

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 29, No. 3

August, 1995

President's Message

Peter R. Pierson
CAGCS President

On behalf of the CAGCS Board of Directors, I wish to thank those members who have gone the extra mile to volunteer their clubs to host meetings for 1996. We do not have a full schedule as yet, but we are working hard to complete those details.

At the present time, it appears that the only 1996 dates remaining to be filled are May, October, and a site for the 1996 Scholarship & Research Tournament which is usually held in early October.

If you wish to host one of the available events, I urge you to start working on the date as soon as possible. Clubs are filling their 1996 calendars now! If you have any questions or require any additional information, please call the CAGCS office (387-0810).

We have also begun searching for meeting sites for 1997.

I would like to thank all CAGCS members who have convinced their individual clubs that membership in the Environmental Industry Council (formerly PPUC) is beneficial to golf and to protect their golf courses. It

(continued on page 2)

One club that's not teed off by ban on metal spikes

*Country Club of Darien launches successful "Spikeless-Only policy...
Superintendent Tim O'Neill explains how.*

At many clubs, metal spikes will die hard—if they die at all. Not so at the Country Club of Darien. As of July 1st, this club became the first—and only—in Connecticut and Westchester to jump on the "ban" wagon and put a permanent kibosh on metal spikes.

Joining the ranks of 65 clubs across the country that currently enforce a permanent ban on metal spikes (and the nearly 200 clubs that strongly encourage spikeless shoes), the Country Club of Darien gave members just short of a year to make the transition to spikeless play. To date, the response has been exceedingly favorable—and the agronomic results equally promising.

Here, Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill offers insight, not only into the many turf-related benefits of sporting spikeless shoes, but also how his club has managed—what appears to be—a flawless launch into a "Spikeless-Only" policy.

We hope you'll find this piece interesting but, perhaps more important, a good source of information for your Greens Committee and board.

Spikeless Inspiration

"One of the reasons I think this policy has been so well received is that it came from the members themselves—more specifically, a group of members who had played golf at Muirfield Village in Dublin, OH. This top Nicklaus course has banned metal spikes, offering my members the opportunity to experience both the feel and putting surface effects of golfing with spikeless shoes.

"They were also able to see, firsthand, at least one of the club's strategies for enforcing its spikeless policy. The day they played Muirfield, a golfer had somehow slipped onto the course with metal spikes. One of the club's locker room attendants followed the trail of spike marks—which were apparently quite obvious on the otherwise pure greens—and then replaced the player's metal spikes with Softspikes right on the spot. It's their policy to replace every golfer's metal spikes with Softspikes—free of charge—before they enter the course."

(continued on page 3)



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President's Message

(continued from page 1)

seems as though the pesticide application industry has made a good run through this legislative session.

Have you considered an individual club membership in the Tri-State Research Foundation? Three years ago, CAGCS joined with the MetGCSA, New Jersey GCSA and the Long Island GCSA to help form a strong foundation to support regional research which would be of benefit to golf courses in the northeast.

The Tri-State Research Foundation is presently in partnership with Dr. Noel Jackson at URI in a research project. All CAGCS members should have received a copy of the new Tri-State Research newsletter along with an invoice.

The University of Rhode Island has a renowned research facility at a very close proximity to most all of our courses. When we have a turf problem, we call upon URI to help us solve the problem. Now, we can help ourselves and the golf industry by supporting research.

A donation to the Tri State Research Foundation will be of benefit to golf courses in our region. The investment of a contribution could be your best new move in 1995.

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Connecticut Clippings is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

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Committee
Anthony Grosso
Pautipaug Country Club
~and~
Thomas Watroba
Suffield Country Club

Photos
David Basconi
Brian Pope

Smoothing the Way for Spikeless Golf

(Continued from page 1)

"This group of members was so convinced of the benefits of using Softspikes that, last fall, they launched a campaign to encourage our entire golfing membership to replace their metal spikes with the urethane alternatives.

