



Root Beer Float

**Root Beer and
Checker Club**
Established 1944
October 2023

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Checker Club**

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Issue 204

President's Message

Fall is ramping up, with funny and/or gaudy Halloween decorations rising from our neighbors' front (grave) yards. Fall colors are peaking out. But there are still many American flags flying to commemorate those who died in the 9-11 terrorists attacks on our country, many of whom were members of our communities. The World Series is coming up, and NFL football is in full swing, but none of the NY pro teams are anything to brag about, save the New York Liberty women's basketball team who just advanced to the WNBA finals against the Las Vegas Aces. And finally, you know it's October when the Nobel prizes are announced. The award for **physiology or medicine** was awarded to Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman, for their discoveries that led to the development of effective vaccines against Covid-19.

Many of us enjoyed meeting Bill Burnett during lunch at Bahr's. He gave us a presentation about his new book "Life On The Back Nine," (Our Journey To The 19th Hole). Hey, I resemble that! I just got a copy of Bill's thought provoking book. Reading it reminded me of a sign my mother-in-law displayed: 'I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter. Every time I go into another room, I wonder what I am I here after?'

We have other interesting presentations and events coming up:

October 10 Paul Lieberman, presenting on Cyber Security

October 15 Musical 'Hair', at the Two River Theater

October 17 Ray Cosgrove, presenting on history of Bahr's Landing Restaurant

October 28 West Point Football game

December 13 Holiday Party at Beacon Hill Country Club (\$55.00 for members and special guests.)

And every Thursday the Root Beer Bikers are on the loose, cycling followed by Lunch (of course) See details of these events in this issue of the Float.

I would express my sincere appreciation of our club's volunteers and Board members who give generously of their time, talents, and energy to keep the Root Beer and Checker Club a great organization that represents the outstanding business and professional people of the community. As it says on our website, "let's have lunch sometime!"

Rich Vodhanel



Club News

Unfortunately, the club has experienced a disruption of its billing system which requires additional time to resolve.

Consequently, invoices to members will be delayed. We will advise you when the current problem is resolved.



September's Birthday Cake

Via Sal DiFede & Rich Vodhanel

Health News - As per our Dr. Tim Sullivan, COVID is still out there. Consider getting booster. (Now available online for free).

Note, that as a general precaution local hospitals now require the wearing of masks.

CARE COMMITTEE

Note, that if anyone should know of a fellow member being ill, incapacitated or unfortunately deceased, please let one of the Board members know so that as a club we can get in touch by phone call, get well/sympathy card, or hospital/nursing home visit.

RB&CC Annual Membership dues and other payments

Due to some issues not everyone has received the latest invoice so please send in a check for the annul dues if you haven't already done so !

In order to clarify the process and maintain sound fiscal financial policy please note that the RB&CC Board of Directors has agreed to the following: **Annual membership dues are \$120 due July 1st with invoices being emailed in June.** Payments for luncheons are due monthly. Payments for special events such as Spring, Fall and Christmas/Holiday parties are due in advance of the dates involved.

Club News (cont.)

Our Birthdays This Month

Jim Widdis	1	John Steinhauser	4		
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Friday Lunch at **Luigi's Famous Pizzeria** - October 13th
(Bahr's Tuesdays w/Blue Slips - Luigi's Fridays w/cash)

Paul Lieberman - **Cyber Security** - October 10th

Two River Theater Production of Hair - October 15th - 3 pm
(Further details below)

Ray Cosgrove - **History of Bahr's Restaurant** - October 17th

October's **Birthdays Cake** - Bahr's Tuesday, October 24th

Fall Football - Saturday, October 28th
Army Black Knights vs Umass Minutemen at West Point, NY
(Details on the next page)

Holiday Party, Beacon Hill Golf and Country Club - December 13th
\$55 p/p member and guest - Details to follow.

