



Rock Creek Cattle Company

MSGA Newsletter

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April/May 2014

April/May Tournaments

April 19

2 Person Scramble
Bridger Creek GC (Bozeman)

April 19

Skip Koprivica HS Fundraiser
Missoula CC (Missoula)

April 21

PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
Mission Mountain GC (Ronan)

April 26

Casa Scramble
Polson Bay GC (Polson)

April 26

High School – Varsity
Stillwater GC (Columbus)

April 28

PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
Hamilton GC (Hamilton)

April 28

RMSPGA (YC) Pro Am
Eaglerock GC (Billings)

May 2

Missoula Chamber Tournament
Missoula CC (Missoula)

May 2-4

Lake City Open
Polson Bay GC (Polson)

May 3

4 Person Scramble
Stillwater GC (Columbus)

May 3

D.O.T.
Trestle Creek GC (St. Regis)

May 3

Early Bird Tournament
Cottonwood CC (Glendive)

May 3

May Day Tournament
Forsyth CC (Forsyth)

May 3

Plentywood School Meet
Plentywood GC (Plentywood)

May 3-4

Cherry Blossom Scramble
Eagle Bend GC (Big Fork)

May 4

4 Person Scramble
Bridger Creek GC (Bozeman)

May 4

EMS, Fire, and Police
Trestle Creek GC (St. Regis)

May 5

PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
Whitefish Lake GC (Whitefish)

May 5

RMSPGA (YC) Pro Am
Laurel GC (Laurel)

May 9

Westby School Meet
Plentywood GC (Plentywood)

May 10-11

Dick Seddon Memorial Scramble
Buffalo Hill GC (Kalispell)

May 11

Mother's Day Tournament
Missoula CC (Missoula)

May 12

PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am
Eagle Bend GC (Big Fork)

May 12

RMSPGA (YC) Pro Am
Yellowstone CC (Billings)

Into The Swing of Things

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director



Springtime in Montana is a microcosm of golf in the Big Sky State. On a year-to-year basis, different holidays can act as

a benchmark for the new season. Are we lucky enough for some St. Patrick's Day golf? Is the hunt for your golf ball coinciding with Easter, or are you waiting until Memorial Day to leave the rain gear and cold weather gear in the trunk? While certain parts of the state have surely enjoyed an earlier start than others, the MSGA is excited to begin the season with you.

Our goal is to serve the game, our members, and the great courses we have the opportunity to play. This year as you regain your form, take the

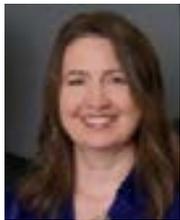
time to better acquaint yourself with the MSGA, its mission, and news on all things golf in this great state. The intent of this newsletter, in conjunction with our website and upcoming social media platforms, is to keep each and every member of the MSGA updated on upcoming tournaments, events, and news, and provide you a forum to help us grow the game in the state of Montana. We also want to provide you, the member, with exceptional opportunities and experiences.

Please take the time to provide us some feedback in the coming months as to what you like and what we are missing. Stay connected via our website, Twitter, and Facebook. Don't forget to renew your handicaps for 2014 and get out and enjoy the game, whenever your season begins.

