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Merced Golf & Country Club  
6333 North Golf Road  
Merced, CA 95340

# Chip Shots



Clubhouse (209) 722-6268  
Golf Shop (209) 722-3357

1926

Volume 21, Issue 10

NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 2023

**MERCED GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**ANDREW CURIEL**  
President

**SAM TACKE**  
Vice President,  
Long Range Planning

**RICK SMILEY**  
Membership

**JEFF SWEET**  
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**RUSSELL MARKS**  
Golf Operations

**TIM ARNSBERG**  
House

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Social

**ANDREW CURIEL IV**  
Finance

**DIVISION PRESIDENT/  
CAPTAINS**

**Patrick Dillon**  
Senior President

**Mary Jo Knudsen**  
18-Hole Capt.

**Nancy Slater**  
9-Hole Capt.

**CLUB STAFF**

Andy Aubertin. . . . .Club PRO  
Meg Borges. . . . .Food/Beverage  
Manager  
Gilbert Rios . . . . . Club Chef

## NOTES from the President



MGCC Members -

What a busy month September has been. I would like to thank the membership for your patience and understanding on the days the course and the kitchen were closed, due to Club tournaments, aerating the greens and painting of the entryway.

The Ladies' Invitational and the Men's Member-Member tournaments were both great successes and enjoyed by members and invited guests for the Ladies Invitational. I would like to thank all those who were involved in organizing these events. Also, a big thank you to the staff for handling these back-to-back events.

As we end the month with Bingo on Thursday, look ahead to the upcoming events. The Fall Harvest Feast is our October dining event. Please be sure to get your RSVP in as soon as you can, so this can be a successful evening. We also have an Oktoberfest celebration scheduled for Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Watch for details in future emails and flyers.

The House Committee continues in their efforts to make improvements inside the Club. All the members' support is greatly appreciated. Watch for info on progress, future plans and possible events to keep these improvements going.

MGCC would like to thank Mr. Scott Neal, as all have noticed the entrance road has many potholes and he has been very generous with the patch needed. MGCC would like to thank the road crew for their efforts.

Please look for new Pro Shop hours to be posted October 1, 2023.

Andrew Curiel  
MGCC President





## PRO'S CORNER

Andy Aubertin  
PGA Club PRO

October is Here!! Last month we had our annual Men's Member/Member Tournament. The winners of their respective flights

- are: Low Gross – Marc Smith & Chris Waller;
- Flight 1 – Tim Arnsberg & John Freel;
- Flight 2 – Carlos Diaz & Jim Sofranek;
- Flight 3 – Dick Puglizevich & Sal Moreno.

Along with the tournament winners, Doug Collins & Kyle Allen took the top spot in the Horseshoe! Congratulations to all!!!

Earlier in the month, the 18-Hole Ladies group held the Ladies' Invitational. There were multiple contests during this fun event and the winners were:

- Chipping Contest – Monique Hampton
- Team Putting Contest – Denise Davis, Carla Freel, Juliana Weaver, and Patti Soiseth;
- Flight 1 – Denise Davis, Carla Freel, Juliana Weaver, and Patti Soiseth.
- Flight 2 – Jill Macha, Monique Hampton, Lori Suffecool, and Leslie Bucheli.
- Low Gross – Denise Bondurant, Julie Baroni, Chris Baierski, Ruthanne Edginton.

Congratulations to ALL!!

The last week of September you will have noticed the greens have been "aerated" or "plugged" and top-dressed with sand. This practice is needed to help maintain the health of our greens.

Here is a quick rules situation while in a Sand Bunker that you all might find helpful:

*Under Rules 12.2a and 12.2b, the player will be allowed to touch or move loose impediments in a bunker and will be generally allowed to touch the sand with a hand or club. You still can't intentionally touch the sand to "test" it. And you can't clip the sand during a practice swing.*

Lastly, just a couple of notes on cart usage. As of late there have been a handful of carts that have suffered steering linkage damage. We believe this may be occurring when the steering wheel is cranked too far in either direction as well as by inadvertently hitting curbs and the like at odd angles. While driving the carts, please be aware of these potential situations. We have roughly a year left with this cart fleet and we want to keep the ongoing maintenance costs to a minimum.

