

The Hole Truth

New London Country Club

July 2010

(860) 443-6864 www.newlondoncountryclub.org

President's Message

By Shawn Maguire



As we head into July, NLCC is hitting its stride in all areas. The golf course is in spectacular shape, the tournaments have seen some tremendous competition and Food & Beverage is receiving rave reviews about quality and service. Hats off to our department heads, and please mention it when you see Dan, Kevin and Christina. It does make a difference when they hear the compliments too, not just suggestions.

The Board is keeping a close eye on the bottom line in all departments, and we are tracking towards our budget. We are slightly ahead in some areas. We are still short 12 members to our goal so, if you have anyone, send them our way. We have the Pautipaug offer to join in August so, hopefully, that will help us reach our goal. The Board also voted to move the 2/3 dues off up to August 1st instead of waiting until after the August Board meeting. In essence, we are adding two and a half weeks to the offer to entice some end-of-summer and fall members. This will also be offered to the Limited members as well. Limited members must sign up and pay in full by July 15th. So please spread the word. It will be \$1,300 to start August 1. It will be treated just like the Trial memberships we have been running for new members. There is no commitment for 2011 but, if a new member decides to stay, they would start paying the initiation fee in 2011.

The Board is offering a sealed bid opportunity for the two parcels of land we have behind the 2nd green and across the street on the water. Membership has until the end of the July to submit a bid. All bids will be considered but may not be accepted. If the land has not sold in July, we will then put the land back on the market and list it with a realtor.

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Shawn Maguire
President
shawnm@att.com



Message from Past President

By Deborah Benson

As was announced in last month's Hole Truth article, I stepped down as President of the Club in May and Shawn Maguire was elected our new President.

I thank Shawn for the kind words he said about me and my term as President. However, I did not do anything alone, and I am grateful for the opportunity to give thanks to those who helped me during this time.

I first must thank the members of the Board of Directors for the support shown to me during my tenure as President. The almost two years I held this position were among the most trying the Club has ever seen. There were difficult decisions to be made, cuts to be taken, and new ideas to be tried. Each and every member of the Board put in the effort, studied the issue at hand, and voted as he or she deemed appropriate. Being on the NLCC board is not an easy job, but each member of the Board took that job seriously and is to be commended. I thank each and every one of you.

Most members of the Board serve as a Committee Chairperson. Again, these are generally thankless jobs which take extraordinary amounts of time and effort, but each Chairperson steps up to the plate time and time again. Bravo to each of them.

I would also like to thank Rob Renehan, Vice President, who always lent me an ear and was a good sounding board, and ran efficient meetings in my absence. Diane Smith as Secretary is diligent – I never needed to worry about whether or not Diane was doing her job.

During my term I served with two Treasurers. Shannon Heap never wanted the job and told me he was overburdened with other work. However, he stuck in there and worked with me, and he got the job of straightening out our finances started.

Walter Barry succeeded Shannon as Treasurer. I think everyone at the Club is aware of the fantastic job Walter has done as Treasurer. Walter receives the highest of praise from me. I thank him for taking on this position and putting in an extraordinary amount of time and effort.

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I pledge my support to Shawn and the other officers and members of the Board of NLCC. I hope you do too.

Deborah Benson

GOLF

By Shawn Maguire, Chairman



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Golf

July Guest Special bring three guests for golf and lunch for **\$140**. Carts and drinks are not included and you must bring a foursome. Make sure you pick up your lunch ticket in the golf shop when you sign in, only redeemable that day! Also, be aware that lunch is only served until 3 PM.

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Golf Chairman
shawnm@att.com



Men's Golf Results

CONGRATULATIONS!

MEN'S 4 BALL



Kevin Willoughby



Jim Stefanski

Congratulations for winning the 2010 Men's 4-ball championship by defeating Mike Gross / Bruce Branchini in the championship match. The semi-finalists were John Gunderman / Rich Schmidtknecht and James Nicholas / Matt Barnes.

Men's Players Championship (36 holes)

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MEMBERSHIP

By Lou Camerota, Chairman

PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING:

Mitch Mirabito	Child
Eric Kanter	Pautipaug
Austin Free	Junior
Vincent Dowling	Regular
Scott Tupper	Military

2010 is shaping up to be a terrific golf season at NLCC. Both the course and member services have received praise from many and the good feeling at the club is palpable. Kudos to Dan, Kevin, Christina, Vickie and Tina who are doing a wonderful job of making NLCC enjoyable for us all. We've come a long way. Thank you to the numerous members for your words of support and encouragement. Feedback is important and encouraged... particularly the positive tone that it has taken. It means a great deal to both board member and employee.

