



The Capon Weekly

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Saturday, July 9, 2011

CAPON SPRINGS, WV

Independence Day Musings:

Whereas last year's front porch chatter centered around who wasn't here or which families had fewer of their usual regulars, this week's crew celebrated those who DID make it back. The other obvious objects of conversation were the changes to the Main House living spaces. "Ohhhs, Ahhhs and Wowws" filled the new lobby as guests first encountered the expansion upon check-in. While the library usually gets the highest praise, this week's gang enjoyed hanging out in the living room and card room areas. The new climate controlled space allowed for some comfortable relaxing during some of the hotter afternoons.



One of the missed families from 2010 especially appreciated the elevator and additional handicapped accessible rooms. After his visit in 2009, Chuck Heidel was hit by a car while cycling. He was paralyzed from the chest down. After a year of rehabilitation, Chuck was able to return to Capon because of the fully-equipped guest rooms. When maintenance supervisor Bub Brill jerry-rigged a ramp to the upper ping pong house, he was able to maneuver his wheelchair into the sports arena to watch his son Caleb win gold in table tennis on Thursday.

The cycle of events for the week was also significantly different from 2010. Instead of being at the end of the week, this year's Independence Day fell on Monday. That meant on the very first morning everyone was decked out in their best red, white and blue. Kids led the patriotic festivities as they paraded the flag down to the new flag pole (see article side column). Then from his new perch off the third floor library, Bill Offutt read inspiring portions of the Declaration of Independence. Afterwards, guests turned back to the flag to recite the Pledge of Allegiance before the National Anthem concluded the special ceremony.

The rest of the day was meant for leisurely porch visiting, hiking and golf. Except for the code-cracking enthusiasts who took part in the 2011 version of Caponchase Adventure. Once again Tom Austin created a math/history puzzle that sent clue seekers around the grounds and deep into Capon lore. (He even provided an official Capon history book to each group to assist them in their quest. See page 2 for results).

When a summer sky busting storm unleashed a downpour at the beginning of the chicken BBQ dinner on the hill, the ground became too soggy for the traditional evening activities. With better weather predicted for Tuesday, the Fourth fireworks fun was postponed a day. And instead, Tuesday's feature entertainment, the front porch dance took place on Monday. DJ hosts Tom & Patty Austin led guests, as they played their favorite tunes and danced the night away.

On Tuesday evening, with postcard perfect weather, recreation assistant Lucas Imbrogno McKeown orchestrated kids' softball and other games such as inflatables, bubbles and tug-of-war. Kids ages 5-12 and then boys vs. girls ages 13-21 battled for pulling-power supremacy. As the sun set, out came the water balloon toss. The high-flying liquid bombs flew fast and furious with the help of a super stretching balloon launcher and the dozens of preteens desperately trying to catch them.



PATRIOTIC POLE:

With the new addition to the Main Building taking up its former space, the Capon flag pole had to be relocated. That provided the opportunity and motivation for Fourth of July regular Jay Moody to take the lead in the new morning ritual renovation. Always inspired by the raising ceremony, Jay worked with Capon groundskeeper Ginny Brill to purchase a new pole. The hardscaping surrounding the pole was installed by grounds & farm crew members Paul Hinkle & Sam Brill. This area was designed to allow those who come regularly for Capon's 4th of July to leave their mark on an engraved brick. The first brick installed reads: "Honoring generations of 4th of July Capon Friends." A form is available at the front desk for those who wish to buy a brick. Up to 17 letters are available (including spaces) on up to three lines on the 4 X 8 inch bricks. Cost is \$100 per brick. Designs such as flags and hearts can be added as well.



