unauthorized acts on the golf course, tennis courts and neighborhood. I know that if we all work together we can prevent these instances from happening in the future and if you aware of anything that you feel is important , please feel free to call the clubhouse at 601-992-1942.

I noticed that there is still plenty of merchandise on sale in the pro shop that was left over from the year end close outs. Shoes, clubs and just about every other piece of merchandise is still on sale. This is a good chance to pick up that special item that maybe Santa forgot to put under your tree.

I also want to thank each of you who contributed to the employee Christmas fund this past billing. All of the contributions were passed on to Castlewoods employees and I know it made each and everyone of their holiday seasons a little brighter this year. I would also like to thank each and everyone of you for your continued support of Castlewoods Country Club this past year. When I count my blessings for this new year, each and everyone of the members at the club comes to mind. Here's hoping each of you has happiness and joy this year.

I hope to see you soon at the course!

Moose

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

That was a great holiday season, I thought. The contribution from the members to the Christmas fund was a great gift for all our employees who work so hard throughout the year. On behalf of my employees, thank you for your donation. It has brightened the holiday for many of their children and grandchildren.

You may have noticed already some of the tree pruning we have done so far. This project is coming along slowly but surely. I think it will improve the course tremendously next season by making it easier to play. It will also help us grow grass in areas, which, in the past has been thin or non-existent. We have started on some smaller stuff at first and we have plans to borrow a power saw from another course to help us take care of some of the bigger stuff. We completed the drain in one of the bunkers on #13. It works like a charm. We will start #7 very soon and move around to some others as time allows. I think one more good blowing will do the trick for a majority of the leaves and with that complete we will be able to concentrate on some of the others things on the list.

I have ordered the spring pre-emergent application and will be preparing to apply it around the middle of February if the weather allows. We have pushed the window of opportunity back until April at times in the past and still had great success. For your home lawn you can keep this in mind if you can't find the time in February. After your application remember to water the chemical into your soil for best results.

I have received some interesting e-mail to my suggestion box. Most notable was taking care of some of the little things which get over looked during the busy growing season. We will try much harder to take care of some of these things throughout the year.

As to the lake on #5, this is a little more difficult. The silt caused by the development over the past few years or so has almost ruined that lake. The club has plans to clean this lake but it will be a very intrusive project not to mention very expensive. We will continue to chip at it as much as possible. Keep the e-mails coming. Castlewoodscount@bellsouth.net



Tennis NEWS by Mark Elliott, UPSTA

CITY CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to our girls 12 and under junior team who recently won the City Championship against the top team from River Hills. They were undefeated during the regular season play and then continued their dominance by bringing home Castlewoods it's first city championship. Team members are: Ellie Bond, Emma Bond, Jourdan Barlow, Cady Porter, Jenny Smith and Morgan Jolly.

The Santa Shuffle Mixer on Dec. 8th was a big hit as temperatures reached into the upper 70's. With 34 participants entering the event, Chip Fisher and Scott Holston edged out their competitors to claim the Men's title. In the ladies field, Amy Murray and Jean Hee Muse swept through the competition to finish first in that division. Following a lunch catered by Rubens Seafood, Libby Jones was victorious in the blind serve contest. Thanks to all who participated and donated toys to children in need.

REMINDERS

- *The next six week Junior session will begin in January. Ages 7 to 13 will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5:00 pm and ages 4 to 6 will practice on Wednesdays from 4pm to 4:45 pm.
- *Cardio Tennis also begins this month. A great class to work off the holiday excess.
- *Spring adult play is quickly approaching. Make sure to get your teams registered before the deadlines.

Happy New Year! See you on the courts!