

SMOKE SIGNALS

Pottawattomie Country Club

April, 2023



PRESIDENT'S POST



On your mark, get ready, get set and go! Golf season has officially started, although you wouldn't know it given our recent March weather. Anyway, golf days are right around the corner. I have heard from some of our diehards that the course is looking good and weathered the winter just fine. In addition to thanking the weather gods, our course superintendent Matt Wagoner deserves some praise as well. His crew worked all winter long to ensure our grounds would be at their best for the season.

Now is the time to tell your friends, neighbors and family about the good things happening at Pottawattomie. Our Board and several committees have developed a wide range of activities that should appeal to almost any interest. There are still membership opportunities available. The links for the various classes of membership can be found below. Please consider forwarding them on to any prospective Members. Our incredible GM, Matt Wooldridge, will answer any questions and would love to give them a tour.

As we have said often, Member loyalty is our number one recruiting tool for new Members. There is nothing more fun than going to The Club and have your friends and family join you.

For all our existing Members, the Member Loyalty Program is as follows: invite someone you know to join The Club and our 2023 initiation fees for a desired Golf Membership will be reduced by half. They will be invited to join now and enjoy access to all amenities at The Club and not start paying dues until May 1st. This special offering will be limited and will end May 1, 2023.

One final note. Keeping The Club open during the winter months was a resounding success. The golf simulator was a hit and was well used. The weekend dinner service gave our Members who did not escape to warmer climates a chance to socialize and use The Club. Kudos to Matt Wooldridge and his staff for making this happen!

Enjoy the changing season,

Tom Young
President

[Membership Offerings](#)

A MINUTE WITH MATT



We are currently working on a new, more modern and user-friendly website as well as a new marketing campaign recounting the remarkable Pottawattomie CC story. It will be exciting to put together the historic journey and even more enthralling to inform you all of it.

Starting April 6th, we will be open for lunch (11am-2pm) and dinners (5-7pm) with reservations required, every Thursday-Saturday. Our Sunday Brunch will begin as well starting April 16th and run from 11am-2pm. On April 6th, Pottawattomie will be hosting a modified Easter Brunch, also from 11am-2pm. If you intend to celebrate spring with us on April 9th, please call in your reservation now (219-872-8624). In preparation of the season ramping up, we will be expanding our hours to ease overcrowding. We will notify you of the changes via Constant Contact emails and on the Pottawattomie website (pottawattomie.com).

Our arduous efforts in expanding Pottawattomie's work force are paying off! We continue to make rewarding progress in our staffing in both the kitchen as well as front of house. Lucky for us in the kitchen, Gus is in full form and Tyrone returns ready for action on April 6th. In addition, I am excited to report that we have just recently acquired two additional chefs eager and prepared to get creative with our food offerings.

As the season is quickly approaching and the clubhouse sees more and more activity, please note that reservations for dining are very important not only for the kitchen but for staffing as well. In addition, reservations specifically for the bar are not an option as bar seating is on a first come first served basis. If you decide to eat last minute or are considering stopping in for drink, you are always welcome to call to see what the availability is looking like.

Speaking of the bar, please bear with us as we are doing a quick remodel of the back bar in the lounge. The work is progressing nicely, but things in the construction industry have a tendency to run over on their projected timeline.

Regarding dining on the patio, when calling in your reservation, please specify if you would like to sit outside. We will do our very best to accommodate your request, but unfortunately, it can't always be guaranteed. When there is a Social event, you are more than welcome (and encouraged!) to dine with us, but reservations are strictly limited to indoor dining. The patio is first come, first served.

We are in the final phases of the Pickleball expansion project. With the pledges received thus far, we are able to lay asphalt for two additional courts but fully completing just one. This fiscally responsible approach allows us to successfully expand upon this exciting sport by adding the additional court and be proactive and prepared to quickly construct the third court should activity and demand dictate

A MINUTE WITH MATT cont...

additional growth. A big thank you to all those that have pledged! We are still accepting donations for this exciting addition to The Club. Feel free to contact Laurie directly (lrhed@pottcc.com) if you want to be involved with the fastest growing sport in America. For those of you that have made a pledge already, your generous and kind commitment will be included on your April statement. A big thank you to all those responsible for the fundraising, especially Ricky Turim!

