

CFC FUNdraiser a Hole in One

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Several Jacksonville-based Coast Guard units kicked off this year’s Combined Federal Campaign using a unique approach – they turned their units into miniature golf courses.



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Lt. Cmdr. Anne Soracco, the chief of the Planning Division for Sector Jacksonville, tries to sink one at the Sector Jacksonville Investigations hole while Lt. Derrick Saunders keeps her honest.

The Combined Federal Campaign is the world’s largest workplace-charity program and provides federal employees the opportunity to donate to approximately 22,000 non-profit organizations. Each year Coast Guard CFC representatives hand out slips of paper a Coasties to make their donations to one of the numerous non-profit organizations that are involved in CFC.

Lt. Cmdr. Austin Ives, the CFC coordinator for Sector Jacksonville, wanted to do something a little different.

“We wanted to kick-off the CFC season with an event that both raised awareness and excited people about the importance of charitable giving. I think we accomplished that, plus a whole lot more,” said Ives.

Goofy golf courses sprung up from office spaces, work areas and boat decks. They were made of nearly every material imaginable at their perspective workspaces. The Sector’s Administrative Department made two holes out of unused FedEx boxes and the Engineering department connected approximately 30 feet of wet/dry vacuum cleaner hose from the second floor of their workspace to a sand trap hole below. Coast Guard Station Mayport, Fla., had two holes - both of which some deemed nearly impossible by participants. Each hole at the Station had a series of intricate tunnels nearly as complicated as the New York City sewer system.

In all, 18 holes were created at Sector Jacksonville, Cutter *Kingfisher*, Cutter *Maria Bray* and Station Mayport. Members paid a \$3 green fee to try their hand at the uncommon golf course, which wound its way through the different departments and units adjacent to Sector Jacksonville. Golfers could purchase two mulligans for \$2 just incase they needed a chance for another shot at making par.

The mulligans came in handy. Just ask Seaman Piper Bragg, who walked the course with some fellow golfers from Station Mayport.



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Coasties try their hand at the Sector Jacksonville Galley’s hole.

“There weren’t any really easy holes, and I saw quite a few people take advantage of those mulligans,” said Bragg.

There was definitely a thick competitive spirit in the air as the golfers meandered through the course. This could be attributed the fact Capt. Paul Thomas, the commanding officer of Sector Jacksonville, volunteered to give up his parking space to the winner for a week.



“I’ve never seen such a mix of enthusiasm and frustration. I even saw chiefs that I’d say were ‘giddy’ over this event,” said Ives.

No one made it through the course under par, which was 55 strokes. The lowest score went to Lt. Christopher Culpepper, who finished the course with an unbelievable nine strokes over par.

“Maybe I had some insight on what I was up against because we (Sector Jacksonville Response Department) created such a difficult hole,” said Culpepper. “But looking back on the big win though, I think it was just a savvy mini-golf game.”

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Capt. Paul Thomas, the commanding officer of Sector Jacksonville, gets desperate at the Sector Jacksonville Response Division’s hole. The move didn’t pay off. Capt. Thomas still wound up 20 strokes over par.

Culpepper and Response Department’s hole definitely tripped up the Sector commander, who finished 20 over par overall and was reduced at one point to using his putter like a pool cue.

All scores aside, the CFC kickoff turned out to be a very successful event. The group of 75 golfers raised \$250 that will be used to try and beat Sector Jacksonville’s previous CFC goal of \$23,000.

The crews of the participating units are already contemplating making the mini-golf tournament an annual event.

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