

# ECHO

Eshquaguma Country Club

Volume X, Issue 1 May 2015



## From the President

Dear Fellow ECC Members,

It's here – ECC's 100th Anniversary! Spring has arrived early and everything is in place for a great season! It is our good fortune to be part of something special as we celebrate the 100 year milestone of the Eshquaguma Country Club.

A century ago in the summer of 1915, for the expressed purpose of fun, our founders incorporated the Eshquaguma Club. Please take some time this season to reflect on the history of the Club, the many members who have come and gone through the years, and the beginning of our next century.

The centennial celebration at the Club will include special events and moments throughout the season. We can also look forward to gourmet dining at the restaurant, rounds of golf on our beautiful golf course, and days at the lake that have always been part of ECC tradition. I encourage each of you to get involved, participate, and enjoy this special summer.

Celebrate the 100th year of ECC!

Sincerely,

Dwight Day, President

## Eshquaguma Country Club

6469 White Pine, Gilbert, MN 55741

Phone: 218-865-4263 Pro Shop: 218-865-4706

Bookkeeper: 218-290-2252

# Centennial GALA Opening Party

*"Most people have never learned that one of the main aims in life is to enjoy it."*

Samuel Butler

Mark your calendars now for June 6th at 6:00! This is the party of the century – the biggest party of the season – THE ONE you do not want to miss!! Plans are well under way to start our Centennial Summer off with a smashing dinner dance for the Centennial Gala/Opening Party.

**June 6, 6:00 p.m.  
ECC Clubhouse**

### Remembering Days Gone By...

When social parties were more formal, live bands and dancing were routine and dinners were plated and served at table...

The menu will be a wonderful "days gone by" concoction prepared by our Chef Kiko and his new kitchen staff.

This is a "dress up" adult party with a dress theme of Black and White (ala Puttin' on the Ritz). Period attire is welcome but not required. Our famous local *Renowns* are back and they will be

(Continued on page 3)



## Mother's Day Brunch

**Sunday May 10 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

*Treat Mom to a celebration at the Club!*

**Full Brunch menu for \$15.00\***

All members, families, guests are invited! It's our opportunity to honor our mothers in a delightful way. This Mother's Day Event has developed into a wonderful tradition. It's a great way to celebrate spring. Call 865-4263 for reservations.

\*Plus gratuity



## Upcoming Events

**May 2 KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY**  
Open at 2:00

**May 10 MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**  
See page 1

**May 21 LADIES ONLY COCKTAIL PARTY** Starts at 5:30 p.m. (See page 5)

**May 23 5K WALK/RUN/BIKE**  
See page 3

**May 24 BLESSING OF THE FLEET**  
2 P.M. Clubhouse dock (See page 3)

**May 31 SPRING SPRUCE UP**

**June 3 LADIES' DAY SPRING BUSINESS MEETING** Begins at Noon

**June 5 NORTHERN LIGHTS GOLF FUNDRAISER**

**June 6 CENTENNIAL GALA OPENING PARTY** See page 1

**June 14 FOUNDING FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH** (SEE PAGE 6)

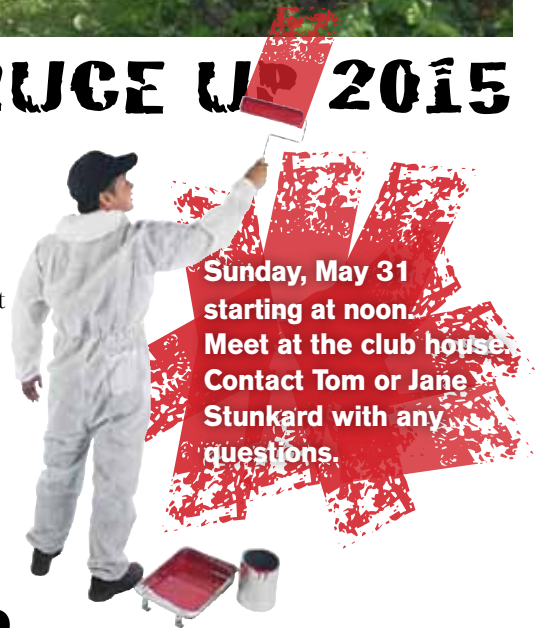
**June 15 YOUTH GOLF AND YOUTH TENNIS CLINICS BEGIN** Runs thru the week (See p 4)



## SPRING SPRUCE UP 2015

Please come and help spruce up the areas around the club house. We need as many volunteers as possible. Many hands make light work!

