A bonus of golfing in Montana, especially in more rural areas, is the opportunity to see wildlife up close and personal. For many, it’s part of the joy of walking the park-like fairways, taking in the whole experience.

So, here’s a call out to you! If you have cool shots of wildlife on the course, please send them to me at golf@montana.net, or post them via Facebook or Twitter. I thought it would be fun to include them in this newsletter, and also in a Wildlife Photo Gallery on the MSGA website (About Us->Wildlife Photo Gallery). Include the course and hole #, if you know it, and even a brief story about it if it was really unique.

Off-season shots count too, by the way, since you’re sure to see activity all year round. If we have enough pictures come in, maybe we’ll even make a contest out of it! Happy snapping!

Look for more tips and information each month! You can contact Emily at golf@montana.net.

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**Who Doesn’t Like Wildlife Pictures?**
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

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**USGA Releases 2016 Rules of Golf**

The USGA has announced the publication of the 2016 edition of the Rules of Golf that takes effect on January 1, 2016. The new Rules book is the culmination of the normal four-year review cycle and is a collaborative work by The R&A and the USGA that applies worldwide to all golfers.

Among the most significant of the changes in the 2016 edition of the Rules are the following:

- **Withdrawal of Rule on Ball Moving After Address** - Rule 18-2b (Ball Moving after Address) has been withdrawn. This means that if a ball at rest moves after the player addresses it, the player is no longer automatically deemed to have caused the ball to move. A one-stroke penalty under Rule 18-2 will be applied only when the facts show that the player has caused the ball to move.

Under Rule 18-2b, a player whose ball moved after address was automatically presumed to have caused the ball to move. In 2012, an Exception to Rule 18-2b was introduced to cover situations where it was known or virtually certain that the player had not caused the ball to move, but the application of that standard was not always clear. The withdrawal of Rule 18-2b...Continued on the next page
RULES OF GOLF... from previous page

means that there no longer will be any presumption and that the same overall test in Rule 18-2 will apply to all actions by
the player. If the facts show that the player’s addressing of the ball or other actions caused the ball to move, the player will
incur a one-stroke penalty.

- **Limited Exception to Disqualification Penalty for Submission of Incorrect Score Card** - A new
exception has been introduced to Rule 6-6d (Wrong Score for Hole) to provide that a player is not
disqualified for returning a lower score for a hole than actually taken, as a result of failing to include
penalty strokes that the player did not know were incurred before returning the score card. Instead,
the player incurs the penalty under the Rule that was breached and must add an additional penalty
of two strokes for the score card error. In all other cases in which a player returns a score for any
hole lower than actually taken, the penalty will continue to be disqualification.

The introduction of the new Exception under Rule 6-6d will maintain the importance of returning
an accurate score card by penalizing the player two strokes for the score card error in addition to the
penalty for the original underlying breach of the Rules.

- **Modification of Penalty for a Single Impermissible Use of Artificial Devices or Equipment** - The penalty for a player’s
first breach of Rule 14-3 (Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Abnormal Use of Equipment) during the round has
been reduced from disqualification to loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play. The penalty for any subse-
quent breach of Rule 14-3 will continue to be disqualification.

In addition to the revised penalty for a player’s first breach of Rule 14-3 during a round, a statement has been introduced
at the beginning of Rule 14-3 to explain that the governing bodies are guided by the principle that “success should depend
on the judgment, skills, and abilities of the player” in determining whether
use of any artificial device or item of equipment is in breach of the Rule.

- **Prohibition on Anchoring the Club While Making a Stroke** - As
announced in May 2013, the new Rule 14-1b (Anchoring the Club)
prohibits anchoring the club either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point”
in making a stroke. The penalty is loss of hole in match play or two strokes
in stroke play.

