

# Rock Harbor News

September 2016

## Member Corner: Donnie Stotler

By Misty Fields:

I am please to introduce to you our new Club Champion of the Legends Flight: Donnie Stotler.

Donnie was born and raised in Winchester. He is one of our *homegrown members*.

Donnie graduated from James Wood High School in the 50's and had a job like most young men. But Donnie had a really good job for a teenager, unlike most young men. He was a Caddie at The Winchester County Club. But his job did not come easy. He had to get up before the sun and ride his bike about 45 minutes to arrive before the members came to play their first round. Donnie and his caddie friends would often arrive in enough time to sneak in a swim at the pool, which was strictly off limits to employees. They would get caught, get fired and re-hired all in the same day. There were no carts, so they were valuable employees. Donnie would carry two bags in the morning and two in the afternoon at a rate of \$8.00 per bag and if he was really good he got a \$2.00 tip. That was \$40.00 a day in the 50's! That was good money for a kid out of high school. (In 1956 the Federal Minimum Wage was \$1.00 per hour.) As an employee he was allowed to play golf on



Monday's, but he had to borrow clubs from a member and the Pro would give each caddie a half hour lesson. This was Donnie's introduction to golf.

After high school Donnie went into the Navy for four years as an Aviation Electronic Technician. After the Navy he went to Roanoke Collage on the GI Bill and graduated with a teaching certificate.

He taught elementary school for five years. One year at Kline Elementary in Winchester and four years in South Carolina. After moving back to Winchester in 1999 he worked for General Electric and ITT as a Quality Assurance Manager. His last job was with Valley Health Systems at their distribution center. This is where Donnie retired from in 2008.

Donnie has played golf since he graduated from high school, but he has a love for something else greater than golf. Its fishing. He said he would rather fish than play golf any day.

Donnie likes to fish in Hidden Valley, a friend property and he also enjoyed fishing at Smith Mountain Lake when he was living in Roanoke.

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have to be playing a lot of golf, Donnie said he tries to play golf at least 3 times a week. The day I talked with him, he had already played 3 times that week, once that day and he was going out again in the afternoon. He is a familiar face and a regular in the Tuesday men's league. He claims his life is not that exciting, Donnie said, "there's just not much to tell." I am sure if I had not caught him in between rounds we could have found out more. But I will leave all those stories for you golfers to discover during your next round with Donnie.

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## Parting Shots



Some of our employees work behind the scenes, rain or shine to make sure everything is running smoothly. Katarina Carbary, one of our cart girls, puts carts away on a rainy August day.



2016 CC Dave Keller



Women's CC Colleen Connolly



Legends CC Don Stotler



Ladies representation for the Club Championship



Men's Senior CC Roger Hill



Men's Open CC Sterling