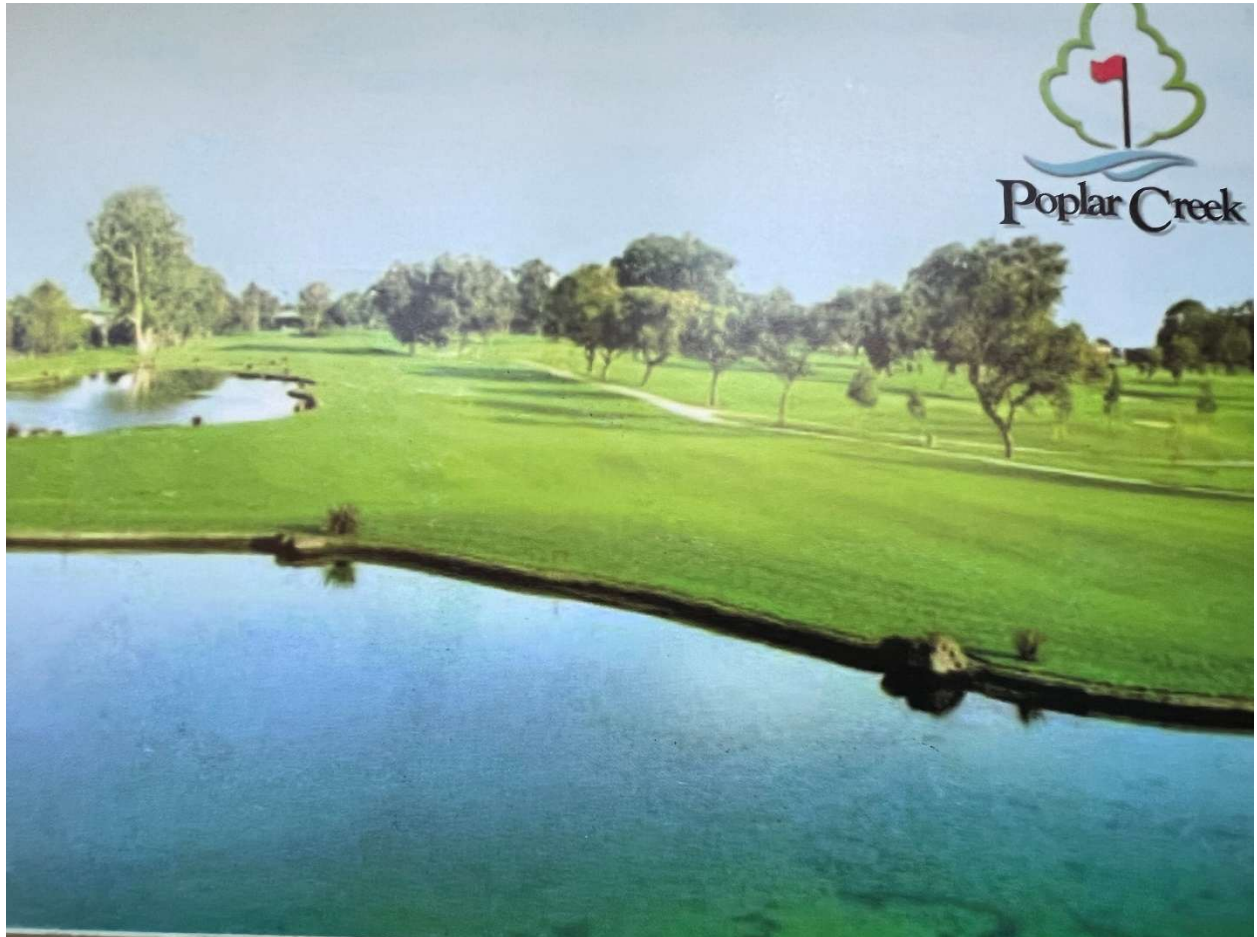


The Poplar Post



The Poplar Creek Men's Golf Club Newsletter

February-March 2025

Issue 5

From the Editor

With the new year, we are once again plagued by slow play. At the Razzle-Dazzle, one group finished 38 minutes behind the group in front of them. At the NCGA Four Ball qualifier, one group was 26 minutes behind the group in front, another 23 minutes behind, a third group 18 minutes behind.

What is so difficult about the concept of keeping up with the group in front of you. I don't care if you are a walker or a rider, there is no reason why every group on the course can't finish within 10-12 minutes of the group in front of them.

Do your pre-shot routine while somebody else is playing. If the person who is away isn't ready, go ahead and play your ball. Same thing on the greens. If you are 220 yards from the green and you can't hit a ball more than 195 yards, why wait until the green clears, play away for God's sake. Use continuous putting – no need to mark the first putt which is 18 inches from the hole.

This is a public service announcement. Slow players will be penalized at all future tournaments. Period.

President's Message

It's February and the winter weather finally reared its ugly head. We almost made it through all of January with no rain, but it came, and came strong. As frustrating as the rain is for planning tournaments, it is greatly appreciated for the course and grass and filling of the ponds. The more rain, the better we will be when Spring finally arrives. I know how much people hate playing lift, clean & place (insert sarcastic face here)! Looking forward to seeing you all out there at a future tournament!

