USGA’s PLAY9 Program Successful
Mike Sweeney, USGA Director, Regional Affairs - West

Since 2014, the USGA’s PLAY9 program has been actively educating and rallying golfers around the concept of the nine-hole round as an important, yet simple, solution to address busy lifestyles and everyday lives. PLAY9 is important to the game and its health in that it promotes a time-friendly option to engage with the game.

The USGA will once again host official PLAY9 Play Days on the ninth day of each month (May 9 through October 9), and any club or facility is also encouraged to host PLAY9 on the ninth, or any other day that may work best for them.

The USGA PLAY9 website has been updated at http://www.usga.org/play-9.html. New content will be posted to this PLAY9 hub throughout the spring and summer. We know that many clubs will be conducting and supporting PLAY9 throughout the summer, and we’re encouraging all to...Continued on the next page

TWO Aces In ONE Round!

On Thursday, May 25, Jan Quessenberry was playing golf at Eagle Bend Golf Club with three of her close friends - Jan Pisko, Mary Exner, and Irene Turley. After an uneventful front nine, and tired of the wind, she considered stopping. However, her friends encouraged her to continue.

When she came to hole #12, she knocked her ball in the hole from the tee with her 3 metal - a hole-in-one!! Then, arriving at the ...

...Continued on the next page
PLAY9 ... from previous page
keep the USGA PLAY9 team in-formed of any interesting storylines about golfers, facilities, and personalities so that they can follow up and highlight these stories. Please use the hashtag #PLAY9Golf when posting any of your own stories to your social media feeds.

For any facilities or clubs interested in hosting a PLAY9 day or promoting 9-hole rounds, please check out the online toolkit which contains promotional tools to help set up your event, and other useful information: http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/play-9/play9-toolkit.html.

TWO ACES ... from previous page
16th hole, using her 7 iron, she hit another Ace! Two in one round! Pretty amazing - especially after scoring a hole-in-one in California this past March.

“It’s still hard to believe that I’ve been lucky enough to get 3 hole-in-ones is the last two months. I just wonder why, after 50 years of playing golf, it happened all at once. I think that is probably enough for a lifetime. My foursome was not playing well on the front 9 that day, and I suggested that we just quit and go have a cocktail. I’m certainly glad they didn’t listen to me!!!!”

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!

John Egan, 5/30/17, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #3 S, 140 yds, 9 Iron
Eric Dirk, 5/29/17, Meadow Lark CC, Hole #4, 133 yds, Pitching Wedge
Jan Quessenberry, 5/25/17 (#1), Eagle Bend GC, Hole #12, 124 yds, 3 Metal
Jan Quessenberry, 5/25/17 (#2), Eagle Bend GC, Hole #16, 101 yds, 7 Iron
Brandon Trust, 5/26/17, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #16 S, 125 yds, 9 Iron
Dave Streeter, 5/22/17, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #15 S, 159 yds, Clev. Hybrid 3i
Mike Spint, 5/10/17, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #15 N, 143 yds, 6 Iron
Robert Padilla, 9/26/15, Judith Shadows GC, Hole #13, 105 yds, Sand Wedge

Reflections From Boatwright Orientation

Lauren Hausauer, USGA Boatwright Intern

As the MSGA Boatwright Intern, I had the opportunity to travel to New Jersey to the USGA Boatwright Intern Orientation. This orientation was designed to train and equip interns from around the nation so that we can better serve our own state and regional golf associations.

The orientation was incredible and gave me the opportunity to network with other interns, learn information from the USGA, and share some of the successes of the MSGA with other organizations.

There were several speakers at the orientation who presented strategies to get more people involved in golf, especially juniors. I grew up playing in the MSGA Junior Golf Programs, and I am very passionate about finding ways to give back and introduce more juniors to golf. I spoke with Beth Major, the head of community outreach for the USGA, to get ideas for how ...Continued on the next page
the MSGA can promote junior golf. She was eager to speak with me and we discussed programs such as The First Tee, LPGA/USGA Girls Golf, PGA Junior League, Special Olympics, Youth on Course, and Drive, Chip, and Putt. All of these programs help introduce juniors to golf, help them learn golf rules and etiquette, and give them the opportunity to compete.

