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Writers unite on the course

By Gean Leonard
 Correspondent

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While you are enjoying your morning and, hopefully, this submission, I am working my fingers to the bone here at my first Texas Golf Writers Association annual meeting. Not! In actuality, I likely am teeing it up for my second round of golf.

We played the official tournament Monday on the Ram Rock course, where just staying alive and upright in the heat was an accomplishment.

Another accomplishment was that I played that sucker without losing a single ball. I did not know how I fared in time for this deadline, but I have no high expectations there will be a brag line in next week's piece.

This year's gathering is being held at the Marriott Resort at Horseshoe Bay, and I must pause repeatedly to take in the breathtaking view from my seventh floor luxury suite. Before I forget, thanks for the platinum card, Dolph. I won't tell the others.

This place has something for the entire family, and the setting here on Lake LBJ reminds me that one need not leave Texas to find some of the best of nature's beauty. But if you choose to play one of the three courses, and your choice is Ram Rock, I offer you this tip an older fellow gave me early yesterday: Make out a last will and testament first.

This is my first time in the presence of guys who actually write about golf for a living, and it's been insightful just to listen to them talk shop.

There are some radio and TV guys here too, and a couple of people with published books.

I'll fill you in on some of those details and the business part of this outing next week; however, this one tidbit will not wait.

After last night's dinner, a gregarious gentleman by the name of Frank Bridges invited me to join him for a beverage, which led to discussion about our knee replacements and on to personal histories.

Frank dropped names like A.C. Becker and Butch Baird, made reference to the old Munny. Turns out that in 1965 he wrote a column for this very paper titled "Fairways and Greens." Back then, Frank was a "beat" reporter; he went on to own a newspaper of his own. It truly is a small planet.

Closer To Home

Bayou Golf Club players "scrambled" in the heat June 23.

Steve Crumpley, Bubba Alcalá, Tony Jaramillo and James Ponds carded a 57 to win the day, followed by Kevin Prisk, Fay Flores, T.J. Henderson and Danny Mancilllis (62) and Mike Patterson, Wayne Henderson and Mike Burkham (63).

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Closest to the pin prizes went to Cliff Robinson, Alcala, Chas Campbell and Steve Crumpley.

Galveston Country Club ladies traveled to Golfcrest for the Gulf Coast Interclub shootout, and Jackie Fluke teamed with Cathy Knecht to garner second gross in the first flight.

A good tuneup for your July Fourth golf would be participation in Rick Christ's putting and chipping clinic, which begins Wednesday at 6 p.m. sharp.

Rick said he can show you quickly the easiest way to get the ball from point A to point B in one easy stroke.

Have a happy and safe Fourth of July, on and off the course.

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