

Volume XVII, Issue 5 September 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ECC Members,

Another memorable summer at ECC is wrapping up! We've had so many successful events and social gatherings, capped off with an entertaining, extra-hole final golf match between Matt and Nick. We still have more events coming up including Irish Road Bowling on August 30, a Prime Rib Buffet on August 31 with music, the Denny Reagan Memorial Chili Cookoff on Sept. 8, the Closing Party on Sept. 14, and more.

Thank you to Bryan and his staff in the restaurant for the great food and service, to Jason and his staff for the uptick in clothing sales along with the golf lessons/club repair, and to Rachael and her staff for providing us with a beautiful golf course. And thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with events and workdays.

As this is my last ECHO letter, I wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to be your President over the last 4 years. It has been a great honor, and I've enjoyed getting to know all of you better. The club is in good hands with our new board, under the leadership of Brian Maki.

Hope to see you at the remaining events!

Best wishes,

Tim Virant / LMC
Outgoing President
ECC Board of Directors

Eshquaguma Country Club



Eshquaguma Election Results

Tim Virant announced the results of the 2024 Election of Board Members at the August 24, 2024 Annual Meeting. Kym Drain and Kit Wagner were present to monitor in person balloting throughout the Annual Meeting. Andrew Buchholz, Erik Erie and Dirk Megarry were successful in their bid for Eshquaguma Country Club Board seats. Immediately following the Annual Meeting, there was a brief ECC Board Organization meeting to determine individual roles for board members.

Brian Maki stated that he was honored to serve as the President of the ECC Board and look forward to working with our very talented board as we continue to look to the future while honoring our significant past. I would like to thank all the board members I have served with over the last five plus years. A special thank you to Tim Virant for his leadership over the last few years during our construction of the new Grill Room.

ECC BOARD STRUCTURE:

Brian Maki, President

Tom Lisenby, Vice-President & Pro Shop Liaison

Matt Uhan, Treasurer

Dirk Megarry, Secretary

Andrew Buchholz, Golf Course Liaison

Erik Erie, Fundraising & Historian Liaison

Terri Nelson, Restaurant & Bar Liaison

Shelley Rask, Membership Liaison

Shawn Youso, Buildings, Grounds & Security Liaison

The next scheduled meeting of the ECC Board is Septem-

ber 16, 2024 at 5:00pm in the ECC Clubhouse Grill Room. The Election Buddy Voting System worked seamlessly to capture over 60% of the membership voting. Most members found this system easy to use and very convenient for those who were out of town or unavailable to vote in person

Special thanks to Dwight Day, Kym Drain and John Hovanec for all their involvement on the Nominating Committee.

Mike Kern, Outgoing Secretary



To: ECC Board of Directors From: ECC Nominating Committee

Re: 2024 Election

Dear ECC Board.

A few thoughts/observations from the 2024 Election:

To our knowledge, no issues of concern were raised around this year's election. General feedback for online voting was favorable.

2024 - 108 of 164 eligible memberships voted in the Board Election: 93 voted via the online voting Election Buddy System and 15 ballots were distributed and collected at the meeting.

In 2023, 113 of 159 eligible memberships voted in the Board Election: 95 voted via the online voting Election Buddy System and 18 ballots were distributed and collected at the meeting.

In 2022, the first year of online voting, 49 memberships voted; 11 online and 38 at the meeting.

In 2021, 63 memberships voted.

Our committee thinks electronic, online voting and vote tallying is the way to go. Election Buddy provides voter anonymity, accuracy in tally vote totals and substantially reduces the time and effort it takes to arrive at the election results. We intend to continue to offer this to the membership going forward.

Submitted by the ECC Nominating Committee

ESHQUAGUMA COUNTRY CLUB

6469 White Pine Lane Gilbert, MN 55741 Phone: 218-865-4263 Pro Shop: 218-865-4706

www.eshquaguma.com

UPCOMING September Events

September 1 Labor Day - Restaurand/Bar is closed.

September 4 Ladies' Business Mtg. - Noon

September 7 Dumpster Juice Golf & Lunch, Golf starts at 9 a.m.

September 8 Chili Cookoff, 5 p.m. in Grill Room (See page 11)

September 10 Book Club Meeting, 6 p.m.

September 21 Clubhouse closed for private wedding

September 29 Last day that the restaurant/Bar will be open.

October 5 Lumberjack Day, (See page 7)

October 11 ProShop closes for the season

Restaurant Minimums

How much do I have to spend in the restaurant?

All membership categories have a minimum bar and restaurant spending requirement for the season. Corporate memberships are required to spend at least \$500, Junior, Out-of-Area, Social, Business and Business Social are required to spend at least \$250. Minimums do not include tax and tip. Any member who does not spend this amount will be billed the difference between actual expenditure and the minimum at the end of the season. This is published (p. 21) in the ECC Directory.

The last day for restaurant and bar expenditures this year is September 20. Time is running out so be sure to make your reservations and enjoy those minimums! BAR WILL BE OPEN THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29^{th.}

From the ECC Restaurant

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another season at ECC. While summer may be on its way out, there's still time to enjoy the menu for a few more weeks until the restaurant closes on September 20. We will be hosting a wedding in the clubhouse on September 21 and brunch on September 22. The bar will remain open until September 29, so please stop by and share a toast with friends. As always, for the best possible dining experience, we encourage you to make reservations by calling 218-865-4263 or sending an email to restaurant@eshquaguma.com.

I hope you will join me in thanking our fabulous culinary and service

crews for their hard work and hospitality during the 2024 season. It was another record-breaking year for ECC and it's truly a team effort.

As we wind down 2024, we are already looking ahead to next year and we want to hear from you! Member feedback is welcome and encouraged to make sure we are hitting the mark. Please send any thoughts or suggestions to terrinelson19@gmail.com. The Lite Fare menu will look different in 2025 with new items being incorporated at the start of the season.

We look forward to hosting our members and guests again in 2025! Terri Nelson, Restaurant/Bar Liaison

2024 Irish Road Bowling Event

6th Annual Irish Road Bowling Event Friday, August 30, 2024

1:00 Registration & Betting1:30 Ladies Exhibition2:00 Pairing for Flights / Men2:15 Additional Betting/Rules Seminar2:30 Blessing of the balls

Come out and cheer for your favorite bowler and place your bets. Enjoy a wonderful Irish meal afterwards. Please RSVP restaurant@eshquaguma.com. Spread the word – bring your friends. It's fun to watch! A portion of the proceeds benefits the Northern Lights Music Festival.

Todd Leoni, Past Champion, Tournament Chairman, Rules Official, Keeper of the Balls!





The 2024 ECC Cultural Series

The ECC Cultural Series held two very fun events this summer - **Gypsy Jazz Night** (bottom and right) and **DooWop Night** (below).

The Committee thanks our membership for their enthusiastic support of both. We also give Bryan and his staff a huge high five for coordinating the reservations and creating elegant and festive dining experiences in the Fireside Room. A special thanks to Alex and his assistants for delicious gourmet entrees.

Both events were made possible by Member suggestions and introductions. You made our jobs so much easier, and we are grateful. We encourage all to keep those ideas coming as we begin planning the 2025 season.

Jean Enloe and Joanna Johnson ECC Ladies Cultural Committee







2024 Ladies Club Championship Tournament

Our 2024 Ladies Club Championship Tournament had 16 participants this year. As we have done the past few years, we start with a group of 8 golfers in two sec-



Maggie Hillmer 2024 Club Champion

tions based on their handicaps. The winners in the first match are then placed in the upper flight in their division. So the top 8 golfers make up the Championship and 1st Flights, and the second 8 make up the 2nd and 3rd flights. This year, the championship flight had an age span difference of more than 50 years between the youngest and oldest participants! (Without giving out their ages, thanks Katrina Robel and Kris Polus!)

As a reminder, you do NOT have to be a member of the Ladies League to participate in the tournament (although there would then be a \$30 entry fee), but a USGA handicap is necessary. If you do not have a handicap, talk to Jason in the ProShop on how to get one!

As always, we are looking for ways in which to grow our tournament and to include a variety of golfers - both our 9- and 18-hole players. If you have sug-

gestions or questions, Kris Coombe and Jean Enloe will be our 2025 chairwomen for the event. Please feel free to contact either or both of them.



nip Results

	Championship	First	Second	Third
Champ	Maggie Hillmer	Andrea Polus	Jane Stunkard	Cathy Hiti
2nd Place	Sheri Harms	Jean Enloe	Terri Nelson	Loretta Russ
3rd Place	Katrina Robel	Kris Coombe	Terri Kern	Pat Tamminen





Pro Shop Liaison

September means cooler weather is coming. We've had another awesome summer on the golf course. There is still some time to get lessons or buy that golf shirt you've been eyeing. Maybe you need your clubs regripped? Jason and his friendly staff are always willing to assist you with whatever you need.

The ProShop will have a 40% sale during the Labor Day Weekend. ECC has had a great summer in terms of apparel and accessory sales and we want to pass more savings on to our members and guests. Keep your eye open for additional sales during the month of September.

Thank you for your support and as always don't hesitate to contact Jason or myself with questions or concerns.

Tom Lisenby, Pro Shop Liaison



CLOSING PARTY

Join your friends at ECC on Saturday, Sept. 14 for dinner buffet and dessert – and don't forget a special after dinner drink. Music from 7:30 - 10:30 from Cowboy Angel BlueHave a wonderful time at ECC's final bash of the season!

Chef's Choice Dinner Buffet

\$45.00 per person • 5 p.m. Social • 6 p.m. Dinner

Reservations must be made by Sept. 11 at restaurant@eshquaguma.com



CORPORATE (NR)

Jason and Jeanne Craven

JUNIOR

Gian and Megan Mariucci

From the ProShop

Happy September!

September means fall is on it's way whether you like it or not! For those of you that don't like the extra hot weather of July & August, September can be great golf month with some cooler more comfortable temperatures. A time where the leaves start to change and you can feel that cool fresh air of northern Minnesota.

I want to thank all the ECC members for another great year at Eshquaguma. I'm glad to be here and very proud to be your Golf Pro here at ECC. There's still a lot of time to play golf – have some nice dinners at the club – or purchase some extra clothing to keep you warm this fall! Take advantage of all your Club's amenities and have a great time with your family and friends. We're here to help and we're happy to have you!

Golf Lessons

- · Single lesson \$40 -45min
- Five Lessons \$170 -45 min each Short Game Lesson \$40 - 45min 9-Hole "Course Management" playing lesson - \$60

Club Repair Available - new grips, new shafts, loft/lie adjustment, shorten/lengthen clubs, etc.

Need New Golf Clubs? - Custom fitting session \$40. Golf Clubs available to be special ordered through the ProShop from Titleist, Callaway, Cleveland & Srixon!

Pro Shop Sales

Labor Day Weekend Sale - 40% OFF - Thursday through Monday.

Leagues

ERA - Tuesday/Friday - 9:30 a.m. Ladies League - Wed - Sunrise-1 p.m. Men's League - Wed - 1:15 p.m. to

Dark

Tuesday Night Golf - 2-Person Scramble - Sept 3rd, 17th - 5:30 p.m.

Lost and Found - is full of lost head covers and wedges. Please check with the Pro Shop if you've lost something. All Lost and Found will be donated or deposited to the garbage at the end of the year. We do not have adequate storage space to keep accumulating it.

Pro Golf Tip

Why do you play golf? There are a lot of avenues, roads, highways, or trails you could go down with this.

Personally, I think it is a great reminder that golf can be whatever you want to make of it. It could be that striving to get better, to shoot a great score, or to win a tournament. It could also mean time spent with friends or family. That feeling a purely struck golf shot. It could be a form of exercise and staying active. It could be social for business, or fundraising for community events and programs. It could also be a time of relaxation, a time to unwind amongst nature, and see the beauty from the golf course architects.

Golf can also be a place of learning amongst the rules, learning about yourself, dealing with emotional ups and downs. Learning about integrity, respect, and humbleness. Golf can be whatever you want to make it. I encourage you to introduce someone new to golf.