Let's all do what we can to continue to keep our course, equipment and facility looking and operating great! Fix as many ball marks on the greens as possible and sand-fill divots in the fairways and rough.

Thank you!



## OCTOBER 21st

... Flyer to follow



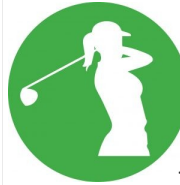
## 18-Hole Ladies Division

Captain's Table  
By: Mary Jo Knudsen

A special "Thank You" to the men who helped us kick off Merced's Team Play by getting the 80 visiting ladies' bags all put on their carts in record time. Thank you, Mike Bentz, Scott Lucas, Pierre Perret, Craig Smith, Ross Cruikshank, Pat Dillon, and the Seniors who walked by and stopped to help.

The annual Point Par tournament was won by Anita Goza with 58 points. Second was Denise Davis and Mary Jo Knudsen with 54 points. Third was Carla Freel and Claudia Eaton with 51 points. Fourth was Eileen Partlow and Jenny Russell with 49 points.

The ladies have been performing admirably at Team Play. We have completed five matches, and we are in 2nd place Net and seventh place Gross. This year's team is a dedicated group of amazing, hard-working teammates. Give them a "Congratulations!". Only four more matches, Ladies!



## 9t9ers

ARTICLE by: Nancy Slater

The Nine-Tee-Niners' monthly meeting on August 29th included a request for donations from Christine Zopolos Michael who, along with Veronica Curiel, is leading a committee to refresh and decorate the clubhouse. Following discussion, the Niners voted to contribute \$750 toward the project.

Low Net/Low Putts winner for the day was Avis Gaffery with a net 32 and only 13 putts. Such an accomplishment! Congrats to Avis.

September Guest Day was so much fun - except for the lack of guests! We played Alternate Shots and the winners were Susan Benes and Jan Lorenzi. What a fantastic team. Congratulations ladies.

Beat the Pro was a great event on the 19th. Andy played along with the groups and we all marveled at his beautiful game. Only one member "beat" him with a Net score of a mere 33! Avis came to play and she brought her "A" game. Way to go, Avis! Remember the theme song to Cheers? "Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came." When I walk through the parking lot to the Pro Shop and I am greeted by members and staff with "Hi Nancy or Good Morning Mrs. Slater", I feel at ease and connected. The recognition does not just happen. I had to learn the names of folks who were new to me (and remember them!). I have to smile and offer a kind word or a joke if that is what I want in return. As members, we must step up to welcome newcomers and help them to feel comfortable. Often all it takes is a smile and a sincere comment to help someone to feel a part of the community. Try it, you will be amazed at what you gain in return.

Please mark your calendar for the Nine-Tee-Niners Annual Charity Day to benefit New Beginnings for Merced County Animals. There is a flyer in this issue; and for additional information please call me at (209) 777-7965.

MGCC  
presents an

# Autumn Harvest Feast

## Starters

**Velvety Butternut Squash Soup** paired with a **Crisp Green Salad** that will whisk you away to autumnal bliss.

## Delectable Sides

Enhance your meal with a side of tender **Brussels Sprouts** that bring the perfect balance to your plate. Pair them with our **Smashed Garlic Potatoes**, glazed to perfection with balsamic and adorned with fresh chives.

## Dessert

Satisfy your sweet cravings with a comforting **Warm Apple Crisp**, crowned with a generous scoop of creamy vanilla ice cream.

A delightful finale to an unforgettable dining experience.

## Main Course Options

### Roast Duck with Cherry Glaze

Immerse your senses in the succulence of tender duck breast, expertly roasted to perfection, and elegantly dressed with a luscious cherry glaze.

- or

### Beef Tenderloin with Red Wine Reduction

Savor each bite of our exquisite beef tenderloin, artfully sliced and complemented by a luxuriant red wine reduction sauce.

- or

### Vegetarian Delight

Experience the vibrancy of our **Stuffed Acorn Squash**, brimming with seasonal vegetables, wild rice, creamy goat cheese, and drizzled with a tantalizing red pepper coulis.

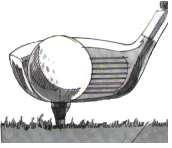
**6** **OCTOBER**  
FRIDAY  
AT 7 PM

**34.99**  
++

**RSVP BY OCT. 4**  
OFFICE@MERCEDGCC.COM  
OR VM 209.722.3357

As summer yields to fall, join us for a delightful dinner amidst the changing season's beauty and flavors.





## Senior Division

by: Patrick Dillon

On August 30, the Merced Seniors hosted a total of 43 golfers from Del Rio, Brookside, Oakdale, Stockton, Woodbridge, and PML. Leading the home team was Joe Calzadillas (1st), Brian Parker & Chris Whiteley (2nd), Ross Cruickshanks (3rd), Pope Lawrence, Ed Benes, & Roger Wood (4th), and Paul Chang (5th). Thank you to the pro shop and Kitchen/ Bar staff for making it a successful day.

On September 6, 10 golfers went up to Greenhorn GC. Helping the winning team was Joe Calzadillas. Joe also tied for Low Net on the day. Other Merced golfers placing in the money were: Chris Whiteley & Roger Wood (4th), Brian Parker (7th), and Phil Hutchins & John Laughlin (10th). Chris Whiteley capped his day by winning the 50-50 cash drawing.

On September 13, Golfers went to Woodbridge Country Club, just north of Lodi.

Have a great Golf Month!!!



## House Committee

The House Committee would like to thank Gabriel Palma of GPC Performance Painting and his great team for the extra repairs and painting of our entryway. It's a beautiful transformation.

We would also like to thank the generous donors who made this possible: Jim and Sabra Abbate, Jim and Suzanne Zopolos, Christine and Matt Michael, Andrew and Veronica Curiel, Andrew Curiel IV, the 9-T-9ers Ladies Group, and the 18-Hole Ladies Division.

We become closer to our goals with each donation we receive. Thank you for your contributions. We will continue our work on updating the inside clubhouse area. There will be plans for events to continue to raise our funding for the ongoing projects. If anyone is interested in any of these or would like to contribute, please contact Christine Michael at (916) 402-5770, Veronica Curiel, or Judith in the office.

# A New Beginning for Our Furry Friends

## Nine-Tee-Niners Charity Day To Benefit

### New Beginnings for Merced County Animals

Friday, October 27th - 9:00 am Shotgun - Luncheon following

Donations to New Beginnings - cash or check

for rescue, spay & neuter, medical care



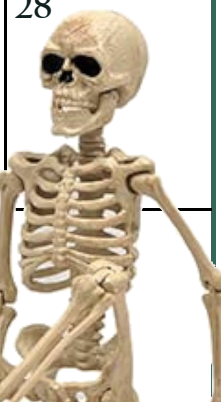




Put together your foursome or let us pair you

Or sign up for lunch only 11:30 am

Sign up by 10/15/23 Contact Nancy Slater (209) 777-7965

# October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	2 <i>Club Closed</i>	3 9-T-9ers Back 9 9:00am Shotgun	4	5 18 Hole DIV 9:00am Shotgun	6 Autumn Harvest Feast 7pm RSVP PLS.	7
8	9 <i>Club Closed</i> CASA Tourney	10 9-T-9ers Front 9 9:00am Shotgun	11	12 18 Hole DIV 9:00am Shotgun <i>President's Cup RND 1</i>	13	14  PRIVATE PARTY
15	16 <i>Club Closed</i>	17 9-T-9ers Back 9 9:00am Shotgun CHARITY DAY  18 Hole DIV <i>President's Cup RND 2</i>	18	19 18 Hole DIV 9:00am Shotgun MGCC Putting League <i>President's Cup RND 3</i>	20 18 Hole DIV <i>President's Cup Finals &amp; Consolation RND</i>	21 Tourney of Champions 9:00am T-Times  Look out for flyer
22	23 <i>Club Closed</i>	24 <b>NCGA Super Senior Event</b>  6:00pm MGCC Board MTG 	25	26 18 Hole DIV 9:00am Shotgun (Wear Halloween Costume)  PRIVATE PARTY	27 9-T-9ers Charity Day 9:00am shotgun Followed by Luncheon	28 
29	30 <i>Club Closed</i>	31  <b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</b> 9-T-9ers Back 9 9:00am Shotgun Meeting Day				

## PRO SHOP HOURS OF OPERATION

Eff. October 1, 2023

**PRO SHOP Hours of Operation:** Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday to Sunday 7:00am - 6:00pm

**Driving Range Hours:** Monday: CLOSED; Tuesday 8:00am - dusk

Wednesday thru Saturday 6am - dusk

Sunday 6:00am - 5:00pm

**Golf Carts:** Please return golf carts by 6:00pm

*As always . . .*

**Please check in the Pro Shop before you tee off and SIGN OUT KEYS FOR GOLF CARTS**

**REMINDERS:** Please follow course rules (especially those announced), repair your divots and repair your ball mark on the green.





