



# Catta Talk

CATTA VERDERA COUNTRY CLUB

DECEMBER 2024



Clint Bassett, PGA  
General Manager

## FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER

Hello Catta Members,

We are quickly winding down 2024 and now look to 2025 as our team has been hard at work planning and preparing for all that is to come in the new year. While we are excited with all of the progress that our club has made in such a short amount of time, we remain focused on what is needed to continuously improve our club and our member experience.

With so many great ideas coming from everyone on how we can enhance Catta Verdera, it is critical for Club Management to carefully evaluate what we can do to bring these ideas to fruition.

As I have mentioned in previous communications, one great tool to learn of our membership's needs is that of our Annual Member Survey. This survey will be open to all members beginning December 10th, and will remain open through December 27th. The survey will focus on each department of our club (Golf, F&B, Turf, and Accounting), and the overall membership experience as it relates to each of these departments.

Another important factor that is critical when it comes to being able to improve our offerings is that of the long-term financial strength of our Club. Financial performance is analyzed daily here at Catta Verdera, and while many businesses have faced challenges throughout the recent economic uncertainty, we are proud to say that our pricing has remained consistent. We have worked hard to operate efficiently so that our guest fees, cart fees, menu pricing, event fees, and more, have been kept at a level that continues to offer the best value to our membership.

While operational efficiency is paramount, we must still assess the needs of not only our membership, but that of our product. Each year we evaluate the needs of our golf course, our clubhouse, and our staffing levels to determine what is essential in maintaining each appropriately. These operational costs are directly related to our dues here at our club, and we again analyze what is required to deliver all that our membership expects.

Although it is never an easy decision to increase dues at a private club, there are times when certain factors dictate this to ensure the club remains strong, and is able to deliver what is necessary. Therefore, after careful consideration, the club will implement a nominal increase of 8% on golf dues beginning January 1st, 2025. This increase will benefit Catta Verdera in many ways by allowing the club to procure new maintenance equipment, increase staffing, and improve a vast number of other golf course and club related operations.

With all of these components coming together, Catta Verdera Country Club is poised to be the best it has ever been as we move into 2025. A full calendar of new Golf and Social events, as well as a few surprises, will make this a memorable year for all that call Catta home.

On behalf of our entire team, we thank you for choosing Catta Verdera as your club, and we wish everyone Happy Holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year! Here comes 2025!



[Click Here](#)

to view the Catta Verdera Women's Golfers monthly newsletter from Paula McNally.





Robbie Barich,  
Head Golf Professional

## Golf Department

FROM YOUR HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

As we head into the last month of the year, we want to recognize the great play we had throughout all our major events. It came down to the wire in some, and there were great shots hit under pressure to win. It is no easy feat to win a major, and we want to recognize all the winners from 2024 below.

- ◆ The Troubadour, our Men's Senior Invitational kicks off our majors every year in April.  
*Mike Lowe & Scott Oliver were our champions.*
  - Poet Flight – Dave Sommerhauser & Jon Baker
  - Lyricist Flight – James Parker & Rich Cowles
  - Balladeer Flight – Mark Kramer & Phil Bodine
  - Minstrel Flight – Bryan Bullard & Gary Maier
- ◆ Next was our first women's major, The Women's Member-Member Championship  
*Laura Faber & Mary Hynes were our champions*
  - Flight 1 – Laura Faber & Mary Hynes
  - Flight 2 – Paula McNally & Betty Furgurson
  - Flight 3 – Tina Paschke & Julie Domenick
  - Flight 4 – Stephanie Sikich & Shelly Schnetz
- ◆ Up next was our marquee men's major, The Cabrillo Classic.  
*Our 2024 Champions Todd Weygandt & Matt Schriver were crowned on the 18th green after an exciting shootout.*
  - San Miguel Flight – Michael Helzer & Steve Hunter Jr.
  - Oaxaca Flight – Dustin Willard & Mike Weyant
  - Santa Barbara – Darren Horning & Steve Hunter
  - San Diego – Brett Reitter & John Reitter
  - El Niguel – Mark Savickas & Shane Kittle
  - Santa Clara – Todd Weygandt & Matt Schriver
- ◆ The Catta Bella is our premier Women's Member-Guest was moved this year from September to June and we had our first full field.  
*Our 2024 Champions were Jan Wissenback, Berry Furgurson, Katrina Aller & Nancy Decker.*
  - Barbara – Jan Wissenback, Berry Furgurson, Katrina Aller & Nancy Decker
  - Skipper – Julie Domenick, Debbie Culbertson, Karen Anderson & Debbie Harvey
  - Stacie – Arleen Wong, Nanyung Choo, Michelle Inouye & Mary Kwan
  - Shelly – Pamela Chiarella, Stacy Turner, Shantelle Kelnhofer & Heather Nethaway
  - Kelly – Dana Mata, Monique Sikich, Mary Orr, Brigitte Hayes
  - Chelsea – Laura Hesse, Jessika Myers, Whitney Eklund & Donna Walters
- ◆ The season long Catta Matchplay Championship had three winners
  - Laura Faber took the Women's Flight.
  - Roger Bales taking home the Men's Orange Flight
  - Clancy Thompson won the Men's Purple Flight

