



**2011 Players Guide
Ponce de Leon Invitational
July 7th-11th, 2011
www.poncedeleongolf.com**



**"A great golf course both frees and challenges a golfer's mind"
- Tom Watson, The Greenbrier Golf Professional Emeritus**



Customs and Etiquette

The Ponce is strictly an invitation Tournament. The qualification regulations are the principal means of determining the player invitation list. The eligibility under these regulations does not oblige the Tournament Committee to issue an invitation, nor does failure to invite imply unfitness of any kind. As always, the primary objective of the Ponce is good, fair golf and old-school competition.

Safety

For your personal safety, we ask that you exercise caution at all times. Please be reminded that under wet conditions the grounds could become slippery.

Autograph Policy

For player safety, there will be a NO AUTOGRAPH POLICY enforced on the golf course for the practice round and tournament play. Autographs are allowed only outside of the ropes when the play is complete.

Schedule of Events

All times Eastern Daylight Savings Time

- Thursday, July 7th - Practice Round 1:00PM at The Snead Course
- Thursday, July 7th - Opening Ceremonies 7:00PM at the Spring Room
- Friday, July 8th - 1st Round, 10:37AM at The Meadows Course
- Saturday, July 9th - 2nd Round 8:03AM at The Greenbrier Course
3rd Round 1:03PM at The Greenbrier Course
- Sunday, July 10th - 4th Round 10:13 AM at The Greenbrier Course
- Sunday, July 10th - Champions Dinner 7:00PM at Prime 44 West



Television Schedule

Thursday, July 7 th	1:00 – 5:30	Live Coverage, Golf Channel
Friday, July 8 th	9:30 – 3:00	Live Coverage, Golf Channel
Saturday, July 9 th	7:30- 6:00	Live Coverage, CBS-TV
Sunday, July 10 th	9:30 – 3:00	Live Coverage, CBS-TV

Ponce Web Site

Information on the Ponce is available on the Internet at www.poncedeleongolf.com. The website includes real-time leader board, leading player/team interviews, and tournament history.

Ponce De Leon Invitational History of The Ponce

Looking to hold a golf challenge with his friends, Neil Thomson decided to introduce a golf event similar to the Ryder Cup in January 2003. In the early days, there was no assurance that there would be enough interest for the tournament to become an annual event. Thomson proposed the event be called The Ponce De Leon Invitational.

Many decisions in the early days of the Tournament remain today. Among these are the 4 rounds of competitive play, allowing the last place team going into Sunday the advantage of selecting whom they would like to play, and, of course, the Sunday Singles matches.

The first tournament was held the first week of January, 2003 with just 8 players. Today the field is 16 strong with a waiting list of at least that many. For the second consecutive year, the tournament will be held during the “dog days” of summer, after having the first seven be competed in January. To assist the local community, each year a generous contribution is made by the players of the Tournament benefiting a charity that is voted upon during the Opening Ceremonies.

We hope that the Ponce stages a golf tournament that is enjoyable to our players, patrons and the golf community.

The Ponce is strictly an invitation Tournament.



Tournament Results

2003 Scottsdale, AZ	Chairman: Neil Thomson	Winning Team: N. Thomson/Rankin/Garnett/H Massie	
2004 Orlando, FL	Chairman: John Klim	Winning Team: Dawgs	MVP: Jeremy Bird
2005 Palm Beach Gardens, FL	Chairman: Jamie Rankin	Winning Team: Black Sunday	MVP: Richard Massie
2006 Scottsdale, AZ	Chairman: Muscie Garnett	Winning Team: Black Sunday	MVP: Michael Palmore
2007 Sea Island, GA	Chairman: John McAllister	Winning Team: Lacoste	MVP: John Klim
2008 Sea Island, GA	Chairman: Michael Palmore	Winning Team: Virginia Gentlemen	MVP: Cole Clarkson
2009 La Quinta, CA	Chairman: Jeremy Bird	Winning Team: Sam Snead	MVP: Bill Wainscott
2010 Sea Island, GA	Chairman: Richard Massie	Winning Team: Red Numbers	MVP: Neil Thomson

Tournament Records

Best Team in Tournament History

Black Sunday 2006 (Bird, Coulbourn, Palmore, Wainscott), Most Team Points, 18 out of a possible 20 Points

Best Individual Sunday Singles Record

Jeremy Bird 6-1

Best Overall Record

Muscie Garnett 15-5-2

Most Championships

Hollowell (4), Bird (3), Coulbourn (3), Palmore (3), N. Thomson (3), Battle (3)

Hole In One

Lawrence Thomson 2006

Most Tournaments Played

Neil Thomson, Jamie Rankin, Muscoe Garnett, John McAllister (9)



