

Rock Harbor News

June 2016

Member Corner: Wilson Fletcher

By: Misty Fields

Wilson has been a member of Rock Harbor for about 5 years and his journey to Rock Harbor is similar to others in that he was referred to by a friend who was already a member. Terry Tierney asked Wilson if he wanted to play golf with him once a week. Once a week turned into twice a week and twice a week turned into three times a week and now Wilson calls Rock Harbor his second home he spends so much time here. He decided to become a member after two years of public play because it just made good sense, since he was already here almost every day.

Wilson has been married to his wife Linda for 40 years. They met in high school, both from James Wood and they have 4 children and 4 grandchildren. Wilson has owned and operated Interstate Truck Service for the past 26 years with his wife who worked there with him until her recent retirement. Wilson still works a cou-

ple of days a week, although most of his time is spent at Rock Harbor. With so much time spent at the course one has to wonder if Wilson's wife is a golf widow, but as it turns out she decided to join him on the course and actually started taking golf lessons last year. They have begun to play a little golf together, in fact Wilson says they do almost everything together, even just staying home and being homebodies. Linda also decided to join the membership two years ago and make things official. Wilson and Linda are also members of a Casino Club which affords them the privilege of gambling cruises all around the world. They have been to Greece, Spain, Bahamas, Bermuda, The Northern Coast of the US, Hawaii and Alaska to name a few. Occasionally they even run up the road to Charlestown for some quick gambling outings.

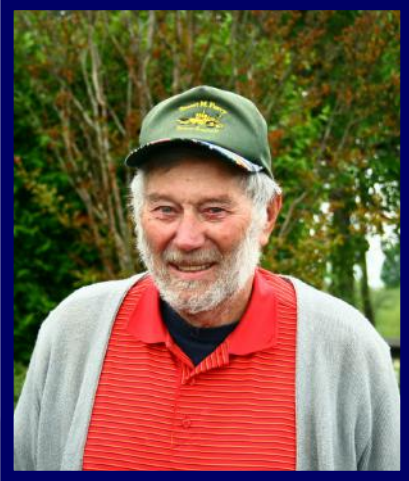
When asked about the course and what he liked or disliked about

it, Wilson said that he likes The Rock Course better than The Boulder Course only because he is more familiar with the holes and layout, but when he has play The Boulder he feels that it turned out much better than he thought it would. He sighted some of his favorite holes on The Rock as: #16, #12, #15, and #1. He does not like #17 Rock, he can never seem to hit a straight ball on this hole, but this happens to be his wife's favorite hole. Wilson is part of the inner circle at Rock Harbor that plays golf together on a regular basis, but he is like most who feel the comrade of the members is one of the most alluring aspects of this course. Friendships have been formed and bonds created through the game of golf.



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Bernie McClung



By Misty Fields:

“My life is dull as dishwater; I don’t know what I’m going to tell you.” Anytime you decide it’s a good day because you have woken up and cheated death and since you are up you might as well give Denny Perry and the staff of Rock Harbor grief, you have something to tell.

Bernie McClung came to Rock Harbor as an employee and he still is, but he also decided about 4 years ago that membership was for him. Working at the course has been a great source of joy for him because he enjoys being able to help people and show them around the course. But just working at the course was not enough for Bernie, he wanted more; more interaction with the other members, more play time, more comrade. Since becoming a member he has developed a philosophy about playing with the groups at Rock Harbor, he says, “If you don’t have the hat of a hippo, don’t think about playing.” Bernie is 81 so he gets

to play from the Green Tees; this is a great advantage for his golf game, but not his friendships. This privilege gives him more grief and teasing than anything else, but from the smile on his face, he is not budging from the green tees, ever.

Bernie grew up in Fairmont, WV in the 1940’s, graduated from high school and attended West Virginia University. After graduating from college he went directly into the Navy for the next 21 years. He was a navigator for the Navy. He said it was the greatest career because it allowed him to see the world. He has been or flown to every country in the world, except for India. He even flew supplies into Vietnam during the war. While Bernie was flying as a navigator he would spend several days or even weeks in different countries while their planes were serviced or just to rest before flying off to the next mission. This is where most of the fun and adventure took place. One of his favorite places was Antarctica, because of the Rus-



sian base they delivered supplies to. Bernie said they were the friendliest group of people because they had the best places to eat and the best vodka. New Zealand was another favorite of his, he recalled a time when he took a 4 day horse trek into the mountains with a very interesting group of strangers. They spent each evening after riding horses all day in sheep stables, by day they were climbing some pretty high mountain trails with very narrow passages; Bernie seemed to be the only one in the group scared by the heights, so his fellow companions gave him the nick name “The Yankee Chicken”. Bernie was assigned to many different locations during his time with the Navy, but his stay in Pensacola Florida gave him the opportunity to pursue a dream that the Navy told him he was too old to do, for them, anyways. He wanted to

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“Golf camaraderie, like that of astronauts and Antarctic explorers, is based on a common experience of transcendence; fat or thin, scratch or duffer, we have been somewhere together where non-golfers never go.”