BINGO BASH



Only one 0-70 rang out on Wednesday night at the traditional Bingo party, but the winners came fast and furious. Instead of the usual 20 or so balls called per game, many contests were settled with less than 10. Allie Taylor started the Lady Luck of winnings by taking home the apple butter. Female power kept working as Anabel Hobbs, Jill Petrie, Audrey Love, Cynthia Shaver, Gracie Callahan, Emily Kimberl, Michelle Simmons, Kara Kimberl and Evelyn DeFrancis walked away with some goodies. Evelyn made it look easy by having five of the seven numbers called. However, she had to make a tough choice between the post cards and the surprise box. Seeing how the females were doing, she went for the unknown and was rewarded with a Capon history book. Abigail Boyle added to the girl greatness by calling a special game half way through the evening.



Still, some males did muster up enough mojo to make it. Father/son combo Ken & Chris Seiler and brother duo Calvin and Caleb Heidel, along with their cousin Russell West, each claimed victory. The final champion, Dennis Richardson, took home the coveted bag of homemade cookies. The second half of the calling was carried out by 4th generation family member Lucas Imbrogno McKeown who is admirably filling the role of the recreation assistant all summer long.

Mixed Doubles Tennis



(Finally)

After two years of a tennis-less week, the minimum number of teams signed up, and the heat was on for Wednesday morning's court action. After regulation, Suzie Morris paired with brother Ron Hedges had to use a tie-breaker to edge out her husband Chuck with his partner Peggy Richardson to top their flight. Meanwhile, on the lower court, Ron's other sister Dottie DeFrancis teamed with son Robert to win 10 out of 12 games to earn their shot in the finals. In an all-family final, Ron & Suzie's tight teamwork meant they walked away with the win, 6-1.

Full Circle Friends

Many of our summer guests started their Capon experience as young couples, enjoying quality adult time with their friends. They've since had children and grandchildren and enjoy large family reunions here. Now as "senior guests", they are returning in Spring and Fall without their progeny so they can once again reconnect with friends from their youth.



Last Minute Summer Fun



Space is still available for most of July, including the weekends. For those who start school closer to Labor Day, you can sneak in an end of summer visit from **Aug. 28- Sept. 1**



GUEST CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

7/2 Annmarie Boyle
7/3 Keith Kimberl
7/5 Gail Boyle



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

7/4 George & Eleanor Pomeroy
7/5 Bryce & Ann Maddox-51st
7/7 George & Tricia Glass
7/8 George & Joan Burgess-60th
7/8 Ed & Ruth Bowser- 50th

Caponchase 2011:

Though Gamemaster Tom Austin gave guests all week to work on this year's model, most of the teams raced through Monday morning to finish the puzzle. Ronnie DeFrancis, Jennell DeFrancis, Michelle Simmons and Suzie Morris were the first to complete the task, but the gaming Seiler family also got all the answers correct.



Greens Goers

Unlike the last two years, instead of three teams tying for first, it was second place that had multiple winners. First went clearly to the 5 under par 29 team of Mark Kent, Kyle Petrie, Bill Bowser, Rob Shaver II & Patti Clark. Runners up at two strokes back included the teams of Casey Duffy, Tom Watson, Steve Roushakes, Cookie Ingraham, Ann Wiltbank & Daniel Pomeroy; Bob Wiltbank, George Pomeroy, Gregory Corder, Aidan Pender, & Pat Roushakes; Gary Brady, John Henderson, Alex Kimberl, Jessica Curless, & Peggy Richardson.

Starter and tourney organizer Pete Budnyk gave some advice for the link lovers at the beginning of Friday's Pot Luck Best Ball Golf Tourney— get going because there's a storm-a-coming! Fortunately, everyone was done in plenty of time and enjoying lunch when the heavy downpour came. The winning team shot 4 under par 31 to claim a one stroke victory. Jason Clark, Dan Curless, Daniel Pomeroy, Rob Shaver, II and Peggy Richardson made a birdie 2 on #8 to edge out Casey Duffy, George Pomeroy, Pete Roushakes, Aidan Pender & Abby Boyle for the apple butter.