The R&A and the USGA announced in 2013 that new Rule 14-1b prohib-
ing anchoring the club in making a stroke would take effect in the 2016
edition of the Rules. The Rule was adopted following an extensive review by
both organizations. For an explanation of the reasons for adopting Rule 14-1b and for guidance on applying the Rule,
see www.usga.org/anchoring.

Thomas Pagel, Senior Director of the Rules of Golf at the USGA, said, “The objective with each four-year cycle of the
Rules is to monitor developments in the game and, when appropriate, to respond with changes that keep the best interests
of the game in mind. The amendments for 2016 preserve and enhance the essential principles of the Rules, while at the
same time ensuring that they reflect the evolution of the game.”

David Rickman, Executive Director – Rules & Equipment Standards at The R&A, added, “We continually look at ways we
can improve and clarify the Rules of Golf. The R&A and the USGA collaborate closely and we consult with our respective
national and international advisory members to produce a code of Rules that is relevant to all golfers around the world.”

The MSGA website includes resources to help understand the rule changes,
including links to interactive guides, PDF files, and downloads to read.
Go to www.msgagolf.org, and look under the RULES tab.

Printed copies of the 2016 Rules of Golf are now available
High School Champions Crowned, Fall Season Concludes
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

CLASS AA
The prep season has concluded for 2015 in the class AA and A ranks as both divisions held their respective state tournaments at the beginning of the month. Thanks to some temperate weather and good scoring conditions at Bill Roberts Golf Course in Helena, six boys and one girl finished par or better.

Tom Mann of Glacier High School put together back-to-back rounds of 69 to take home the State AA Boys Title with a total of 138 (-6). Mann's total was two shots better than Billings West's Joey Moore at 140 (-4). Garrett Woodin, a teammate of Moore's finished third at 141 (-3) and the duo's effort helped set a AA scoring record for Billings West en route to a Golden Bears victory. West's two-day total of 580 was a healthy 18 shots better than Billings Skyview (598). Missoula Sentinel rounded out the top-three at 603. Payton Stott's (Billings Skyview) 142 (-2) and Sean Ramsbacher (Missoula Sentinel) 143 (-1) also finished in red numbers and rounded out the top-five. Kalispell's Ryan Keenan concluded his season at even par (144) for sixth place.

Even par took home the AA individual girls' crown as Hayden Flohr of Billings West fired a blistering final round 68 (-4) to finish at 144 and two shots clear of two-time defending state champion Teigan Avery of Glacier (146). Flohr's 68 was the tournament's low round and helped her erase a three-shot deficit going into the final round after her first round 76 trailed Avery's 73. Catrina Babinecz paced Great Falls High (74-83, 157) and helped the Bison claim the team title. Great Falls was 22 shots ahead of second place Glacier High (686) with Bozeman finishing in third at 689. Bozeman's Kameryn Bayse's 160 and Great Falls' Renae Heisler's 161 rounded out the top-five on the girls' side.

CLASS A
The Whitefish girls' team won a state record 18th title in impressive fashion as the Bulldogs' two-day total of 720 bested host Sidney by 39 shots (759). Frenchtown finished in third at 813. Not only did Whitefish repeat as champions, but leading the way for the Bulldogs was Coral Schulz who successfully defended her individual title with rounds of 76-80, 156 to take home medalist honors. Tricia Joyce of Butte Central was runner up, five shots back with a 161 total. Rounding out the top-five were Katie Fryall (Whitefish, 170), Morgan O'Neil (Laurel, 171), and Summer Kennerly (Browning, 178).

On the boys' side, Liam Clancy led Billings Central to the title. Clancy's two-day total of 149 paced the Rams and was five shots ahead of runner-up, Max Toenes of Hamilton (154). Tyrell Walter of Lewistown (160) finished third, followed by Chase Morehouse of Sidney (162), and Josh Heath of Hamilton (163) for top-five finisher status. Billings Central's two-day 650 total was a dozen shots better than Hamilton (662), and Whitefish took home third on the boys' side finishing at 679 for their two days at Sidney Country Club.

