

UNITED STATES GOLFING



FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

# Summer USGFR Newsletter 2011

The 2011 Summer issue of the USGFR Newsletter is available this year on our web site along with many other interesting tidbit, photos and other information relating to our latest golfing venue and future golfing venues. Go to [www.usgfr.com](http://www.usgfr.com)



USGFR

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## EDITOR COMMENTS

Please read and enjoy the information provided in this Newsletter.

If you have suggestions on making this Newsletter better please e-mail me at [Nate202@aol.com](mailto:Nate202@aol.com)

Nate Naden, Editor



## President's Message *from* MIKE LAUGHLIN

### *Nashville Presidents Recap*

WAHOO!!!!!! That's what a cowboy says when he is really happy. After a week in Nashville, Tennessee with great golf, cowboys and western music of all types we can only say what we feel . . . WAHOO!!

The Rotary Club of Franklin provided the USGFR with a fantastic venue:

1. Quality golf courses at Vanderbilt Legends, and Westhaven Golf Club.
2. Great accommodations at the Embassy Suites.
3. Fellowship at its finest, including a ride on the General Jackson paddle boat for dinner and western entertainment and Grand Ole Opry.

While part of Tennessee was threatened by the rising waters of the Mississippi and tornados in weeks before and after, the Franklin Rotary provided a rain free four days of golf and organized our tournament in every respect. Led by Fred Reynolds and Al Adams, every Rotarian and guest had a wonderful time in the Music City.

Congratulation to Patrick Eakes, the new Champion of Rotary and all the other flight champions. We are all looking forward to next year's tournament in Greensboro, North Carolina.

WHAT ELSE CAN WE SAY: WAHOO!!!!!! SEE YOU IN GREENSBORO



*Grandover Resort located in Greensboro, North Carolina featuring world class golf.*





## *Greetings* from our Executive Secretary,



MILLIE MACKENZIE

*Hello all USGFR members and friends!*

Some things really do improve with age and boy isn't that true with the fun and fellowship experienced at each USGFR tournament. The winner of the service above self award goes to Fred Reynolds and his Franklin Breakfast Rotary Club. Legends and Westhaven were beautiful venues - how can there be THAT many shades of green?! Everyone who attended was a winner: great organization, warm southern hospitality, new and renewed friendships, fun music and even some great golf. The only losers were those who didn't come. So-o-o-o-o . . . . . don't be a loser next year. Sign up now for Greensboro 2012 and be part of the next greatest USGFR championship.

All members need to keep their membership listing current and now it's so easy to do so directly on the web site [www.usgfr.com](http://www.usgfr.com). Changes in e-mail addresses are particularly important since that is the primary mode of communication with and between members.

Fellowship golfing is still Rotary's best kept secret; changing that begins with YOU. Tell a fellow Rotarian golfer about USGFR. Better yet, bring him/her with you to Greensboro. Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina.

*Cheers, Millie MacKenzie*

## 2011 VENUE REPORT

### SPECIAL HAPPENINGS AT THE 2011 VENUE

- 1.) Gilda made it from Bermuda again
- 2.) Mike Laughlin had a natural (gross) golf round of 76, wonder if he played by himself?
- 3.) Four first timers from last year in Lake Tahoe, returned for their 2nd Venue. Congratulations.
- 4.) This year USGFR advertised in the Rotarian Magazine the following: If they attended the 2011 Venue as a result of reading the ad, they would qualify for a drawing. The prize was free lodging at the 2012 Venue in Greensboro N.C. The drawing was held on Wednesday nights banquet, and the Winner was Walter Kimball from Rhode Island. Congratulations Walter and bring a friend.

## NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE MAY 15-18, 2011

As usual Rotarians made it happen. The Franklin Rotary at Breakfast Club put a lot of effort in trying to make this venue one to remember. THEY SUCCEEDED. USGFR Director Jim Getchonis Fred Reynolds and Al Adams worked very hard to make us all feel welcome and glad we attended. Without Fred and Al at the helm, I'm sure things would not have run so smoothly. So on behalf of all attending Rotarians and Spouses, thanks, your hard work made 50 some attendees very comfortable with your southern hospitality

Accommodations this year were at the Embassy Suites in Franklin Tennessee. A wonderful place to stay. All the rooms were large, clean and close to daily needs. We were provided a free breakfast each day and a free cocktail each evening, how could you beat that!

USGFR would like to wish both Jack Watson and Knut Fischer a quick recovery as they and their wives Both Barbara's were unable to attend because Jack and Knut both became ill at the last minute. Get well both of you so you can attend Greensboro in 2012. Jack your record of 50 points is still in tact, and Knut you missed us singing happy birthday to you with our melodiest voices. There's always next year, that's a Chicago Cubs yearly saying.

