



## ITG raises more than \$1,000 for charity

April 30 is a big day in San Antonio. It's the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, an annual 5k race that raises thousands of dollars for cancer research. It's the largest 5k race in the country. Along with it, various other events raise money for Komen charities, as well.

The Iron Thong Golf Gang joined the celebration on Saturday at Alsatian Golf Course in Castroville, raising \$1,065 in its first charity tournament.

Playing a modified Ryder Cup format, in which two-man teams played six holes in a scramble format, six holes in an alternate shot format and the remaining six in a best ball format, the team of Matt Cranham and Paul Tenner shot a net 56 to take first place. They won free rounds of golf at Alsatians.

Dominick De La Garza and Anthony Roberts came in second with a net 57, also winning free rounds. Coming in last, the team of John Hernandez and Jesse Flores won two free golf lessons from the Alsatian teaching professional, Jeff Bober.

Fourteen two-man teams played the Castroville course, donating their entrance fees, individual donations and mulligan fees to Susan G. Komen.

"We've been planning on a charity tournament for quite a while," said Steve VanWert, ITG President. "This seemed like a perfect time and a deserving charity."

The ITG will hold a second charity tournament in 2011, the date and charity to be determined later.

"We were thrilled to hear that the ITG was putting on this tournament for the Komen charity," said Kara Hall, Komen Race for the Cure Event Manager. "We thank all of the golfers for their generosity. We accept the donation with gratitude."

Team scores went like this:

Matt Cranham/Paul Tenner (56), Dominick De La Garza/Anthony Roberts (57), Pete Cliburn/Buck Buchanan (59), Todd Mumford/Johnny Berner (60), Ed Chrismer/Justin May (60), Matt Schapman/Gary Crenshaw (60), Ed Sharpe/Mac Beckwith (61), Derek Frank/Ron Boone (62), Mike Linares/Hershel Krigbaum (62), Bret Robinson/Brad Gildea (63), Steve VanWert/Louis Menchaca (65), Sergio Rosales/Jamie McBride (65), Javier Trevino/Sergio Contreras (65), and John Hernandez/Jesse Flores (65).



*Jamie McBride, ITG Treasurer, presents Kara Hall from the Susan G. Komen Foundation with a check for \$1,065.*



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Articles including for sale items, can be submitted at any time. Send them to the editor at [svanwert2@satx.rr.com](mailto:svanwert2@satx.rr.com).

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# Curiosities of Golf

1. In Moscow in 1990, 100,000 golf balls were stolen from a 9-hole golf course.
2. In 1960, at the Eden Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, all the lead was stolen from the roof of the clubhouse.
3. In the 1971 Ryder Cup in St. Louis, Bernard Gallacher (UK) lost the 7th hole to Arnold Palmer (USA) when Gallacher's caddie asked what club Palmer used.
4. On the same hole in the same tournament, Gardner Dickinson (US) lost to Harry Bannerman (UK) when Dickinson's caddie picked up the ball.
5. During the third round of the 1939 Open Championship at St. Andrews, Martin Posse (Argentina) lost two strokes for not understanding the local rule not to ground his club in the roadside grass at the 17th hole. Posse did not speak or understand English.
6. During the 1992 Million Dollar Challenge, at Sun City, South Africa, Nick Price (Zimbabwe) was isqualified for moving an advertising board.
7. In 1980 U.S. Open at Baltrusol, Seve Ballesteros (Spain) was disqualified for arriving 10 minutes late for his tee time and wearing street shoes.
8. During the 1936 U. S. Open at Holyoke, A.H. Padgham was the winner after breaking into the pro shop to retrieve his clubs.
9. Roberto de Visenzo (Argentina) had the winning score at the 1968 Masters, but was disqualified because he signed an incorrect scorecard.
10. The 1993 Spanish National Championship was restarted after two rounds when it was discovered that the tee markers had been moved.

# Four Iron Thongers compete in Myrtle Beach

Mike Fisk, Louis Menchaca, Ron Boone and Steve VanWert recently returned from Myrtle Beach, S.C. after competing in the 28th Annual Retired Military Golf Classic.

The Classic consists of four days of scramble golf on four different Myrtle Beach courses, King's North, South Creek, Long Bay and Aberdeen.