◆ The Los Compadres Invitational is our fall men's member-guest. It is played in a traditional format of 9-hole matches.

Our overall winners in 2024 were Paul Haney & Jeff Jensen.

- Havana Flight – Adam Sepulveda & AJ Musser
- Santa Clara Flight – Matthew Thomas & Jake Feilich
- Camaguey – Paul Haney & Jeff Jensen
- Holguin – Dustin Willard & Scott Rieckens
- Varadero – Andrew Vasko & Daniel Mullany
- Trinidad – Jason Macktinger & Josh Chanter
- Cienfuegos – Scott Blaylock & Rocco Marrongelli
- Santiago de Cuba – Fred Grinder & Lonnie Dyer
- Bayamo – Kristofor Palmer & Greg Drumheller
- Las Tunas – John Lacey & Jason Grissom
- San Jose – Doug De Martini & James Donnellan
- Artemisa – Ryan Broyles & Scott Odell

◆ Our last major of the year was the coveted Club Championship. This was contested over a tough three days

- Costa Tzikas claimed the 2024 Men's Club Championship
- Elizabeth Barnard claimed the 2024 Women's Club Championship in back-to-back fashion.

**Congratulations to all our major winners of 2024.** For more information or if you have questions about the 2025 tournament schedule, please contact the Golf Shop.

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## NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE BEGINS IN JANUARY

I want to thank all of our members that dedicated their time and effort to be a part of our 2022-2024 Advisory Committee. We held our final meeting for the year in November and will begin our next term on January 8th, 2025.

The committee will have a new look as we move into the next term with some of the members having fulfilled their 2-year commitment. Please join me in thanking those individuals who served:

- Amelya Stevenson (Chairperson)
- Paula McNally
- Mike Lowe
- Ed Tatosian

These members have dedicated their time each month to make Catta Better.


Now as we move forward, it is my honor to announce the new committee that will commence in January:

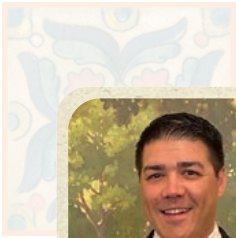
- Ellen Grivna
- Dena Lumbirt
- Sasha Macktinger
- Sean Harrigan
- Matt Morgan
- Kristofor Palmer

This committee will continue focusing on our two main purposes:

1. Provide the General Manager with feedback and recommendations from fellow Members regarding the operations and policies of the Club.
2. Assist the Club Management Team in disseminating information, clarifying misinformation, and provide any explanations of policies and procedures to the Membership at large.

We look forward to getting started in January.





Kyle Hundley  
Director of F&B

## Food & Beverage

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF F&B

December has arrived, and so has our much-anticipated winter menu! We're thrilled to unveil an entirely refreshed lineup at Quixote's, including a brand-new wine list with improved bottle pricing to enhance your dining experience. The all-day menu features exciting additions, like the highly requested Cheeseburger—a smaller, perfectly portioned option. For dinner, almost every dish is new, offering bold flavors and comforting favorites. Plus, we're excited to share that we're working on a brand-new breakfast menu to debut soon! This season, let us take care of the cooking while you focus on enjoying time with

family and friends.

