May Tournaments

5/1/16
Spring 4 Person Scramble
Bridger Creek GC (Bozeman)
5/2/16
PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
Hamilton GC (Hamilton)
5/2/16
RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am
Laurel GC (Laurel)
5/5/16
9 Hole Cinco de Mayo Tournament
Indian Springs Ranch GC (Eureka)
5/6/16
Billings High School Golf Fundraiser
Lake Hills GC (Billings)
5/6/16
Missoula Chamber “Red Ripper”
Missoula CC (Missoula)
5/6/16 - 5/7/16
Scratch Team Up
Laurel GC (Laurel)
5/6/16
PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
Whitefish Lake GC (Whitefish)
5/9/16
RMSPGA (YC) Pro-Am
Yellowstone CC (Billings)
5/10/16
AHS Divisional Champs
Old Works GC (Anaconda)
5/10/16
Men’s US Open Local Qualifier
Missoula CC (Missoula)
5/14/16
4 Person Scramble
Stillwater GC (Columbus)
5/14/16
For the Greens Tournament
Marian Hills GC (Malta)
5/14/16
May Day Tournament
Forsyth CC (Forsyth)
Support Junior Golf!

Proceeds from MSGA Specialty Plates are used to help support Junior Golf Programs in Montana.
RATING TEAM ... from previous page

who live very far apart and only see each other on rating days. There is a comradery created by a shared interest in a complicated process and, of course, playing golf. Part of the process is playing the course just measured to ascertain if you missed any big items. This round of golf is a social event in and of itself and contributes to the cohesion of the group.

The team has three new raters this season, who looked the team over last fall, liked what they saw, and had an interest in the rating process. The returning members have rated for several years and have become comfortable with the rating procedures and the company they keep on the rating team.

The above picture of the group was taken at the Lewis and Clark Library in Helena. From left to right, back row: Rick Blaskovich, Laurel; Craig Ehler, Bozeman; Lisa Forsberg, Billings; Chuck Seeley, Polson. Front row: Rod Halvorson, Laurel; Gary Kalberg, Creston; MSGA President and Rating Supervisor, Steve Sherburne, East Glacier; and Homer Young, Helena. Not shown, Rating Team Leader, Ron Normandeau, Polson, taking the picture.

The team starts the season in May with Northern Pines GC at Kalispell, and continues through September, finishing with Hamilton GC in Hamilton. In addition, the list of courses to be measured this season also include: Larchmont GC, Missoula; Yellowstone CC, Billings; Briarwood CC, Billings; Judith Shadows GC, Lewistown; Signal Point GC, Fort Benton; Riverside CC, Bozeman; Cottonwood Hills GC, Bozeman; and Big Sky Resort GC, Big Sky.

The golf course measurement includes measuring the difficulty of a course for both men and women players. The MSGA Rating Team is always looking for new additions to the team, and currently there is a pressing need for women. If you think you would find measuring a golf course interesting, and to help complete one of our teams to address this aspect, please contact the MSGA Course Rating department via email at nniins@3rivers.net.

Montana Finishes Middle Of The Pack At Big Sky Conference Tournament

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

The 2016 Big Sky Conference Women's Golf Championship was held April 18-20 at Boulder Creek Golf Course in Boulder City, Nevada. Montana State finished in seventh, with the University of Montana finishing tied for eighth place.

The Bobcats three-day team total was 891. Sophomore Jaylee Tait finished tied for third. Tait's rounds of 69-72-75 gave her a 216 total and secured her all-tournament honors. Tait's third place finish was the best by a Bobcat in the past four seasons. Also playing for the Bobcats, Haylee Folkvord finished T25 (224), Kati Greear was T29 (226), and Lauren Hausauer (230) finished T30, to round out the conference season.

The Grizzlies three-day team total was 902, a program best. The Griz were led by freshman Baylee Barckley who tied for fifth place. Barckley was consistent with rounds of 72-73-72 to give her a total of 217 and earning all-tournament honors. Phoebe Tan finished T35 (229), followed by Hailey Hoagland T37 (230), Hayley Bingham, and Alexa Schendelman tied for 45 (233).

