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The Horizon

What's New at Shangri-La

Volume 13: Issue 7

July 2023

June Featured a Fantastic Grand Opening and Dedication of The Battlefield Amidst Multiple Honors and Awards for Shangri-La

*By Barry Willingham, President & CEO
Shangri-La Golf Club, Resort & Marina*



Are you ready to Play the Threes???

We wrapped up the month of June by hosting a fantastic Grand Opening & Dedication of The Battlefield, the most anticipated Par 3 golf courses in the country. We were joined by many dignitaries including Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell and Representative Josh West, a military veteran and highly decorated war hero in his own right, both of whom assisted with our formal dedication. The formal Presentation of Colors by the American Legion Post 178 Ritual Team and the stirring rendition of our National Anthem by Shangri-La member and former Broadway performer Ron Young set a touching and solemn tone for an incredible ceremony. I was absolutely overwhelmed with the number of members, media representatives, sports writers, and dedicated golf-

ers who joined us for our very special day at The Battlefield.

Built and dedicated in honor of World War II heroes from Oklahoma, each hole on the course is named in honor of an Oklahoma member of "The Greatest Generation" who served our country during WWII. With multiple tee boxes, plenty of water features and bunkers, a warm-up range, and a 10,000 square-foot practice putting green, our newest offering has already caught the attention of writers, raters, and editors from throughout the United States.

Golf Week/USA Today has named Shangri-La's multiple golf courses as one of the Top 5 "Golf Courses You Can Play in Oklahoma." *Golf Oklahoma Magazine* went even further, naming

us the "Number One Golf Course You Can Play in Oklahoma." Feature stories on Shangri-La will be published this month in the summer issues of *Golf Oklahoma*, *Destination Golfer*, and *Midwest Golfing* magazines, in addition to fantastic coverage of our Grand Opening festivities at The Battlefield by a wide variety of local, state, regional, and national media outlets.

Fantastic Honors for The Anchor, Too

Our honors last month were not just limited to golf. The Anchor Activity Park was honored with Oklahoma's highest honor in the tourism industry at awards ceremonies at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City on June 13. The

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Oklahoma Travel Industry association awarded the coveted "RedBud Award" to The Anchor activity park as the "Best New Attraction in Oklahoma."

Needless to say, it is an incredible honor to be recognized by our peers as such an integral part of Oklahoma's third largest industry. Shangri-La had been previous recipients of RedBud Awards. In 2018 our resort hotel was honored as "Best Lodging in Oklahoma" and, just last year, our entire resort was awarded the top prize as "Best Attraction in Oklahoma."

Shangri-La: An "American Dream"

Hosts Laurie Jenkins and Tiffany Marti also spent a full day at Shangri-La last month along with their video crew, preparing a feature story for an upcoming segment of "The American Dream" television series.

An air date has not yet been scheduled, but we are all excited for our resort to be included among the "American Dream" destinations across the United States. As soon as that feature story is scheduled, we'll be sure to share it with you. We can't wait!

June was Busy – But July is Even Busier!

With Youth Tennis and Pickleball Camps, Junior Players Academy, Glow Golf fun, a couples mixer and a variety of drills, mixers, and parties at The Anchor and Racquet Club, coupled with our festivities at The Battlefield and a whole host of corporate and association groups, weddings, and reunions, it seemed like June was the busiest month possible; but the calendar has even more events upcoming for the month of July.

Thank you to everyone for your generous support of the Monkey Island Fireworks and family fun activities on the biggest summer holiday weekend of the year; but those festivities only represent the kick-off to even more summer fun activities at Shangri-La!

For the youngsters, an "Anchor Summer Camp" is upcoming July 10-13. The fun four-day camp will be filled with games, exercise, and friendship. The \$200 per child fee includes all activities including lunch. Contact Shaun Tune at shaun.tune@shangrilaok.com. Our youth camp is open to the public.

We had seventy young golfers participate in our Junior Players Academy last month, but for the more serious young golfers, our Junior Skills Camp is scheduled for July 17-19 (\$399 per player). The focus of the Skills Camp is to identify each player's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to grow their game. If your player shows a desire to play golf at a higher level, this camp is for them. This camp is for experienced golfers only. The camp will be followed immediately by our Junior Club Championship Tournament Thursday, July 20.

Sign your kids up by calling the Golf

Shop at 918-257-7706 or email Rob Yanovitch directly at rob.yanovitch@shangrilaok.com.

There is plenty of opportunity for adult competition on the course this month, as well. Contact the Golf Shop to get signed up for our 2023 Club Championship Tournament which will be held Saturday & Sunday, July 22-23.

