

Table of Contents

The Scorecard

March Summary

Monsters of the Desert

March 2019

Bandon Dunes

Are we having fun yet

Golf Penalty

Sponsors



March Summary

We finally got March behind us along with the snow, rain, sleet, hail, complaining, etc. The consensus is that we will have a great April, May..all the way until December again. We have a couple of Special Events happening in April. We are in the middle of our Match Play Competition as well as the upcoming Club Championship which is scheduled for April 24th and 25th. We did finally complete the PYP two man team event after some 'inclement' weather.

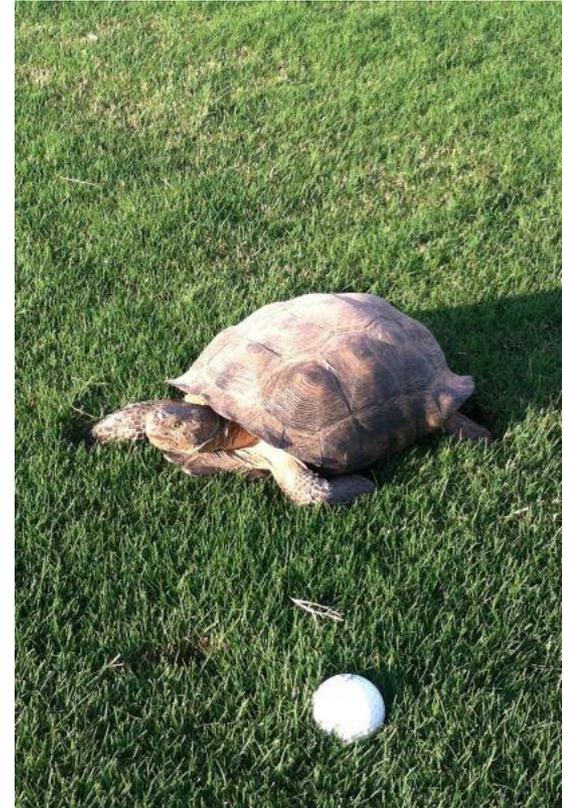
The first flight was won by the team of Rick Snowden and Guy Shelton. Rick shot a fine 71 to put their team out of reach. The second flight was won by Don Grimes and Bruce Kelley. The 3rd flight was won by Bill Hawk and Ron Nunn. Congrats to all the winners.

Also, we have four new members who joined our club in March. Please welcome:

Mike Razzeto, Bill Buetow, Bill Allen and Terry Zimmerman.

Two of our newest members are multi sport athletes (Bill and Terry also play tennis)

Monsters of the Desert



Monthly quiz:
Can you identify these
Monsters? Next page-

Quiz Answers...2 out of 3 means you are above average for our membership.

1. Upper left, Yes, the desert toad. Interesting creature. When mating season is upon them, they come out of the ground and sing the most melodious songs. Kind of sounds like angels with harps. Also, they have the unique ability to flatten themselves and play dead. Generally they do this feat in the street.
2. Upper right. Yes, again, the desert tortoise. This bad boy stole my Callaway. As I approached it, the bugger reared up on its' hind legs and hissed at me. I left my ball and walked on.
3. Lower left, ahh, the elusive desert cow. Known to steal packages off your porch as well as snatching small pets from backyards. Be very wary of these nocturnal creatures.
4. Next month: More horrific monsters of the desert.

Bandon Dunes

Bandon Dunes: You Don't Have To Go To Scotland

By Greg Byrne



As many of you know, I am ready to talk about Bandon Dunes Golf Resort at the drop of a ball marker. When I moved to the Ranch 5 years ago I was surprised at how many experienced golfers had never even heard of this gem on the Oregon Coast. By now some of you have played it; for the rest of you, let me tell you what you are missing.

