

TeeOff News

Fourth Quarter 2024



Hunter Ranch Golf Course



President's Message Andy Cordova



We wrapped up our year of events at the annual Christmas party at Windows on the Water in Morro Bay. As always, it was a wonderful success, made even more special by the lighted boat parade, which added to the festive atmosphere. The traditional white elephant gift exchange brought its usual mix of laughter and competitive fun. Thank you to all attendees and sponsors for making this such a memorable evening. Connecting with our members and their significant others is always a highlight of the year. Attendance was up this year, and we encourage all members to attend next year's event. Mark your calendars and book your hotel early as rooms fill up quickly during the boat parade weekend.

As my presidency concludes, I want to thank our board of directors for their outstanding contributions over the past two years. Their creativity, dedication, and teamwork have driven positive changes and laid a strong foundation for future growth. I'm confident the incoming officers and board will continue this momentum. If you'd like to help shape the chapter's future, consider joining the board in 2026.

To our members, thank you for your continued participation and support. Your involvement is vital to our success and we hope this trend continues. Next year's calendar features a fantastic lineup of events and venues. We encourage everyone to join in and connect with fellow members.

Lastly, a special thank you to our sponsors. Your steadfast support enables our chapter's operations, and we're truly grateful for your partnership.

We're looking forward to another exciting year of events and I look forward to seeing you all there. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president.

Andy Cordova

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California Alliance for Golf Monthly Newsletter

Please check out this attached link to the monthly CAG Newsletters. There is a lot of great information about our water issues in this months flyer.

[CAG Newsletter– December](#)

[CAG Newsletter– November](#)



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From the Field Jeff Jensen, GCSAA Field Staff, Southwest Region



I hope this finds all of our Central California members doing well. I look forward to catching up with all of you at the Annual Meeting at Hunter Ranch in January.

I recently returned from the annual GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting held in Lawrence, KS. 90 GCSAA affiliated chapters were represented at the two-day meeting. The main topic of discussion was a proposed dues increase that will be voted on at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in San Diego this February.

The increase would move the dues from the current \$465 per year for Class A/B to \$530, Class C dues from \$240 to \$275 and EM dues from \$115 to \$150. The increase was based on a two-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 8.1 percent (\$40 Class A/B, \$20 Class C, \$10 EM) plus an additional increase above CPI (\$25 Class A/B, \$15 Class C, \$25 EM). The proposed dues increase will ensure that GCSAA can continue to meet the needs of our members. While CPI increases over the past years have allowed GCSAA to keep up with inflation and costs of doing business, we have added numerous programs and services that need additional funding to provide greater impact on a quicker timeline. The increase in dues is not earmarked for any particular project or service but will assist with our continued efforts in the areas of workforce development, advocacy and government relations, environmental efforts and increasing the professional recognition of GCSAA members. Other topics discussed at the meeting included updates on various GCSAA programs including Rounds 4 Research, Government Affairs, Conference and Show, First Green, Workforce Development, the Golf Course Environmental Profile Series and GCSAA's upcoming 100-year Centennial Celebration. Delegates also had the opportunity to meet and interview candidates for the upcoming Board of Directors election that will be held in February. A list of candidates and credentials can be viewed at <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/annual-meeting/2025/2025-annual-meeting-preview>.

If you have any questions concerning the dues increase or any other discussions at the delegates meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me or your Chapter Delegate Elliot Weber and we will be glad to discuss this in detail.

As we celebrate the holiday season, I hope you have the chance to spend some quality time with family and friends and enjoy the festivities. If you have any questions, please contact me at jjensen@gcsaa.org and follow me on X [@GCSAA_SW](https://twitter.com/GCSAA_SW) for industry updates.

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TEE-OFF News

VENDOR PROFILE

John Allan– SQM

We met up with our newest Affiliate Rep to run for the Central California GCSA Board of Directors. John Allan works for SQM and we took a moment to get to know him a little better.



Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I was born in San Jose, CA but spent most of my childhood in the small farming town of Aromas. Aromas is located between Watsonville and Salinas.

Q: How did your interest grow for the golf course industry?

A: I became interested in the industry when I attended the San Diego Golf Academy in 1999. I entered the program planning on teaching golf as a career but took a Golf Course Maintenance class and was hooked. I took a job at Shadowridge CC in Vista, CA and my career has evolved from there.

Q: Where did you go to school and what was your major?

A: Cal Poly, SLO 2006. B.S Plant Protection Science

Q: What was your first paying job in the industry?

A: Shadowridge CC in Vista, CA. Much accolades for the superintendent at the time, Mike Rohwer

Q: What part of your job excites you everyday?

A: I love working with industry end-users to develop fertility programs.

Q: What tool/s do you need to have everyday to make your job easier?