We have several initiatives in place designed to bring focus on the club and with the intent to attract new members. Given the economy and reduced disposable income, increasing membership has been one of our biggest challenges. As you can imagine, all golf clubs have been affected by economic constraints and are experiencing membership decline. That reality makes it tough for a budget to come together while maintaining good service. The board and the employees continue to work really hard at that. Thank you for your patience, support and encouragement.

In this regard, I ask you assistance. If you know of someone who has expressed an interest in the club, please pass that information along to the office, to me, or another board member. Similarly, if you are a member of a group or professional organization (where golfers lurk) please pass on the name of the administrative contact person. Potential members and/or golfing events are distinct possibilities and we'd like to explore them. Membership and revenue potential are key! Finally, be an ambassador of the club by speaking positively about it...especially among people who might consider joining.

We are succeeding in attracting new members and each day brings new inquiries. However, a concerted effort on your part would, I'm certain, result in the dozen or so additional members that would provide us a solid revenue base and bring new faces among us. We're not far from our goal and your assistance in this effort would be greatly appreciated.

One more thing: If you know of a former member who might like to return, please contact me. I think you'll agree that we have some compelling reasons for them to do so and I would like to extend a personal invitation. Remember: Your best prospect is your current (or former) customer.

Happy Summer!

Lou Camerota
Membership Chair
cell (860) 912-9531
bmwlou@snet.net

GREENS

By Dan Rogers, Superintendent

I would like to use this "The Hole Truth" article to talk a little bit about water conservation. Over the past few years, the term "water conservation" has become commonplace in many households around the country, especially in arid regions that have experienced a true drought.

As golf course superintendent here at NLCC, I was thrown in a fire so to speak. I arrived here and quickly realized that our irrigation requirements are only met by rain-water and its retention. We have no wells capable of delivering sufficient volume to be efficient at replacing water used. We are fortunate, however, to have a city water hook up that gets us through the driest periods of the year. We are also fortunate to have a state-of-the-art delivery system for the water we apply. The precision of the irrigation system allows me to water in many different configurations based on the needs of the golf course. We keep the irrigation system in top shape at all times to minimize water loss and increase efficiency.

As a superintendent, my number one goal is to water as little as possible. This accomplishes three objectives: first, firm and fast; second, disease pressure reduction; and, most importantly, it promotes desirable drought tolerant varieties of turf such as bent grass. This style of management will result in brown grass on areas of the course during dry spells, but the turf always comes back stronger when managed properly. I have seen a 30% increase in the population of bent grass on the fairways simply by watering as little as possible. Poa annua is a main competitor of bent grass. It does not tolerate dry conditions as well and, when poa goes dormant, it is overtaken by bent grass.

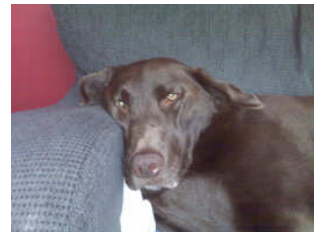
Green surfaces here at NLCC are made up of 80% poa, not a bad thing when managed properly. They do require much higher levels of maintenance and attention to keep alive and healthy through the next couple of months. We hand water to avoid over watering. We incorporate the use of wetting agents or "soil surfactant's" to help the greens retain water in dry periods and flush excessive moisture during heavy rain events. These products allow me to create a firmer, more consistent putting surface minimizing stress and conserving water.

In the years to come water will become more heavily regulated and expensive, it is my belief that, by adhering to my plan of strict and deliberate use of water, NLCC will be better able to sustain its current level of condition in times of water restriction and or drought. IT'S CHEAPER TOO!

Thanks

Dan

dan@newlondoncountryclub.org



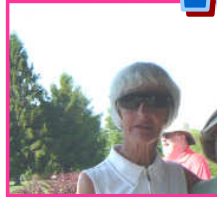


Women's Association

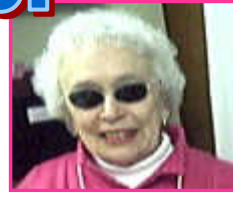
By Tracy Shoor, President

We couldn't ask for better weather this year for our tournaments. The Member-Member tournament was held on June 8th and 9th. Congratulations to our winners:

WINNERS!