The University of Idaho (868) edged out Sacramento State (869) in a thriller by one shot. Northern Arizona placed third (885), followed by Weber State (886) and Eastern Washington (889) to round out the top five.

The individual title was earned in a playoff as Idaho's Sophie Hausmann (212) defeated Eastern Washington's Marissa Borja on their first playoff hole.
The 2015-16 Frontier Conference Golf Season has concluded. The Rocky Mountain College Women and Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) Men were victorious at the conference tournament held at the Arizona State University Karsten Golf Course in Tempe, Arizona, April 18-20.

On the women’s side, the Battlin’ Bears three-day total of 984, was 10 better than runner-up Lewis-Clark State. Rocky senior, Kyla Clancy (Park City), claimed individual medalist honors thanks to a 54-hole total of 232 (75-79-78). Clancy, who led wire-to-wire, finished four strokes ahead of regular season champion Gina Kowolchuk of the University of Great Falls. Rocky received a strong performance from freshman Eryn Ellis who finished third overall (238), with MacKenzie Webinger (Laurel) also ranking in the top-10, finishing sixth (251) for the Battlin’ Bears. The win qualified the Battlin’ Bears for the 22nd Annual NAIA Women’s Golf National Championships that will be conducted May 17-20 at Savannah Quarters Country Club in Pooler, Georgia.

Women’s Team Scores: 1) Rocky Mountain 384; 2) LCSC 994; 3) Carroll College 1030; 4) Montana Tech 1117; 5) Great Falls 1186; 6) MSU-Northern 1215.

In action on the men’s side, The LCSC Warriors won the team title and also had the top individual finisher, Chris Lien, whose three-under 68 in the final round was the tournament’s low round. Lien’s scores were better each day with rounds of 76-74-68, for a 218 victorious total. The Warriors picked up a six shot win, with a team score of 901 over the three days, ahead of Rocky Mountain College (907). The University of Great Falls rounded out the top three with a program best finish (921). Lien finished the event with a tournament-best 15 birdies, seven better than the second best mark. Lien’s teammates Casey Brown (225, T2) and Kurt Simmons (226, T4) also finished in the top five for LCSC. The win assures the men of a spot in the NAIA National Championship held at TPC Deere Run in Moline, Illinois, May 24-27.

Men’s Team Scores: 1) LCSC 901; 2) Rocky Mountain 907; 3) Great Falls 921; 4) Montana Tech 964; 5) Carroll College 965; 6) MSU-Northern 1131.

Prugh Defends Lake City Open Title

Spokane professional Corey Prugh defended his Lake City Open Title, after shooting a final-round 66 Sunday, to claim a two-stroke victory in the 26th edition of the early-season classic at Polson Bay Golf Course.

Prugh finished with a 36-hole total of 131 (-3). His victory also comes with a $3,000 winner’s check. Polson Bay head professional, Cameron Milton, shot 66-67--133 to finish second and earn $1,750, and Kalispell’s Ryan Malby, a six-time winner of the event, fired rounds of 69 - 68, for a 137 total and the third-place check of $1,000.

Kent Fukushima was fourth at 138, followed by former champion Jim Mee at 140. Spencer Williams (Helena) and reigning MSGA Mid-Amateur champion was the low amateur with a 36-hole total of 137, following a 71 on Sunday. Libby High School ...Continued on the next page
LAKE CITY OPEN ... from previous page

freshman standout Ryggs Johnston was two back in second at 139, followed by Shawn Tucker (Whitefish) at 140. Bennett MacIntyre was fourth at 141. Roger Wallace of Polson and Bigfork’s Lon Hinkle tied in the senior division at 145.

The Lake City Open is the first 2016 points event for the Montana State Golf Association Points race. For current Points Standings, go to [www.msgagolf.org/points-standings](http://www.msgagolf.org/points-standings).

The Lake City Open is sponsored by the Polson Scholarship and Education Foundation. The event annually raises nearly $10,000 in scholarship funds to be awarded to Polson High School graduates.

