



# MSGA Newsletter

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September/October 2014 - Volume 4, Issue 6

## October Tournaments

October 4

Ironman Open  
Big Sky GC (Big Sky)

October 4

Ironman Open  
Eaglerock GC (Billings)

October 4

Oktoberfest  
Livingston GC (Livingston)

October 4

Oktoberfest  
Old Works GC (Anaconda)

October 4

World's Hardest  
Eagle Bend GC (Big Fork)

October 5

MCC Toughest Golf Course Scramble  
Missoula CC (Missoula)

October 5

World's Toughest GC  
Polson Bay GC (Polson)

October 12

Iron Man  
Bridger Creek GC (Bozeman)

October 12

NFL Tailgate  
Old Works GC (Anaconda)

October 18

Clean Out the Cooler  
Livingston GC (Livingston)

## Winding Down the Golf Season in Montana

Emily Hulsey, MTS Services, Handicapping and Website Coordinator



Does it seem to anyone else that the 2014 season flew by? October 31st marks the end of Montana's official golf season. If the weather cooperates, and you can still get a few rounds in late Fall or early Spring, just remember that these are *unofficial* scores and shouldn't be posted to your record. If you forget and post them anyway, that's okay... they'll show in red and not count toward the official handicap calculation. Think of them as practice rounds!

What if you fly to coop this winter to seek out suitable golfing weather? If the Association where you play is in its official season, **your score counts!** Make sure you post it to your Montana record. You can do this a couple of ways.

GET ONLINE! If you haven't gotten an MSGA login yet, do it! You'll be glad you did! The system is user friendly (even for those "computer illiterate" among us) and is accessible from anywhere with an internet connection. You can post your scores, monitor your record, and even track your game stats. Once your account is set up ([www.msgagolf.org](http://www.msgagolf.org)), you can use the same login for the MSGA SMARTPHONE APP and to register for the vTOUR next season. Online members also receive bi-monthly e-mail revisions and a free subscription to digital Golf World. If you need help getting set up, we'd be glad to assist you.

LINK YOUR MEMBERSHIPS! Do you belong to another Association out of state? Great! We can link your Montana membership with one or multiple memberships. When you post a score there, it will route back here, and vice versa. This keeps both of your records in sync and you only have to post your score once! This ensures an accurate score record and handicap. Ask your home course for details.

Handicap revisions continue every 2 weeks during the off-season to accommodate those playing out-of-state. And, don't forget... even when the golf shops are closed this winter, I'm always available if you have questions or need help.

The 2015 season starts up on April 1st.

Look for more tips and information each month! You can contact Emily at [golf@montana.net](mailto:golf@montana.net).



### 2014 Season Winners

#### GRAND PRIZES

Doug Cuffe, Kathy Siegfried  
Jim Cancroft, Carole Herron  
Tim Doll, Melissa Anderson

#### RANDOM PARTICIPATION PRIZES

Billy Blackford, Vicki Berg  
Alex Lindstrom, Nancy Dimeola  
Pavel Danuta, Julia Jones  
Robin Allen, Joan Perry  
Rick Gonzalez, Harriet Reynolds  
Bob Anderson, Brenda Kirby

Registration for the next vTour Series begins April 2015... FOR A CHANCE TO WIN MORE GREAT PRIZES!

## MSGA Online Store



PROMO Code: MSGA1917  
10% OFF



## Know Your USGA Tournaments: State Team Championship

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director



This year, Montana was represented at several of the most prestigious USGA events -- like the U.S. Open, U.S. Amateur, and U.S. Women's Open. The USGA's championship schedule stretches beyond the well-publicized events and those seen on your television sets during the summer.

Great excitement and endless coverage is just days away with preparation for the Ryder Cup (Gleneagles, Scotland) on September 23-28. But, just two days following the preeminent team golf event, is a lesser known, but important USGA Championship, the State Team Championship, in which every state (along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) is represented by a team of three players to compete for bragging rights as the best team in the country.

This year marks the 11th edition of the Men's State Team Championship, and representing the Treasure State are: Ross Bartell (Great Falls), Brian Beach (Missoula), and Jim Bob Coleman (Billings). Coleman replaces Spencer Williams (East Helena) who was unable to attend this year, but finished second in the points list. Participants were selected based on points earned via events played Aug. 1, 2012 through July 31, 2014.



French Lick Resort, 2014 Host

These standouts will look to make birdies in the hometown of Larry Bird (French Lick, Indiana) at the Pete Dye Course at French Lick Resort.

"The Men's State Team Championship demonstrates the camaraderie and pure enjoyment drawn from this game we all love," said Thomas J. O'Toole Jr., USGA Vice President and Championship Committee Chairman. "We are very happy to bring a USGA championship to the French Lick Resort and are confident that the Pete Dye Course will provide a challenge for the championship participants."