Frontier Golf Fall Recap
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

With the collegiate golf schedule split into two due to the northern climate, the Frontier Conference, noted by its competition during the fiercest of weather conditions, had reasonable weather this fall and plenty of good performances. MSU-Northern and Marias Valley Golf Course in Shelby played host to begin the Frontier schedule.

The Battlin’ Bears of Rocky Mountain College claimed the women's title with a two-round total of 640 (+64) which bested Lewis-Clark State (Idaho) by nine shots. Rocky’s Kyla Clancy claimed medalist honors with rounds of 70-80, 150. Clancy’s effort was two better than the University of Great Falls’ Gina Kowolchuk (77-75, 152).

The men played three rounds and, while Lewis-Clark State were the low scorers at 891 (+27), ...Continued on the next page
FRONTIER GOLF... from previous page

Rocky Mountain College was a close second three shots back at 890. Montana Tech and the University of Great Falls were third and fourth respectively. Two individuals broke par on the men’s side. Rocky’s Jordy Donoven’s 74-70-70, 214 (-2) bested Tech’s freshman Sean Benson by one stroke (69-71-75, 215).

The second tournament of the year was held in Helena at Green Meadow Country Club. While Clancy (+4) and Kowolchuk (+6) again played well, Karina Davila (LCSC) bested them at +3. Lewis-Clark State were the low women’s team at 605 (+29), followed by Rocky (+53) and Carroll College (+69).

On the men’s side, the Warriors of LCSC were also victorious with a team total of 853 (+1), far outpacing the second and third place teams Montana Tech (+40) and Carroll College (+42). Mike Baldeck of LCSC was the low man at -3, with Rocky Mountain College’s Colton Murphy and Taylor Noble tied for second one shot behind (-2).

MSU-Billings (NCAA-Division II) hosted their fall invitational at Pryor Creek Golf Course. On the women’s side, the Yellow Jackets were by far the class of the field, sweeping the top five individual finishers, with Kortney McNeil (73-74, 147) earning low honors, followed by teammates Haley Shackelford (154) and Bailee Dexter (158). The women from MSU-B won by a staggering 102 shots over second place North Idaho College.

On the men’s side it was Tech’s Sean Benson who was the medalist for Montana Tech (68-73, 141). MSU-Billings won the team event at 578, led by Connor Miele (72-71, 143) who finished third individually.

The College of Idaho also hosted a fall invite and the top finishing Montana team on the women’s side was Rocky Mountain College tying for second, but included in the team score was individual champ, Kyla Clancy (+6). On the men’s side the University of Great Falls’ fourth place finish was tops among Montana teams with their top finisher, Easton Enott, finishing 11th overall. Play will resume this spring around the state.

Big Sky Golf Recap
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

For the University of Montana Women's Golf Team, five of their ten tournaments are played in the fall, with play resuming in the spring time (February) as Big Sky Conference squads prepare for April’s conference championships.

The Grizzlies picked up their highest finish of the fall, coming in 8th place at the Cal Poly Lady Mustang Intercollegiate (Oct. 24-25). Freshman Baylee Barckley led the way for the Griz with rounds of 75-74, 149 to finish fifth individually, two shots out of second place. Butte native Hailey Hoagland improved on a first-round 86, to 78 on day two, to help the Griz finish on a higher note for the fall campaign with their best score of the season in relation to par (+56 team). Barckley, of Canyon Lake, California, was the average low scorer in the fall for the Griz, as the newcomer managed a 78.64 stroke average, just ahead of fellow underclassmen, Hoagland (sophomore) who averaged 79.12.

In addition to the Lady Mustang Intercollegiate, the Grizzlies competed in the Hobble Creek Fall Classic (Utah), Washington State Cougar Cup, Rose City Collegiate (Oregon), and the Pat Lesser Harbottle Invitational (Washington). Janelle Reali was one shot back of Barckley at the Lady Mustang event with rounds of 75-75 to finish in sixth place for Montana State. The Bobcats as a team, bested the Grizzlies, finishing 6th overall with a team total of 618 (308-310).