Bring any tools for gardening that you might have: gloves, rakes, blowers, paint brushes, pruning shears, trimmers, hammers, scrapers, lawn bags, shovels, and anything else you think we will need. A light meal will be served to all volunteers after the clean up. Hope to see you there!!!



**Sunday, May 31**  
**starting at noon.**  
**Meet at the club house.**  
**Contact Tom or Jane Stunkard with any questions.**

## News from the ECC Pro Shop

The Pro Shop "buying committee" has Mother's Day as our target to be set up for the 2015 season. Men's apparel in sizes M to XXL and women's apparel in sizes S to XXL has been ordered.

We will be stocking familiar brands like Antiqua, Gear, Greg Norman and Nike. We are participating in a Nike short/pant/skort program so there will be a lot of sizes, styles and colors to choose from for both women and men. There will be Under Armour apparel again this year and two new brands Bette & Court and Carnoustie. Check out the women's UPF 30 textured fabric shirts from Bette & Court and the 100% cotton golf shirts for women and men from Carnoustie.

We will be selling two new sweat-

shirt styles, each available in at least six color choices. A lot of the women's apparel has been ordered without the

### Meet our new Pro Shop Manager

Stop in and say "hello" to Larry Salo our new Pro Shop Manager. Their new email address is [eccgolfproshop@gmail.com](mailto:eccgolfproshop@gmail.com). The phone number is still 865-4706.



ECC logo so all women should stop by and browse. We also have colorful and fun accessories like fashion hats, purses, etc. in addition to Centennial items like

ball markers, wallets, tee shirts, golf towels and more. Thanks to everyone that submitted Pro Shop suggestions. "You asked, we listened."

**Pro Shop Buying Committee: Teresa Lehtinen, Barb Hecomovich, Mary Louise Meredith and Diane Malner (Fall 2014)**

### Reminders from the Pro Shop

1. All members and guests **MUST** register in the pro shop before teeing off.
2. Use of the practice range is available by purchasing a bucket of practice balls or a season pass. Shagging your own practice balls **does not** exempt you from paying for use of the range.
3. Review the ECC dress code policy on page 35 of the directory.



## 5th Annual 5K Run/Walk/Bike

Eshquaguma's 5th annual 5K Walk/Run has been changed – and now includes bikers! This popular event is scheduled for Saturday, May 23rd. This fun family event is open to all ECC members, their family and guests. It is open to all ages.

All participants are encouraged to check in at 8:30 and then “kick up their heels” for the start at 9:00. The race begins and ends at the Clubhouse.

After the last participant streaks – or glides – across the finish line,

an awards ceremony with prizes and breakfast will follow.

All racers are encouraged to **sign up by May 11th** to guarantee a participant T-shirt. All kids entered will receive a medal.

Cost of the event is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 18 years of age and younger.

Sponsorships are still available for \$50. For more information or to sign up, call Cathy Hiti at 741-7844 or you can email her at: [cathy@gilbertbank.com](mailto:cathy@gilbertbank.com)

## Centennial Gala

(Continued from page 1)

playing all the old (and new) favorites. The dance floor should be rocking!

A Wall of Wine will be featured so we ask that each guest bring a bottle of wine (minimum \$10.00) to donate to the wall. For each bottle of wine donated, a raffle ticket will be given to the donor. Additional raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the Gala (\$5.00/ticket) so bring your checkbook or cash. A drawing will determine the winner(s).

