

The ISC BULLETIN

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Remembering Russ Platt and John Floyd Past Presidents and long-time ISC Board members

Being a part of a service organization asks a lot of the individual, usually with little to no recognition in return. Time, effort, money, sacrifice over self ... doing for others because it's the right thing to do. But volunteerism provides its own reward as well. Providing the self-satisfaction and internal gratitude felt when you are fortunate enough in your own situation to be able to give back and provide something for others.

The Independent Sports Club embraces those ideals in its mission, ideals we somberly reflect on as we mourn the loss of two men who were champions of the cause.



Russ Platt

Russell Platt and John Floyd – both past presidents of the ISC and long-time board members -- passed away recently. Both men, who also gave their time to several other groups, served as great examples of what being a member of a volunteer organization is all about.

“So many levels of commitment,” said Bill King, the current ISC board member who knew both men very well.

“Completely committed to the ISC.

“(Platt) attended most every event for 25 years or more. And he usually brought his wife (Betty) and some friends.”

Platt, who was 85 when he died on January 23, was president of the ISC in 1984 and served as treasurer for many years after. King credits the leadership of Platt – as well as Frank Bianco,



John Floyd

Barry Burns, Mike Stout, Larry Dunn, Bingo Crotz, Steve Malpede and others – for guiding the ISC through a tumultuous time when the future of the club was in financial peril.

“(Platt) donated so much time during the good times and the bad,” King said. “He was a big part of that group of guys who steered us back in the right direction.”

Floyd, who was 57 when he died on December 17, was ISC president in 2000 and rejoined the board just two years ago. At the time of his death, he was serving as secretary of the ISC. He wasn't able to attend our December board meeting for “health reasons.” The severity of his condition came as a surprise to most, indicative of his low-key personality.

“Johnny never wanted to be in the forefront,” said King, who had known “Pink” since they attended Illinois State together in the early 1980s. “But he always wanted to be involved. He was very organized and detail-oriented, but just wanted to give and sit back.”

We are better for knowing them, the club is stronger for having them and youth sports in central Illinois were enriched because of their efforts. Thank you, Russ and John, and may you rest in peace.

In This Issue

Tribute to Russ Platt and John Floyd	page 1
NFL Playoff Party Recap.....	page 2
Membership Appreciation Night	page 2
Grant Report	page 3
Illini Bus Trip.....	page 4
Annual Golf Outing	page 4
2017 Halfway Club Winners	page 5
Turkey Raffle Winners	page 6
New Members	page 7

NFL Playoff Party Recap

Having a bar owner join the ISC board of directors has been a big boost for our annual NFL Playoffs Party. In only its second year at his establishment, the Playoffs Party has enjoyed nice resurgence at Peacock's Pub in Bartonville. This year's event, on January 6, drew nearly 100 guests. Proprietor Loren Peacock has done a great job hosting this popular event, which this year made a record amount of money for the club. Thanks to Peacock's efforts and all those who attended, the ISC added more than \$3,600 to its charity bank.



Membership Appreciation Night March 22



One of the highlights of being part of the ISC is attending our annual Membership Appreciation Night.

For the second straight year, Alexander's Steakhouse will host our event in the The Annex on Thursday, March 22. The Annex, which is a large, private event space with its own bar, is located to your immediate left when you enter Alexander's. Doors open at 5 p.m.

The two-story space provides more room to mingle, watch the NCAA basketball games on television and enjoy the fantastic food provided by Alexander's owner and former ISC board member, Steve Shaw. It should be noted that Alexander's donates the food for this event in exchange for the volunteer efforts of several ISC members, who donate their time to serve at a holiday event in December.

As always, Membership Appreciation Night – which has unlimited food and draft beer -- is free of charge to ISC members who are current on their annual dues. And if you're not current, you can pay at the door and renew your support for the organization. What better opportunity to bring a friend who isn't already a member and help us grow the membership.

If you can't get \$20 of value from your annual membership on this night, you're just not trying hard enough.

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Grant Report:

As all of our members are surely aware, the primary purpose of the Independent Sports Club is to raise money through various fundraisers and award it to youth sports organizations throughout central Illinois. We do this a number of ways during the calendar year and award annual grants to most any club, team or organization who meets our criteria and submits a proper application.

We have a vetting process, and our monthly board meetings always start with the presentation of approved grants, followed by discussion of new applications. The routine can make it easy to take for granted the impact of those actions, but occasionally, we are pleasantly reminded of the positive affect that the money you contribute has on the boys and girls we serve.

“With the help of the ISC, we have been able to keep these boys involved,” said Steve Montez, president of the Peoria Razorbacks Wrestling Club, a group who serves several at-risk athletes in a sport that doesn’t get a lot of attention. “This money makes sure that all those who want to participate are able to participate.”

Montez mentioned that the grant money pays for scholarships to the club, tournament entry fees, even gas

money to get to those events. He continued to mention that five of his wrestlers advanced to the Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation state finals last year.

Since our last newsletter, the ISC has awarded another \$3,000 to five youth sports organizations around central Illinois.

December: Limestone Junior Basketball League. Randy Westerdahl said the funds will be used to pay for basketballs, scoreboard keepers, and referees. The program runs 12 weeks and plays on Sundays in the Limestone High School auxiliary gym.

January: Peoria Razorbacks Wrestling Club.

February: Dunlap Recreation Association. Catherine D’Souza accepted funds to benefit their growing lacrosse program.

