



NEWSLINKS

A publication of the Arizona Women's Golf Association | Dedicated to promoting Golf for Women in Arizona



Spotlight: The Best of the Best Lauren Weaver wins 2009 State Amateur Stroke Play Championship

The competition was tough as it usually is in AWGA State Championships but 18 year old Lauren Weaver played with skill and determination to win the coveted title of State Stroke Play Champion. Two time past champion, Kerry Postillion, was only two strokes behind Lauren going into the final round. Lauren took the lead on the last day and held it to the end winning by seven strokes.

Lauren was positively on her game this summer placing high in two AJGA tournaments in July. She finished 3rd in the Nationwide Junior and 5th in the

PING Phoenix Junior. In just a few weeks, she will be heading to Illinois to Northwestern University where she was offered a full scholarship for golf. "I plan to play on Northwestern's women's golf team while I'm in college," Lauren said. "I'm majoring in Biology and plan to go into Pre-Med. I hope to go to Med School but will make that decision and evaluate my golf potential after I graduate."

A golfer since she was 5 years old, Lauren moved to Scottsdale when she was in 8th grade and quickly joined the JGAA. She played in many junior tournaments through the years in Arizona and nationally and joined the AWGA in 2007 at 16. The 2009 State Amateur Stroke Play Championship was the first AWGA tournament Lauren entered.

Congratulations, Lauren, for a stellar performance at Legend Trail. Our best wishes go with you to Northwestern!

- Spotlight: Best of the Best 1
- AWGA Course Rating 1
- State Amateur Results 3
- New Course Ratings 3
- National Senior Games 3
- Rules 4
- Tournament Schedule 4
- AWGA Events 4
- Aces 4
- Equipment 6
- Technique 6

AWGA Course Rating Committee

By Mary Ann Souter

What do the volunteers on the AWGA Course Rating Committee do? Melanie Bridges, Committee Chair, is eager to disclose their duties. When speaking with her, it's easy to tell she is passionate about both the complexity and the enjoyment of rating courses. She and her team are charged with the task of developing USGA Course Ratings and Slope Ratings so that women can take their handicap and go from course to course to be on an equal basis with other players. In short, they determine the difficulty of the course by evaluating every detail that a player will encounter, applying a numerical value to each obstacle on every hole and coming up with the USGA Course and Slope Rating. A team completes each hole's evaluation in a way that gives the team a complete picture of all the obstacles present.

Help us reach more women golfers.... when you're finished reading this newsletter, pass it along to a friend.

continued on page two

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Jane Ross - Elephant Rocks Women's Club

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AWGA STAFF

Mary Pomroy

Executive Director

Jody Chandonnet

Communications Manager

Logan Erickson

Handicapping & Course Rating Manager

Erin Groeneveld

Tournament Operations Manager

Susan Woods

Business Operations Coordinator

Vivian Kelley

Administrative Assistant

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141 East Palm Lane, Suite 210

Phoenix, AZ 85004-1555

602.253.5655 800.442.AWGA

Fax 602.253.6210

E-mail: awga@awga.org

Web: www.awga.org

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the new "NewsLinks" newsletter. Please submit your ideas, stories or photos to Jody Chandonnet at jody@awga.org.



AWGA Course Rating Committee

continued from page one

The AWGA is the association in Arizona licensed by the USGA to issue USGA Course Ratings for women. The USGA furnishes a guide with tables making it an objective process. Course raters are permitted to make adjustments to tables by adding or subtracting from the difficulty by what they see on the hole.

Here's a sample of what course raters do during a rating.

1 At the teeing ground— they measure yardage; get an overview of the hole – is the green visible? How is the hole laid out? What are the obstacles? Does the player have to carry a shot over water or desert areas?

2 Next they view each landing zone for scratch and bogey golfers. Will players get any additional roll? What is the topography of the landing zone? How wide is it? What are the obstacles around the zone – bunkers, water, trees, extreme rough, OB, etc.?

