



CANADIAN CLUB OF THE DESERT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XX

March, 2009

No. 3

Time Flies - If You Live In The Coachella Valley

It is once again time to say goodbye to the Desert for a few months – the 2009 season will soon be behind us!

Looking back at our past year, there was an exceptional number of achievements - firstly, our membership increased to the greatest number yet, around 200 members.

Our speakers for the months of January, February and March - Morgan Levine, Larry Wilde and Steve Pougnet were all excellent and will be remembered. For those that took the jeep tours – they were left with a very serious view of just what the San Andreas Fault really is.

Our first official view of Polo was remarkable – was it the ‘tail gate’ party or the horses/riders that excited those present. Although not many ventured to San Diego to visit the aircraft carrier Midway – those that attended came home with what they called a memorable experience.

The golfing ‘Scramble’ was unfortunately rained out, but the dinner that evening was very well received - and a number of golfers took advantage of the Palm Valley arrangement to play their Challenge Course (water on 14 of the 18 holes). And lastly – the Wind up Dinner at Desert Willow was a great way to conclude the season.



Doug Baldwin and David Anderson

Of course President Doug Baldwin and Vice President David Anderson have already convened a meeting of the Board to lay out plans to make the 2010 year another year to be remembered. **See All of You Next Year.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008-2009 A Retrospective

BREAKFAST MEETINGS

JANUARY- Morgan Levine
History of the Coachella Valley

FEBRUARY - Larry Wilde
Good Health from Good Humour

MARCH – Steve Pougnet
Coachella Valley Politics

SPECIAL EVENTS

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Palm Valley Country Club

JEEP TOUR San Andreas Fault

USS MIDWAY MUSEUM

POLO TAILGATE PARTY
Eldorado Polo Club, Indio

WIND-UP PARTY
Desert Willow Golf Resort

2009-2010 Tentative Schedule

BREAKFAST MEETINGS
Friday, January 15, 2010
Friday, February 12, 2010
Friday, March 12, 2010

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday, February 22, 2010

POLO TAILGATE PARTY
Sunday, February 28, 2010

WIND-UP PARTY
Monday, March 22, 2010

March Meeting

There is no doubt that the 94 members attending the third breakfast meeting of the 2009 winter season received great insight on the concerns and opportunities that face the future of the Coachella Valley.



Steve Pougnet

Our speaker was Steve Pougnet, Mayor of Palm Springs since 2007. He noted that he was very comfortable in appearing before a Canadian Club group as his father was from St. John, New Brunswick. For a person that has only lived in this area for ten years (having moved from Golden, Colorado) he expressed a remarkable knowledge of what was needed now and in the near future for not only Palm Springs but for the nine municipal structures that comprise the Valley.

He explained that if one goes back far enough there were only two cities – Indio and Palm Springs - with a lot of desert in between. The present structure of nine defined cities does result in a considerable overlap of services, but full amalgamation has been stymied in part because of

difficulties in employee integration. The past several years has seen more cooperation in the area with the forming of the CVAG (Coachella Valley Associated Governments) helping the parties work together. The unification of fire and police dispatch has worked very well.

Obviously tourism is extremely important to the whole Valley, and the success of the ‘Hotel Incentive Program’ whereby the City provides financial incentive through reduction of the “bed” tax should be commended. This stimulant has assisted in the expenditure of \$164,000,000 in upgrades and renovations to four hotel and motel properties. The results have been very positive for both the owners and the City in which they are situated.

Providing education opportunities targeted to Valley employment needs is also a high priority for growth in the Valley. The expansion of the College of the Desert and the new campuses of California State, San Bernardino and U of C, Riverside provide undergraduate, graduate and post graduate opportunities for students. The areas of priority include are film & entertainment, health, hotel& motel and renewable energy.

The presentation of Steve Pougnet was very insightful – obviously enjoyed by all that were present.

Canadian Club History

As mentioned in our last news letter we continue to look at the history of the club and its members since the founding in 1982.