Shangri-La is also honored to host lots of golf groups and some additional major events this month. The Monkey Island 4-Ball Tournament is scheduled for July 13-15. That same weekend, we will host the Annual Grand Lake Legislative Getaway Weekend July 14-15 with dozens of Oklahoma lawmakers and dignitaries joining us at Shangri-La with their annual golf tournament and a chance to test their skills on The Battlefield Saturday morning, July 15.

Even More Outdoor Fun!

The month of July means warm weather and opportunities for lots of outdoor fun. In addition to lots of golf and all the outdoor tennis, pickleball, basketball, WIFFLE® Ball, cornhole, and sand volleyball activities at The Anchor, our Thursday night Shrimp Boil & Karaoke fun on Doc's patio is underway for another summer.

Summer is Here! Eddy's, The Canteen, and the Pool Bar Are Open – Doc's, The Summit, and The Galley Have Expanded Hours

If you haven't tried the food at The Canteen at The Battlefield, you're missing out on some fabulous food choices on Shangri-La's newest menu! Breakfast and lunch menus are available – and the patio at The Battlefield Clubhouse is a beautiful place to relax. The Pool Bar is also now open daily – 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 11:00 a.m.-Midnight Friday & Saturday. Eddy's Lakeside Bar is also open for the season – normal hours are Fridays 4:00-midnight, Saturdays 11:00 a.m.-midnight, and Sundays 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. but, for the 4th of July holiday weekend, Eddy's will be open late Sunday & Monday, as well, and from 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 4th of July. There's great entertainment at Eddy's, too. Saturday, July 1 we'll have Usual Suspects followed by Downbeat Sunday night and The Jessica Horn Band Monday night. After the holiday, we'll have bands at Eddy's every Saturday night. Additional July entertainers include *Torn*, *Whiskey Poet Society*, *Brett N' Terry* and *The Jon Moody Band*.

Doc's Bar & Grill has extended hours of operation for the summer – open until 10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and until midnight Fridays & Saturdays with a special late-night menu available for snacking from

10:00 p.m. until midnight. In addition to the Thursday night karaoke fun, Doc's continues to offer live entertainment every Friday night. July entertainers at Doc's include *Kevin Price*, *Scott Musick*, *Ryan Graham*, and *Mark Gibson*.

The Summit Restaurant has a great new Summer Menu and expanded hours of operation, as well. The Summit is open for lunch seven days a week (limited menu on Tuesdays & Wednesdays) and dinner service Thursday-Sunday. The talented *Terry Jordan* entertains at The Summit every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night from 6:00-9:00.

The Galley at The Anchor also now offers food service seven days a week – 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays. The Sports Bar at The Anchor provides service until 10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and until midnight Fridays & Saturdays.

Boating Season

The arrival of July means another busy boating season on Grand Lake and our marina crew is anxious to see everyone. The marina and ship store are open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sail Grand boats and personal watercraft rentals are also available at the marina, along with yacht charters and parasailing adventures. Mitch Whitehead has added to the charter fleet. In addition to the 64-foot Bluewater Yacht (30 passengers), we now also offer a 39-foot Princess Cruiser (8 passengers) and a 38-foot Chris Craft Launch (10 passengers). Ask about the 10 percent discount available to Shangri-La members.

Sip & Sail Sunset Cruise

Our next Sip & Sail Sunset Cruise aboard the 64-foot Bluewater Yacht is scheduled for Friday, July 21. These fun cruises give you the opportunity to enjoy the luxury of a yacht cruise without the cost of a charter. Hors d'oeuvres are included in the \$90 per person charge, and a cash bar is available on board. Space is limited. To sign up, contact Katelin Jumper at 918-257-7720 or email Kate.lin.jumper@shangrilaok.com.

No Private Golf Carts on the Golf Course

I need your help with an increasingly critical issue. Privately owned golf carts are not allowed on any of the golf courses at any time unless they have a "Trail Pass" sticker affixed to the front windshield. The current Trail Pass sticker is BLUE. If you have a sticker and it is any other color than BLUE, it is not valid. There are no exceptions to this rule. Liability insurance cost is skyrocketing, and we must mitigate the risk every way we can.

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Culinary Conversation

By Jonathan Moosmiller

Executive Director of Food & Beverage



The popular Pool Bar is open to members and registered hotel guests 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 11:00 a.m.-midnight Friday & Saturday.

It's "wild and crazy" season for the Food & Beverage team at Shangri-La. With lots of groups, lots of families, lots of members, and lots of guests, all ten of our dining and drinking establishments at Shangri-La are in full swing. Add the Grand Opening of The Battlefield, 4th of July holiday fun with Hooray Grill cookout, concessions & beverages – and it seems like we're cooking up something all the time!