*Nate Naden, Editor*



*Do we have fun or what?*



*Two lovely ladies.*



*These two can be reached at  
[www.tourshoppers.buy](http://www.tourshoppers.buy)*

## FRESHMAN CLASS 2011:

Freshman Class 2011: There were 5 first timers this year, they are as follows:

Walter Kimball, Rhode Island  
Frank Celico, Rhode Island  
Bruce Christenson, California  
Barb Collins, Kentucky  
Partick Eakes, North Carolina

Welcome Rotarians and make sure Greensboro is on your future radar. BRING A GUEST!

*Hi Nate, the golf and hospitality at the Nashville golf outing was fabulous. Every detail was taken care of, the host club, Franklin Rotary Club could not have been more helpful. They were actually happy to see all of us and their detail to planning events, priceless! The literature, site directions, general information was most helpful and appreciated. The courses were outstanding, absolutely stunning! Transportation was flawless, the overall planning left nothing to be desired. The hotel accommodations were excellent, reasonably priced for such nice accommodations. I am so excited to be a part of the USGFR now and can hardly wait for the next event. Perhaps you should advertise again in the Rotarian, that is where I found you and/or send an email out around the world to the Secretary of the club and ask them to print it in their weekly letter etc. I cannot say enough kind words about my experience in Franklin, Nashville. Everyone and I do mean everyone went out of their way to make me feel welcome.*

*Barb Collins*

*Overall, it was a great event. The fellowship among attendees was exceptional from start to finish. I also thought the staff at the hotel and golf courses went out of their way to be friendly and helpful. I did not meet a single person I would not want to spend time with again. The host hospitality night at Fred Reynolds home was also wonderful. It was a great meal with wonderful hosts and great fun among the attending Rotarians. The golf courses were in good shape and I was pleased that there was more focus on enjoying each others company than the competition. I had a great time and look forward to 2012 and other future events.*

*Patrick Eakes*

## NASHVILLE AT A GLANCE:

*Saturday, May 14, 2011*

Early Registration in the Embassy Suites Hotel lobby  
9:00AM to 6:00PM

7:00PM to 9:00PM, Directors dinner at the Boxwood  
Bistro in Franklin.

*Sunday, May 15, 2011*

9:00AM to 6:00PM Registration in the Embassy Suites  
Lobby

9:00AM to 1:30PM practice round at the Forrest Crossing  
Golf Course

10:30AM to 3:30PM Hermitage B.M. Tour

The Hermitage

Our tour was quite interesting as I had signed up not fully realizing what would be required. Fortunately for me, our bus driver was quite the entertainer; I guess it helps they work for tips. He quickly informed the group he had a personal CD for sale, had a short career at Gilley's Dallas (he was not the stunt double for John Travolta) and still performed at local Honky Tonks on the side. His entertainment included 30 second intros of George Jones, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and even a little Hank Williams Jr. It felt like happy hour at a karaoke bar and we had just started the tour.

Our first stop was The Hermitage, the grand estate of our first TN president, Andrew Jackson. Jackson was quite unusual as he had also held the position of Senator and was the first Tennessean to serve in the House of Representatives. Jackson was quite the scholar and I was impressed with his newspaper collection that comprised his daily reading. I was taken aback at his physical stature; standing 6' 1" tall and purportedly weighing only 135lbs. The marriage of Andrew and Rachel was rather unusual in that they produced no children, yet they adopted 2 of Rachel's nephews, naming one of them Andrew Jackson, Jr. The family abode was well apportioned and true to the times, giving us visitors good insight into the substance of daily activities.

Belle Meade

One need not be a horse racing connoisseur to admire the heritage of the Belle Meade plantation. The walls of the main parlor were decorated with the lineages of the famed Priam and Bonnie Scotland, including racers such as Secretariat, Northern Dancer, Never Say Die and even our beloved Sea Biscuit. The plantation gained momentum through its horse breeding reputation from the 1860's through the 1890's, with its owner General Harding credited as "having done as much to promote breeding interests as any American in the 19th century."



General Harding was also unique in that he was the first Tennessean to utilize the auction system for selling his yearlings, helping him become the most successful Thoroughbred breeder the state would ever see. Not unlike most plantations or businesses that pass from generation to generation, some big bets were made by General Harding's successors that compounded the plantations debt situation, ultimately resulting in a complete liquidation of the 2600 acres. After completion of our crash course in horse breeding 101, we were treated to unique blends of wine that are bottled and distributed by the Belle Meade Plantation. Our long day of touring concluded with most of us taking home a bottle of custom blends.

2:00PM Directors Meeting. Two major changes came out of this years meeting. First we reinstated the woman's division for golf. Secondly the board after much discussion decided not to change our name to NAGFR which was to take effect after Nashville Venue. We are still USGFR. Bill Durmer now the Gulf Region Director taking over for Howard Edmiston. Thanks Howard for all you have done.

