

24th Annual APO

(I Always Thought “Corona” Tasted Like a Virus...)

NOTE: Masks may be required in a number of areas at the resort and some golf course clubhouses. **PLEASE BRING A MASK AND KEEP IT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!**

Greetings to the APO Brotherhood!

Hard to believe another year has come and gone and it’s time for our one and only “Major” of the year: The 2021 Ass Paddlin’ Open (APO)! This is the 24th edition of what started out as an excuse for Brother Hoffman and I to get together and relive our glory days (“I’m not as good as once was, but I’m as good once, as I ever was”). Thank you all for joining us at this celebration of food, booze, nauseating smells and golf!

Not only are he and I getting together for the 24th consecutive year but, there are a number of you who have been here 10, 15 or even 20 times (which begs the question: what the hell is wrong with you?). We’ve had many, many folks join us throughout the years and most have only lasted a year or two before either moving on with life or being “voted off the island”. For those of you who are new to the APO (i.e., “Rookies”) we wish you a hearty, “WELCOME!” You were invited by someone who’s returned multiple times and become an integral part of the fabric of our event – and believes you would fit in well with this bunch of idiots. (I have a page dedicated just to you later in this letter). Follow our advice and you, too, may become as addicted to this event as the rest of us.

Everyone here was invited to attend by one of our members who, at one time or another, was a “Rookie” themselves. The inside jokes that fly around this week are the result of complete strangers (in more ways than one) who met on this trip and became brothers (or, at least, friends). We hope you have as much fun as we do and look forward to meeting (or reconnecting with) all of our “Rookies”.

Things you’ll need to navigate this gauntlet successfully are: a thick skin, a sharp wit, sunscreen, lots of golf balls, a Hawaiian Shirt, a bathing suit, the ability to find shade, enjoyment of a well-made cocktail and a love of great food. Golf is just an excuse to throw everyone into this pot of “Fellowship Stew” and create another great recipe.

Some things you’ll take away from this week: a voice in your head yelling in an Italian/Hungarian accent for the next 3 weeks, a liver that could never be considered for the donor list and a world-class case of crotch rot. You’ll also have completed an entire year’s worth of laughter, made some new friends, drank some “Gingy Lingy” and maybe even get to take home a little cash. Oh, and I forgot to mention the golf courses. While they’re all excellent, the “Belle of the Ball” is Caledonia Golf & Fish Club (<https://caledoniagolfandfishclub.com/>) Take a peek for yourself.

Unless you just like smelly, sweaty men (Guy?) the main reason we get together is: To “fellowship” (Billy’s word) with a group of visually offensive reprobates from across America, to play some great golf courses, eat some fantastic food, drink a little too much and, most of all...to laugh until our sides hurt. So, now that you’ve paid your money and it’s too late for you to back out...

Welcome to the [2021 APO!](#) (ASS PADDLIN' OPEN)

This year's event features 13 World class knuckleheads and 3 Rookies (knucklehead status to be determined). Enclosed in this letter you will find everything you need to know about the 2021 APO – with the exception of **each day's Pairings**. That information is sitting in a hermetically sealed mayonnaise jar on Funk & Wagnalls front porch and will be announced on Friday evening during our “Welcome Address.”

At the end of the trip we ask that each of you log-in to www.asspaddlinopen.net and fill out the survey. This allows us to continually improve each year based on YOUR suggestions (well, not Garrison's suggestions...just everyone else's). I'll send out a reminder once we all get home and ask that each of you take 5 minutes to let us know what you liked, didn't like, and suggestions for improvement. We use this format because you giving me some suggestion at 11 o'clock at night after I've been drinking since sun-up is no way to get your “brilliant idea” implemented into the event.

On Saturday evening we will be having our traditional Hawaiian Shirt Cocktail Party. Hawaiian shirts ARE MANDATORY! Anyone **NOT wearing a Hawaiian shirt Saturday night will have to buy a round Sunday for the ENTIRE GROUP. (And, NO, I'm not be sarcastic here. Remember Brothers, YOU are responsible for the rookie's you bring...).**

Since everyone will be in attendance on Friday evening, we will have a short “Welcome” meeting and a more in-depth explanation of the formats will be given. We'll go over pairings and run back over the rules and procedures for each game (this shouldn't take more than 4-5 hours). We'll also review Bill Cassian's Driver's License eligibility.