Attendants in both the Men's and Ladies' Locker Rooms have been equipped to offer on-the-spot spike replacements to members and their guests. Most of our members had their shoes converted over the winter. Guest changeovers are still being done. And all spike changes are complimentary—at least for the time being.

"The reception to Softspikes—even at the start of our trial period—was so positive that the Golf Committee and Board of Directors committed to going 100 percent spikeless by July 1st of this year.

"Even outings held at the club are spikeless. Participants are informed, in advance, that they can either have their shoes converted on their own or bring their shoes—with metal spikes removed—and have them outfitted with Softspikes by one of our attendants.

"To date, the club has invested about \$3,500 in replacement spikes, a small price to pay for the many resulting benefits."

The Pluses of Softspikes

"Some of the positive outcomes that our members, golf professional, clubhouse staff, and I have noticed:

- Softspikes are more comfortable, putting noticeably less strain on feet, ankles, knees, hips and the back. According to our Pro Ed Nicholson, "99.9 percent of our members find it far easier to walk 18 holes in spikeless shoes".

- Golfers needn't putt through spike marks on the greens. With heavy play (25,000 rounds per year), our small greens (90,000 square feet for 20 greens) were taking a beating. This season, the greens are noticeably healthier and smoother, with little wear around the hole after a day of play. As a result, I have been able to reduce the number of times I change cups from four to three times per week. And the turf, being healthier, better tolerates weekly rolling.

- Members can now wear their golf shoes anywhere inside the clubhouse and on our flagstone patio, areas that were previously off limits to metal spikes.

- The club expects Softspikes to spare carpeting, carts, wooden steps, bridges, and asphalt walkways, adding up to significant savings in repairs and replacement costs."

(continued on page 4)

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Few Negatives Cited for Turf-Friendly Alternative

(continued from page 3)

"The downsides to Softspikes are few, though some golfers feel their traction is not as secure when they swing—particularly on hilly areas of the course, which at Darien are few, since the course is relatively flat.

"Critics will also tell you that Softspikes are slippery on wet surfaces, especially wooden bridges but, I say what's more slippery than metal spikes on smooth cement, tile or stone? Besides, most clubs that encourage Softspikes are trying to make slick surfaces more secure by treating wood surfaces with aluminum oxide or covering them with a synthetic material. At Darien, we are covering both wooden bridges and wood walkways around the clubhouse with all-weather carpeting.

"The only other concern I have heard

is that Softspikes are less durable than metal spikes, lasting 30 as opposed to 40 rounds. The replacement costs are slightly higher as well, though nearly negligible—less than \$1 more per pair of shoes.

"It's these few points, as well as a dogged attachment to the ol' tried-and-true, that make it difficult for superintendents, themselves, to convince their memberships to go spikeless. It really takes a day of Softspikes-Only play on a course to see and feel the benefits—not unlike what the Met did at their montly meeting held at Middle Bay Country Club, and our association monthly meeting held at Wampanoag Country Club in June.

"At Darien, I was fortunate that a few vocal members were willing to campaign for Softspikes. As with any

new policy, though, this one will be up for review at the season's end. But my guess is that Softspikes are not a passing fad. At the Country Club of Darien, they are here to stay."

*Tim O'Neill, CGCS
Country Club of Darien*

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From the Editor John F. Streeter, CGCS

I would like to thank Tim O'Neill for this well-written, informative article.

This softspike issue, I feel, is one of the most important issues that has come down in our business in a long time.

I hope to hear more success stories such as this in the near future.