Speakers in the works - Details to follow
Kim Guadagno - Sisters of Charity in Asbury Park
John Barrows - Fair Haven inventor
KAL - Cartoonist for Economist

Information on possible RB&CC visit to Saratoga Springs, NY in **2024**
Details below by Bruce Rodman

FYI - If anyone is having a problem with transportation to our lunches or special events, please let Jim Powers (seamuspowers@yahoo.com) know.

Note - Emails from Dona Topinka are your RB&CC invoices !

Club News (cont.)

How about some Fall Football this year?

Travel to West Point on Saturday October 28, 2023 to see:

**Army Black Knights vs UMass
Minuteman**

**If interested contact Lew Anderson at lganderson@att.net
and/or sign up at lunch.**

About the trip:

Ticket— \$130 for game ticket and round trip boat ticket (boat only \$85)

Leave Atlantic Highlands at 8 am on Sat Oct 28.

Sit in the end zone with other RBCC people.

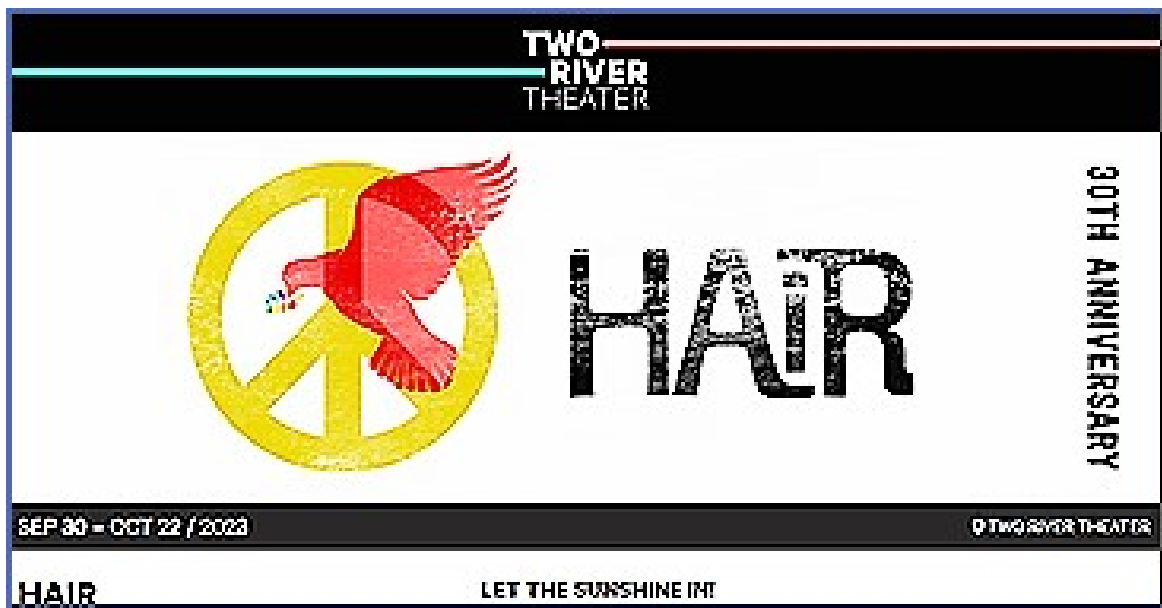
Shuttle bus from West Point Dock to Michie Stadium.

Scenic boat trip up Hudson River to West Point and back to Atlantic Highlands.

Return home after the game.

I will pass a sign up sheet at lunch (or give me a call or send email)

Club News (cont.)



Let the sunshine in! During the Summer of Love, a group of young Americans dream of a beautiful future filled with harmony and understanding. The groundbreaking rock musical includes the Grammy Award™-winning hits “Aquarius,” “Good Morning Starshine,” and the title song’s ode to long, brilliant, beautiful “Hair!” Opening Two River Theater’s 30th anniversary season, Director James Vásquez (Old Globe Resident Artist, *American Mariachi*) and choreographer Mayte Natalio (*Love in Hate Nation*) bring their 2021 staging from the Old Globe Theatre, which was hailed as “A first-class production. A *Hair* to seek out (*San Diego Story*).” Peace now, freedom now, *Hair* now .