I also learned from the crew in charge of setting up the courses for USGA championships, such as the U.S. Open. I learned how to use course conditions, hole locations, and teeing grounds to ensure that the tournament is a complete and ultimate test of golf. I will share this information with the MSGA and we will consider how to make our own tournament courses the best that they can be.

In addition, they spoke about how they organize other tournament necessities such as volunteers, rules officials, player registration, player hospitality, and transportation. I am the captain of the Montana Girls Junior America Cup team, and the Montana team will be responsible for hosting the national tournament in 2020. Information from these speakers will be very helpful as I work with the MSGA to host the GJAC tournament.

At the Boatwright Orientation, I also had the opportunity to visit the USGA Testing Center and the USGA Museum. My favorite exhibit in the museum was the Arnold Palmer Center. The main display was “Gratitude,” a portrait by Jim Chase. From a distance, the portrait looks like a black and white drawing of Arnold Palmer. However, as you get closer, you can see that the portrait is made of words. Jim Chase, inspired by Arnold Palmer’s dedication to the game and great attitude, used facts and quotes from Palmer’s life to create his masterpiece. This portrait shows that playing the game of golf is so much more than the score on your scorecard.

I have played golf for as long as I can remember. My brother, Connor, got me hooked on the game. Through years of competing as an individual, for Bozeman High School, and for Montana State University, I learned how to set goals, be honest, and persevere through challenges.

Golf has given me incredible opportunities, and my goal as the MSGA’s Boatwright Intern is to give back to the game.

In 1991, the USGA established the P.J. Boatwright Jr. Internship Program. This program is designed to give experience to individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in golf administration, while assisting state and regional golf associations in the promotion of amateur golf, on a short-term, entry level basis.
**May Tournament Recap**

*Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director*

**Lake City Open (Polson Bay Golf Course)**

Recent college graduate and defending Montana State Amateur champion, Ryan Porch, cruised to a first-place finish in the professional division of the Lake City Open held at Polson Bay Golf Course. Porch, who recently turned professional after a standout collegiate career at the University of Idaho, was tied after day one with Ryan Malby following a round of 65. Porch backed up the seven-under-par performance with another 65 en route to a championship total of 130 (-14), six shots clear of runner-up Malby.

Jason Lehtola, Cory Prugh, and Polson Bay’s Director of Golf, Roger Wallace, tied for third place at 137. Jim Mee was just outside the top five, finishing sixth at 138. Billings West High School sensation Joey Moore captured the amateur championship with a two-day total of 132 (-12). Moore, who had the tournament’s low round with an opening 64, closed with 68. Steve Prugh took home low senior professional honors with a total of 146 (+2).

**U.S. Open Local Qualifier (Missoula Country Club)**

Fresh off his victory at the Lake City Open, Ryan Porch of Kalispell put a 64 (-7) on the board during local qualifying for the U.S. Open Championship at Missoula Country Club. Aaron Crawford of Canada also qualified thanks to a 68, and moves onto sectional qualifying. The two qualifiers are on a quest to play in the 2017 U.S. Open at Erin Hills.

Tyler Carlson of Clarkston, Washington, shot 69 and earned first alternate status. Mitchell Fox of Canada also posted 69 and was the second alternate. Thank you to Missoula Country Club for hosting the qualifier and to Helena’s Gerard Poore for volunteering and running the qualifier.

**Barnett Memorial (Missoula Country Club)**

Dirk Cloninger picked up a third Barnett Memorial Championship as the home course member bested Billings West standout Joey Moore on the first sudden-death playoff hole at the Missoula Country Club. After finding himself tied with Moore after three rounds, Cloninger, a veteran of the tournament sank a 10-foot birdie putt to earn his third victory at the Barnett – his first in 15 years (Cloninger won in 1992 and 2002).

Kalispell’s Logan Iverson, a recent graduate of Colorado State, took a four-stroke lead into Monday’s third and final round of the 54-hole event.

