

Club News August 2026



President: Randy Gilpin

It is already that time again!

Per our club bylaws the president forms a Nominating Committee by August 1 of each year. I am grateful that Paul Broneer, Steve Rose, and John Jensen have accepted invitations to serve in that capacity this year.

On (or close to) August 15 every member of the club will receive a copy of the Application for Board of Directors and an invitation to submit an application if interested in serving on the Board. Completed applications will be submitted to the Nominating Committee directly or placed in the mailbox at Vista. Applications may be submitted anytime between August 15 and September 15, the closing date.

The Nominating Committee will be working within that same timeframe to solicit applications, so that when applications close on September 15 there will be at least eight applicants for the eight Board positions.

If there are exactly eight applications, there is no need for an election. In that case the 2027 Board will be ratified by the membership at the year-end luncheon/business meeting in November. If there are more than eight applications the Nominating Committee will conduct an election. Results of an election, if needed, would also be ratified in November.

If you have any questions about the process or Board responsibilities, feel free to ask a member of the Nominating Committee or Board of Directors.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please check your scorecards for accuracy and on tournament days compare the two scorecards to ensure they are accurate and match. Too often recently the already demanding job Gary, Risto and Bill handle running Blind Bogey and tournaments has been complicated by needing to deal with illegible, inaccurate and/or mismatched scorecards. **IN MOST OTHER TOURNAMENTS AN ERROR ON THE SCORECARD WOULD RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION!!** We don't want to take such drastic measures, but we do want you to be conscientious and make sure you turn in scorecards that are neat and free of disagreements or mathematical errors.



Local Tournament Chairman: Risto Salo

Hello Fellow Golfers,

We had a hot day for our July Low Net event. Hopefully not as hot for August. Congratulations to the winners. Gary Rohr- A Flight with a net 57, Randy Gilpin - B Flight with a net 59 and Charlie Cote- C Flight with a net 58!

Our next home tournament is a Low Net tournament on August 20. If you are interested in playing, the entry deadline is Monday August 10.

Information for Vista tournaments only

If you sign up/ pay and then need to cancel before the deadline date, we can refund your payment.

If you need to cancel after the deadline, you will only get a refund if there is a player on the wait list willing to take your spot. If no one is on the wait list, you will forfeit your payment.

We will be playing 6-inch bump for all home tournaments.

To enter a tournament:

- Electronic form on the website (under the “More” heading select “Vista Event”)
- Manual entry form (under the “Events” heading and scroll to the bottom of the tournament schedule page), print and fill out. Place it in the box at the course or mail to my address.

To pay for a tournament:

- Checks should be placed in the box at the course or mailed to my address.
- Zelle payments go to VVSMGC@gmail.com

See you at the course,

Risto Salo
Local Tournament Chairman
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27492 Bridgewater Dr
Valencia CA 91354

**Handicap Chairman & Web Master: Paul Collins**

I came across this article written by Josh Sens at Golf.com and thought it a good one to share:

What's your handicap? And do you know what it actually measures?

A lot of golfers don't. The game's most useful metric is also one of its most misunderstood. Misconceptions abound about everything from the calculations behind what's officially known as a Handicap Index to what those numbers represent. Here are five of the most common myths, clarified.

*Myth No. 1: My Handicap Index is my average score
Nope. Your Handicap Index isn't based on your average round. It's calculated using the eight best of your most recent 20 Score Differentials. It's designed to reflect your playing potential — not what you typically shoot on a Saturday morning.*

Myth No. 2: A 10-handicap golfer should expect to shoot 82
It's nice to be optimistic, but a dose of realism is called for, too. A Handicap Index is a measure of demonstrated ability, not a prediction of your next score.
According to statistics from the [USGA](#), golfers only play to their handicap every four or five rounds, or 20-25 percent of the time.

Myth No. 3: Handicaps only matter in tournaments
Sure, they're essential in handicapped competitions. But they're just as useful for a weekend Nassau, a friendly match with new playing partners or any round where golfers of different abilities want a fair game.

Myth No. 4: A lower handicap means you're playing better right now
Maybe. Maybe not. Your Handicap Index reflects a rolling record of recent scoring, so it can lag behind a hot streak — or a slump. It's a useful snapshot of your demonstrated ability, but it isn't a real-time measure of how you're swinging it this week.

Myth No. 5: The score you post accounts for every shot you take
Not necessarily. There are caps. If you've already established a handicap, the maximum you can post on any hole is net double bogey, or double bogey plus any handicap strokes. If, for instance, you're popping (getting a stroke) on a par 4, the highest score you can post is a 7. The GHIN app will administer the caps- just enter your gross score and it will be corrected properly.

Paul
Pmcd0583@gmail.com



Away Event Chairman: Bill Westcott

August, smack in the middle of the 'Dog days of summer.' Fortunately, away tournaments can be played in the cooler courses close to the coast. We played Buenaventura last month, we will play Olivas Links this month, and play the two again in September and October.

As mentioned, we played at Buenaventura last month on July 9th. It was good to play Buenaventura again. Until recently, the course had been closed due to extensive flood damage. The flight winners for Buenaventura were A flight-Greg Lewis, B flight-Mike Wilson with Harold Maxham and Jim Pachan finishing in a tie for first in the C flight.

The away tournament this month will be on Thursday, August 27th at Olivas Links. Please enter now, but no later than August 20th. Enter on our website. Complete the entry form and submit. If mailing or depositing an entry form with payment in our box at Vista, do so several days before the tournament deadline.

