

# THE DAILY DIVOT AN ANNUAL PUBLICATION

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## What were you doing in 1981?

2 30 years ago this month Ronald Reagan was sworn in as President, as 52 American hostages were being released from Iran. In 1981



great. The Dow Jones was hovering around 800. Unemployment was high with the big three still reeling from the oil embargo. Inflation was over 12%, the Home Mortgage rate was almost 13%, and the Prime Interest Rate was over 15%. Gas soared to \$1.16

With all this, who in their right mind would think they could start a new business. There never was a smart Hawkins Boy. With a very, very humble beginning, The Tamaracks Golf Course (some called it Tamarocks) opened for business on Memorial Weekend in 1981. 30 years is not long in terms of history, in some ways it seems but a blink. In other ways its seems to have been a long, hard grind. We have been blessed to have had the support of so many people over the years, and have grown to love so many of you. In 2011 we invite you to look back at the last 30, and look forward to the next!

Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn would both win Oscars for their role in "On Golden Pond." The Best picture was "Chariots of Fire", and Barbara Mandrell was the CMA Entertainer of the Year. Anwar Sadat was assassinated, Prince Charles and Lady Diana were married, the first Space Shuttle was launched and IBM introduced their first PC. The Lions and Monte Clark finished at 9-7 but missed the playoffs for the 11th straight year. (They would make the playoffs the next shortened year with an awesome 4-5 record, just to lose to Washington 31-7) Longtime Tigers owner John Fetzer was putting a nice team together. Morris, Petry, Wilcox were already here. Trammell and Witaker, Parrish, Hebner, Wackenfuss, Brookens, Senor Smoke, Rosey, and Gibby were ready for a big year. That is, until baseball went on strike in June. Their big year would have to wait a couple more years. Tom Watson would win the Masters in April. (To add to his British Open the year before, and his U.S. Open the next.) Economically, things weren't all that



Tom, Mike & Steve circa 1988

A slide show of pictures over the past 30 years will be running on the counter all summer. Be sure to check it out!

Didja Hear?  
Didja Hear?  
Captain Tommy  
"just had a feeling "  
October 2010  
South 8 1/2  
North 9 1/2  
Followed by the  
Greatest  
Celebration of  
ALLTIME!!

You really don't want to work every day do you? We have our Hooky Bowl where folks play Hooky from work to play golf. Well, what's wrong with playing hooky a little more often? Every Thursday beginning in June we invite anyone who would like to make a team or just come and we'll make teams for some big time competition golf. We'll kinda make it up as we go, so, see you in June.

### THAT WAS THEN *In 1981* we

called ourselves a golf course, although many disputed that. The nine holes we had then would hardly be recognized now. The only green that has not been rebuilt or added onto since then is the current practice green, number three until 1991, then number 9 until 2006. All of the spruce trees on the course were planted over the years, none more than a foot tall. Our first clubhouse was a 4' X 8" plywood shack. After 2 years we upgraded to a 10" X 10" poplar shed complete with electricity and a coffee maker and a dozen rental pull carts. We moved into the current clubhouse in 1984, but looked at stud walls and a "Little Willies" out back for another three years. We got our first 5 three wheeled power carts in 1983, but all five never ran at the same time. Our big breakthrough was in 1984 when we put our water lines in the ground, hooked a water pump to an old Detroit Diesel engine that had been taken out of an old bread truck and started squirting water on Mothers Day on top of 6" of wet snow. (We had to run it to circulate some anti freeze that we hadn't initially put in.) In the mid 80's we were "discovered." Although I resisted using tee times back then, on one holiday weekend my pal Tim Smith vetoed my policy and began taking names for our starter Uncle Don Bobo. For the next 10 years a tee time was absolutely necessary on holidays and most Saturdays.

On a Wednesday in July 1991 Barb Hecker's creation, "The Cool Cash Classic" played the first round of golf on our new front nine to become the first 18 hole course in the county. Once again, many people discussed politely, (sometimes) whether those holes were really more suited to the nourishment of barnyard animals. Luckily for us, our real friends stuck with us long enough to get some grass and have a marketable product.

On July 1st 2000 we opened up the back of the clubhouse to the new bathrooms which allowed us to sell beer & booze for the first time. We got our license after the state relaxed some laws and allowed us to purchase it from the former Four Seasons bar in Greenwood Township. In 1999 we opened the Par Three course across the road. Although people loved the layout, and enjoyed playing there, it never was a commercial success, and after 10 seasons, we closed it for good. The West clubhouse is now a residence and the former course is completely grown over. 2002 brought the addition of a new partner at The Tamaracks. Dan Ashcraft brought new vision to the overall project while maintaining the community values that will continue to be key to our future. Our most recent addition included the two new holes (#6 & #7) which opened in 2006, along with The Tamaracks Ridge Subdivision, 30 nice home-sites for the thousands of baby boomers projected to retire to Clare County in the first decade of the new century. ....



