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The Horizon

What's New at Shangri-La

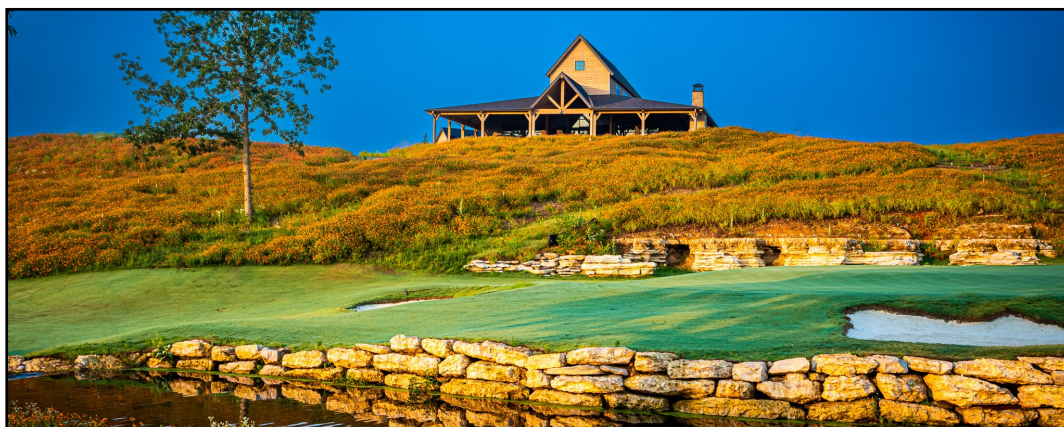


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August 2023

Great New Addition to Shangri-La's Leadership Team, a Busy Month of Golf – and Here Comes the Labor Day Holiday!

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



The Battlefield Par three is the newest addition to Shangri-La's many beautiful venues

The fabulous 2023 Monkey Island Fireworks at Shangri-La to celebrate the 4th of July also served as an explosive welcome for Lance Funderburk, our new General Manager at Shangri-La Resort.

I first shared our additional focus on improving services for our members and guests with our members in early May. We have now finalized a giant leap forward with the addition of Lance in this important leadership role. His 20+ years of leadership experience in the hospitality industry provides our team with a seasoned veteran with the skill set to step immediately into this vitally important spot to help us move our club forward into an even bigger tourism attraction for our region.

Prior to joining our team this month, Lance served as Director of Operations at Grand Wailea, A Waldorf Astoria Resort on Grand

Wailea Beach, Hawaii. In that position, he utilized his leadership and team-building skills to head all operations activities of the \$1.2 billion resort, with oversight of approximately 1,500 employees. We are truly blessed to have a leader with his experience, knowledge, and dedication.

The rest of our management team will not change. You will continue to see the same faces and interface with the same department heads who have been serving you. Lance has taken over many of the daily operational duties I have been responsible for over the last four years. This frees me up to be more involved in membership activities and business development.

Eddy Gibbs continues to own the resort and ultimately

calls all the shots. Contrary to fast-flying rumors, I am not going anywhere, either. I have committed to Eddy Gibbs to remain as President and CEO of Shangri-La for another eight years.

I couldn't be more excited – and I can't wait for everyone to get to know Lance. We have scheduled a membership "Meet and Greet" providing me the opportunity to introduce him to you personally and give him an opportunity to share his insight with our membership. Please plan to join us Thursday, August 17 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on the North Patio of the Clubhouse for some beer, wine, appetizers and a chance to get to know Lance personally.

If you have questions,

Continued on page 2...

Continued from page 1...

please bring them to our attention. I promise our answers to your questions will be far more accurate than the rumors on the street.

It's a Bird! No...it's a PLANE!

Undoubtedly you have had a chance to check out some of our authentic World War II equipment on display on the golf course – a duck, a jeep, and an ambulance. If you have wondered what the pole installation is all about on the lot across the highway from the airport on Monkey Island,, drive past again. It now displays our newest addition to WW II memorabilia at Shangri-La – an exact replica P-51 Mustang long range fighter. The aircraft is now atop that pole for your viewing enjoyment!

Shangri-La: An "American Dream"

I hope you were able to catch "The American Dream" television series feature on Shangri-La Resort July 22. We were so honored to have Shangri-La included as a feature in a great syndicated television series. Hosts Laurie Jenkins and Tiffany Marti spent a full day at Shangri-La along with their video crew, preparing a fantastic feature story for the series.