Debbie Kendros



Nancy Murray

- 1st Debbie Kendros and Nancy Murray 129
2nd Arlene Dray and Debbie Cook 130
Tied for 3rd
Sue Evans and Eve Manthous 131
Paula Santangelo and Sue Delpriore 131

Our Member/Guest tournament was held on June 22. The tournament was followed by a lovely luncheon provided by Corporate Caterers. During lunch, we were all entertained by the beautiful music of our very own Assistant Pro Matt Nolan.



Congratulations to tournament winners:

- 1st Low Gross Tracy Shoor, Ethel Davis, Paula Santangelo and Claudia Kelley
2nd Low Gross Debbie Cook, Judy Miles, Arlene Dray and Jamie Petchark
3rd Low Gross Sandy Fisher, Barbara Tuneski, Pat Smith and Joan DeStefano
- 1st Low Net Diane Smith, Mary Ellen Hoag, Janet Marsh and Judy Acker
2nd Low Net Holly Camerota, Mary Ellen Hasse, Sue Delpriore and Harriet Graville
3rd Low Net Astrea Hupfel, Dot Hemingway, Sally Sloan and Lori Forteux

Closest to the Pin Tracy Shoor (member)
Closest to the Line Deb Benson (member) and Dot Hemingway (guest)

July means Four-Ball. Hopefully, everyone that was looking for a partner has found one. If you haven't, contact our tournament chairman Pat Smith. The sign-up sheet is located in the breezeway outside of the ladies' locker room. Don't forget that this year all the dates listed on the calendar are the dates the matches are to be played, not the play by date. Deadline for sign up is July 6th.

Just a reminder. If you would like to play golf on a Ladies tournament day, but do not want to participate in the tournament, you may still sign up. Look for the sign up sheets in the breezeway.

Sign up sheets for the Thames Valley League and Shoreline Interleague are posted in the breezeway. The next Thames Valley Tournament will be July 29th at Stonington Country Club. The next Shoreline Interleague will be July 9th at Clinton Country Club. So be sure to sign up.

The Wednesday Evening Ladies Social has gotten off to a good start. There was a great turnout on June 2nd. The mentoring program had invited all new female NLCC members to attend. Kevin Shea, our head pro, gave an informative talk. Golf was followed by a social. So if you can only play on the weekends or evenings and want a more relaxed environment to play nine holes of golf, be sure to take advantage of playing on Wednesday evenings at 5:00. Hungry! Want something to eat after you play? Then be sure to sign up ahead of time in the breezeway.

The mentoring program is an on-going program. If you would like to have a mentor, someone that you can call and get information about the club, etc., be sure to call Sue Schmidtknecht. The mentoring program is open to anyone that would like to be mentored. Phone numbers of all Women's Association officers and chair people are listed on the Ladies Locker Room bulletin board.

Save the date of August 4th. We will be raising money for the Terry Brodeur Breast Cancer Research Foundation at our TBBCRF Rally.

For those of you who missed the Spring meeting and want to know what went on, the minutes from the meeting are hanging in the Ladies Locker Room.

I look forward to hearing from you. The easiest way to do so is to e-mail me at: LouisB@snet.net.

Tracy Shoor
President



House

By Phil Orenstein, Chairman



As the season has continued, we have had some minor issues arise. One was a lighting strike and the other was a power surge. Both caused some minor electrical damage including damage to the computer servers, which were partially covered by insurance, and to the kitchen ventilation fan that had to be replaced last week. All and all we have been running with only minor problems that have been fixed quickly.

At the end of May, Bruce McCutcheon and I organized a volunteer day, which turned out great. We had a somewhat small turn out, but quite a bit was accomplished. We were able to power wash, paint and do some carpentry work, all of which was long overdo. I would like to thank a number of people including Bruce McCutcheon and Jim and Mary O'Reilly, who stayed all day from 8 to 5pm. Thanks also to Diane Smith, Walter Barry, Astrea Hupfel, Holly Camerota, Peg Rothen, Todd Blonder and Michael Gross. Some gave an hour and some gave multiple hours. Thanks to all. If I forgot someone, I sincerely apologize.

Special thanks goes to John Gunderman for always being on call for electrical work.

