



The Capon Weekly


VOLUME XXXIII, ISSUE 4

Saturday, July 3, 2010

CAPON SPRINGS, WV


Independence Day Musings:

When you listen to the front porch chatter of regular guests this week, you hear about how this year's Capon experience has differed from previous years. Some mentioned the dramatically cooler weather the first part of the week, the phase I changes to the Main Building, the many ins and outs of new guests all week long, and the timing of the Fourth being on Sunday at the end of the week. However, the biggest

 difference felt by all were the number of regular families which were down from their usual numbers, including: **SORRY WE MISSED YOU!** Bakers, Garamella/McFalls, Heiligmanns, Ingrahams, and Taymans. Others were absent completely including: Gregorys, Hills, Jacksons, Kenneys, Martins, Marvin/Heidels, Pinholsters, Wamplers and Wiltbanks.

Still, guests settled into the summer routine and the beautiful weather made for a great Independence Celebration. On Friday morning, July 2nd, everyone showed up in their red, white and blue colored outfits to liven up the festivities. The kids' parade from the Meeting House to the Main Building brought the flag to the assembly of family and friends gathered on the Main porch.

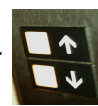
A morning golf tourney was followed by an afternoon badminton tourney. Guests walked on the bottom of the pool before dinner on Friday, which was served half an hour early to give plenty of time for the evening fun on the Hill. Recreation assistant Dirk Markley was well prepared for kid's games such as inflatables, bubbles, parachute and the featured event- water balloons. Then young adults provided their own high flying liquid action with a super stretching balloon launcher which the preteens delighted in trying to catch.

The flag ceremony received special musical accompaniment when local bagpiper Bryan LaFollette (son of Spa worker Alicia and grandson of night office worker Ruby) offered both a prep and post march as well as the traditional taps tune. After a blistering hot early part of the week, it was quite the contrast with guests snuggling under sweatshirts and blankets while they watched the heavenly bursting show. "Better than any fireworks I ever saw," explained Lee Sprague. "Fantastic!" exclaimed Scott Wrigley, who contributed one of the "cakes" which provided the up front displays. 

To conclude the festivities, look for an official Declaration of Independence from the second floor porch of the Main Building at Sunday morning's flag ceremony, courtesy of patriot Bill Offutt. While the flag has been at half mast all week to honor the life of Senator Robert Byrd, it will be at full mast on Sunday for Independence Day.

Main Building: Open For Business

On Sunday, June 27, the bookcase which hid the door to the new Capon family offices was moved aside and the "secret" entrance to the new addition was opened for good. For the 2010 season, the area where the old cardroom used to be will still house puzzles, games and books. The teens and pre-teens quickly took advantage of the private office spaces to create their personal gaming areas.

Meanwhile, the Seiler and Pender families got the first look at the revised rooms number 10 and 22 which used to connect to rooms 12 & 24. The previous location of those rooms had to be converted into hallways so that there was a way into the new wing of rooms and fire escapes. And instead of twin beds with half baths, these new rooms now have a queen and a twin bed and a full bath. Another big change to the back of the Main is that swimmers now have two exits to choose from when they come and go to the pool. 

The remaining item for phase I completion was the elevator, which was finally approved by the fire marshal who came in the middle of lunch Friday. The new up and down transport is mandatory for those using the two new fully accessible handicapped guest rooms (#8 and #20).

BINGO BASH

Since Nancy Taymans took last year off from her crazy bingo gadget shenanigans, regular caller Jonathan Bellingham wanted to make sure she didn't forget his favorite Bingo number. So last fall, after urging from his wife Betsy, he bought vanity plates for his car: OOOHH70. Lucas McKeown, who is serving as this season's 4th generation apprentice, added his own spin on calling for the evening.



When it came to winning, the Seiler family won early and often. When it came to drama, the Peper family was at the top of the list from both sides of the caller's table. Nancy won the first game, while son Will won later on. But it was daughter Lizzie who fulfilled her dream and fantasy by calling a special game of Screwball. Alex Kimberl took home the strawberry preserves by finding 8 matching numbers.