Once again, Pottawattomie's Michelle Murray will be offering complimentary clinics on the courts. It is a great opportunity to not only learn how to play, or maybe further improve upon your skills on this fun game, but it's also a great way to meet other Members! More information and further details will be sent out in the near future.

Stay tuned for information regarding the Red Barn and Pool. In the past, these two cherished landmarks have had their opening debut on Memorial Day weekend. That still may be the case this year, but if the weather allows, we aren't opposed to getting things going earlier! Stay tuned as both will be operational as weather permits. If we are able to open early, this information will be conveyed on our website (pottawattomie.com) and in emailed Constant Contacts.

Thanks to all of you that came out all winter long. It was great seeing you! We look forward to seeing you, and everyone else, for the exciting season ahead.

Warmly,

Matt Wooldridge
General Manager



GROUNDS



Just a quick article to bring everyone up to speed on our new Short Game Area.

Thus far, we have raised over \$60,000, which includes funds from both the March Madness pool and several generous donations.

The good news is this will definitely happen now as the original matching grant's contingencies have been met thanks to all of you who contributed! The Board recently authorized the project to begin after Labor Day. For now, the area has been prepped by removing extraneous materials and trees from the site and seeded so it doesn't look like a construction zone. It doesn't take a lot of imagination to visualize that perfect chip! In the meantime, materials are being ordered, subcontractors are being lined up and visits by the golf course architect have been arranged. We are still a little short of our goal, so therefore we are continuing to raise funds.

Congrats to the various winners of the March Madness pool! The pool was a great success spilling over into a second half field bracket. Our GM and Laurie have done a wonderful job running that enterprise on top of everything else they have on their plate, and we are thankful for their dedication!

Thanks to everyone who contributed for this project and other endeavors of The Club. We have come a long way in the last few years! Everything you do to make our Club a better place is truly appreciated!

Happy Spring,

Bob Mathes, and the entire Grounds Committee

GOLF



Spring is officially here! The pins are back in the greens at Pottawattomie! While the course is still quite wet and soft, walking is definitely doable. Carts will be available as soon as the course firms up and dries out. For the more faint at heart, the golf simulator is still available for practice, play and lessons, but do it now. The simulator is getting put away in May.

The Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) has finished rating and sloping the new 'GREEN' tees: Women - 68.8 rating/121 slope; Men - 64.4 rating/111 slope. The 'RED' tee distances were also measured and found to be about 200 yards shorter than the yardage on the current score card. As a result, the "RED" tees were also re-rated and sloped by the CDGA: Women - 72.1 rating/128 slope; Men 67.1 rating/117 slope. A new score card is being developed to include the revised 'RED' tee information and the new 'GREEN' tee information. The new cards will also feature an expanded list of "LOCAL RULES".

As the start of the golf season rapidly approaches (hard to believe its April already!), mark your calendars for the many exciting Men's, Women's and Couples events. All opportunities can be found in the two different Golf Schedules, as well as the Social Schedule. For additional information, contact The Golf Shop.

This year's Member-Guest Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, June 23rd through Saturday, June 25th. This event is usually the highlight of the golf season and books up fast. The Member-Guest Committee, consisting of David Stein, Pete Shikany, Jamie Baldwin and me, are working on the event and have developed a budget, keeping the cost the same as last year's rate of \$825 per team. Invitations will be sent by email in the near future. The event's field size is maxed out at 48 teams and, again, it fills up rapidly; pick your guest partner and sign up in The Golf Shop. Applications are on a first come basis, after you receive your invitation.

If you are still away enjoying warmer weather and playing golf, please remember to post all valid away scores via the CDGA (or GHIN) application. Safe travels to all returning "snow birds"!

Hit em Straight,

Dr. Mike Flisak and the entire Pottawattomie CC Golf Committee

[2023 GOLF SCHEDULE](#)



WGA



April showers bring May flowers.

