

## **2006 FWGAD Newsletter by Ron Rhodes**

On August 8, 2005, there were 61 golfers that attended the 36th Far West Golfers for the Deaf Tournament at Marina Inn in San Leandro, California. The scenery over there is a stunning view of the marina filled with boats and the famous San Francisco Bay. To my disappointment there was no remake of the famed pool story of John Hayes and his wife. I did not have time to seek out any interesting or unusual things that happened since I was as busy as co-chairs with my friend, Bob Ellis. I have to say a few words about Bob who did an excellent job doing many things and a wonderful person to work with.

The general meeting went well with some interesting changes. We approved the Super Seniors addendum to the bylaws to permit them to play two day tournament instead of a three-day tournament format due to their limited abilities. Jim Revell was reelected as Tournament Director and Ed Bazan was elected as Secretary/Treasurer replacing Jerry Nichols who decided not to run. We want to thank Jerry for his dedication and contribution to FWGAD over the many years as a player and a Board member. We wish him well and expect to see him playing in the years to come.

We played a shotgun tournament at Monarch Bay Golf Course on Tuesday, August 9 th. The weather was pleasant and cooperative with us. Thanks to our Creator for giving us a nice day to play. The leaders of the first round were Wally DeVe, Neil Johnson and Joe Rourke who tied for a score of 78. Five other golfers shot between 80 to 83.

On Wednesday, August 10, we played at Metro Golf Course, our first FWGAD tournament there was in 1970. The former name of the course was the Tony Lema Golf Course. The course was closed and used for a dumping ground from the airport construction. Now the course is designed to fit the Scottish links. It was a fun and challenging course to play. Gil Lentz, Deaf and true Californian, the second round leader, shot 77. Scott Hansen and Wally DeVe, Deaf Oregonians, shot 78 and 79 respectively.

On Thursday, August 11, we played again at Monarch Bay for the last time. Gil Lentz, a leader after the first two rounds, led by 3 strokes over Scott Hansen. It was an exciting time since Gil was 48 years old and Scott just 22. The story went back to when Jack Nicklaus won the Masters at the age of 46 in 1986. Gil and Scott played very well but Scott played a fantastic game golf and won as the FWGAD back to back Champion with a score of 68. Gil played beautifully but not enough to win with a 75. Congratulations to Scott Hansen. We were so sad that Richard Amundsen had to withdraw after he played first round due to his tiring hips and declared that it was his last FWGAD tournament. I hope not and am looking forward to seeing him again soon play at FWGAD tournament. We decided to give the awards at the clubhouse since there was no room to give them out on the dinner cruises.

**FWGAD Champion:** Scott Hansen, Oregon

**First Flight Champion:** Dan Smith, California

**Second Flight Champion:** Ron Rhodes, California

**Senior A Flight Champion:** Dan Poage, Oregon

**Senior B Flight Champion:** Denise Elliott, California

**Lowest putts of three rounds:** 93, Gil Lentz, California

**Highest putts of three rounds:** 140, Don Sager, California

The dinner cruise at Alameda was a memorable time for us all there. Good food and loads of drinks made us merry. The cruise was a smooth ride except for some choppy water as expected. The FWGAD family enjoyed the views of the Bay. Bob and I wanted to thank our departed President of ADGEF, Gil Lentz, for his unqualified and trustworthy support for us to do whatever was good for FWGAD. Also to Ed Leighton for his delicate dots and commas on our progress preparing for the tournament. We also want to thank Ron Bye for a smooth registration program to make us all at ease. Not the last thing but important, we cannot still thank enough to Freddie Stocksick and Charles Holmes for printing wonderful program book. Also to Jeannie and Ed Leighton for coordinating the dinner cruise. And to Nancy Rourke, our great webmaster, got an award from us all to show our appreciation for her untiring dedication to maintain the website. Now we have a new web version. It must be an exciting time when everything is done with the new construction soon. They all (the committee) did a super fantastic job.

Most of you knew that Gil Lentz, our beloved and FWGAD ambassador, decided to depart us to a better place, the Heavenly Gates on September 19, 2005. It was a shocking and unbelievable tragedy that occurred to us all. His life had a true impact on each of us in different ways. Gil was a true friend to us and represented FWGAD excellently. 2005 was one of his best years playing golf and he was second to Scott Hansen, our back-to-back FWGAD champion. We love you, Gil and promise that we all will carry the FWGAD torch for many more years. The FWGAD Board with member's support will have an annual championship trophy in honor of Gil Lentz. We are working on the wording and will announce it in Idaho this summer. We will have a short memorial service to remember Gil for his long time contribution and devotion to FWGAD.

Now back to reality, the 37 th FWGAD chairperson, a great and wonderful man, Mike Grammer and his great committee gang, is ready to have an exciting tournament at Canyon Springs, Idaho. Please do come and support the Deaf Idahoians to have a successful tournament. I am looking forward to playing there and **so are you!**

***~Ron Rhodes***