



The Capon Weekly

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE 10

Saturday, August 25, 2007

CAPON SPRINGS, WV

Front Porch chatter....

On Tuesday night, Alice Masters once again shared the movie, "The Power of Good", a documentary film which highlighted the work of Sir Nicolas Winton. He orchestrated the "Kindertransport", an evacuation of children out of Czechoslovakia before the Nazi takeover. Alice Masters and her two sisters were just 3 out of the more than 600 children who were provided a new life in Great Britain and the U.S. Alice was encouraged to share the film by Tom & Diane Sherlock who know Nicholas Winton. By coincidence, the Sherlocks were staying in the same restored house as the Queen of England during her US trip to Jamestown, VA in May. They took several up close photos to send to Sir Winton.



It took until Friday night before the kids had a chance to have their annual singalong. This year, Marshall Paulsen & Ben Ferdon returned to join Bob Rosenberg on guitar and Jonathan Bellingham with his recorder. Traditional songs like "Twinkle Twinkle" and "Itsy Bitsy Spider" rang out from the Main living room. The grand finale was orchestrated by Tom Walsh and all his noses to create an original Old MacDonald's farm full of dinosaurs, lobsters, anteaters and even a shark.

After landing one of the famous monster carp last year, Jane Jeral caught another one this week. The 30 inch, 16 lbs behemoth didn't bite all week, while she and husband Bob used Capon pancakes. It wasn't until Wednesday morning's French toast that the giant fish took the bait and got hauled to shore. Instead of spending most of his time fishing this year, Bob used part of his vacation to finish an adirondack cedar chair he built and dedicated to his in-laws Steve & Eleanore Omelchenko. He donated the made from scratch furniture to Capon in her honor since she made her last Capon visit when the family returned in 2006.



Wandering Weitzels



For the very first time Billy Weitzel had a traveling companion on his latest survival adventure: his new bride Michelle. "The hardest part of the trip wasn't the physical endurance, but watching my wife suffer through intestinal flu, high fever and severe bug bites," explained Billy. For this 2-month odyssey, Billy & Michelle ventured deep into the Peruvian and Brazilian rain forest, navigating the tributaries of the mighty Amazon River. Leg One began with a 2 1/2 day cargo boat trip with 300 locals from Iquitos to Manga Capac. From there, they hired a local guide and kayaked 180km over two weeks to return back to Iquitos. Along the way, they ventured into previously unexplored sections of the Pacya Samaria Biopreserve. With virtually no land to rest on, they parked their vessels in a clump of trees and put up hammocks for the night. The biggest dangers? Boa constrictors and 15 foot caymans. The highlight? Playing with pink dolphins. "When we returned to Iquitos our local friends threw us a big party," remembered Billy.



Part Two involved another riverboat portage; this time to Brazil followed by about 12 days of primarily foot travel. Billy & Michelle helped local eco-entrepreneurs map out government parks for future adventure tours. For part three, they traveled deeper into Brazil to the heart of the Jau Nature Preserve, where Billy's close up encounter with a sloth proved less dangerous than his wrestling match with a four foot cayman.

Despite having all the modern tracking devices (GPS, satellite radio, electronic compass) Billy resorted to using the constellation Scorpio to help them navigate the maze of lush tropical rain forest.


This training will help him with his fall semester at Harvard, where he returns not to teach literature, but a course on wilderness survival and the environmental politics of explorative societies. While Billy is busy instructing at Harvard, Michelle will be pursuing a Masters in journalism.



Finding the sweet spot

This year, for her fourth annual banging away at Paper Mache candy holders, Lori Masters took a literary theme. After dividing the eager kids into very large 3-6 and 7-10 year old age groups, she enlisted Hannah Quinn to help administer the destruction of Curious George and Hungry Caterpillar piñatas. Leah Kaye was the lucky one who smashed one open, as kids dived on the ground to grab the candy.

The ninth fairway stayed busy Thursday night. The over thirteen crowd filled the middle of the fairway with softball action. Doug Rosenberg, as pitcher of the winning team, led the “oldies but goodies” to victory. “Becky Grinstead was definitely the MVP,” reported Doug, “For shagging 7 or 8 fly balls from deep left field.” As teens and above used bats to move a ball around, a hundred yards away, the 10 and under crowd used their feet in a spirited soccer match.

 As dark closed in on another perfect Capon day, there was only one perfect ending for the kids. When earlier in the week rain forced the cancellation of the hayride, a rescheduled trip in the wagon turned that disappointment into excitement and joy.

PING PONG PADDLING

With over a dozen “no shows” or “late shows” in Thursday’s all comers ping pong, some last minute entrants took advantage and advanced in the large field of pongers. For the 13 and under set, Mason Dowell and David Luttinger volleyed past Caleb Miller and Charlie Blackwood to meet in the finals. The constant return from Mason’s paddle was too much for David as Mason replaced his runner up status from last year with the win.

