



The Capon Weekly

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Saturday, August 1, 2009

CAPON SPRINGS, WV

Families Gathering at Capon

For the first time in a very long time, a large contingent of Grims descended upon Capon this week. The timing worked out perfectly because they were all gathering in their home town in Pennsylvania to honor their mother and grandmother Ruth Grim Leestma. Ruth, who passed away this July 1st at the age of 96. By this Friday morning, over 40 family members sharing meals in the dining room, competing in sporting activities and reminiscing.



Jim, Allan, George and Gini all made their first trip to Capon in 1952. "I was 3-4 months old and our family stayed in the Virginia Cottage and I slept in the bureau drawer. We've only missed a few years since then", recalled Gini.

Strolling down memory lane was a crowded walk this week. So much so that a survey was generated on Thursday asking guests to list the date of their first visit. Over a dozen guests indicated their initial trip was more than 50 years

ago. In that select group was Ralph Doty, Elaine Fitzpatrick, Dixon Foster, John Fuller, Bill Offutt, Toni Pepe and Elizabeth Singer. Four siblings and a cousin filled out that special company: Jim, Allan, George, Gini and Mark Grim. A special sheet cake was on display Friday before dinner to honor those half-centurions and everyone feasted on it after the talent show.

Right behind them was a list of guests who made it into the 40-50 Capon seasons club: Dan & Betty Cooper, Ray & Betty Meeker, Ray Meeker, Jr., Joan Barry, Adam Kenner, Kevin Price, Mildred, Donna & Deb Levick, Anita Kuzio, Gordon & Scott Foerster, Jan Zimmeck, Mandy Hall, Frank, Nan & Bobby Bennett, Kate Muller and R. Dixon Foster.

Reading and writing books:



For the fifth year in a row, Sarah Kenner took charge of this week's read of choice for the Capon book club. Her review crew had until Saturday morning to finish "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden. Sarah had seen the movie years ago and wanted a more popular book this time, after choosing more obscure books the past few years. Her choice was also the longest book so far at 420 pages. "It was a fast read because the author puts you right into the story from the start. No boring introduction like some books," commented Sarah. The usual cast of characters joined in the discussion including Leah & Abby Schutzman, Toni Pepe, Jocelyn & Sarah Kenner, Julie Bacot, Gini Grim and Carolyn Offutt. Anne Petrik and Joyce Nelson returned from last year. After everyone had a chance to make introductory observations about the book, there was a free form discussion about how the book affected them.

Meanwhile, Ryan Grim was promoting his first book, "This Is Your Country On Drugs", which traces the history of one of the knottiest social, cultural and criminal problems in the U.S. The book officially came out in late June and Ryan has been busy fielding interviews on CNN, C-SPAN and BookTV. He's hoping his Op-Ed piece in the Washington Post due out Sunday, August 9th will provide the real boost. "They are selling about 100/wk, which is actually quite good," explained Ryan, who hopes sales will proceed on a slow burn for about a year.

It all began after he published an article about LSD in Slate Magazine in 2004. He shopped around for a publisher after spending a year writing a 30-page proposal. "I enjoyed doing it and I may do another book in a few years. This time about the Federal Reserve," pondered Ryan. He held a Q & A session on Wednesday night to a packed room of family and friends who wanted to know about prevention and treatment of drug addiction, as well as the current popularization in the media about prescription drugs. His book is available at brick and mortar shops like Borders books and online at Amazon.com.



BASKET TIME I



Now in its 8th year, the basket making instruction of Debbi Zvanut kept even more guests in a crafty way. Even though there were 4 days planned for putting baskets together, guests used "outside class time" to complete a variety of decorative holders. Over two dozen weavers were helped by the rain showers to complete Candle, Williamsburg Market, Triangular, Circular and Business Card Baskets. "Deb & Donna Levick told me two years ago that they could always count on me to do something new each year, so that's my goal," reported Debbi. Among the different creative treats: Indian corn, using scandia straw and marked strips of poplar, new handle, ornament choices and lots more bright colors (and more kids!). Debbi's final basket of the week gave her #664 in her career collection.

Guest Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

7/26 Bob Trimble
7/31 Caroline Walters
8/1 Reed Landry
8/2 Tyler Grim



ANNIVERSARIES

7/28 Flynt & Heather Tuller
7/29 John & Liz Fuller—
40th celebration
8/1 Robert & Shirley Ann Morley— 50th

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TALENT SHOW TRIBUTES

To start the show, the 3 member Capon chorus provided a song and dance routine directed by Patty Austin. Then Paige Jalonsinski, Abigail Sampson and Delaney Dunigan shared their voices for some solo singing. Ian Walters led off the piano music, followed by brother Peyton, Sean Crommelin and Cameron Franks. Then Kathryn Lambiotte and Julia Mosby joined forces as they tickled the ivories together. Once again Julia paired up, but this time with Julie Hagen on the piano, while Julia used her violin. When it came to hip action, Anne Marie Hagen and Tyler Maxwell were tops. Anne Marie swiveled her hula hoop, while Tyler did some daredevil stunts on his Indo board. To add to the drama, Garrett Fisher offered the spooky "Dark Dark Night" poem.