Tournament Results

Razzle-Dazzle

On a bright sunny February day, 54 golfers played in this event which required the two-man teams to play the first six holes as a scramble, the second six holes as an alternate shot format and the final six holes as a better ball format. The flight winners were:

	Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3
1st	Paul Montserrat Thomas Montserrat	Sid Shimabuku Allen Miyake	Stephen Hillebrand Bill Capote
2nd	Dave Butzman Arthur White	Mike Myers Justin Rouspil	Joshua Baltor Kirk Hansen
3rd	Jason Pollard Joe Cioni	Mark Trapani Robert Liedtke	Tim Cole Alex Alvarez

Four Man Scramble

Twelve teams entered this event which required three drives and three second shots from each player on the team. To contend, excellent putting was also required. The top three teams, with scores of 19 under, 16 under and 15 under par were:

- 1ST** Steve Rush, Michael Brosnan, Pat Gavin and John Hardiman
- 2nd** John Edmondson, Manny Casillas, Scott Rehn and Roger Stanley
- 3rd** Walter Koning, Bradley Thaute, Wyatt Andersen and Mel Smith

NCGA Four Ball Qualifying Round

Brian Cresta and Tim Cleary will represent Poplar Creek in the NCGA Four-Ball Net Tournament as they cruised around with 8 under par round on a wet course on February 8.

The top three teams in each flight:

	Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3
1 st	Brian Crest/Tim Cleary	Joe Canapa/Bob Liedtke	Mike Sevilla/Steve Rueda
2 nd	John Edmondson/Manny Casillas	Mel Smith/Sam Sanzeri	Marc Trapani/Tim Farr
3 rd	Armando Harris/Chris Harris	Dave Delbon/Mike Ryan	Mike Brosnan/Steve Rush

Upcoming Tournaments

Saturday February 22 – Beat the Pro, Prez and General Manager
Saturday March 15 – Qualifying Round for Match Play Tournament
Sunday March 16 – Match Play Tournament Round of 32
Saturday March 22 – Match Play Tournament Rounds of 16 and 8
Sunday March 23 – Match Play Tournament – Semi-Finals and Finals
Tuesday April 1 – Greens aeration
Saturday April 5 – Away tournament #1, course TBD
Saturday April 19 – NCGA Individual Net Tournament Qualifying Round
Saturday May 3 – NCGA Senior Four-Ball Net Qualifying Round
Saturday May 17 – 5 Club Tournament
Saturday May 31 – 1,2,3 Best Ball Tournament

Poplar Cup Standings

Through the end of January, the top five point-getters on the Poplar Cup Leader Board:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Joshua Balton | 550 points |
| 2. Steve Rueda | 530 points |
| 3. Kirk Hansen | 510 points |
| 4. Paul Pontserratt | 480 points |
| 5. Arthur White | 470 points |

Chip's Corner

The official unofficial opening of the season

By Chip in Time

Forget all of that Star Wars science fiction stuff, the real black hole is the time between Christmas and the Spring Match Play tournament. There might be some minor diversions like New Years Eve, The Puppy Bowl and National Beer Week in-between, but it is a dark time for the membership. The course is under water, the bar is closed, we haven't seen Mel in months, it is a depressing time.

I had a long, one way, talk with the fat weatherman on channel 14, Telemundo, and asked for a drier winter, longer drives and a lower scoring average. He shook his head in agreement with my every point. It wasn't until Artie White told me he didn't speak English that I understood. In any language, these are the simple wishes and desires of every PCGC member.

The Spring Match Play is official unofficial opening of our season. Granted, we have had some silly season scrambles, Santa Ball and the Scott Rhen NCGA Freedom Festival. Free Scotty. The Match Play is the break even race at Bay Meadows and the get right with your bookie Monday Night Football game rolled into one. While the JPrez's, Walt the Web, and Hilde's of the world are easing off the reigns on 16, the rest of us, The Bubble Boys, are grinding to make the cut.

A three putt on 17 makes the 18th especially harrowing. A gust of wind, a bad swing or a slam dunk in the water can be the difference from making the cut or handing out scorecards the next day. It's maddening, but it's the most exciting, nail biting time of the year. So settle in at Celia's, order something cool and wait for the scores to come slowly in.

Rules Corner

Answer to last issue's poser. C. The player dropped under an inapplicable Rule. He is not penalized, must abandon the dropped ball and proceed with the original ball.

Rule 14.5a – When a player has substituted another ball for the original ball when not allowed under the Rules or the player's ball in play was replaced, dropped or placed (1) in a wrong way, (2) in a wrong place or (3) or using a procedure that did not apply:

- The player may correct the mistake without penalty
- But this is allowed only before the ball is played.

This is called the eraser rule.

This month's poser.

In stroke play, Randy makes his first stroke from the teeing area of a short par-3 hole, which sails over the putting green into heavy rough. His caddie, who had been positioned near the putting green to watch the tee shots, immediately begins to search for the ball while Randy remains near the teeing area. It quickly becomes evident that the caddie may not find the ball, so Randy drops another ball inside the teeing area without saying anything. Prior to the three-minute search period expiring, and prior to Randy making a stroke at the dropped ball, his caddie finds the tee shot. Randy picks up the ball he dropped and proceeds to walk forward to the original ball. He chips it onto the green and takes three putts to hole out and tees off on the next hole. What is Randy's score for the hole?

A. 5 B. 6 C. 7 D. Randy is disqualified

Points to Ponder

You can hit a two-acre fairway 10% of the time and a two-inch branch 90% of the time.

English is full of funny contradictions: Found missing; open secret; liquid gas; small crowd; original copies; pretty ugly; clearly misunderstood; jumbo shrimp.

If I never hit a green, why do I have to pay a green fee?

Recommended sign for third tee: After you hit your tee shot into the water, please proceed to the Drop Zone.