I first played Bandon Dunes in June 1999, a month after it opened. (This May marks its 20th year.) Then there was just one course, no lodging, and a trailer for a pro shop. Today it has four championship courses and two par 3 courses—plus one other that I will get to later—along with two hotels (the Lodge and the Inn), and three clusters of villas that accommodate groups (my favorite is Chrome Lake). And it has three bar/restaurants, plus a man cave known as “The Bunker” –just follow the cigar smoke. No pool, no tennis courts, no spa. Guys, you’re there to play golf!

Bandon, cont.

These are not easy courses, and unless you have a letter from your doctor you will have to walk them. A caddy is not required, but I strongly advise having at least one in your foursome. Otherwise, you probably won't know (a) where the next tee is and (b) where to hit the ball when you get there. Caddies charge \$100 per bag. Steep, but that the hell, it's once in a lifetime. In my opinion, a caddy is well worth the cost.

Adding to the challenge is Pacific Northwest weather, which can be—to use a meteorological term—shitty. Most of the rounds I have played there have been in winter. The summer has better weather (usually), but is a lot more expensive, and the wind kicks up in the afternoon.

But don't let either the weather or the difficulty discourage you. Debbie and I have made at least a dozen trips there, mostly in winter, and have never had to cancel a round or even shorten one because of the weather.

The worst part of playing Bandon is getting there. It's not the middle of nowhere, it's just west of there. The nearest airport is North Bend. Currently, United Express serves it from SFO and DEN. The resort will send a van to pick you up. If you do go and shoot a high score in lousy weather, don't come complaining to me. Somehow I don't think you will.

Are we having fun yet?

Submitted by Mike Koen

Do you feel tense, distracted and wonder why you often hit crappy shots when 5 minutes ago on the driving range you were hitting wonderful shots? Since joining the SBRMGA I discovered tht when I played well I felt satisfied and enjoyed myself. The reverse of this was also true. When I did not play well I did not have fun. I then pondered the question why was this so? My wife often has said why don't you just go out there and have fun, what difference does it make how well you play? Since I am not a professional golfer nor does my livelihood depend uon how well I play, I have tried to answer this questions.."Am I having fun yet?" In my world if you play like crap you don't have fun and if you do play well you do have fun..Why is this so? I've been thinking about this a lot and here's what I've com up with.

I think it started when I went to school. Teachers and parents praised me when I came home with a good report card. My parents constatly encouraged me to do well in school or something bad was going to happen. Eventually, I did graduate from college and I let a career that again was punctuated with a reward system that only rewarded you for success. I don't remember ever getting a raise for just trying hard. For my entire life, until I retired my well being revolved around the idea of doing well in a competitive sense. Is it any wonder that this attitude gets transferred to playing golf?

Gradually I became aware that my attitude about success in golf was similar to the way I

Fun, cont.

approached school and work. Golf in principal should just be a pleasant pastime. What could be more fun than having some friendly competition with a bunch of pretty nice guys. It seems obvious that winning is better than losing and losing is pretty trivial in the grand scheme of things. So why did I feel dejected if I don't do well? I reasoned that if I changed my attitude about what constitutes success I might enjoy myself more.

Here's one thing I did that helped. Rather than getting discouraged about playing badly, I decided to shift my attention to understanding why I played well or not. Feeling bad about playing poorly only lasts when you obsess about it. So I have been working on dropping my obsession over not having played well. Then after the game I would have the short term focus towards improving that aspect of the game that didn't go well that day. Realistically, I just pick one area to focus on to not feel overwhelmed by all the things I have to fix.

By making this shift I now tend to ease up on myself when things don't go well. My attitude about golf has shifted from the way I approach work to thinking of golf as a hobby. At times I actually play much better and I noticed the odd phenomenon that when I lower my standards my game actually improves. I think that what happens is that be becoming more realistic, I become less tense. There is no doubt that when I am less tense, I am more relaxed and I tend to play better and best of all I usually enjoy myself more!

Golf Penalty

You think you guys have it tough with our new rules, drop zones, penalty areas etc. Look what happened to me at my last Golf Club when I did nothing more than putted out of turn!!



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