For the holiday weekend, we have extended hours of operation at Eddy's and The Summit to accommodate the unusual Tuesday holiday. In addition to our regular Thursday-Sunday dinner service at The Summit, we will also offer dinner service Monday & Tuesday evenings, July 3-4. Eddy's will also have extended operating hours for the holiday weekend – opening at 4:00 Friday and 11:00 a.m. Saturday-Tuesday, Eddy's will be open until midnight Friday-Monday and until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4.

Try some of our fun beverages at Eddy's. In addition to frozen margaritas, pina coladas, and our Summer Hummer, we also have seven new specialty cocktails for you to try. Eddy's also offers nine different beers, eight seltzers and, of course, regular bar favorites.

Eddy's continues to be a Grand Lake favorite for great musical entertainment. Over the Independence Day holiday weekend, we will feature music from Usual Suspects Saturday night, Downbeat Sunday, and The Jessica Horn Band Monday. Additional July Saturday night entertainers at Eddy's are *Torn*, *Whiskey Poet Society*, *Brett N' Terri*, and *The Jon Moody Band*.

For members and registered hotel guests, the Pool Bar is also now open with food & beverage service Sunday-Thursday from 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. and Friday & Saturdays from 11:00-Midnight, weather permitting. Check out the popular frozen drink options to cool you down at the pool (available leaded or unleaded!).

Doc's Bar & Grill is open until midnight Friday & Saturday nights, with a special "late-night menu" available from 10:00 p.m.-Midnight. We also offer an ala cart breakfast from 7:00-11:00 a.m. Monday-Thursday, and a breakfast buffet from 7:00-11:00 a.m. Fridays & Saturdays. Sundays are special at Doc's with a featured Sunday Brunch Buffet available from 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We will also be introducing new menu selections at Doc's beginning the middle of the month. There is also live entertainment every Friday night at Doc's. July entertainers include *Kevin Price*, *Scott Musick*, *Ryan Graham*, and *Mark Gibson*.

It's "Shrimp Boil" season at Doc's, as well. Our Thursday night indoor karaoke fun has moved outside – and we feature a "Shrimp Boil & Karaoke" each Thursday night on Doc's Patio with the fun beginning at 6:00. We have a variety of menu

options ranging from a half-pound of Andouille Sausage with Corn & Potatoes for \$12 to a full pound of Cajun Boiled Shrimp with Potatoes & Corn for \$25...and several choices in between. It's the biggest Thursday night party on Grand Lake every week throughout the summer!

At The Galley at The Anchor Activity Park, we now offer food service seven days a week – Sunday-Thursday from 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and Fridays & Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Onward and Upward

It is exciting to have all our seasonal venues open and summer hours of operation in place to accommodate the fun days ahead. Our banquet crew is also busy with lots of groups, meetings, and conventions, and they continue to hit it out of the park day in and day out. Next up? We now offer a great menu (including breakfast) at The Canteen at The Battlefield. There is no more spectacular atmosphere on Grand Lake than enjoying a little food & beverage on the patio at The Battlefield overlooking America's most spectacular Par-3 golf course. We are also planning future expansion of the menu at The Galley at The Anchor. Watch for that in the not-too-distant future.

We know you have a variety of choices for dining, drinking, and entertainment – and we are always grateful when you choose to spend your time with us at our variety of Shangri-La venues. Ten of them! Please join us anytime you can. We're always cooking up something!



Dock Talk

by Mitch Whitehead, Shangri-La Marina Manager



Every weekend is like a holiday weekend at Shangri-La Marina!

It seems like the time between Memorial Day and 4th of July Weekend is getting shorter every year! In fact, every weekend since before Memorial Day has been so busy at Shangri-La Marina that every weekend is like a holiday weekend! That's how it's supposed to be, of course. We want ALL of your time spent with us is like another holiday for you and your family! The marina is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. offering gasoline, diesel, pump-out facilities and a great selection of boating supplies, snacks, beverages, ice, apparel and souvenirs in the Ship Store.

EDDY'S IS THE SPOT TO BE THIS SUMMER!

Eddy's Lakeside Bar is one of Grand Lake's favorite on-the-water al fresco dining & drinking destinations. Eddy's will be open with expanded holiday hours of operation for the 4th of July weekend – open Friday 4:00-midnight, Saturday-Monday 11:00 a.m.-midnight, and Tuesday, July 4 from 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. We have three nights of fabulous live entertainment at Eddy's for the holiday – *Usual Suspects* Saturday night, *Downbeat* Sunday, and *The Jessica Horn Band* Monday night.