Cloninger was tied for eighth place, five strokes back, but some home course knowledge and a birdie-birdie finish gave Cloninger a final round 67 (-4) and eventually landed him in a tie for first. He opened with 68, struggled to 77 on day two, but rallied with his bogey-free 67 on day three for a total of 212. ...*Continued on the next page*
RECAP ... from previous page

Moore, Montana’s State AA champion last fall, started with 71, followed by 73, and closing with 68 to also arrive at one under for the tournament at 212. Bennett MacIntyre of Helena and Missoula’s Joe Johnston finished tied for third at 215 followed by Missoula’s Bob Hasquet at 216 good for fifth. For the men’s top 20, click here.

The women’s title went to Morgan O’Neil of Laurel. The Rocky Mountain College product fired rounds of 79-83-77 for a total of 233 to win by four strokes over the University of Montana’s Teigan Avery (237). Anna DeMars was third at 239, Jackie Mee came in fourth at 242, and Sydni Rose was fifth at 245. The men’s senior winner was Steve Bell and the women’s senior winner was Sheryl Alexander. For the women’s top finishers, click here.

Ben Graham Memorial
(Cabinet View Golf Course)

Libby’s brother and sister combo of Jim Mee and Jackie Mee were low scorers at the Ben Graham Memorial, with Jim taking home the professional trophy with a two-round total of 140 (-4). Jackie fired a 154 as an amateur. Kalispell’s Logan Lindholm claimed the amateur trophy with a one-over-par 145. Ryggs Johnston was low junior at 143.

State High School Golf Recap Class B & C
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Class B - Boys

Libby’s Ryggs Johnston set forth a goal of winning four state championships during his high school career. Two years in and the prep standout is half way home. The sophomore opened the State Class B championships in Shelby at Marias Valley Golf Course with an 11-under-par 61 and followed up with a 67 for a total of 128 (-16). Johnston, who already owned the all-class Montana record, bested his previous mark by three shots.

Despite the margin of victory, Missoula Loyola’s Bucky Crippen (71-71) turned in a solid performance that would have won during many previous seasons with 142 (-2), followed by Huntley Project’s Colton Hudson (69-74) in third, who also broke par with a 143 (-1). Peter Brown of Colstrip shot 146 (73-73) for fourth and Bryce Mocabee of Shepherd came in fifth with 149 (76-73).

Missoula Loyola took home the team championship maintaining their opening round lead and finishing with 642. Townsend pushed Loyola for the state trophy, finishing just three shots behind at 645 for second place, and Colstrip was one shot back of Townsend at 646, good for ...Continued on the next page
Class B - Girls
Missoula Loyola’s Kylie Esh was the winner on the girls side after shooting a stellar opening round 70, she closed with 76 for 146, to easily claim a state title. Esh’s teammate, Katie Fagg, took second with a total of 159 (83-76) and Shelby’s Skyler Martin came in third at 160 (83-77). Defending champion Tanna Campbell of Big Timber finished in fourth at 163 (84-79) and Sydney Rochford of Three Forks rounded out the top five with 164 (85-79).

The Three Forks girls successfully defended their state title with a score of 714. Shelby was second in 741 at their home course and Missoula Loyola was third with 757. The second round of play was postponed due to rain and severe weather. For results, click here.

Class C - Boys
With one hole remaining in each of their careers, Reed Wasson, of Harlowton, withstood a late flurry from McKinley Nicholas, of Seeley-Swan, to win the Class C state championship at Seeley Lake’s Double Arrow Golf Course. Nicholas, the defending champion, clawed back from two shots down with three to play to tie Wasson going into the final hole. Wasson finished in style with a birdie on the eighteenth hole and with it a state championship by virtue of his two-day score of 161 (81-80).

Nicholas claimed second at 162 (82-80) and last year’s runner-up Garret Woldstad, of Harlowton, finished third at 166 (80-86). Kyle Frye of Manhattan Christian was fourth at 169 (87-82) and McKinley’s younger brother Malachai Nicholas finished fifth at 171 (88-83). The Nicholas brothers helped Seeley-Swan to the state title with a team score of 514 over the two days. Manhattan Christian finished second (529) and Harlowton was third (534). For results, click here.