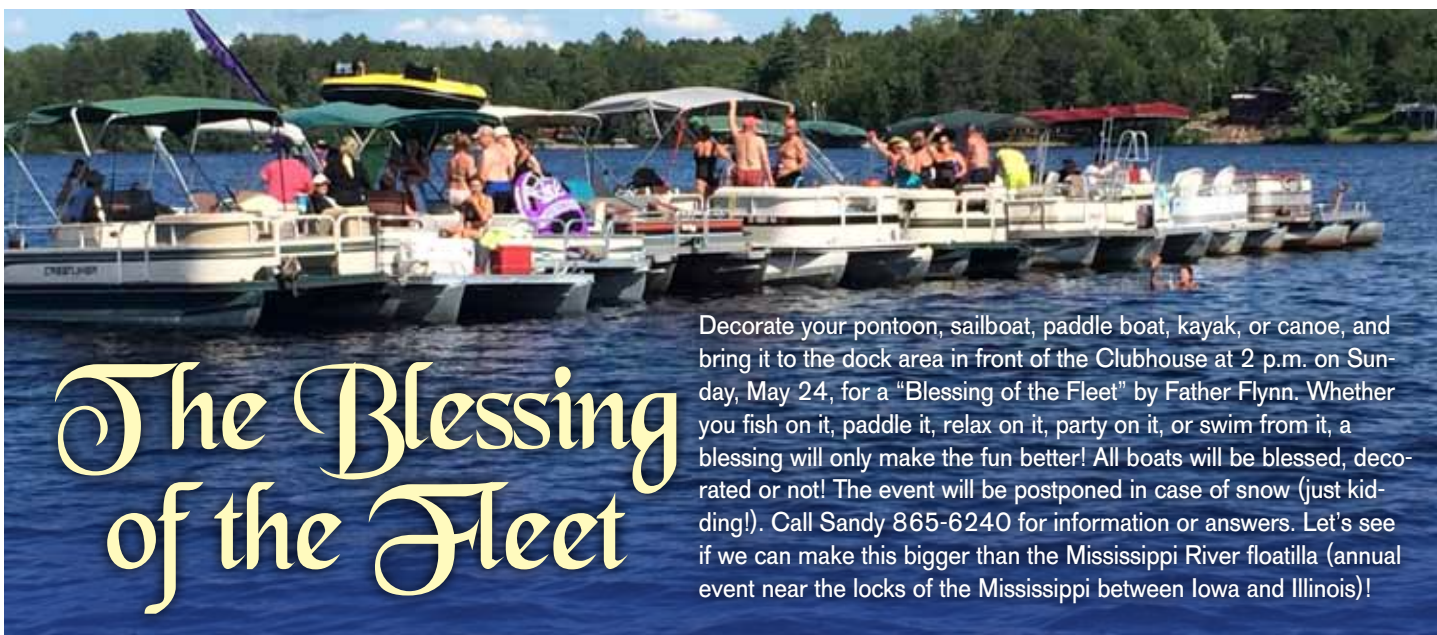
New Members: We hope you will attend the Gala - we would like to welcome you and introduce you to the other members, old and new.

Reserve your spot early as seating is limited. Reservations will be taken after the club opening.

**Centennial Gala/Opening Party Committee: Lyn McNeil, Chair, Peggy Crolick, Laurel March and Kjerstin Virant**

### WELCOME BACK!

Our Chefs this summer will be Francisco Hernandez, Saul Ojuna and Ruben Garnez. The Restaurant Manager is Jada Strumbell and servers are Sami Harms, Corrine Raihala, Leah Carey, Hannah Mae, Rachel Krulc, Lexi Brascugli, Krystal Brown and Sheila Wagner.



## The Blessing of the Fleet

Decorate your pontoon, sailboat, paddle boat, kayak, or canoe, and bring it to the dock area in front of the Clubhouse at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, for a “Blessing of the Fleet” by Father Flynn. Whether you fish on it, paddle it, relax on it, party on it, or swim from it, a blessing will only make the fun better! All boats will be blessed, decorated or not! The event will be postponed in case of snow (just kidding!). Call Sandy 865-6240 for information or answers. Let's see if we can make this bigger than the Mississippi River floatilla (annual event near the locks of the Mississippi between Iowa and Illinois)!



## Youth Tennis Registration

**June 15, 16, 17, 18, 2015 • 1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m. Ages 8-12 or 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Ages 13 and up**

Enclose \$20.00 registration fee. Make check payable to: ECC Clinics. If there is inclement weather, we may need drivers to transport kids to indoor courts in Virginia. Mail form and registration fee to: ECC - Youth Tennis, 6469 White Pine Lane, Gilbert, MN 55741.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Supplies needed: Tennis Racquet, non-marking court shoes, sun screen and drinking water. Thanks!

I would like to volunteer to help \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## New tennis lessons to be offered at ECC in 2015

Eshquaguma's annual Youth Tennis Clinic will once again take place in June as it has for many years. Dave Gunderson, (Club Pro at the Virginia Indoor Tennis & Pickleball Club, past state Coach of the Year, and newly retired Tennis Coach at Virginia High School. Dave had an impressive string of state tournament wins in both girls' and boys' tennis, including last year's girls' state 7A champions) will be offering instruction once again for groups of 8 to 12-year-olds (new to the game) and

13 to 18-year-olds (intermediate and advanced).