About 880 players, broken into A, B, C and D players, competed for cash prizes, merchandise and gift certificates.

Mike Fisk, playing as an A player, finished in 8th place. Steve VanWert, playing as a B player, finished in 31st place. Finishers in the top 50 received cash prizes.

This is an annual tournament for retired military golfers. For more info on how to sign up, contact any of the four ITGers, or go to [www.nrmgc.com](http://www.nrmgc.com).

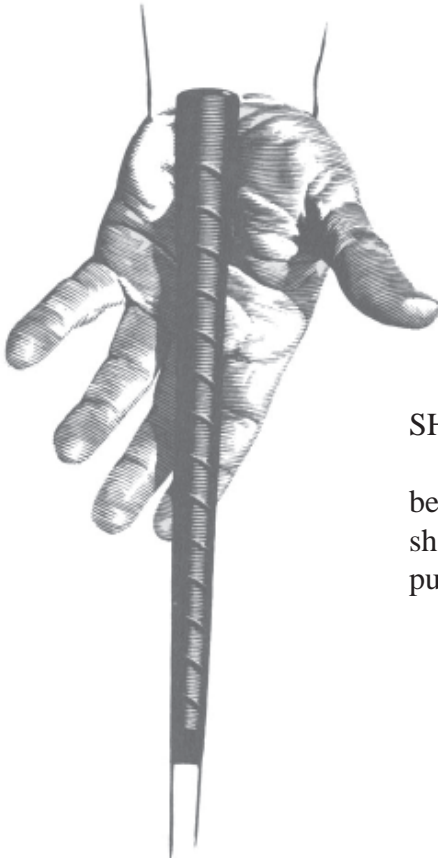


*The Fearsome Foursome at Byrtle Beach*



# CLASSIC GOLF TIPS

Drawings by Anthony Raveilli



## SHAFT IN PALM FOR PUTTING

In a putting stroke, the handle of the putter should be in your palms, along your lifelines. This lines up the shaft with your forearms -- the proper position for the putter to swing on the right plane.

-- Stan Utley

## CUPPED, FLAT OR BOWED

I play best when I am what I believe to be “square”: left hand, wrist and forearms forming a straight line, and thus setting the clubface midway between vertical and horizontal. I can usually play fairly decently from an “open” position, caused by a slight concave kink in my left wrist angling the clubface closer to vertical than horizontal. When a convex arching of my wrist at the top “closes” the clubface so that it looks too far skywar, I’m liable to be all over the park, and sometimes beyond it.

-- Jack Nicklaus



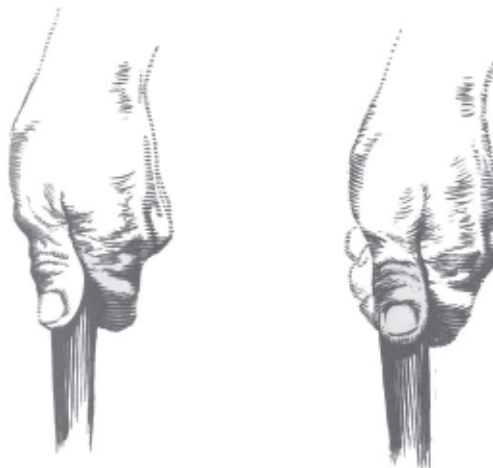
### CHECKING YOUR GRIP

There are good players who have weak grips and good players who have strong grips. Tiger Woods has a neutral grip. All good grips obey one rule. Your palms must face each other as they hold the club. You shouldn't have a strong right hand and a weak left hand, or vice versa.

In a weak grip, the hands are turned so the back of the glove is almost hidden. With this grip, your hands should be a little higher at address. At the top of the swing, your left wrist should be flat so it makes a straight line with your left forearm.

In a strong grip, the back of the glove is almost entirely visible. With this grip, your hands should be a little lower at address, and at the top your left wrist should be a little cupped, keeping the clubface parallel to the left arm at the top.

-- Butch Harmon



### FINGER EXTENDED IN PUTTING

I certainly don't claim to have invented this grip, with the right forefinger extending down the shaft of the putter, but I do use it for greater control. It just gives me more feeling of command. I use an interlocking grip, the same as in my regular swing, but extend my finger.