Peoria Area Water Wizards. John Noll collected a check to help with expenses for the area’s oldest and largest swim club.

Chillicothe Rugby Football Club. Todd Fouts received a grant to benefit one of many rugby clubs now operating in the area.

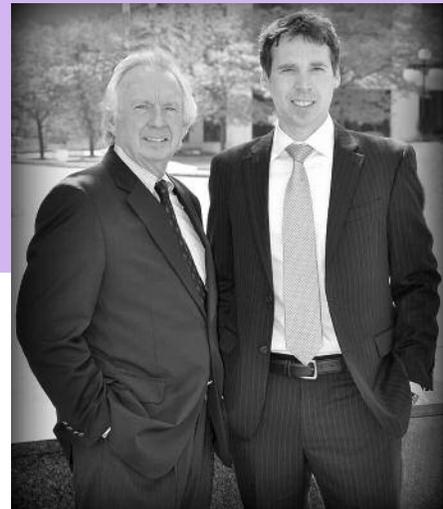
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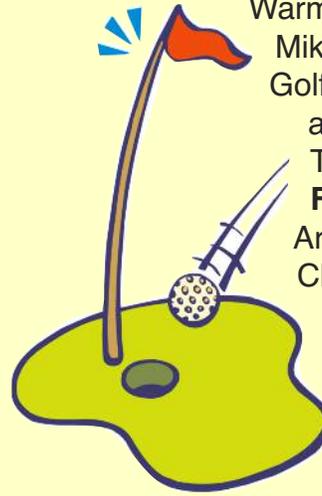
Get On The Bus!

It was a brutal start to the Big Ten Conference schedule for first-year coach Brad Underwood's bunch, but at press time, things were looking up for the University of Illinois men's basketball team.

Show your support for the Illini and the ISC by joining us on our annual bus trip, which is right around the corner. This year's outing is set for Feb. 18 against Nebraska. Tipoff is 2:30 p.m.

The Bus Trip committee has done another great job of putting together a package with lots of value and even more enjoyment. Tickets are \$75 and include round-trip transportation to and from Champaign on a Peoria Charter Coach, with soft drinks, beer and snacks provided. Upon arrival, we have access to a pre-game hospitality room, which includes an all-you-can eat buffet and complimentary beverages. There are 40 tickets available. Bus leaves at 10 a.m. from the East Peoria Kohl's parking lot. The pregame hospitality room opens at noon. Contact Bobby Joseph at (309) 688-4918 to purchase a ticket.

Save the Date and Swing Into Spring



Warm weather and the Mike Stout Memorial Golf Outing are just around the corner. The annual event is **Friday, May 18** at Arrowhead Country Club. Registration starts at noon with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Cost \$110 is per golfer.

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2017 HALFWAY CLUB WINNERS

Here are the Halfway Club winners for 2017, a monthly drawing that pays \$150 to the winners.

January – Doug Cekander
 February – Tom Crotz
 March – Robert Spears
 April – Shawn Herold
 May – Ray Wozniak
 June – Bill King Sr.

July – Charles Lavin
 August – Paul Hammond
 September – Thomas O’Neill III
 October – Dave Fauser
 November – Jerry Mattson
 December – Michael Seghetti

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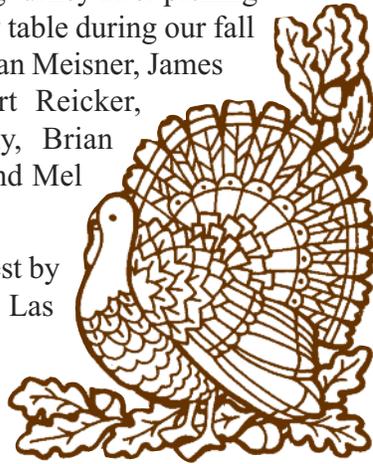
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GREG STEWART
 Newsletter Editor
 251-1050 — C

Turkey Raffle Winners

These fine fellows were talking turkey after picking up an extra bird for the holiday table during our fall turkey raffle: Kevin Joseph, Alan Meisner, James Dillon, Brad Bangert, Robert Reicker, Harry Murrie, Pat McCarthy, Brian Christensen, Patrick Gibson and Mel Anderson.

McCarthy also feathered his nest by taking home \$800 cash as our Las Vegas Raffle winner.



Newsletter Advertising

We rely on selling advertising space to offset the cost of printing. We are now mailing the 6 newsletters a year to 650-700 people. If you or the business you work for would like to place an ad in our newsletter, contact Greg Stewart at g_stew@comcast.net or 309-251-1050. Business card size is \$150/year and 1/2 business card size is \$75/year. Selling these ads frees up funds that allow us to provide more financial aid support to Central Illinois youth sports organizations.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Use this handy form to join or renew your membership in the Independent Sports Club of Peoria. Complete and mail to Independent Sports Club at P.O. Box 5776, Peoria, IL 61601-9998, along with your dues of \$20 for one year. Welcome!

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BOB KELLY

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter, the following individuals have joined the ISC as new members. We thank you for your support.

Michelle Baker (Peoria)
 Michael Unruh (Peoria)
 Matthew Vonachen (Peoria)
 Jamie Messmore (Peoria)
 Kevin Burns (Peoria)

Tim Dotson (West Peoria)
 Gregory Gallagher (Dunlap)
 Matthew Compton (North Pekin)
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