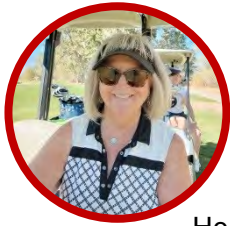


Golf Gossip




Volume 2, February 2025—Love is in the Air!

President's Message



On my goodness. Do you realize we have only 25 more days until the start of the season (I'm counting from March 1st until our Meet & Greet in case you were wondering where I got my number from).

Honestly, I can hardly believe it, that we're that close to the start of the 2025 season. I don't know about you, but I'm ready to hit the fairways and start playing some outdoor golf.

I hope that you all had a wonderful Valentine's celebration . Thank you for all the great valentine's photos you sent. What romantic celebrations we all had. Love was definitely in the air!

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. **March 25th**—Our Meet & Greet at the CVGC Clubhouse at 11:00AM. Bring a sweet or savory appetizer. This will kick-off our season as we get reacquainted with each other from the winter lull. See the flyer on **Page 17**.
2. **April 1st**—Opening Day! We will kick-off our season with a hosted continental breakfast at 8:30AM a four-person scramble at 9:30AM. After play will be our general membership meeting and optional lunch (menu TBD).
3. **April 22nd**—Our "Invite A Guest" day. Invite either a male or female friend to play with us. See the flyer on **Page 18**.

The season is here ... are you ready for it? We have great groups in both our 9-hole and 18-hole leagues. So, let's have a sensational season!

Judy Brooke

President

What's Inside

5 New Year's Resolutions	2
Winter League Results	4
Photo Opportunity-Smile!	5
A Remarkable Woman	5
February Tribe Photos	6
Meet Felicia, Photographer ..	9
New Road Xing Signs	10
This & That	11
Posting Scores Resumes	12
Spring Forward	12
NNGA Spring Meeting	12
NNGA Senior Tournament ...	12
March Birthdays	12
St. Patrick's Day Tourney	13
Meet & Greet Social	14



5 New Year's Resolutions That Will Improve My Game ... And Yours

Jess Ratcliffe, who reduced her handicap from 34 to 9 in a year, shares her New Year golf resolutions.

As an eager to improve golfer, I love a goal. So, I've been reflecting on what I've learned from my golf over the past year – what's worked and what needs work – to set myself 5 resolutions that I believe will take my game to the next level...and I hope they'll do the same for yours too.

Work On Strategy as Much as I Do My Swing

There are a few things that I'm excited to work on in my swing this winter but when it comes to the spring, I'm making a promise to myself...when I'm on the course, my focus will be on my strategy not my swing.

Over my last run of competition rounds, it's become clear to me that when I have—and stick to—a **strategy**, I shoot my best scores, even on the days when my swing is off.

It feels like it breaks the round down into bitesize chapters because I'm focused on following my strategy for the shot at hand, rather than replaying the shots that have been or thinking about the shots yet to come.

Whether it's playing with the mantra of 'when in trouble, don't make double' or doing my best to follow **the 80% rule**, my scores show me that when I have a strategy, it saves me shots.

Make My Practice Harder Than My Play

A big challenge in golf is taking the work we put in **on the range** to the course. And I think that's because there's an ingredient that's present in our play, especially when we have a card in our hand, that isn't always present in our practice—pressure.

When we're on the course, we've got one shot, one ball to play but when we're on the range, we've got a bucket to hit through. If a

shot doesn't go as we hope, we can reach for another and try again, knowing the consequence of hitting a wonky one is never as high on the range as it is on the course.

That's why I'm going to try to make my **practice harder** than my play by bringing in exaggerated pressure. Maybe that's setting myself strict targets, like getting my greenside bunker shots within three-feet of the pin and I can only move on when I've made five in a row. Or not leaving the putting green until I've sunk 10 putts from the distances I can often miss.

This one is going to be a challenge because I'm not sure it's possible to fully replicate the pressure we feel on the course but I'm going to do my best to bring a sense of that pressure into my practice, knowing it's only going to pay off in my play.

Say Yes to Competitions That Scare Me

One of the things that I've worked hard on this past season are my competition nerves because there's no doubt that they were wrecking my scores.

It was a classic case of scoring well when I was playing for fun and then going to pot when I had a qualifying card in my hand. I don't know whether it was the weight of expectation – the heaviness of hope that *today is the day* – or a simple case of trying too hard.



