



Member Profile

Chuck McMullin

Williamsburg, Va., USA

Chuck McMullin was born in Michigan, has lived in a few states over the years and now resides most of the year in Williamsburg, Va. He and his wife, Jan, have a summer residence in Charlevoix, Mich., and spend a few months there in the summer. This puts him closer to his mom and two sisters for a brief period each year.

He played football and golf in high school and, in fact, convinced his school board to start a golf team. He captained the team in its inaugural year, his graduating year. Chuck went on to play golf at Hope College, Holland, Mich., where fellow hickory player, Fred Muller, played as well. He received a BA in business administration and has had a career in real estate asset management.

Chuck and Jan have two children and were greeted with a new grandchild in August 2011.

He began playing hickories in 1996, has played as many as eight events in some years, and now plays in four to six a year.

Chuck has played several times in Scotland, the last few times with hickories. He has one "Major" on his win list, the 2000 Scottish Hickory and has partnered with Roger Hill (Grand Rapids, Mich.) to thrice win the Musselburgh Foursomes at Old Musselburgh Golf Course. He has played in the Canadian Hickory, in a half dozen National Hickory Championships at Oakhurst Links, and several regional Golf Collector's Society hickory events – N.C., Maryland, Texas, Mich. and Ill. He is a charter member of the United States Hickory Grail team and was Captain in 2005.

These days he plays mostly senior divisions in the hickory events with wins in Texas and Michigan and twice at Mid Pines.

His summer golf is primarily at the Belvedere Golf Club where he co-organizes the Belvedere Hickory Open, which has been added to the SoHG Championship Series for 2012.

How often do you play hickories?

I made the decision about a year ago to only play hickories and I don't regret it for a moment. I recently gave my modern clubs to my son. I have turned in nearly 60 scores this year, all hickory.

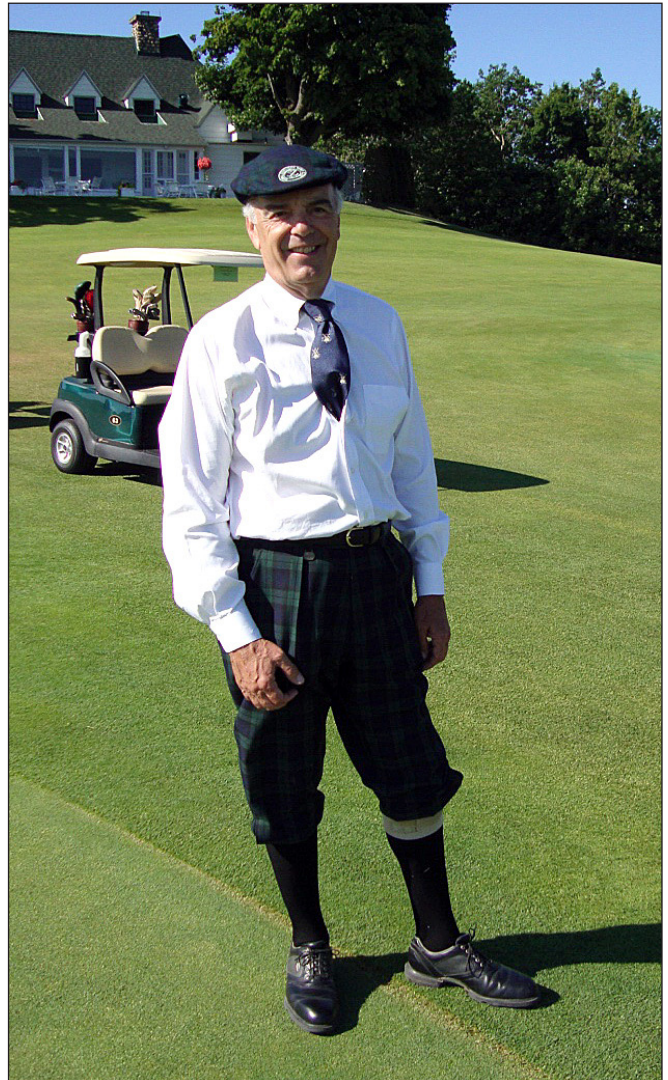
What's in your play set?

I now literally have about three sets that I draw from. For about 10 years I played with a matched set of Stewart blade irons made for and retailed by Willie Kidd at Interlochen. This year I experimented with some flanged clubs by Gibson and Anderson. So the WK blades are in "retirement" for the time being. At this moment my bag contains:

- Driver – 10 degree, Jack White with one of his "selected" shafts
- Brassie – 13 degree, Ben Sayers patented Dreadnought Gruvsol with a Sayers "selected" shaft
- Spoon – 19 degree, Peter McEwan, all original shaft and grip
- Cleek – 22 degree Cann & Taylor, J H Taylor Signature model with a Taylor signature shaft. This club is a bulldog shape and style.
- Four flanged Maxwell hosel long and mid irons:
 - a 20 degree D. Anderson
 - a 24 degree Gibson
 - a 27 degree Gibson
 - a 31 degree Mashie by St. Andrews Golf
- Four medium and short irons, all Stewart blades:
 - 36 degree Mashie
 - 40 degree Spade Mashie
 - 44 degree Mashie Niblick
 - 48 degree Niblick
- Two flanged sand irons that I alternate between:
 - 55 degree D. Anderson low bounce
 - 53 degree no name with medium bounce
- Putter – heavy D6 Spalding Gold Medal medium lie, only 2 ½ degrees of loft; flange back blade

Favorite club?

I have had several over the years. Currently, it's the Sayers Brassie. It is 43 inches long, D1 in weight and easier to hit off the fairway than any modern fairway club I have ever



Chuck McMullin ready for hickory play at the Belvedere Golf Club in Charlevoix, Mich.

played. And, I can use it off the tee when Mr. Jack White doesn't cooperate.

What ball do you play?

I have tried three or four over the years but always seem to return to the Titleist Pro VI.

Favorite course for hickories?

First on my list is Belvedere in Charlevoix. There are a few others: Mid Pines, the original 18 at Onion Creek; any classic design course from the 1920s, '30s, etc.

Favorite hickory tournament?

The Belvedere Hickory is #1.

Any particular player or aspect of golf history you especially enjoy?

I am a collector, mostly of clubs, and to be a collector one must become an historian. My concentration has been predominantly in the area of early clubs, early balls, early course layout, things like that.

Best thing about hickory golf?

I really think that the best thing about hickory golf is that it is so genuinely unpretentious, just pure golf. The attitudes and egos of modern golf are for the most part left in the parking lot. I have met an enormous number of new friends who sincerely love this link to golf's past. Wouldn't trade these experiences for anything.

Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

I am very privileged to be one of the very small group of founding members of the SoHG back in 2000. I served on the executive committee from day one, before we were a non-profit corporation, then on the board and other committees. None of us envisioned the growth of enthusiasm that we now enjoy in the Society. The current board and committees have evolved. The group is in good hands.