<u>May 13</u> US Open Qualifier Missoula CC (Missoula)	<u>May 17-18</u> Ben Graham Memorial Cabinet View GC (Libby)	<u>May 25-26</u> Lake Hills Memorial Day Open Lake Hills (Billings)
<u>May 13-14</u> Senior Sports and Arts Festival Lake Hills (Billings)	<u>May 17-18</u> Farmers Insurance Senior Open Polson Bay GC (Polson)	<u>May 26</u> Yellowstone Motors Memorial Day Livingston GC (Livingston)
<u>May 14</u> Griz Tournament Signal Point GC (Fort Benton)	<u>May 19</u> PNWPGA (WMC) Pro-Am Bill Roberts GC (Helena)	<u>May 30</u> 5th Ann. Lake Hills / Alberta Bair Classic Lake Hills (Billings)
<u>May 16</u> Bird & Birdies Eaglerock GC (Billings)	<u>May 23</u> Oilfield Tournament Plentywood GC (Plentywood)	<u>May 30-June 2</u> Montana State Match Play Champ. Green Meadow CC (Helena)
<u>May 16</u> RMSPGA (YC) Ladies Pro Am Briarwood (Billings)	<u>May 24</u> Bad Pants 2 Person Scramble Indian Springs Ranch GC (Eureka)	<u>May 31</u> Cole's Western Wishes Eaglerock GC (Billings)
<u>May 16</u> Griz Scramble Mission Mountain GC (Ronan)	<u>May 24-25</u> Highland View Memorial Tournament Highland View GC (Butte)	<u>May 31</u> Juice Plus Two Person Best Ball Forsyth CC (Forsyth)
<u>May 16</u> The First Tee Open Lake Hills (Billings)	<u>May 24-25</u> Memorial 3 Person Scramble Cottonwood CC (Glendive)	<u>May 31</u> The Deck Four Person Scramble Pine Ridge GC (Roundup)
<u>May 17</u> A, B, C, D Scramble (Members Only) Missoula CC (Missoula)	<u>May 24-26</u> Barnett Memorial Tournament Missoula CC (Missoula)	<u>May 31</u> Trestle Creek Open Trestle Creek GC (St. Regis)
<u>May 17</u> Spring Kickoff Old Works GC (Anaconda)	<u>May 25</u> Memorial Day Par 3 Forsyth CC (Forsyth)	<u>May 31-June 1</u> PNW Junior PGA Championship Lake Spanaway GC (Tacoma, WA)

You Want My What?

Emily Hulsey, MTS Services, Handicapping and Website Coordinator



Have you posted a score at the golf course this season? You may have noticed a new pop-up screen requesting your current e-mail address. The MSGA is collecting e-mail addresses in an effort to provide and notify you of future member benefits. By default, your login information for the online handicap system and MSGA smartphone app will be e-mailed to you. Your e-mail will only be used for Association business, and not shared with third-party vendors.

To take advantage of the digital tools for posting scores, first log in to the online handicap system via the MSGA website (www.msgagolf.org), at the top right of the screen. Be sure to enable your free subscription to Digital Golf World. Then, update your Profile with your contact information. It's fun to post scores from home, view your score record, print your card, and even message other members.

If you post scores "hole by hole", you can use the Game Tracker and view statistics about how you're playing.

After you've set up your account online, you can use the same login for the MSGA smartphone app. The app can be found in the Apple and Android stores by searching "MSGAGOLF". Have you had a chance to use it yet? It's a handy tool to post scores on the go... even while you play! It defaults to "hole by hole" posting, but if you want to post a gross adjusted score instead, here's what you do: From the main menu, under Settings, change it to "Quickpost". You can also search for courses near your location and use it for peer review.

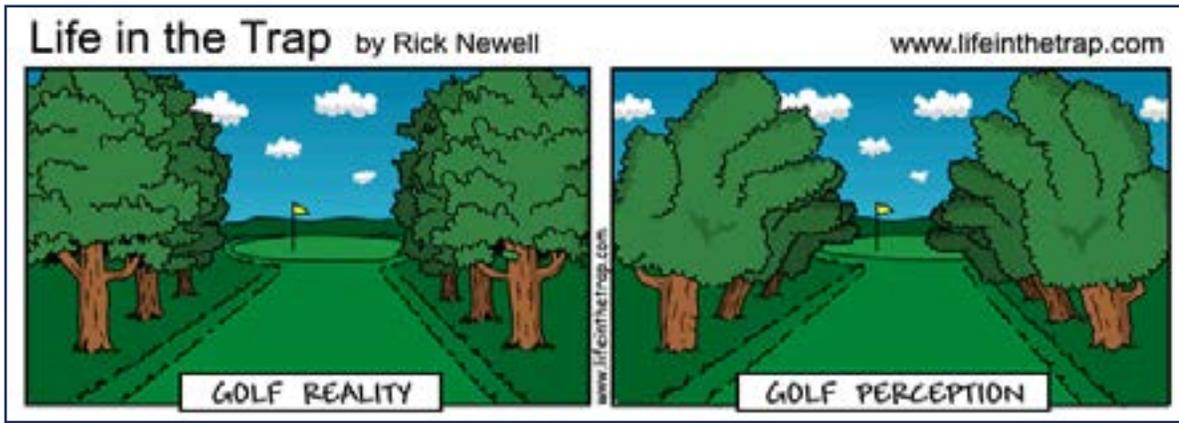
Have fun this season!