Barb Hecker at the 1991 Cool Cash Classic Opening day of the Front 9

*Still Waiting.....*

### NOW IS NOW

We all know what has happened here in Michigan and particularly here in Northern Michigan. Many of our long range plans have yet to be fulfilled, and different plans have taken their place. We are however, very optimistic on the future of Clare County and the future of The Tamaracks. Although major improvements have been put on the back burner, we are still committed to the continued attention that we have always given to the condition of the golf course. Obviously, it is harder to make ends meet for all of us each year. Our main goal is to treat you as fellow members of the community, and to give you a product that you can afford. Can we be the nicest place that you can play golf? No. Can we give you the most that you can get for your hard earned dollar? *You're damn right we can!*

*We Never Lie to you, or Cheat you ...unnecessarily.*

## SUPER FANTASTIC

The Tamaracks finally got indoor toilets in our 6th or 7th season. But if you've visited the current restrooms you might have noticed the hand-carved wooden Murals of the front nine par three holes adorning the entry doors. Bill Stewart and his wife Mary Anne have been prominent figures here since the very early days. Between them they have played in or ran every league and most tournaments over the years, winning some of them a number of times. Bill claims to be a part of 10 League Championships. I know that he and his partner at the time, Bill Sharp, edged out myself and my partner Big Dog in the finals of the Wed. Night League several years back. We figured it was the fact that they had so many years of experience over us *young guys*. Bill is always the first one to bring in Green Beans or Zucchini or Tomatoes to share every summer. Although he was



Bill and Mary Anne

a mason by trade in his younger days, Bill obviously has too much time on his hands, and is always working on some craft type project in his wood shop. Many of his projects are seen in the clubhouse, including those murals, the carved trout hanging over the fireplace, and the wooden wine bottle holder. He has been kind enough to build many items that have been given away to anyone lucky (or unlucky) enough to find

one of his golf ball Santa's at the Santa Scramble each year. Bill and Mary Anne go with the Snowbirds to warmer parts in the winter and are just as active in their winter home.

The Stewarts have been great friends over the years and we love them. The fact is that there are many, many friends who are out stompin' (or riding) every week, and some have gone on to stomp other places. They are all part of why The Tamaracks is here. We love them all.

### By all accounts HOW WAS 2010?

the 2010 season was a good one for golf. The snow was gone early in March and we had our first days in the 80's well before mushroom season. We had to scramble to get our irrigation system fired up and began watering on March 28th. The earliest ever. The summer had lots of nice warm days, many even too warm for golf. Even with the heat we had many periodic rains. Hard rains. Although we never really dried out, the warm muggy nights made Tom's job extra challenging. The grass grew quite vigorously most all summer, calling for extra mowing, and needing extra protection from warm weather disease. Conditions here could be compared to the normal conditions in the Southern States. Consequently, whatever we

saved in reduced watering, we lost in other areas. (Imagine that!) The nice summer turned into an even nicer fall. September had several very hard wind storms. (50 M.P.H. on the day of the Long Lake Scrambles which took some trees down on #4 that made the girls happy.) Except for a short cold snap in time for the Santa Scrambles, the fall was just delightful. Several folks were able to play golf from mid-March until mid-November. Some guys easily got 100 rounds in this year. I got to wear shorts every day from April 14th until October 20th. Snow never came until Dec 1st. And the real cold only started this week. This morning (Jan 23) at 8:30 it was minus 20. Nice!

If you have't seen our unique Christmas Tree in the Clubhouse, better hurry.

*I just love snowmobiling sooo much, I had to find a way to keep it going. Even when the snow left!*



I was as Jober as a Sudge !  
I Swear!

**Monday American  
Legion  
Bill & Mary Anne  
Stewart**



**Wed Night League Champs  
B Flight from left  
Bill Jesse & Dick Harris  
A Flight  
Ed VanVoorst & Tim Smith**

**NOTABLE HOLE-IN-ONES**  
#4 Ron Chapman  
#4 Greg Chisholm  
#4 Frank Gadberry  
#2 Jim Sage  
#17 Barb Hecker (she started a new tradition, instead of buying everyone that was present a drink, she drank a drink for everyone present.)