6:00PM Flag raising ceremony was held outside the Embassy front entrance. Jim Getchonis gave the pledge of allegiance. After which Jim introduced Fred Reynolds and Al Adams, both local Rotarians. They did a magnificent job in coordinating the entire weeks events. Bridget Joyce a local singer sang the National Anthem with gusto.

6:30PM to 7:00PM the golfers and the tour participants met in their individual rooms to go over the weeks program.



7:00PM Opening reception . We experienced a delightful food table laden with delicious Heavy Hors d'oeuvres . What a selection. The rest of the night we experienced the typical Rotarian fellowship and saying hello to ol friends and discussing what their golf game would be like.





*Monday, May 16, 2011*

Breakfast started the day as usual.

Golf 8:00AM, we teed it up on a new golf course called Westhaven Golf Club. Weather was iffy-Most scores were higher than normal. We had a fine lunch after golf. We all still had a great day, enjoying each others company.



8:15AM Tour The tour group visited Music Row, The Ryman Auditorium, Tootsies World Famous Orchard Lounge and The Country Music Hall of fame. An informal tour was conducted in Historic downtown Franklin including a few historic homes. Lunch was in "The Factory in Franklin" at the Stoveworks Café and then a brief shopping spree. Sharon Stewart the hostess said the best part of the day was the opportunity to get to know these wonderfully talented and inspiring women who epitomized the "Fellowship" in Rotary.

The Hospitality Room opened at 3:00PM for additional fellowship

5:00PM The bus picked us up for the General Jackson show and dinner.

We cruised the Cumberland River on a fabulous river boat. We were treated to a country and western show by the "Country Music USA Group" Were they good. A history note - 2 years ago the Cumberland River overflowed its banks by as much as 25 feet knocking out an entire shopping center, still not open, and damaged the Grand Ole Opera building.







8:15AM bus pickup for the Jack Daniels Tour. Larry Darnell the tour leader began with the group meeting in Mr Jacks office. The story has it that Mr. Jack went to work early one morning. He couldn't remember the safe combination, so he tinkered with the lock, wouldn't open so he kicked it, breaking his toe. Gangrene set in resulting in first loosing his leg and then his life. There is a moral, "Don't go to work early it may kill you." The balance of the tour involved seeing how the product was made. The product has to taste just right to the head distiller, before bottling takes place, nothing is rushed. When asked how many people worked at the distillery they indicated "about half of them". Each tourist had an opportunity to purchase some of the products at the end of the tour. You could not buy the booze any where in town, get this "It's a dry county". Larry said it was a fun tour.



3:00 PM Hospitality room open for fun and frolic.

Tuesday evening was on your own. Local Rotarians opened their homes to many of us. Several took advantage of their hospitality, thank you Rotarians. Others took in the Grand Ole Opry and had a wonderful night. The entertainers were Jimmy Dickens, John Conlee, The Whites and Diamond Rio. They put on a marvelous show, very entertaining, hand slapin, leg stompin good ol country. NIGHTEE NIGHT FOLKS.



### *Wednesday, May 18, 2011*

7:00AM Complementary Breakfast

8:00AM Golf at Vanderbilt Legends Golf Club, South Course. Best day weather wise and the scores indicated that. This golf course was every bit as spectacular as the North Course Was. Mike Laughlin carded a gross 76 "ouch". I had that score after 15 holes. After golf we had perhaps the best lunch of the three days. Most golfers stuck around and watched the scores come in, listening to the excuses, what if's etc. But, the fellowship was great.



### *Tuesday, May 17, 2011*

7:00AM Complementary Breakfast.

8:00AM Tee time for golf. Today we played the Vanderbilt Legends Golf course, North course. What a great tract. Weather still cool but very doable. Scores still a little higher but that didn't stop us from having a great time. The Rotary fellowship was evident throughout the entire day. After golf the golfers were treated to an excellent lunch and watched the scores being posted. Some laughed, some cried.

8:15AM Bus pickup for the Civil War Tour. The "Ladies of Golf" spent Wednesday, May 18th traveling back in history to learn about the Civil War in Franklin, TN. Although the North and South were well represented, there was no division of conversation or great fellowship. We journeyed from the Lotts museum where a master woodwork craftsman's home showed major destruction from the historic Battle of Franklin showdown. The Carter House, across the street showed where the Lott family and Carter family survived the intense battle by remaining in the basement.



There were 25 women, children, and men hunkered down while 10,000 soldiers were killed or wounded outside the house. Our last stop of the day was to the Carnton Plantation and Confederate Cemetery. This home was a temporary hospital where The McGavock family played an important role in restoring the soldiers to better health but also taking on the huge responsibility of burying and recording the deaths of thousands of soldiers from across the divided country. Needless to say, the country today is in great harmony as evidenced by the laughter and sociability of these lovely ladies. Ruth Ford, Franklin at Breakfast Club President and Day Host



Ladies and Gent of golf.