Hopefully, we will organize another volunteer day to accomplish much needed work at a minimal cost to the club. Remember this facility belongs to all of us and just a couple of hours of your time can go a long way.

Thanks ,
Phil Orenstein

Thank you volunteers!



FOOD & BEVERAGE

By Tim Burrows, Chairman

We are planning to have a Steak Dinner on Friday July 9th. There will be a set menu and entertainment by Matt Nolen. A sign-up sheet will be in the pub with the menu. In order for this to happen, we will need a certain number of people. We are not sure what that number is yet and we are still working on the pricing. Please consider this in your plans. Of course, guests are invited. It should be a nice event.

Operations are running smoothly. We are really paying attention to our overhead and are running the operation very efficiently. Christina and her staff have done an amazing job so far and are getting better every day. Please remember every water, soda, beer, drink or food item purchased on our property brings more revenue to the club. When you eat or drink at the club, some of that money essentially comes back to you.

Joke of the Day

One day an Englishman, a Scotsman, and an Irishman walked into a pub together. They each bought a pint of Guinness. Just as they were about to enjoy their creamy beverage, three flies landed in each of their pints, and were stuck in the thick head.

The Englishman pushed his beer away in disgust.

The Scotsman fished the fly out of his beer, and continued drinking it, as if nothing had happened.

The Irishman, too, picked the fly out of his drink, held it out over the beer, and started yelling, "SPIT IT OUT!! SPIT IT OUT YOU BASTARD!!!!"

American Golfers

A recent study found the average American golfer walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found American golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means, on average, American golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon. Who needs a Hybrid?

Cheers,
Tim



Steak Dinner Friday, July 9th

From the Office
By Vickie Videll, Office Manager

I recently asked myself some soul-searching questions about what I would like to be doing.



Well, I guess you know where this is going. If you haven't already heard, my NLCC career is about to end July 30th. It will be difficult, but I plan on staying retired this time!

You are being left in the capable hands of Tina Wazny, who will assume the myriad responsibilities of the Office Manager. I hope that she will enjoy a long a successful stay at NLCC.

I wish you all the best and thank you for letting me be part of your community. Please keep in touch. I will miss you.

Sincerely,

Vickie
vickievidell06@ct.metrocast.net

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2010 is shaping up to be a terrific golf season at NLCC. Both the course and member services have received praise from many and the good feeling at the club is palpable. Kudos to Dan, Kevin, Christina, Vickie and Tina who are doing a wonderful job of making NLCC enjoyable for us all. We've come a long way. Thank you to the numerous members for your words of support and encouragement. Feedback is important and encouraged... particularly the positive tone that it has taken. It means a great deal to both board member and employee.

We have several initiatives in place designed to bring focus on the club and with the intent to attract new members. Given the economy and reduced disposable income, increasing membership has been one of our biggest challenges. As you can imagine, all golf clubs have been affected by economic constraints and are experiencing membership decline. That reality makes it tough for a budget to come together while maintaining good service. The board and the employees continue to work really hard at that. Thank you for your patience, support and encouragement.

In this regard, I ask you assistance. If you know of someone who has expressed an interest in the club, please pass that information along to the office, to me, or another board member. Similarly, if you are a member of a group or professional organization (where golfers lurk) please pass on the name of the administrative contact person. Potential members and/or golfing events are distinct possibilities and we'd like to explore them. Membership and revenue potential are key! Finally, be an ambassador of the club by speaking positively about it...especially among people who might consider joining.

We are succeeding in attracting new members and each day brings new inquiries. However, a concerted effort on your part would, I'm certain, result in the dozen or so additional members that would provide us a solid revenue base and bring new faces among us. We're not far from our goal and your assistance in this effort would be greatly appreciated.

One more thing: If you know of a former member who might like to return, please contact me. I think you'll agree that we have some compelling reasons for them to do so and I would like to extend a personal invitation. Remember: Your best prospect is your current (or former) customer.

Happy Summer!

Lou Camerota
Membership Chair
cell (860) 912-9531
bmwlou@snet.net

GREENS

By Dan Rogers, Superintendent

I would like to use this "The Hole Truth" article to talk a little bit about water conservation. Over the past few years, the term "water conservation" has become commonplace in many households around the country, especially in arid regions that have experienced a true drought.

