



DEAR VETERANS — THANK YOU!

November 11th, Veterans Day celebrates and honors the service, sacrifice, and enduring achievements of the nearly 22 million living Americans who served our nation in uniform, at home and abroad, during times of both war and peace. Due to the location of Bear Trail Golf Club and how close we are to Camp Lejeune; we have numerous members of our club that are active military and veterans, so I wanted to take an opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your service.

When the world is threatened, it calls on America, and we call on our service members who serve without question and without delay. You served as protectors and defenders, warfighters, peacemakers, and peacekeepers. You were the guardians of the greatest social and political experiment the world has ever known – representational democracy in a constitutional republic.

We are privileged to live in the United States where the cost of freedom, as you all especially know, is not free; it has been paid for by the sacrifices of the men and women like yourselves who have served and fought for the flag of our nation and all that it represents. On this special day, those of us who have not served, want to give a special thanks to you and to your families for your service and sacrifice in defending the freedom and liberty that we all enjoy.

To all of you who have volunteered to serve and protect the numerous freedoms that we ordinary citizens have enjoyed every single day of our lives in America, we are forever grateful to you. It is so easy to take your sacrifice for granted and it is a shame that we only take one day out of the year to celebrate and appreciate your sacrifice. You serve and fight for the greatest Nation in the history of civilization. There has never been a grievous wrong that good Americans have not sought to rectify. There has never been a just cause on which America has turned her back for long. You, our soldiers, have been and continue to be, the greatest force for freedom and human rights ever gathered. You have raised our flag around the world, not for domination, but to bring greater



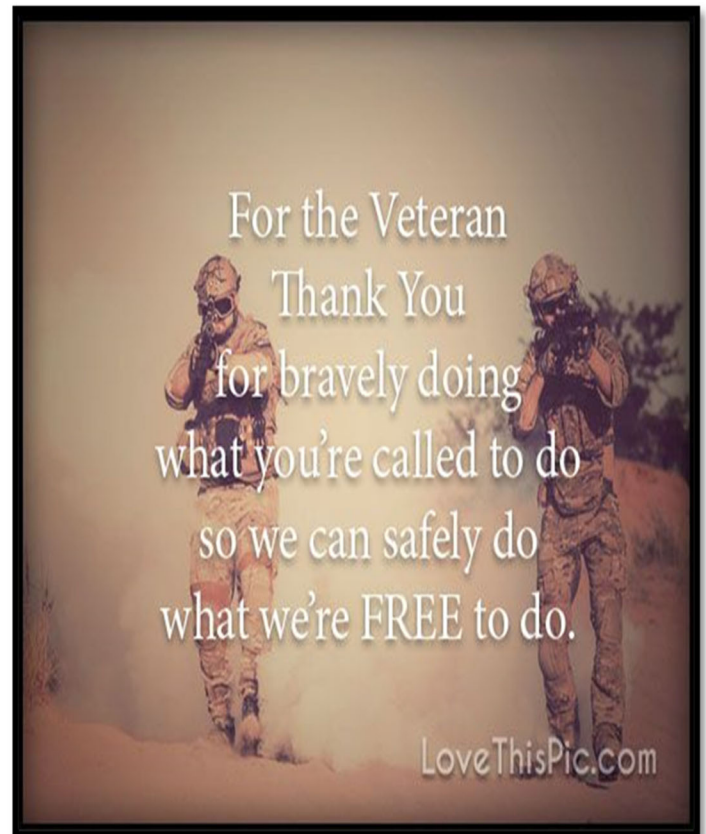
liberty and a better way of life. You are the reason America remains a beacon of hope to the entire world.

To those of us who have not served, remember not just to thank a veteran on Veterans Day but to thank them whenever you can. The next time you see a stranger in uniform, extend a hand and thank them for their service. The next time you see that relative who served but doesn't like to talk about it, extend a hand and thank them for their service. With all that said, I think I speak for all of us who have not served when I say to all of the veterans and active military who will be reading this newsletter,

Thank you!

OUR DEBT TO THE
HEROIC MEN AND VALIANT
WOMEN IN THE SERVICE
OF OUR COUNTRY CAN
NEVER BE REPAID. THEY
HAVE EARNED OUR
UNDYING GRATITUDE.
AMERICA WILL NEVER
FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES.

PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN



THURSDAY BLITZ POINTS LEAGUE

As stated in previous editions of the Bear Cave we started a Thursday Blitz Points League this year. The League ran from Day Light Savings time in March and ended with a Year End Event on October 22nd. In total this year, we have given out over \$4,500 in cash prizes. Throughout the year we tracked the amount of money that members had won and the leader at the end of the year end tournament would win a Championship Belt. We also awarded a cash prize for the Sandbagger of the Year, who was the individual with the most points over their quota in a given week. We had a 3 way tie this year for Sandbagger of the Year and each person was +10 over their quota. Congratulations to the following individuals who received a cash prize for being the Sandbagger of the Year:

August 3rd - Derek Prater
May 25th - Justin Leonard
April 6th - Billy Sheffield

The Top 10 finishers on the money leaderboard this year are as follows:

1. Derek Prater	\$522
2. B.J. Seifrit	\$490
3. John Shivar	\$400
4. Lee Saballos	\$344
5. Matt Swedberg	\$327
6. Justin Leonard	\$300
7. William Levier	\$213
8. Ryan Scott	\$192
9. Val Shivar	\$176
10. Dan Thibault	\$164

Congratulations to **Derek Prater** for winning the inaugural Thursday Blitz Points League.



KING OF THE HILL RESULTS – OCTOBER 28TH

The inaugural Bear Trail King of the Hill was played on Saturday, October 28th and it did not disappoint. We started with 19 players teeing off at the same time on Hole number one and eliminated players until we got down to one player left on Hole 18.

Throughout the day there were some incredible highlights and shots that were fun to watch. On hole 5, there were 4 people tied with bogeys, Me (B.J. Seifrit), Derek Prater, Brad Neumann, and Donnie Pierce. It was a front pin locations and Kyle chose a downhill chip from the right side of the green. Brad Neumann was first to go and hit a chip that sounded a little thin and approached the flag stick in a hurry and hit the flag stick so hard it echoed throughout the course but managed to find the bottom of the cup. So needless to say, with that incredible chip in he moved on and eliminated 3 other good players who easily could have gone far that day.

Kevin Mininni played steady golf up until he received a gift on hole 9 when he made a double bogey and managed to move on when Courtland Blanding made an unfortunate and unlucky triple bogey.

Dan Thibault, Don Mash, and Justin Leonard played steady golf as well and continued to survive and advance through the front nine and back nine until Don was eliminated on hole 13 and Dan was eliminated on hole 14.

With 4 holes remaining there were 5 players left: Brad Neumann, Justin Leonard, James Simpson, Kevin Mininni, and Jeff Allen.

On hole 15, Brad Neumann and Justin Leonard were both receiving a stroke due to their handicaps while James, Jeff and Kevin were all playing straight up. Brad was in perfect position to at least make par but unfortunately hit his 3rd shot in the bunker and then hit his 4th shot from the bunker back over the green. He chipped his 5th shot on the green and then missed the putt for bogey making an unfortunate double bogey which ended up eliminating him.



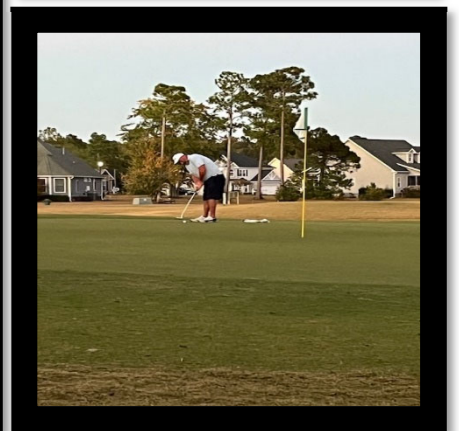
On hole 16, James Simpson, Justin Leonard, Kevin Mininni, and Jeff Allen all hit good tee shots. James Simpson struck his 2nd shot well but unfortunately it did not draw like he intended, and his ball kicked right into the greenside bunker. James hit a good bunker shot to about 8 feet but missed his putt for par. Justin, Kevin, and Jeff all made pars which led to James being eliminated.



On Hole 17, Kevin Mininni teed off first and pulled his iron shot left of the green, leaving himself a difficult up and down for par. Both Jeff and Justin hit the green leaving themselves birdie putts. Kevin hit his chip from the rough and it rolled up the face of his wedge and ended up falling well short of the green, remaining in the rough, leaving himself a difficult up and down for bogey. Kevin hit his next shot on the green leaving about 12 feet remaining for his bogey. Both Jeff and Justin 3 putted for bogey. However, it failed to matter after Kevin missed his bogey putt, making a double bogey on the Par 3 17th which led to his elimination.