A: I'd love to say that a necessary tool is a pair of boots or my truck, but, modern business relies on a cell phone so I'd have to say that that is the most important tool in my bag.

Q: What hobbies or hidden talents do you have?

A: I try to cook as often as possible. I also really like yard work.

Q: What is one dream vacation destination?

A: Scotland for scotch and golf!!

Q: What is your favorite food or meal?

A: I could eat sushi for breakfast, lunch and dinner but pho is a very close second

Q: What music do you enjoy listening to?

A: I'm a big Tool fan. But I appreciate variety and find myself listening to the King (George Strait) and a fair amount of modern reggae.

Q: What sports do you enjoy watching? Favorite teams?

A: A point of contention of me is the Oakland A's (grrrr...). Now I am an ex-A's fan. I'm a Niners fan but I find myself watching golf the most.

Q: If you could give your younger self some advice, what would that be?

A: Learn Spanish! And patience.

Q: What advice would you give to someone wanting to get into the golf industry?

A: The best industry in the world, be prepared to work hard but there's plenty of time to play hard.

2025 Annual Meeting
Hunter Ranch Golf Course

Don't miss out on the 2025 Annual Meeting and Election for the Board of Directors. This years host will be Jason Pautsch and Hunter Ranch Golf Course. We look forward to meeting the new Board, and seeing everyone in the New Year.

If you have not already voted for the Board of Directors, please do so [HERE](#).



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The advertisement features a central image of a tree growing on a square patch of turf with its roots exposed. The background is split into a grey left side and a yellow right side. The text is in bold, sans-serif fonts, with yellow and white colors used for emphasis.

2024 Charity Tournament Eagle Springs Golf & CC

We want to Thank Eagle Springs, and Host Mike Best for an incredible Charities Tournament. We were able to contribute \$2000 to Cen Cal Sports and help local youth participate in athletics. Thank you to all of our participants who attended and Sponsored the annual event.



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Eagle Springs Team, Spencer Uzzell, Pedro Rodriguez, Mike best, and John Creaney



Eric Mayu from Cen Cal Sports, Mike Best, and John Creaney



Elliot Weber with his team from The Alisal.



Board member David Avila gave out the awards for Closest to the Pin, and 1st and 2nd place teams.



Mike Best showing us how to use his homemade cannon. This made for a great fundraiser and lots of fun for everyone.



2nd Place Team Pedro Hernandez, Dominic Peluso, Justin Tracy, and Chad Suydam.

Safety Moment:

By Elliot Weber

Chainsaw safety basics

1. **THE THUMB GRIP** Keep a steady grip on both handles on the saw. Thumbs and fingers must be completely wrapped around the handles. It is very important to hold the thumb of your left hand under the front handle to reduce the force of a possible kickback.
2. **CLOSE CONTACT** Do not be afraid of the saw. Hold it close to your body for better balance and to make the saw feel less heavy.
3. **BALANCE** Stand with your feet apart. To achieve the best possible balance, put your left foot slightly in front of your right.
4. **BEND YOUR KNEES** Spare your back. Do not work with a curved spine, bend your knees instead when working in low positions.
5. **MOVING / TRANSPORT** The chain must not be rotating when you are moving to another spot. When moving in several steps, you should activate the chain brake or turn off the engine. When you move a longer distance or when transporting, you should fit the guide bar guard.
6. **SAFETY DISTANCE** Make sure that no one is closer to you than 3 – 5 meters when working with a chainsaw. During tree felling, a greater safety distance is required.

Avoid working alone:

If there are two or more of you, you can help each other if something happens. If you must work alone, you should always:

- Tell someone where you will be during the day. Give your contact person (a designated person) your route and your location, e.g. with GPS coordinates
- Always carry a mobile phone or communication radio and keep in regular contact with your contact person at least every three hours
- Always have a transport vehicle in the forest and always park the vehicle so that you can quickly leave the area
- Observe all other safety procedures carefully

Beware of kickbacks:

The kickback zone is the upper part of the nose of the guide bar. Sawing with this part of the guide bar poses a significant risk for a kickback, in which the chain will grip the timber, and the saw and blade are thrown backward and upwards by the force of the rotating chain. A kickback can be very dangerous and you need to understand:

- Kickbacks can occur during most work procedures if the saw is not handled carefully. This is why it is essential for you to learn and use correct saw.

