

# Rolling Hills Country Club

*January 2017 Newsletter*

## Upcoming Events at Rolling Hills

January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Night Dinner	4:30 cocktails	6:00 Dinner
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Night Dinner	4:30 cocktails	6:00 Dinner
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Comedy Night \$15.00 includes: show, snacks and one beverage		
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Night Dinner	4:30 cocktails	6:00 Dinner
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Trivia Night Details below		

### A Note from Steve:

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope everyone is happy, healthy and chomping at the bit to play more golf in 2017. In this newsletter I will discuss several issues with regards to our great club. Over the past decade we have drastically changed our methods with regards to budgeting large projects or improvements. We currently budget and plan with respect to our known income and expenses, we do not budget for improvements. The obvious reason is that we do not have funds available for any project. A successful year for us, financially, is to breakeven. That being said, we have had situations arise that are an emergency or an improvement that is wanted by the membership. Examples of this are the water project and the flooring project. Both of these projects were important and both were fully funded by donations. If not for the generosity of our members, they would not have been started or completed. This brings us to our current projects. The water project was near completion, we have had a setback due to a problem with Ameren that I will detail later in this newsletter. The roof project is our next need. The roof on the clubhouse needs to be replaced. I have detailed it in the past, but in summary, we lose shingles every time we have high winds from the west. We have had very minor water damage and we have patched several areas many times. The plan is to change to a metal roof that will provide greater protection from the high winds. We have begun raising funds for a new roof and once we raise enough to get started we will begin. Our hope is to do this when we want to, before the condition or damage dictates we have to. Of course priorities change, but currently, after we meet the immediate needs of irrigation, we will address our roof. Once that is completed we will undertake our greatest project in the recent history of our club. We will raise funds to eliminate our debt. While our club is finding a way to survive, we would like to thrive. We would like to save for projects, we would like to allocate a surplus, we would like to budget for maintenance versus waiting to replace. While this may seem like a dream, it is a possibility. Currently we are just over 7 years from being debt free. As I mentioned before, we work hard to breakeven, once we eliminate our debt, we would have a balanced budget and approximately \$50,000 per year to allocate to savings and other projects. We would immediately have a \$50,000 per year cushion that would allow us to absorb small catastrophes, instead of having to rely on the generosity of our members for survival. This is a great goal and the future is bright. I look forward to the day when I no longer ask for your donations and provide you with an amazing facility to enjoy a great game.

Thank you,

Steve

# Tournament Program

Times change, new ideas become old, exciting becomes boring and the need to make changes becomes more and more evident. Our tournament program is comprised of three portions: outside events, club tournaments and regular member events. Our outside events are a huge financial asset, without the infusion of cash they provide it would be difficult to make ends meet. Our club tournaments are events like Memorial Day, Labor Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Couples Scramble, Derby, Club Championship, The Laufenberg and a few others. Some of these events are good and some are just not worth having. Last year we added the Par 3 Challenge and it was a success. In 2017 we will eliminate the Derby and replace it with the ShotMaker Championship, a one club event. We will also eliminate the current version of the club championship and Laufenberg event. These will be combined to become a member appreciation style event called the Laufenberg Club Championship. It will be an event with a significant entry fee that players will be able to earn credit towards by participation in leagues, events and tournaments throughout the year. It will be an individual, two-day tournament that will combine low net and low gross competition; it will crown a true club champion and will hopefully have significant prizes for players to earn. Details of this event and program will be out very soon and I hope everyone is excited to participate. The third portion of our tournament program is our leagues and member events. Our Men's league has been growing and is well liked, our Ladies group is small but always a great asset to the club, our Wednesday Night Golf and Dinner group has grown the past couple years and continues to be the core of our membership. Then there is the Senior Scrambles, once they were a great benefit of being a member, everybody played. Over the past few years they have been reduced to 12-20 players and really not something that anyone cared about playing in. So, they have been eliminated and replaced with seven monthly senior events that will start in March. Each event is unique in format, teams, and competition. We have a three club event, we have a shamble, we have a step-a-side, and we even have an event that will allow you to throw the ball once per hole. These events not only offer new formats and hopefully fun twists, they many times require members to build a team. One event requires you to have at least one player with a handicap over 20. Several events limit the number of low handicap players that can be on a team. Some event require every team to have a woman, others require players of different ages. So, as you look at the events I hope it re-injects some interest to participate in these monthly events. Click on this link to see the entry forms: [2017 Senior Events](#).

## Monthly Senior Events

March – Three Club  
April – Cy Young  
May – Step-A-Side  
June – Shamble  
July – Senior/SuperSenior/Old Poop  
August – Be my guest  
September – Kinda Junior/Senior

## Price Increase

As everyone is aware, prices rarely go down. Sometimes every business needs to increase prices to meet needs and expenses of doing business. I would hope that while everyone would agree they do not like price increases, they would agree that Rolling Hills is very slow in increasing prices or rates. This year we will be increasing our twilight/winter cart rate starting in April. We will not be raising our standard cart rates. Our twilight/winter cart rate will go to \$14, from the (next page)

\$12 rate we currently have. This will make our non-member twilight rate for playing after 2:00 in the summer go to \$24 from \$22. This is the first time we have increased this rate in over a decade. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Currently I feel that our pricing will remain the same on all other items at the club with the possible exception of fountain soda. We have charged \$.95 or \$1 with tax since 2001. This winter we were notified of a fairly significant price increase and we are considering an increase for fountain drinks. If that price changes we will announce it in advance.

## Ameren Situation

In late October we had a situation arise when our irrigation system did not work over night. When Brett checked the system he found that our 3-Phase power which should send 440 volts of power to our system was sending over 670 volts of power into the system. Ameren was called and they responded quickly. They found that an Ameren fuse on the pole had failed, it was repaired and the voltage returned to normal. Brett then had to assess the damage to the system. This meant a service call from our pump specialist and several hours of trial and error. They were able to assess that the brains of the system had been blown out and they established a way to operate the system until the parts could be replaced. As directed by Ameren we filed a claim for damages and we were directed to the company that independently investigates claims. The damages will amount to over \$6,000 from the failure of the Ameren fuse. Several weeks later we received a denial letter. We then went back to Ameren and they said we needed to refile the claim with added information. We received a call several days later to gain more information. Shortly we received another denial. Through their investigation of the problem Ameren and the investigating company never visited the site or questioned Brett or I. The next step was to go to the Missouri Public Service commission. This has been done and our claim has been filed. I have had a very constructive discussion with the representative from the Commission and I hope we will finally get Ameren to be held accountable for their failure. I would like to thank our State Representative David Wood for his assistance in this matter, he provided valuable guidance.

As a customer of Ameren we have been treated very well, they responded quickly and fixed the problem. However, I am extremely disappointed that they refuse to take responsibility for damages caused by a failure of their equipment. We have paid our bill for over 60 years, we have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to Ameren. Yet they cause damage that could have been catastrophic for our club and have failed to pay for their damages. I will keep everyone posted about this situation.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trivia Night

Saturday, April 15th    Doors open at 6:00    First Question at 6:30

Event is open to the first 12 teams.

Teams consist of six players, we will have 10 rounds with 10 questions each.

Appetizers and snacks are served all night and included in entry fee.

Cost is \$12 per person and includes appetizers and prizes

We will have a Draft Beer Special - \$1 Drafts or \$5 pitchers.

We will also be having 50/50 Drawing, Silent Auction and Raffles.