Then Allan Grim, who had never appeared in the talent show in his 50+ years of Capon visits, provided a one act play that combined a joke he heard and the 7 steps for success found in his book, "Strokes". Later, repeat performer Scott Foerster offered a whimsical piano piece. The tempo was increased when Sarah Kenner arranged a "Slumdog Millionaire" dance with synchronized moves from brother Philip, cousin Violet Bishop and friends Kathryn Lambiotte and Julia Mosby. Doug Imbrogno got everyone singing in his guitar tribute to an old Guy Lombardo number. The Grim quartet (Adelina Clonts, Julie Hagen, Didi Grim and Orena Franks) finished the talent with two songs dedicated to their grandmother Ruth. The evening ended with a visual and musical tribute of guests enjoying themselves, which was produced by Patty & Tom Austin. One fun photo showed the wooden Capon bear striking a yoga pose to match the new spa activity.



Disney on parade

When Carolyn Offutt, Sr. saw a bargain clothing sale at the Disney store in 2007 she decided to buy out the lot of 30. Both shirts and dresses came in a variety of sizes to fit the different shapes of Offutts, Mosbys, Prices and DeMosses. When they wore their matching outfits at Wednesday breakfast, the Fowle family joined the Mickey parade. The twist, the only item of clothing left in extra large that would fit Ray Fowle was a dress. He didn't hesitate to join the fun, adding a yellow carnation behind his ear to complete the ensemble. On the way out of breakfast, Perry Keller and Madison McClintic showed off their photos taken with the exotic "Raymona". (*Carolyn also has some children's sizes when the next generation produces little "Caponites"*).



Basket Time II



So far this year, there has only had one person able to shoot 90% during Friday's Free Throw contest. This week, three people made nine out of ten baskets. After a large number of hoopsters tried their best, Matt Gordon, Sam Marco and David Schutzman were all tied for the top spot, with a score better than most pros. In the first tie breaker round, Matt made 4 out of 5 clearly making him the champion, but Sam and David tied again for second forcing another shootout. That's when Sam converted more for the runner up spot.



The Mile Club

The Main Building porch was filled with runners and spectators alike on Tuesday for the annual One Mile Race. Fifteen minutes later all 60 competitors crossed the line— the most so far this year. Three pairs of two decided to make a relay of it using fun items like a flip flop as a baton. Only one of them was able to stay ahead of individual winner, Claire Zimmeck, whose strong soccer legs carried her to the overall victory in 5:39. *(Claire was drafted and played some pro ball this Spring. After she graduates from college this December, she will re-enter the draft. Look for her next Spring at a stadium near you!).* Second place finisher Steve Hughes led all males in 5:47. Age group winners included: Jonathan Kerr, Anne-Marie Hagen, Nathaniel Ruble, Julia Mosby, Adam Gordon, Courtney Follweiler, Greg McKenzie, Catherine Marco, and Carl Zvanut. The best effort award was given to Nate Grim, who completed the entire mile at three years of age.

Treasure Trekkers



The 4-hour time period brought out the competitive nature of 10 teams as they set out to crack three clues and discover the final answer to the 2009 Caponchase adventure. Two teams used some creative problem solving to guess at one of the clues, arriving at the final answer without the required information. They were sent marching to retrieve the necessary data. Meanwhile, Team "Sneaky Maple Nut Sundae" had all the right moves as they finished in 2 hrs 41 minutes, just ahead of 3 other teams. In an all teen squad, Sam & Lexi Meeker recruited Alissa Beckett and Adam Gordon at the last minute to help them finish first.

Good-minton Gang



The pot luck mixed doubles badminton tournament was on a two hour rain delay while the courts dried out Friday afternoon. Thirty-two people completely filled up the brackets as everyone was excited to find out who their partner was. The team of Stephen Hott-Bellingham and Kelly Maxwell looked like they could go all the way, but in the semi-finals Sam Marco and Jim Grim Jr. Jr. crushed their hopes of a championship. In the other semi, Dixon Foster and Michael Bacot play Andy Foerster and Kelsey Grim to see who the other finalist would be. Andy and Kelsey won that battle and moved on the face Sam and Jim in the championship. Sam and Jim brought their "A-game" winning it all with a score of 11 to 5.