Every day is now designated as “Pool Day” since we've cut back the number of rounds once again. We leave time open in the afternoons so everyone can have a little free time to go to the pool, participate in a wet cigarette lighting contest and watch Richie perform his famous water ballet routine - or just take a nap (hey, none of us is 50 anymore, am I right?).

Back again this year by popular demand: Jambalaya Night! R-Ichie has graciously volunteered to prepare his World Famous Jambalaya and will transport it to the APO Galactic Headquarters in Pawleys Island, SC. Bring your favorite hot sauce and get ready for one of my all-time favorite meals on Friday night!

We will have dinner catered for Saturday (Italian Night) and Sunday (Southern “Surprise”) and Chef Hale (and his able-bodied – yet cuddly - assistant, Jalapeno) will oversee the Monday evening meal (Steak Night). For those hanging around on Tuesday evening – Pizza and Jambalaya Leftover Night. A huge “THANK YOU” to R-Ichie for, once again, coordinating our meals this year (and coordinating the vast majority of this trip!).

In case you've forgotten (or were just too drunk to remember) all dinners will be provided for us at the condo while we shower, drink beer, and complain about Jalapeno snoring. Chef Hale will serve us a meal complete with salad, side dishes, entrees and dessert(?). It's like having dinner at the Clump's – the conversation is similar (discussing “relations”) and there's a considerable amount of farting (“Herk-a-lees, Herk-a-lees”).

Shipping Golf Clubs

Feel free to contact ShipSticks (www.shipsticks.com) or UPS/FedEx but **YOU** will be responsible for setting this up on your own.

Alcohol

There is a liquor store (Litchfield Liquors) just down the street (Willbrook Blvd) from our condos. When you stop in to make your purchase, PLEASE mention RICH HALE as a Discount Member so we can get points applied to our account. It is HIGHLY recommended that you pick up a bottle or two of your favorite hooch/beer to drink at the condo and one for your golf bag for “medicinal purposes only”. You can purchase mixers from the lovely cart girls – “Heyyyyy-aaayyyy!” (drunk, with a southern accent...some of you recognize this voice). **And, believe it or not, there IS vodka in the White Russians!**

Transportation

Mizer will be handling transportation for anyone flying into Myrtle Beach or Charleston who has not already made plans to rent your own car. If you have not done so, **PLEASE EMAIL ME YOUR FLIGHT INFORMATION AND WHETHER YOU NEED A RIDE TO/FROM THE AIRPORT.** Also, **Please try to pack light (there is a washer and dryer in each condo) so we have minimal luggage to get to and from the airport.** Richie, much like my mother-in-law, gets great satisfaction out of doing laundry each day (yet another reason why we love him, but confirmation that he’s not quite right in the head).

Check-In

Your trip will already paid for when you arrive and we’ll handle check-in on Thursday when the early birds come to town. We’ll pick up room keys, pool keys, parking passes, maps and golf tickets and will pass them out as each player arrives. We will let everyone know which condo number/address they’re in upon arrival. For you late arrivals, your room keys will be available under Guy’s pillow for a small “favor” on Friday evening.

Note #1: Jeff “Mizer” McSpaden (or his designated Minion) will be handling the Golf Course check-in for all of us at each course and he will announce this PRO-cess on Friday evening.

Note #2: Breakfast - breakfast buffet is included and will be available at the “Coastal Dish” restaurant at the Litchfield Resort across the highway. We usually drive over and eat as a group.

Check-Out

Each member will need to check out of the resort on their own and turn in their keys at the front desk.

Photos/Videos

Our annual photo shoot (no, Garrison, it means “once per year” so don’t get so excited) will take place SATURDAY morning at Caledonia before we tee off. If you have a special outfit, this would be the day to wear it. You can purchase a plaque (\$35 I think) or photo (\$20?) but you need to BRING CASH to pay Rick Russ, our official APO photographer.