We are all thrilled for our resort to be included among the "American Dream" destinations across the United States.

Focusing on Our Generation "Next"

With school starting in a couple of weeks, we're wrapping up a terrific summer of fun for the youngsters at Shangri-La. Our Junior Golf Academy, Pickleball & Tennis Camps, Summer Kid's Camp at The Anchor, and our 2023 Junior Golf Championship Tournament are all in the rearview mirror now; but we have one more event on the agenda to put a bow on the package of summer fun.

The "End of Summer Family Bash" is scheduled at The Anchor Friday-Sunday, August 11-13, including a 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament (\$50 per team), a cornhole tournament (\$25 per team), and a 5 vs. 5 WIFFLE® Ball tournament (\$75 per team), with cash prizes for the winning teams. We will also offer half-price bar games (ping-pong, pool, shuffleboard, darts and discounted game cards from 10:00-5:00 Saturday, August 12 before all the kiddos head back to school on Monday. Check with The Anchor for details.

August is Filled with Golf, Golf, Golf

Following the June 30 dedication of The Battlefield Par 3 Course, both The Battlefield and our Championship Course have been unbelievably busy, wrapping up with our Junior Championship tournament and the 2023 Club Championship Tournament in July. August provides even more opportunities for fun on the course!

We have some of our most prestigious

and historic tournament scheduled this month including the infamous Run a Monkey (August 4-5), the awesome Mary Moore Charity Event (August 11), the Women's Oklahoma Golf Association Partnership Championship Tournament August 21-22, and the wrap-up of the Race to Shangri-La series August 26-27.

We also have some fun member events including a Couples Mixer at The Battlefield (August 18), the MGA Ryder Cup competition (August 19) as well as the weekly SLWGA Monday competition weekly. Our Par Club Championship will be at The Battlefield August 26. Our weekly "Yellow Rabbit Run Horse Race" is every Friday at 5:00 this month. If you have questions about signing up for any of these great events, contact the Golf Shop.

Looking ahead to Labor Day Weekend, we'll have another exciting Glow Golf Scramble competition Friday, September 1 (9:00 p.m.), Dock Shots competition Saturday, September 2 (5:30 p.m.), and our Labor Day Alternate Shot Horse Race Sunday, September 3 (4:00 p.m.).

Summer Fun Continues at Eddy's, The Canteen, and the Pool Bar - 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 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 open Fridays 4:00-midnight, Saturdays 11:00 a.m.-midnight, and Sundays 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. but, for the upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend, Eddy's will be open late Sunday, as well, and from 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 4. There's great entertainment at Eddy's, too. August entertainers include Travis Kidd, Whiskey Poet Society, Reverse Reaction, and Hypnotik. We'll wrap up the summer entertainment at Eddy's on Labor Day weekend with Torn, Brett N' Terri, and Downbeat.

Doc's Bar & Grill continues extended hours of operation this month – open 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. August entertainers at Doc's include Kevin Price, Rockwell, Chloe Johns, and R.J. Smith.

The Summit Restaurant continues 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.

Believe it or not, football season is on the near horizon! NFL preseason begins this week – and the Chiefs host Detroit for the regular season opener Thursday, September 7. OU, OSU, Tulsa, and Arkansas all kick off the college season on Labor Day weekend. The Anchor is the ONLY place to be for football!

Even More Outdoor Fun!

The month of August 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 – seven days a week.

Boating Season

Great weather has brought a 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.

Sail Grand also offers Oklahoma's only parasailing adventures, but get on the schedule soon if you want to take a little flight. Parasailing for the season ends on Labor Day.

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. It's an exciting time for Shangri-La, and I look forward to a fabulous future, focused on enhancing the value of your membership at Shangri-La. Be sure to mark your calendar to join me August 17 to welcome Lance Funderburk to our family. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

Culinary Conversation

By Jonathan Moosmiller

Executive Director of Food & Beverage



The Thursday Night Shrimp Boil & Karaoke on Doc's Patio is a popular event for members and guests alike!

If you haven't been to Doc's Bar & Grill in the last week or so, you haven't had a chance to experience some great new offerings and the return of some long-time favorites on our new menu at Doc's.