3 On the green – they measure the speed, contour and obstacles. They determine the percentage of bunkers around the green and how deep they are along with the conditions that surround the green.

4 These measurements and evaluations are done on every hole from the tee box through the fairway and on the green.

Each rater completes a form for the hole. At the end of the hole, the team compares its numbers and discusses any differences. After the rating, the team captain enters the numbers into the USGA software, which has already done the weighting. The raters complete one set of forms for each set of tees.

Some stats about our Course Rating Committee:

1. Composed of 73 AWGA members at different skill levels from trainees to captains
2. 18 captains are assigned to the three districts: Northern, Central and Southern.
3. Each rater completes 5 – 10 course ratings a year; approximately 40 volunteer hours
4. Captains have extra responsibilities and meetings and volunteer approximately 60 hours a year.
5. Under normal conditions it takes approximately 3 hours to rate 9 holes.
6. Of the 330+ courses in Arizona, 55 were rated in 2008.

Melanie Bridges praises the women who make up the AWGA Course Rating Committee. "They are enthusiastic and hard-working," she says. "And they love what they are doing because it benefits each woman golfer in Arizona." Their commitment to this highly technical procedure is an inspiration to all of us. In Arizona, we have some of the best raters in the nation. Once a year four of our course rating captains participate in two days of stressful competition and training at the USGA Regional Calibration Session. Arizona's teams have won the competition several times including 2009, which denotes their unparalleled skill and judgment in rating courses. We are fortunate to have such skilled and committed members volunteering their time and talent on this committee.

2009 State Amateur Stroke Play Results

2009 State Amateur Stroke Play Champion

Lauren Weaver JGAA-Girls 76-69-70--215

First Flight – Gross Results

1 Kerry Postillion Desert Forest Golf Club 72-75-75--222
2 Anna Kim JGAA-Girls 72-78-74--224

First Flight – Net Results

1 Saki Iida JGAA-Girls 77-76-71--224

Second Flight – Gross Results

1 Rita Albertson Cave Creek Golf Course 78-80-81--239
2 Kelly Loeb Omni Tucson National 86-79-84--249
3 Christine Giza Trilogy Golf Club 88-86-78--252

Second Flight – Net Results

1 Cheryl Jones Papago Golf Club 78-73-78--229
2 Keiko Ono Tonto Verde Golf Club 74-78-79--231

Third Flight – Gross Results

1 Helen Grassbaugh LEGS 84-88-76--248
2 Ann Melsheimer Desert Mountain Golf 84-90-86--260

Third Flight – Net Results

1 Maggie Edwards Moon Valley CC 74-73-77--224

Fourth Flight – Gross Results

1 Kathy Ehrlich Silverleaf Golf Club 93-92-93--278

Fourth Flight – Net

1 Peggy Hettinger Cave Creek Golf Course 71-71-82--224

Arizona Women compete in National Senior Games



Seven Arizona women golfers played in the National Senior Games from August 1st through 15th in the San Francisco area. Three area golf courses were used to host the games: Stanford University GC in Palo Alto, Harding Park GC and Palo Alto Municipal GC. Strong winds, high grass and cart path only rule could not keep our Arizona women from giving their best and coming home with high honors.

The National Senior Games Association is a non-profit member of the US Olympic Committee dedicated to motivating senior men and women to lead a healthy lifestyle through the senior games movement.

Ages 60-64: Kay Daley - 2nd Place; Jeanne Osborn - 4th place
Ages 65-69: Virginia Husted - 4th place; Ida Breitenberger - 12th place
Ages 70-74: Sallie McCutcheon - 2nd place
Ages 75-79: Frances Macomber - 1st place;
Ages 80-84: Pat Jackson - 1st place.

Congratulations to our Arizona women golfers who participated in the games.