The resort, in addition to the Dye course, boasts an impressive Donald Ross designed course. The two courses hosted the 2010 PGA Professional National Championship; the Pete Dye Course also will act as host to the LPGA Legends Tour Championship and the 2015 Senior PGA Championship.

The format of the championship is 54 holes of stroke play, 18 holes each of the three days. The total of the two lowest scores by players on each team constitutes the team score for the round. The three-day total is the team's score for the championship.

In 2012, Montana placed 44th with a score of 469 (average round: 78.2) at Galloway National Golf Club (New Jersey). Ben Leestma (Great Falls), Jerry Pearsall (Billings), and Nathan Bailey (Laurer) made up the 2012 team. Leestma's second round, 75, was the best round of the weekend on the team. New York captured the 2012 championship with a total of 428 (71.3 round average). In 1999, Montana's top finish was T29.

The USGA Men's and Women's State Team Championships grew out of the celebration of the USGA centennial in 1995. The success of the event and enjoyment of the players, and pride in representing their respective states, led to the event having been retained and held biennially ever since. State associations may use any criteria of their choosing in selecting their teams, which comprise three amateur, non-college golfers.

Next year, Dalhousie Golf Club in Cape Girardeau, Mo. will host the USGA Women's State Team Championships on September 10-12.

**The MSGA will have updates on the Montana teams results during the tournament. Follow the MSGA on Twitter (@406golf) and Like us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/msgagolf>) to stay connected.**



Ross Bartell  
(Photo by Al Baldaras)



Jim Bob Coleman  
(Photo by David Grubbs)



Brian Beach  
(Photo by Arthur Mouratdis)

## MSGA Summer Season Recap

George Geise, MSGA Board Member



Before the calendar turns another page and the Summer of 2014 becomes a fading memory, it's time for Montana golf fans to reflect on one of the most significant seasons in the history of our sport. After all, this was the year when one of our best and brightest players competed at the United States Open, the biggest golf tournament on our continent. And this also was the summer when two of our young stars played at the U.S. Amateur.

Brandon McIver of Billings, of course, was involved in both historic achievements. The 20-year-old University of Oregon junior, fresh off a strong performance at the NCAA Championships in May, qualified for the U.S. Open in June at Pinehurst No. 2, becoming the first Treasure State amateur in several decades to play in that prestigious event. McIver and 19-year-old Tom Swanson of Missoula also competed at the U.S. Amateur at the Atlanta Golf Club in August, with McIver making the 64-man cut after 36 holes, and then winning a first-round match. They finished 1-2 at the State Amateur in Whitefish in July, with McIver repeating as state champion as the MSGA shortened the medal-play event from 72 to 54 holes. Then those talented players led the amateur team to a resounding victory over the professionals a week later at the Montana Cup matches at Meadow Lark Country Club in Great Falls.

This summer also saw young Kyla Clancy of Park City win her first Women's State Amateur title at Yellowstone CC in Billings. Clancy, who competes at Rocky Mountain College in the Magic City, has been a fine junior player here for many years. State fans also applauded as popular Helena veteran Parker Heller finally won a major championship, going wire-to-wire to claim the State Mid-Amateur title in August at Butte Country Club.

This summer marked the 20th anniversary of what was Montana's most influential year on the national golf scene. The Treasure State has played host to only two USGA tournaments in the past century, and both of those national events were played the same week in July of 1994.

The 46th annual USGA Girls' Junior tournament was played at Meadow Lark CC two decades ago. The event, for females 17 and under, attracted more than 150 players from all over the U.S. and several foreign countries. Several of the girls who competed in the Electric City that week are still active in the pro ranks, including Cristie Kerr, who has won 16 tournaments and more than \$13 million in prize money on the LPGA Tour. Kerr was a 16-year-old high school phenom from Miami in 1994, and she finished third in the 36-hole qualifying portion of the tourney. The national champion that week was Kelli Kuehne of Texas, who went on to play a few seasons on the LPGA Tour, but without much success.

That same week over in Bigfork, the U.S. Amateur Public Links tourney was contested at Eagle Bend Golf Club. The champion of the weeklong event was long shot Guy Yamamoto of Hawaii, who won the Publinx title in his 11th attempt. The opponent Yamamoto beat in the finals was Chris Riley, who went on to a fairly successful career on the PGA Tour, including three Masters appearances. Perhaps the most recognizable names to appear at the tourney were Notah Begay and Matt Gogel. Both men played the PGA Tour for a few years,

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## Montana School Roundup

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

With temperatures beginning to drop, many competitive golfers are still hard at work hoping that their scores will in turn keep falling.