As the holidays approach, we've planned a lineup of festive events to make the season even brighter. Mark your calendars and join us for these December highlights:

- ◆ **Holiday Bunco** – Monday, December 4th, at 6 PM Gather your friends (and bring your husbands!) for a relaxed and fun evening of Bunco. Whether you're a seasoned player or a first-timer, it's a great way to enjoy some holiday spirit together.
- ◆ **Thurs-Date Night** – Tuesday, December 12th, at 5:30 PM Enjoy a romantic evening with a delectable 4-course meal and a bottle of wine, all set in the enchanting ambiance of Madelena's Cocktail Lounge.
- ◆ **Cookies with Santa** – Friday, December 15th, 10 AM Bring the kids—and the kids at heart—for this free event! Meet Santa, decorate cookies, and create magical memories. Registration is required on ForeTees.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Dinners To-Go** – Sunday, December 24th, 10 AM - 2 PM Skip the hassle of cooking and let us prepare a delicious holiday feast for your family. Pre-order now and enjoy a stress-free Christmas Eve.
- ◆ **Catta Verdera New Year's Dinner & Party** – Sunday, December 31st, 6 PM or 8:30 PM Ring in 2025 in style with a fabulous plated dinner and a champagne toast at the East Coast Ball Drop. Then, stick around for The Party, featuring DJ Mich, a dessert bar, dancing, a photo booth, a late-night snack and another champagne toast at Midnight to keep the celebration going.

As the year draws to a close, we want to thank each of you for making 2024 an incredible year for Catta Verdera. Your enthusiasm, participation, and camaraderie have made this Club something truly special. We wish you all a joyful, safe holiday season and look forward to even more memories in the coming year.

Cheers to 2025!





## PERFORMANCE GOLF ACADEMY

~ Thank you Phil Dawson Jr., PGA

Many of you have been fortunate enough to spend time with Phil both on the lesson tee, and on the golf course. As an award-winning PGA Teacher & Coach, Phil has helped not only our members, but a number of elite players throughout the Northern California valley improve their swings. For nearly a decade he has shared his extensive knowledge of the golf swing with all of us here at Catta Verdera Country Club. Now, Phil and his wife Tina of 8 years, have an amazing opportunity to start a new adventure half way across the country.

Effective immediately, Phil will be assuming the extremely prestigious role of Director of Instruction at the famed Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas.

For those of you unfamiliar with Colonial Country Club, it first opened back in 1936 and is known for not only hosting the longest running tournament on the PGA Tour, but also served as Ben Hogan's home course after his retirement. The Club has hosted champions such as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, and of course, Ben Hogan who won the event five times giving it the true nickname of "Hogan's Alley".

It is an honor for me to see the young man that I used to wash golf carts with back when we first came into this industry together, be given such an amazing opportunity. All a direct result of his hard work and dedication to his students and the game of golf.

While we will miss him here at Catta, please join me in congratulating Phil on this amazing opportunity. We wish you all the best on your new adventure!

To view a short Thank You video from Phil, please click [HERE](#).

## THE LESSON VAULT – WITH PGA PROFESSIONAL FRANKLYN RICHARDS

Franklyn continues to help golfers around the world with his unlimited knowledge of the golf swing. As you watch these stories from Franklyn's very own YouTube channel, don't forget to send him a question about your swing, and begin to play better immediately.

To view this week's playlist on "THE DRIVER", click [HERE](#).

To schedule a lesson with Franklyn here at Catta Verdera, please email him at [britishpga@gmail.com](mailto:britishpga@gmail.com) or call the Golf Shop at 916.645.7200





T.J. Orban, PGA  
Director of Instruction

#### FROM YOUR PGA DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION

This month I would like us all to focus on what we are really doing when visiting the practice area. Many of us come out with no true purpose and end up developing and promoting bad habits. It was once said that “if you aren’t practicing with a purpose, you are merely exercising”.

