



Did You Know?



Fairfax Clubhouses

The overwhelming majority of members think of the Fairfax clubhouse as the current structure. However, two other “permanent” structures filled this role prior to its construction.

Fairfax Clubhouses

When John Connolly purchased the Swayze Farm in 1940 for his Fairfax Country Club, there were two major structures on the property – the Swayze family house and the barn. Connolly hired Robert Trent Jones to design and J. Frederick Goellner to build his golf course, opening the first nine holes in 1940 and the second nine after World War II in 1946. From the golf course’s opening until 1949/1950 the Swayze family house (located on the “grassy knoll” between the parking lot and Old Lee Highway) served as the clubhouse.



Swayze Farmhouse

It was replaced in 1950 by a clubhouse building that incorporated a restaurant, pro shop and locker rooms (in the basement). Since this clubhouse was built on the same site as the farmhouse, there was a time that temporary accommodations would have been necessary. The interim facility’s “What” and “Where” is unknown, but there is a good chance it was squeezed into the 1945-constructed “Equipment Shed” which later became the cart storage facility.



1950 Clubhouse

The 1950 clubhouse continued in service until December 10, 1995 when it was replaced by the current clubhouse. Since the new clubhouse was on a different site, no temporary facility was

necessary. Although the Club was interested in finding an alternative use for the 1950 clubhouse, it was demolished in May 1996 as required by the City of Fairfax building permit.¹



**Equipment Shed
1945-2003**



Current Clubhouse



**Temporary Clubhouse
2003**

In 2002 the “Fairfax Improvement Project” resulted in further clubhouse enhancements including an expansion of the locker rooms and golf pro shop, enclosure of the “Terrace Room”, and construction of a large patio and below grade cart barn². While this project was underway, the “clubhouse” was a trailer³ in the parking lot. Completion of this project (with an “Open House” May 30th to June 1st, 2003) permitted the demolition of the “equipment shed” turned cart barn.

The 1950 clubhouse and the equipment shed are memorialized on the wall next to the golf pro shop entrance by a plaque surrounded by bricks salvaged from the two buildings.



So, what’s next? Given the need to fund several high priority capital investments, probably nothing in the foreseeable future. If the Club decided to further extend the Fairfax clubhouse, doing so will be made easier by the foresight of the Fairfax Improvement Program leadership who specified that the footings under the patio be capable of handling a three-story addition.

¹ Per the “Notice and Agenda, Army Navy Country Club Annual Meeting, October 2, 1995” the building permit for the new clubhouse required that the old clubhouse be demolished within one year of the occupancy of the new clubhouse.

² The Fairfax Improvement Project also included the construction of the “Tavern on the Green” snack bar, the upper putting green, enhanced tees for the driving range, swimming pool upgrades and drainage improvements.

³ As compensation for the inconvenience of the membership during this time, ANCC provided the members with free snacks and soup (imported from Arlington).