April is the month when we prepare for the upcoming golf season. May 9th is the date of the Opening Meeting which includes Brunch and a Scramble (weather permitting). All Golf and Social Members are welcomed! If you are new to Pottawattomie and are considering joining the WGA, let us know. We are happy to tell you more about the membership, the golf and provide you with the details of all of the fun we have (see Board listing below to make contact).

Something to think about.....

What makes a Confident Golfer? Play the game knowing what you can or cannot do. Approach each shot, thinking of just that shot and no other. If it doesn't work well, let it go and move on. To improve your game and confidence, keep learning, take lessons, practice. It adds so much to the enjoyment. In golf you are playing the course. The only opponent is yourself.

Listen up, Ladies:

We still need a couple people to volunteer to help with the following events:

*Flag Day June 27th, 1-2 people
*Guest Day, Aug. 8th, 3-4 people
*Big Cup, Sept. 12th, 2-3 people

*Long Beach/Pottawattomie Exchange, July 11th, 1 person
*Member/Member, August 29th, 2-3 people
*Holiday Party Dec. date TBD, 2-3 people

Please contact Barby Wendt (info below) ASAP, so that we are fully subscribed by the May opening.

Come out to enjoy the season and our outstanding course. A small change was made to our schedule which can be found in the link below. The seasonal booklet will include the schedule, membership, bylaws and information on all events.

See you on the course,

Mary Clare Loftus, WGA President

President: Mary Clare Loftus, 708-642-5126, marclarsun@gmail.com
Vice President: Barby Wendt, 708-899-7957, barbywendt@icloud.com
Treasurer: Pam Fiebig, 773-208-7736, fiebigdow@gmail.com
Secretary: Eileen Willenborg, 312-961-1375, emwillenborg@gmail.com

[2023 WGA SCHEDULE](#)

GOLF SHOP



Pins are in the greens, new merchandise is rolling in, the Masters is only a few days away! What a great time of year! Mike and I are really excited about the season as it's drawing ever-nearer.

Be on the lookout for information regarding the Twilight League, being sent out very soon. Let us know if you are interested in playing this year, or if you like to be considered as a sub when needed. We'd love to have you participate! Also, Member-Guest info will be going out soon, so stay alert. We are all aware of how quickly this premiere event fills up! Make your plans now and be prepared to call in your reservation as soon as you receive the information and instructions. Finally, our first golf event of the season (Big Cup Scramble) will be taking place on April 29th. Start to lighten your schedule so you can get in plenty of spring golf, making sure you're ready to compete all season long!

Happy to report that the golf simulator was a huge success for Pott this winter. Many of you took advantage of it, several worked on their game with private lessons. Make sure you get in your final swings before we pack it up for summer storage in mid-May.

We encourage you all to enjoy the Masters weekend at The Club! What better way to get the golf craze going than watching Augusta National on TV while sitting at Pott surrounded by all of your friends?!

See you in The Golf Shop,

Justin and Mike

Congratulations to Pottawattomie's own Tim Dunigan, who made a hole-in-one on March 23, 2023 at Bradenton Country Club in Bradenton, FL on hole #2, playing 170 yards. Tim used a 5 wood for the perfect shot.

Congrats Tim!





Social



Whether you are looking at gray skies with cold and wet conditions outside or sunshine and palm trees, close your eyes and imagine the smell of fresh cut grass, mint leaves, and new rose blooms. It must be Spring and Kentucky Derby time!

Pottawattomie's Run for the Roses Gala is on Saturday, May 6th starting at 4pm.

Early point leaders in the Points Race to qualify for the Derby are *Two Phil's* and *Kingsbarns*. But the thing about horse racing, it changes every day, sometimes every minute. That is what makes this sport so exciting! Who do you like and are you feeling lucky?

Do you prefer sipping Mint Juleps or lean toward the official drink of the bluegrass state, the refreshing Oaks Lily? Lucky for us, both of these fine drinks will be flowing at Pottawattomie on May 6th! Whatever your choice, please choose to join us for the Run for the Roses Gala. This year's Derby Day will once again feature thematic foods and awesome drinks.