~~Club members who are interested in getting tickets should be aware that using the word “Checker” will give them a discount which will show up when you reach the payment page.~~

The Board chose the **October 15th** performance at **3:00 pm** as a date we could join together. Members are responsible for purchasing their own tickets.

The discount deadline 8/15 has passed !

RB&CC visits Saratoga Springs, NY in 2024 ? ***Bruce Rodman***

Hello everyone I've done some preliminary research about an RB&CC trip next summer to Saratoga Springs, NY & here are some thoughts.

Dates: Wednesday and Thursday nights, July 31 to August 1, 2024 (there is no racing on Mondays or Tuesdays, and weekends are challenging for dining and track reservations).

Accommodations: Several options, which would probably be left up to the individual members to make their own reservations. Several of the newer properties downtown are already sold out, but the Saratoga Hilton (downtown) is available for about \$400 per night. About 20 minutes south of Saratoga is the Hampton Inn of Clifton Park, NY for about \$215 per night. There are other options but probably not much else downtown.

Activities: Arrive **Wednesday** July 31 by noon, lunch downtown, which I could reserve. After lunch, a visit to the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame on Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs. Walking tour of downtown or catch the late races across the street. Dinner, which I would arrange.

Thursday: Arrive at Saratoga Racecourse around 7:30am for backstretch tour hosted by me as your tourguide, followed by breakfast on your own. 1PM -- attend the races at the oldest thoroughbred racetrack in the Americas, seating about \$50 per person to be arranged by me. Dinner, which I would arrange.

Friday: Depart

Arranging accommodations is the trickiest part -- my thinking is that each member would make his own reservations. I could try to get group rates and, if successful, communicate that info to interested members. The only thing that would be a "group" expense would be seating at the track, which I could front, and members reimburse me. Everyone could pay their own Museum fee, and the backstretch tour is free. Nonmembers are welcome, too.

Please let me know if you are interested. Thanks.

Bruce Rodman

732-759-5945

brodman8@gmail.com

Bill Burnett Life on the Back Nine - 10/3/23 (Jim Powers)

Bill, introduced by Al Zager, began his talk with a brief description of how he got here. Al asked him to come after reading his book, "Life on the Back Nine" published by Amazon. It's a slim book of 112 pages but full of his take on life after retirement. Bill is a New Jersey native and played football for Rutgers. His major was Spanish but his goal was to play professional football. He graduated in 1971 and while waiting to get drafted waited tables. As it turned out, he wasn't drafted by the Army or the NFL and ended up having a career in the restaurant business. He worked in a number of executive positions for well-known chains. For twenty years he lived in Atlanta and missed New Jersey. Now he's a happy resident.

After being retired for a couple of years he decided to write a book about what men go through. He wanted to use golf as a metaphor. "Life on the Back Nine" is about the journey to the 9th hole. He talked about the process of publishing the book on Amazon. He spent about \$1300 on an editor, a graphic artist for the cover, and a book designer. To break even he needed to sell 288 copies and he's not quite there yet. A friend



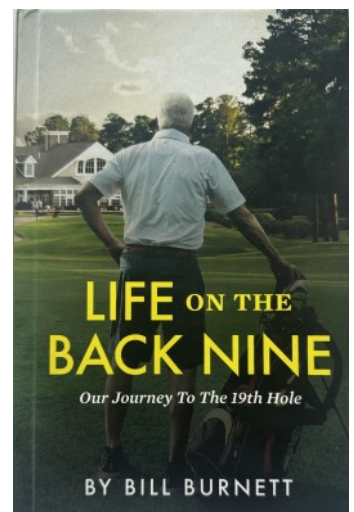
helped him by suggesting he organize the book in topical chapters such as retirement, health issues, marriage, etc. That made it much easier for him to finally write the book.