-- Nancy Lopez

# The ITGQ Quarterly Review

How did our intrepid Iron Thongers do during the latest three-month period, April, May and June? Who were the winners, who shot the lowest scores, and who was the hottest ITGer? Here we go.

## *April*

Our first outing after our semi-annual tournament was an April 9<sup>th</sup> outing at Canyon Springs. John Hancock won A Flight with a 91-net 71, with Ed Chrismer coming in second with an 85-net 73. Steve VanWert came in tied for second with a 90-net 73.

In B Flight, Jamie McBride was the winner with a 92-net 65 and Cris Pappas came in second with a 99-net 73.

Birdies were a premium at Canyon, with only three scored. Jeff Konop birdied the No. 2 Par 5. John Hancock had two birdies. He scored a deuce on No. 12 and a three on No. 18.



On April 16, we played at Hyatt Hill Country. Ed Chrismer won A Flight with an 85-net 73. Louis Menchaca came in second with an 87-net 75.

In B Flight, Pete Cliburn came in first with a 95-net 73. Gary Crenshaw and Mike Linares tied for second. Gary had a 95-net 76 and Mike had a 104-net 76.

Five birdies were carded, with Ed Chrismer having two, one on the No. 2 Par 4 and one on the No. 15 Par 5. Louis Menchaca had a birdie on No. 2, as well. Steve VanWert carded a four on the Par 5 No. 4 hole. Jamie McBride birdied No. 10, a Par 4.

Our last Saturday in April was spent at the Golf Course of Texas, one of our old haunts. Mike Fisk and Ron Boone tied for first place in A Flight. Mike has a 78-net 67, while Ron had an 84-net 67. Steve VanWert came in second with an 85-net 68.

In B Flight, Matt Cranham was the winner with a 97-net 71. Jeff Konop and Hershel Krigbaum tied for second. Jeff shot a 94-net 73 and Hersh shot a 98-net 73.



As the low scores might indicate, we had quite a few birdies, eight to be exact. Sergio Contreras had two, birdying No. 8, a Par 4, and No. 11, another Par 4. Ron Boone birdied No. 7, a par 4. Steve VanWert birdied No. 5, a Par 3. Paul Tenner birdied No. 16,

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a Par 4. Louis Menchaca waited until No. 18 to card a birdie  
3. Matt Cranham birdied No. 8, a Par 4 and Jeff Konop birdied  
No. 4, a Par 5.

**May**

On May 7, we played Pecan Valley. John Hernandez won A  
Flight with an 84-net 63. Robert Perez and Johnny Berner tied for  
second with both carding 86- net 70.

In B Flight, Jamie McBride was the winner with a 93-net 66.  
Matt Schapman and Mike Linares tied for second. Matt shot an  
89-net 68 and Mike shot a 95-net 68.

Pecan Valley only let us have three birdies. John Hernandez  
birdied the No. 2 hole, one of the toughest Par 4s in San Antonio.  
Gary Crenshaw birdied No. 8, a Par 4 and Derek Frank birdied  
No. 16, a Par 3.



On May 15, we traveled to Olympia Hills. In A Flight, Louis  
Menchaca shot an 80-net 69 and was the big winner. Mike Fisk and Sergio Contreras tied for second.  
Mike shot an 82-net 72 and Sergio had an 86-net 72.

Gary Crenshaw won B Flight with an 85-net 68, with Jamie McBride coming in second with an  
86-net 72.

We had a lot of birdies that Saturday. Sergio Contreras had three, birdying No. 2, a Par 5, No.4,  
a Par 4 and No. 16, a Par 4. Steve VanWert did almost as well, with two birdies, one on No. 2 as well  
and one on No. 16. Louis Menchaca had one on No. 13, a par 3.  
Mike Fisk had one on No. 3, a par 4. J.J. Montanaro had a birdie  
on No. 13, a Par 3 and John Hancock birdied No. 17, a Par 5.



On May 22, we went all the way to Comfort to play the  
Buckhorn. We had a pretty small outing, so we only broke into  
one flight. Louis Menchaca was the A Flight winner with a 77-net  
67. Pete Cliburn and Jamie McBride tied for second. Pete had a  
90-net 71 and Jamie had a 94-net 71.