Send your thoughts to:

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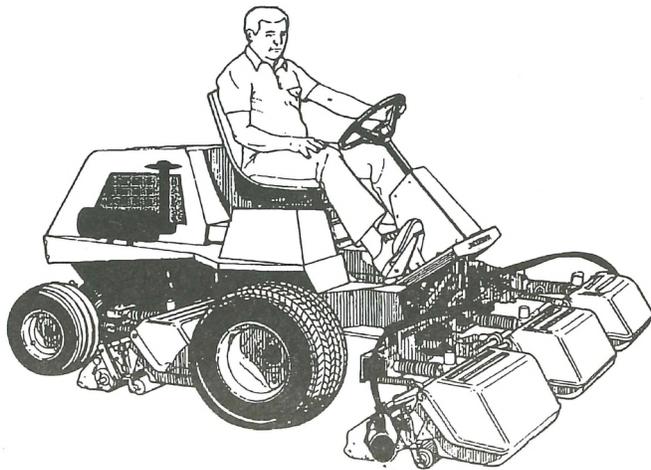
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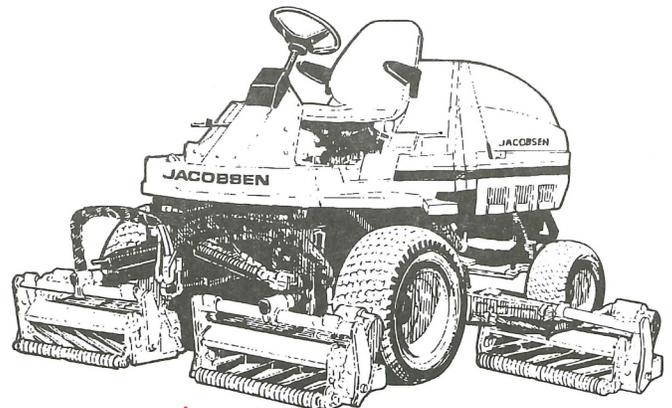
- Greater horsepower lower emissions certified engines
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Around the Association



Welcome New Members

Anthony Baviello, CGCS - Class A
Yale University Golf Course

David Brownell - Class C
Sawtelle Bros., Inc.

Paul Ladzinski, Jr. - Class A
Gainfield Farms Golf Course

Owen Regan - Class C
Tee and Green Sod

Carl Samuelson - Class B
Candlewood Valley Country Club

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United States Men's Amateur Tournament August 26 & 27

The U.S. Men's Amateur tournament is scheduled for August 26 & 27 at Newport Country Club, Newport, RI.

The Rhode Island GCSA is hosting a hospitality tent during the tournament, and they have extended an invitation to all CAGCS members to stop by for beverages and comradery.

As with all USGA events, any card carrying GCSAA member will be admitted.

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Rooms blocked - Orlando

CAGCS has reserved a block of rooms for members who plan on attending the National Convention in Orlando, FL.

The reserved rooms are at the Omni Rosen Hotel (headquarters hotel). As soon as all information has been received, we will notify you of all details.

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CAGCS Invitational September 12th

The annual CAGCS Invitational is scheduled for September 12th at Tower Ridge CC in Simsbury, CT.

Please note that this will be a spikeless event. All participants

must wear Softspikes or spikeless shoes.

All superintendents planning on participating are asked to pass this information along to their guests.

You can call John Donnell, Regional Sales Manager at Softspikes at 800-638-0075. Tell him that you are playing in a CT superintendents' tournament on Sept. 12th, and he will send you a free pair of Softspikes for you and each of your guests, if necessary.

Please note that all groups will be required to have a player playing from a 0 handicap. This policy has been adopted to encourage club pro participation.

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Turf scouting and pest management workshops

The University of Massachusetts Extension Turf Program will sponsor a Turf Scouting and Integrated Pest Management Workshop on August 31, 1995 at the Eastern Massachusetts Extension Center in Waltham, MA.

This workshop will cover scouting tools and techniques for turf insects, weeds and cultural problems, as well as insect and weed identification. Workshop instructors include UMass turf specialists Dr. Pat Vittum, Dr. Prasanta Bhowmik, Mary Owen, and Turf IPM Technician Jennifer Nobel.

Enrollment is limited. Cost is \$35 per person. Pre-registration is required.

For registration and other information, contact Mary Owen, Extension Turf Specialist (508) 892-0382.

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CAGCS Family Day August 22nd

Short Beach Park, Stratford, CT

Deadline for reservations
Aug. 19th

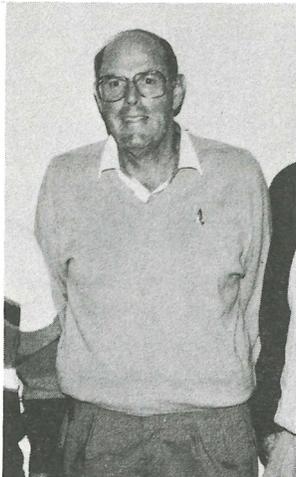
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Peter Pierson captures CAGCS golf championship



Peter Pierson, Pequabuck Golf Club, (pictured left) went on to capture low honors in the annual CAGCS Golf Championship. Pierson's combined low gross score of 156 was shot with two fine rounds of golf, one at Tashua Knolls GC in May, and then at the Wampanoag CC in June.

Peter, winner of last year's Senior Division and CAGCS champion in 1993, always poses stiff competition to all competitors.

In the net division, our ever present Frank Lamphier, Aspetuck Valley CC, walked away with the net trophy with a total of 137.

The Senior Division was won by Dick Cook with a total score of 185. The net bracket of the Senior Division was won by John Motycka with a total of 152.

In the Affiliate Division, the gross champion for the third year in a row was Mike Dukette, Pro-Lawn Products, Inc., with a score of 148 (same score as posted last year). A new CAGCS member, Dave Brownell, of Sawtelle Bros., took home the net trophy in the Affiliate Division.

More Championship Results

12-24 Handicap

Low Gross - Scott Ramsay - 176
Low Net - Kevin D'Amico - 147

25 - 36 Handicap

Low Gross - Scott Gennings - 196
Low Net - Paul Bednarczyk - 147
Brian Skelly - 147

Golf Results

June 6th - Wampanoag CC
Greg Stent, superintendent

A Flight

Low Gross - Mike Dukette - 74
Low Net - Greg Stent - 69
2nd Low Net - Frank Lamphier - 70
3rd Low Net - Scott Niven - 71

B Flight

Low Gross - Lynn Engler - 84
Low Net - Bill Goodrich - 71
2nd Low Net - Scott Ramsay - 72
3rd Low Net - Barry Petrasko - 73

C Flight

Low Gross - John Ruzsbatsky - 88
Low Net - Carl Samuelson - 68
2nd Low Net - Owen Regan - 71
3rd Low Net - John Motycka - 72

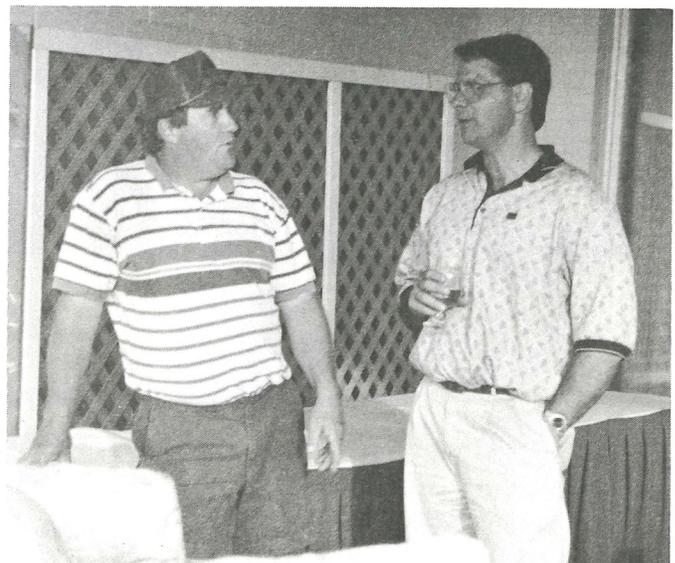
D Flight

Low Gross - Phil Neaton - 96
Low Net - Bill Spitzer - 68
2nd Low Net - Brian Skelly - 74
3rd Low Net - Paul Bednarczyk - 75