The Smokin' Monkey BBQ is back with your choice of half-pound meat servings – Baby Back Ribs, Smoked Chicken, Brisket, Port Butt, and Sausage & Andouille – served with your choice of two sides with pickled jalapenos & onions, jalapeno cheddar cornbread, and barrel of Monkeys BBQ Sauce. Handheld choices include Smoked Bologna, a Salmon BLT, Crispy Shrimp Po'Boy, Pulled Pork, Nashville Hot Chicken, and the popular Doc's Smash Burger.

Steak lovers...we've got you covered, as well. Our Chicken Fried Steak is a longtime favorite, but we have added Chef's Market Cut offerings, as well – a 14 oz. Ribeye and a Pork Tomahawk.

We have some great choices for the breakfast crowd, as well. In addition to the traditional offerings, you might want to try out our three-egg omelet choices with your choice of vegetables (tomato, green onion, onion, bell pepper, jalapeno, mushroom, spinach), meat (bacon, sausage, shrimp, or crab), and cheese (American, cheddar, Swiss, or pepper jack). You might want to try out the breakfast burrito, too!

Dessert aficionados always gather around Chef Julie's awesome dessert menu as they try to decide between Berry Moscato Tiramisu, Imploding Chocolate Lava Cake, Lemon Luch, a Warm Brownie Sundae Skillet or Julie's signature Coconut Cream Pie.

In addition to the new menu at Doc's, we also have new offerings on the Pool Bar menu; so be sure to take a look at that the next time you're hanging out at the pool; and don't forget the popular menu at Eddy's Lakeside Bar.

Try some of our fun beverages at Eddy's while you're there. 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.

We're not just about the food, though. We're also about the fun! Jason Morgan continues to lead the karaoke fun at our Thursday Night Shrimp Boils on the patio at Doc's. Friday nights, we always have live entertainment at Doc's. August entertainers include Kevin Price, Rockwell, Chloe Johns, and R.J. Smith. Saturday night features live music at Eddy's. The August line-up includes Travis Kidd, Whiskey Poet Society, Reverse Reaction and Hypnotik. If you're planning ahead to Labor Day weekend, we'll have extended hours of operation at Eddy's (open until midnight Sunday

– and open Labor Day Monday 11:00-8:00) and two nights of great live entertainment – Torn on Saturday night and Brett N' Terri Sunday night.

Doc's Bar & Grill is open until midnight Friday & Saturday nights, with a special "late-night menu" available from 10:00 p.m.-Midnight. For members and registered hotel guests, the Pool Bar offers food & beverage service Sunday-Thursday from 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. and Friday & Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.-Midnight, weather permitting. Check out the popular frozen drink options to cool you down at the pool (available leaded or unleaded!).

At The Galley at The Anchor Activity Park, we also 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. Breakfast and lunch service is also available from 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at The Canteen at The Battlefield, our new 18-hole Par 3 Golf Course. There is no more spectacular atmosphere on Grand Lake than enjoying a little food & beverage on the patio at The Battlefield overlooking the spectacular course.

For fine dining, members and resort guests are invited to join us at The Summit Restaurant with a fabulous menu and great live entertainment by Terry Jordan Friday-Sunday evenings from 6:00-9:00. The Summit serves lunch daily and offers dinner service Thursday-Sunday.

Onward and Upward

It is exciting to have all our seasonal venues open to accommodate the all the summer fun at Shangri-La. 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. 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



Shangri-La Marina Manager Mitch Whitehead

It's hard to believe August has already arrived, bringing on back-to-school thoughts and the countdown to Labor Day weekend. It has been a busy summer, so far, blessed with good weather and lots of boating. We had a little bit of damage to some roofs on boat docks during a couple of stormy nights in July, but damage was minimal and repairs are completed. No boats were damaged.

We have a great month of fun on the August calendar to match the peak boating season. 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.

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. If you want to get on the parasailing reservation list, please do so as soon as you can. Regularly scheduled parasailing adventures will end for the season on Labor Day, September 4.

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.

CHECK OUT THE SHIP STORE

The Shangri-La Marina Ship Store & Fuel Dock is a great one-stop shop for boaters. In addition to both gasoline and diesel fuel and pump-out service, the Ship store has a wide array of boating supplies, fun apparel, swimwear, sunglasses, great souvenir items including some creatively designed tee shirts, caps, hats, sunglasses, and footwear.

