

Rocky Bayou

C O U N T R Y C L U B

February 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST AT THE CLUB

Every Friday at the club 5 til 6:30 p.m. Member Lounge Dining: \$9.95 Reservations

Casual Dining



Every Friday at the club this month 4:30 til 6:30 p.m. well drinks @ half price

Saturday Evening February 13th Mardi Gras Celebration at the Club; Sign up Sheet In Member Lounge



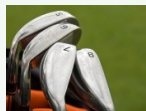
Sunday February 14th Brunch from 9 til 11:30 a.m. Reservations Required

Sunday February 14th Monthly Mixer Golf Tournament 12:00 Shotgun



LGA Memorial and Rally for the Cure Golf Tournament Tuesdays February 16th and 23rd Sign up in Ladies' Lounge

Sunday February 21st Winter 2-person Scramble Golf Tournament Shotgun @ 12 Noon



Thursday February 25th [4th Thursday] Reservations

President's Message



Each month I am e-mailed a reminder by our former president George Caraway to get my article to Roberta for the newsletter.

This month is usually a down time for most people in relation to golf because of weather. We have had a messy December and January. It seems like a good time to curl up by the fire, read or veg out on the sofa, and watch the tube. I, however, will be cruising the waters off of Mexico as this goes to print with some fellow LGA members. I hope you will get the message that "we wish you were here," because I can't wait for the sun.

Have you made reservations for the February

events. No doubt, that there is enough fun to go around. Even dreary January had great food to enjoy with friends. Join in and share a meal with your Rocky friends. Bring a guest on your guest card for golf and stay for dinner. You won't be disappointed.

We made enough money with the sale of the golf cards to accomplish the swimming pool updates with a little spare change.

On February 2nd, let's hope the old groundhog doesn't see his shadow so everyone can get out on the course. Remember your significant other on Valentine's Day and enjoy the club life.

All the Best,

Carol Whited Elliott

Golf Course Superintendent's Message



Hello all.

Raise your hand if you are glad January is over. Me, too. I have been with RBCC for six winters now, and each winter has been different.

In the January newsletter I discussed challenges of different levels and stated it had been some time since our last real challenge. Next time, I will keep my mouth closed.

Less than a week into the New Year we experienced freezing temperatures for almost 14 days straight. I don't believe that broke the current record, but it was certainly close.

During cold temperatures there are several cultural practices we do to help protect the putting greens. All of these cultural practices are performed throughout the year; the practice simply has a different meaning depending on the time of

year. Cultural practice examples would include topdressing, rolling, painting greens or incorporating dark colors, and light watering.

Monday morning January 11th was the coldest of the hard freeze period. During that early morning, a natural phenomenon, which is called frost heaving, occurred. Frost heaving occurs when soil moisture freezes to a certain thickness for a period of time. Once this freezing occurs additional soil moisture is pulled upward to join the freeze layer. This upward pulling effect is the heaving or pushing of turf upward. Adding to this effect is the fact that water's mass volume increases when frozen. Much like water pipes that swell when frozen.

Eventually, outside temperatures increase enough to thaw the frozen soil moisture. The frozen moisture then decreases in mass volume back to its original state. The result is soft, spongy putting greens.

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PGA Golf Professional and Club Manager's Message



February always brings mixed feelings for me. On one hand, the dormant grass means extra roll in the fairways. On the other hand, it means tighter lies around the greens, making those chips and pitches a bit scarier. I usually make two adjustments to my short game in the winter months.

One, I try to use wedges with less bounce. If you look at the bottom of your sand wedge, the angle from the leading edge to the flanged area on the sole is the bounce. Generally, less bounce (less of an angle) is better from harder, firmer turf and sand, and more bounce is better from fluffy sand and softer, thicker turf.

Two, I play more bump-and-run chips and pitches, keeping the ball lower to the ground. There is much less chance of blading it and sending the ball shooting across the green. For these shots I use a 9-iron or 7-iron, and I imagine myself in Scotland, playing in the British Open. If you have any questions, feel free to see me. And remember, spring is right around the corner.