Normal weekly hours of operation for Eddy's (on non-holiday weekends) are 4:00-midnight Fridays, 11:00 a.m.-Midnight Saturdays, and 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. The kitchen will close at 11:00 p.m.

In addition to a fabulous lakeside atmosphere and great food & beverage options, Eddy's is well known for providing outstanding live entertainment on Saturday nights. Additional entertainers coming up in July include *Torn*, *Whiskey Poet Society*, *Brett N' Terri*, and *The Jon Moody Band*.

PARASAILING, BOAT RENTALS AND YACHT CHARTERS ARE AVAILABLE

Sail Grand offers an extensive rental fleet. We offer pontoons, tri-toons, Chaparral bowriders, and a 22-foot Lowe center console bay boat equipped with a trolling motor. Personal Watercraft and Oklahoma's only parasailing adventures are also available.

Yacht charters are also available from Sail Grand – and there are three different options from which to choose. Our 64-foot Bluewater Yacht has a passenger capacity of thirty. We also offer a 39-foot Princess cruiser which accommodates eight passengers, and a 38-foot Chris Craft which accommodates parties of up to ten people.

Shangri-La members receive a 10% discount on all rentals and yacht

charters, with the exception of Saturdays and holiday weekends. To reserve dates for rentals or charters, call 918-257-6000 or make your reservations online at www.sailgrand.com.

MONTHLY SIP & SAIL SUNSET CRUISES START THIS MONTH

If your group isn't big enough to charter a yacht, Shangri-La offers monthly Sip & Sail Sunset Cruises each month throughout the summer season. The Sunset Cruises include a great yachting cruise on the lake along with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Our next Sunset Cruise is scheduled for Friday, July 21 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The cost is \$90 per person. These popular cruises typically fill quickly, so make your reservations by contacting Katelin Jumper via email at KateLin.jumper@shangrilaok.com or call her directly at 918-257-7720.

If you are planning ahead for the summer months, additional Sunset Cruise dates for the season are August 11, and September 8. The September cruise will be from 6:00-8:00.

BOAT SALES AT SHANGRI-LA MARINA

With things finally back to normal in the boat sales industry, our selection of Chaparral, Bennington, Robalo, and MasterCraft boats is excellent. Nichols Marine at Shangri-La offers both new and used boats for sale.

Many of the new boats are located at the Nichols showroom adjacent to the causeway onto Monkey Island, but we also have a variety of new and used boats in the sales dock at the marina. Check with Kenny Smith or Mike Williams in the boat sales office adjacent to the Ship Store. The full inventory of new and used boats is online at www.nicholsmarine.com.

YEAR-ROUND BOATING ACCESS TO FOOD AND FUN AT SHANGRI-LA!

Courtesy slips at Shangri-La Marina make Doc's Bar & Grill the only accessible-by-water restaurant that is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days a week year-round! In addition to our weekly Thursday Night Shrimp Boil and karaoke fun with Jason Morgan, Doc's also features weekly Friday night live entertainment year-round. July entertainers at Doc's are Kevin Price, Scott Musick, Ryan Graham, and Mark Gibson.

The Anchor is also within walking distance of our courtesy docks with lots of indoor and outdoor fun seven days a week, so plan to come join the fun – by boat! As always, our marina team is here to serve you. Contact us at 918-257-4898 or email marina@shangrilaok.com.



Staff Spotlight: Cassandra Graham

by Communications Director Mike Williams



Shangri-La Reservations Manager Cassandra Graham

It probably never occurs to hotel guests, but there's a lot of coordination and behind-the-scenes effort that goes into assuring a smooth and easy check-in to a room that meets your expectations, and amenities that match your lifestyle. At Shangri-La Resort, much of that responsibility falls on the shoulders of Reservations Manager Cassandra Graham.

A native of nearby Miami, Oklahoma, Cassandra never thought about a career in the hospitality industry. In fact, after graduation from high school, she enrolled in Northeastern Oklahoma A&M University to prepare for a career in education. In order to help cover expenses, she took a job as Front Desk Supervisor at the hotel at Buffalo Run Casino in Miami.

"I started at Buffalo Run two weeks after I turned 18," she recalls. "I took the job while I was going to college because it was an evening shift and I thought I could do that while I was going to school during the day. But, I loved my job so much, I've been in the hotel business ever since."

That was in 2011, and she remained at Buffalo Run for five years before taking a similar spot at the hotel front desk at nearby Indigo Sky Casino. In 2020, she joined the Shangri-La team as Reservations Manager.

"That was a big year for me," she says. "I got married in 2020 just a week before the Coronavirus pandemic hit and shut everything down. We even had to cancel our honeymoon plans. But when I arrived at Shangri-La later that year, I was greeted by overwhelming demand. People were trying to escape the cities, and it seemed like most of them chose Grand Lake and Shangri-La as the place to hide from the pandemic."