The first newsletter came out in 1989 written by the then President, Leonard Remis which we assume

is the genesis of the letter today. Today our letter reaches the majority of our members by Email.

As mentioned last month curling was one of the clubs main events starting in 1984 with golf starting in 1986. Curling ended in 1992. Tennis was also added in 1989 but discontinued in 1993.

Over the years the club has had many interesting speakers who have been gracious enough to give us their time with our appreciation being their only reward. They include Elliott Roosevelt, Historian and Author, Allan E Gotlieb, Canadian Ambassador to the USA and Hon. Justice John Major, of the Supreme Court of Canada.

We continue to attract noteworthy and topical speakers which speaks well of our club and members. It is a complement to our speakers when we have well over 100 Canadians at our breakfasts. If you know of someone who could be a speaker, please let us know.



Bernard Finestone

B.J and Rita Finestone were early members of the club. Bernard was the President of the Club in 1999, 2000 and 2003. They both are still regular attendees including our wind-up dinner. Thanks for being such strong supporters over these many years.

POLO

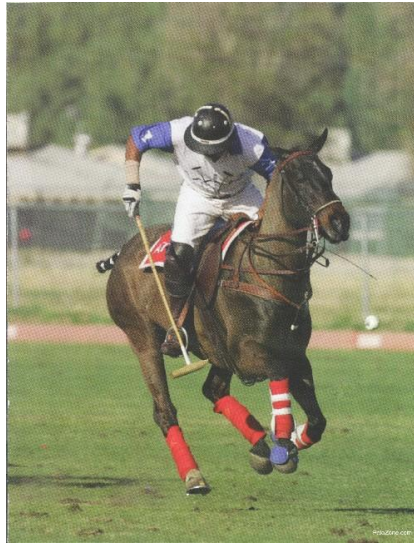
Sunday, March 1, 2009 was a very special day for members of the Canadian Club of the Desert – Seventy-four persons attended the ‘Eldorado February Final Set’ at the extremely beautiful Eldorado Polo Club.



David Anderson, Stan Davison and Blair Beaton organized a ‘tail gate party’ for our members with excellent refreshments, fancy lunch time fare and a spectacular view of the polo field.

You might ask - what is ‘Polo’ – apparently the word comes from Tibet where it was called ‘Pulu’ meaning ball. The sport, which probably started as a military exercise, easily dates back 1,000 years; even possibly 2,600 years.

The USA Polo Association was founded in 1890 - 119 years ago! The sport came to the Coachella Valley some 50 years ago. The Eldorado Polo Club is regarded as one of the best facilities anywhere - 14 fields and stabling for 1,000 horses - and normally ideal weather conditions.



Polo has many rules and regulations. A team has a handicap based on the handicaps of the individuals. If one team has 12 handicaps and the other 10 handicaps - the 10 team starts the game with 2 goals. From 1975 on, no left handed players have been allowed on a team.

Players are somewhat like a football team, excepting that there are only four on each team; the No.1 player takes the most offensive position on the field; the No.2 player covers the No. 3 players of the other team; the No. 3 player is the tactical leader - usually the highest handicap of the side; and the No 4. player is normally a very strong defensive player.

Now you know the whole story – except who won the February Championship - it being the

Hawks that started plus 2, defeated Casa Blanca 12-9.

Many, many thanks to the Eldorado Polo Club for allowing our participation. We plan to be there again next year.

Wind-Up Dinner



Jay Sanderson

What more could one ask for - a beautiful evening, a marvelous outlook over the two Desert Willow golf courses, a sumptuous dinner and most importantly, a great turnout of our members.

President Doug Baldwin welcomed everyone and commented on the successful year that was now coming to a conclusion and also noted that plans were already underway for the 2009/2010 winter season when we all return.

What a marvelous way to conclude a very successful year!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Leonard Remis, Founder President

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Snapshots- See these and more at http://www.desertcdnclub.org/Newsletters_and_Photo_Album.html

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