We also have a variety of snacks, beverages, ice cream treats, and ice;

and we try to keep a good inventory of those items you must have – even if you happen to lose the ones you brought with you – phone charges, USB cables, batteries, lighters. Our team have been boaters for decades. We know from personal experience what sudden needs pop up – and what items are most likely to be lost or forgotten.

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 is open 4:00-midnight Fridays, 11:00 a.m.-Midnight Saturdays, and 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. on Sundays. The kitchen will close at 11:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday.

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. Entertainers coming up in August include Travis Kidd, Whiskey Poet Society, Reverse Reaction, and Hypnotik.

If you want to plan ahead for Labor Day Weekend, Eddy's will be open for extended hours with two big nights of great live music. Labor Day weekend hours are 4:00 midnight Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-midnight Saturday & Sunday, and 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Labor Day Monday. Live entertainment that weekend features Torn Saturday night and Brett N' Terri Sunday night.

BOAT SALES AT SHANGRI-LA MARINA

Our selection of Chaparral, Bennington, Robalo, and MasterCraft boats is excellent. Nichols Marine at Shangri-La offers both new and used boats for sale. Be sure to check out an incredible all-new Bennington QX Tritoon that is 28 feet long, 10 feet wide, and is powered by the awesome new Mercury 600 HP outboard! 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.

Nichols Marine is one of the largest dealers in this part of the United States; and we are proud of our operating partnership with them. See the full inventory of new and used boats 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. August entertainers at Doc's are Kevin Price, Rockwell, Chloe Johns, and R.J. Smith.

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@shangri-laok.com.

Staff Spotlight: Lance Funderburk

by Communications Director Mike Williams



Shangri-La Resort General Manager Lance Funderburk

The people of Grand Lake have struck again. Once he made the decision to leave a ten-year hospitality management stint in Hawaii, he had no intention of ending up in Oklahoma.

"When I was first approached about managing a property in Oklahoma, I thought everyone was crazy. I told all my friends, 'there's no way I'm going to Oklahoma.' The first thing I Googled was 'tornado alley.'"

Once I talked with (Executive Chairman) Jason Sheffield and (President & CEO) Barry Willingham, they were so genuine, I figured I would at least visit the property, but I still thought there was only a 10% chance I would ever end up in Oklahoma," he laughs.

"Once I got here, it was the people who changed my mind. Riding from the Tulsa airport to Monkey Island with Barry, I realized we were pretty much carbon copies. We shared the same values and goals. Then once I got here, everyone was so friendly, so nice, so genuine. It's a great culture. The Shangri-La team, the members, the guests and local residents – everyone seems to have everyone else's best interest at heart.

"The resort certainly wasn't what I expected. With the marina, golf courses, the hotel, and The Anchor, there is so much to do and everything is so beautiful. It struck me as the type of place I would want to take my own family. By the time I left, I was 100% sure I was coming here," he says.

Prior to accepting his role as General Manager of Shangri-La Resort in July, 2023, Lance served as Director of Operations at Grand Wailea, A Waldorf Astoria Resort on Grand Wailea Beach, Hawaii. In that position, he utilized his leadership and team-building skills to head all operations activities of the \$1.2 billion resort, with oversight of approximately 1,500 employees and managers, and management responsibilities for all departments in the resort's day-to-day hotel operations.

Ironically, it was Lance's wife Amber who was convinced they were moving to Oklahoma, even before they had ever

visited Shangri-La.

"She knew from day one we were coming here. I had given notice at my job, and they were doing everything possible to persuade me to stay. I hadn't even talked to anyone at Shangri-La when Amber sent me a text that said 'I was just praying for you and I feel this is how the Lord responded. Where you are now, they value you for what you do for them. The guys in Oklahoma value you for who you are. That's a huge difference.' It is a huge difference, and I feel that same vibe from everyone.

"I'm excited about building on the great foundation that has been laid. We have an ownership group that cares about service ahead of profits," he said. "Everyone wants to make a profit on their investment, of course, but it's rare to see ownership that puts service in the number one spot.

