

Cookoff doubleheader set

For the Desert Valley Times

If turkey becomes your least-favorite food after Thanksgiving, the first annual High Desert Robinson Regional and Mojave Desert Regional chili cookoffs at the CasaBlanca Resort Nov. 25-26 can serve as the ideal alternative.

With a strong field of about 40 entries expected from Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Texas and Idaho, the smell of chili will fill the air. The International Chili Society-sanctioned doubleheader is the first of its kind at the CasaBlanca and an early reading of the enthusiasm was running at a high level weeks before the event.

Better yet, those attending the event can participate in the People's Choice portion of the event. For \$5, visitors will have the opportunity to sample the chili while raising funds for the Lancaster, Calif., Children's Literacy Project.

"We love coming to Mesquite especially during this time of year," said event organizer and Lancaster, Calif. resident Susie Baumberger. "Thanksgiving cookoffs usually draw good fields anyway, and we expect this one to be very big."

"Mesquite is so nice this time of year anyway and it's a very desirable location for cooks from several states. It will be

just cool enough for the chili to be appealing but warm enough to be comfortable."

Baumberger said the entries will include the best chili cooks, chili verde cooks and about 20 salsa cooks.

Baumberger has cooked in several competitions over the years and will be seeing the event from a different perspective. Her husband, Ron Burt, is also a former world champion having won the title in Reno in 2002.

Among the notable participants in the CasaBlanca event will be Jim Beaty of Bakersfield, Calif.; Maud Swick, also of Bakersfield; and Bill Ray, a former world champion from Riverside, Calif.

"I have been involved in chili cookoffs for about 20 years," Baumberger said. "It's like one big family. No matter where you go, you run into someone that you know. I have cooked in Georgia, New Hampshire, Alabama and Mexico."

Baumberger describes the typical chili cooker as an empty nester who is over the age of 40. She said those entering the competition usually review other recipes on line at the Chili Cookoff website (www.chilicookoff.com).

"This involves some travel," she said. "Being on the chili trail

is actually part of the fun and when you get to your destination and see all your friends, it makes everything that much better."

While the competition is certainly fun for the competitors, it can also be very beneficial because of the prize money guaranteed.

"First place at this cookoff for red chili is \$500 each day," Baumberger explained. "Once you win a cookoff, you're then qualified for the World Championship Cookoff where first place money is \$25,000. The next upcoming World Championship cook off is scheduled the first weekend of October in Charleston, West Virginia."

"The chili year goes from October to October."

Baumberger may put it best when she said ICS founder Carroll Shelby once said "there is no such thing as bad chili. Just some are better than others."

Baumberger also added that the High Desert doubleheader would be filmed by Yahoo for the Food Channel.

For more information about the High Desert & Mojave Desert Regional double header go to www.chilicookoff.com; www.mesquitechili.com; or call Michele Yegge Evans of Mesquite Gaming at 888-711-4653, ext. 14.

Dorrell scores 10 under for low net 61

Mesquite Men's Golf Association

TUESDAY

No, no don't get excited. Art Dorrell actually shot a gross score of 81 but it netted him a very low net score of 61 to beat out two other MMGA players. His round included a very nice 39 on the front side. Art's 81 was also the second best gross score of the day, a beautiful fall day on the CasaBlanca golf course. Frank Thomasino managed to earn low medalist honors with a 40-39-79. Frank mentioned afterwards in the club house that "I probably could have played a lot better but I was both mentally and physically drained from all the traveling and motel sleeping over the weekend for our MMGA Tournament". What? Second low net was a tie between John Sabraw(95) and Gerry Hart (93) both having net scores of 62. Sabraw stole 2nd with a double bogey to Hart's triple bogey on the first handicap hole. Fourth, fifth and sixth place would have to be decided by Delbert Moore (89), Brad Caron (86) and Tom Greer (87) all scoring net 73s. Moore parred the first hole for 4th. Caron shot a bogey, bogey to capture the fifth spot and that left 6th for Tom Greer.

Gallighugh enjoys win, Gray stuns Greer

THURSDAY

Bob Gallighugh is having a

over Neal Hendricks's 79. Where was Frank Thomasino? Let's see, Frank had a four foot birdie putt on #2 and missed it. Then two penalty shots on #3 for a seven and finished his first ever nine hole round of 50 with a superb 11 on #8. If we only had instant replay of him trying to get out of the bunker!! "The sad thing was I hit a really good drive and ended up too close to the upper lip". That was Frank's first ever 50 since moving to Mesquite. I had permission from Mr. Thomasino to print this because he is leaving town for Thanksgiving. His playing partner, "Eddy" Swayne said, "but Frank I had the same shot and it also took me six shots to get out last year but I only scored a 10. First low net was turned in by Robert Gray (92) with a net 66. Second went to Tom Greer (83) and 68. One shot back of Greer was Gerry Hart (91) and 69. Four players were tied for 4th with net 70's and they were Bob Chambers (81), Jerry Hyland (84), Bill Eller (87) and Larry Spitale (96). Larry Spitale captured 4th with a good par four on #6 while Bob Chambers scored bogey, bogey, par to take 5th away from Hyland because he went bogey, bogey, bogey. That left Eller for 7th due to his double bogey on #6.