Continued on next page



5 New Year's Resolutions (cont'd)

Either way, I knew it was something I had to break through to start bringing my best golf to life.

And I did this through repetition, playing in as many **qualifying competitions** as I could until those nerves went from being the loudest voice in the room to a quiet whisper, moving further and further away with every round.

That's why I want to enter the competitions that scare me this year – the ones that my mind tries to tell me I'm not ready for – because it's the reps of saying yes that lead to those big leaps forward.



No More 3 Putts

Every set of resolutions needs a shoot-for-the-moon one in there...and this is mine.

I think **three putting** is one of the most disheartening things to happen on the course because it feels like such a waste after doing *all that work* to get on the green. And I know that when I let a three putt slip in there, it's the difference between making par or saving bogey at worst and that's why I want to strive to achieve two putt tops this year.

I'm hoping to do this in a couple of ways. Firstly, working on those **long lag putts** that can be my ticket into three putt territory when I don't get them close enough and leave myself with a neryv knee-knocker.

And then, I'm going to work on my approach play—especially that 100 yard and in range—because if I tend to three putt when I've got a long first putt, then I need to be getting the ball closer from the get go.

Find the Fun in The Pain

When I look back on my golf journey to date, it's been quite the clichè of a roller coaster. There have been incredible highs, like cutting my handicap from **34 to 9 in a year** and more recently overcoming that card-in-the-hand block to reach my lowest handicap so far of 7.3.

Alongside those highs, there have been deep lows, like mentally melting as soon as I had a card in my hand and wondering why. Or dragging myself through those rounds that I would rather forget.

But the truth is, I know that to reach the goals I hope to with my golf, there is going to be pain—the good kind of pain when you're working hard at something, even if it feels like it might never click.

So that's why I want to continue to find the fun in the pain – to enjoy the challenge, the highs and the lows, knowing that I'm playing a puzzle that might never be “solved” but that gets closer with every ounce of effort I put in. ♦

To view this article online, click on this link:

[5 NY Resolutions](#)



Women's Winter Indoor League Play Results



Week 9 Results—January 28



The teams had the opportunity to play Budersand Sylt Golfklubb in Hörnum, Germany.

On a site surrounded by natural dunes and ocean on three sides, this course has been so well laid out to blend in with its surroundings. As a typical 18-hole links course, it is characterized by the arid landscape of the Sylt dunes and the lush heathland, which alternates with the beach grass. True Links means that playing golf always means playing with the weather, but it also means having new experiences: avoiding bunkers or sinking into them. It was definitely a challenging course!

Team #1: Sara Cleary, Debbie Knapp, Cindy Jeanor (Debbie's friend), and Dale Ann Luzzi.

Team #2: Judy Brooke, Bev Hefferly, Rhonda Kudrna, and Melanie Rea.

WINNERS 🏆

of any level. The Valley Club is routed like an hourglass, with a wide variety of holes. Fairways are generous, but the slant of greens demand certain angles of approach. The restored MacKenzie bunkers resemble jigsaw pieces that seem to fit one another, left and right.

Team #1: Gail Ellingwood, Virginia Irlakis, Lorna Johnston, and Dale Ann Luzzi.

Team #2: Kathy Bevel, Suze Ericson, Bev Hefferly, and Lorie McMahon.

WINNERS 🏆

Week 11 Results—February 11



Hualālai Golf Club is a private resort golf club. The par-72 layout weaves through the Big Island's challenging lavascape, taking full advantage of spectacular ocean views and dramatic shoreline vistas. Emerald fairways and white sand, framed by Pacific blue and black volcanic rock, paint a stunning portrait on Hualalai's closing stretch.

Team #1: Gail Ellingwood, Suze Ericson, Debbie Knapp, and Joan Sciarani.

Team #2: Jill Bellamy, Judy Brooke, Debi Lang, and Julie Marraccini.

WINNERS 🏆

Week 10 Results—February 4



Nestled in the hills of Montecito, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, this Jack Nicklaus

Signature Golf Course highlights natural elevation changes with stunning coastal and mountain views at every turn. While preserving its historical character, this sporty and strategic design will challenge golfers



Winter League Results (cont'd)

Week 12 Results—February 18



Wayzata Country Club occupies terrain that is ideal for golf. The rise and fall in the landscape provides ample opportunity to craft a thoughtful and engaging course—and the intent of the

proposed Master Plan is just that. The essence of great golf is diversity and distinction, while challenging the best players and maintaining an enjoyable experience for all. Team #2 had five birdies and needed a designated driver!