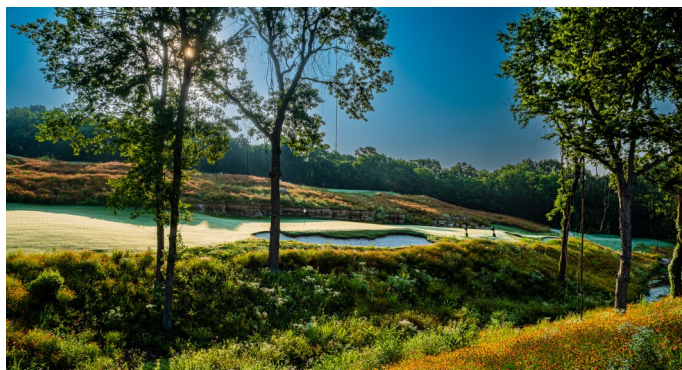
"Shangri-La's member aspect is a bigger and more important factor than at most resorts. Our members have a large presence here. It's a different type of clientele – and a different kind of staff. We're more down to earth. We just want to create and maintain an atmosphere where everyone enjoys being here," he says. "I want our team to have a good balance between work and their life. I want to have plenty of time for our team members to relax and decompress so, when they come back to work, they're ready to provide that same opportunity for all our members and guests.

"I want to make sure our staff has all the tools they need to make sure our services are efficient, and we have the ability to provide more and better service for our members and guests. That will give us the opportunity to provide even more amenities. There is a great foundation here," Lance adds, "I just want to install systems and leadership that will improve services for our members and guests and make a return on the investment for Eddy Gibbs who has done so much for this entire area.

"I want an environment where we are the 'employer of choice.' When everyone loves working here, it will be a lot more fun for our staff, our members, and our guests. I'm really excited about building on what was already here when I arrived."

A native of Macedonia, South Carolina, Lance served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, prior to beginning his hospitality career at Kiawah Island Golf Resort in South Carolina. He has served in leadership roles at hotels and resorts in Maui, Honolulu, South Carolina, and Virginia Beach, expanding his skill set to encompass management and oversight of the full slate of hotel operations. His career has included key positions in a variety of hotels from privately owned facilities to major brands such as Wyndham, Starwood, Resort Trust, Diamond, and Hilton.

Lance enjoys golf, camping, scuba diving, and going on cruises. He and Amber have two sons, Lance, who is working in South Carolina, and Colson, who is 10 years old.



SLWGA News

Submitted by Cheryl Brecheisen

Holiday happenings and hot temperatures in July seemed to curtail the SLWGA attendance and limit the number of golf opportunities during the month. However, those members who were able to participate brought the "heat" to their golf games and fared very well in several competitions.

The eight-member Interclub team traveled to Forest Ridge on July 17 to take on the Hillcrest team from Bartlesville. It was a big "moving day" for the ladies both in the gross division and net division! As the result of quality play from all players, the gross team moved up two places to third place and the net team climbed up four places to finish in second place. The last away event will be this month at Indian Springs. Then the team will be HOME as they host the final competition in September and hope to finish the season strong!

SLWGA was also represented at the annual Shangri-La Club Championship July 22 & 23. Congratulations to the following winners!

Club Champion: Ann Turner

2nd Low Gross: Lenda Smith

1st Low Net: Soo Jin

2nd Low Net: Carol Cable

PSA...As players of all kinds (golfers, pickleballers, tennis players, etc...) continue to be active in the dog days of summer heat, 18-hole sports chairman, Dr. Linda Ballard, was asked for her professional input regarding staying safe when out on the course or courts. She explained that hydration BEFORE and throughout the activity is essential.

Drink that water and/or electrolyte beverages! Also, several ladies have equipped their golf carts with portable fans to aid in the cooling process. Wet, iced towels around the neck, in the armpits and behind the knees are also a great help in keeping the body from getting overheated on those steamy days.

SAVE THE DATES

August 6&7 Ryder Cup Event

August 7&8 WOGA Fore State at Cedar Ridge

August 10 Interclub at Indian Springs

August 14 Tulsa District at Broken Arrow Golf Club

Regular Play Day at Battlefield

August 21 & 22 WOGA 4-Ball at Shangri-La

"If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's GOLF!"—Bob Hope



The SLWGA Interclub team of (from left) Judi Barber, Susie Kraft, Vicki Graper, Robin Purdie-Smith, Cindy Johnson, Liz Paden, Carol Cable and Ann Turner recently moved up the cumulative leader board at the Forest Ridge competition.



"Niners" (from left) Mariel McGehee, Melissa Scribner and Gaylyn Haynes won the infamous "orange ball" game during a recent Monday play day



Ann Turner topped a competitive field to take the 2023 Shangri-La Women's Club Championship honors.