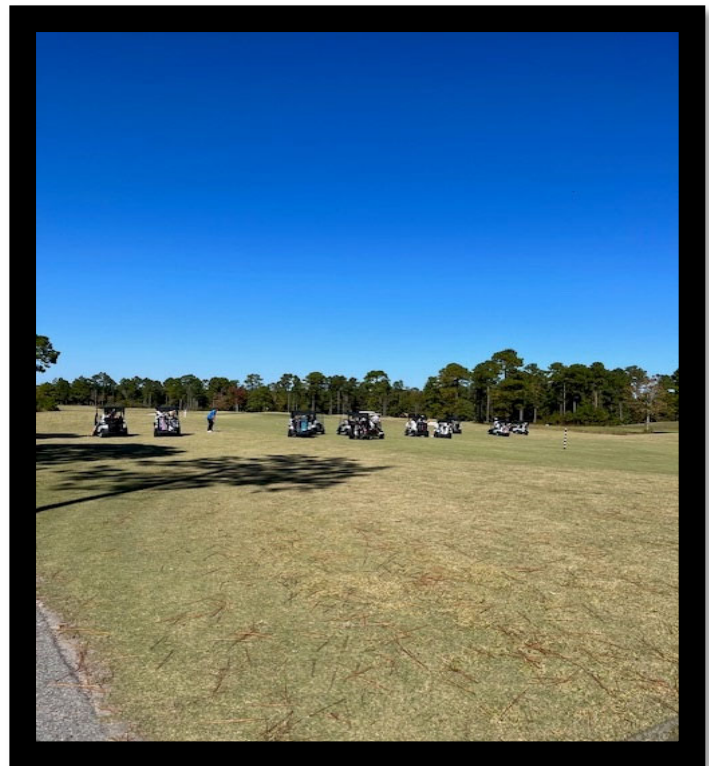
The event started at 1:00pm and daylight was quickly slipping into darkness but here we were with two competitors remaining, Justin Leonard and Jeff Allen. If you decided to leave and not stick around for the last hole, you missed a dramatic finish on the 18th hole. Both Jeff and Justin hit tee shots over the trap ending up in 18 fairway, leaving themselves wedge shots into the green. Jeff was first to play from the fairway and hit a respectable shot just passed pin high leaving himself a down hill putt from about 20 feet for birdie. Justin had about 100 yards to the green for his second shot. After watching Jeff hit his shot and seeing that Jeff had a decent look at birdie, Justin proceeded to hit a wedge shot to about 4 feet, stuffing it in close to put the pressure back on Jeff to have to make his birdie putt since Justin was receiving a stroke on the 18th due to his handicap. Jeff then proceeded to do just that, making his 20 footer for birdie which forced Justin to have to make his 4 footer for birdie in order to avoid a chip off for the title. Justin, with ice in his veins, drained the 4 footer making Birdie net Eagle on the last hole to win the first annual Bear Trail King of the Hill.



Top 10 Finishers in the King of the Hill were as follows:

- 1st Place – Justin Leonard (\$150 and the Championship Belt)
- 2nd Place – Jeff Allen (\$120)
- 3rd Place – Kevin Mininni (\$100)
- 4th Place – James Simpson (\$80)
- 5th Place – Brad Neumann (\$70)
- 6th Place – Dan Thibault (\$60)
- 7th Place – Don Mash (\$50)
- 8th Place – Matt Swedberg (\$40)
- 9th Place – David Cumbo (\$30)
- 10th Place – William Levier (\$20)

KING OF THE HILL – PHOTOS











MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Since the Thursday League, BTGA, and Bear Trail events have all concluded for this year I am going to start a member of the month for the newsletter. Each month we are going to feature a member of the club and ask them 18 personal/golf related questions to get to know them a little better. This month we figured it was only appropriate to feature this year's King of the Hill.



1. Name: **Justin Leonard**
2. Handicap: **12.3**
3. How long have you been a member at Bear Trail?
7 years
4. What is your favorite thing about Bear Trail? **It is the nicest course in the area.**
5. What is your favorite golf memory? **Winning the inaugural 2023 Bear Trail King of the Hill.**

6. How would you describe your golf game? **My game would be best described as like Big Foot... One minute it's there, next minute it is gone.**
7. What would you say is a strength in your golf game? **Short iron play.**
8. What would you say is a weakness in your golf game? **Driver and fairway woods.**
9. Do you have a hole in one? Where? What hole?
Yes, on #9 at Stanly County Country Club
10. What is your lowest score? **I honestly have no idea anymore.**
11. What is your dream foursome? **Justin Leonard (the pro golfer), Ricky Fowler, and my father.**
12. Who is your all-time favorite golfer? **David Duval and Ricky Fowler**
13. What is your favorite course that you have played? **Winged Foot and The Montgomery in Dubai.**
14. What is a course that you have yet to play that is on your bucket list? **Harbor Town**
15. Have you attended any PGA Tour Events? Which ones? **I have not but I have been to 2 ACC Golf Tournaments.**
16. What PGA Tour Event would you most like to attend? **The Masters**
17. What is your biggest pet peeve on the golf course? **Slow play is what irks me the most because it knocks your rhythm out of wack.**
18. What is your drink of choice during or after the round? **Diet Mt. Dew.**

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Any questions or suggestions about current or future editions of the Bear Cave can be sent to bt leagues@beartrailgolf.com or contact me @ 717-424-6438



B.J. Seifrit