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

Support Junior Golf



The MSGA and MSWGA have sponsored a specialty license plate to benefit the game of golf in Montana. The majority of proceeds from this fundraiser are used in support of Junior Golf. The initial fee is \$40, with a \$20 renewal fee each following year. Plates can be obtained through your County Treasurer.



MSGA
Smartphone APP
"MSGAGOLF"



Golfing With Geise

George Geise, MSGA Vice President and retired sports editor for the Great Falls Tribune



In early April, on a typically cold and windy day in Great Falls, I was delighted to witness a hole-in-one by one of my best buddies, Monty Kuka.

Unlike many of the 17 aces I have seen, this one was pure, a towering 8-iron shot that carried 145 yards and rolled about 10 feet into the cup on No. 4 at Meadow Lark Country Club.

It was quite an historic occasion, since it happened to be the first ace for Monty, who is still a strong player who carries a 3 handicap at the age of 68.

Two days later, I was sitting at home watching the Drive Chip & Putt Competition on the Golf Channel, waiting for the weather to reach 40 degrees so I could get back on the golf course. The DC&P event is a new skills competition sponsored by PGA of America and the Augusta National Golf Club, and allows kids aged 7 to 15 to play the same venue used for the Masters tournament.

The Golf Channel announcers were giving biographical information about many of the kids who had qualified for the finals, and it was mentioned that one of the girls, Karah Sanford, recently had recorded a hole-in-one.

It happened to be the ninth ace for Karah, who is 11 years old. Oh yeah, she also carries a 3 handicap.

Is this a great game, or what?

I've been playing golf for six decades, and it never ceases to amaze me how some people seem to score aces almost by accident, while others literally can't buy their way into the Hole-In-One Club. If you've played the game for any length of time, you probably know three or four guys who can't break 100, but have carded four or five aces in their lifetime.

And you probably also know two or three golfers who have been outstanding players for many years, but are still waiting for that first tee shot to drop into the cup. My twin brother John, who lives in Wisconsin, falls into the latter category. He's played golf since he was 10, has been a city champion or club champion seven or eight times, and still plays at least 100 rounds per year. Yet he's never posted any number lower than a "2" on his scorecard.

I was playing with John and my younger brother Tom this winter in Alabama when we (almost) experienced one of the most exciting golf events of our lives. The fourth member of our group, Len Faralli, is a close

friend with whom we have shared hundreds of golfing rounds over the years. We have a standing bet that whoever gets an ace when we're playing together, the other three will fork over 25 bucks and the hole-in-one maker will pick up the tab. (Trust me, \$75 would never cover the bill.)

That day in February, we were playing at the Peninsula Club, one of our favorite courses in Gulf Shores, Ala. It was raining and the temperature was about 40 degrees, so Len chose a driver to tee off on a 190-yard par-3 hole. He lashed his patented low slice at the green, and the ball landed about 40 feet from the pin and rolled straight for the hole. We all heard the ball strike the pin, and we all jumped into the air and started celebrating the occasion with high-5s.

Unfortunately, when we arrived at the green we discovered that the ball had caromed off the flagstick and rolled about three feet away from the hole. Naturally, Len missed the birdie putt (after all, he was my partner) and our spirits dropped considerably.

The moral of the story, I guess, is that you don't count your aces until you've picked them out of the hole.

But what fun would that be?

Rules Talk – Rules Myths To Bust

Mary Bryson, MSWGA Board Member and Rules Enthusiast



The “Line of Flight” rule.

I’m sure you’ve all heard the phrase, but let’s unpack what it really is all about.

Here’s an example: My second shot wanders off into the brush on the right side of the hole. I find my ball, but cannot play it out of the brush – it’s “unplayable.”

The “Line of Flight” rule allows me to drop another ball along the path my ball took to reach the brush. Seems reasonable to me.

You’ve also heard the “Line of Flight” rule used in a similar situation, only in this scenario, you were not so lucky, you didn’t find your ball - it was “lost.” Using the “Line of Flight” rule, I drop a new ball along the path, take a penalty stroke and continue to play the hole.

