



Women's Golf Association of Northern California

Through the Green

The Newsletter for the Women's Golf Association of Northern California

Pleasanton, California

Winter 2006

Membership News

Welcome to Pasadera Country Club, our 108th member club and Catta Verdera, number 109. We are very excited to have these two new clubs added to our WGANC membership roster, giving our membership additional opportunities to play some of the best golf in Northern California!

To accommodate these two clubs, Silver Creek Valley will now become a part of the San Francisco/Mid-Peninsula area. Pasadera is part of the Monterey/South Bay area and Catta Verdera is in the River Valley area.

*Congratulations to our
2006*

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

**Sherri Erskine
Course Rating Chair**

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Lynne Cowan

President's Corner

As the year ends, it is time for me to say goodbye. I would like to thank you all for such a special year. Attending the tournaments is always such a thrill. Like the players, each location is special and has its own personality. Wining a gold medallion is certainly the best. The bragging rights go on for years. As directors, we all have a wonderful time offering these tournaments to you.

Tournaments are just a part of what we do. In February, we have the regional meetings for the newly appointed Chairs of our member clubs. This is a perfect opportunity for you to ask questions and share your ideas with the directors. We offer individual sessions for tournament, handicap, course rating, rules, open days and the captains. You should be receiving your Green Books before the start of these meetings, so look over the information and become familiar with its contents. You owe this to your club members.

Next, we have rules seminars in March. These are informal gatherings. You as a golfer can learn the rules in a relaxed setting. Our NCGA certified rules Coordinator, KC Coté and her certified rules officials will break up into sections to help you understand the various

rules. Each section refers to different situations on the golf course.

If you are more of a rules guru, go to NCGA.org for a listing of the 2007 rules seminars. USGA has tests that you can use for practice and they too have rules seminars listed at USGA.org.



The WGANC office is always available to help you. You can call or e-mail a Director with questions. Check for the Directors listings in the Green Book or on the web site www.wganc.com.

[wganc.com](http://www.wganc.com).

Lynne Gangi, 2006 President

Important Dates

2007 Regional Meetings

- February 7, Central & South Valley at Stockton CC
- February 14, East Bay & North Bay at Crow Canyon CC
- February 19, River Valley & North Valley at Serrano CC
- February 21, SF/Mid-Peninsula & Monterey/South Bay at Silver Creek Valley CC

2007 Rules Seminars

- March 7, Fort Washington GCC
- March 12, Sunset Whitney CC
- March 21, Diablo CC



WGANC News

Welcome to our new 2007 Directors. Four ladies have joined the WGANC board for their first term. They are: Sharon Bradford from Sunset Whitney, Shirley Gahm from Sping Creek, Debbie Stowe from Salinas and Karen Tanaka from Silver Creek Valley. Fran Weber also joins as Advisor to 2007 President Mary Belli.

Many thanks to retiring Directors Lynne Gangi, Shelly Gartman, Chris Jette, Nancy Gapinski, Lynn Jansen and Fran Wagner.

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2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Pat Guzzardo, (Sonoma) Vice President
Dee Winn, (Sierra View) Secretary
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Judy Kirker (Seascape)
Vicki Krattli (Silver Creek Valley)
Debbie Stowe (Salinas)
Karen Tanaka (Silver Creek Valley)

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Get Ready to Celebrate 100 YEARS!

You might be asking yourself, what am I getting ready to celebrate? The year 2007 will be the centennial celebration of WGANC—our organization has been in existence longer than the PGA of America. We owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to those women who had the vision and the tenacity to form an organization to promote women's amateur golf in Northern California.

You may be asking yourself, how do we know we will be 100 years young? Most of the Association's early records were lost. A small battered cash book was discovered dating from 1908-1927 showing a January 1908 balance on hand of \$57.80 indicating the Association must have been in existence as early as 1907. Here is a sampling of significant events which you may find of interest:

The organization ceased to function during World War I. In 1921, the title of the organization was "California Women's Golfers Association, Northern California". A letter was sent to the Los Angeles Country Club asking them to recognize the Southern part of our State. Open Days were first played in 1921 and we continue to be the only organization in the United States to offer Open Days. In 1922, the seal of the State of California was adopted as a medal for the Association and it is still used for the Women's Golf Association of California. Handicapping was first discussed and instituted. In 1927 we became known as the "Women's Golf Association of Northern California".

In 1932, a 54-hole Medal Tournament was established, entitled "The Derby" and was played on three consecutive days (now known as the Stroke Play Tournament). Thus, the beginning of WGANC sponsored tournaments.

Prior to 1955, the Association became involved in Course Rating. In 1956, we were still required to wear skirts although a request had been made by a member club to allow the wearing of Bermuda shorts. In 1959, Northern Award medals were presented for the first time. Each Club receives one award for every 30 members of their ladies group. Awards are presented to those ladies who have played

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WGANC News Cont'd

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exceptional golf on designated days during the year.

In 1962, Area Meetings were started. Bermuda shorts were allowed on Open Days beginning in 1963 for the first time. In 1971, a Junior Girls' Chairperson was appointed and in 1973, the first award was made to the most improved Junior Girl Golfer.

In 1982, the 1st Annual North-South Team Competition was held, the North won by 2 points. The Slope system was introduced and approved in 1984. By 1985, all courses were rated for Slope. In addition, Handi-

capping was changed from NCGA to the GHIN system through USGA. In 1985, since WGANC is a women's organization, all ladies were listed by their first names with husband's names in parenthesis.