Class C - Girls
Sunburst’s Katara Ryan won the girls individual medal with a score of 192 (103-89), besting her first round performance by 14 shots. Ryan was Sunburst’s only participant in the tournament, two years removed from having won the team title. Ryan bested Great Falls Central’s Chelsey Schraner’s 197 (94-103) by five shots. Jillian Frye of Manhattan Christian came in third at 200 (104-96), followed by Hannah Schweitzer’s 209 of Belt (103-106), and Madisson Wasson of Harlowton’s 210 (111-99) rounded out the top five. Manhattan Christian easily won the girls team title with a score of 635, with Belt claiming second (679) and Chinook taking third (695). For results, click here.
COUNTRY CLUB OF DETROIT TO HOST 2020 U.S. SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Country Club of Detroit, in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, is the host site for the 66th U.S. Senior Amateur Championship. The club will host its third USGA championship, and its first since the 1954 U.S. Amateur, won by Arnold Palmer. The dates of the championship are Aug. 29-Sept. 3, 2020.

“The Country Club of Detroit and state of Michigan have always been supportive of amateur golf and the USGA is appreciative of this steadfast relationship,” said Stuart Francis, USGA Championship Committee chairman. “We are confident that a course where two U.S. Amateurs have been contested will provide a comprehensive examination as we identify the best senior amateur player.”

“The Country Club of Detroit has had a long and storied tradition in amateur golf, and it is a great honor to have been awarded the 2020 U.S. Senior Amateur Championship,” said Dainforth B. French Jr., club president. “We are excited and proud to showcase our wonderful club, which was founded more than a century ago, and a championship golf course, now restored to its original design, to a national audience.”

USGA ACCEPTS MORE THAN 2,600 ENTRIES FOR 38TH U.S. SENIOR OPEN CHAMP.

The USGA announced that it has accepted 2,680 entries for the 38th U.S. Senior Open Championship, scheduled for June 29-July 2, 2017 at Salem Country Club in Peabody, Massachusetts. Twelve past champions are among the 83 players who are currently fully exempt into the championship.

“We look forward to bringing the U.S. Senior Open Championship to Salem Country Club for the first time since 2001 and adding another chapter to the club’s storied history,” said Stuart Francis, USGA Championship Committee chairman. “The U.S. Senior Open is considered senior golf’s most coveted championship. The number of entries demonstrates the great interest in competing for the Francis D. Ouimet Memorial Trophy.”

The U.S. Senior Open is open to professional golfers, and amateurs with a Handicap Index not exceeding 3.4 who are 50 years of age at the start of championship play. The USGA accepted entries from golfers in 48 states, including 81 from Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, as well as 25 foreign countries. The record for entries was established in 2002, when 3,101 golfers applied to play.

CEDAR RAPIDS COUNTRY CLUB TO HOST 2019 U.S. SENIOR WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Country Club is the host site for the 58th U.S. Senior Women’s Amateur Championship. Scheduled for August 24-29, 2019, this will be the first USGA championship hosted in Cedar Rapids and the third in Iowa.

“The USGA is proud to add Cedar Rapids Country Club as a championship site and is excited to engage with the Cedar Rapids community for the first time,” said Stuart Francis, USGA Championship Committee chairman. “We’re confident the Donald Ross design will provide a comprehensive examination for competitors, and that the club will be a terrific host for the family, friends and fans who attend the 2019 U.S. Senior Women’s Amateur.”

“On behalf of all the members and staff at Cedar Rapids Country Club, I would like to thank the United States Golf Association for accepting our invitation to host the 2019 U.S. Senior Women’s Amateur Championship,” said Anne Parmley, club president. “We are honored to host this championship, and excited to share our recently restored Donald Ross golf course, club and friendly community with the world’s best senior female amateur golfers.”

First played in 1962, the U.S. Senior Women’s Amateur is open to female amateurs who reach their 50th birthday on or before the first day of the championship, and have a Handicap Index not exceeding 18.4.

Want to see something in the newsletter? Contact Nick Dietzen at: nick@msgagolf.org (406) 459-3459

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE