

# Rock Harbor News

February 2019

## Member Corner: Tom and Sue Allen

*Misty Fields:*

1986 was the year Tom

and Sue were both heavily involved in Bowling Leagues. Both were traveling all over the country to attend conventions and tournaments. Both were excellent bowlers. Tom had a 298 high game to his name with a 201 as his high average, Sue

had two perfect games of 300 to her name with a high average of 202. But their bowling scores are just a back story to their union as husband and wife. Tom and Sue met at a bowling convention in 1985 and were married the following year. They both looked at each other with blushed faces as they told the sto-



ry, I could tell there was more to the story of their meeting, but they weren't talking. Prior to the Allen's becoming a family they were off doing the career thing. Sue started working for the Federal Government in 1976. She began as a typist and finished her career in Customs and Border Protection. When she came to D.C. in 1976 it was not the safest place for a young girl from a small town in upstate New York, but she stuck it out, unlike many of the others who arrived with her and had a successful and fulfilling career with the government until the day she retired.

Tom began his career in the restaurant business as a line cook in Tysons Corner. His sister knew someone in Liberia, Africa who needed a short term cook to come in and relieve the owners, so off Tom went to Liberia. In 1985 Liberia was not the place to be.

Earlier in 1980 there had been a military coup that overthrew and killed the sitting president. In 1985, when Tom was there, another failed counter coup was launched and shut the borders down for 3 weeks. Tom was unable to leave the country. Many executions occurred, the government was semi-stable and the borders opened back up- Tom left, while he had the chance. When he returned to the states he did not return to the restaurant business but the Telecommunications and Wireless Business. Tom worked for MCI and Telos. Telos worked with the government as a contractor and Tom was sent all over the world to install wireless communications. While on one base, he was taking pictures of the work that needed to be completed, he was seized by the Coast Guard and threatened with the brigade.

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BEFORE and AFTER

Congratulations to Bruce Qualls for being the first person to correctly guess where the Pictorial Diary picture was located. This rock is located in front of the Orange Tee Box of Boulder No. 12. Bruce has received a free Saturday night dinner for being the winner. Thanks for all who turned in their guesses and gave it a try.

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.....Continued from page 1 Tom and Sue Allen.....

Tom was frantic, trying to get someone to verify not only his presence on the base but the need for the pictures. At one point when he thought he wasn't making it home that evening he proclaimed to the officer that he could not spend the night in the brigade, he had a bowling tournament that evening!

Neither Tom nor Sue is from Winchester but they did some research and decided to move here upon their retirement, they said it just felt like the right place for them to be. Golf was not a priority to either one of them at the time, but has become more a part of their lives since joining Rock Harbor and since they are both retired. Sue joined first in 2014 and then Tom in 2015. They are both now regular faces at the member's events and leagues. Tom said his favorite hole is No.1 Boulder and least favorite is No. 4 Boulder. For Sue, No. 15 Rock was her favorite and No.16 Rock her least favorite. They both said they love both courses, the members and the staff of RH.

Tom and Sue also have many hobbies outside of golf. They are both tailors; they make quilts, table runners and other gifts and projects. They are also both volunteers for the Apple Blossom Festival. Sue helps with the Wine Festival and Tom helps with the Mid-Way as the manager of bands.

If you don't know Tom and Sue, introduce yourselves and I promise you will not regret the conversation or friendship that follows.

Sue Allen, Geri Lum and Tom Allen at the Chantilly Golf Show. February 2019



Christmas Party 2018. If you missed our annual Christmas Party in December, you missed a great time of fellowship, fun and amazing food. There is a slide show of all the pictures on our Rock Harbor Facebook Page and a few are included here for those who missed all the fun.