MSU-Billings Teams Finish 6th at GNAC Championships

The Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships were conducted at the Coeur d’Alene Resort in Idaho earlier this month. The MSU-Billings Yellowjackets finished their season off with both teams finishing sixth.

On the men’s side, Connor Miele led the way with a three-round total of 219 (72-70-77), to finish in a tie for 14th place. Michael Porter was not far behind in 21st (222), followed by Austin Walter in 25th (230), and Braden Luper rounded things out in 30th (240). Western Washington won the team title and tied the GNAC Championships course record with a blistering 837 total. The Yellowjackets total was 897 for the three days.

On the women’s side, Bailee Dexter had another strong GNAC performance, as she finished in sixth place with a two-round total of 156. Kortney McNeil was tied for 18th (160), followed by Sammy Walter in 21st (162), Anna DeMars in 26th (168), and Haley Shackelford rounded things out in 28th (172). Simon Fraser set a course record for the GNAC with a 617 team total. MSU-Billings had identical rounds of 323 for a 646 total.

Caleb Stetzner To Join Yellowjacket Golf in 2016-17

Another Montanan will join the Montana State University Billings men’s golf team next year. Anaconda native Caleb Stetzner has signed a letter of intent to become a Yellowjacket, head coach Kevin Woodin announced on Friday.

Stetzner is a four-year letterwinner in golf and basketball at Anaconda High School and has earned all-state honors in golf three times. "I am very excited to have Caleb join our men’s golf team this fall,” Woodin commented. "He is an exceptional player and person, and he has established himself as one of the top high-school boys' golfers in Montana. His golf resume is very impressive and I expect Caleb to have an immediate, positive impact on our golf program.”

Stetzner won the 2014 Montana Class A state title as a junior, and twice was a division champion for the Copperheads. He has 13 tournament wins to his name, including six in a single season, and a career low-round score of 70. His top season scoring average in his prep career was 73.5. Stetzner has played at the Callaway World Junior Golf Championships in San Diego, California, and has been to the Junior Americas Cup and the Montana-Alberta Cup twice, in addition to his high-school golf. He also placed in the top five in state championship tournaments in each of his first three prep careers to date, including his individual title in 2014.

"After visiting MSU-B and meeting with Coach Woodin, I felt an instant connection with the program and knew it was the right fit,” Stetzner commented on becoming a Yellowjacket. A four-year starter on the basketball team, Stetzner scored 26 points in a game as a freshman and posted a free-throw percentage of 85.0 as a senior. His current head golf coach, Mark Torney, is an Eastern Montana College graduate and has been in the lead role at Anaconda since 2004.
USGA ACCEPTS THIRD-HIGHEST NUMBER OF ENTRIES

The USGA has accepted a total of 9,877 entries for the 2016 U.S. Open Championship at Oakmont (PA) Country Club. The number of entries is third to the record 10,127 accepted for the 2014 U.S. Open at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club's Course No. 2, and the 9,882 entries accepted for last year's championship at Chambers Bay, in University Place, Washington. Among this year's total are 50 players, including 12 past champions, who are fully exempt into the field.

The USGA accepted entries for the 116th U.S. Open from golfers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 72 foreign countries. “The number of entries received underlines the global appeal of the U.S. Open Championship and the historical greatness of Oakmont Country Club,” said Stuart Francis, USGA Championship Committee chairman.

To be eligible, a player must have a Handicap Index not exceeding 1.4, or be a professional. Local qualifying, which will be played over 18 holes at 111 sites in the United States, will take place between May 2-19. Sectional qualifying, played over 36 holes, will be conducted on Monday, May 23, in Japan, on Monday, May 30, in England, and on Monday, June 6, at 10 sites in the United States, ranging from New Jersey to California. This will be the 12th year with two international qualifiers, which were established in 2005.

USGA & ASGCA FOUNDATION SELECT SIX SITE-EVALUATIONS

The USGA and the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) Foundation have jointly selected six publicly accessible golf facilities to receive pro-bono consulting visits this year from USGA agronomists and ASGCA-member architects. The partnership, which was launched in December 2015, harnesses the collective expertise of each organization to provide innovative, viable solutions and foster greater golfer enjoyment at each property.