Eleanor Pomeroy was a surprise winner and took the mystery package which included a Capon water bottle. Next, Bob Boyle broke his 48 year drought of not winning at Bingo by being the first to fill all four corners of his card. Doug Rachford was also a first time champion. Karen Baker and Ginny



Morbeck both know what it is like to stand a long time to collect their prizes since they had the worst cards in the house.

After watching her husband claim the best and final prize last year, Dot Watson followed in his footsteps and took home the coveted bag of homemade cookies.

Word of Mouth Tradition continues...

So far this season, guests have made a variety of connections with those who would appreciate Capon, but who hadn't yet heard about us. One person is bringing her quilting group; another his strategic planning leadership team. Several are bringing neighborhood friends or families. The president of a credit union is sharing the Capon DVD with regional leaders of other credit unions. Others are introducing their churches for retreats this fall.



A Columbia University department head is hoping to bring his Washington, DC counterparts for an offsite conference. Painting groups, military reunions and choirs are all finding out about Capon from current guests.

Jonathan will be having conversations all season long about which groups might be a good fit. Let him know your ideas!

Last Minute Summer Fun



Space is still available for most of the middle weeks in July, even just for a few nights. For those who start school closer to Labor Day, take advantage of the \$40+ per person savings for adults from **Aug. 22-26 and from Aug. 29- Sept. 2**



GUEST CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



6/27 Robet Broadrup-40th
6/29 Keenan Sherwood
6/30 Javine Morris
7/1 Laverne Petrie
7/2 Annmarie Boyle
7/3 Keith Kimberl

ANNIVERSARIES

6/30 Jason & Cheryl Clark
7/3 Dan & Ellie Rosen- 50th celeb.
7/4 George & Eleanor Pomeroy

Caponchase 2010:

With a Monday morning start, 2010 Gamemaster Tom Austin wanted to give this week's guests all seven days to solve his mathematical and historical puzzle. The main goal of this season's event was just to be able to finish without seeking his help in any way. Once again, the Seiler family put together an amazing effort and were the first to solve the puzzle in less than 24 hours. Various other groups of families and friends tried their hand at the code cracking with varying levels of success.

Golfer Delight



It was almost déjà vu at Tuesday's best ball golf tourney when, just like in 2009, three teams tied for first after regulation. But this year, 3 instead of 4 under was need to win it and two more teams were within one shot of the leader board. Last year, a closest to the pin contest was used to separate the top spots, but this year a "blind" putt-off was the method of choice. Alex Kimberl left his stroke within two feet to lead his team to the top of the podium. He was joined by Casey Duffy, Bob Ingraham, Brent Quiggle and Peggy Richardson. Runners up went to Stephen Shear, Rob Shaver, Greg Norman, Michael Kostrub and Abigail Boyle.

Friday's Pot Luck Best Ball Golf Tourney had some nice golfing weather because it was much cooler than the earlier event. After all the scorecards were turned in, the team of Stephen Shear, Randy Heiligmann, Cathy Romano, Andrew Gass, and Bob Boyle ended up in the winner's circle. They overcame a bogey 5 on Hole #5 and finished with a five under par score of 30 to win. As usual, all winners each receive a jar of Pearle's Apple Butter. Two teams who tied in the runners up position took home Capon golf balls. Casey Duffy, Steve Roushakes, Cookie Ingraham, Rob Shaver, Colin Bowser equaled Gary Brady, Mickey Greene, Peggy Richardson, Brian Petrie, and Scott Wrigley.

Capon Mile



This week's run had 23 competitors with a large number of youth causing an unusual split in the age groups. Still, the results didn't change that much from 2009. Once again Lizzy Peper showed off her cross-country skills by easily winning the entire road race. She led start to finish crossing the line with a time of 6:31. She was distantly followed by Aidan Pender who came in second by edging out his brother Kevin at the tape with both brothers clocking 6:52. Age group winners included: Kevin Pender, Kara Kimberl, Deborah Kostrub, William Howe, Chris Seiler, and Jeanne Felter. And this week's best effort award goes to the youngest competitor- five year old Christopher Howe.