A few club members have mentioned to me that the phones often seem to be busy or that it will ring but no one answers. There are a few possibilities for why this happens. The first is that we only have two phone lines, which are shared by the pro shop, bookkeeper, manager, and restaurant/lounge. If both of these lines are in use, calls won't be able to come through. I will look into the expense and possibility of adding another line.

Another possibility is that often there is only one person in the golf shop. We try to make sure someone is covering the phone at all times but, occasionally, they need to bring carts out of the barn or use the restroom, and there may not be someone readily available.

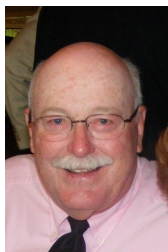
The third possibility is that we do have technical difficulties with the phones from time to time, from lightning and power surges to occasional problems with our phone service provider. I know it can be frustrating, but please bear with us. We're working on it.

Don't forget that if you are looking for golf merchandise, I can get just about anything that is out there, and I can usually beat any advertised prices. If you have something you are looking to purchase, check with me first. You'll be glad you did!

Andy Potter, PGA Golf Professional and Club Manager



Membership Committee Report



I'm sure it will come as no surprise, but the weather in December and the first part of January was not real conducive to attracting new members! For the past two months, our new member additions have not covered our membership losses. Current enrollment stands at 254, broken down as:

Proprietary:	147 (including 6 Young Adults)
Regular:	28
Young Adult:	10
Social:	37
Emeritus:	10
Afternoon:	3
Limited:	12
Junior:	2
Seasonal:	5

You'll notice we have added our second Junior Member. Please welcome **Kayla Bloor** (parents Roger and Kathy) to RBCC.

James and Jean Kammeyer join as a trial membership.

If you get the opportunity, please introduce yourself and other members with you.

We are gearing up for a spring membership drive in so that, when our course blossoms, so will our numbers. And don't forget - the monthly Sunday mixer is a great venue to introduce a perspective couple to our club!

Bob Weideman
Chairman



Hello friends and neighbors,

We are pleased to report that Crystal Taylor will be returning to work during the first part of February following her recent breast cancer surgery. Her recuperation has gone well. I join all of the F&B group in sending her our very best

wishes for good health; we look forward to having her smile back in the house.

Become a member of the Rocky Bayou Mardi Gras Krewe at the celebration on Saturday evening, February 13th. We already have over 50 members signed up for the party, so don't delay in adding your name to the list.



On Sunday, the 14th, we're offering a brunch fit for a Queen—if you are attending the Mardi Gras dinner, you'll received a \$5 discount on the Valentine's Day buffet. Great way to honor the love of your life.

Prime rib dinner will be held this month on the 4th Thursday evening, February 25th.

As always we hope to continue providing you with great food and great service.

Bon appétit, *Bonney Hanson*

Former RBCC President George W. Mehling

Our club's fourth president, an intelligent, kind, and gentle man softly and deliberately tells his story without pride and without embellishment—matter of fact recollections of a man whose plans to become golf pro were interrupted by a second world war.

George William Mehling, born in 1923, grew up in Queens, New York—the son of Mary Kohlschreiver and George Joseph Mehling, the middle of three children—Helen, his older sister and younger sister and RBCC member, Joan Hegarty. Across the street from their five bedroom home, which his father and grandfather had converted from an inn, was a 200 acre farm—a running stream crossed through their property. A idyllic childhood for the Mehlings.

As Jodi, George's wife and friend of over 60 years, remarked "a different time, a different place."

It was 1942 and rather than wait to be drafted into the Army, then 18 year old George took and passed the requisite exams. On November 11, 1942, he was accepted as an aviation cadet.

First, he was sent to Syracuse University for a five-month course of concentrated study in physics, chemistry, and math—they were called aviation students. This five months was the equivalent of a two-year degree for non-military students—these boys were different, they wore their military uniforms to class, marched in parades, and did some flying in Piper Cubs.

After graduating from his studies at Syracuse, George was trained and educated by the Air Force to be a B-17 Bomber pilot—starting

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LGA News



The New Year is here, and we are off to a great new year of golf. The weather is finally trying to cooperate so that we can get some Tuesday golf in.