The demand has never let up since then. Shangri-La operates at or near capacity for the vast majority of the year.

"I work closely with (Director of Sales) Dana Able and (Hotel Director) Brett Wisdom, trying to piece together the puzzle of making reservations flow for both groups and transient guests. I do everything I can to meet or exceed the ex-

pectations of our guests," she says.

Putting together that puzzle also includes working with incoming guests and front desk personnel to make certain hotel guests are familiar with the wide variety of entertainment options at Shangri-La.

"We get a lot of questions about activities," she says. "Of course, our incredible pool is extremely popular in the summer months, but it takes a while to explain all of the other activities. We added The Anchor two years ago. Now The Battlefield, complete with another clubhouse and another dining venue, and a lot of live entertainment at three different venues, plus boat & personal watercraft rental, yacht charters, parasailing, and – of course – lots of golf options. It takes a couple of minutes to explain to everybody what all there is to do here!"

Cassandra works four ten-hour days. You would think that would give her some extra time to spend long weekends with her family which includes two daughters (age 7 and 2) and a 4-month-old son; but with a split schedule that gives her Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday as days off, it's a little tricky to match with the schedule of her busy husband Gary who is a detective for the Ottawa County Sheriff's office.

"We have Sunday," Cassandra laughs. "We spend most of our free time with the kids. We go to zoos, splashpads, parks; and we have season passes to Silver Dollar City, so we make that trip whenever we can."

Cassandra feels blessed with family both at home and at work. Her colleagues at work include three people she worked with previously at Buffalo Run.

"The atmosphere here is a lot more fun and a lot more family-oriented than a casino hotel," she adds. I think we have an awesome team. We communicate well and work together great. When I leave my family at home, it's seeing another family. It's a great place to be, whether you're a member, a guest, or a member of the staff. We're all like a family at Shangri-La."



Shangri-La President & CEO at The Battlefield with co-hosts Laurie Jenkins and Tiffany Marti during filming for an upcoming story featuring Shangri-La Resort on the "American Dream" television program.

SLWGA News

Submitted by Cheryl Brecheisen

Word of the day...Eclectic: adjective derived from Greek origin meaning "chosen or picked out". The Eclectic Tournament which was held May 22 and 30 this year is understandably one of SLWGA's favorite annual events. Golfers played and posted their scores after the first day and then after the second play day on the same courses they chose the better score of each of the holes of the two rounds of golf. What a golfer's dream, right?!

Co-chairs Cindy Johnson and Kim Quillin organized this unique event around the theme, "Pars, Polka Dots & Pearls". Twenty-seven members enjoyed two days of great weather, a festive luncheon, and the awards ceremony. The winners were:

9-Hole Group:

1st Low Gross: Peggy Howard-Burgess; 2nd Low Gross: Mary Reneau

1st Low Net: Gaylyn Haynes; 2nd Low Net: Debbie Hess

Most Improved: Susan Jones

18-Hole Group:

1st Low Gross: Robin Purdie-Smith; 2nd Low Gross: Lenda Smith

1st Low Net: Vicki Graper; 2nd Low Net: Cheryl Brecheisen

Most Improved: Cindy Johnson

One of the biggest events and "hottest tickets" of the area women's golf invitational circuit is the annual Shangri-LA TEE DA tournament. The popularity of the Shangri-La courses, resort and its many amenities drew 100 golfers to the Island on June 14 & 15. Long-time chairpersons

Ann Turner and Liz Paden did a masterful job with the various components of the LA TEE DA. Sixteen SLWGA members competed in the tournament and their stellar play earned many of them a place on the awards list. The SLWGA winners were:

Gross Division:

1st Flight/2nd place: Robin Purdie-Smith and guest Patty Coatney

2nd Flight/2nd place: Liz Paden and guest Judy Leighton

3rd Flight/2nd place: Candy Couch and guest Cindy Orr

Net Division:

1st Flight/1st place: Carol Cable and guest Claudia Siemens

2nd Flight/3rd place: Vicki Graper and guest Kathleen O'Toole

Congratulations to these SLWGA members who prospered on the home course and all members who were top-notch hosts to the visitors from out of town. The 2024 event is already on the calendar for the second week of June. As Vice President Barbara Patrick suggested, "If any of our SLWGA members want to play in the LA TEE DA next year they need to get their registrations in early as this tournament fills up fast!"

In addition to the Eclectic, LA TEE DA and regular Monday play days, the SLWGA Interclub Team also competed in two events in June. The eight-person teams played at Owasso Golf Club and the Muskogee Country Club. The golfers reported difficult course conditions at these away venues. On a positive note, however, one player reported, "It was a great reminder of how blessed we are to play the Shangri-La courses and call it home!"