Closest to the Pin #9 - Frank Savakis
Closest to the Pin #16 - Mike Moran
Longest Drive #8 - Paul Jamrog
Closest to the Line #14
Matt Howland



Mike Cornicelli, A O.K. Turf Equipment (left) and Tim O'Neill, CC of Darien (right)



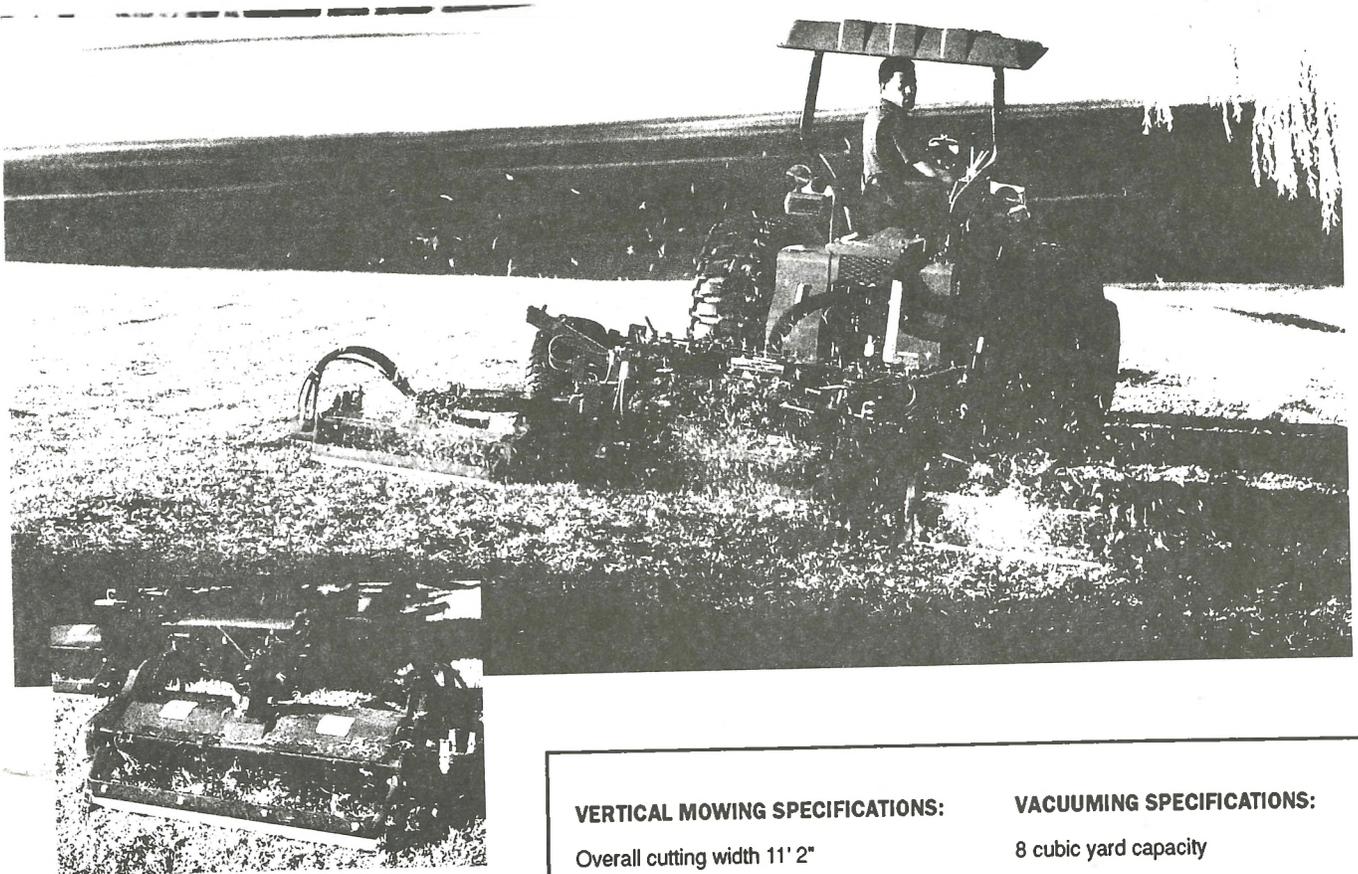
Eric Johnson, Pine Orchard Yacht & CC (left) and Anthony Grosso, Pautipaug CC (right)