As golf course superintendent here at NLCC, I was thrown in a fire so to speak. I arrived here and quickly realized that our irrigation requirements are only met by rain-water and its retention. We have no wells capable of delivering sufficient volume to be efficient at replacing water used. We are fortunate, however, to have a city water hook up that gets us through the driest periods of the year. We are also fortunate to have a state-of-the-art delivery system for the water we apply. The precision of the irrigation system allows me to water in many different configurations based on the needs of the golf course. We keep the irrigation system in top shape at all times to minimize water loss and increase efficiency.

As a superintendent, my number one goal is to water as little as possible. This accomplishes three objectives: first, firm and fast; second, disease pressure reduction; and, most importantly, it promotes desirable drought tolerant varieties of turf such as bent grass. This style of management will result in brown grass on areas of the course during dry spells, but the turf always comes back stronger when managed properly. I have seen a 30% increase in the population of bent grass on the fairways simply by watering as little as possible. Poa annua is a main competitor of bent grass. It does not tolerate dry conditions as well and, when poa goes dormant, it is overtaken by bent grass.

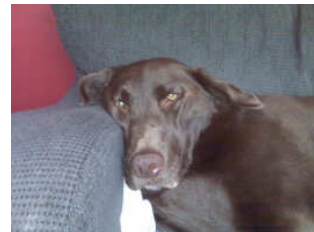
Green surfaces here at NLCC are made up of 80% poa, not a bad thing when managed properly. They do require much higher levels of maintenance and attention to keep alive and healthy through the next couple of months. We hand water to avoid over watering. We incorporate the use of wetting agents or "soil surfactant's" to help the greens retain water in dry periods and flush excessive moisture during heavy rain events. These products allow me to create a firmer, more consistent putting surface minimizing stress and conserving water.

In the years to come water will become more heavily regulated and expensive, it is my belief that, by adhering to my plan of strict and deliberate use of water, NLCC will be better able to sustain its current level of condition in times of water restriction and or drought. IT'S CHEAPER TOO!

Thanks

Dan

dan@newlondoncountryclub.org



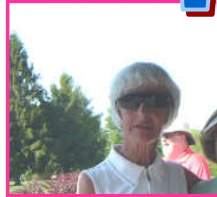


Women's Association

By Tracy Shoor, President

We couldn't ask for better weather this year for our tournaments. The Member-Member tournament was held on June 8th and 9th. Congratulations to our winners:

WINNERS!



Debbie Kendros



Nancy Murray

- 1st Debbie Kendros and Nancy Murray 129
2nd Arlene Dray and Debbie Cook 130
Tied for 3rd
Sue Evans and Eve Manthous 131
Paula Santangelo and Sue Delpriore 131

Our Member/Guest tournament was held on June 22. The tournament was followed by a lovely luncheon provided by Corporate Caterers. During lunch, we were all entertained by the beautiful music of our very own Assistant Pro Matt Nolan.



Congratulations to tournament winners:

- 1st Low Gross Tracy Shoor, Ethel Davis, Paula Santangelo and Claudia Kelley
2nd Low Gross Debbie Cook, Judy Miles, Arlene Dray and Jamie Petchark
3rd Low Gross Sandy Fisher, Barbara Tuneski, Pat Smith and Joan DeStefano
- 1st Low Net Diane Smith, Mary Ellen Hoag, Janet Marsh and Judy Acker
2nd Low Net Holly Camerota, Mary Ellen Hasse, Sue Delpriore and Harriet Graville
3rd Low Net Astrea Hupfel, Dot Hemingway, Sally Sloan and Lori Forteux

Closest to the Pin Tracy Shoor (member)
Closest to the Line Deb Benson (member) and Dot Hemingway (guest)

July means Four-Ball. Hopefully, everyone that was looking for a partner has found one. If you haven't, contact our tournament chairman Pat Smith. The sign-up sheet is located in the breezeway outside of the ladies' locker room. Don't forget that this year all the dates listed on the calendar are the dates the matches are to be played, not the play by date. Deadline for sign up is July 6th.

Just a reminder. If you would like to play golf on a Ladies tournament day, but do not want to participate in the tournament, you may still sign up. Look for the sign up sheets in the breezeway.

Sign up sheets for the Thames Valley League and Shoreline Interleague are posted in the breezeway. The next Thames Valley Tournament will be July 29th at Stonington Country Club. The next Shoreline Interleague will be July 9th at Clinton Country Club. So be sure to sign up.