**SENIOR SCRAMBLE WINNERS**

- Junior Seniors**  
Tom Hawkins & Dan Ashcraft
- Seniors**  
Dale Stekl & Tom Hecker
- Super Seniors**  
Rod Curtis & Ron Malone
- Old Ladies**  
Barb Hecker & Mary Kay Chisholm
- Mixed**  
Kim & Cindy VanPelt



**THE MAJORS**

The first Major of the season was the **Morel Open**, this year sponsored by Don Kolander and the Clare County Parks & Recreation Department. You can tell that it was truly a Major by the fact that someone must have broken into the clubhouse and stolen the list of winners. Unfortunately, this was discovered too late for this annual publication. If anyone has any information regarding this matter, please bring it to my attention. (I can tell you that the 3rd place award was taken by a team led by a tall red haired guy, anchored by a wood-worker with 9 1/2 fingers, and backed up by a third, slightly overweight fellow in a roll-up hat who made sure that the beer was cold). The Majorist of all the

Majors is **The Tamaracks Open**. We began it our first summer and have now had 29 sets of defending champs. It was a two man best ball for the first several years. Then we made it a 3 Man Scramble and had two teams share one of our numerous, reliable carts. 2010's version saw beautiful weather and another great job by Andrea McCreary and her crew from the Harrison Sports Boosters.

**TAMARACKS OPEN WINNERS**  
1st Rick Foote, Shannon Olstrom, Doug Cobb  
2nd Jay Branch, Tom Hecker, Tom Hawkins  
3rd Greg Roy, John Hoelt, Jim Cooper  
1st Sue Cassavoy, Barb Hecker, MaryJo Czajke  
2nd Deb Roy, Tammmy Harcourt, Rose Carson  
3rd Joy Moore, Kari Garber, Barb Hawkins

**Yeah Right!???** Remember last year when I said that we were finally going to get into the new century and get cyber with news and views? Remember me saying that the year before? Or the year before? Well, this IS the year. You may not have looked last summer, but we actually do have a web site. This year the site and its companion facebook site will both be updated every 10-14 days with all the latest news. All tournaments and events will be listed, along with most of the league standings and schedule. There will be a special place in the clubhouse for you to put any information that you would like to post for the world to see. We invite you to click on to [thetamaracks.com](http://thetamaracks.com) to register your e-mail to receive updates and breaking news. Tell your friends to check it out for our best deals.



**FP3 Champs  
Ed VanVoorst &  
Dale Stekl**

As the talent level of our core players continues to decline, the Minor Tournaments are certainly becoming more Major. Along with the FP3 and The Hooky Bowl, the Par Three Shootout was resurrected this year by creating par three holes by utilizing our greens from unorthodox tee positions. With help from designer Larry Smith it turned out to be a great time. The Wed Moose league also played this format on

their fun day in Sept. and also enjoyed it.

**THE MINORS**

**Winners of the 2010 Par 3 Shootout were;**  
**Men Scott Willer & Nick Moore**  
**Ladies Trena Hawkins & Linda VanVoorst**  
**Mixed Kim & Cindy VanPelt**

Unfortunately, the fastest growing of the minor tournaments is the Senior Scramble. We are developing newly qualified players every year. (We only wish we were getting younger players to replace them). Anyone over the age of 50 is invited



**Hooky Bowl Champs, Jim Cooper, Brian Coughlin spending the money of their Big Easy Partners Tom Papiernik, and Scott Williams**

## KIDS CAMP USES SUBS

30-40 kids came out again this year to get some of their first golf experience. And again they had lots of fun and got ketchup and mustard all over their new Kids Camp T Shirts. But this year was different. This year they had at least one second string teacher. John Lewis, Mike White and Larry Smith did a fine job. John & Stacey VanAntwerp helped out as well. But the putting teacher cannot putt. This year we lost two of the perennial faces at kids camp. Jim Porter and Ron Jessup both were devoted to the development of the game of golf with kids. And were



always there helping in any way they could. The lose of both of these fellows touched me personally as well. I



Ron, Mandy, and John

played with Ron on his last game of golf, just days before his 80th birthday.

Although his Parkinson's left his driver head shaking behind his ball when he squared up, he kicked my tail that day. Jim was "one of us". He played all of our tournaments, and many that we traveled to. Guys our age aren't supposed to go so soon. Both of these guys were part of the old *Sunday Night Scramble* guys back in the 80's, and we will miss both of them.