ProShop Hours

Through Sept .15

Monday/Tuesday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Wed. 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Fri./Sat./Sun. 7 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 16-Oct. 11

Every day 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Jason Teragawa
ECC Head Golf Pro
proshop@eshquaguma.com
218-865-4706

2024 ECC Men's Club

2024 ECC Men's **Tournament Recap**

This year's club championship featured a similar format as prior years and again provided the club with some great golf action. Contested over three days, August 15-18, the tournament included 35 golfers in four different divisions - Championship, First Flight (Eshquaguma), White Pine, Ponderosa and Senior. Championship flight players were seeded according to USGA/MGA

handicaps with the defending champion earning #1 seed honors. The other divisions were filled based on golfing ability and personalities which provided a jovial round of golf and some close competition. This tournament continues to be on the rise and we're looking to crack the 40-member mark in 2024! Thanks to all who helped grow this event!

Championship flight matches started Friday, August 16 and continued throughout the weekend with the final pairing teeing off at 1pm Sunday. Friday's first round and quarterfinal matches proved quite competitive with some upsets and stellar golf. The featured match Friday morning

First Place Second Place Third Place Consolation

Championship Matt Uhan Nick Devich Troy Hughes Tim Virant

1st Flight Rick Polus Frank Cerar Andrew Buchholz Dave Boz Jon Hoel

White Pine Luke Soderling Rob Nessa Jim Fritz

Ponderosa Duane Holm Scott Strudwick Joe Cramer Erik Erie

Sr. Division Champion - Ron Bonkosky; Runner-up - Mike Kern; 3rd place - Charles Flynn

saw Nick Devich defeat Steve Johnson in 17 17 holes. The Friday double header format for first round matches has proven suc-

cessful and is here to

contested in traditional 18-hole match play format.

The tournament weekend kicked off Thursday afternoon, August 15, with the

> men's shootout. This year's shootout was a two-man alternate shot format and provided for some interesting strategy and teamwork. The thirteen two-person teams both teed off and then alternated shots accordingly until the final putt was holed out. The thirteen teams started on hole #9 and eliminated teams on holes #9, #2, #12 and #16 until the final four teams arrived on #18 vying for the cash title. Back by popular demand was the progressive buyback allowing early losers to spend their way back into the

competition. Growing the cash purse over \$1,500! The team of Joe Cramer and Larry Lehtinen defeated the team of Jim Fritz and

(Continued on page 7)



stay. Those succumbing to defeat in the first match of Championship flight formed First flight for a fresh start. Due to popular demand, the White Pine and Ponderosa divisions have grown to eight person flights and









Lumberjack Day

Much like the Spring Spruce-Up, Lumberjack Day is just one day in the fall when members pitch in to clean up the club grounds in preparation for winter. There are always trees to be cut and brush to be trimmed and hauled away.

Members and friends of all ages come out for a fun afternoon. Many hands make light work, as they say! The day will wrap up with a cold beer or soft drink and a big bonfire at the burn pile.

The Lakeland Fire Department will be on site to keep an eye on things. Mark your calendar for **Saturday**, **October 5th** and join us!

ECC Book Club

The ECC book for September is *The Whip* by Karen Kondazian. Stagecoach driver Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst passes as a male in the California Gold Rush era. The meeting date is September 10 at 5:30pm at the clubhouse. RSVP to Pat Tamminen- 218-780-5518

Future dates and books are: October 7 at 5:30 – *Come From Away* by Genevieve Graham and hosted by Cathy Hiti. Kit Wagner will host onNovember 11 at 5:30 – *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. Everyone is welcome.

(Men's Club from page 6)

Steve Harms with a birdie on the home hole. Congratulations to all!

After the shootout, the annual Past Champions' Reception was held in the Grill Room. This event, sponsored by various past men's and women's tournament champions, invites all members and their guest to come out for an evening of socializing and an opportunity to bet on tournament favorites and dark horses. Thank you past champs for your gracious donations. And thanks to all the supporters and staff for making these four days very fun and exciting at the club!