Louis Menchaca had two birdies, one on No. 7, a Par 3 and one on No. 3, a Par 5. Ed Sharpe  
had the other birdie, carding a deuce on the Par 3 No. 4 hole.

It was time to play Silverhorn on May 28, and it was a good day for a lot of golfers. Steve  
VanWert won A Flight with an 86-net 69. Ed Chrismer and Brad Gildea tied for second, with Ed  
shooting an 86-net 74 and Brad carding a 91-net 74.

Scott Thompson took B Flight honors with an 85-net 61. Matt Schapman came in a distant  
second with a 95-net 72.

It was a good day for birdies. We had 11 of them. Scott Thompson had three, one on No. 6, a  
Par 5, one on No. 13, a Par 3, and one on No. 18, a Par 5. Matt Schapman had two, one on No. 7, a  
Par 4 and No. 14, another Par 4. Steve VanWert also had two. He birdied No. 10, a Par 5, and No. 18,

**Continued on next page**

another Par 5. Ed Chrismer birdied the Par 4 No. 4 hole. Sergio Rosales birdied the Par 5 No. 6 hole. Dominick De La Garza birdied the No. 10, Par 5 hole, and Jamie McBride birdied the Par 4 No. 14 hole.



## *June*

We played The Quarry on June 5. Johnny Berner was the A Flight winner, carding an 84-net 69. Derek Frank came in second, shooting an 84-net 71.

Jeff Konop took B Flight honors with an 86-net 66. Ed Sharpe came in second with a 101-net 71.

There were only two birdies, one by Gary Crenshaw on the Par 5 No. 5 hole and one by Jeff Konop on the Par 5 No. 15 hole.

It was a birdie fest on June 11 at The Bandit. Paul Bower won A Flight with a 79-net 67. Dominick De La Garza came in second with a 78-net 68 – great scoring on a tough course!

Ed Sharpe won B Flight honors with a 97-net 66. Gary Crenshaw came in second with an 86-net 69.

It was a day for multiple birdies. Paul Bower had two, one on the Par 5 No. 7 hole and one on the Par 4 No. 16. Dominick De La Garza also had two, on the same two holes as Paul. Jamie McBride also carded two birdies, one on the Par 4 No. 4 hole and one on the Par 4 No. 10 hole. Ed Chrismer had a birdie on No. 4, a Par 4. Johnny Berner had one on No. 7, obviously a popular hole. And Pete Cliburn had a birdie on the Par 5 No. 3 hole.

Our third Saturday outing in June found us at Hyatt Hill Country again. It proved to be a difficult course once again. Robert Perez won A Flight with an 89-net 73. Johnny Berner came in second with a 90-74.

In B Flight, Gary Crenshaw was the winner, shooting an 86-net 69. Buck Buchanan came in second with a 97-net 74.

There were only three birdies at the Hyatt. Steve VanWert had one on the Par 3 No. 17 hole. Ron Boone had one on the Par 4 No. 11 hole. And John Hancock birdied the Par 4 No. 5 hole.

Out last June outing was at Canyon Springs, where we discovered that they had re-evaluated the course and came up with new course ratings. It let our players shift to the gold tees, and the scores showed that most of our players liked the change. Steve VanWert won A Flight with a 79-net 62. Mike Fisk and Louis Menchaca tied for second with identical 84-net 72s.

Paul Tenner won B Flight with an 82-net 64. Cris Pappas took second place with a 95-net 66.

Birdies came in bunches. Paul Tenner had three, one on the Par 5 No. 2 hole, one on the Par 3 No. 7 hole and his last on the Par 4 No. 16 hole. Steve VanWert had two, one on the Par 4 No. 11 hole and one on the Par 4 No. 16 hole. Louis Menchaca birdied the Par 4 No. 6 hole. Ed Chrismer had a birdie three on No. 11. Cris Pappas had a birdie on the Par 4 No. 18 hole and John Hancock birdied the Par 5 No. 10.

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***So what?***

So what does this all mean? During the three months, eight players came in first twice — Ed Chrismer, Gary Crenshaw, Jamie McBride, John Hancock, Jeff Konop, Louis Menchaca, Matt Cranham and Steve VanWert. Eleven players came in first place once – Ed Sharpe, Johnny Berner, John Hernandez, Josh Howard, Mike Fisk, Paul Bower, Paul Tenner, Pete Cliburn, Robert Perez, Ron Boone, and Scott Thompson.