ALSO, please use your phones to capture as much of the scenery and action as possible! We have gotten some great shots over the years which are posted on the website. They stir up some great memories and help us remember that Billy and “Little Billy” are always a team.

ROOMING ASSIGNMENTS:

Condo 1

A) Mikey Guy	B) Richie Jalapeno	C) Bdub Mizer	D) Garrison Bill C.
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Condo 2

A) Paully Ed	B) EZ Greg Love	C) Fritzzy Bryan Clark	D) Mik Mark Homes
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Responsibilities

1. Richie handles arranging the trip/catering/scorecards/Jambalaya (and everything else)
2. Mikey handles pairings/games/letters and assigning the Big Yellow Hat
3. Mizer will handle golf tickets, half&half for White Russians and On-site logistics
4. Mizer will coordinate transportation and hitting driver off the deck
5. Mizer will handle scorecards and daily games/payouts and be in charge of Richie
6. Mizer will NOT handle White Russians
7. BDub will be in charge of Mizer
8. Guy will MC the “Rookie Swimsuit Fashion Show” at the pool on Saturday
9. EZ will handle photo/video documentation posting on website
10. Fritzzy and Sparky will handle cheese curd production
11. BDub will handle vodka, coffee and choreography “and this one I call The Snake...”
12. Guy is in charge of music, “crop dusting” and is my personal bartender
13. Jalapeno is cuddly
14. Rookies will handle post-round rub downs and Aloe application

Responsibilities (Actual)

Mikey

- 1) Games/Pairings
- 2) Welcome/Introductions

Richie

- 1) Food (w/Jalapeno)
- 2) Announcements
- 3) Daily Scheduling
- 4) Scorecard calculation (w/Mizer & BDub)

Mizer

- 1) Transportation
- 2) Golf Course Check-in
- 3) Scorecard calculation (w/BDub & Richie)

BDub

- 1) Coffee
- 2) Bartending (w/Guy)
- 3) Scorecard calculation (w/Mizer & Richie)

Guy

- 1) Music
- 2) Bartending (w/BDub)

Jalapeno

- 1) Food (w/Richie)
- 2) Rookie working party (w/EZ)
 - a. Trash
 - b. Dinner clean-up

EZ

- 1) Photo/Video documentation and upload
- 2) Rookie Working Party (w/Jalapeno)
 - a. Trash
 - b. Dinner clean-up

Ed/Paully

- 1) Pairings coordination at golf courses
 - a. Making sure everyone knows who they're playing with
 - b. Making sure clubs are loaded on to carts in proper order

Fritzy/Sparky

- 1) Appetizers
 - a. Cheese Curd production
 - b. All other snacks

Garrison/Bill C.

- 1) Ice for both condos
- 2) Beer transport to pool

Rookies (under the direction of EZ & Jalapeno)

- 1) Trash
- 2) Dinner clean-up
- 3) Anything else EZ & Jalapeno need done

Rookies

For those of you who are new to our illustrious event: Welcome! The most important thing for you to do here is to **HAVE FUN** and **BE FUN**. And, when on the golf course, keep this very important point in mind: we don't care how bad you suck, just do it QUICKLY! This is not the U.S. Open and you are not going to impress anyone by playing at a Nicklaus-like pace. We truly don't care if you shoot 70 or 170, just try not to hold up your group (or the group behind you).

If you're out of the hole, PICK IT UP and move on. This doesn't mean that you have to rush your way around the golf course. We play some great courses and want you to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the South Carolina Lowcountry (and have a cocktail or two as well as take a few pictures). And, we are definitely NOT the fastest group on the golf course. However, if someone in your group suggests that you should maybe pick up that putt for 10 instead of lining it up from every compass point – take that as a hint.

If Joe Rosko (the Human Glacier) is behind you and has smoked an entire cigarette waiting in the fairway for you to hit, know that he's cussing you in Hungarian and has put a curse on you, your children and your grandchildren. If for no other reason, get moving for the sake of your grandchildren!

HELPFUL HINTS (AGAIN!)

Pay special attention to the “Richie’s Tip” section (just the tip...) as our resident Mixologist, Dr. Richard Hale (OB/GYN) shares his helpful hints for a successful APO.