SAVE THE DATE:

July 10: WOGA Fundraising Event at Golf Club of OK, Broken Arrow

July 17: Interclub at Forest Ridge Golf Club, Broken Arrow

July 22-23: Shangri-La Club Championship

July 31: Tulsa District at Forest Ridge Golf Club, Broken Arrow

July 31-August 1: 85th Annual Tri-State Golf Championship at Horton Smith, Springfield, MO

"A bad attitude is worse than a bad golf swing." — Payne Stewart

Liz Paden and her guest Judy Leighton took 2nd low gross honors in the Second Flight at the La Tee Da competition.



Congratulations to guest Claudia Siemens and her host Carol Cable – 1st Low Net finishers in the First Flight of the Shangri-La Tee Da Tournament.



In the 2023 SLWGA Eclectic Tournament, Robin Purdie-Smith took top honors for Low Gross Score. Lenda Smith was 2nd low gross.



Member Profile: Boyd & Cheryl Ayer

By Mike Williams



Boyd & Cheryl Ayer: More time on Grand Lake. Less time in Wichita!

Boyd and Cheryl Ayer were first introduced to Grand Lake years ago, like so many others, by staying at the original Shangri-La Resort. Cheryl had visited Grand Lake with her family in younger years, but membership in a companion club drew the couple to Monkey Island for good.

"We were members of Club Corp, which owned Shangri-La at the time," Boyd recalls, "so we were able to come here and stay & play."

Cheryl grew up on a farm outside Moundridge, Kansas, a small community of about 1,700 forty-five miles north of Wichita. Boyd's trip to northeast Oklahoma's playground took a little longer – and a more circuitous route.

A native of Tallahassee, Florida, Boyd heeded the age old advice to "head west, young man" to take advantage of college athletic opportunities. A star track athlete, he was Florida's State Champion shot putter "back when you didn't have to throw it very far," but was more focused on football as a young man.

"Florida doesn't have junior college football," he explains, "so I decided I was either headed to Nebraska or Dodge City, Kansas to play football. I got on a train and traveled 36 hours to Kansas City, and I still didn't really know where I was going, so I flipped a coin, and ended up in Dodge City."

"I'll never forget," he laughs, "when I got off the train, there was a tumbleweed blowing across the road, and it scared me. I'd never seen one. I thought it was alive! I almost got right back on the train, but the coach persuaded me to stay. A little later, I actually picked up a tumbleweed and mailed it to my brother in Florida because I knew he had no idea what I was talking about."

After stints at Dodge City Junior College and Saint Mary of the Plains, Boyd moved to Springfield, Missouri and finished his degree in recreation at Southwest Missouri State. After a brief tour in the Air Force, he returned to Dodge City working nights as a police officer while he went back to school to get his teaching degree. That led to a career teaching and coaching football.

"My last job in education was as assistant principal," he recalls. "One day I was talking to a guy from Jostens (the company who probably made your class rings, produced your yearbook, sold you caps and gowns at graduation and, if you were lucky enough, probably also made your championship rings – even Super Bowl rings). I said, 'that looks like a fun job.' He said, 'it actually is fun at times,' and gave me the name of a guy to call."

Thirty-eight years later, I retired from Jostens," he laughs.

Cheryl's career path was much more direct. After graduating from Emporia State University with a Fine Arts degree, she immediately took the job she made her career.

"I got a job in the copier industry a week after I got out of college," she said. "I sold office equipment and supplies out of Wichita - and I did that for 30 years. I didn't really retire, because I'm too young for that," she laughs, pointedly giggling Boyd, "but I quit when Boyd retired so we could spend more time at the lake."

They were lured to purchase lake property by their longtime friends in the so-called "Wichita Mafia," a group of Monkey Islanders who have made their mark on Grand Lake. The Ayer's first condo was at Country Estates, but they have since moved to a spot that better suits their ever-expanding time at Grand Lake.

"I used to come up here with my family and we would go by Island Park and we would ooo and aaaahh when we went past the development saying, 'Wow, look at that – can you imagine how lucky the people are who live there?' Now, we are those people," Cheryl says.

"We love to travel. We've been to central Europe (Prague, Vienna) and we love the ocean. We went to the British Virgin Islands last year and we stayed on a catamaran for five days with three other couples. Our favorite place, though, is Grand Lake," she says assuredly.

Boyd and Cheryl still have their home in Wichita, nestled alongside the golf course at Willowbend Golf Club; but their time is increasingly spent at Grand Lake.