### TUES MORNING OLD BOYS LEAGUE

1st Ray Jordan 2nd Rod Curtis  
3rd Ben Atchaz

### Monday Moose Mens League

1st Ethan Carl & Bill Sharp  
2nd Curtis Hineman & Butch-Monticello

### Wed Moose League Men A Flight

1st Dick Koegler & Dick Armstrong  
2nd Jim Mathews & Tom Bringedahl

### Men B Flight

1st Jack Chapman & Sam Smith (way to go Sam, we'll miss you)  
2nd Dale Tritton & Frank Sabo

### Ladies

1st Kay Burton & Mary Kay Chisholm

### TUES. LADIES LEAGUE

1st Deb Coughlin & Rene Olstrom  
2nd Jenny Vasher & Jill Trahan  
3rd Rachael Latta & Jackie Eggert



Club Champ Rob Hoffman

Finally!! Three time runner up 2010 Club Champ Rob Hoffman with runner up Kim Van Pelt. Kim's wife Cindy beat Trena Hawkins to become Ladies Champ. Rick Praski beat Dale Stekl to be Senior Champ.

Once again the race to be King & Queen of The Tamaracks was a very close race, coming down to the last week. In the end Kim & Cindy VanPelt prevailed. Cindy loved the mandatory shot of Wild Turkey that comes with the Royal Goblet!



2010 King & Queen

## SANTA SCRAMBLES FOR KIDS

There was a wind storm the day before the tournament, but the forecast for the day was not too bad. Sometimes, the weather man is not exactly right. The day was cold, windy, and sometimes spitting sideways rain, but 160 people gutted it out to make the 12th Santa Scrambles a success. The Santa Scramble for kids this year again reached its goal of raising over \$11,500 to provide a better Christmas to 153 kids. The golf is fun, but it is really the least important part of this tournament. The success of this tournament would not be possible without the time put in by so many folks behind the scenes. These people have certainly gone beyond their duty, and can be proud of what they have provided for the community. From both a business standpoint, and a personal standpoint, Thank you volunteers, Thank you players, Thank you Karl, and last but certainly not least, Thank you Dick!



2010 Santa Scrambles Winners

Left to Right

Ron Kinear, John Lewis, Jeff & Ron Malone

Second Place

Bill Sharp, Ethan Carl, Jerry Mayes, Jim Donnelly

Ladies Winners

Pam Hinton, Colleen Ridgeway, Daren Dewitt, Danita Greene

Second Place

Rachael Lotta, Linda VanVoorst, Trena Hawkins, Carol Barnett

# The Tamaracks Golf Course

8900 N. Clare Ave.  
Harrison, Mich. 48625

*“WE’RE NOT THE COUNTRY CLUB,  
JUST A GREAT CLUB IN THE COUNTRY”*

## Upcoming Events

**Every Wed.** at 1:00 thru March  
10th Championship Euchre

### **Fri. Feb 18th**

Margaritaville in Frost Twp.  
Come Have a “Cheesburger in  
Paradise”

### **Sat. Feb 26**

3rd Annual Vitage Snowmobile Run  
Prizes for ‘75 or older Snowmo-  
biles Chili Contest Enter Yours!!  
Everyone invited to vote for the  
Best Chili at 4:00

### **Sat. March 26th**

Burning of The Burning of The  
Snowman Dart Contest \$1.00  
Tacos & Cheep Beer All Day

### **Wed April 6**

Deadline for Masters Contest  
Pick up an Entry Form

## Tournament Schedule

**Thurs April 21 1:30**  
FP3-2 Person Scramble

**Sat. May 14 10:00**  
Morel Open  
3 Person Scramble

**Fridays at 6:00**  
Beginning June 10th  
Jack & Jill Scrambles

**Sunday July 17th 3:00**  
Par 3 Shootout  
2 Person Scramble

**Thurs. July 28 2:00**  
Hooky Bowl  
4 Person Scramble  
*(no further notice given!)*

**Sunday Aug. 14 1:30**  
2 Rounds of Men’s & Ladies Club  
Championship  
**Tues. Aug 16 11:00**  
2 Rounds Senior Club Champion-  
ship  
**Must be Signed Up Before 8-6-11**

**Sunday September 11th**  
**10:00**

**30th Annual  
TAMARACKS**

**OPEN**

**“The Fall Classic”  
“The Granddaddy of Them All”  
“The Most Majorist of All The  
Majors”**

**Wed Sept 14 10:00**  
Senior Scrambles  
2 person Scramble  
5 Flights or More

**Sat. October 29**  
Halloween Party

**Tues Nov. 8th Noon**  
4th Annual Election Day  
Scramble  
4 Person Scramble

**Sat & Sun Nov 12 & 13**  
Hunters Dinner  
Smoked Pork Loin

**Sat Dec. 10 All Day**  
Hanging of the Tree  
Special beverages