While most tournament golf wraps up around Labor Day, Montana State AA and A high school golfers begin their respective seasons before school begins in mid-August and play into October.

Fourteen Class AA schools will head to Bozeman Oct. 2-3, and after divisionals, remaining Class A schools head to Hamilton for their state tournament.

### CLASS AA

At the Great Falls Invitational, on the girls' side, Shealyn Hafer of Butte and Teigan Avery of Glacier each tied for first, shooting 76-75. Great Falls High edged Billings West by three shots, shooting a 715.



Easton Enott  
(Photo by Larry Mayer)

On the men's side, CM Russell's Easton Enott's 69-71, 140 bested Billings West's Joey Moore by two shots (70-72, 142). CMR's team total of 600 (299-301), was one shot better than Billings West (302-299).

Much like in the Electric City, the host's schools from Helena took advantage of their familiar surroundings at the Helena Invitational. On the girls' side, Helena High finished first with a team

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### Support Junior Golf!

Proceeds from MSGA Specialty Plates are used to help support Junior Golf Programs and Tournaments in Montana.

## SUMMER RECAP...continued from previous page

but have become more familiar to fans as reporters for the Golf Channel.

Montana was able to land two national tournaments mostly because of the influence of Paul Caruso Jr., the Helena banker and golf advocate who served at the time on the USGA board of directors. Caruso and fellow board member Ron Reed of California, had examined Meadow Lark CC several times and convinced the USGA that the course would be a suitable host for the girls' event. The 1994 Public Links tourney originally was scheduled to be played in Hawaii, but a hurricane forced a switch, and Eagle Bend was chosen as a replacement site.

Caruso no longer is a USGA director, and it's no coincidence that Montana hasn't hosted a national event over the past 20 years. But with relatively new courses such as Old Works in Anaconda, The Wilderness Club in Eureka, and Rock Creek Cattle Company in Deer Lodge gaining national acclaim, the state certainly is capable of handling major events in the future.

*Geise is a retired sports editor of the Great Falls Tribune who serves on the board of the Montana State Golf Association. He can be contacted at ggeise14@gmail.com.*

## A Look Back: My Summer With The MSGA

*Kara Osterback, MSGA Boatwright Intern*



This summer was very educational. After my trip to Golf House and learning about the USGA, I was lucky to work many tournaments around the state. The best part of this internship was to be out on a golf course. I worked the State Juniors in Laurel, the Men's State Amateur in Whitefish, and the Men's Mid Amateur in Butte. I loved every minute I was out on the course! It was truly a privilege to spend so much time on the beautiful golf courses of Montana.

I am originally from Washington, so before I started at Carroll, I had never played a course in Montana. During the three years I have played golf at Carroll, I was fortunate to play a lot of wonderful courses and it was an awesome experience to see even more this summer. Montana's courses truly exemplify the Big Sky Country that the U.S. knows Montana for.

Probably my favorite course to visit this summer was Whitefish Lake Golf Course. It is so beautiful up in Whitefish and I can definitely see why people love to go up to that area either for skiing or golfing. The Men's State Amateur was a lot of fun to work. During all three of the rounds, I moved around the course, but I spent a lot of the time on the 13th tee of the North Course. Out of all of the holes that is definitely the prettiest and most memorable for me.

I was also able to meet a lot of the members of the MSGA as well as the great volunteers, board members and staff of Whitefish Golf Course while in Whitefish. For weeks I had just seen the names of the board members and players and I finally got to put some faces to the names. There are so many amazing people who are passionate about golf in Montana.

I graduate this spring from Carroll and, after being a Boatwright Intern, I now have a better understanding and experience of what a career in golf administration would be like. That's the goal of the Internship and I am thankful that the USGA and MSGA have this exceptional program!

## SCHOOL ROUNDUP

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total of 739 (373-366), besting Missoula Hellgate by 14 shots. Teigan Avery was medalist with a total of 159.

On the men's side, Capital High's team total of 596 (297-299) was six better than Glacier's. Ryan Keenan of Flathead was the low man with a 138, Tevin Lewis of Capital High was second at 141. Both players were under par for the event (143).

In Missoula, Capital High also was victorious in boys' action with a team total of 616, 14 shots ahead of Glacier. Capital's Lewis earned the individual title with a 147, thanks to a scorecard playoff over Keenan who also fired a 147.

For the girls, Hellgate was victorious at 724, edging out Glacier at 726. Coral Schulz of Whitefish and her 74-77, 151 outdid Glacier's Avery (73-81, 154) to earn her second consecutive title at the Missoula Invite. Last season, Schulz who was attending Capital High School won as a sophomore.