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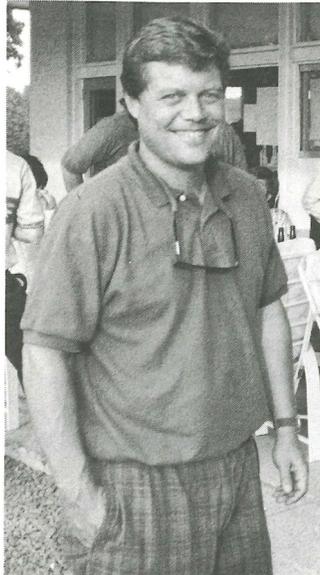
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**Golf results - July 11th
Willimantic Country Club
Steven Rackliffe, CGCS
superintendent**

Low Gross - Mike Dukette - 69
2nd Low Gross - Peter Pierson - 77

The tournament format was a stableford, and the results were as follows: Jeff Rogers - 45; Dick Cook - 45; Ron Holcomb - 41; Larry Dodge - 40; Brian Skelly - 40; Jon Zuk - 40; Jay Sabanosh - 39; Bruce Morse - 39; Paul Bednarczyk - 39; Greg Wojick - 38; John Gallagher - 38; Scott Ramsay - 38; Greg Bradley - 37; Len Fazzino - 37.

Longest Drive - Bruce Berlett
Closest to the line - Bill Blount
Closest to the Pin #7 Frank Lamphier
Closest to the Pin #16 - Jud Smith.

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**CAGCS to host Inaugural
New England Championship Tournament**

The Inaugural New England Championship Tournament is scheduled for October 12th at Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury, CT. All seven New England associations—Connecticut, Cape Cod, Maine, New England, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont—will participate, and it is a tournament that is open to all handicap levels.

The tournament format is a two-man team - best ball. There will be eight players from each association (two for each flight); with 100% handicap. The prizes to be awarded: Team competition: 1st, 2nd, 3rd; Low Individual Gross; Low Individual Net; Closest to the Pin (2).

The qualifying round for the Connecticut team was held at our monthly meeting on June 6th at the Wampanoag CC, and the following CAGCS members will represent our chapter:

Flight A (0 - 8 handicap)
Mike Dukette & Mike Chrzanowski

Flight B (9 - 16 handicap)
Greg Stent & Frank Lamphier

Flight C (17 - 25 handicap)
Owen Regan & John Motycka

Flight D (26 - 36 handicap)
Phil Neaton & Bob Silva

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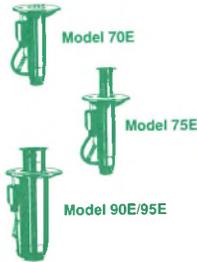
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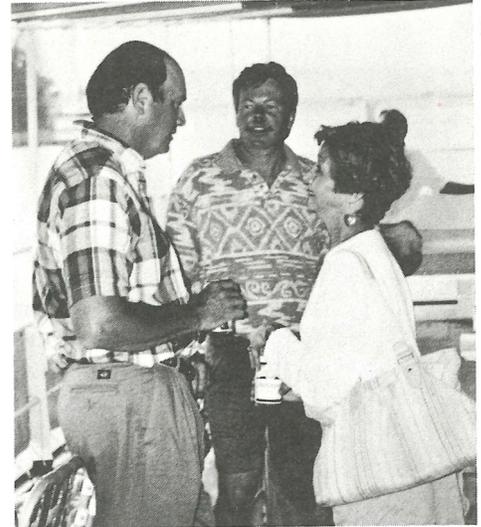
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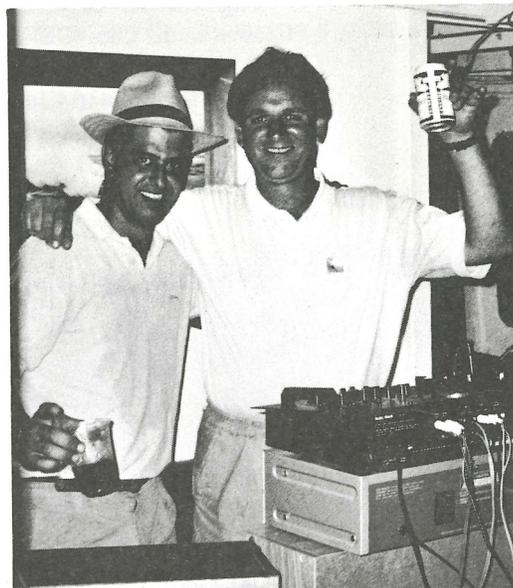