Mason’s dad Andrew rallied through some tough early opponents, including last year’s runner up Troy Osborne, to advance to the championship match. Opposite Andrew’s push to the top, Doug Miller & Kit Kashap overpowered their opponents to reach the semis. Once there, Kit used his dramatic backhand and topspins to move on and meet Andrew. For Kit it was the opportunity to defend his title. Less than two minutes before the dinner bell would ring, Kit maintained his lead throughout the match, leaving Andrew in the second place position.

BOOMING BASKETBALL

Thunder boomed and lightning flashed but the rain held out until all the shooters had completed their free throws at Friday’s basketball action. Caleb Miller set the bar at six and only two other shooters, Burt Grinstead and Rob Miller, came close to beating that score. Yet they faltered and only tied it. The last participant, Jimmy Ervin, hit his first shot only to miss the next three. With a downpour only seconds away, Jimmy canned the remaining six to break the logjam and win with seven out of ten.

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

8/19 Debra Hertz
8/19 Ethan Willoughby
8/20 Adam Senquiz
8/20 Loretta Weitzel
8/21 Bob Wallace
8/22 Isabelle Gale
8/22 Burt Grinstead



ANNIVERSARIES

8/22 Patrick & Ashley Bailey
8/24 Paul & Nancy Kashap-
50th celebration
8/26 Larry & Heather Wilkins
8/26 David & Rosermarie Luttinger

RUNNERS WORLD

Without the top three finishers from last year, the one mile race was looking for a new running star. That’s where Capon first timer Michael Wyatt came in with his easy 5:54 win. A hard charging Katie Apfelbaum took home second over all in 6:02 to claim the ladies crown. Third and fourth went to two 11 year olds, Ian Gale and Sam Kaye who hammered out 6:14 and 6:22. Age group winners included: Max Kaye, Doug Rosenberg, Stuart Schwager, Marshall Paulsen for the males and Emily Ervin, Gabby Dowell, Sallie Permar, Caroline Ervin & Anne Masters for the females. Five year old Ethan Schwager took home best effort honors in a massive 56 person field– the most number of finishers for the 2007 racing season! 

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Kids perform!

After the Little Capon Chorus wowed the audience with three snappy tunes, and Justin Schwager warmed them up with “Knock Knock” jokes, an alternating barage of singers and piano players dominated Friday night’s stage show. Adding their keyboard talents to the evening were Sarah Miller, Adam Schwager, Elizabeth Ervin, Delia Simson and Jonathan Miller. Solo vocalists included Charlotte Masters, Kylie Rosenberg and Morgan Dowell. Donal & Fiona Gannon added a duet. Cousins Emily & Saunders Ervin demonstrated a magic card trick, and the Capon players showed the best way to pass along Capon water. Then Ann Hazard was magically healed by a drink of



Capon water and performed a synchronized tap dance number with her granddaughter Kim Osborne. Kim’s sister Jenn offered five original poems before the dancers took over. Cousins Clare Paulsen and Aideen Gannon did a snappy number before Clare teamed with Izzy Gale for a Japanese rap dance. Elizabeth Ervin & Bailey Ham led a Capon fashion show complete with examples of wardrobes from some of this week’s best dressers: Tom Walsh, Hayes Permar and Bruce Ham. After checking out and leaving



Wednesday after Bingo, Talia Chicherio and her family decided to return on Friday afternoon to finish out their week which included the guitar number she shared near the end of the show. Lila McNulty teamed up with Bob Rosenberg on guitar to finish the musical portion of the show. Patty Austin closed the program with an audio/video presentation of guests this week.

Enjoy this quote as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first printing of the book “Little Me and the Great Me”, written by Capon co-founder Lou Austin. “Nobody can take THE GREAT ME away from me. *Nobody*. But sometimes the Little Me gets in the way of THE GREAT ME. Then the Little Me shuts out THE GREAT ME. But I can *choose* between the Little Me and THE GREAT ME. It’s up to me. I can be which one I choose. Pg 26-27

Tea time



Ann Permar and Betsy Bellingham organized another “High Tea” this week after the spectacular success of the 2005 affair. Girls ages 4-10 were invited in advance of their Capon arrival to bring a party dress and an heirloom tea cup. On Wednesday afternoon, about 50 came for the 3:30pm party in Room #1 of the Meeting House and porch. Darcy Dye served as greeter while Bailey Ham and Elizabeth Ervin helped with set up and flower pot crafts. Moms, grandmoms, aunts and nieces all feasted on scones, cheese straws and cucumber and watercress sandwiches all the while sipping on English Tea or strawberry lemonade. Fresh strawberries and homemade whip cream were the festive favorites. Ann provided brightly colored hats for all participants.



BINGO BASH

Bob Rosenberg waited a whole year to fulfill his dream of serving as guest caller at Bingo Wednesday. Zeke Eckert did likewise, hosting a special game of “Screwball”. Meanwhile, Capon 4th generation recreation helper Jerry Dorsey called his last game of the season, while the younger crowd echoed his letter/number combinations. Lexa Cotter and Zella Hanson each walked away with tokens after each found one taped to the back of their Bingo card. (Out of the 39 tokens found this week, Gabby Dowell had the most unusual location: under a turtle!).