Capon Mile

With 32 contestants, the sound of dashing feet and triumphant cheers could be heard throughout Capon Tuesday afternoon. It was the narrowest of victory margins as 4 competitors battled until the final loop. Even though previous two-time champion Lizzy Peper improved her time by 30 seconds, she couldn't sprint past Rob Shaver who won in 5:58. Age group winners included: Aidan Pender, JJ Romano, Angela Shaver, Deborah Kostrub, Sean Callahan, and Tanja R. This week's best effort award went to the youngest competitor—4 year old Mason DeFrancis.



Join us in 2012 for your own private Capon!



Friday, June 1 to Sunday, June 3

Over the years, guests have told us how neat it would be to have their very own private Capon experience. Usually that means having to come during the week. **However, the weekend of June 1-3, 2012 is currently available for any family, group, church, or business to have Capon all to themselves! How about a destination wedding or a 50th wedding anniversary celebration!** Just think of all the possibilities of hand-picking your favorite meals, activities and entertainment for your very own highlights-crafted weekend! (Curfew extensions and wine with dinner are just a couple of the tweaks during these times!)

Besides June, we can open up a weekend early in 2012 just for you! Come in late April and you can be among the first to see Capon's off-season's improvements and help us kick off our 80th anniversary season!

2011 Fall Program Schedule

September:	4-night special (9/5-9)	October:	Quilting (10/2-5)
	History (9/11-14)		4-night special (10/16-20)
	Bridge (9/20-23)		Dancing (10/23-27)
	Watercolor (9/25-28)		Halloween (10/27-30)

PONG-A-THON

In the midday heat Thursday afternoon, lots of ping-ponging talent was shown during the two tournaments held: one for kids 15 and under and one for adults 16 and beyond. With past champions absent, the playing field was open for new competitors to establish themselves. In the 15 and under tournament, Aidan Pender moved efficiently up the ranks - until the final bout with Rob Shaver. With a good defense and a powerful offense, Rob won the title with a score of 21-7. It looks like he could give the adult bracket a run for its money next year!

Meanwhile, in the 16+ tournament, Laine Shear was making major moves, defeating former overall runner-up Michael Kostrub to land in the finals. After a close match between Caleb Heidel and Cheryl Clark, the room was in an uproar to see the final match between Laine & Caleb. The pong-a-thon was on between these two good players, but with his mean serve and quick style, Caleb won the adult tournament 21-10.

Batting Practice

Thursday's steak dinner on the hill is usually followed by an adult softball game. Yet even with weather made for America's favorite pastime, guests instead contented themselves with frisbees, balloons, bocci and just enjoying the view. Not so for the DeFrancis family whose participation this week meant several of the sporting events had enough participants to take place. They ventured to the 9th fairway to field a family fun hitting fest.



Hayrides for all!

With the usual Monday fun taken over by 4th of July activities, the traditional hayride was rescheduled for Friday. And since there were so many combinations of hayride lovers, the usual two categories of participants was expanded to four. Those under 5 with an adult and those post college adults each were given their own time slot. Still, the most popular age groupings remain the 5-12 year olds and the teens with collegians.



Shuffling Along...



The turnout for kids shuffleboarding was so low,. How low was it? It was so low that we had to postpone it until next year. Bum-nump-bum. Same joke could have been told for adults.

Though their numbers were not much better, the week long tourney fielded just 10 teams. Most of the supreme teams from 2010 did not registered but many star players did emerge with other partners. Dave and Mary Beth Gass prevented an all Greene family final by knocking out Greg Norman & Taylor Shear in a tight semi-final match. On the other side of the semi bracket, Jason & Cheryl Clark lined up against Keith Kimberl with niece Amy Norman. On Friday night, Keith & Amy advanced to play Dave & Mary Beth for the championship after dinner Saturday.

BASKETBALL BONANZA



Despite the afternoon rain, a crowd of basketballers showed up and recruited nearby adults to make the contest happen.

One of these late entrants, Karen Seiler, shot 6 out 10 only to be upstaged by swift hooper Rob Love who won the contest 7-10.

Badminton Bummer



The first badminton tournament of the year was cancelled when the clouds opened up just before start time. The ongoing soaker didn't help conditions as the dozen teenagers who had hoped to compete had to settle for next year's battle.

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