The Red-tail Rattler

CHMGA Bi-Monthly Newsletter

September/October 2026



Steve's Snippets

Steve Shortt
President

As my two years as President of CHMGA comes to an end, I wanted to thank our members for giving me the opportunity to serve this outstanding club. It has been both an honor and a privilege to lead CHMGA, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together.

Some of the accomplishments I'm most proud of include: introducing this newsletter to improve communication, scheduling away tournaments at other Bay Area courses, making the annual survey a key part of board decisions, restarting annual membership meetings, opening the Club Championship for more members to play, and creating the NET Championship.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the commitment and support of an outstanding Board of Directors:

- Jeff Fell, Secretary
- Nick Egan, Treasurer
- Justin Smith, Handicap Chairman
- Drew Himes, Tournament Director
- Paul Vieth, Rules Chairman
- Gordon Madej, Operations Chairman
- Todd Manley, Membership Chairman

Each of these individuals contributed significant time, energy, and ideas to the club. Their teamwork and dedication made our progress possible, and I am sincerely grateful for everything they have done. I'd especially like to give recognition to Jeff Fell for the tremendous effort he has put into improving CHMGA. While he is moving to Paso Robles, I sincerely hope he will stay connected and join us for as many events as possible. Jeff will always be welcome as a member of CHMGA.

Although I am stepping down as President, I know you will be in good hands with Nick Egan taking on the president's role. I will also not be far away. My new role as Tournament Director has already begun, and I look forward continuing to serve on the board and evolve our tournament program.

Thank you again to the Board, our volunteers, and every CHMGA member for your support, participation, and friendship during my time as President. I leave this role with great appreciation for what we have accomplished and genuine excitement for the club's future.



Board Business

Jeff Fell
Secretary

2027 Board of Directors

I'm excited to introduce your newly elected Board of Directors for 2027.

- President: Nick Egan
- Tournament Director: Steve Shortt
- Secretary: Roger Kirton (new)
- Treasurer: Drew Himes
- Handicap Chairman: Rob Hunt (new)
- Rules Chairman: Simon Webber (new)
- Operations Chairman: Gordon Madej (existing)
- Membership Chairman: Todd Manley (existing)

Please join me in congratulating each of the above members. It's especially great to see several new members joining the board this year. I have no doubt they will add great perspectives to the board and fresh ideas to how to take the club forward.

I'd also like to give a big thanks to Justin Smith and Paul Vieth who will be stepping down from the board this year. Justin was key in establishing Tournament Indexes (TIs) as the method of handicapping within the club, while Paul has been instrumental in elevating the clubs understanding of the Rules of Golf.

The new board's term will begin November 1st, 2026.

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2027 Tournament and Policy Changes

The Board met in September to discuss potential changes to the tournament policies and guidelines for the new season, based on member feedback and key learnings from 2026. The approved changes were recently sent out via email but can also be found on the CHMGA website at: *2027 Tournament and Policy Changes.* These changes will be effective with the first tournament of the new season on November 8th

So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Adieu

As I leave the board, and unfortunately the club, I wanted to thank everyone for the years of support and laughter you've given me as a member and secretary of CHMGA; and welcome Roger Kirton onto the board as your new secretary.



Tournament Updates

Drew Himes

Tournament Director

Club Championship Winner

In a match that was tight the whole way, Dan Sexton took down Steve Darrow to win the 2026 Club Championship 2 UP. Steve was 1 UP most the day, til the back 9 of the Lake course, where holes 7, 8, and 9 bared their teeth. Dan parred all three holes, while Steve bogied each, to allow Dan to take the lead on the par 3 8th before closing out the match on the 9th. Great match and great way to end the year. Congrats to Dan and Steve, and everyone who competed in the championship round.

NET Championship Winner

John McCleeary finished off a banner 2026 year, capturing the 2026 NET Championship over a rapidly improving Dan Cunningham, 2 UP. John hit 14 of 14 fairways and parred all four of the par 3's, battling from behind most the day, before catching Dan on the last three holes to take the match. Whether it was the intensity of the match or the heat of the day, John's perseverance paid off with a hard-earned win. Congrats to John, Dan, and all the NET Championship competitors.

Cinnabar Cup Tournament

For the second year in a row, the Cinnabar Cup was tied after all matches had been played. Unfortunately for Team Blue-collar (Captain Gary Berg), the score card playoff favored Team Bullseye and:

THE TEAM IN GREEN ARE YOUR
2026 CINNABAR CUP TOURNAMENT
CHAMPIONS!!!

Congrats to Team Bullseye on the win, and to both teams for a fantastic tournament. As champions, Team Bullseye will have their names etched in the Cinnabar Cup plaque hanging in the pro shop for 2027. More importantly, they've earned bragging rights over their competitors for the next year and are authorized to remind everyone else of their victory at every possible opportunity.

Upcoming Tournaments

The 2027 Season is here, and we hope you are as excited by the 2027 tournament schedule as we are. You can find the complete schedule on Golf Genius at: *2027 Tournament Schedule* (GGID: ch2027). Our first tournament, a 2-Person Scramble is scheduled for next SUNDAY, November 8th. There is still room for people to sign-up so get out to Golf Genius now if you haven't already.

In addition to the tournament on the 8th, we have the following tournaments coming up in November and December.

