

Rock Harbor News

November 2015

Member Corner: Jerry Baker

By: Misty Fields

Jerry moved to Winchester in 1998 from Reston, after he retired from the DCA Department of Defense as a Graphic Artist.

Jerry was also a free-lance artist designing many logos, bulletins, programs and artwork for companies in and around the DC area. Some of his clients included: The Washington Bullets, The Ice-Cream Association of America, Cornell Aeronautical Laboratories, and The Washington International Horse Show .

All of Jerry's artwork was done by brush and canvas even though most was transferred to a digital format when he worked for the government. When Jerry worked for Cornell Aeronautical he worked exclusively with brush, paints and canvas.

A lot of Jerry's artwork is displayed in his home as a reminder of his creative accomplishments. Even though Jerry no longer works as an artist he still does the occasional favor for a friend or family member by painting portraits or other subjects.

Jerry started playing golf

when he was about 23 years old. He has spent time at many courses in Reston and Loudoun Co, and even Scotland. But says that when he came to Rock Harbor about 2 years ago he just liked the course. He likes to play by himself or with his friend Rick Young. Jerry is not interested in competition or leagues, it distracts him from an enjoyable round of golf he says. Jerry enjoys playing so much that he does not even keep score when he plays. He continues to find Rock Harbor entertaining because he says it's a course you have to learn in order to play it well. You can't just play one time and think you have it mastered, it takes time to learn the course and where the best lies are. That is the sort of thing that takes some time.

Jerry's favorite hole is #12 Rock because he birdies it almost every time. He does not like #18 Rock because he has not figured out how to play it yet.

Among Jerry's other past times are his 4 kids and 4 grandchildren, he enjoys his old cars: a 2000 Cadillac Eldorado and a 1998

Lincoln Town car, both of which carry very low miles and are in excellent condition.

Jerry was born in Lima, Ohio but at 6 years old moved to Alexandria with his family. At the end of WWII The Franklin Roosevelt Administration instated the (OPA) Office of Price Administration, in order to help with the wartime inflation. Jerry's father moved his family to Washington to head up this administration. Jerry went to school in Alexandria and attended high school with Willard Scott; they graduated together and even took the military entrance exam together. Jerry was denied due to a bad eye and Willard Scott entered the Navy Reserve. Gratefully, neither would ever have to see combat.

Jerry had always had a dream that he would live along the Shenandoah River. One afternoon while on a day trip to the Shenandoah Valley he was passing through Berryville and saw a real estate agents' office. He stopped in and asked if someone could show him some houses. He looked at

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Rock Harbor News

Notes from G



"It's some kind of silly note from the barbarians, sire. It says, 'We will, we will, rock you. We will, we will, rock you' ..."

We just wrapped up our last Sand 'n Suds evening (sans the sand) for the season. I want to extend a *Mahalo Nui Loa 'okou* (thank you very much to you all). It is always a great pleasure for us to see members gather together like this. We certainly appreciate the efforts shown by all of you during this past season. We hope to resume some of this next year as well. As for the off season months, we will still have member gatherings as we've done in the past. I will setup a winter session social calendar and get that to you very soon. Unfortunately, I am unable to produce it as quickly to make this newsletter. Within these winter months, I would like to hold a member evening that can address some of the policies and membership offerings we have had on the table and how they work. This will serve as reminders to the long time members and reinforce to those recent members, how things work. We've had a good run at our first attempt at a Senior League with a pretty good mix of members and non-members alike. I think this popular event will grow. Also a successful first run was our Tuesday evening 9-hole ladies league. I believe we're off to a good start and hope to grow that as well. Information on both of these will be forthcoming before the spring of 2016. Not so popular was our attempt with holding an "open" league to members and non-members. The intent was to try and take Saturday mornings and create a league of sorts that would allow for players just to show up during that time and play golf without the worry of having to make a time. Measured steps were taken into consideration to accommodate all levels of play and to ensure the fair and equitable methodology of scoring whereby allowing more legitimacy of player competition. A blind draw, similar to what was being organized previously was used. I fear, however, that the inaugural implementation of this loosely formed league did not have the appeal expected. We will revisit this in the off season and perhaps devise a format more welcoming. We are also putting together the new year's members' events and hope to utilize both courses over the year. You will be pleased to know that the experiment on the "worst shot" scramble has been axed and never to be raised again. We continue to look for ways to come up with formats of golf that will appeal to more folks. I've said this before, but I think it is well worth stating again, one of the main reasons we have these monthly socials and member golf events, is to grow your player base. Making new friends through golf. With the kind of members we already have, I find it hard to accept that we can't welcome more and more from the Winchester and surrounding townships and counties to join us here at Rock Harbor where we really embrace the familial atmosphere. In closing, I personally will continue to strive in developing our little club into something that we can all be proud of. Not just the wonderfully designed and maintained golf course itself, but in all aspects we offer as a golf club; merchandise, food, staff and especially service. *Mahalo ia 'okou ahou. Malama Pono* – Once again, thank you, be good.

Jerry Baker, continued from Page 1....

.....a house way up on a mountain that overlooked the river and he bought it that afternoon. Little did he know at the time that during the winter there would be snow and living on top of a mountain can be difficult to navigate, so after 2 years he sold the house and moved to downtown Winchester. The house he currently resides in was built in the early 1900's and due to his mother and grandmothers' love and education on antiques he has filled and decorated his home in a French Victorian style complete with antiques from the 1700's and a few reproduction pieces he has collected over the years.

I would say Jerry is a well-rounded individual....golf to antique cars to French Victorian style.