Golf Digest

In Tuesday's Pot Luck Best Ball Golf Tourney, two groups of five edged ahead of everyone else to take the two top spots. The team of Michael Gallaway, Dixon L. Foster, Joan DeMoss, David Schutzman, and Steph Zimmeck won the whole thing with four birdies. The runners-up were Scott Foerster, Wayne DeMoss, Barbara Mosby, Grant Meeker, and Keith Holbrook.



On Friday, golf tourney leader Pete Budnyk gambled on the weather and won, barely. The pouring rain came just as the last groups completed their last hole. Ed Dressel, Grant Meeker, Jim Grim, Jr., Tyler Maxwell and Adeline Clonts finished first and their 6 under par 29 held up as they waited for everyone else to come in. Greg McKenzie, Mark Grim, Jr., Glenn Herman, Jacob Marco and Anne Keller had one more stroke to get second.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the tourney record, Pete located the original results sign, photo and score card from that winning team of Bill Offutt, Bill Smedberg, Eve Walker and Brad Brown. Their 8 under par 26, (all birdies but one) has been tied but never broken, and never by a foursome.



Net Play

Wednesday's tennis tournament started off really slow due to the rain, but the wetness wouldn't stop these tough competitors. The all weather courts were damp, but they were still playable. On the other hand, the Har-Tru court remained unusable until about 10:30am.

The stars showed up early as Flight III featured last year's winners Ryan Grim and Courtney Follweiler. However, after some close matches, they were knocked out by one game when Ryan's brother Greg with partner Adrienne Foerster defeated them 3 to 1. Meanwhile, Flight II was decided when Archie Follweiler and Gini Grim looked like champions by winning every game they played. Then Flight I had to use both the Har-Tru court and the lower all weather court to try to finish before lunch. Keith and Karen Holbrook won that flight, in which Norma McClintic injured her achilles, spending the rest of the week in a wheelchair. George Grim and Claire Zimmeck became the wild card team by winning the most games, but not winning their flight.

When the rain came once more, the semifinals and the finals had to be postponed until the next day. Keith and Karen played hard but lost to Greg & Adrienne who advanced to the finals. In the other semi-final match, Archie and Gini continued their string of wins, only dropping one game. In the finals, they did the same thing, hitting the ball past Greg and Adrienne to claim the winner's title.

PING-PONG DYNASTY



In a week of full participation, the all-comers ping pong tourney was no exception. The cutoff between divisions was age 16 (although Gray Lambiotte, Will Gale and Sam Marco all requested being bumped up to the "senior" level). With so much competition, everyone was busy until 6:30pm. For the younger set, Jimmy Evans edged out George Keller and Matt Gordon rallied past Johnny Bacot to move on to the championship. In the finals, Matt defeated Jimmy 21 to 17 in explosive game.

Dynasties are made at Capon and during this last week in July, 16 of the last 17 years either Jim Evans or Reed Landry have taken the adult title. Of those 16 wins, the spit is even at 8 a piece. But first they would have to get to the finals, a no easy task given the competition. In one quarterfinal, Reed defeated Gray before beating Archie Follweiler 21 to 10. On the other side of the bracket, Jim edged past Greg Grim 21 to 16 to set up the repeat ponging slugfest. However, from the beginning it was clear that it was Reed's year, winning it all 21 to 13.

Shuffle Stuff



A full bracket, plus two, showed up for the Thursday morning Kids" Shuffleboard contest. The beginning matches went very quickly and soon it was down to the final four. In the semis, George Keller and Emily McKenzie won against Kimberly Hagen and Peyton Walters due to a negative 20 in the third round of play. The other semi-final match went similarly with Justin Evans and Natalie Clonts defeating Jill Hagen and Ian Walters. In the finals, George and Emily started off slow with a negative 10 in the first round, but in the second round they took the lead. In the eleventh round, the score was 27 to 27. Justin and Natalie did what they needed, landing the puck in the 8 point section for a final score of 35 to 27.

Once again the adults filled up two brackets, plus some! Despite the intermittent rain and all the schedule conflicts with the other sporting events, pairs found each other and kept the matches moving. Even when one side of the bracket got behind and hadn't even played their first match by Wednesday night, a flurry of activity brought tourney play up to semi-final status by Friday afternoon. Larry Marsh advanced with new partner Kate Hughes before being kept from the championship match by George Grim & Jordan Eyamie. And Archie & Courtney Follweiler were prevented from doing the top victory dance by brother/sister dynamo Grant and Sam Meeker. Come see if the "Meektrons" can shuffle past George & Jordan for the gold after dinner Saturday!

Softball success



Thursday night's softball game had a very large number of kids who had just passed the age requirement. This caused the age break to be very young. As a result, the older team was dominating the younger team after the second inning. So everyone unanimously decided to adjust the teams to make them more fair. After the teams got rearranged, there was a fantastic evening of family friendly softball.