1. **LIGHT COLORED CLOTHING!** Gary Player was an idiot. Anyone wearing black to try and “keep the heat in” has never been to Myrtle Beach in June. Bring light colored shirts and shorts. (Richie’s Tip: [Vodka stains are more obvious on dark rather than light colored clothing](#))
2. **SUNSCREEN!** Not SPF 2 either. You need SPF 1000. You will be in the sun from 7 am until 6:30 pm and spend some time hanging out by the pool. You will get fried. Be prepared for it. (Richie’s Tip: [Wipe your hands after applying sunscreen, you wouldn’t want the vodka bottle to slip out of your hand](#))
3. **ALOE VERA!** Nothing feels better and helps cool sunburn better than a rub down with Aloe Vera (except maybe that thing Guy does with the whipped cream...). Bring a bottle for yourself so you don’t have to mooch off of me. (Richie’s Tip: [see number 2. Above](#))
4. **TWO Pairs of Golf Shoes** (or at least shoe trees to install at the end of the day). Your shoes will be trashed after sweating in them all day and will destroy your feet the next day. Either bring an extra pair, or some shoe trees (or BOTH). (Richie’s Tip: [Vodka is an excellent remedy to soothe sore feet](#))
5. **HAWAIIAN SHIRT!** And not the same ratty one you wore last year! This is again **MANDATORY** for the cocktail party on Saturday night. We also like to take a nice photo of everyone in their “finery”. (Richie’s Tip: [You can remove vodka stains from your Hawaiian shirt with club soda. Or, if you’ve had enough vodka, just throw the damn thing away!](#))
6. **HATS!** Bring big ones and lots of them (refer to item #2 above). I recommend a large hat with flowers or something from the Kentucky Derby (no, the Big Yellow Hat is NOT available for use during golf). (Richie’s Tip: [I like yellow hats...and vodka](#))
7. **BATHING SUIT!** The resort frowns upon the “Redneck Bathing Suit” (the same underwear you just played 36 holes of golf in). You will need one for the “Pool Days” and the “fashion show” on Saturday. (Richie’s Tip: [The bathing suit is my favorite “vodka drinking” outfit – thongs make me giggle – but only when I’m wearing one](#))
8. **Aspirin/Tylenol/Advil/Motrin/Benadryl.** Any or all of these. For those of you who don’t play this much golf, you will be amazed what dehydration on top of sun stroke on top of 150-200 swings of a golf club will do to your out-of-shape, not-as-young-as-I-used-to-be body. (Richie’s Tip: [Vodka is an “all natural” healer that not only relaxes muscles but helps get rid of hangovers](#))
9. **SUNGLASSES!** They do a great job of helping you avoid headaches when it comes to 12 hours of sun pounding down on you and having to squint all day. Oakley’s are not required as I have a pink pair with Cinderella on them that I can borrow from my daughter if you forget to bring a pair. (Richie’s Tip: [After a significant amount of “medicinal” vodka, sunglasses may be the only way to play with your eyes open](#))
10. **Cash.** Try to bring a nice mix of \$5’s, \$10’s and \$1’s. If everyone shows up with 20’s, it’ll be very difficult to make change for those side bets and skins. (Richie’s Tip: [You’ll want plenty of cash...in case you need to purchase more vodka](#))
11. **Hand towel.** [Stick it in your golf bag. During the day, you can put ice water on it and wrap it around your neck. You can’t believe the difference this makes. Also very effective for cooling your sweating hands when it’s VERY hot.](#) (Richie’s Tip: [Slippery hands make it difficult to hold on to your drink – which of course, contains vodka – and vodka on the ground does no one any good!](#))

12. **Extra Golf Glove/Balls.** You will wear at least two gloves during any one round because the sweat (or rain) will render one useless. Be prepared - and bring plenty of ammo. Golf balls are a little expensive in the pro shops here. (Richie's Tip: Sometimes, when you have had more than your share of vodka, it's hard to find your golf ball. However, usually you won't care at this point – bring extra ammo)
13. **Rain Gear.** It's not unusual to see rain in the afternoon here. Be prepared to play in the rain if there's no lightning. (Richie's Tip: If it's raining, it will dilute your vodka – be prepared to cover your vodka. Also – if there is lightning, we will be able to go inside and drink more vodka...seems like every cloud has a silver lining!)