NEW COURSE RATINGS

Quail Creek Country Club

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|----------|
| Roadrunner/Quail | Silver | 74.8/142 |
| | Copper | 70.5/123 |
| Coyote Roadrunner | Silver | 74.8/139 |
| | Copper | 69.6/121 |
| Quail/Coyote | Silver | 74.8/140 |
| | Copper | 70.7/127 |

Pinewood Country Club

| | |
|----------|----------|
| White | 70.1/125 |
| Red (73) | 69.5/123 |
| Red(72) | 69.0/122 |
| Yellow | 67.9/118 |



THREE
WWW.AWGA.ORG

RULES

Rule 15-2 - Substituted Ball

A player may substitute a ball when proceeding under a Rule that permits the player to play, drop, or place another ball in completing the play of a hole. **The substituted ball becomes the ball in play.**

If a player substitutes a ball when not permitted to do so under the Rules, that substituted ball is not a wrong ball, it becomes the ball in play. If the mistake is not corrected as provided in Rule 20-6 and the player makes a stroke at the wrongly substituted ball, **she incurs the penalty prescribed by the applicable rule** and in stroke play must play out the hole with the substituted ball.

Very important once you substitute a ball and have made a stroke at the ball, you must continue play with that substituted ball until it is holed. If you find your original ball it is now considered a wrong ball, please, please do not play your original ball.

Decision 15/1

Q. A player swings at and misses a wrong ball. What is the ruling?

A. Since the player made a stroke with a wrong ball, he lost the hole in match play or incurred a two-stroke penalty in stroke play.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

OCTOBER 2009

- Oct 7 & 8 SDWGA Fall Partners | Tubac Golf Resort | Tubac
- Oct 10 & 11 Southeastern AZ Women's Amateur Golf Championship
Mountain View Golf Course @ Ft. Huachuca | Sierra Vista
Pueblo Del Sol CC | Sierra Vista
- Oct 18-20 2009 AWGA State Amateur Seniors Championship
Antelope Hills GC | Prescott

NOVEMBER 2009

- Nov 16 & 17 2009 AWGA Scotch Play Tournament
Palm Valley GC | Goodyear
- Nov 21 & 22 Tucson City Women's Amateur Championship
Randolph North | Tucson

DECEMBER 2009

- Dec 2 SDWGA Winter Scotch | Canoa Ranch Golf Club | Green Valley
- Dec 7 2009 AWGA State Medallion Club Team
- Dec 9 CAGD Partners | Gold Canyon Sidewinder | Gold Canyon

SCOTCH PLAY TOURNAMENT

Palm Valley Golf Club, Goodyear
November 16 & 17, 2009 | Max Handicap 30.0
Entries open October 5 | \$160 per player



Palm Valley Golf Course, Goodyear

EVENTS

with the AWGA



AWGA/PGA Night with the Phoenix Mercury

Participating in promotional activities such as the AWGA/PGA Night with the Phoenix Mercury is one way we get the word out to women golfers who haven't heard about our state women's golf association. Many of the women who came to our table for information are avid golfers who don't carry a handicap and who weren't even aware that there are state and local tournaments and women's groups at almost every golf course in the state. It is exciting to pass the word on that there is a "larger" golf community of women who would gladly welcome them into the fold.

The event took place before the game on Saturday, August 29th. Curt Hudek, Executive Director of the Southwest Section PGA, gave a putting lesson to a room of about 50 interested women. His tips were useful and unique and helped even the most beginner golfer to hole the ball with ease. Kathy Ehrlich, AWGA Board President, assisted Hudek and gave away prizes to the women who participated.

In the lobby, the AWGA/SWSPGA shared an information table where we talked to women about golf and promoted a giveaway by the Southwest Section for free foursomes of golf. Outside, in front of the main entrance, Vito Berlingeri, Marketing Director of the SWSPGA and John Gunby, SWSPGA Board member, offered swing tips to guests who wanted to give it a try. Their portable driving range was a hit with men, women and children.