-John Updike

Bernie.....continued.....

learn to fly the airplanes, not just navigate. So while he was stationed in Pensacola he pursued a commercial pilot's license. He got his commercial, multi-engine and his instructor's license. He was able to teach about 40 students to fly on weekends and after hours. Now that he had his pilots licenses he joined an Aviation Club that gave him access to small engine planes to fly his family anywhere he wanted; vacations, to see family, or short day trips out of town. Bernie said this was one of the best things he ever did because of the experiences he had with his family.

Bernie had a lot to say about Rock Harbor. One of the reasons he likes RH is because its “not a stuffed shirt place.” He also finds the comrade and friendships to be great, but along with that you have to be able to take the joking that happens. Bernie plays in the member events and the leagues, as much as possible. The Rock Course is Bernie's favorite but he finds The Boulder to be a great

challenge. No. 16 Rock is Bernie's least favorite hole, because “unless you drive it right, you are dead”. No. 17 Rock is one of his favorites because it provides some relief for him from the previous hole; he also finds it attractive and not too difficult. He also likes No. 18 Rock because of the R/R aspect. After traveling the entire world over, Bernie said that Winchester was the best place

him and his wife, Sally ever found and lived. He said that the people he has met, the experiences he has had and the quality of life has been the very best here in Winchester. Winchester has also benefited from Bernie McClung, anyone who has no less than 3 nick names has got to be a great guy....”The Yankee Chicken”, “Groundhog” and (my personal favorite) “2-Cents”. There just isn't enough space to explain

these, but I am sure Bernie would be happy to explain each one of these in great detail, if you only ask.



This picture of Wilson and Bernie might best describe the feelings of camaraderie that both described in their interviews.

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Notes from The G

Geri Lum, Rock Harbor, Manager:

Now this month, began with a warning from mother-nature that weather conditions would be quite formidable. Indeed, we took in somewhere along the lines of record setting straight days of rain. Oh it may not have rained the entire day to be sure but nonetheless, rain. Cloud cover kept the solar rays from working magic onto our glorious golf course. Precipitation kept the course wet. The month began, as I say with mother-nature getting her way that forced us to cancel a schedule member event (re-scheduled for June 5th). That very same week, Winchester's Youth Development Center put on their annual benefit golf tournament. Prior to the tournament, discussions on the forecast pointed to very gloomy playing conditions but the course would be ready and available to play. Regina and the good folks at YDC weighed their options and voted to hold the tournament as planned. We would be cart path only, yet the greens, and tees were fine. The fairways were going to be soggy, putting may be a bit slow, clouds sprinkling liquid sunshine on us, yet a few brave, hearty and dedicated souls fought on for such a worthy cause in support of the youths (Yutes?) of Winchester. Each Tuesday during our Senior League, the rain haunted our players but we continued to have a great turn out. There was one day the 17th of May to be exact, that a smattering and by smattering I mean 6 of the initial 52 players signed up to play actually made it to the course. I mean to tell you, golf is in the soul, ladies and gentlemen. It's the only thing I can think of that would make anyone play in these weather conditions. I'm sure that following the round they indeed questioned their own mental health. The following Tuesday, though brought a glorious sunny day and moderate temps and we achieved our highest participation to-date. Ah what great weather will do for golf.

This last Wednesday, our monthly Sand 'n Suds/Member Social evening was a success. Our devoted members managed to lay down 2,050 pounds of sand on two holes (6 & 7) of the Boulder course. As you all know, those two have been through quite an ordeal since coming on board and with the recent rains keeping those holes on the cart paths, well you know as well as I do that the majority of players will absent-mindedly leave the cart without the seed bottle in tow, so unrepaired divots result. So... Great job everyone! Also a big thank you to the Grill staff, Jasmine, Emily and Chip for the preparation of the hors d'ouvres served that night. Thank you as always to Bobby J for providing us with the sources for the seed mix and ease of access.



"I don't know what it is about it, but I love this course!"