The Bobcats competed at Hobble Creek, the WSU Cougar Cup, and the Ron Moore Women's Collegiate (Colorado), in addition to their trip to California for the Cal Poly hosted tournament. Montana State's most impressive tournament was the Cougar Cup, which saw the Bobcats tie for fourth overall in the three-day event with a team total of 897 (+33). Jaylee Tait was MSU's top individual finisher, T12 with rounds of 73-73-75, 221. Both teams will resume their 2015-16 season in late February at the Grand Canyon Spring Invitational in Phoenix, Arizona.
NEW RULES OF AMATEUR STATUS FOR 2016

The R&A and the USGA have announced the latest revisions to the Rules of Amateur Status for golfers, which take effect on January 1, 2016.

The Rules of Amateur Status will be published within the 2016 edition of the Rules of Golf, a collaborative work by The R&A and the USGA that applies to all golfers around the world.

Among the most significant changes to the 2016 Rules of Amateur Status are the following:

- **Prize Money to Charity** - New Rule 3-1b enables an amateur golfer to participate in an event where prize money or its equivalent is donated to a recognized charity, provided the approval of the governing body is first obtained in advance by the organizer.

  Until now, an amateur golfer has been prohibited in all respects from playing for prize money or its equivalent in a match, competition, or exhibition. However, from January 1, 2016, under new Rule 3-1b, an amateur golfer will be able to participate in an event where prize money is offered and donate any winnings to a pre-determined recognized charity, provided the approval of the governing body is obtained in advance by the organizer of the event.

  This change has been made to reflect the growing number of charitable golf exhibitions organized around the world in aid of worthwhile causes and disaster relief agencies. As long as the organizer seeks prior approval from the governing body, an amateur golfer may donate any prize money to the identified charitable cause without compromising their Amateur Status.

- **Golf-Related Expenses** - New Rule 4-3 clarifies that an amateur golfer may receive reasonable expenses, not exceeding actual expenses incurred, for non-competition golf-related activities. Former Rule 4-3 becomes Rule 4-4.

- **Reinstatement to Amateur Status** - The recommended guidelines on periods awaiting reinstatement are amended to provide that a period in breach of the Rules of up to six years (previously up to five years) should result in a period awaiting reinstatement of one year.

  Thomas Pagel, Senior Director of Rules of Golf for the USGA, said, “The new Amateur Code continues to provide appropriate limits and restrictions to encourage the amateur golfer to focus on the challenge of the sport, rather than on any financial gains. We also want to make it easier for golfers to return to the amateur sport if they no longer wish to play professionally.”

  David Rickman, The R&As Executive Director of Rules & Equipment Standards, also commented, “After the fundamental review of Amateurism conducted in the previous Rules cycle, we have had a period of consolidation and have continued to develop the uniform Code. The new Code provides flexibility in terms of supporting recognized charitable causes, while remaining faithful to the principles of Amateurism.”

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**Congratulations to our newest Ace Club Members!**

Did you get a hole-in-one? Go to www.msgagolf.org to see how to get your MSGA Hole-in-One Certificate!

David Hunt, 10/9/15, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #4/North, 145 yds, 9 Iron
Debora Harris, 10/6/15, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #15/N, 121 yds, 6 Hyb.
Steve Clairmont, 10/6/15, Polson Bay GC, Hole #2/Olede, 178 yds, 8 Iron
Maxine Arnold, 10/3/15, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #3/S, 135 yds, Driver
Scott Beach, 9/18/15, Missoula CC, Hole #6, 170 yds, 6 Iron
Rob Ruebusch, 8/26/15, Riverside CC, Hole #6, 201 yds, Ben Hogan Hybr.