Upcoming Events

December
01 Winter Operation Hours Begin
09-11 Golf Shop Christmas Sale
10 WCMA Annual Meeting
10 Member’s Tough Day
(9 Holes)
23-26 Closed: Christmas Holidays

January
01 Open: Holiday Rates

BRENT JESSUP
PGA HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

WCMA Annual Meeting: December 10
The annual meeting of the Walker Course Members’ Association will be held at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 10th at the Sole’ On the Green restaurant in the Madren Center. All members are encouraged to attend to hear the 2016 report, plans for 2017, and the results of the recent officer elections.

Following the meeting, the annual “Tough Day” competition will take place. This nine-hole *challenging course set-up* is open only to members that attend the annual meeting, so be sure to come to the meeting and play afterwards. Also, due to the Madren Center being closed for a private event, everyone will need to use the patio entrance for Sole’ to access the meeting.

Golf Shop Christmas Sale: December 9-10-11
Friday-Saturday-Sunday, December 9, 10, and 11 are the dates for our annual golf shop Christmas Sale. Plenty of discounts will be available on seasonal merchandise and of course our “secret balloon discounts” are available for clothing items as well. Also, exciting “Elf Putting” will be available to “double” lower balloon discounts. Spiced cider and goodies will be available while you shop.

If you have been holding those member tournament winnings, this is the perfect weekend to get the most for your money, so come on out and shop either before the WCMA annual meeting or after.

Membership by the Numbers
Individuals: 129  Family: 107
Non-Resident: 30
Young Alumni: 16
Inactive: 8  Life: 26
Total Membership: 316

Member Resignations
Robert & Vicki Cohen
Sam & Jean Hamrick

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Golf Pro News Continued:

LGA Christmas Dinner
The Ladies Golf Association Christmas dinner will take place on Thursday, December 15th at Cross Creek Plantation. This event is open to LGA members and their guests. Please contact Susan G. Hehir if you have not signed up for this great evening of food and friends.

Holiday Bowl Pool Contest
This month, we will be conducting our 17th annual Holiday Bowl Prediction contest. Once the bowl game schedule is finalized, drop by the golf shop and pick up your forms. Return your picks before the kickoff of the first of 35+ scheduled games and good luck! Clint Carlson was our 2016 winner correctly picking 27 winners from of the 38 games. His take for beating out 75 other entries was a nice $370 windfall jackpot.

Christmas Holiday Closing
Due to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day falling on Saturday and Sunday this year, and our corporate holiday calendar, the Walker Course will be closed Friday December 23 through Monday, December 26. We will re-open for normal business on Tuesday, December 27th.

We will be open on December 31st and January 1st with holiday rates applying.

2017 Range Club Renewals
December 31st is the last day for the current Range Club Plan. ALL members that would like to participate in the unlimited range ball plan for 2017 MUST sign up in the golf shop. This service is not automatically renewed. This is the number one ranked membership benefit. You must be a member of the Walker Course in order to “join” the Range Club. The cost is $250 for the first family member and $125 for each additional family member for unlimited range balls from January 1 until December 31, 2017. Call the golf shop now to join or renew.

2017 SCGA Handicap Service Billing
January is the annual handicap service renewal month. This IS an “automatic renewal” service fee that will be master billed to your account unless you notify the golf shop staff before December 22nd that you would like to discontinue your handicap service. After that date, we cannot reverse handicap service fee billings. Please note that an “official SCGA handicap” is required to play in most Walker Course events.

The 2017 handicap service fee will remain only $30 per member and $40 for public golfers.

Winter Hours of Operation
Now that December has arrived, we go to the abbreviated operation schedule until the end of February.

Golf Shop Hours 8:30am until 5:00pm  
Range Hours 8:45am until 4:30pm  
First Tee Time 9:00am, barring frost delays

Monthly Pace of Play Tip
When you finish playing each hole, drive or walk directly to the next tee. While you are moving toward the next tee, you can review the hole and be prepared to write down your score when you get to the next tee. You will be amazed how much time is saved by simply writing down your scores once you reach the next tee rather than at the previously played hole. Thanks for watching your pace of play!

Combined Newsletter
Continuing our tradition, this month’s newsletter combines December 2016 and January 2017. With a bit lighter activity schedule, there is not as much to report. Our next newsletter will be published February 2017.

Double Eagle!
Congratulations to Alton Phillips for his recent double eagle “2” at hole number one, on November 11th. Witnessing the 190 yard, 4-iron shot were Scott Moss, Jimmy Walker, and Steve Nielsen. Good shooting!

Staff Thanks!
As we reach the end of another year, we would like to thank each of you for your continued support of The Walker Course and our staff. We have enjoyed another successful season that could not be possible without each member. From our staff to each one of you, thanks for the opportunity to serve you in 2016 and we look forward to seeing you in the coming year! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
November Status
This fall has been the opposite of last year. After record rainfall in 2015, we have had record dry weather this fall. This has been great for play as our rounds have been way up, since no days have been lost to rain. But the downside is that you can see some wear and tear on the greens from this much use. Also, we have a number of very dry thin areas around the course in the roughs. Since these areas are going into dormancy in a weakened condition, I expect that they will emerge from dormancy slowly and take a while to fill in next spring.

We finally had a couple of heavy frosts at the end of the month and the bermudagrass is almost totally dormant. We topped it off with the mowers one last time so hopefully that will be it until spring.

We began a course wide herbicide application at the end of the month and got the front nine completed before the rain began. We hope to get out and complete the back nine as soon as things dry up a bit.

And finally, we have started repainting the tiger paw yardage markers on the cart paths.

Greens
We have begun to place the greens covers on the course next to each green to prepare for any cold snaps that might call for covering the greens. As a reminder, while several factors are considered when determining when to cover the greens, we will typically cover when the nighttime temperatures fall into the lower 20’s or below. Hopefully that won’t happen very often this winter, but if it does, we are prepared.

As for painting, the greens still have some color, so we will probably wait until mid-month to apply turf paint to the greens for winter color. Last year, it took two paintings to get us through the winter.

December Goals
During December, we will be continuing with winter project work such as repainting the tiger paw yardage indicators on the cart paths, under brushing work, raising sprinklers and replenishing sand in bunkers. In addition, the leaves are still falling and there are plenty to blow and cleanup. A fertilizer application will be made to all of the overseeded tees as well.

2017 Maintenance Schedule
Brent and I have begun working on the 2017 schedule. With the anticipated release of the football schedule in January, we hope to have the major maintenance schedule ready to publish in the February newsletter. Look for it then.

The maintenance staff and I would like to thank you for your support in 2016. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a great 2017!
**Fall Golf Trip**

Our annual fall golf outing saw nineteen golfers travel to Aiken/Augusta last month and play three top-notch courses: *Aiken Golf Club*, *The River Club* in North Augusta, and *Wisteria-Jones Course at Woodside Plantation*. The big winner for the trip was **Lewis Creel** playing (+11 points) for the three days. His golf winnings almost paid for his entire trip! Congratulations **Mr. Creel**. The guys are gunning for you come springtime 2017. Our spring outing information will be available in mid February. Hope you can make the trip!