On the inter club front, the news is good. After starting 0-3, we have moved into second place in this year's competition. With two matches to be played, we are 2 points down to Knollwood. And we will be playing at Knollwood in the last match of the year. Could get interesting.

Bill Westcott

Away tournament and Inter Club Chairman

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Membership Chairman: Gary Hallden

Our Blind Bogey Event is now every Wednesday. Remember that sign-ups begin every Wednesday at 6:30 am and the deadline to sign up for BB Wednesday remains Saturday night at 8pm. I need to notify Vista Valencia Golf Course of our tee times and all the player foursomes, every Sunday night! Always bring 1 \$5 bill and 2 \$1 dollar bills to Blind Bogey Events.

We had one new member (John O'Donnell) who joined our Club during the end of July. We currently have 150 total members assigned to our Golf Club. The majority joined our Club to obtain an SCGA GHIN number. We continue to average 36-45 players who are regular players for Blind Bogey Wednesday, as well as the Home and Away tournaments.

Happy Birthday to all our senior members born during the month of August! The following 13 members will officially become one year older during August: Ron Gorman (70), Bob Hagen (64), Chris Hagen (67), Gary Hallden (77), Barney Hernandez (63), Kevin La Sota (69), Morgan Lawrence (80), Ken Marshall (58), Rod McIntosh (67), Alex Ochoa (79), Ron Osborn (78), Tushar Patel (63), and Richard Welter (71). Happy Birthday boys! The average age of all these "Senior Birthday Boys" is 70 years young.

Many of our members continue to struggle with various medical issues, from minor injuries to various forms of cancer. We will continue to hope and pray for everyone, hoping they recover quickly and can get back to enjoying golf again.

When we receive incorrect score cards, the answer we often hear is, "I wasn't the scorekeeper!" Remember, every player in each foursome is responsible to ensure that his score and the other scores are correct and it gets posted correctly on the Blind Bogey final results form. Don't assume someone else will post your score for you.

Gary Hallden, Membership/Blind Bogey Chairman



Treasurer: Roger Jackson

Thank you to everyone who received tournament payout checks — you all cashed them quickly, and that really helps keep the accounting smooth.

Sorry the Buenaventura payouts went out later than usual. I was on vacation and couldn't process them as fast as I normally do. Right now, about 78% of payouts go out through Zelle and 22% through Bank of America's Bill Pay. There are daily limits on both, and the only time it caused a hiccup was when I tried to send the Vista and Away payouts on the same day.

Using Zelle and Bill Pay is free through Bank of America, which saves us from buying check stock, envelopes, and postage. Saving us money and time.



Secretary: Cal Leunig

How many US & California Seniors Play Golf? How many Seniors in the US play golf?

About 6–7 million U.S. seniors (65+) play golf, and overall golf participation has grown substantially—roughly 20–30%—over the past five years, depending on the segment measured.

The National Golf Foundation (NGF) reports that the 65+ golfer population has nearly doubled from 2016 to 2025. While the exact 2025 number isn't directly stated, the trend is clear:

- The U.S. 65+ population grew from **49.2M (2016)** to **64.6M (2025)** — a **31% increase**.
- NGF notes that **the number of 65+ on-course golfers nearly doubled** over that same period.
- Seniors account for **29% of all rounds played** and represent a major share of private-club membership.

Inference based on NGF participation totals: U.S. on-course golf participation in 2023 was 25.7 million. Seniors are one of the largest cohorts, and NGF demographic breakdowns typically place the 65+ segment at 20–25% of all on-course golfers.

California has 2.8 million golfers — the highest of any U.S. state.

- Nationally, **Baby Boomers (roughly ages 55–74) make up 40% of core golfers**, and the number of golfers **65+ has nearly doubled since 2016**.
- So the **best evidence-based estimate** is:
- **≈ 1.1 million seniors (55+) in California play golf**, with a substantial portion being **65+**.
- This is an inference based on national demographic proportions applied to California's known golfer population. No source directly reports a California-specific senior count

Northern California verses So Cal Region % of CA population Estimated senior

Southern California	~60%	≈ 670,000 senior
Northern California	~40%	≈ 450,000 senior

It's interesting that we are the largest age group to play golf more frequently than any other in America.

GO SENIOR GOLFERS!

We ROCK!



Rules Chairman: Ken Rosso

Greetings all. Our upcoming away tournament will be at Olivas Links on August 27. This course has local rules regarding their Native Areas. They describe Native Areas as all unimproved areas outside fairways and roughs, whether staked or not.

Relief procedures from the Native Areas: When the ball is resting in the Native Area, you may play it as it lies; or (under penalty of one stroke, whether ball is lost or found), you may drop your ball at the point where it last crossed the Native margin, within two club lengths no nearer the hole.

I have played this course several times over the years. It's been my experience that it's better to take the one stroke penalty instead of attempting the "hero shot" out of the Native Area. Some of the Native Areas are extremely challenging to hit out of.

On another note, there is a coyote (see below) that roams the course and usually hangs out near the green on hole #10. The locals have named him "Bogey". Unfortunately, some have chosen to feed him while they play their round and he is not afraid of people. In fact, he will sometimes approach your cart looking for a handout. Please keep in mind that although he looks friendly, Bogey is a wild coyote and should be treated as such. It has been my experience that as long as you leave him alone, he will leave you alone.

If you have any questions or need a rule clarification, feel free to contact me at kjrosso618@gmail.com.