- Saturday, November 22nd, Individual Stableford
- SUNDAY, December 6th, 2-Person Stroke Play (Member/Guest) at Coyote Creek (Tournament Course)
- Saturday, December 19th, 2-Person Shamble

Passing the Torch

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In 2027, I'll be moving into a new role on the board (Treasurer), and Steve Shortt will be taking on the Tournament Director responsibilities. Please give Steve all the love in the world as he takes on this exciting role.



Finance
Nicholas Egan
Treasurer

Year to Date Finances

As we exit the 2026 tournament season, the club's finances are in excellent shape. While the final balance is still pending, I expect it to be close to $5,000 when all is said and done, leaving us with plenty of funds as we enter the 2027 tournament season.

Item Description	YTD Actuals
Beginning Balance	**$11,042**
Association Business	$9,784
Tournament Escrow	$223
2026 Season Points Winner Escrow	$1,035
Association Business	**($95)**
Membership Fees	$10,737
Monthly Tournament Escrow	$3,842
Season Points Winner Escrow	($3,435)
NCGA Membership Payments	($4,336)
NCGA Tournament Payments	($2,940)
Social Events & Items	($1,617)
Monthly Tournament Financials	**($223)**
Tournament Fees	$20,148
Tournament Payouts	($20,371)
Season Points Winner Escrow	**($1,035)**
Season Points Winner Fees	$3,435
Season Points Winner Payouts	($4,470)
Ending Balance	**$9,689**
Association Business	$9,689

You can find the detailed financial results for every month of 2026 on the CHMGA website at *2026 Finance Report*.

In November, I look forward to taking on the responsibilities of club president and will be transitioning the finance duties to Drew Himes then.



Tournament Index (TI)
Justin Smith
Handicapping Chairman

2027 TI calculation changes

In 2026 we modified the calculation of TIs to be based only on scores from the current season, plus the past **TWO** seasons. In line with this, we'll be updating member's TIs (prior to the November 8th tournament) to be based only on the 2025 and 2026 seasons (and subsequent 2027 tournaments) and removing past scores from 2024. This will ensure "very old" scores that may no longer reflect a member's playing ability are **NOT** used in their TI calculation.

Next Up. Rob Hunt

After several years as the Handicap Chairman, I've decided to step back and just enjoy being a regular member again. Rob Hunt will be taking on Handicap Chairman responsibilities November 1st. Good luck Rob!



Rules
Paul Vieth
Rules Chairman

No Play Zones

In the past Cinnabar Hills has allowed the club to treat the green tipped, red staked areas as standard Red Penalty areas. This allowed members to play their ball in the penalty area if they were able, and chose, to do so. Recently however, Cinnabar notified the board we can no longer do that, and we **MUST** treat these areas as No Play Zones instead. What this means is members can **NO LONGER** play their ball from these areas and **MUST** take penalty relief instead.

We are in the process of updating the CHMGA Hard Card to reflect this change and will be distributing it

to membership at the November 8th tournament, but I wanted to take a moment to refresh everyone's memory on how to take relief, in and around, No Play Zones before then.

Where is the Ball?

When a player is determining how to take relief, the two key questions are: 1) where does the ball lie and 2) what is the definition of what they want relief from?

For example: The area left of Mountain 7 and left of Mountain 8, among several others, are now No Play Zones (NPZ) and a Red Penalty area. which just means a part of the course where play is prohibited. A NPZ must be defined as part of either an abnormal course condition (free relief) or a penalty area (penalty relief).

If the ball lies **IN** the NPZ and Red Penalty area, penalty area relief **MUST** be taken for 1 penalty stroke under rule 17.1e.

If the ball lies **OUTSIDE** the penalty area, but the NPZ, and anything in it (e.g. the fence), interferes with the players **stance or swing**, the player **MUST** take free relief under the abnormal course condition rule, 16.1f2.

If the ball lies **IN** a red penalty area, but **OUTSIDE** the NPZ, **AND** the NPZ interferes with the players **stance or swing**, the player **MUST** take free relief but drop within the red penalty area under rule 17.1e2, or penalty relief outside the penalty area.

New Rules Chairman

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome your new rules chairman Simon Webber.



Operations
Gordon Madej
Operations Chairman

In the next several weeks we'll be in the process of updating the CHMGA website for the 2027 season. If you have any other changes you'd like to see implemented in 2027, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly or to contact me via info@chmga.club.



Membership Info
Todd Manley
Membership Chairman

As we close out the 2026 season, I'd like to welcome several new members joining our ranks: Michael Ereno, Rick Juncker, Gary Suzuki, Tomas Blandino. With the addition of these golfers our membership ranks close out the year at 89 members. Looking back over the 2026 season we've added 23 new golfers to the club!

As we continue to drive membership and participation, additional activities to get the word out about our group are beginning to kick into the next gear. Several weeks ago, Steve Shorrt and set up our club banner at the Cinnabar driving range to get out the word. People who stopped by learned more about the club and our plans for 2027 - they also left with a CHMGA custom ball marker with contact information for how to sign up as a member. We also have additional get-the-word out activities coming soon to the digital screens on the golf carts and outreach to Hawk+ members.

Reflecting on this year, it's been exciting to welcome new people to our group and to receive your feedback via the survey to help us identify improvements we can make for your competitive golf enjoyment. I'm looking forward to working with our new 2027 board and what's yet to come as we hit the links in the new year.

And speaking of the upcoming season, make sure you renew for 2027! Details have been sent out and if there are any questions feel free to reach out to your membership director.