Team #1: Diane Bartsch, Bev Hefferly, Virginia Irlakis, and Dale Ann Luzzi.

Team #2: Jill Bellamy, Suze Ericson, Debi Lang, and Melanie Rea. **WINNERS**

Week 13 Results—February 25—Final Week



Opened in 2003, only 20 minutes from the city center of Bern, Switzerland, the Moossee Golfpark is immersed in the idyllic landscape along the Urten Islands around a nature reserve. Every year more than 250,000 golfers and

nature lovers visit the Moossee Golf Park, which also offers a variety of habitats for flora and fauna. It was supposed to be an easy rated course, but you wouldn't know that by how we played! We did have a great time celebrating our last play day.

Team #1: Jill Bellamy, Debi Lang, Dale Ann Luzzi, and Virginia Irlakis.

Team #2: Judy Brooke, Gail Ellingwood, Suze Ericson, and Melanie Rea. **WINNERS**

Smile, It's Free Therapy!

What if you don't like your photo on our website? Do you have to just live with that inexact replica of you? NO! You don't ... now aren't you relieved?



During the month of April, our new Club Photographer, Felicia, will be available in the clubhouse to take your picture after play. Just let her know in advance that you are going to need her services. I know I need new photo!

To see what your photo looks like on our website, click on this button to access our Member Directory.

Member Directory

A Remarkable Woman in our Midst



Anne Marie Neacy, a golf club member and the Elks Club Exalted Ruler at the local Gardnerville Elks Club, was nominated for "Community Involvement" with the Record Courier's Remarkable Women annual recognition program. Congratulations, Anne Marie! Winners will be announced Thursday, March 13th at the Carson Valley Inn.



February Photo Gallery



Swing 395 on January 28th. The winners pictured left celebrating their only birdie (L-R): Melanie Rea, Rhonda Kudrna, Judy Brooke, and Bev Hefferly. Second place team pictured right celebrating their only birdie (L-R): Sara Cleary, Dale Ann Luzzi, Cindy Jeanor (Debbie's friend), and Debbie Knapp.



Swing 395 on February 4th. They may have lost, but they still got to celebrate their one birdie! (L-R): Virginia Irlakis, Dale Ann Luzzi, Gail Ellingwood, and Lorna Johnston.



It's a birdie celebration on February 4th!



Hanging out with the Feb. 4th winners, celebrating a birdie. (L-R): Lorie McMahon, Suze Ericson, and Kathy Belvel. Missing, taking the photo, Bev Hefferly.



Winning with a +3 on February 4th (L-R): Suze Ericson, Kathy Belvel, Bev Hefferly, and Lorie McMahon.



It's birdie time for this team on 2/11/25 (L-R): Suze Ericson, Joan Sciarani, Gail Ellingwood, and Debbie Knapp.

First of two birdies for this winning team on 2/11/25 (L-R): Debi Lang, Julie Marraccini, Jill Bellamy, and Judy Brooke.



February Photo Gallery (cont'd)



2/18—Team #1 celebrating their one and only lonely birdie! (L-R): Diane Bartsch, Virginia Irlakis, Bev Hefferly, and Dale Ann Luzzi.



2/18—Team #2 kept the birdie celebration alive with five birdies. The end result is the Fireball mess (above). These girls know how to celebrate a birdie! Team #2 in the left photo (L-R) included Jill Bellamy, Melanie Rea, Suze Ericson, and Debi Lang.



2/25—Last day of the Women's Winter Indoor League and a goofy goodbye to some great times! (L-R): Gail Ellingwood, Jill Bellamy, Judy Brooke, Melanie Rea (behind Judy), Suze Ericson, Dale Ann Luzzi, Debi Lang, and Virginia Irlakis.



2/25—Virginia Irlakis (above) celebrating a hole out for Team #1!



2/25—Team #2 (L-R): Suze Ericson, Gail Ellingwood, Melanie Rea, and Judy Brooke. 1st of 5 birdies. Photo below is birdie #5 celebration!



Team #1 on 2/25 celebrating first of two birdies.