STOP: This “line of flight” rule, is not a rule, but a myth. It doesn’t exist in these circumstances in the Rules of Golf. The Rules do provide us with some guidance in these types of situations. Rule #28, relates to a ball that is deemed “unplayable.” The rule provides us with three options:

1) Once we find our ball, we can drop our ball within two club-lengths (probably using your longest club to measure) of the spot where the ball lay, no nearer to the hole,

and apply a one-stroke penalty, and play the ball from that position.

2) If we determine that option will not work, we can drop our ball along a path that keeps the spot where our ball lies between us and the hole. We can go back as far as we like (not limited to two club lengths for this option), as long as we keep that point between us and the hole. We apply the one-stroke penalty and continue playing the hole.

3) Finally, we can always go back to the point where we originally hit our errant shot from. We also take a one-stroke penalty, but in this option we have also lost distance. (This is affectionately referred to as the stroke and distance provision in the Rules). In any case, this is always an option available to us under the Rules of Golf.

For a “lost” ball, Rule #27 helps us to determine what to do. The Rule basically provides the “stroke and distance” penalty. If a ball is deemed “lost” we must play another ball from the point as near as possible to the point where the original ball was last played. We also add a one stroke penalty.

As much as I like the sound of the “Line of Flight” rule in an unplayable lie or lost ball situation, I know it’s time to bust that myth.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What is Montana’s official golf season?

The official Golf Season for the Montana State Golf Association runs from April 1 to October 31. Scores played in Montana during the off-season are shown in red (if posted) and not calculated in the official handicap index.

Can I link my out-of-state membership to my MSGA membership?

Yes. The MSGA can link to most associations via the International Golf Network (IGN). Use the CONTACT form for your request, and be sure to include your name, Association, and Member # you are linking to. Once linked, scores posted at either location will be routed back to the other membership.

What is the difference between my Trend and Official Handicap Index?

Your Trend Index is simply a running calculation of your Handicap Index between revisions. Because your Trend can potentially change after each score is posted, it is a useful tool to indicate the trend of your golfing game. However, it is not an official number. At the time of the next handicap revision (on the 1st and 15th of each month), your Trend Index becomes your Official Handicap Index.

TO VIEW OTHER QUESTIONS, GO TO WWW.MSGAGOLF.ORG

MSGA News and Notes

Meet 2014 P.J. Boatwright Jr. Intern, Kara Osterback



In 1991, the United States Golf Association 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.

The MSGA Boatwright Intern for this upcoming season is Kara Osterback!

Kara hails from Spokane, WA and graduated from Mt Spokane High School. Currently a junior at Carroll College, Kara is double majoring in Computer Science and Computer Information Systems. In addition to her studies, Kara is a member of the Carroll College Women's Golf Team. Golf is definitely a family affair in the Osterback family. Kara's father, brother, and sister all play golf. Kara caught the golfing bug early and looks forward to a lifetime around the game. Kara will be a vital member of the MSGA staff. You can contact Kara at karaosterback@gmail.com.



Montana State Match Play Returns to Green Meadow CC

After a five-year absence, the Montana State Match Play event returned. The latest edition, held at Green Meadow Country Club was captured by Spencer Williams of Great Falls.

Non-profit proceeds benefit Special Olympics Montana.

The tournament takes place May 30-June 2. Bracketed format, top-32 players advance after stroke-play, single elimination, 36-holes each day. You must be an Amateur, have a USGA Handicap under 14, & be MT resident. There is a \$95 Entry Fee, which includes a BBQ and guaranteed 18 holes.

For more information or to sign up, <http://www.carroll.edu/athletics/golf/state.cc>, or call Ben MacIntyre at (406) 475-0660.



Nick Dietzen joins MSGA as Communications Director

Another new face working with the MSGA this season is Helena native Nick Dietzen.

Nick will act as editor of the MSGA newsletter and coordinate all communications online via social media Twitter and Facebook to keep members updated of news, tournaments and other exciting playing opportunities.



Nick grew up playing golf in Helena and holds a degree in Public Relations and Journalism from USC. Currently, Nick works in the Athletic Department at Carroll College as the Sports Information Director. Nick spent one year as a Boatwright Intern for the Minnesota Golf Association and is excited to help grow the game in his home state.

Nick wants members connected and welcomes feedback and suggestions. Do you have an event scheduled or a news item to pass along? Contact him at: ndietzen@gmail.com.

Do you want something in the newsletter?

Contact Nick Dietzen at:
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