Here's what Amazon describes the book.

Life On The Back Nine is NOT a step by step manual on how to improve your game and lower your handicap. If that was your understanding when you bought this book you may be able to get your money back. It is also NOT a feel good uplifting treatise on how old age can be a beautiful journey of discovery and self awareness. Again, sorry to disappoint you.

The book IS a collection on the author's male oriented observations on the good and the bad and the sometimes downright ugly process of growing old as so many of us older gentlemen reflect on our lives and our legacies as we approach the inevitability of the

"19th hole". His witty but warm take on such issues as high school reunions, accepting your declining athletic skills and, of course, your sex life will leave you both laughing and nodding in agreement with his theory that how you play your Back Nine is dramatically different than how you played the front nine.



Gdansk, Poland August 2023 (Jim Powers)

Gdansk, with a population of about 480,000 is the fourth largest metropolitan area in Poland. Situated on the northern coast of Poland on the Baltic, it lies on the southern edge of Gdansk Bay. Sheryl and I visited it on a recent trip. We found it to be one of our favorite places. The old town was heavily damaged during WWII. When the Poles rebuilt the city, original parts of buildings in the historic old town that remained standing had to be preserved. We highly recommend a visit. Poland is one of the most interesting countries we have visited. Their history is fascinating and what they endured during WWII and the subsequent occupation by the Soviet Union is incredible. Gdansk is also home to Lech Walesa and the Solidarity movement which I'll discuss in another issue.



Above left—a 14 century crane. Above right—typical narrow house. Taxes were assessed based on the width. Right top—Marion St. where many vendors ply their wares. Bottom right the old Town Hall.



Left—buildings along the Motława River. We had dinner in one of the restaurants there.

Right— One of the gates into the old town.

Gdansk, Poland August 2023 (cont.)



The old Armory, now an art museum



The Uphagen house is a good example of how the residents managed to insure daylight reached each room. (Remember, they used candles.) This family was very wealthy. As shown in the model, they designed a courtyard in the center which allowed light to reach each room as well as providing a private outdoor space.



Gdansk, Poland August 2023 (cont.)



Top left—another gate and square, top right and center left—an indoor market. Center right and bottom left—an outdoor market adjacent to the indoor one. Bottom center—an example of the beautiful stonework fronts. Bottom Right—another view of the street leading to a gate.

Bahr's no - Luigi's yes - 9/19

Due to some electrical issues Bahr's was closed on Tuesday the 19th. However, not to worry, twenty plus members gathered at Plan B (a.k.a. Luigi's Famous Pizza) in Little Silver, NJ. A good time was had by all !

Photos by Rich Vodhanel and Bill Tice



Mule Barn Tavern - Sandy Hook (Rich Vodhanel)

Hello everyone, I took these photos from the outdoor dining area at the Mule Barn Tavern Thursday September 14 after the Root Beer Bikers cycling adventure. While we were having lunch, this military helicopter landed and let off a few passengers and then took off. Maybe someone was coming for lunch? *Rich Vodhanel*



From their website

Back to Bahr's for Lunch - 9/26

Photos by Rich Vohanel



Hollywood comes to NJ - 9/12 - Rich Vodhanel

I took this photo of the film shoot in Bahr's parking lot just before our lunch.
Looks like surf's up.



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*We all long for
smooth sailing.*



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Songs of Martin Torbert 

Recorded by the artist "Fezziwhig" available on the Web at:
Spotify/Apple Music/I-Tunes/YouTube/Amazon Music/Deezer/ReverbNation/Etc.

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**Hats ! We've got Hats !
Thanks to Terry Flynn
for making this happen !**

**\$22 each billed through
monthly invoices.**

***Cartoon
of the
Month !***