Player Biographies and Statistics

(Stats Since 16 player format in 2004)

Aide, Michael	Houston, TX, 7 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Battle, Wes	Washington DC, 7 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion Member of United States Armed Forces
Bird, Jeremy	Atlanta, GA, 8 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2004
Coulbourn, Clark	Richmond, VA, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Garnett, Muscoe	Richmond, VA, 9 th Appearance, Best Finish: 2nd
Klim, John	Richmond, VA, 7 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2007
Massie, Richard	Atlanta, GA, 7 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2005
McAllister, John	Charlottesville, VA, 9 th Appearance, Best Finish: Tied 2nd
Oakey, Henry	Charlottesville, VA 1 st Appearance
Palmore, Michael	Richmond, VA, 8 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2006
Rankin, Jamie	Atlanta, GA, 9 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Thomson, Neil	Charleston, SC, 9 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion Chairman Emeritus, MVP 2010
Thomson, Clay	Charlottesville, VA, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: 3rd
Vinson, Nelson	Atlanta, GA, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: 2nd
Wainscott, Bill	Charlotte, NC, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2009
Winn, Scott	San Francisco, CA, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion



2003 SCOTTSDALE
2004 ORLANDO
2007 SEA ISLAND
2009 LA QUINTA
2011 THE GREENBRIER

2005 PALM BEACH
2006 SCOTTSDALE
2008 SEA ISLAND
2010 SEA ISLAND

FORMAT FOR THE 2011 PONCE DE LEON INVITATIONAL
White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia (July 7 – 11th, 2011)
The Greenbrier

RED NUMBERS

NEIL THOMSON (9.5)
RICHARD MASSIE (12.5)
WES BATTLE (16.9) (CAPT.)
NELSON VINSON (18.7)

STONEWALL BRIGADE

SCOTT WINN (4.9) (CAPT.)
MICHAEL PALMORE (7.9)
JAMES RANKIN (9.6)
CLARK COULBOURN (12.1)

GARNETT BRIGADE

JEREMY BIRD (3.1)
MUSCIE GARNETT (8.6)
JOHN KLIM (10.9)
B. WAINSCOTT (18.7) (CAPT.)

GRAY GHOSTS

J. MCALLISTER (3.4) (CAPT.)
MIKE AIDE (10.6)
CLAY THOMSON (13.7)
HENRY OAKEY (16.1)

PRACTICE ROUND

THURSDAY JULY 7TH

THE SNEAD COURSE
TEE TIMES: 1:00 – 1:30PM

No real format. Play with your teammates. It is the only round where mulligans and practice shots are permitted.

FIRST ROUND

FRIDAY July 8th

THE MEADOWS COURSE

TEE TIMES: 10:37AM – 11:07AM

MATCH PLAY (2 MAN). Play your own ball (HOLE BY HOLE). Concessions are allowed by the opponents. It will be 2 vs. 2. Handicaps will of course be used. Use your course handicap as indicated on the card. **The lowest net score per hole = that 2-some's team score.**

Order of Play:

1ST GROUP (10:37AM): N. THOMSON/BATTLE VS. BIRD/KLIM

2ND GROUP (10:47AM): MASSIE/VINSON VS. AIDE/OAKEY

3RD GROUP (10:57AM): WINN/RANKIN VS. McALLISTER/C. THOMSON

4TH GROUP (11:07AM): PALMORE/COULBOURN VS. GARNETT/WAINSCOTT

(NOTE: A REPRESENTATIVE FROM LAST YEAR'S DEFENDING CHAMPS HAS HONOR TO HIT FIRST TEE BALL OF THE TOURNAMENT)

Point Value:

The winning 2-some of each match gets 2 POINTS for his overall 4-man team.

The losing 2-some gets ZERO POINTS for his overall 4-man team.

A tie after 18 holes halves the match, so each 2-man team would receive ONE POINT for his overall 4-man team. There is no such thing as extra holes in this round.

SECOND ROUND

SATURDAY July 9th (am)

THE GREENBRIER COURSE

TEE TIMES: 8:03AM – 8:33AM

NEW GAME – PINEHURST ALTERNATE SHOT. THIS IS A CLASSIC GAME – AND AN OLD GAME PLAYED AS A DERIVATIVE OF THE RYDER CUP ALTERNATE SHOT FORMAT. IT IS A USGA SANCTIONED FORMAT.