Cell Phones

The “Chris King Cell Phone Rule” will be in effect. Cell phones WILL be permitted during a round. HOWEVER, if a phone rings OR MAKES THAT ANNOYING VIBRATING SOUND in the cart during the course of play, you will be required to buy 1 round of drinks from the cart girl (for your group). Second offense will be a round of drinks for the entire APO group. Third offense will be paying for the drinks for the entire APO group for the rest of the trip.

GAMES

Payouts are as follows: Sat, Sun, Mon and Tues = \$100 1st & \$40 2nd.

Skins – Skins will be **NET SKINS**. There will be a total of \$240 up for grabs. Skins will be available for the **Sat 2-Man Modified Scramble, Sun 2-Man Modified Scramble (9 holes)** and **Mon 2-Man (1 low net)** games only.

“The Rules”

Mulligans – Everyone has paid for two (2) Mulligans which can be used anywhere at any time (no, this has nothing to do with your first marriage or, like Paully, the “experimenting” you did in college - they can only be used on the golf course). Use of a Mulligan counts as a stroke.

The “THROW” (with a twist) – In honor of Rob “Kareem Abdul” Bansek (APO 2002), “The Throw” has become a legendary part of the APO. Each player will have the opportunity to pick up his ball and throw it, one time, from anywhere to anywhere (EXCEPT when the ball is on the green). The Throw **counts as a stroke just like a Mulligan**. Yes, you can use your Throw as a Mulligan.

“Winter Rules”- A player may improve his lie anywhere on the golf course with the exception of a sand trap, hazard (water or otherwise), or when it is out of bounds. You are allowed to move your ball 1 club length **no closer to the hole** to improve your lie **anywhere but in a hazard**. **HOWEVER, you can NOT move your ball from OFF the green to ON the green.**

Out of Bounds/Lost Ball – Out of Bounds will be played as a **lateral hazard**. You may drop a ball within two club lengths of **where you think the ball crossed the line** going out. **Lost ball will be played similarly**. After looking for your ball and determining that it is lost, **drop a ball where you believe the ball most likely would have come to rest**. In either case, you may only

drop in a location agreed upon by the **other team** in your group. Add one penalty stroke to your score for each.

“Giving” Putts – Since this is a friendly group we are happy to allow “Gimme’s”. I also expect, as a courtesy to the rest of the field, that only reasonable putts will be “given” (and, as an additional courtesy, 4th putts, putts for 9, and 10 footers for quadruple bogey should be “given”).

Keeping Score – Please keep the team scores on the “official” score card and any other games you might be playing in your group on a separate card. **Please don’t leave scorecards on the cart. Turn them into Jeff “Mizer” McSpaden at the end of each round.**

Rules Disputes - When in doubt, try to follow the rules of golf until we can accept bribes and make a ruling after the round.

Ties – In case of a tie (with regard to awarding the \$\$ for a game), ALL games will be determined by a scorecard playoff starting with the **scores on the number 1 handicap hole** and progressing to the next highest handicap hole until the tie is broken.

Things that aren’t “rules” but should be...

- 1) Don’t ever tell R-Ichie to “speak up”
- 2) Never ask Mizer what club to hit from a fairway bunker...You don’t have that shot
- 3) NEVER step in a foamy patch near a green or on a fairway
- 4) Press Mike when he’s in the fairway - never say anything when he’s in the woods
- 5) Don’t do anything you don’t want on video...EZ is EVERYWHERE!
- 6) If it smells like poop, looks like poop, and tastes like poop, it probably IS poop
- 7) Guy will NEVER hit the green on #3 at Caledonia
- 8) Never walk behind a Czerepuszko...ANY Czerepuszko at ANY time
- 9) Hard boiled eggs + Guy = Energy Solution
- 10) Jalapeno is as cuddly as a teddy bear. (Not really a “rule” per se, just wanted to make sure everyone knew...)
- 11) Like a small child, ALWAYS know where Joe Rosko is before beginning a swing (even if he is at his lake house in Illinois, he is still a hazard to be contended with)
- 12) NEVER accept a drink from Guy if you have an open flame nearby

And finally...