Through the USGA-ASGCA Site Evaluation Program, the agronomists and architects will make recommendations to address the facilities’ needs, improve the playing quality of their courses, enhance the golf experience for their customers, and strengthen their connections to their local communities.

The facilities selected are: Carolina Springs Golf Club (SC), Connecticut National Golf Club (CT), Carey Park Golf Course (KS), EdgeBrook Golf Course (SD), Point University Golf Club (AL), and Simsbury Farms Golf Course (CT).

“Our mission is to create community through people, parks, programs, and golf,” said Dan Brettschneider, Parks, Recreation, & Forestry director for Brookings, SD, which owns and operates EdgeBrook, the city’s only public golf facility and one of the six courses selected. “As a municipal course, this sort of assistance is a kind of luxury for us, and the report will be an important part of an advocacy program to communicate with the residents and city leaders. We need a road map to make our course better and attract more players, and the USGA and ASGCA add so much credibility and expertise with their recommendations.”

Some of the priorities for these facilities include improving the turf quality of greens, determining the best locations for forward tees, and creating a more welcoming experience for golfers. The recommendations will range from quick solutions that require few resources, to long-term plans that will require more time, money, and support to implement. The six courses join Canal Shores Golf Course, in Evanston, IL, the first course selected for the program at its launch last year.

“An important mission for the USGA is to strengthen the future of golf by providing solutions for golf facilities, and we are excited to provide direct assistance to these courses,” said Mike Davis, executive director/CEO of the USGA. “Additionally, the lessons learned from this unique collaboration with the ASGCA have the potential to impact many more facilities around the world.”

Nearly 30 facilities have applied since the launch of the USGA-ASGCA Site Evaluation Program in early December. “We were pleased by the number of strong candidates that were interested in this new program,” said John LaFoy, president of the ASGCA Foundation. “Our members are proud to share their expertise with these six facilities and we hope that our joint efforts with USGA agronomists will have a real and lasting impact.” ...Continued on the next page
The USGA and ASGCA Foundation will accept more applications later this year, and interested facility owners, operators, and managers can go to www.asgca.org for more information. Inquiries about the program can be directed to Hunki Yun, USGA (hyun@usga.org) or Aileen Smith, ASGCA Foundation (aileen@asgca.org).

**USGA ANNOUNCES “OPEN FOR ALL” COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR U.S. OPEN**

The USGA will kick off its celebration of the 116th U.S. Open Championship with a series of golf-oriented community activities ahead of the championship proper, which will be contested June 16-19 at Oakmont Country Club (PA). Programming aims to deepen the connection between residents of the host site region and the championship, presenting the U.S. Open as a point of inspiration to drive awareness of, and interest in, the game of golf. Taking advantage of the greater Pittsburgh area’s passion for sports, this year’s Open for All activities will begin six weeks prior to championship play, as excitement builds into mid-June for the U.S. Open’s arrival.

**U.S. Open Trophy Tour**
April 26 through June 19 -- The iconic U.S. Open Trophy will be taken from the USGA’s headquarters in Far Hills, NJ, on a “whistle-stop” tour en route to its final destination of Oakmont Country Club. Along with seeing the trophy in person, fans will also have the opportunity to track the trophy’s progress at usopen.com/trophytour, and actively engage in its journey by using the hashtags #LexusGolf and #USOpen to locate the trophy in real time.

**Learning Science Through Golf/STEM Education**
May 2 through June 19 -- As part of the USGA’s ongoing commitment to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, and sharing these principles through the lens of golf, the USGA will debut its “Learning Science Through Golf” exhibit at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. Multiple interactive stations demonstrate various elements of the game of golf, including equipment, aerodynamics, and turfgrass, to help make the game more interesting to learn and play, with an orientation toward school-aged kids.