Member Profile: Tom & Mary Ann Giefer

By Mike Williams



K-State fans in Jayhawker Cove? Tom and Mary Ann Giefer.

It seems like there are fewer stories these days about high school sweethearts who marry – and are still together almost three decades later; but that's the story of Tom and Mary Ann Giefer. Both were raised in the small southeastern Kansas community of St. Paul. They met and began dating in high school, and both graduated from St. Paul.

"Just two kids from St. Paul, Kansas. It's a pretty boring story," Tom deadpans. Their story, however, is anything but boring – and they maintain strong ties to their hometown and its strong religious heritage.

Most communities are created by businesses and residential communities, quickly followed by efforts to establish schools and churches. In St. Paul, the reverse is true. Originally founded in 1847 as "Osage Mission," a church and school were the first establishments which created a magnet that attracted nearby settlers. The founder of Osage Mission, Father John Schoemakers, actually built the historic St. Francis Catholic Church which remains today as the cornerstone of the small community. The name of the town was changed to St. Paul in 1895, but its strong religious heritage remains.

"The town is small, but its historic heritage is large," says Mary Ann. "There are a lot of good people in that town, and it will always be an important part of our lives."

Mary Ann went to college in Fort Scott, obtaining her nursing degree – and worked at the legendary St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City until she retired.

"After we had our third child twenty years ago, I quit and never went back," she laughs. "I figured raising three kids was enough work!"

Tom graduated from Pittsburg State University in 1995. It was a big year. The two married and moved to Kansas City where Tom went to work as an Estimator & Project Manager for a small construction company.

Five years later, he and a partner started their own company. Today that company, Kansas Heavy Construction, has 65 employees handling infrastructure work for municipalities – everything from dirt work to concrete paving, storm water & sewer installations to utilities.

Although Tom and Mary Ann live in Kansas City, they spend an increasing amount of time at Grand Lake, arriving

on the scene in 2015.

"We spent two years living on our boat while we were at the lake before we bought a home here in 2017," Tom says. "We came to Grand Lake because so many of our friends and family recommended it as a great getaway spot. Mary Ann still has family in St. Paul, so it's easy to stop and visit them, and drive on to Grand Lake.

"We heard there were a lot of really good people here," adds Mary Ann, "and that's not wrong. We love it here!"

The Giefers are pretty close to enjoying the "empty nest syndrome." Their oldest daughter, Morgan, is a hair stylist – and their other two children are both attending Kansas State University. Their son Paul will graduate next spring. Their daughter Anna still has a couple of years before graduating.

"They keep us busy," Mary Ann says. "We stay busy with K-State football and basketball – and we're 14-year season ticket holders with the Kansas City Chiefs."

"We spend a lot of time in Manhattan, especially in the fall," Tom adds. "Our kids try to wear us out – but they can't wear us down. We have years of training," he laughs.

It's ironic that the Giefers have such a strong commitment to Kansas State academics and athletics – because their Grand Lake home is in Monkey Island's Jayhawker Cove, so named after the mascot of the archival University of Kansas.

"We haven't put up any K-State flags at our house," Mary Ann laughs.

"We are members of the Lawrence Country Club. Maybe that will get us a pass," Tom jokes.

The Giefers are avid boaters. They own both a 390 Sea Ray and a Malibu surf boat which they keep at their personal dock. Both are golfers and Mary Ann has picked up a love for pickleball, which she plays both at Shangri-La and at Chicken & Pickle in Kansas City.

Their love of boating keeps them on the water during much of their time at Grand Lake.

"We've been rafted up with friends in Woodard Hollow every weekend all summer," Tom says.

"And we love boating at night," Mary Ann adds. "We were out until 2:30 the other morning. The lake is so peaceful and so beautiful at night!"

With all that time on the boat, one can't help but wonder where the time comes from for golf.

"That's why I love The Battlefield," Tom says. "I love that course, and I can play it in about two hours. I got anxious watching all the construction work as they were building it. I couldn't wait until they opened. It was a lot of work, but it went fast – and I love it. I've played it four times since it opened, and I haven't played the big course this year at all. I'm sure I'll do that in the fall when the boating slows down a little."

The two joined Shangri-La as members in 2019. Since then, they have continued to build relationships with other members and fellow Monkey Islanders.