ECC's Tennis Committee, headed up by Laurel March, is excited to offer additional programs throughout the summer. The Youth Tennis Clinic will be augmented by a six-week session of drills for intermediate and advanced tennis players. Juniors 18 and under will drill from 3-4 p.m. every Tuesday from June 23 to July 28. Cost of the six week session is \$60 in advance. Adult intermediate and advanced players will drill from

4-5:30 p.m. every Tuesday from June 23 to July 28. Cost of the six week session is \$72 in advance.

"Coach Gunderson is great with the kids and now players of all ages can join in getting tips from a pro. His drills are always loads of fun and aimed at the skill level of the participants. I see the junior drills as a great asset for current and aspiring high school players." Sign-ups for all clinics and drills are in the Pro Shop.

More on these and other tennis events will follow in future *Echo* issues.

## Youth Golf Registration

**June 15, 16, 18, 19, 2015 • 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Ages 6-7 or 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. • Ages 8 and up**

Enclose \$20.00 registration fee. Make check payable to: ECC Clinics. Price includes golf lessons, treats, pizza, pop and prizes. Mail form and registration fee to: ECC - Youth Golf, 6469 White Pine Lane, Gilbert, MN 55741. We would appreciate the registration returned to the Pro Shop or mailed in by June 7th

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark clubs by placing return address labels below the grip on all clubs and covering them with Scotch tape. This insures that when they're left behind (and they always are) ECC will know who to contact. Please supply child with **tees & ball markers**. Thanks!

I would like to volunteer to help \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Do you have “Time for 9?”

Gentlemen – the state of men’s golf at ECC is on the rise . . . starting now. As your fearless Men’s Club leader, I’m asking for 10 hours of your golfing schedule this year. This year the golf course opened on April 10th – if it closes October 15th – that leaves us 188 days of potential golf or nearly 2000 hours. I’m looking for 10 hours from you and a partner to form a new men’s golf league – “Time for 9”.

This will be a two man team league. Each team will play 6 matches against another two man team. A foursome can reasonably complete 9 holes in 1.5 hours at ECC.  $6 \times 1.5 = 9$  rounds to my 10 hour request. Play from the tees you are most comfortable. Scoring will be team based and handicaps will be used. No excuses!

Find your regular golf partner, find a new member, find your dad, find your

brother, find your son, your preacher, your grandfather, your customer, your boss, etc – just FIND somebody to play golf with 6 times in 2015 and let me know who you got.

First 9 holes by June 1; then by June 15, then by June 30, then by July 15, then by July 3 and last 9 by August 15.

I’ll make the schedule, tabulate the results and post updates. All you need to do is find time to play golf and turn your card in.

If you have any questions, just email me at: [matt@gilbertbank.com](mailto:matt@gilbertbank.com) Thank you . . . and PLAY GOLF AMERICA!



## Available for Adoption

We’re bringing back “Adopt a Hole.” If you would like to be responsible for one of the nicest features of our golf course, this is your chance.

The flower beds on holes 2, 8 and 9 need to be planted, watered and cared for throughout the season. If you are willing to take on the satisfying job of creating a beautiful addition to the course please sign up for a hole of your choice in the Pro Shop.

If you would like to add a new hole to adopt, suggest any location to the Committee that will be watered when the sprinkler system runs and does not interfere with the flight of golf balls.

**Laurel March, Landscaping Committee**



## ECC might be 100 years old... but now we have our own Facebook page!

It’s new and it’s exciting: ECC is now on Facebook! Be sure to “like” the page, so you don’t miss anything! [Facebook.com/Eshquaguma.Country.Club](https://www.facebook.com/Eshquaguma.Country.Club). We’d like it to be a very active page, so please, send in anything you can think of: pictures, trivia, news, pretty much anything, and we’ll post it! If you have anything you’d like to share on Facebook for a Throwback Thursday or a Flashback Friday or a Trivia Tuesday (or any old day!) send them to [facebook.eshquagumacc@gmail.com](mailto:facebook.eshquagumacc@gmail.com)!