# LOOKING AHEAD



- Nov 2 18-Hole Ladies Division  
9:00am Shotgun Guest Day
- Nov 4 **Nutcracker Tournaments**  
9:00am Shotgun
- Nov 7 9-T-Niners (Front 9)  
9:00am Shotgun
- Nov 9 18-Hole Ladies Division  
9:00am Shotgun
- Nov 11 **Veteran's Day**   
Blue Devil Golf Classic  
Club Closed
- Nov 14 9-T-Niners **Turkey Shoot**  
9:00am Shotgun (Back 9)  
Turkey Shoot
- Nov 16 18-Hole Ladies Division  
**Turkey Shoot**  
9:00am Shotgun
- Nov 17 **Glo Ball Tournament**  
6:00pm Shotgun
- Nov 20 9:00am Decorate  
for Christmas
- Nov 21 9-T-Niners (Front 9)  
8:30am Shotgun
- Nov 22 Gates Close at 3:00pm
- Nov 23 **Thanksgiving Day** - Club Closed
- Nov 24 The Gobble Gaggle  
8:00am Shotgun
- Nov 28 9-T-Niners  
9:00am Shotgun (Back 9)  
6:00pm MGCC Board Meeting

## MERCED GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB DRESS CODE

### CLUBHOUSE & DINING ROOM

All members and guests are required to adhere to Merced Country Club's Dress Code when in the club. These general guidelines apply for adults and children above the age of five. The dress code is listed below:

Jackets maybe required for more formal events. Women are requested to dress in a fashion compatible with the dress required of men, which may include dresses, skirts, slacks or pantsuits.

Typical golf attire; and clean, comfortable attire are encouraged at all times. Ladies may wear sleeveless shirts that have a collar; or a non collared shirt with sleeves. Men's Golf attire, blue denim clothing and blue denim jeans in good, clean condition are acceptable attire in the Bar, Dining Room, Patio, Pool, Parking Lot, Pro Shop, Locker Rooms and Club Offices .

**NO BLUE DENIM JEANS** are allowed on the Golf Course, Putting Green, Driving Range, and Practice Facility.

The following attire is **NOT allowed** in the **Clubhouse** (Including the Dining Room, Bar and Banquet Room), on the **Golf Course or Driving Range**

- Shorts, skorts or skirts higher than mid-thigh.
- T-Shirts or Tank Tops; Gym Shorts or any other Gym attire.
- Overalls; cut-offs; clothes with frayed edges or holes
- Swimsuits or Swimwear of any kind; wet or soiled clothing
- Trousers, or other types of clothing that clearly are extreme in size and that cause the clothing item to hang loosely from the body, or that may expose areas of the body or visible undergarments, are prohibited.
- Tops exposing the mid-sections or other areas of the body are not acceptable.

Exceptions to the dress code will be: Attire worn for **Theme Parties** and other designated events which the general Manager must approve prior to the events.

Wearing appropriate blue denim will be permitted on the golf course although not encouraged, from November 1 through March 31.

#### Other Restrictions to: Bar, Dining Room, and Banquet Rooms

- Hats/caps for gentlemen are not permitted in the dining room except as traditional religious, ethnic, or medical head covering. Hats/caps must be worn facing forward. It is appropriate etiquette for gentlemen to remove hats while indoors.
- Shoes and/or sandals must be worn at all times.
- Soft spikes are not permitted in the Dining Room.

Thank you for your compliance.



#### MEMBERSHIP COUNT

Associate Firm . . . . .	8
Discovery . . . . .	8
Executive Membership. . .	104
Playing . . . . .	160
Regular Firm. . . . .	6
Social/Proprietary . . . . .	1
Special Social . . . . .	26
Leave of Absence . . . . .	3
Young Executive. . . . .	20
Young Professional . . . . .	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>