NOT NET AGAIN

Just like 2009, only half the number of teams required (8) signed up for the mixed doubles tourney on Wednesday. Despite the resurgence of 2007 & 2008, 2010 will pass by without the organized net play. Bring your racquets and we will see what happens in 2011!



This October: Dancing with YOU as the stars!

Along with the popular 4-night special rate, why not come dance the nights away, Sunday, October 24 to Thursday, October 28? We will provide three mornings of dance instruction, three nights of live bands and professional demonstrations. All at no extra cost to you!!



If you come Sunday night, you can play "Super-Bingo" and win extraordinary prizes, like a free night's stay! During the evening dining hours, enjoy an "adults only" experience of bringing your own favorite alcoholic beverage into the dining room.

All rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. So if there is a place you have always wanted to stay (Honeymoon, Log Cabin, Pavilion???), plan on reserving ahead. Individual nights can be reserved at reduced off-season rates.

Special Reading: My Secret Power



Come listen to a condensed version of Lou Austin's children's book as told by Capon family member Patty Austin.



PONG-A-THON

With the hodge-podge of folks from other summer weeks and the absence of 3 of last year's finalists, Thursday's all-comers ping pong tourney was a topsy-turvey event. A small number of younger players forced a mini play-in contest to see who would get the one open spot in the 17 and over adult grouping. Without Robby Shaver to defend his crown, Michael Kostrub, at age 16, dominated the youth market.

Then he moved on to the adult bracket to face some tougher competition. The early rounds were controlled by Greg Norman and Bill Lewers. In Greg's semi-final, he ran to the stylish play of Austin Petrie and was knocked out. Bill met a similar fate in his semi when he was bested by upstart Michael Kostrub, who used his experience from playing many matches to dispatch all rivals. (The first person he knocked out was Austin's sister Alex.)

In the finals, Austin remembered his sibling's downfall and used aggressive play to end Michael's run to the championship.

Badminton Pairs



The first badminton tournament of the year had great participation and enthusiasm. The first rounds went quickly, but as the tournament progressed the matches became longer and more dramatic. Last year's champion Mike Peper made it to the semifinals with his partner Kara Kimberl, but they were eliminated by the very powerful team of Austin Petrie and Carolyn Peper. Austin and Carolyn went on to face Austin's sister Alex Petrie and her partner Aidan Pender who defeated Greg Norman and Emily Seiler in their semi. The final match was an exciting and fun-filled contest with a lot of drives and saves by Austin. But in the end, Aidan and Alex came off as the victors, winning 11 to 7.

Shuffling Along...



The turnout for kids shuffle boarding was low, but the morale was high. A dozen participants were organized into 6 teams. After a couple of quick games, it was the top four teams battling it out in the semi-finals. Johnny Alexandre and Connor Pender won the first match against Jay Pender & William Howe. In the other end of the bracket, Amber Richardson and Gabe Toppin lost to Will Peper and Rachael Shaver. Although the final match started off close, Will and Rachael racked up some negative points. Johnny & Connor took that advantage all the way to the top to win the cookies!

Meanwhile, the adults, who barely fielded a full bracket for the tourney, got off to a slow start. Some teams arrived late and then they ran into the full Fourth of July festivities. By Saturday lunch one quarter final had not been played. The Petrie family used the delay to their advantage waiting for their opponents to tire early knocking out some of the usual finalists from the July 4th week. Come see the exciting conclusion after dinner Saturday and see if an all Petrie final shapes up for a mother/father vs. son/daughter championship. Steve & Carla Bowser and Don & Amy Norman hope to prevent their domination.

Chris Fish



There are no official records for the most number of fish caught in one 2-hour outing at Capon Main pond. But if there were.... ten year old Chris Seiler's effort could be up near the top. Even more amazing is that his fish story might never have been told because he started his vacation with neither pole nor bait. It took several trips to Wardensville for supplies and resupplies, before he was fully stocked with the proper equipment and luck. On Friday morning, with father Ken as witness, Chris pulled in 18 bluegills/sunfish averaging one every six minutes.

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