7:00PM to 9:30PM Awards Banquet. Our final meal for the week was excellent, good food and plenty of it. Al Adams one our hosts announced he signed up for USGFR as a new member, he said USGFR Rotarians were top notch, "CHEERS" The evening was highlighted by a guest speaker Mr. Ed. Harrell, a survivor of the USS INDIANAPOLIS SINKING. He held us spellbound, listening to his ordeal floating in the shark infested ocean for 4 days with nothing to eat or drink. Just can't imagine what that was like. Ed came with a few copies of his book "Out of the Depths". I suggest you take the time to buy and read this astounding tale of his ordeal. We all enjoy our current life style because of men and women like him. Were proud of you Ed Harrell. We concluded the evening with a presentation by Patrick Eakes on next years venue in Greensboro North Carolina. *Note: I just completed reading "Out of the Depths". You must buy and read this book. Take my word for it. Nate Naden.*

See additional information about Greensboro printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Awards were presented to all the winners, pictures taken and handshakes galore. The toughest time of any venue is to say goodbye to all your friends. Time goes so quickly when your in the company of outstanding Rotarians.

On behalf of all attending Rotarians and their spouses a final thank you to our hosts Fred, Al and Jim and their workers for an outstanding venue.  
GREENSBORO, HERE WE COME







## FUTURE USGFR VENUES

### 2012 Greensboro North Carolina 23rd Annual USGFR Tournament August 1-4, 2012

**The Golf:** The tournament is played over 3 days (54 holes); a 2-day division with a break for touring is an option. Golfers are placed in divisions determined by handicap. Stableford scoring is used, except for the lowest handicap players in Division I who compete on gross scores for the national championship.

**Courses:** Grandover Resort - Set amidst 1500 acres of oak, pine and dogwood you'll play in a setting of hills covered in a blaze of color. The East and West courses offer golfers of every level a pleasurable yet challenging experience. David Graham and Gary Panks are the internationally known course architects. Golf Digest rates Grandover as one of the top five best conditioned courses in America. [www.grandover.com](http://www.grandover.com)

#### **The Schedule:**

Tuesday, July 31	Early Registration Forrest Crossing (optional)
Wednesday, August 1	Registration; opt. practice round; flag raising & food
Thursday, August 2	Golf or tour; p.m. BBQ
Friday, August 3	Golf or tour; open dinner
Saturday, August 4	Golf; closing banquet

**Accommodations:** Grandover Resort and Conference Center \$192.24 per day including tax, parking and full breakfast. Rates valid for USGFR for 3 days before and after tournament dates. Call 1-800-472-6301 referring to USGFR; or register on line at [www.grandover.com](http://www.grandover.com)

#### **For the Non-Golfer:**

History, arts, battlefields, shopping, museums, vineyards and more.

- International Civil rights Museum
- Old Salem Historic District
- Seagrove Pottery
- Childress Vineyards and Richard Childress Racing Museum
- Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

**How to Get There:** Greensboro's Piedmont Triad International Airport is served by Allegiant, American Eagle, Continental Express, Delta Connection, U.S. Airways and United Express. By car, it's about 1 1/2 hours to Raleigh and Charlotte.

#### **Registration: DEADLINE JUNE, 1, 2012**

3-day golfer \$785; 2-day golfer \$660; non-golfer \$295.

**Extras: Practice round and tours.**

For more information contact Patrick Eakes at (336) 574-1800 or [patrick.eakes@cpeakes.com](mailto:patrick.eakes@cpeakes.com)



## GOLFING AWARDS:

### 2011 U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPION

Pat Eakes

247 Total Gross Score

Mike Laughlin 76 Lowest Natural Round

Division 1 Winners  
1st – Ken Kinsey 98 pts  
1st – Steve Horvath 98 pts  
2nd – Bill Durmer 93 pts

Division 2 Winners  
1st – Denny Horack 97 pts  
2nd – Jim Getchonis 94 pts  
3rd – Jim Brock 89 pts

Division 3 Winners  
1st – Leo Lauzon 100 pts  
2nd – Saul Seltzer 96 pts  
3rd – Bob Pacharzina 89 pts  
3rd – Carol Blum 89 pts

2 Day Winners  
1st – Mary Ann Norris

Team Trophy  
1st – Jim Getchonis 191 pts  
Steve Hunt 191 pts  
1st – Leo Lauzon 191 pts  
Mike Laughlin 191 pts



## Handicap Committee

Please e-mail your GHIN number and index to Jim Brock as soon as possible. If you aren't on the GHIN system, tell Jim what agency issues your handicap.

Jim's e-mail: [expressdocs@earthlink.net](mailto:expressdocs@earthlink.net)