More February Photos



The Nine & Dine group hanging out on February 4th at Wildhorse for lunch (no play). Clockwise starting left front: Judy Brooke, Dianne Ford, Marcia Chatin, Peggy Frick, Janet Brown (Nine & Dine Chair), and Carla Rueff (Nine & Dine Co-Chair).



Nine & Diners 2/11 at Fuentes. Clockwise from left: Gretchen Dermody, Dianne Ford, Linda Davis, Janet Brown, and Peggy Frick



Dianne Ford spent seven relaxing weeks in in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL this last January.



Margaret Fay (L) and Jeanine Felix on the first day of their three-week trip to Australia—a vacation combined with a visit to Margaret's relatives.



Vickie Oland and Amber, her daughter, played the tourists during a recent trip to LA. They hiked to the Hollywood sign, went to the Griffith Park Observatory, and Vickie tried Pho for the first time in Korea Town. This angelic photo was taken at the Observatory.



Shana & Steven Lakso with good friends staycationing in Lake Tahoe. Can you guess what ski resort they're at?



Bev Hefferly and her husband, Jerry, at Daniel's in Genoa celebrating her birthday last month.



Meet Felicia Sotomayor, Club Photographer

Felicia was born and raised in the California Bay Area, the youngest in a blended family with four older siblings. Growing up in the 60s and 70s, she often had to navigate life on her own while her parents managed the challenges of raising five rambunctious children. Even from a young age, Felicia had a clear vision of her future—creating the images and pictures that appeared on TV in the tiny square behind newscasters' heads.

From a young age, Felicia aspired to become a Graphic Designer. In the early 80s, graphic design was not yet a mainstream college course; instead, colleges focused on the printing industry. Determined to learn, Felicia connected with Adobe and studied their then-new computer graphics packages. Combining photography with her acquired graphic skills, she pursued a career that fueled her creative and visual inspirations.

From her early days at the Ronald McDonald House to her dedicated work at One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding, Felicia has always been passionate about giving back to the community. In retirement, she continues to offer her time and expertise, assisting companies and non-profits with photography, brand building, and graphic design.

Felicia has been happily married to Al for 15 years. They first met at a friend's poker party, where Felicia went all-in to take Al out of the game; she kept him as one of the prizes. They've built a life together filled with great love, laughter, and shared adventures. Al has two wonderful sons that Felicia feels honored to love as her bonus sons. The family has grown even more special with the addition of two grandchildren.

When Felicia and Al were ready to leave California and start their retirement, they initially considered South

Reno, but it didn't feel like the right fit. Al, who had been visiting Gardnerville with his buddies for years, had a master plan to get Felicia to see the Minden/Gardnerville area. As they drove south from Reno, Felicia's eyes and smile grew broader with each passing mile. The stunning mountains and the picturesque valley captured her heart. When they arrived, Al and Felicia looked at each other, both beaming, and said, "This is home." They've met so many wonderful new friends in this community, and they feel truly blessed. It's the kind of place where you can strike up a conversation with a stranger in a parking lot, and before you know it, you've become best buddies.

Felicia's love of photography fuels her visual and creative imagination. Whether you need wildlife photography or portrait work, Felicia is the one to call. To keep things stress-free, she has chosen not to do weddings. Recently, she launched her photography Facebook page:

[Felicia Sotomayor Photography](#)

She is excited to begin showcasing her photos at local art fairs for the first time this year. Beyond photography, Felicia enjoys spending time with friends and family, game nights, bingo, and having a good laugh and a few good shots (including birdie juice) on the golf course. ♦



BRAND NEW ROAD CROSSING SIGNS!!



Douglas County has installed **TWO** road crossing signs for golf cart traffic.

One crossing sign is located to cross Riverview to get to the first tee.

The second crossing sign is located to cross Riverview from hole #9 to the opposite side of the street.

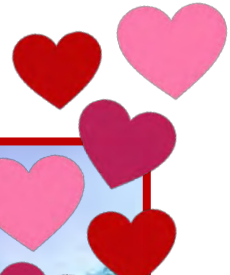
Please be sure to hit the flashing button, check carefully both ways, and then cross the street.

These are NEW signs and the public is not used to them, so they are often not stopping.