2024 Holiday Event Windows on the Water



Will Barragan and guest Christina



Andy Cordova and Family



Jim and Cathy Culley, Pete and Nina Bowman



Jim and Cathy Culley



Michael and Heather Bova



Kim Milne and Family



Elliot and Braidie Weber



Pete and Nina Bowman



Glen Matthews, Taylor Milne, Andy Cordova



Randy and Peggy Haines with Elliot and Braidie Weber

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Save The Dates

2025

January 20
Annual Meeting
Hunter Ranch

February 5
GIS
California Room
Petco Park

March 10
Mechanic Seminar
Copper River CC

May 19
Al Glaze Scholarship Tournament
Monarch Dunes CC

June 23
Montecito CC



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Delegate Meeting Overview

Elliot Weber

Member Dues Strategy

Kevin Sunderman, CGCS, chief operating officer, emphasized the importance of continuous pursuit of excellence in golf course management. The discussion then covered the proposed dues increase to fund various initiatives, with a focus on maintaining high member satisfaction and addressing the growing needs of the industry.

Sunderman highlighted the importance of communication within chapters and the need for input from all members. He placed emphasis on being good stewards of the environment while managing business operations and ensuring financial efficiency. Sunderman talked about the amplified efforts in communication, including GCM Online, GCSAA TV, social media, and podcasts. He discussed workforce development, focusing on attracting, training, and retaining staff, with a mention of the First Green initiative. He emphasized the importance of keeping valuable staff through training and retention programs. Sunderman discussed GCSAA advocacy and environmental programs. He talked about the challenges faced in advocacy, including the impact of regulations and the importance of grassroots ambassadors. He mentioned the reduction in water usage achieved through best management practices (BMPs). He highlighted the importance of collecting data for advocacy efforts and the role of BMPs in maintaining golf's environmental impact. He stated the need for continuous updates to Golf Course Environmental Profile data and the importance of member participation in surveys. Sunderman recognized the contributions of field staff and stressed the importance of having staff in local areas to support chapters. He mentioned the Rounds 4 Research program and its impact on local chapters and the need to grow the program to meet future needs. Sunderman emphasized the importance of professional recognition campaigns, such as Thank a Golf Course Superintendent Day in building awareness and respect for the profession. Sunderman listed the programs that have been added since 2006.

Education:

- Melrose Leadership Academy
- Melrose Equipment Management Experience
- Women's Leadership Academy
- Excel
- Links to Success

Communication

- GCM Online
- GCSAATV
- GCSAA Podcast

Workforce Development

- First Green
- Certified Turf Equipment Manager
- ASCS
- EMCP
- JAG
- FFA

Advocacy and Environmental

- Best Management Practices
- Political Action Committee
- Grassroots Ambassadors

Service to Chapters

- Field Staff
- Rounds 4 Research

Professional Recognition

- Thank a Golf Course Superintendent Day

Delegate Meeting Overview– Continued

Sunderman shared his experience with running lean operations and the impact on quality and time management. He described the need for more resources to accelerate the development of training videos, BMPs, and career pathways. He stressed the importance of leveraging members' dues to provide valuable programs and services. Sunderman said that delegates will discuss the proposed dues increase in small breakout sessions and provide feedback. There will be a vote at the Annual Meeting on the proposed dues increase for Class A/B and Class C members. Sunderman said that GCSAA must continue to grow. Since 2006, GCSAA has gone from 120 to 85 staff members. If we had more resources, you would have training videos last year, not next year. We think about the educational and career pathways, Greenkeeper Certificate and other programs we could implement with more resources. At the end of the day, we want to raise the bar. We want to have a greater impact. Paul L. Carter, CGCS, secretary treasurer, discussed the importance of the dues strategy in ensuring a sustainable association and funding programs and services. He mentioned the current dues structure and the proposed increases to fill the current funding gap. Dues account for about 26% of the revenue that GCSAA brings in. In 2025, Carter stated that the CPI increase is \$40 for Class A and B and C. But, to fill the funding gap an additional increase above the CPI is needed. The proposed increase is \$65 for Class A and B and \$35 for class C.

Our current dues are \$465 for Class A/B and \$240 for Class C. The proposed increase would make Class A/B \$530 and Class C \$275. Equipment Manager dues are not voted on but approved by the board. Their proposed increase is \$35. The EM dues would be \$150. Carter stressed the need for member input and feedback on the proposed dues increases and

the importance of engaging with the association and providing input on the proposed changes. He said that during the breakout sessions delegates will discuss the proposed dues increases and gather input. He stressed the importance of engagement and discussion to ensure the proposed changes meet the needs of the members and reiterates the need for member input

and the importance of the discussion in making informed decisions. Carter reminded delegates that CPI dues increases are voted on every two years. This process was started because of the 2006 Chapter Delegates Meeting. It helps GCSAA keep pace with the increasing costs. Over the years, we've seen membership rating approval between 87 and

97%. The increase is not automatic. He said they want to know what you're thinking for yourself, your facility, for your members in your chapter. After all the discussions, I am in full support of the proposed dues increase. It will help GCSAA continue to grow and offer us more services and opportunities for professional development as well as crew development.

Every round donated qualifies you for a future meeting credit with the GCSACC.

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