Although exercise is never a bad thing, it isn’t what practice is for. So here are some ways to add purpose to your time on the range and “Practice how you Play”

### GET INTO GOOD PRACTICE HABITS

When you’re practicing at the range, on the putting green, or at the short game area, it’s best to recreate your routine and mindset (to the best of your abilities) that you go through on-course. If you stand behind the ball and take a practice swing on the course, do that before every shot you hit when practicing. It’s easy to stand in the same place, rake another ball toward you, then hit again, but if your routine differs, it will be difficult to recreate your success during practice when it counts. It seems monotonous and overly repetitive, but the fruits of your labors will present themselves when the pressure is high.

### TWO TYPES OF PRACTICE

**Block Practice** - This is good if you’re trying to learn a new move or technique and build some muscle memory in your swing. During block practice, the player will typically hit many shots with the same club at the same target each time. This is great to ingrain your new technique, but there is another step that must be taken to translate it to the course.

**Transitive Practice** - As the name suggests, transitive practice is a great way to transition/transfer/transmit your move to the course. During transitive practice, each shot should be hit at a different target, ideally with a different club each time. The best way to do this is to play a simulated round on the range. Picture each hole on the course, then hit the appropriate shot. Start with the club you would normally hit off a certain tee. After the shot lands, do your best to estimate what kind of yardage/conditions you’d have for your next shot, then take that club and hit the shot. If you’d be putting, move on to the next “hole,” or if another shot is required (pitch, chip, etc.) hit that shot. You’ll be surprised how much this helps translate all your hard work on the range into good shots on the golf course.

### PUT THE PRESSURE ON

A great way to build confidence and recreate the pressure of a round of golf is to play in contests with your friends, playing partners, or family. Grab a cocktail from Q’s and head to the putting green for a putting contest with friends, and put something on the line. Whether it’s the next round of drinks or a few bucks. Chipping contests and Closest-to-the-pin contests to the target flags are a great simulation for the shots you hit during a round, and are a great way to see how you handle pressure. Many times, the work you put in during block and transitive practice can waver when the pressure is on.

Good luck out there and remember, if you need assistance, just send me an email at [torban@cattaverdera.com](mailto:torban@cattaverdera.com) and we can walk through your issue.





**Jogi Choung, GCSAA  
Superintendent**

FROM YOUR GCSAA COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

I would like to thank all of our members for the support you have given to me and my staff this past year. After experiencing one of the hottest summers on record, we all forgot about how wet we started the year with record amounts of rainfall that wreaked havoc on our course in the beginning of the year.

I am proud of my team as we never gave up, and remained focused on the task at hand. After speaking to many of you out on the golf course, it was good to hear that so many of you recognized that effort. Our fairways, rough, and greens have shown dramatic improvement from where we started, and we are now more focused on what is needed to be done as we continue to improve.

Thank you to all of our members for your support. On behalf of our Turf Team, we look forward to a great 2025. Happy Holidays!



Gift cards make a perfect holiday gift for the golfer on your list!



## December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Men's Golf Day	5 CVWG Women's Holiday Party	6 CVMC Lunch	7 CVMC Saturday Golf
8	9	10 CVMC Meeting	11 Men's Golf Day	12 Thurs-date in Madelena's Ladies' Golf Day	13 CVMC Holiday Party	14
15 Cookies with Santa	16	17 Catta Book Club	18 Men's Golf Day	19 Ladies' Golf Day	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve Dinners To-Go Morning Golf Shotgun	25 Merry Christmas! Club Closed	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve Bash				

### Coming in January...

- Every Wednesday  
**Men's Golf Day**
- Every Thursday  
**Ladies' Golf Day**
- Wednesday, January 1st  
**Ladies' Night in Madelena's**
- Wednesday, January 8th  
**Advisory Committee Meeting**
- Thursday, January 9th  
**Thurs-Dates in Madelena's**
- Monday, January 20th  
**Martin Luther King Jr Day Club Closed**
- Tuesday, January 21st  
**Club Open**
- Wednesday, January 22nd  
**Catta Book Club**
- Friday, January 24th  
**Men's Club Friday Golf**



**CATTA  
VERDERA**  
COUNTRY CLUB

Where everyone wants to be.

#### PHONE NUMBERS

- Clubhouse** 916.645.7200
- Fax** 916.645.6729
- Membership** 916.645.6745
- Events** 916.645.6722
- Quixote's** 916.645.6742