So how do we decide who the hottest player was?

***The Hottest Thonger is ...***

Well, we need to come up with some guidelines to figure this one out. First off, I didn't count our semi-annual tournament scores at Pecan Valley. We had 37 players card scores during the April to June period, way too many to compare without rules. So here's how I decided: we played 11 rounds (not counting our semi-annual tournament), so I counted only those players who carded at least four rounds. And I figured out the hottest player by comparing the average net score for the three months.

Here are the rankings:

1. Paul Tenner – 70 net average
2. Steve VanWert – 70.75 net
3. Gary Crenshaw – 71.33 net
4. Mike Linares – 72.25 net
5. Robert Perez – 72.75 net
6. Louis Menchaca – 73.37net
7. Derek Frank – 74.60 net
8. John Hancock – 74.70 net
9. Ed Sharpe – 74.80 net
10. Paul Bower – 75.20 net
11. Mike Fisk – 75.60 net
12. Matt Schapman – 75.75 net
13. Ed Chrismer – 76.50 net
14. Johnny Berner – 76.83 net
15. Pete Cliburn – 78.27 net
16. John Hernandez – 78.75 net
17. Jamie McBride – 79.00 net
18. J.R. Williams – 80.00 net



Only three of our players managed to beat par during this three month period. Congratulations!

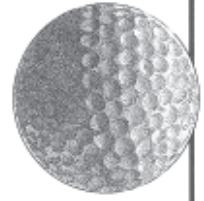
The fact that we had 19 players who didn't card four rounds during the three month period shows that we need to get out to the course a little more often, don't you think?

And by the way, in case you start going back and trying to prove or disprove these figures, remember that they are presented to you in good faith. I swear I used a calculator!

Steve

## Fore Sale

If you have any golf-related items for sale, send them to [svanwert2@satx.rr.com](mailto:svanwert2@satx.rr.com) (with photo, if possible) and they'll be in the next Thong Adjuster



LONG PUTTER – A 50-inch Turbo Plus 3-ball center-shaft putter; used; with headcover; \$20

ODYSSEY PUTTER – White Hot; center shaft; Tiger Shark P-Squared jumbo grip; 35 inch; used; with headcover; \$40

HEAVY PUTTER – Heavy putter, model B-1; center shaft; 35 inch; used; with headcover; \$40

AFFINITY PUTTER – Affinity VR7 putter; center shaft; 35 inch; used; no headcover; \$20

WILSON DRIVER – Wilson HyperTi driver; 460cc; regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$20

SQUARE TWO DRIVER – Dual weight system; 10.5 degree; regular shaft; used, with headcover, \$20

ADAMS INSIGHT DRIVER – 8.5 degree; regular shaft; 460cc; used; with headcover; \$40

EXOTICS DRIVER – Tour Edge Exotics XLD driver; 10.5 degree; regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$40

TOUR SONIC DRIVER – Tour Sonic Square driver; 525cc; 10.5 degree; regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$30

GREEN MONSTER DRIVER – Nextt driver; 10.5 degree; 520cc; regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$20

WILSON DRIVER – Wilson Dd5 driver; 10 degree; Wilson Staff Grafalloy regular shaft; used; with headcover; \$40

TOUR EDGE DRIVER – Tour Edge HP driver; 10.5 degree; senior shaft; used; no headcover; \$20

COBRA SPEED LD DRIVER – 9.0 degree; regular shaft; used; no headcover; \$30

SHADOW BOX — 11 ¾ X 13 ½ inches; shows golf workbench, balls and shoes; still in box; \$10

SHADOW BOX – 8 ½ X 10 ¾ inches; shows vintage clubs; still in box; \$5

WALL CLOCK – battery not included; shows vintage golf scene titled “Putting for Dough;” used; \$5

GOLF LITHO – 14 ½ x 27 ½ inches; framed; golf scene with vintage photos, clubs; used; \$20



Contact Steve VanWert at 210-317-0736 for more info.

*Don't forget, the ITG has golf shirts on sale, too! They're white with the ITG logo and our Mission Statement on the front. They come in all sizes and are currently on sale for only \$10. Support your club and buy an ITG polo shirt!*