**American Golf History – Coming To Life**
May 2 through June 19 -- Carnegie Science Center – The rich and vibrant history of golf in America comes to life in a new, interactive display that is part of Open for All programming for the first time in 2016. Featuring a custom-built hitting bay and golf simulator, the exhibit allows guests to live American history by hitting drives with period-based golf equipment from the 1920s, 1960s, and modern day, then compares individual performance against the driving performance of the U.S. Open champions from Oakmont of each era.

**Epic Putt Challenge**
May 14 through June 11 -- Select DICK’S Sporting Goods locations – Highlighting the pivotal role of the 18th green in U.S. Open Championship history, the USGA has designed the “Epic Putt Challenge,” which offers guests the opportunity to relive epic moments from previous U.S. Opens. A 55-foot artificial-turf putting green allows fans an opportunity to recreate many of the greatest 18th-green putts in U.S. Open history.

For a complete and detailed schedule of all Open for All community activities, please visit usopen.com/openforall.

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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!**

Wesley M. Hocevar, 4/19/16, Eagle Falls, Hole #2, 130 yds, 50 Deg. Wedge

Steve Urbanski, 3/1/16, Pryor Creek, Hole #2, 130 yds, Pitching Wedge

Casey Durbin, 6/28/14, Forsyth, Hole #7, 124 yds, 8 Iron

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**This newsletter is now Link-Friendly! If you see a link, click for more information!**

**Do you want to see something in the newsletter?**

Contact Nick Dietzen at: nick@msgagolf.org (406) 459-3459
Trip-of-the-Month RAFFLE

ONLY 300 TICKETS SOLD! • 24 CHANCES TO WIN!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO MONTANA JUNIOR GOLF!

Seattle Seahawks Football
Farmers Open PGA tourney
Cancun, Mexico
Mauri, Hawaii
St. Augustine, Florida
Dublin, Ireland
Alaska Cruise
Colorado Rockies Baseball
Las Vegas, Nevada
Two Airline Tickets
Napa Valley, California
Scottsdale, Arizona

Drawings held once a month, from May 2016 to April 2017

First Prize - Trip for Two, as outlined in the brochure (In lieu of trip, the winner may elect to take a $1000 travel voucher or $750 cash).

Second Prize - $200 cash

All tickets, winning and non-winning, are included in every drawing.

TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

Go to www.msgagolf.org to purchase your ticket.

The first drawing will be held this month -- winners announced on the MSGA website!

Tickets can be purchased any time after the raffle begins. Credit cards are accepted.

RAFFLE RULES

- Drawings will be held once a month, starting in May 2016. You need not be present to win. Winners will be notified by phone or by U.S. Mail.
- Tickets will be sold until all 300 are taken, even after the drawings begin.
- Winners must be 21 years of age or older. You do not need to be an MSGA member to participate.
- First prize each month will be a vacation trip for two as described herein.
- Second prize each month is $200 cash.
- Each month, all tickets (winning and non-winning) will be resubmitted for subsequent drawings. A ticket is limited to 4 first prize wins.
- In lieu of trip, the winner may elect to take a $1000 Magic Carpet Travel voucher or $750 cash.
- Travel Insurance is available for purchase and is not included in the prizes.
- Blackout dates and restrictions apply.
- Trips are non-transferable and must be taken by winner or immediate family member.
- Trips must be booked within 12 months of the drawing.
- Winners must pay all applicable taxes including resort fees and car taxes.
- Raffle tickets are not tax deductible.
- All vacations are arranged by Teresa at Magic Carpet Travel and are subject to availability. Magic Carpet Travel acts only as an "Agent" and is not the actual supplier of the travel services won.

Trip-of-the-Month RAFFLE

Presents its First Annual

TRIP-OF-THE-MONTH RAFFLE

ALL PROCEEDS go to support MONTANA JUNIOR GOLF!

Don’t want to go it alone?

Chip in with your league group, your workmates, or your friends, and buy a ticket together. Get creative! Have a drawing of your own for the winner, or alternate who can win each month.

With only 300 tickets sold, and 2 winners a month, your chances are good for a return on the cost of the ticket.

And, ultimately, it goes toward a great cause... our kids, the future golfers of Montana.

DON’T WAIT! The first drawing will be held soon!