"We spend as much time here in the summer as we can," Boyd says. "We're at the lake for a couple of weeks and back to Wichita for a couple of days."

It takes time to enjoy all their Grand Lake favorites – The Shebang, the Den of Uniquity, Monkey Island Pub, the 4th of July fireworks on Monkey Island. Boyd also loves golf, hosting his annual "Pillsbury Doughboy" tournament for years at Shangri-La, where he also carded his first hole-in-one. Cheryl's passion lies elsewhere.

"I like shopping. Anyone who knows me will tell you how much I love to shop. I keep the economy going," she laughs.

When Eddy Gibbs purchased Shangri-La in 2011, the couple joined the club immediately.

"There's nowhere better to take guests than Shangri-La and the Summit Restaurant," Cheryl chimes in. "We've never had a bad meal, never had bad service. It's unbelievable, actually," Cheryl says. "Now, there are a lot more options at Shangri-La – something new almost every year."

"The entire Monkey Island community is great," Boyd adds. "We feel more like full-timers than part-timers. So many people who ARE full-timers have become friends of ours. We consider this to be home."

"We're couldn't be happier with what Mr. Gibbs has done and the impact it has had on Monkey Island and Grand Lake. Everyone at Shangri-La treats us like kings! It's a world class operation with world class people – and we're so happy to be part of it."

Anchor Activity

by Shaun Tune, Director of Anchor Operations



The Oklahoma Travel Industry honored The Anchor at Shangri-La with the coveted RedBud Award as "The Best New Attraction in Oklahoma," the industry's highest honor. "Discover Oklahoma" Executive Producer Jenifer Reynolds (left) and Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department Chief of Staff Taylor Nelson (right) presented the RedBud Award to Shangri-La representatives Mike Williams, Director of Communications, Linda Wall, Director of Catering, and Shaun Tune, Director of Anchor Operations at special ceremonies held June 13.

If you will allow me a moment of indulgence, I want to let you know how proud I am of our awesome facility and our incredible team at The Anchor Activity Park. Last month, the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association awarded its highest honor to The Anchor. It received the coveted RedBud Award as the "Outstanding New Attraction in Oklahoma." I couldn't be more proud of this awesome award and all the work that has gone into making The Anchor a deserving recipient! We accepted the award at ceremonies held at the OTIA Annual Awards Banquet June 13 at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Busy Season is Here!

With school out and vacations underway, things are extremely busy at The Anchor. We have hosted several private events and team building & bonding sessions – and kids have filled the facility while parents and grandparents filled the sports bar.

We hosted a Youth Tennis Camp and a Youth Pickleball Camp in June, in addition to a wide array of tennis & pickleball drills, mixers, and lessons, as well as lots of individual play from members and hotel guests.

July is even busier! In addition to all the fun we have every day, we have a special event for kids this month. We have our four-day Anchor Kids' Camp July 10-13. This camp will be held from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (11:30 on Thursday). The \$200 camp fee includes lots of fun activities and exercises, as well as lunch. To enroll in the Anchor Kids' Camp, sign up at the Pro Shop at The Anchor or email me at shaun.tune@shangrilaok.com.

Pickleball Mixers and Drills - and Tennis Fun at The Racquet Club

There is a wide variety of July activity at The Anchor Racquet Club every week. Pickleball drills this month are held Monday at 6:45 p.m., Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m., Fridays at 8:00 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. Pickleball 101 for ages 13+ is held each Tuesday from 8:00-9:30 p.m.

There are plenty of pickleball mixers, too, including a Ladies' Competitive Pickleball Mixer each Tuesday evening from 8:00-9:30 p.m. Pickleball Mixers are also Mondays at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Competitive Mixer), Fridays at 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Tennis players are on the schedule, too, with open adult tennis drills Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. We're not forgetting about younger players, either. Middle School and High School tennis drills are held Monday mornings at 9:30, Tuesday evenings at 7:00, Thursday mornings at 9:30 and Saturdays at 1:30. High School tennis drills are Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Seven-Day-A-Week Food Service

With summer in full swing, more people are spending more time at the lake – and at The Anchor. We now offer food service seven days a week at The Galley food court at The Anchor. Galley operating hours are Sunday-Thursday 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and Friday & Saturday 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Our Sports Bar is THE SPOT for Sports Coverage

There is certainly no shortage of sporting event coverage at The Anchor. Last month was really busy for our sports fans at The Anchor. With the Women's College World Series, the Men's College World Series, NBA and NHL Championships, the XFL and USFL football championships, the U.S. Open Golf Tournament, and the French Open Tennis Tournament, we had a packed house almost every day.

This month kicks off with complete live coverage of the biggest tennis event of the year. We'll have complete daily coverage of Wimbledon beginning Monday, July 3 and continuing through July 16.