In the 1990's, the computer age started with the purchase and installation of computers at the club level for the posting of golf scores for handicapping purposes. There have been other changes throughout the years, but it's now time to add a few interesting tidbits about 2006. The Director's are now wearing green jackets instead of the white ones worn for many years. The premise for this was for a sporty look and our new look has been very

favorably received.

Your current Board of Director's are having a wonderful time planning some exciting things for your Centennial celebration. The one clue I will leave you with is to check the Tournament calendar for 2007—we're going to have a special commemorative medallion for all out tournaments, I know you will want to win one. Again, we owe much gratitude to those wonderful ladies many years ago, for giving all of us the opportunities we now enjoy.

**Dee Winn,
Historian**

About the 2006 WGANC Northern Team

WGANC players receive points for various tournaments played during the year. These tournaments are the WGAC (Women's Golf Association of California) State Championship Tournament, WGANC Champion of Champions, WGANC Stroke Play Championship, California Women's Championship and the WGANC Match Play Championship.

The points awarded vary from 10 to 200. In the match play tournaments points are earned by the champion, runner up, semi-finalist, medalist and also for earning a spot in the championship flight. In the medal play tournaments points are earned by placing 1st through 4th low gross. One-half of the total points earned in the previous year carry over to the current year to determine who is eligible to be on the team and their ranking. The player must also have played in two of the qualifying tournaments named above to be considered for the team.

There are two tournaments each season for the Northern Team. The WGAC is held in the North in the even-numbered years and in the South in the odd-numbered years. Six players from the North and six players from the South are selected on the basis of criteria from each association. Two of the six players must be "Seniors" (at least fifty years old) for a total of three teams. The format of the North/South Team Matches are Holes 1-6 Better Ball, Holes 7-12 Modified Scotch and Holes 13-18 Scramble. This years team included Lynne Cowan-El Macero, Marianne Towersey- Corral de Tierra, Juvy Timan-Pasitempo, Stacey Camara-Fountaingrove, Ann Lahey-Meadow Club and Sandy Woodruff-Pasitempo.

The second tournament the Northern Team participates in is the Northern California Cup Matches. Six team members are chosen from WGANC and six team members are chosen from PWGA. These twelve team members compete against PGA/LPGA teaching professionals. This years team included Lynne Cowen-El Macero, Lyn Nelson-Half Moon Bay, Stacey Camara-Fountaingrove, Rachel Moreaux-Richmond, Lisa Winsten-Blackhawk and Eva Monisteri-Half Moon Bay.



Member News

A Champion in our Midst

Lynne Cowan, 43, a member of WGANC since 1987, won the second NCGA Women's



Championship at Poppy Hills on July 27-28 by two strokes over the defending champion. In a field of college age competitors, she demonstrated that the veteran players can still win. And winning is something Lynne knows only too well. In 2006 WGANC events alone, Lynne's name continues to dominate the results, winning the Champion of Champions, the WGAC State Championship, and the Hers 'n His

The club champion at El Macero CC is a worthy competitor. Lynne has many championships to her credit. She has won the WGANC Match Play Championship six times, the Champion of Champions six times, and the 54 hole once. She has won the State Championship three times and the CWAC State Match Play three times. She has won a few Hers 'n His and has qualified and played in about ten USGA events, including the PubLinks, Women's Amateur and Women's Mid Am.

We recently caught up to Lynne and asked her to tell us more about how she got so involved, and so darn good at,

this game we all love.

"Well let's see, I start playing with my parents and my brother at age 12, so I've been playing for 31 years. I started at the race track course in Vallejo and at Golden Gate Fields and worked my way up to Lake Chabot, which is now Marine World. Soon my mom and brother stopped playing and it was just my dad and I. As I improved we started playing 18 hole courses. We would get up early on the weekends and go play courses around the East Bay like Blue Rock Springs, Tilden Park and Franklin Canyon or wherever we could get a tee time.

I played off and on through junior high and high school. In my junior year I tried out for the golf team, (the boy's golf team,) and didn't make it. Then in my senior year I made it, almost by default. I don't think they had enough players so they had to take me. It was a good experience, but it was tough. I had to play the blue tees with the boys so it was hard to be competitive. My biggest disappointment was not getting my photo in the yearbook. One of the guys on the team was on the yearbook staff and I think he conveniently forgot to take my picture!

For graduation, my folks sent me to to Billy Casper Golf camp in San Diego and I got a job at Franklin Canyon working in the snack bar that summer.

I went to junior college and I made the men's golf team again. This time I got to play one tee forward from the men,

but it caused a problem with my male teammates who didn't think that was fair.

In 1983 I transferred to San Jose State with the hopes of playing on the golf team. It was not to be. I didn't have enough tournament experience to play for such a strong team. (It was only two years after Juli Inkster and Patty Sheehan were there dominating college golf.) While there I worked part time in a golf shop and that's where I met my husband, Carl, a sales rep in the golf business. Today, Carl and I are married and have two girls, Amy, 17 and Elizabeth, 15.

A highlight for me was winning the 2004 Chrysler National Club Championship which earned me a spot in the Bob Hope Chrysler Championship as well as interviews in the Golf Channel. I got to play alongside the pros in Palm Springs which was a blast. One of my most memorable experiences was the last day of the Chrysler when I had 20 or so of my friends and family in the gallery and I shot a couple over par from the blue tees which were over 7000 yards. I threw in a few birdies and nearly beat my pro. I felt like a celebrity.

I now live in Davis, and have coached the league winning Davis High girls' golf team. Last year I was assistant coach for the inaugural year of the UC Davis women's golf team and I played for the league winning Davis Zone golf team as an amateur in the first year of the NGL, the National Golf League.