



Rock Harbor News

March 2017

Bobby Jenkins

Misty Fields:

It is all too soon that we are saying goodbye to another long-time, beloved employee of Rock Harbor. As we adjust to the pains of saying good bye to Chip we are forced to do it again. Bobby Jenkins, our Course Superintendent of 17 years (since before the beginning) is retiring on March 31, 2017.

Bobby Jenkins career as a course superintendent began as a young teenager, back in the 60's. Bobby lived across from the property that was to eventually become Carpers Valley. It was originally a farm and Bobby helped feed and take care of the animals. When the property was sold to Mr. Lamp, Bob-



Bobby enjoying the meal after a 2006 North/South Tournament.



October 2010, Bobby goes to jail....for charity.

by was told it was to become a golf course. Bobby didn't even know what a golf course was at the time. But he continued to hang around the property and Mr. Lamp took him under his wing and treated him like a son. Bobbys' father wasn't around so he gravitated towards the kindly Mr. Lamp. Mr. Lamp began to teach Bobby everything he knew about taking care of a golf course. At the time Bobby looked at one of the golf holes and said, "Anybody can knock that ball into the hole." (Little did he know....) Bobby attributes his success and even his life to Mr. Lamp, he said he doesn't even know if he would be here without his influence in his life.

Bobby continued to work at Carpers Valley until 1992 when he decided to leave for a better opportunity. Things were changing at Carpers and it was a good time to move to a new course opening in Shepardstown, West Virginia, Cress Creek Golf and Country Club. Bobby worked there for the next 8 years, until he received a phone call in early 2000. That call was promised to him over 20 years ealier from an old friend, Mr. Denny Perry.

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The phone call went something like this: “Bobby? Denny. Do you remember when my dad and I were talking about building a golf course? Well, we’re doing it. Would you like to be the course superintendent?” This news did not come as a surprise to Bobby because when he was course superintendent of Carpers Valley (1972-1992) he was told by Mickey Perry, Sr. that he and his son (Denny) were going to build their own course one day and Bobby was going to be the one to take care of it. I don’t really know what Bobby thought of that conversation at the time or if he even believed it was something that would be a reality one day. But, when the offer came in 2000, there was no hesitation on Bobby’s part to be a part of Rock Harbor.

When Bobby came to see the course in 2000 he was given a tour of the property that consisted mainly of apple orchards. To access some of the land, tractors had to lead the way and then machetes were used to cut through some of the brush to see deep into the vision and mind of Denny Perry. Some of Bobby’s first thoughts were the uncertainty of what lie ahead for the course. During that first tour, he saw a lot of work ahead of him and he never could have anticipated then, what the course would become today 17 years later.

Bobby sites two main reasons for the course success and development over the years: First, is the persistent and well thought-out vision of Denny. When Bobby first saw the land and heard the plans and vision he thought “I just don’t know.” Seeing this vision become a reality and being a part of it has been one of the highlights for Bobby during his time at RH. The second reason is his crew. Bobby praises his crew daily for their hard work on this course every day. He said, “It just wouldn’t be what it is without them showing up every day and working hard.” He says in his humble style, “I am just the leader who tells them what to do; they are the ones to do the real work.”

It hasn’t been all about taking care of a golf course for Bobby, he has been an important part of Millwood Fire & Rescue Station for over 45 years. He has volunteered and kept his necessary certifications as an EMT, Medic, First Aid Tech., and Cardiac Tech., working over night shifts, weekends and some days in between for his community. In 1979 he received the VA State EMS person of the Year award given out by the Kiwanis. Bobby has delivered 2 babies and was there the day Vince Kelchner had his stroke at the bar of Rock Harbor. Knowing the signs of a stroke Bobby was able to assess Vince’s needs and get him the help he needed before it was too late.



Roxy and Santa at *Breakfast with Santa* in December 2007

Most people know there are two very special ladies in Bobby’s life,

one he brings to work every day the other he has been married to for over 30 years. Bobby’s wife Edie has been his biggest supporter in his life and career, even though she has also worked, she has been supportive of Bobby as his career demanded long hours and not a lot of time off. The other special lady is Roxy. Roxy has faithfully come to work since she was 6 weeks old. Roxy started with Bobby in 2003 when the course first opened. She tends to get a little more attention than Bobby; people will stop to ask how Roxy is and pet her as she holds her position on the golf cart next to Bobby each day.