Once again, the opportunity to 'Buy a Horse' will be offered at \$250/horse. There will be two rounds of 20 horses, randomly drawn one hour before post time (post time 5:45pm Central Time). Members are allowed to purchase more than one horse, and/or split a horse with another Pott Member or friend. The Members with the winning horse will receive a \$1,000 credit to their Pottawattomie account, 2nd place winners will receive a \$500 credit and the 3rd place winners will receive a \$250 credit. No cash will be exchanged. All proceeds (after payouts) will go towards the expense of the July 2nd Pottawattomie Family BBQ and Fireworks and other Social events during the year.

Prefer a SURE thing? Consider being a part of the *Triple Crown Club* where your straight up donation in any amount is SURE to help us cross the finish line in style!

Please call or email Laurie today to add your name to list of supporting Members (219-872-8624, lrhed@pottcc.com)

ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR FAVORITE DERBY DRESS, HATS AND ATTIRE. PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED/MOST CREATIVE!

Thanks for being a part of the fun!

Tim Dunigan, and the entire Social Committee

Social cont...

Several "Irish" Members made it out to the Annual St. Patrick's Day party. Festive conversation, good food and numerous pints were the common denominator of the day!



2023 POTTAWATTOMIE SOCIAL EVENTS

April 8-9	Masters Watch Party
May 6	Kentucky Derby Gala
May 14	Mother's Day
May 16	New Member Social, 5:30-6:30pm*
May 20	Special Entertainment (tbd, but get this date in your calendar!)
May 27	Summer Nights on the Patio, 5-7pm
June 7	Trivia Game Night, 6pm
June 15	New Member Social, 5:30-6:30pm*
June 17	NIFTY 50's/SWINGIN' 60's DANCE PARTY with Sweet Reminder
June 18	Father's Day
July 2	Family Fireworks and BBQ with live music
July 12	Trivia Game Night, 6pm
July 15	9-Hole Scramble (casual men/women golf) 3pm shotgun
July 15	Summer Nights on the Patio, 5-7pm
July 29	Comedy Night at THE CLUB, 8pm
August 16	Trivia Game Night, 6pm
August 21	Military and First Responder's Golf Outing
August 26	9-Hole Scramble (casual men/women golf) 3pm shotgun
August 26	Summer Nights on the Patio, 5-7pm
September 13	Trivia Game Night, 6pm
October 14	9-Hole Scramble (casual men/women golf) 2pm shotgun
October 14	Summer Nights on the Patio, 4-6pm

***event limited to new Members and their sponsors**

****SOCIAL CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

details, details, details....

- For PICKLEBALL log on to TeamReach (pccpickleball) to connect with players. Contact Member Rick Turim for details (rturim@aol.com)
- For POTTAWATOMIE'S CYCLING CLUB...contact Member Paul Zirpolo for details (paulzirpolo@gmail.com)
- For POTTAWATTOMIE FISH WHISPERERS-check in with The Golf Shop before casting. Contact Member Joe Cole for additional details (joseph.cole@comcast.net)
- YOGA IN THE WATER AEROBICS with yogi Cinda - official start day still up in the air. Check back each month for start date.
- MAHJONG-FRIDAYS, 11:00am in the clubhouse. Contact Member Beth Bozeman with questions (beth.bozeman@comcast.net)
- CANASTA-FRIDAYS, 11am in the clubhouse. Contact Member Ruthie Friedell with questions (rfriedell@rcn.com)
- POOL SIDE YOGA with yogi Cinda-official start day still up in the air. Check back each month for start date.

Social events cont...

- For POTTAWATTOMIE BOOK CLUB, contact Member Karen Marvinac with questions and to get further details (karen@marvinac.com)
- For POTTAWATTOMIE WINE CLUB, contact Member Joe Cole with questions and to get further details (joseph.cole@comcast.net)
- Social Golf outings: open to both Golf and Social Members (with applicable golf fees for Social Members). Themes and tee off times yet to be determined.
- Wine Club: which entails several wine tastings throughout the active season and two Gourmet Wine Dinners (exact dates of all tbd), is open to all Pott Members with actual Wine Club Members receiving a discounted price and priority seating to the events. Wine storage lockers are available to lease on a yearly basis for \$150. Please make rental arrangements with Laurie Irhed@pottcc.com.
- Game Nights: typically begin at 6pm and offer either an abbreviated menu or a buffet (tbd). There is a \$5pp buy in for payouts.
- Summer Nights on the Patio: simple music along with drink specials on the deck, weather permitting. PATIO RESERVATIONS NOT ACCEPTED FOR THESE MUSICAL EVENTS.