At the Butte Invitational, Hannah Zwemke (Billings West) won by four



*Coral Schulz, Pete Dye GC in Bridgeport, West Virginia (Photo by Darcy Schultz)*

shots with a 161 in leading the Golden Bears to the girls' team title.

Enott of CMR picked up another victory at 141, three better than Sean Benson of Billings Senior. The Rustlers' 614 was tops, with Senior not far behind at 616 and Billings West at 617.

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## **SCHOOL ROUNDUP**...continued from previous page

### **NAIA – FRONTIER CONFERENCE**

At the Frontier Conference, school is in session for the respective NAIA institutions and the conference schedule that overlaps spring and fall seasons kicked off Sept. 8-9 in Butte, for the Montana Tech Invitational hosted by Butte Country Club.



*Have you picked up your MSGA poker chip yet? They are free to all MSGA members and available at your home course Pro Shop.*

On the men's side, like all conference events, day one is a 36-hole endeavor and day two is an 18-hole round. Rocky Mountain College's Daniel Thompsett and Cam Howe of Westminster College tied for first with a three-over-par 213 for the three rounds. Chris Lien (Lewis-Clark State) was one shot back in third at 214, followed by Nick Smart (Westminster) in fourth at +6, Colin Gunstream (Carroll College) rounded out the top-five at +9. Westminster finished first on the team front, with an 873, one shot clear of Lewis-Clark State (LCSC).

On the women's side, a new change has the women playing 18 holes for both the first and second rounds. Mari Hutsi of Westminster took home medalist honors with a two-day total of 147 (+5). She bested Montana State Women's Amateur Champion, Kyla Clancy of Rocky Mountain College by six shots. Erin Tabish (Westminster) came in third (157), Jackie Mee (Carroll College) finished in fourth (162) and there was a three-way tie for fifth place: McKenzie Webinger (Rocky), Ashley Dechant (Westminster) and Kayla Monroe (LCSC). Westminster also took home team honors for the women's side 645, an impressive 20 shots better than Lewis-Clark State.

Up next, is the Rocky Mountain College Invitational in Billings (Sept. 21-22) followed by the University of Great Falls Invitational (Oct. 6-7) before the winter break with conference play resuming in April 2015.

### **NCAA – Division I (Big Sky Conference)**

Both the University of Montana and Montana State Women's Golf programs have started off the season. Both teams competed in the Hobble Creek Invitational (Springville City, Utah). The final round was cancelled due to significant rain left the course unplayable.



*Alexa Schendelman  
(Photo by UM Sports Information)*

The Bobcats tied for fifth place with Southern Utah, with rounds of 306 and 303. Kati Greear's rounds of 73-73 put her in sixth place when play was cancelled. Three Forks native, Hayle Folkvord (78-76) tied for 30th and Bozeman's Lauren Hausauer (79-80) was 48th.

The Grizzlies finished in seventh (out of 12 teams) with team rounds of 314 and 296. Senior Tara Green was the top finisher with rounds of 78-73, good for 19th overall. Montana was competing without sophomore Barbora Bakova, who was competing for the Czech Republic National Team in Japan at the World Amateur Team Championships.

In their second tournament of the season, at the Oregon State Invite, Montana sophomore Alexa Schendelman, was the Grizzlies' top finisher and as result, named the Big Sky Conference Co-Golfer of the Week. Schendelman tied for fifth at 4-over-par at the Oregon State Invitational, which was played at the Trysting Tree Golf Club in Corvallis, Ore. The Grizzlies finished sixth, with a team-total of 903. It was the second-lowest 54-hole score in program history. Schendelman shot rounds of 73, 73 and 74 on the familiar par-72, 6283-yard Trysting Tree course. She spent one season on the Oregon State golf team before transferring to Montana.

Up next for the Grizzlies and Bobcats, is the Washington State Cougar Cup in Pullman, Washington.

### **NCAA – Division II (GNAC)**

The Yellowjackets of Montana State University-Billings are set to kick things off with the women's team on the road in September for the Colorado Christian Invite (Sept. 16), followed by the Western New Mexico Invitational (Sept. 22-23) and the Colorado Mesa Invitational (Sept. 29-30). Finally, MSU-B gets to host their fall invitational at Pryor Creek Golf Course October 2-3 before winter begins in earnest.

**Do you want something in the newsletter?**  
Contact Nick Dietzen at:  
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(406) 459-3459

The Yellowjackets men's team heads to Washington for the Saint Martin's University Invite (Sept. 19-20) followed by the Western Washington Invitational (Sept. 22-23). The MSU-B men will also be at Pryor Creek for the fall invite Oct. 2-3.