We also have another new way to share pictures: A Shutterfly site called ECC Centennial Committee. <https://ecccentennialcommittee.shutterfly.com> On the site, you can upload your own ECC photos, as well as view other members’ photos and even order prints. If you’ve got old pictures that you’d like to share with the Centennial Committee – to be used on Facebook, or in the Echo, or other publications – send a quick e-mail to Kim Adams-Plehal at [whitepinelane@mac.com](mailto:whitepinelane@mac.com) and ask to be added to the site.

**LADIES OPENING**

# Cocktail Party & Fashion Show





**Thursday May 21**  
**Starting at 5:30 p.m.**

- Fun & prizes
- Pro Shop deals
- Appetizers provided
- Guests welcome

*Cocktails available for purchase*

**PLEASE RSVP TO THE CLUBHOUSE: 865-4263**

# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Fish Fry Every Friday					1	2 ECC Kentucky Derby Day Golf at 10 Club open at 2:00
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bar Open – Pizza available from Noon to 6 p.m.						
10 Mother's Day Brunch	11	12 ERA Opener	13 Ladies' Day and Men's Night Openers	14	 ERA 15	16
17 Sunday Brunch	18	19 ERA	20 Ladies' Day Men's Night	21 Bridge Luncheon Ladies' Only Cocktail Party 5:30 p.m.	 ERA 22	23 5K Walk/Run/ Bike 8:30 a.m. Check in/9:00 start
Blessing of the Fleet - 2 p.m. Sunday Brunch	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> 25 Restaurant Open	26 ERA Buddy Golf Matches	27 Ladies' Day Men's Night	28	 ERA 29	30
Sun. Brunch Spring Spruce Up - Starts at noon						

## Bill Kuchta Memorial

Bill Kuchta was born on April 16, 1923 in Duluth. He attended Central High School and Duluth Community College before serving in the Pacific Theater in the Army Corp of Engineers during WWII. Following the war, he finished his Civil Engineering Degree at Michigan Technical University and then moved to the Iron Range to work as a mining engineer.

In the early 1960's, he married Shirley Hintzen and they settled in Aurora where he worked at Eric Mining. After starting their family with Cathy, Doug, and Trish, they moved to Tasmania, Australia to design and build the Savage River Mine. After four years, the family returned Minnesota and bought a cabin lot on Lake Eshquaguma and decided to make this their permanent home.

Bill was a founder of Giant's Ridge in the 1950's and skiing was a favorite

activity of the Kuchta family. Bill's highlights were helicopter skiing in Canada and teaching his grandkids how to ski. Even in his 80's, he achieved 100 days of skiing in one year!

Shirley and Bill were members of Eshquaguma Country Club for 44 years. They enjoyed golfing with their friends and teaching the kids how to play. Bill won the Club Championship in 1984 and even won the men's long drive in the Family Scramble in 2013 at age 90. Shirley and Bill both played long into their twilight years.

Bill was a great husband, father, grandfather to eight, great-grandfather to two, and friend to many. He always had a good, dry sense of humor and made many friends in whatever he was doing. He looked forward to ERA, happy hours, ski days, holidays and teaching everyone skiing and golfing techniques. He will be missed.

## Founding Father's Day Brunch

We are inviting descendants of the Club founders to be present at the June 14th brunch. We will have name tags, pictures of early days at the club with descendants and their families. We hope to highlight their ancestors' contributions to what ECC is today. More fun is planned!

### LATE NEWS FROM '14!

#### Windsong Club's Championship won by ECC's Phil Ebner!

Eshquaguma member Phil Ebner won the Men's Golf Tournament at Windsong Farms Country Club, in Orono.

#### ECC Fall Mixer Winners Announced

In the Fall Golf Mixer, Loretta Russ and Larry Lehtinen tied for first place with both receiving 12 Bingo Bango Bongo points. Cathy Hiti finished in 3rd with 10 points. The Mixer continued in the Clubhouse with 14 enjoying a dinner party.

## 2015 Men's Club Preview

Who are you? That'll again be the focus of this year's ECC Men's Club. Are you a member that plays only on the weekend? Or perhaps just as the sun is setting or ahead of the morning greens-mower? Maybe only on Wednesday afternoons or gasp....you don't play at all?! The Men's Club was established six years ago to grow the golfing community at ECC and as well as offering new members an outlet to play in various events and meet existing members. We can all sit upstairs after a round and talk about what the club used to be and how there were score sheets lined down the windows from start to finish but in today's technology driven, fast-paced world, people say they are just too busy to play golf. Huh?! What's changed? Guys still have wives, jobs, kids and grandkids, cabins, and honey do's...blah blah blah the list goes on. Golf is a lifetime game and a game everyone can enjoy no matter the event, skill level or participants involved. Let's set the excuses aside and put a tee in the ground. Let's play!

