



Chipshots

The Lopez Island Golf Club Newsletter

November 2025

Issue 156

Around the Course

The following is a report for our local Librarian Beth St. George. She offers a birding class through the library and the following report is from a class that was offered on our course.

Mindful Birding Summary for 18 November 2025

Dear Birders,

This morning, our group visited a new place to bird - the Lopez Golf Course. General Manager Jodie Snapp kindly hosted us. She wishes to encourage golfers to appreciate the area's avian inhabitants. The slow walk down the green was slow for bird views, but we had glimpses of Brown Creepers on pine trunks and the flitting shadows of Golden-crowned Kinglets in the canopy. We also heard Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, and Spotted Towhee. Common Ravens were observed on the course and flying overhead, deep-voiced. We reached the pond, ringed with cattails and only partially full, at the south end of the course. Birds called in the shrubs along Shark Reef Road, but they never came into view.



Then Beth spotted a small bird hovering over the pond and exclaimed: "There's a rare bird! A Black Phoebe!" Its tuxedo-like black and white plumage was dapper. The bird alternated between perching on cattails, calling a one-note "tsip" and hovering over the water, probably searching for insects. Black Phoebes normally live along the coast of Oregon, but rarely seem to cross the Columbia River. What a lucky sighting!

As we neared the club house on the way back, air traffic flushed a flock of at least 50 Killdeer! I was surprised to see that many in one group. They must have been foraging along the runway.

Other birds observed: Snow Goose (flying high overhead), Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow.

The next walks will be Tuesdays, December 2 & 16. Bird walks are limited to 6 people to ensure a quality experience, so please sign up early to reserve your spot. Contact: Beth@LopezLibrary.org, 360-468-2265 or stop by the library.

Thanks for birding with me!

Beth

Rare Bird Alerts

To sign up for or view Rare Bird Alerts for our region, go to <https://ebird.org/alerts>, enter "San Juan, Washington, United States" and then select Subscribe or View. If you click View and Sort by Date, you will see the Black Phoebe alert for the golf course.

Other bird excitement

These were taken Nov 1st, on the 9th fairway above the cart path. Seen by Dylan Johnson and David Demaso. It was originally standing on the ground, facing us on the tee box. We estimated it to be about 1-1/2' - 2' tall while it was standing on the fairway in front of us. It was a wild experience. All the birds in the neighborhood were HYPER aware of its presence. There were the two local bald eagles circling above it, screaming at it. And every tree seemed to have nests and birds in them yelling about it being there! It was special.



Photo and story: Dylan Johnson

First on the new practice mat was Jack Coffey.



Photo By Kit Ledbetter

2026 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Men and Women will combine their weekly golf days on Tuesdays

ACE tournaments (low net) will be on first Tuesday of the month, April thru September.

Spring and Fall Ringers (using 1/2 handicap as of first day of each ringer)

Spring Ringer — April 2 thru June 30

Fall Ringer - July 7 thru September 15

President's Cup -- modified Stableford rules

Play on June 9,16,23

Choose scores from best 2 rounds

Pilon (men) and Lott (women) Tournaments --match play using 3/4 handicap

All July

Players arrange their own playing times

Club Championship Tournament-

August 18, 21 and 23

Low gross scores win 1st and 2nd places

Additional flights by handicap

Low Net winners get McConaghy Trophy

King and Queen Tournament -- net tournament

18 holes, stroke play, full handicap

Winners of monthly ACE Tournaments play as teams

Prize to low net team

Ties broken by closest to the pin chip-off by 1 player per team

TOURNAMENT RULES Updated November 2025

* All events, except match play, must be played as scheduled. Entry fees TBD

ACE -net tournament

18 holes, stroke play, full handicap—men; women play 9 holes. Usually played first women's and men's day of the month, April through September. Male and female winners from each month are paired and compete as a team in the King and Queen tournament at the end of the season

Spring and Fall Ringers

Players record scores from daily game on women's day and men's day, changing scores on subsequent weeks when lower scores occur on individual holes. 1/2 handicap as of first day of ringer

Mc Conaghy Tournament --net tournament – Revised 2024 – See Club Championship

President's Cup Tournament -- modified Stableford rules

36 holes, stroke play, full handicap -- men and women. Use the best two out of three scores on men's and women's day from three weeks in June. Points: Bogey 1, Par 2, Birdie 3, Eagle 4, Double Eagle (Albatross) 5

Pilon (men) and Lott (women) Tournaments --match play

18 holes for each match. 3/4 handicap. Ties played off by sudden death beginning on the original starting hole. Prizes for 1st and 2nd place. Tournament played during the month of July; players arrange time and date of matches

Club Championship Tournament--gross tournament

54 holes, stroke play, no handicap -- men and women. Prizes for 1st and 2nd. Additional flights by handicap. Low net winners are awarded the McConaghy Trophy. (Low net winners can't be gross score winners.) Ties played off by sudden death starting on hole #8

King and Queen Tournament -- net tournament

18 holes, stroke play, full handicap. Winners of monthly ACE Tournaments play as teams. Prize to low net team

Ties played off immediately by sudden death.

LIGC 2026 Social and Work Day Schedule

Twilight Scrambles (all at 4 pm except as noted)

Sun. May 17

Sun. May 31

Sun. June 14

Sun. June 28

Sun. July 12

Sun. July 26

Sun. Aug. 9

Sun. Aug. 23 – CC celebration usually PL appetizers

Mon. Sept. 7- Labor Day (Horse Race, starts at 1 pm)

Sun. Sept. 20 – 3 pm (between ACES and dinner)

Work Days (all last Wednesday of the month, Mar. through Oct., 9-noon, followed by lunch)

March 25

April 29

May 27

June 24

July 29

August 26

September 30

October 28

Wednesday Night Golf - Every Wednesday of the month, start time depends on the season.

Annual Events

Spring Membership Meeting – Sunday, May 17, 3 pm

Fall Membership Meeting – Sunday, October 11, 4 pm

Annual Awards Ceremony and Dinner—Sunday, Sept. 20

Parting Shot



Long winter shadows stretch from the fir trees between the second and seventh fairways. We may have cool winters, the grass might slow its growth but we still have many bright days and many rainless afternoons to enjoy golf. Get out and play some this fall and feel spoiled by our dryer than usual course giving us more playable days.