February 2nd begins our second half of ringers for the year. Judy Boykin has been busy getting 1st half results completed and ready to go again. Reminder to all who are playing in the ringers, turn your score card in immediately following golf on Tuesday with your signatures, first and last name and date. The ringer box is located in the ladies' lounge or often on the sign in table where your weekly game cards are deposited. You need two scores cards, one for ringers, and one for weekly game. Thanks to Judy for such an efficient

job with our ringers.

On January 12th the LGA hosted a breakfast in honor of long time member Emily Maheu who moved out of the area the following Friday. Emily has been active since 1992 with RBCC and our LGA; and, she will be greatly missed. Word has it that she has already located a new home to buy and will soon make the move into it.

Interclub saw two events in January, first a freezing day at Regatta Bay, then followed by a windy day at Emerald Bay. The next event is not until the end of March at FWB. Watch for sign up sheets.

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This was the first time I had experienced the phenomenon of frost heaving. The folks that played golf the afternoon of the 11th saw and felt the effects of frost heaving first hand. Many putting greens were left with heavy foot prints and ball marks. By Tuesday the 12th we began correcting this issue using greens mowers for light rolling followed by the heavy roller.

I do not believe any real damage occurred to the putting greens during this extended cold period. At present the putting greens appear to be very healthy, both on the surface and underneath. As an added precaution we conducted a little experiment. Three putting green plugs were taken from three of the most challenged winter greens--4, 11, and 15. The plugs were potted and taken inside to be grown under warmer conditions. As hoped, all three plugs are growing fine and have actually

been trimmed back. Hopefully, we have experienced the worst this winter season has to offer. If so, I am confident we will enter spring with a bright season ahead.

As always thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Please continue to repair ball marks, sand divots, and use cart paths where available. Also, please invite a guest or current new member to join your group for a round of golf.

Wayne Phillips

Golf Course Superintendent



Former President Lee Steen [2002-2003] and sweetheart, Joe



Former President Bill Loll [1999-2000] and sweetheart, Song

Golf Committee Report

“Come on *Springtime*”



I hope the worst of the cold weather is over. With that run of cold days followed by the rain, I missed a couple of weeks of golf; and, it felt like a couple of months. Being primarily a weekend player, a layoff like that hurt my scores and ultimately my wallet. Brown grass, tight lies, and cool weather I've had enough of, come on

Springtime. The upside is my handicap is creeping up and my guys will have to give me an extra stroke or two.

Enough about me, coming up this month is the Winter Scramble scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 21. The entry fee is minimal and we will have optional things such as a Buy-In, Skins pot, closest to the Pin and Long Drive. Find a partner and sign up it should be a lot of fun.

In March we have the 33rd Annual “Deep Freeze,” and we are adjusting entry fees to encourage more participation. If you have never played in the Deep Freeze, you really don't want to miss it. I have very fond memories of playing with my Pop in several Deep Freeze tournaments. Hopefully, by then we may start to see a little green back on the course. So, for now, let's all hope for a stretch of warmer weather.

See you on the course, Al Gardner



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with “Classification School” in Nashville where he qualified as a pilot. Followed by three months of basic to advanced pilot training—from Arkansas to Illinois.

In May 1944, George graduated and got his wings [by the way, those wings now belong to Jodi and George’s grandson, a 22-year old senior at Embry-Riddle Aviation School].

With a war raging that threatened to darken the entire world—there was no time to go home and visit with family, George went directly to co-pilot training at Tyndall AFB, immediately followed by aircraft commander school at Sebring, Florida, where he was selected to be a “first pilot.” Then on to Gulfport, Mississippi, where the assembled crew met and trained together for two months.

Trucked from Gulfport to Savannah, Georgia, George and his crew picked up a brand new B-17 and flew it across the Atlantic to Valley, Wales, on the west coast of England. The plane was sent on to another depot for modification specifically designed for the European theatre. George and crew were assigned to the 4th Bomb Wing of the 18th Squadron—Crew #63.