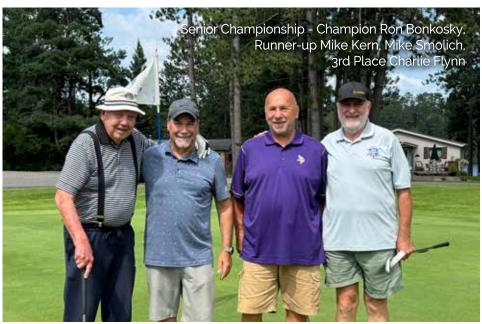
Congratulations to all winners and thanks to everyone who played and made this another fantastic rendition of "Glory's Last Shot".

ECC Men's Guest Night Recap

The annual ECC Men's guest night was

held July 31 with 52 members and guests competing in the modified Shamble/ Scramble Format. In a shamble, all players tee off and then play their own ball in from the best tee shot recording gross scores. For the par 3s, everybody plays their own ball tee to green. On the back 9, it was a good oldfashioned scramble. Congratulations to the winning team of Pat Sjoberg, Tyler Harvey, Matt Sjoberg and Dane Beise! Runners up were Nick Devich, John Uhan, Matt Uhan and Chris Ringsred. During the event, there were on-course games on every hole, a blind Calcutta and a cash skins game. Thanks to all who participated and showcased ECC to the guests! This has been a great event to showcase ECC and attract new, active members.

Congratulations and THANK YOU to all golfers and participants that helped make the last month a huge golfing success.





Going for the Gold . . .

With Olympian stamina and determination, the **Ladies Invitational Tournament** Committee – Terri Nelson, Pat Tamminen, Becky Reagan, Joanna Johnson – pulled off another monumental event on Thursday, August 22nd.

The 2024 outing included 68 golfers – full capacity – and a sorely disappointed waiting list of registrants. Fifty of the players were from outside our membership. In addition to the 18 holes of golf, the ladies enjoyed breakfast, lunch and a sumptuous buffet dinner. Even if their golf game was a bit off that day, many won one or more of the fifty raffle prizes.

The Committee could not have coordinated the event without fabulous support from their sponsors, volunteers, Bryan and his wonderfully professional staff and Jason Taragawa, our ProShop manager. And, as you can see, Roberto's table settings were truly "over the top".

All in all, everyone agrees the Committee NAILED it! Give them the Gold!

WINNERS AMONG ECC MEMBERS:

Red Flight: 1st Place: Maggie Hillmer/ Kathy Fisher; 3rd Place: Trish Olsen/ Krystal Lawson

Yellow Flight: 2nd Place: Terri Nelson/ Andrea Polus

Blue Flight: 2nd Place: Kathy Nelson/Julie Smolich

Orange Flight: 2nd Place: Terri Kern/ Sherri Leoni; 3rd Place: Edie Carr/ Virginia Furin





ECC Ladies' Handicap Tournament





New Owners at Lakeland Store

From the Walls Family

Hello! The Walls Family - the new caretakers of the Lakeland Country Store - welcome you back! We are so happy to be here and excited as we begin this venture.

There will also be some additions that you'll find, including the much-askedabout smoked meats from F&D Meats.

In the weeks and months ahead, we hope to be able to meet the vast majority of our wonderful and loyal neighbors. We are very honored to be part of this community. You are the very reason that this quaint store at Lakeland has been here for 100 years!