BOTH TEAMMATES DRIVE. YOU MUST SWAP AND HIT YOUR TEAMMATE'S BALL AS YOUR SECOND SHOT. FROM THERE, YOU AND YOUR TEAMMATE SELECT THE BEST SHOT AND PLAY THAT ONE BALL IN FROM THERE BY ALTERNATING TURNS. IF PLAYER A'S 2ND SHOT IS USED, THEN PLAYER B HITS 3RD AND YOU ALTERNATE UNTIL IT IS HOLED.

THIS IS A STROKE PLAY FORMAT. YOUR 2 MAN HANDICAP WILL BE BASED ON A FORMULA OF 60% OF COURSE HANDICAP FOR BETTER PLAYER AND 40% OF COURSE HANDICAP FOR OTHER PLAYER ON YOUR TEAM – AND THESE NUMBERS ARE ADDED

TOGETHER TO GET ONE HANDICAP FOR THE 2-SOME. JUST SUBTRACT YOUR GROSS SCORE MINUS YOUR ADJUSTED 2-MAN HANDICAP TO GET NET SCORE AT END OF ROUND. THE LOWER NET SCORE OF THE 2 TEAMS IN THE 4 SOME WINS THE MATCH. HOPEFULLY, YOUR 2 MAN ADJUSTED HANDICAP WILL BE INDICATED ON YOUR SCORECARD PRIOR TO COMPETITION.

Order of Play:

1ST GROUP (8:03AM): N. THOMSON/MASSIE VS. WINN/PALMORE

2ND GROUP (8:13AM): BATTLE/VINSON VS. C. THOMSON/OAKEY

3RD GROUP (8:23AM): MCALLISTER/AIDE VS. BIRD/GARNETT

4TH GROUP (8:33AM): RANKIN/COULBOURN VS. KLIM/WAINSCOTT

Point Value:

In this round, there will also be 2 separate point values at stake:

Value #1: Total Strokes of Winning 2-some = 1 POINT for overall team
Total Strokes of Losing 2-some = ZERO POINTS for overall team
Tie here would be HALF a POINT each for overall team

Value #2: Total Strokes of all 4 players of Team:

1st Place gets 2 POINTS
2nd Place gets 1 POINTS
3rd Place gets 0.5 POINT
4th Place gets ZERO POINTS
Tying issues: split the point value.

THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY July 9th (pm)

THE GREENBRIER COURSE

TEE TIMES: 1:00 – 1:30PM (BASICALLY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING ROUND)

4 MAN CAPTAINS CHOICE/SCRAMBLE. Play with your entire team...Camaraderie is critical here! There is a minimum of 2 DRIVES from each player that has to be used. **Please note:** if all 4 rounds can't be completed due to darkness, the match will officially conclude when the last group is able to finish a hole—that group then has to declare to the group ahead that they are finished (i.e. cannot start a hole and then decide to quit in the middle of a hole). For handicap purposes, each team consists of an A, B, C & D player. **The following percentages of Course Handicaps are used: A- 20%; B- 15%; C - 10%; D - 5%. So, your team will have one set course handicap and you can deduct your gross score to get your net score.**

Order of Play:

1st Group: Stonewall Brigade

2nd Group: Gray Ghosts

3rd Group: Red Numbers

4th Group: Garnett Brigade

Point Value:

1st Place: 3 POINTS

2nd Place: 2 POINTS

3rd Place: 1 POINT

4th Place: ZERO POINTS

FOURTH ROUND

SUNDAY July 10th

THE GREENBRIER COURSE

TEE TIMES: 10:13AM – 10:43AM (CADDIES RECOMMENDED)

SUNDAY SINGLES. MATCH PLAY – WITH HANDICAPS. This is the tradition. This is what it is all about. The match-ups will not be determined until Saturday night at the Session. Points are more heavily awarded. This is the most important round of the tournament. You must ride with your opponent in the cart, even if you have a teammate in your 4-some (UNLESS WE GET CADDIES – If we get 1 caddie for 2 golfers, please have that caddie carry you and your opponent's bag).

Order of Play:

The easiest way to picture this is 4 tee-times of four 4-somes, similar to the other rounds, except, visualize a blanks for the names....An "A" player need not be matched up with another "A" player...that is the beauty of handicaps.

1st Place team's Captain after Saturday Round submits his Order of Play to the 3 other Captains by 8:00pm Saturday night. Each of the 4 players of this leading team will be playing in a different 4-some. The only strategy for this Captain is who he wants starting off, and who he wants anchoring. This leading team is most disadvantaged by this order. Not only are each of his players "on an island" (i.e. guaranteed to have no teammates in his 4-some), but this leading team has ZERO SAY over who they will be placed up against.