### NEW IN 2015 – TIME FOR 9 MEN'S LEAGUE

Let's try something different this year – I'm asking every male at ECC with a set...of golf clubs to dedicate 10 hours this summer for a 9-hole golf league. This is a two-man team league and will be a total of six matches set on your own schedule. Play from the tees you are most comfortable. Handicaps will be set and used to score the matches. If you're interested, e-mail Matt Uhan at: [matt@gilbertbank.com](mailto:matt@gilbertbank.com) with your interest and your desired partner. Find your regular golf partner, find somebody you may not normally see on the golf course, find a new member - just find somebody and PLAY GOLF!

### Golf Events

Due to the last few late springs, support for the Spring Thaw has dwindled. As a result, there will be no formal golf event paired with the Kentucky Derby in 2015. Instead, just show up at 10 am on Saturday, May 2nd for some golf action. Anybody who shows can put together their own game, enjoy a round of golf, go home, clean up and then return for the derby action with your best hat and hors d'oeuvres.

The featured event of the ECC men's club, the Founders Cup, will be played Sunday, July 5th. This event was originally designed to coincide with the Club's annual opening party however since that date is never concrete, the men's club board decided to move the event to the Sunday following the 4th of July. This should allow members traveling from out of town a better opportunity to play so we can continue to provide a good field

for the stroke play event complementing the club championship match play event in August. The Founders Cup is competed under the Callaway handicap system; providing all participants a chance to win in Championship and Presidential flights. You do not need an established GHIN/USGA handicap to enter.

The Men's Club will again host a structured Men's Guest Day on Wednesday, July 29 and all men playing that day will be required to participate and bring a guest. 2014 was poised to be a record year until a summer storm closed the course. Despite being postponed, the event drew 30 participants and generated over \$1,000 for the Pro Shop and an immeasurable amount to the bar and restaurant. Guests enjoyed 18 holes of golf, on-course prizes, a steak dinner, drink tickets and a voucher good for 18-holes to be used at a later date all for \$50 entry fee.

The final scheduled event of the '15 ECC men's club season will be the annual match play championship in August. Final details are still being considered regarding qualifying criteria and number of days necessary to crown a champion.

### Social Events

Most of the golfing community can attest that the best shots hit during the day are on the 19th hole. In 2015, the Men's Club is going to schedule a few social type events in an effort to connect active golfers with non-golfing members. Be on the lookout for e-mail blasts or Echo announcements advertising these events.

### Dues and Handicaps

During 2015, there will be significant emphasis on members establishing and maintaining a current handicap index. Handicaps enable golfers of all skill levels to compete on an equitable basis. Golfers must post all scores and regular posting will be monitored by the Pro Shop. Not posting scores regularly or accurately could preclude members from participation in certain men's club events.

The 2015 ECC men's club dues are \$35 and will be billed accordingly. Membership into the men's club is optional however if you play in a sponsored event, you will be required to pay 2015 dues.

Get involved with the ECC men's club now and help make 2015 a successful season that will get more golfers on the course and establish a better camaraderie among our golfing brethren. For more information on the ECC men's Club or if you have a suggestion, please e-mail the men's club at [ECCMensClub@hotmail.com](mailto:ECCMensClub@hotmail.com)

## News and Notes

• **Unclaimed Clubs...on their way out the door!** Over the years many golf clubs have been collecting dust in the Pro Shop. Please take one last look because by the end of June any remaining, unclaimed golf equipment will be disposed of. First, we'll assemble a couple of sets for you or your guests to borrow. Or, we may find clubs suitable to shortening, regripping and used by kids . . . or landfill here we come. Thanks for taking one last look!

• **Boat & Trailer Storage area clean up** Please remove unused equipment from this storage area. It's a privilege to have a place to store things when not in use, at the same time it has become a dumping ground for things never used. Let's make it less of a junk yard by getting your things removed and disposed of. Thanks in advance for making this storage area look better and likely giving us a few more spots for legitimate storage!