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“Night Golf”  
by  
Tom Holbrook

Good morning... by the time you read this Judy and I will be hard at work welcoming all you fine folks who chose to exercise one of the most important rights you've been allotted as citizens of these United States of America... getting out to vote for your candidate of choice. It's make no matter for whom you vote... well, that's a lie, it does matter, but my point is regardless of your political affiliation you should have been registered by now and looking forward to your spot in line at your precinct.

As you all may, or may not know, this election is a fairly simple one since there are only two issues on the ballot... 1) Whom do you wish to be the representative of your party for the Presidential nomination; and 2) Are you in favor or against the proposed Florida Property Tax reduction that will be on the ballot. So if your registered, get off your duff and get going to the polls. If you're not registered, shame on you and get off your duff and go get that done so you can vote in the General Election in November.

I had another “first experience” in my life the other day... nothing earth shattering but it was a lot of fun. Judy and I plus 30 other neighbors journeyed to Saddlebrook Golf Course and played 9 holes of “Night Golf.” It was a fun experience and I encourage everyone who hasn't done it to get a group up and contact the Villages Golf people to get the particulars on how to do it.

I know we had to buy the necessary equipment, i.e., special balls, glow sticks and other battery operated glowing lights to place along the course. We left Winifred Village around 6:45 p.m, 15 golf carts carrying 2 excited players each... two of our crew having gone ahead before dark to place the light on the fairways and greens. The balls were made of a crystal looking material and had a hollow place to receive a tiny glow stick of its own. Each player had a glow stick, formed into a circle to wear around our necks and special glow sticks were hooked to the pin on each green and stuck on the inside edge of the cup so the hole was lighted as well.

The rules were simple... it was a scramble start and the hardest part of the whole evening was finding your tee box on the proper hole without running your cart into the

ponds or a sand trap. Everyone hit from the ladies' tees, (not mandatory but with our crew we felt it served us best,) and the game was "Best Ball" format. I must say many of us came off the course, around 90 minutes later, saying they had hit the ball better at night than they normally did during the daytime hours. Must have something to do with each person concentrating so properly on hitting the ball... head down and all that stuff. I did happen to hit one shot into the lake and thought I had lost it but when I got to the green it was floating around 15 feet from shore so I bravely disregarded the alligator potential and extended my ball retriever and slowly but surely smacked the ball toward the shore. As I was bobbing that lighted ball up and down I thought to myself, *"Don't fishermen use lighted, or fluorescent lures to catch big fish at night... are alligators stimulated and enticed with lighted objects as fish are?"* So I bobbed a little faster and finally got my ball back in my pocket.

Each team was issued 5 balls and if they were lost... "tough takooskus"... (my word.) There were no mulligans, for obvious reasons and no "closest to the pin" award, but everything else was basically the same as daytime golf. After the game 4 stayed behind to pick up the pieces, literally, and we all met at John and Sally's house for an unbelievable "snack" and drink array, of which we indulged to our heart's desire until the bewitching hour of 10 or 10:30 p.m..

Besides John, Sally, Judy and I, the other Winifred "Night Golf" debutees (again, my word) who braved the beautiful cloud filtered moonlight, a very comfortable balmy breeze, and a view of golf hazards from a totally different, sometimes eerie perspective were: Jenna and Ken; Sally and Bob; Linda and Dave; Cathy and Ed; Cathy and Don; Ginny and Ed; John and Jean; Elena and Manny; Linda and Ron; Susan and Dick; Shelia and Charlie; Jean and Frank; Gerry and Ray; Kent and Sarah; Karen and Carl, and non-Winifred residents Greg and Lucille.

It was a great evening and a great experience and I recommend it to your neighborhood and/or golf group.

Have a good week.

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