The night was definitely a success thanks to a combined effort of the SWSPGA and the AWGA!



After 93 years...
a Hole in One!

When Kate Harris signed up to play in the Willowbrook Ladies 18 Hole Golf Tournament in Sun City she had no idea what that March day had in store. She started her round enthusiastic, ready to enjoy another great play day. But what was about to happen on the par 3, 6th hole would give her a reason to celebrate for the rest of her life.

On the 93 yard 6th hole Kate took her stance at the tee box and swung her Wedgewood 3/4 hybrid club. The ball landed on the green and rolled toward the hole, dropping in the cup! Witnesses, Barbara Danz and Ann Dicken cheered along with Kate!

February

19 | Ruth Rees | Ironwood Golf Club WGA

June

15 | Lana Jones | Las Colinas WGA

July

16 | Chris Kaland | Gallery WGA

21 | Nola Garverick | Pebblecreek LGA

23 | Joyce Arnold | Canoa Hills WGA

25 | Carol Beck | Lake Havasu WGA

28 | Nancy Smith | Cottonwood CC WGA

28 | Bonnie Harbour | Sun City Riverview WGA

30 | Pam Young | El Rio CC WGA

August

31 | Joan Fischer | Gallery WGA

31 | Virginia Dohner | Gallery WGA

September

5 | Mary Gruman | Ahwatukee CC WGA

7 | Suzanne Barbee | San Marcos WGA

10 | Claudia Booth | Mountainview/Preserve WGA

11 | Diane Clarke | Anthem CC Ladies

14 | Carol Springer | Painted Mountain WGA

Clubs listed are member clubs, not necessarily where the hole in one was made.



EQUIPMENT

GOLF CLUBS: THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

Part Two
by Sue O'Connor,
Club Fitting Specialist-Cool Clubs

How long is your driver? How long should it be? Truthfully it should be the length that combines consistently great accuracy and the maximum distance you can get without compromising that accuracy. Just because a manufacturer builds a driver to 45" in length doesn't mean that is the length you should play. Longer clubs are heavier and more difficult to hit the ball consistently in the center of the clubface. Often shorter can mean longer! When you hit the ball in the center of the club face with a shorter driver the ball will fly further and straighter than if you hit a longer club with the ball making contact off center. Consider using a driver that is 43 1/2" or 44" long to play better golf.

Sue can be reached at sue.oconnor@coolclubs.com or (480) 284-7766

GOLFSMITH'S AWGA APPRECIATION NIGHT OCT 15

Mark your calendar to attend Golfsmith's Annual AWGA Appreciation Night. This year's event will be held on Thursday, October 15th beginning at 6:00 pm at all Arizona Golfsmith stores.

Everyone who attends will receive a gift. There will also be door prizes and contests giving those who participate even more opportunities to win prizes.

Everyone is welcome to share in this much anticipated fall event.

Golfsmith and the AWGA have been in a partnership relationship since 2007. Plan to take part in this most exciting partner event of the year and experience the savings for yourself.



Ambassador Program Starts Fall Session

The AWGA has many successful programs for women but the Ambassador Program is the only one that introduces new women golfers to the game. This innovative program began in the fall of 2006 with just three locations in the Valley and has now grown to include 26 sites statewide. To date over 600 women have participated in the program and over 100 AWGA women have volunteered their time as mentors. From Flagstaff to Yuma, the Ambassador Program is reaching out to bring more women into the game.

Encourage your family and friends to take advantage of this affordable opportunity to learn to play golf and add a healthy activity to their lifestyle. There are sites statewide with the first location beginning on October 3rd. The cost is only \$195 for the 6-week course taught by LPGA/PGA Teaching Pros.

Locations are listed by earliest starting dates:

OCTOBER: Camelback, Bear Creek, Mesa Del Sol, Ahwatukee CC, Dove Valley Ranch, Augusta Ranch, Arizona Biltmore, Eagle Mountain, Poston Butte, Kokopelli, Rancho Manana, Hillcrest, Arizona Golf Resort, Arrowhead CC, Papago, Oakwood/Sun Lakes, and Moon Valley.