- 13) NEVER ask R-Ichie if he’ll have another drink...if he doesn’t have a drink it’s because he’s asleep – you’ll wake him

Handicaps

Color Code: "A" Players "B" Players "C" Players

Mik – 6 hdep	Jalapeno - 10 hdep	Mark H – 14 hdep	Greg Love – 24 hdep
Ed – 6 hdep	Fritzy – 12 hdep	BDub – 14 hdep	EZ – 24 hdep
Mikey – 8 hdep	Garrison – 12 hdep	Sparky - 14 hdep	Richie – 24 hdep
Guy – 8 hdep	Paully – 12 hdep	Mizer - 14 hdep	Bill C. – 24 hdep

Saturday 6/12

AM 2-Man Modified Scramble (50% of hdep)
Tee Times 9:36-9:45am (Caledonia) SPLIT TEES

SPLIT TEES - Groups 1 & 2 will go off 1st tee and Groups 3 & 4 will go off 10th tee.

TEES – "A" Players – PINE-Tail Tees (6526 yds) "B" Players – Mal-LARD Tees (6121 yds)
"C" Players – VOOD-Duck Tees (5710 yds)

Each 2-Man team hits a tee shot and the best shot is selected. Both players play from the best tee shot and each player then plays his own ball until finishing out the hole. (On Par 5's each player hits a second shot from the selected drive, the best second shot is selected and THEN each player plays his own ball out from there). The best net score then counted as the team score.

Payout: 1st place = \$100 2nd place = \$40

Sunday 6/13

AM 2-Man Scramble/2-Man Mod Scramble (50% of hdep)
Tee Times 8:16-8:25am (Tradition Golf Club) SPLIT TEES
PM 2-Man Alternate Shot (50% of hdep)
Tee Times 2-2:27pm (Tradition Golf Club – ALL players same side, Front or Back TBD)

SPLIT TEES - Groups 1 & 2 will go off 1st tee and Groups 3 & 4 will go off 10th tee.

TEES – "A" Players - WHITE Tees (6313 yds) "B" & "C" Players GOLD Tees (5728 yds)

2-Man Scramble - Each player on the 2-Man team will hit a tee shot and the best one will be selected. Each player will then play from within 1 club length of that spot and so on, until the team has holed out. The team will only have one score, minus any handicap strokes.

2-Man Modified Scramble - Each 2-Man team hits a tee shot and the best shot is selected. Both players play from the best tee shot and each player then plays his own ball until finishing out the hole. (On Par 5's each player hits a second shot from the selected drive, the best second shot is selected and THEN each player plays his own ball out from there). The best net score for the hole is then counted as the team score.

2-Man Alternate Shot – One player hits tee shots on EVEN holes and the other hits tee shots on ODD holes. Players alternate hitting shots until ball has been holed out. Team only has one score per hole.

Payout: 1st place = \$100 2nd place = \$40

Monday 6/14

AM 2-Man (one low net) (100% of hdcp)
Tee Times 9:36-10am (Willbrook)

TEES – “A” Players BLUE Tees (6722 yds) “B” Players WHITE Tees (6292 yds) “C” Players GOLD Tees (5829 yds)

Each player plays his own ball and counts his score (minus any handicap strokes). The best score of the two will be the Team’s “one low net” score. Lowest 2 team scores get paid.

Payout: 1st place = \$100 2nd place = \$40

Tuesday 6/15

AM 2-Man Scramble (50% of hdcp)
Tee Times 8:33-8:42am (Caledonia)

SPLIT TEES - Groups 1 & 2 will go off 1st tee and Groups 3 & 4 will go off 10th tee.

**TEES – “A” Players – PINE-Tail Tees (6526 yds) “B” Players – Mal-LARD Tees (6121 yds)
“C” Players – VOOD-Duck Tees (5710 yds)**

Each player on the 2-Man team will hit a tee shot and the best one will be selected. Each player will then play from within 1 club length of that spot and so on, until the team has holed out. The team will only have one score, minus any handicap strokes.

Payout: 1st place = \$100 2nd place = \$40