The Wednesday Evening Ladies Social has gotten off to a good start. There was a great turnout on June 2nd. The mentoring program had invited all new female NLCC members to attend. Kevin Shea, our head pro, gave an informative talk. Golf was followed by a social. So if you can only play on the weekends or evenings and want a more relaxed environment to play nine holes of golf, be sure to take advantage of playing on Wednesday evenings at 5:00. Hungry! Want something to eat after you play? Then be sure to sign up ahead of time in the breezeway.

The mentoring program is an on-going program. If you would like to have a mentor, someone that you can call and get information about the club, etc., be sure to call Sue Schmidtknecht. The mentoring program is open to anyone that would like to be mentored. Phone numbers of all Women's Association officers and chair people are listed on the Ladies Locker Room bulletin board.

Save the date of August 4th. We will be raising money for the Terry Brodeur Breast Cancer Research Foundation at our TBBCRF Rally.

For those of you who missed the Spring meeting and want to know what went on, the minutes from the meeting are hanging in the Ladies Locker Room.

I look forward to hearing from you. The easiest way to do so is to e-mail me at: LouisB@snet.net.

Tracy Shoor
President



House

By Phil Orenstein, Chairman



As the season has continued, we have had some minor issues arise. One was a lighting strike and the other was a power surge. Both caused some minor electrical damage including damage to the computer servers, which were partially covered by insurance, and to the kitchen ventilation fan that had to be replaced last week. All and all we have been running with only minor problems that have been fixed quickly.

At the end of May, Bruce McCutcheon and I organized a volunteer day, which turned out great. We had a somewhat small turn out, but quite a bit was accomplished. We were able to power wash, paint and do some carpentry work, all of which was long overdo. I would like to thank a number of people including Bruce McCutcheon and Jim and Mary O'Reilly, who stayed all day from 8 to 5pm. Thanks also to Diane Smith, Walter Barry, Astrea Hupfel, Holly Camerota, Peg Rothen, Todd Blonder and Michael Gross. Some gave an hour and some gave multiple hours. Thanks to all. If I forgot someone, I sincerely apologize.

Special thanks goes to John Gunderman for always being on call for electrical work.

Hopefully, we will organize another volunteer day to accomplish much needed work at a minimal cost to the club. Remember this facility belongs to all of us and just a couple of hours of your time can go a long way.

Thanks ,
Phil Orenstein

Thank you volunteers!



FOOD & BEVERAGE

By Tim Burrows, Chairman

We are planning to have a Steak Dinner on Friday July 9th. There will be a set menu and entertainment by Matt Nolen. A sign-up sheet will be in the pub with the menu. In order for this to happen, we will need a certain number of people. We are not sure what that number is yet and we are still working on the pricing. Please consider this in your plans. Of course, guests are invited. It should be a nice event.

Operations are running smoothly. We are really paying attention to our overhead and are running the operation very efficiently. Christina and her staff have done an amazing job so far and are getting better every day. Please remember every water, soda, beer, drink or food item purchased on our property brings more revenue to the club. When you eat or drink at the club, some of that money essentially comes back to you.

Joke of the Day

One day an Englishman, a Scotsman, and an Irishman walked into a pub together. They each bought a pint of Guinness. Just as they were about to enjoy their creamy beverage, three flies landed in each of their pints, and were stuck in the thick head.

The Englishman pushed his beer away in disgust.

The Scotsman fished the fly out of his beer, and continued drinking it, as if nothing had happened.

The Irishman, too, picked the fly out of his drink, held it out over the beer, and started yelling, "SPIT IT OUT!! SPIT IT OUT YOU BASTARD!!!!"

American Golfers

A recent study found the average American golfer walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found American golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means, on average, American golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon. Who needs a Hybrid?

Cheers,
Tim



Steak Dinner Friday, July 9th

From the Office
By Vickie Videll, Office Manager

I recently asked myself some soul-searching questions about what I would like to be doing.



Well, I guess you know where this is going. If you haven't already heard, my NLCC career is about to end July 30th. It will be difficult, but I plan on staying retired this time!

You are being left in the capable hands of Tina Wazny, who will assume the myriad responsibilities of the Office Manager. I hope that she will enjoy a long a successful stay at NLCC.

I wish you all the best and thank you for letting me be part of your community. Please keep in touch. I will miss you.

Sincerely,

Vickie
vickievidell06@ct.metrocast.net