NOVEMBER: The Haven at Green Valley, Tucson National, Encanto, WigWam, Dobson Ranch, Dave White Municipal in Casa Grande, Ventana Canyon, and Bear Creek.

We have also added the "Next Step or Level II" program for those who would like to hone their skills to improve their game. If you know the game basics but could use a few tips to lower your score, then this program is for you. Locations and dates are: Bear Creek – October 10th; Dove Valley Ranch – October 17th; WigWam – October 24th; Arizona Golf Resort – October 28th; Tucson National – November 7th; and Bear Creek – December 5th.

Check out the AWGA website for starting dates and times at all locations. Register online for all sites or download a flyer and send it in with payment. Registration forms are also available at the course where the Ambassador Program will be held.

The AWGA Congratulates Warren Simmons

As we congratulated our own AWGA Course Rating Team for their stellar performance at their annual calibration seminar, we discovered long after the fact that Warren Simmons, spouse of AWGA Board Secretary, Barbara Simmons, received a prestigious award from the USGA while he was attending a calibration seminar in February. He has been an integral part of the USGA leadership for decades serving as a member of the Handicap Research Team which was responsible for creating the formula that is now used in the USGA Course Rating System.

Warren has also been a valuable asset to the AWGA for many years, serving as an official member of both the AWGA Course Rating Committee and the AWGA Rules Committee where he often assists with Rules issues, local seminars and course ratings. It is with great pleasure that we offer our congratulations to Warren Simmons as a recipient of the USGA Ike Grainger Award which is given to those selfless few individuals who have offered 25 years of volunteer service to the organization.

LPGA-USGA Girls Golf Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Arizona is noted as a pioneer state for women's golf activities. Perhaps it is our tropical climate that encourages year-round play or perhaps it's that passionate golfers just gravitate to our state. So it is no surprise that Phoenix is the birthplace of one of the most successful national programs for girls ages 7 to 17. Just one example of proof is that AWGA's Amanda Blumenherst from Scottsdale started as an LPGA-USGA Girls Golf member and in 2008 captured the title of U.S. Women's Amateur Champion.

Getting girls involved in golf started in 1989 when LPGA teaching professional, Sandy LaBauve, responding to a request by Kerry Graham, then president of the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional division, began a golf clinic to teach 20 Girl Scouts to play golf and have fun while they were learning. That six week program turned into a pilot program in Phoenix called the Junior Girls Golf Club. By 1992 programs were started in 10 cities and in 1997 the program was renamed the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf.

Those early numbers have now grown into a thriving organization that has introduced over 60,000 girls to the game of golf. This year approximately 6,000 girls will participate at 200 sites nationwide. From a mere 20 members 20 years ago, the Phoenix club, under the leadership of LPGA Teaching Professional Kathy Knadler, now boasts a membership of around 200 girls.

"LPGA-USGA Girls Golf has created an avenue for girls of all abilities and interest levels to play golf with their friends and family," said Kathy. "Many of the girls who remain in the program ultimately receive scholarships to play golf at the collegiate level. Parents and family members are also an integral part of the program. We host Mother(or other female player)-Daughter events, Father-Daughter events and parents also enjoy volunteering for the program. As director, my goal is to see that each girl who enters the program stays with the game in some capacity, whether it be playing recreationally following their junior golf career, competing at the collegiate level, or selecting a career in the golf industry. The doors are wide open with opportunities for those who stay with the game and I am thankful for this program that brings girls into the sport of golf and keeps them excited to play."

And what happened to the women who started the program? Kerry Graham was inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame this year and Sandy LaBauve, PGA and LPGA Teaching Professional, was ranked 7th best golf instructor in Arizona by Golf Digest magazine in August 2009. These women continue to be active and respected golf professionals nationwide.