"We love all the facilities at Shangri-La," Tom says. "We like to play golf, and a lot of our friends are Shangri-La members. The resort is a beautiful facility. We love to eat at The Summit."

"We also spend a lot of time at The Shebang and Big Shots," Mary Ann adds. "We love to go different places by boat, too. We'll take the boat to Juan Montez – and take a leisurely trip down the lake to Ugly John's and a few other places. It's a lot of fun."

For the most part, the Giefers are weekenders at Grand Lake, but they have built so many friendships and found so many places to go and so many things to do, that "weekend" status may not last.

"We're hoping to retire here, hopefully in about ten years," Tom says. "We've made so many friends here...it already feels like home."

Anchor Activity

by Shaun Tune, Director of Anchor Operations



Dylan Schupp (left) got a little help from Halle Lindley with her fishing adventure at The Anchor Summer Kids' Camp.

We tried to have as much fun with kids as we could jam into the calendar while they were out of school for the summer. We had a lot of fun at our Youth Tennis Camp, Youth Pickleball Camp, and the fun for younger kids last month – our Anchors Away Summer Kids Camp.

Before everybody heads back to serious school activities, we're planning one last End of Summer Family Bash August 11-13. We'll get our competitive juices flowing with basketball, cornhole, WIFFLE® Ball with cash prizes, as well as some great discounts on arcade play.

We're planning a 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament Friday evening, August 11 at 7:30 (\$50 entry per team), a Cornhole Tournament Saturday, August 12 at 7:30 (\$25 entry per 2-person team), and a 5 vs. 5 WIFFLE® Ball Tournament Sunday evening, August 13 at 6:00 (\$75 entry per team). In addition to cash prizes for the first place teams in each of those competitions, we'll take care of all the other gamers with half-price bar games (ping-pong, pool, shuffleboard, darts) Saturday, August 12 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and arcade game card specials Sunday, August 13 from 11:00-5:00. If you have questions or would like to sign up to be a part of this three-day party, email me at shaun.tune@shangrilaok.com or contact The Anchor.

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

We have a couple of special events beginning this month. Beginning August 12, we will offer a Saturday Night Tennis Round-Up from 8:00-10:00 p.m. each Saturday. The \$20 fee includes dead ball drills and activities that could lead to awards and prizes.

Friday, August 18, we will also offer a fun "Dink and Drink" event from 8:30-9:30 p.m. The \$15 fee for non-members (free to members) includes all the fun of a normal PB Mixer, but with drinks! The bar will be available from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Sign up at the Racquet Club for these events prior to starting in order to receive your ticket for participation.

There is a wide variety of additional August 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., Thursdays at 6:45 p.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 at 8:00 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. (Advanced Mixer), Fridays at 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

Tennis players are on the schedule, too, with open adult tennis drills Tuesday evenings at 7:00 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 Tuesday evenings at 8:00, and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Are You Ready for Some Football?

If the calendar says "August," can football be far behind? NFL preseason play begins with the Hall of Fame Game (Cleveland vs. New York Jets) Thursday evening, August 3 with all the other teams getting into the preseason action August 10. Get ready, all you Chiefs fans. Kansas City hosts the very first regular season game Thursday evening, September 7 hosting the Detroit Lions. The place will be packed!

Tulsa kicks off the college season Thursday night, August 31 – and OU, OSU, and Arkansas are all in action Saturday, September 2. With out multiple screens and two huge video walls, there is no better place to catch all your favorite sporting events than The Anchor Sports Bar.

NASCAR, PGA Golf, and Major League Baseball are also on the schedule, along with a variety of other sports. If you want to watch two or more sporting events at the same time – The Anchor is your spot for that, too!

Seven-Day-A-Week Food Service

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.

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!" as awarded officially this year by the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association. Happy August! I hope to see you soon at The Anchor!

2023 Club Champions Crowned at Shangri-La Golf Club

After three days of competition for players of all ages, Shangri-La Golf Club Champions for 2023 have been crowned. For the second year in a row, Patrick Strickland was named Men's Club Champion and Ann Turner took the Women's Club Championship honors. Lance Ledbetter brought home the Senior Club Championship for the third consecutive year; and Kelly Hudelson was named Men's Open Champion.

Before the 36-hole competition for adult golfers, future stars took to the course in the Junior Club Championship Tournament. Ainslee Stanford was crowned Boys Club Champion finishing one stroke ahead of Ilya Yanovitch. Marshall Brackin took 2nd runner-up honors followed closely by Ivan Rocourt.