75th anniversary News

Several guests were honored this week for reaching 75th anniversary milestones: making 75 separate visits or accumulating at least 365 days stayed at Capon. Alice Masters and Katy Gude were honored on May 6th, but the families of Bonnie Miller and Shirley Meacham accepted the commemorative package for these Capon matriarchs. Jimmy Ervin was also honored as a member of the Capon Board of Directors. THIS WEEK IN HISTORY...

Eleven years ago at Capon, guests were showing off their Capon pride and experiencing new events. During this week in 1996, Chris Bailey was showing off his new Capon Indian head tattoo. The teen crowd partook in their annual ultimate Frisbee game on the 8th fairway and made their trek to CaCapon State Park where Kenny Gude eagled two holes.

Golfing Times



Last year's Tuesday best ball tournament had all teams within two strokes of the leader. This week, nine teams in the thirteen team tournament field finished just one stroke apart. Three teams shared first place with 3-under par rounds of 31, as the looming lunch bell forced a tie. Winning teams included: Ed Offterdinger, Chris Bailey, Burt Grinstead, Adam Senquiz, Jr., Gabby Dowell, and Loretta Weitzel; Billy Weitzel, John Miller, Sam Quinn, Jay Lundy, Molly Jefferds, and Sue Gannon; Jay Miller, Michael Wyatt, Bob Wallace, Richard Farrell, Meghan Apfelbaum, and Katy Gude.

In Friday's action, it was close again but this time a single team claimed the title. Ken Gude, Dave Luttinger, Jr., Jordan Schafer, Patrick Bailey, Ryan Conner and Lexa Cotter shot an eagle 2 on their first hole-#1- and that one shot made the difference as they edged three other teams by one stroke. Runners up included: Ed Offterdinger, Andrew Weitzel, Tyler Paulsen, Dave Gannon, Ray Conner, Becky Grinstead, Burt Apfelbaum, Kit Kashap, Dave Luttinger, Sr., Katy Gude, Darce Dye, Tommy Harrison, Chris Bailey, Bill Weitzel, Bob Rosenberg, Meghan Apfelbaum, and Lauren Luttinger. Tommy Harrison won the closest to the pin contest by hitting his tee shot on hole #4 a mere 5'3" from the cup!

TENNIS TROUBLES



A mushy Har-Tru court combined with a larger than normal field caused some scheduling snafus for this week's Mixed Doubles Tennis Tourney. The patient players went with the flow as the first two flights finally finished around noon. Eric & Carrie Grinstead helped the original Har-Tru flight get in all their matches by dropping out and creating a 4 team line up. That meant quick games as the remaining pairs battled it out on the two all weather courts. Timing was critical and everything was going great to squeeze in the semis before lunch until an unexpected drizzle dampened the courts. (Decked in a lovely pink tube top and blue tennis skirt, Hayes Permar along with partner Caroline Ervin just missed the wild card spot by one game.)

The three flight winners and one wild card team reconvened at 2:15pm to assess the situation. Despite Dave Luttinger's expert squeegeeing skills to aid in the court drying out, it took about an hour wait before the lower court was puddleless enough for Stuart & Leslie Schwager to face off against Andrew & Michelle Weitzel. Billy & Loretta Weitzel had to wait until 5:00pm to face off against Peter Bailey & Lauren Luttinger in the other semi. After dinner the racket attack resumed in an all Weitzel final. Playing an 8-game pro-set, Billy & Loretta were up 6-4 before Andy & Michelle fought back to tie it at 7-7, forcing a tie breaker. In a double overtime tie breaker, Billy & Loretta finally prevailed at 8:30pm, a mere 11 hours after the official start.

Puck Power



The next generation came out in record numbers for Thursday morning's kid shuffleboard, with only 3 kids over 10 filling out the 24 member field. Returning champion Sam Kaye partnered with just old enough Justin Schwager to make a offensive juggernaut. They breezed through the first round advancing to the final only by outlasting a tight semifinal match against Ian Gale and Nicole Weitzel. Meanwhile, 3 time winner Stephen Hott-Bellingham teamed with Kylie Rosenberg on the opposite end of the bracket to set up a showdown with Sam and Justin for the championship. The final did not disappoint as both teams were neck and neck for most of the match, until Justin moved up to Kylie's advanced pushing position and quickly notched three 7's in one round to claim the title!

The adults also had a busy tourney. For the first time in Capon shuffleboard history 76 players signed up forcing the creation of a play-in bracket just to get to the full capacity 32 team field. Despite the time constraints and complexity of scheduling matches around spa appointments, the early rounds progressed enough by Thursday for the quarterfinals. Rained caused some delays on Friday, so it took until Saturday before the semis could be played. Both former champs Ed & Sue Gannon and Doug & Jeannette Rosenberg battled on one side of bracket, while upstarts Chris & Molly Jefferds shuffled against Dave & Emily Rector. The championship will feature the Rosenbergs against the Rectors; a rematch of a soggy title game played a few year ago.