Sadly, by this time the war had already inflicted a terrible toll on George’s family—his older sister’s husband, pilot Bill Boseling, was lost over one of Japan’s seas on January 5, 1945, flying home from his station in India. Bill and his 8-month old daughter, Diane, never got to hold or be held by each other; and Helen had to carry on by herself.

“Dinah-Mite” was the name of the plane—the crew never had time to get a pretty woman’s picture painted on. From the last of February or first of March, the “Dinah-Mite” was on bombing missions—one after another.

Then on April 5th [mission #158], just three months after his brother-in-law and plane were lost, George and crew went down in the English Channel. “At bombs away, one bomb hung up on the end of the shackle. The plane left formation . . . Crossing the coast 5-7 miles East of Dunkirk, flak and machine gun fire hit the plane, . . . A fire broke out behind #2 engine and the left alerion was shot out. . . Ditched in the English Channel. . . [three of the crew, co-pilot Wendell Huntley, bombardier Russell Harris, and wing gunner Albert Dennis, were killed in action; radioman Jack Share was severely wounded and lost his right foot] 3 Killed in Action, 6 rescued from the Channel and 5 returned to duty.” George continues to stay in touch with Jack, who lives in Houston, and spoke with him as recently as two weeks ago.

Quoted from military men and women and other citizens of our country and, indeed, the world, “These are the people that built our Air Force. These individuals set the standard . . . We stand today as free men and women, living in a democratic country because of the courageous and steadfast actions of the World War II

veterans. We are grateful.”

As the war was ending George and his crew continued flying—from dropping rations to the hungry Dutch men and women to rescuing workers from slave camps in Austria. Following the war, he stayed two more years in Europe, flying the military airline, stationed in Paris.

From Paris to Selma, Alabama, where he and Mary Jo met, dated, and got married on April 9, 1949, in the chapel at Craig AFB in Selma.

Mary Jo (Jodi) Murphy was raised in Johnstown Pennsylvania, went to business school after high school and in 1942 to work as a civilian in the military “School of Applied Tactics.” The school was based in Harrisburg, then transferred to a location close to Rollins College near Orlando Florida and, finally, in 1947, on to Selma Alabama. In Selma, she and 3 other single girls lived in this 4 bedroom, 2 bath antebellum mansion. High cotton for Jodi and her co-workers.

Jodi, at first, wasn’t real infatuated with this pilot who wanted to take her to a baseball game—she didn’t then, and still doesn’t, like baseball. However, a year later, she saw him in a different light—as a dashing pilot with a green Buick convertible. Thank goodness, George got that convertible . . . and Jodi!

Now, the school Jodi worked in all those years educated and trained intelligence officers. They didn’t have “Power Point” and other technological advances in those days to assist in illustrating what to do and not to do in the world of “intelligence.” They put on skits and, in one of those skits, Jodi was “Miss Slick Chick,” a character in the world of spies and such who the instructors where trying to warn the students to stay away from—danger, danger!

In, April 1949, Jodi and George were married. Their daughter, Mary Jo (Joanie) was born in 1957, while they were stationed at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. They retired in 1965 at Eglin, where they had transferred to in 1959.

After a couple of years in civil service doing the same job he had done before retiring, George started testing airplanes, which had been repaired at a facility up in Crestview.

On Labor Day 1969, George and partner, Joe Montana, started Classic Cabinets. Over the succeeding years, George was involved in many other successful businesses.

Remember, if the war hadn’t come along, George would have been a golf pro. When he was 12 years old he started as a caddy as Fresh Meadow Golf Club in Flushing, New York—\$1.25 a loop, twice that if he carried double. He hitch-hiked there and back—nothing unusual then. As Jodi remarked, “a different time, a different place.” Fresh Meadow was the venue of the 1932 U.S. Open. Gene Sarazen won that tournament, shooting a smooth 100 over the last

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Our 4th President and charter member George Mehling with his precious wife of over 60 years, Jodi, at the RBCC 2009 President's Dinner

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28 holes.

George was always an excellent golfer—a 2 handicap. As a tribute to his excellence, throughout his post-war years with the Air Force, he was invited to join the local private golf clubs.