Roxy poses on the course in hopes of being a calendar model. (2016)

Looking back over your life, remembering the things you did and didn’t do; remembering the people who shaped the course of your life, those

who have come and gone can be an emotional experience. Regrets are normal, memories are a blessing. Bobby said the only thing he regrets about his time at Rock Harbor is that Mr. Perry or Big Mo, as he fondly recalls his nickname, did not get to see the course. The plan was always to have Mr. Perry (Big Mo) and Denny play that first hole together after it was finished.

Some of his fond memories are that he got to do two “grow in’s”. He got to see the two courses grow to maturity. Bobby said, this is not something most people will get to do in their career as a superintendent. He said he was blessed to see the course go from an orchard to one of the best courses in the valley. He reminds me again that this was not possible without his crew.

What’s next for Bobby? He said he always wanted to see the Masters, so two days after retiring he is traveling to see the Masters. In July he and Edie will be taking a cruise to Alaska and in September they will take their annual trip to the Outer Banks to visit with friends. You can be sure that the grass will not grow under Bobby’s feet during retirement; he said he plans to get a part time job just to stay busy. He’s not going to be too far away, he will always be available to the staff when and where he is needed. He will also be around to visit and feed his cats that live in the tractor barn.

Life Events

1961 Began working at
Carpers Valley Golf Course

1968-72 US Airforce Service

1979 VA State EMS Person of the
Year

1982 Co-Founder of The Shenan-
doah Valley Turf
Association

1987 Married Edie

1992 Began working at Cress
Creek Golf & Country Club

2000 Began working at RH

* Received Lifetime

Achievement Award from GCSA

* Received VA Turf Grass Coun-
cil Lifetime Service Award



Bobby pokes a snapping turtle that was removed from the course in 2009.

Retirement is like a long vacation
in Las Vegas. The goal is
to enjoy it the fullest, but not
so fully that you run out of money.
– Jonathan Clements

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Brian Hyde Interview.....

In some form or fashion he has worked for name recognizable companies such as: Capital Records, RCA, CBS, Columbia Records and Reeves Soundcraft. Now you might be wondering, "Is he a producer?, Is he a singer? Does he play backup for some band? No, even better.

Brian was a Media Carrier Developer. He was the developing mind behind how we listen to our music— video tapes, cassette tapes, CD's, DVD's.....Brians name is one of 18 on the patent for the video tape (VHS and Beta that we watched movies on in the late 80's). Brian worked for Reeves Soundcraft at the time who began working for RCA as a subcontractor. They were working to develop a specialized spy satellite in 1964. So, Brian and his team developed this video tape for the satellite. After the satellite recorded its footage they dropped the film canister from space with a little parachute attached to it and a fighter jet would scream to pick it up with exact precision. Sounds like the stuff movies are made of, right? Well, there was a movie called *Ice Station Zebra*, starring Rock Hudson (1968) that depicted this scene quite accurate according to Brian. If

you read the movie review for *Ice Station Zebra*, it reads like this: *The movie's plot has similarities with the real life 1962 CIA Project COLDFEET aka Operation Coldfeet. Conducted in May and June of that year, the assignment purpose was to gather intelligence from an abandoned Soviet arctic research ice station. Two agents parachuted from a B-17 Flying Fortress and searched the facility and were collected three days later via the Fulton surface-to-air recovery system.*

What do you think of the name Mr. Boring now?

Brian was given that nickname because of his precision driving skills. He never makes "a walk of shame" after he drives, they are always right where they should be.

Brians' driving skills may have something to do with his choice of favorite vs. least favorite holes. His favorite hole is Boulder #2, and I quote, "The shortest Par 5 in the Shenandoah Valley." His least favorite is Boulder #14, he never get less than a 3 putt, he says it's the rottenness green on the course.

Brian's favorite golfers fell into two categories: the new and the old. Of the old, his favorites are Sam Snead and Arnold Palmer. Of the new, he liked Jason Day and Rickie Fowler. Brian also has a pretty extraordinary Bucket List of courses he wants to play in his lifetime. So far he has accomplished a lot. To date he has

played: Pebble Beach, Tory Pines, Firestone, Wing Foot, Kingsmill and St. Andrews. Yet to play is: Pine Hurst, Bay Hill, The PGA National in FL, and The PGA Stadium in Scottsdale AZ.

Brian is a very active member of Rock Harbor and has made it his community. He is very proud of the fact that he made it onto the Harbor Cup team two years in a row. He plays in the Senior League, Members Leagues and attends most all the socials. He is also hoping to be a part of the Harbor Cup again this year.

I would say Brian is anything but Mr. Boring and he is doing RH membership the way it should be done— full emersion.