Nikki Pitts was named Girls Club Champion for 2023 with runner-up honors going to Brooklyn McCown, and Ella Tyrrell finishing third.

Luke Long was named Club Champion in the 12-and-under boys' competition. Jackson Shumaker was runner-up in that age group. In the 10-and-under boys' group, Brantley Brown was named Champion, followed by Koleman Kerby and Harry Campbell. Carter Bunds earned the 8-and-under Club Championship, with McGuire Kerby finishing second.

In the 14-and-under girls' competition, Alivia Hutchinson took the Championship with Alaina Schoppa finishing as runner-up. In the 12-and-under girls' group, Jasmine Stephens was named Champion followed closely by Davyn Schoppa.

The Junior Club Championship Tournament was held Thursday, July 20. The two-day Shangri-La Club Championship Competition kicked off Saturday, July 22 and wrapped up Sunday, July 23. Congratulations to a group of fantastic golfers – Shangri-La's official Club Champions for 2023!



(Left) Patrick Strickland repeated his Championship play taking the 2023 Shangri-La Men's Club Championship trophy for the second year in a row.

(Middle) Lance Ledbetter's outstanding play earned him the Senior Club Championship trophy – for the third consecutive year!

(Right) Kelly Hudelson took home the trophy for Men's Open Championship.



(Left) Boys Junior Club Champion Ainslee Stanford with runner-up Ilya Yanovitch, 2nd runner-up Marshall Brackin, and 3rd runner-up Ivan Rocourt.

(Right) Girls Junior Club Champion Nikki Pitts with runner-up Brooklyn McCown, and 2nd runner-up Ella Tyrrell.



In the boys 8 and under age group, the Club Championship went to Carter Bunds with McGuire Kerby finishing as runner-up.



In the super-competitive age 10 and under boys group, Brantley Brown was awarded the Championship trophy. Koleman Kerby was runner-up and Harry Campbell finished as 2nd runner-up.



Luke Long took top honors in the boys 12 and under age group. 10 year old Jackson Shumaker, who played up an age group, was a close second.



Jasmine Stephens took top Club Championship honors in the girls 12 and under age group. Davyn Schoppa was runner-up.



In the 14-and-under age group, Alivia Hutchinson snagged the girls' Championship trophy. Alaina Schoppa was a close runner-up.



Congratulations to Patrick Strickland on his Hole in One scored at Shangri-La on #2 Champions during the Monkey Island 4-Ball Tournament! Patrick aced #2 from 160 yards with his 8 iron. That'll get him a skin!



Congratulations to Jeremy Callison on his 4th career hole-in-one. Jeremy aced Legends #4 on Shangri-La's Championship Course from the #1 tees – 181 yards using his 8-iron. The shot was witnessed by Ron and Stephen Foster.



Congratulations to Shangri-La member Barbara Patrick on her 4th career Hole in One carded on #4 at The Battlefield on July 16, 2023. The shot was made that much more special being witnessed by her family (Oklahoma Golf Legend Kyle Flinton, Kale Flinton and Tracy Flinton). Congrats Barbara!!! What a great shot!



What a Horse Race Finale!!! 13 Year Olds Ainslee Stanford and Chase Hughes edged out 28 other teams including runners up Rod and Maddux Mason and third place Ryan and Chad Dalton to claim the July 4th Rabbit Run Alt Shot Horse Race Crown. Great playing guys!!!



Congratulations to Shangri-La Fitting Specialist Ryan Dalton on being named Ping's "Power Fitter of the Year." Top 50 in the U.S. and #1 in Oklahoma! Great work, Ryan! Making players better one fitting at a time. (Pictured here with Ping Representative Kendall Dye)



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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Congratulations to Roger Cook on his third career Hole in One carded at the Shangri-La Rabbit Run Horse Race Friday, July 7, 2023. Roger aced #2 Champions from 135 yards with his brand new 7-iron. Witnessed by everyone! Great shot, Roger.



A replica P-51 Mustang fighter has been added to the WW II commemorative collection at Shangri-La. It is on display across from Monkey Island's Grand Lake Regional Airport adjacent to The Battlefield Par 3 Golf Course.

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

Canteen at The Battlefield

7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Thursday-Tuesday
(Closed Wednesday)

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