Sincerely, The Walls Family - Joe, Tina, Dorothy, Anna, Peter and Naomi

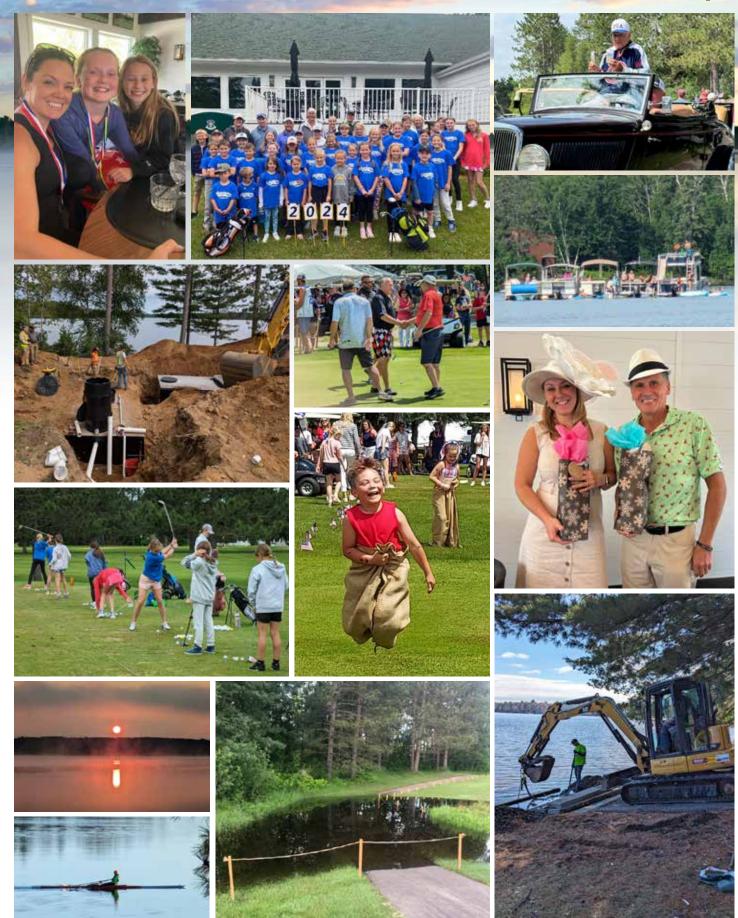


SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	LABOR DAY 2 Restaurant/Bar Closed	ERA - 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Night Golf 5:30	Ladies' Last 4 Golf Day a.m. Business Meeting at Noon Men's Golf 1:15 p.m.	Pickleball 10 a.m.	ERA 9:30 a.m.	7 DJ Golf Event & Lunch 9:00 a.m. Start
Chili Cookoff 3 p.m. Grill Room	Pickleball 10 a.m. Restaurant/Bar Closed	ERA 9:30 a.m.10 Tuesday Night Golf 5:30 Book Club Meeting 6:00	11	Pickleball 12 10 a.m. Hovanic private 6	ERA 13 9:30 a.m.	Closing Party 5 p.m. Social 6 p.m. Dinner 7:30-10:30 Band Cowboy Angel Blue
15	Pickleball 16 10 a.m. Restaurant/Bar Closed	ERA 9:30 a.m. 17 Restaurant/Bar Open Tuesday Night Golf 5:30	Restaurant/Bar Open	Pickleball 19 10 a.m. Restaurant/Bar Open	ERA 9:30 a.m. Bar Open	Clubhouse Closed for Wedding
Bar Open	Pickleball 10 a.m. Restaurant/Bar Closed	ERA 24 9:30 a.m. Bar Open Tuesday Night Golf 5:30	25 Bar Open	Pickleball 10 a.m. Bar Open	ERA 9:30 a.m. Bar Open	28 Bar Open
Restaurant/Bar Last day open of 2024 Season			th for the season ourse Closing dat			



A SUMMER TO REMEMBER AT ECC '24



United Way \$10,000 Golf Ball Drop



Congratulations to the winners of this years **Take a Swing at Hungar Golf Scramble** and the **\$10,000 Golf Ball Drop** held at Eshquaguma Country Club on August 1st.

DROP#1

\$2,500	Carrie Kern
\$1,000	Travis Kolari
\$750	Jeff Slattery
\$500	Erik Peterson
\$250	Steve Badanjak

DROP #2

\$2,500

\$1,000	Laura Polaske-Rhude
\$750	Matt Hiti
\$500	Megan Uhan
\$250	Ryan Thompson

Rory Malner

Take a Swing at Hungar Scramble 1st Place Team - Ziegler Cat

ECC Website & email addresses

Eshquaguma website: www.eshquaguma.com

Questions regarding Eshquaguma Country Club: info@eshquaguma.com

Questions regarding the ProShop/golf course: proshop@ eshquaguma.com

Questions regarding billing/club treasurer/accountant: billing@eshquaguma.com

Questions regarding membership/club info requests: contact@eshquaguma.com

Questions regarding the restaurant: restaurant@eshquaguma.com