His favorite club? Mid-Ocean in Bermuda. While stationed in Bermuda and a member at the Mid-Ocean club, George was supposed to have played with President Eisenhower. But, the President had left his shoes behind and he and George wore the same size—George's spikes were with the President on the course that day.

His favorite golfing moment? Playing with LPGA Hall-of-Famer Louise Suggs, who was putting on an exhibition at the Selma Country Club. George missed his drive on the par 4 #12 to the right rough, then from 150 yards, with a four iron, he hit it onto the green within six inches of the hole—Ms. Suggs was suitably impressed!!

Bet you didn't know that George designed and built two Air Force Base golf courses—the two nine hole courses at Craig AFB, Alabama, and Holloman AFB, New Mexico.

How does George describe the first president of RBCC, Frank Edge? "A perfect gentlemen whose word was his bond. He devoted his time wholly to this golf course [RBCC] during the construction phase. Frank worked civil service. He spent every day out here when the course was being built and worked the night shift on base during that time so that he could do that. I don't know when he slept."

How fortunate this club is to have had such character and determination in its leaders from the very beginning.

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Show Your Support for Breast Cancer Awareness. Once again, it's time for our annual **Rally for the Cure** fundraiser for breast cancer awareness. The golfing portion of this campaign will be held the first day of the LGA Memorial Tournament, February 16. This will be a closest to the pin event, with prizes awarded to those whose tee shot stays on the green, as well as the person closest to the pin.

Registration for the Rally is \$20, which includes your subscription or renewal to *Golf Digest*, *Bon Appétit*, *Architectural Digest*, or *Self* magazines. You are not required to actually play in the Rally to participate, you may simply make a \$20 or more contribution to the **Rally for the Cure** and you will receive a thank you gift as well as the magazine subscription. Any donation above \$20 is tax deductible and goes directly to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. In years past we have had several members, both men and women, who have contributed and received their *Golf Digest* magazine, while never leaving their homes.

Note to Men's Tuesday Gaggles: If you would like to participate, register before February 16th and we'll leave the Rally flag on #12. If your tee shot stays on the green, you'll be awarded a gift. Registration forms are in the pro-shop and the ladies' lounge in the clubhouse. Let's make this a record year for participation! For more information, make contact with Vicki Wilson. Wilson820@cox.net or 678-7418.

Come join us on Tuesday, we have a great group of ladies to play golf with.

Wanda Liphard, LGA President

When Jodi and George came to Eglin in 1959, he started playing at Eglin—George, Frank Edge, Bob McKelvey, and Sid Elliott were a foursome from then on, both at Eglin and then at Rocky Bayou Country Club. All four of these gentlemen were charter members and a force in the establishment of our club, which opened in 1973.

Joan Hegarty, one of our wonderful club members and George's youngest sister, says it best, "I don't know what I would have done without George after my husband died 19 years ago. He's taken care of his family and mine ever since."

To paraphrase Joan, "George and others of his character and determination protected and took care of us in a war and then came home and built a great country and, for us, a wonderful club."

Thank you, George, for your lifetime of service and leadership.

Date: Saturday, February 13, 2010

Time: 5:30 Cocktails, 6:30 Dinner

Mardi Gras Dinner

All your Favorites for a traditional Cajun

Buffet:

Red Beans & Rice

Jambalaya

Ettoufee

Crab cakes

Gumbo

Grouper

And many more of your favorite

Cajun dishes!

Chef Bonney promises a feast fit for a

Mardi Gras King & Queen!

*Join us for RBCC style Mardi
Gras Celebration!*

*\$30.00 ++ per person
charged to your account
Limited to the first 70
reservations*

*Sign-up on the RBCC
Lounge Bulletin Board*

*Hosted by the RBCC Clubhouse
Committee*

*Event Chair: Sharon Osthoff
For Information: Call Sharon, Vicki
Wilson, Bonnie Weideman or
Roberta Powell*

*All Participants receive a \$5.00
discount on the Valentine's Day
Brunch scheduled for 2-14-10*