Next, the 2nd Place team's Captain submits his 4 players, with the stipulation that he has to put each player at a different tee time (different 4-somes--each of his guys are also "on an island.")
RULE: This 2nd Place Captain has some control though, as he can opt to pit none, one or two of his players against the 1st place opponents. (He cannot place more than 2 of his players against the leaders, so as not to inhibit 3rd and 4th from having a mathematical chance of winning). Obviously, if he does not want to have one of his players face a 1st Place player, he will have the

mystery of not knowing who exactly his guy will be playing (one of the 8 remaining players from the 3rd and 4th Place teams).

Next, the 4th Place team's Captain fills in his 4 players. It is OK (and maybe necessary) for more than one of his players to be in the same 4-some (obviously different cart). He gets the advantage over the 3rd Place guy b/c he doesn't get the feel that he is stuck with certain opponents. At the same time, he could put a guy in a blank 2-some and this will give the 3rd Place Captain a chance to have some control over a match-up.

Finally, the 3rd Place team's Captain fills in the final 4 spots with his 4 players.

1ST GROUP: MATCH I _____ VS. _____

MATCH II _____ VS. _____

2ND GROUP: MATCH III _____ VS. _____

MATCH IV _____ VS. _____

3RD GROUP: MATCH V _____ VS. _____

MATCH VI _____ VS. _____

4TH GROUP: MATCH VII _____ VS. _____

MATCH VIII _____ VS. _____

Point Value:

The winning singles player gets 2 POINTS for his overall team.

The losing singles player gets ZERO POINTS for his overall team.

A halved match results in 1 POINT each for their respective overall teams.

**Note: A team sweep of all 4 of their individual matches gives that team 8 POINTS which could obviously be a huge swing. This value should keep a lot of teams, if not all, still in it going into Sunday Singles.

The Wager:

1st Place = Names Engraved on Trophy and Possession of Trophy until the Next Year's Invitational
= Free Sunday Night Dinner at Cellar at The Wine Cellar at the Lodge
= Right to Return as Defending Champs

2nd Place = only pay for their own tab at Sunday Night Awards Dinner

3rd and 4th Place = pay for Champs and themselves at Sunday Night Awards Dinner

TIEBREAKER RULE: This tie-break is used if there are 2 or more tied teams. Also, this tie-break is used if there is tie between 2nd and 3rd as well (since difference in dinner tab). The Tie-breaker will be a 4 man scramble, sudden death. No handicaps; just a match-play, sudden death. Yes, 8 players playing together on the same hole! (If there is a 3 or 4 way tie for first, it will be reduced to a 2 man scramble –with Captains choosing players) Play-off hole is TBD and under discretion of the Chairmen along with the Greenbrier staff). Play continues to additional hole (either next hole, or repeat same hole), until there is a winner. Only if we are unable to play a play-off hole due to darkness or for other good cause, then we go back to Capt's Choice round and the team with best score of that round breaks the tie.

PLEASE TURN ALL SCORECARDS INTO ME AFTER EVERY ROUND. I KEEP THEM FOR STATISTICAL/HISTORICAL PURPOSES.

Postscript:

Ponce 9, Gentlemen...Can the Red Numbers defend its title? Will McAllister finally get his name etched on the Fountain of Youth Cup? How will our lone rookie, Henry Oakey, fare? Will Klim, with a year off, and Muscie, a new father, be able to band together and find their form en route to victory? Will Jim Justice's new casino do some damage to certain players' wallets, and more importantly, to their golf psyches? These and many more puzzling questions will be answered in the West Virginia mountains this weekend!

For many Poncers, this is a homecoming. A lot of grew up in neighboring states to West Virginia, and it is only fitting that the Ponce comes to the Mid-Atlantic. Once again, a resort which hosts a PGA event will also be hosting the Ponce.

This promises to be a special tournament. We are in full swing in our Summer Rota, and I know all our chomping at the bit to honor Snead, to honor Watson, and to honor the Ponce.

The tee is yours, gentlemen!



With such a rich golf heritage, The Greenbrier is fortunate to have hosted some of golf's most prominent players. You can walk in the footsteps of legends such as Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Nick Faldo, inaugural Greenbrier Classic champion Stuart Appleby and Tom Watson, who have played our distinct courses.

Finally, please wear a sportcoat or blazer to the Sunday awards dinner, pursuant to tradition. We are dining at Prime 44 West. At the dinner, the Fountain of Youth Cup will be awarded to the winning team. Of course, there will be a 16 man vote for individual MVP, and Clark and I will recognize the 2010 Spirit Award winner.

Game on.

Respectfully,

Neil D. Thomson
Chairman Emeritus

Clark Coulbourn
Chairman, 2011 Ponce de Leon Invitational

July 7th 2011