BOOK CLUB



The Pottawattomie Book Club is taking a deep breath for the month of April, but that gives you plenty of time to read May's selection of *A Man Called Ove*. Since you now have some extra time, consider streaming the movie too to compare the two (the movie has a slight name change to *A Man Called Otto*) featuring Tom Hanks as Otto/Ove.

"A Man Called Ove is a really heartwarming and touching story about community and finding your purpose, whilst touching on themes like grief and moving on. Ove will grow deep in your heart, as his heart expands with a love he didn't know was possible. Be ready to be deeply touched with this quick, easy read."

The group will meet in early May, in the clubhouse. Contact Pott Member Karen Marvinac (karen@marvinac.com) for the exact date, time and room.

Both Social and Golf Members are welcome to be a part of the fun!

POTT WINTERING



Dr. Mike Flisak, Marc Davis and David Baldwin made the most of Florida's sunny, warm weather golfing at Spanish Wells Country Club in Bonita Springs, just outside of Naples.



Dr. Mike Flisak must have had hockey on his mind while golfing at Cypress Woods CC in Naples. As it turns out, NHL Coach Joel Quenneville had only golf on his. Apparently great minds think alike!



Pott Member and Bongo Aficionado Bob Kaden enjoyed several opportunities over the winter months to connect with his Arizona band, The Twist Tops. At this block party, just outside of Scottsdale, Bob was able to perform for his visiting daughter Hilary and her family.



These fortunate 'Winter' Floridians gathered together to celebrate Pott Member Bob Nielsen's birthday in Naples. Birthday Boy Bob is pictured with fellow Pott Members, Judee Martin, Terrie McDermott, Linda Buda, Pat Shikany, Ed Shikany, Mike Buda and Kevin Martin. Happy Birthday Bob!



Current Board Members

Tom Young - President youngte@comcast.net

James Beien - Planning jamescbeien@gmail.com

Tim Dunigan - Social tdunigan55@gmail.com

Dr. Mike Flisak - Vice President/Golf mefmd@sbcglobal.net

David Baldwin - Membership/Marketing davidbaldwin3501@gmail.com

Don Fehrs - Finance dhfehrrs@yahoo.com

Dr. Jim Hartson - House dochartson@hotmail.com

Bob Mathes - Grounds bob@linnmathes.com

Mark Rowley - Budget mrowley@rowleyandco.com

Have a question, comment, concern? We'd like to hear from you!

Club Management Team

General Manager - Matt Wooldridge

mwooldridge@pottcc.com

Controller - Laurie Rhed

lrhed@pottcc.com

Director of Golf Operations - Justin Stevens

jstevens@pottcc.com

Head Golf Pro - Mike Nygren, PGA

mikenygren23@gmail.com

Outside Manager - Michelle Murray

michelle@pottcc.com

Course Superintendent - Matt Wagner

matt.wagner.1@gmail.com

Contact Info

Clubhouse 219-872-8624

Golf Shop 219-872-0624

Grounds 219-872-3954

Fax 219-873-9382

pccbuisnessoffice@pottcc.com

www.pottawattomie.com

Like us on Facebook

We would love any of your fun Pottawattomie pictures!

Please email them to lisazirpolo@gmail.com.

REVIEW REQUEST

Please consider helping your Club. [Click here](#) and leaving a review about The Club based on your experience at Pottawattomie this recent season. Your comments can be brief, address one specific memory or the entire season. Your remarks can be about golf, social events, pool enjoyment, dining, meeting new friends, gathering with old friends, entertaining guests, etc. Your words might just encourage someone to come and learn more about us. Again, thanks for all the ways you promote Pottawattomie to friends and neighbors.