We also provide complete PGA Golf coverage (including The Open Championship) and Major League Baseball, as well as weekly NASCAR coverage. We have LOTS of sports screens to make sure we have complete coverage of ALL your favorite events.

Lots of Options for the Entire Family

There are always plenty of entertainment options for the entire family – no matter what the weather. Our golf and shooting simulator bays and arcade provide both traditional games for all ages as well as challenging virtual reality games.

The arcade is just the beginning of our entertainment options. We also have pool, ping-pong, shuffleboard, foosball, and darts – and that's just what we have indoors. Summer days also fill the basketball court, WIFFLE® Ball field, pickleball courts, cornhole courts, and tennis courts with members and guests burning off a little excess energy.

We are thrilled to be Grand Lake's total entertainment headquarters – and the certified "Best New Attraction in Oklahoma!" Happy July! I hope to see you soon at The Anchor!



Official Battlefield Dedication ceremonies featured (from left) Shangri-La President & CEO Barry Willingham, Executive Chairman Jason Sheffield, Owner Eddy Gibbs, Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, State Representative Josh West, and State Senator Micheal Bergstrom.



A great crowd joined in celebration of the Grand Opening of The Battlefield including (in foreground) World War II Veteran Paul Green and his wife Ginger.



Congratulations to Shangri-La CEO Barry Willingham for carding his first career Hole in One. Barry aced #13 at the Battlefield with his 60-degree wedge from 87 yards. The shot was witnessed by Shangri-La Executive Chairman Jason Sheffield. Do you suppose that's why they built a par 3 golf course?



Chuck Ellsworth of Cushing, OK carded his first career hole in one at The Battlefield at Shangri-La Golf Club & Resort Friday, June 2, 2023. Chuck aced the 13th hole from 95 yards using his pitching wedge. The feat was witnessed by Greg Brasel.



Congratulations to Tarik Masri on his second career Hole in One scored at the Battlefield at Shangri-La on June 24th. Tarik aced #13 from 102 yards with his 52-degree wedge. The shot was witnessed by Carson Masri, Deacon Kraft, Michael Lippitt and Logan Laird. Congrats Tarik!



Shangri-La Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a first class resort experience for our guests and members by consistently providing enjoyable recreation, a safe environment, and memorable vacation experiences. We strive to reach these goals by developing relationships, creating a sense of camaraderie and instilling pride through the delivery of exceptional products, a diversity of programs and engaging services.

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Please don't be offended if one of the staff approaches you about having a Trail Pass if your cart is on the course without a current (blue) Trail Pass sticker placed on the front windshield of your cart where it can be easily seen. If you have purchased the pass but have misplaced it, contact Membership Coordinator Katelin Jumper. She will be happy to get you a replacement sticker and put it on your cart.

It is important to understand that a Trail Pass allows members to use their personal cart on the golf course *while playing golf*. To be clear, the trail pass does not provide permission to drive on the golf course when you are not playing golf. Our insurance requirements are clear. Driving a personal golf cart anywhere on the golf course when you are not playing golf is considered to be trespassing. For your protection and ours, we must adhere to strict enforcement of this requirement.

There are golf cart accessible roads and the Monkey Island Trail available to get you wherever

you are going, but using the cart paths on the golf course as your shortcut to where you are headed must stop. The number of kids (and adults) in unauthorized golf carts cutting across the golf course during all hours of the day and night has gotten completely out of control. I really need your support in getting this corrected. No trail pass sticker – no golf course access at any time. It's that simple.

Moving Ahead!

I can't thank our valued members and guests enough for your continued support, encouragement and participation that enables us to constantly move forward to greater success with expanding venues and increased amenities. Thank you for your support, your patronage, and your friendship through the years. I hope you'll join us often. A fabulous summer of fun is underway at Shangri-La, and our team is always here for you and your guests any time you are struck by the urge to Escape the Ordinary.



Shangri-La Hours of Operation

Golf Shop

7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. daily

Turnhouse

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily

Summit Restaurant & Buffalo Bar

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday-Wednesday

11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Thursday & Sunday

11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday

Shangri-La Marina and Ship Store

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Seven Days a Week

The Spa at Shangri-La

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

Doc's Bar & Grill

At Shangri-La Resort Hotel

7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

7:00 a.m.-Midnight Friday & Saturday

The Anchor Activity Park

11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

10:00 a.m.-midnight Friday & Saturday

The Galley at The Anchor

11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday

The Monkey Grind

Sunday-Saturday – 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Eddy's Lakeside Bar

4:00 p.m.-midnight Friday

11:00 a.m.-midnight Saturday

11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Sunday