CAGCS members, families and friends had a great time on the annual CAGCS cruise which was held on July 22nd.

We cruised along the Connecticut River aboard our private vessel dancing to music provided by our favorite disc jockey, Art deAtienza.



Pictured above are Phil Neaton, Vice President, Brian Skelly, Education Chairperson, and our Executive Secretary, Pauline Streeter.



Pictured left are disc jockey, Art deAtienza, and John Streeter, Immediate Past President & Newsletter Editor.

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Darien - 655-8008

Pictured to the right is our first lady, Sherry, wife of President, Peter Pierson.

A great time was had by all, and CAGCS wishes to thank Lesco, Metro Milorganite, P.I.E. Supply, Pro-Lawn Products, and Turf Products Corp. for their contributions toward the costs of the evening.



Notes from the golf committee!

The Connecticut State Golf Association has finally accepted CAGCS as a member club which means that we should have the handicap cards for all of you by the August meeting.

There is, however, one gliche. Last spring, we were told that there would be no charge for including on our listing those of you with GHIN cards from your own club. We now find that information was incorrect and to be so listed will cost \$10 per person.

We would still like CAGCS members to be on our listing and hope that you will voluntarily ante up the \$10. A slip for you to return is below. If you do not want to do so, you must be sure to bring your current GHIN card to all meetings because only people on the CAGCS handicap listing or those showing current handicap cards will be entered in the regular monthly tournament.

We will post and send to the USGA all scores for our monthly meeting tournaments. So, to avoid duplication, do not post your own score when you get back to your club.

If you would like your GHIN number listed with CAGCS, cut where indicated and return it to the CAGCS office, P. O. Box 3678, Woodbridge, CT, 06525.

Cut along dotted line and return to the CAGCS office

I currently have a GHIN handicap and I would like my handicap also listed with CAGCS. I realize that my CAGCS account will be billed the amount of \$10.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

My GHIN number is: _____



From left to right are Mrs. Tom Watroba (Bonnie), Mrs. Steven Rackliffe (Meg) and Mrs. Jeff Rogers (Diane)

Dates to Remember

August 10th
 CAGCS Monthly Meeting
 Pequabuck Golf Club
McLaughlin Trophy & President's Cup

August 22nd
 CAGCS Family Day
 Short Beach Park
 Stratford, CT

August 22 thru 29
 CAGCS office will be closed for vacation.

September 12th
 CAGCS Annual Invitational
 Tower Ridge Country Club
 Simsbury, CT

October 10th
 CAGCS Annual
 S & R Tournament
 Watertown Golf Course
 Watertown, CT

October 12th
 N. E. Championship
 Tournament
 Hop Meadow Country Club
 Simsbury, CT

October 16th
 CAGCS Monthly Meeting
 Ellington Ridge Country Club
 Ellington, CT
Supt./Assistant Tournament Two-Man Best Ball

November 7th
 CAGCS Annual Meeting
 Birchwood Country Club
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