**CROSS WITH
CAUTION!**



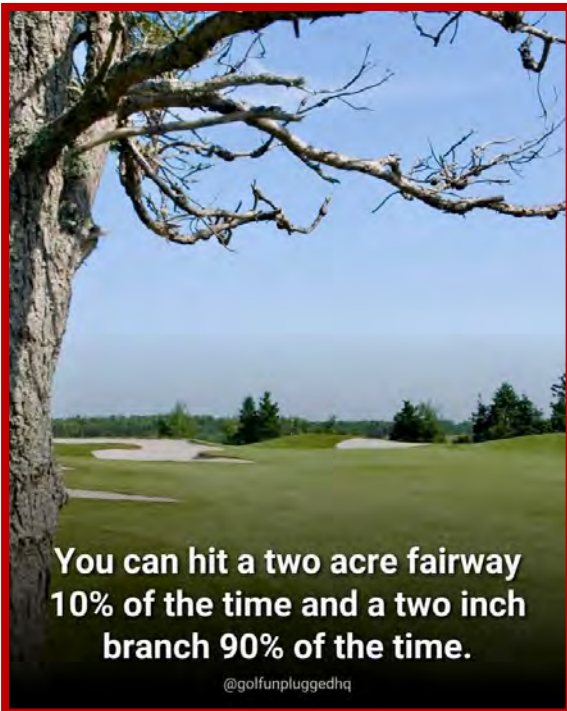
This and That ...



The greatest golf hole in America, as voted by Golf Digest. The 16th at Cypress Point, Par 3, 233 yards. Tough to argue with this one! #golf



To every golfing goddess: Sometimes, being with your friends and golfing is all the therapy you need ♥



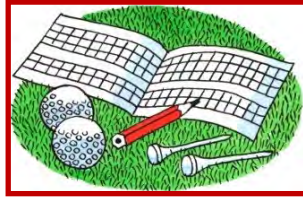
You can hit a two acre fairway 10% of the time and a two inch branch 90% of the time.

@golfunpluggedhq



Posting Scores

Posting scores for your handicap at NNGA golf courses resumes **March 15th** after winter break. That means when you play a round at an NNGA course, you must post your score! It's not only a USGA and NNGA rule, but a Club Rule as well to prevent players from sandbagging their handicap. ♦



Time to Spring Forward!

Sunday, **March 15th**
SPRING FORWARD and
change your clocks to reflect more daylight hours! ♦



2025 Annual NNGA Spring Meeting

NNGA's 2025 Annual Spring Meeting is being held at **Toiyabe Golf Course**:

Date: Sunday, April 27th

Times: 10:30 a.m. Registration
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meeting
12:30 p.m. Lunch

Cost: Meeting & Lunch \$25.00

Golf & Lunch: \$100 (*Cost includes green fee, range balls, cart, and prize fund.*)

Click on this link to sign up: [SIGN UP](#)

NNGA Carson Valley Senior Tournament



NNGA is holding their first tournament of the year right in our own backyard—Carson Valley Golf Course. This is a great opportunity to play in an NNGA tournament without traveling too far, and if you're a CVGC pass holder, you will get the reduced rate! ♦

Date: Thursday, April 17th

Time: 10:00 a.m. shotgun

Cost: \$80.00 or \$45.00 for pass holder (*Cost includes green fee, range balls, cart, and prize fund.*)

Click on this link to sign up: [SIGN UP](#)



Monica Siewertsen 03/01
Judy Brooke 03/16
Vickie Oland 03/27

We want not only your photos for future editions of *Golf Gossip*, but also any fun/funny tidbits of golf gossip you experience with your golfing partners! You can email your pictures and stories to: judypsalms100@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping make *Golf Gossip* fun, informative and worth reading.

Judy Brooke
President & Editor



CARSON VALLEY GOLF COURSE

*St Patrick's Day
Golf Tournament*

SATURDAY, MARCH 15



10 AM SHOTGUN

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

\$50

GOLF, CART

LUNCH & PRIZE FUND



CALL 775-265-3181 TO SIGN UP



Sign up!

SEASON PASS HOLDERS USUAL FEE + \$25

CARSON VALLEY GOLF COURSE

CARSONVALLEYGOLF.COM 775-265-3181



meet & greet



Date: Tuesday, March 25th

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Carson Valley Golf Course

What: Appetizers and no-host bar

This will be a great time to meet new club members and reacquaint yourself with returning members.

Hope to see you there!