There are five LPGA-USGA Girls Golf Sites in Arizona. In addition to the Phoenix chapter, locations include: Chino Valley - Kim Haddow, LPGA; Sedona - Jamey Lewis, PGA; Tucson - Kim Griggs, PGA and Peoria - Donna Bartos.

Too much Paper? If you'd prefer to receive AWGA Newslinks in electronic form only, send us an e-mail and we'll keep you on the digital newsletter list, and stop sending the printed newsletter.
Submit your request to comm@awga.org

USGA Women's Amateur Championship

Four AWGA members reached the Round of 64 in the US Women's Amateur Championship played at Old Warson Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri on August 3-9, 2009. 995 contestants entered the 2009 championship.

The U.S. Women's Amateur is one of the USGA's original three championships and was first held in 1895. It is conducted with 36 holes of stroke-play qualifying followed by the low 64 scorers advancing to match play. It is open to all female amateurs who hold a USGA Handicap Index of 5.4 or lower.

Congratulations to Cheyenne Woods, Taylore Karle, Alexandra Stewart and Sun Gyoung Park for your stellar golf performance representing Arizona in the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.

If someone asks you, "what is the AWGA?" What would you tell them?

Your AWGA wants to hear from you!
Please send us your thoughts at comm@awga.org.

Start off the fall season with success by utilizing Arnold Palmer's Four Cs. "Concentration, Confidence, Competitive urge & Capacity for enjoyment."



Grab a friend and join us for the Frys.com Open Fore-Adoption Pro-Am hosted by Kirk Triplett and his wife Cathi. The event is Monday, October 19th on the Grayhawk Raptor Course (the tournament course) and will feature groups of two couples/friends paired with one PGA TOUR player and their spouse. In addition to a fun day of golf, there will be food and beverages on the course, an awards reception following play, and each participant will receive a gift package, contestant badge, five general admission tickets good any one day, and one VIP parking pass good all week of the tournament. All proceeds from the event benefit the Fore Adoption Foundation which was created by Kirk and Cathi.

The Frys.com Open is offering AWGA members preferred pricing of \$2,000 per team of two (normally \$2,500) and for every team purchased, the Frys.com Open will donate \$250 to the AWGA! Couples and teams of two ladies are encouraged to sign up! For more information contact Jennifer Sun at Jsun@frys.com or 480.502.3119.

Fore Adoption ProAm

Take advantage of special rates for AWGA members



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TECHNIQUE

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER ADDRESS POSITION

What most often distinguishes a good player from a mediocre one is the address or set-up position at the ball. This is often the most overlooked area of swing fundamentals. If you set-up correctly, there is a good chance you will hit a decent shot – even with an average swing, but a poor set-up may lead to a lousy shot, even with a great swing.

A good golf set-up will aid in achieving 3 important objectives. First, good posture and foot positioning helps maintain balance throughout the golf swing. This ultimately leads to contacting the center of the clubface. Next, a good address position will lead to the best use of power during a swing. Lastly, good players set themselves in an address position that they would like to recreate at impact. Here are some simple tips to follow during your set up:

Grip: The grip is very important in allowing the clubface to be in the proper position throughout the golf swing and at impact. As you look down at your grip position, be sure that both V's (area between the thumb and index finger of both hands) are facing somewhere between your mid line and right shoulder.

Posture: Take an 'athletic' stance by bending slightly from your hips (not waist) with your seat up and out. Balance your weight (not on toes or heels) toward the balls of your feet and allow your arms to hang comfortably from your shoulders. This position resembles a 'ready' position in many other sports such as tennis, basketball and sprinting to name just a few.

Alignment: Feet should be approximately shoulder width apart with feet, knees, hips and shoulders parallel left of the target line with the clubface aimed directly at the target line. Picture a railroad track where the foot line will always be parallel left of the target line.

Keep in mind that your best swing will come from your best address position. The next time you set up to make a full swing, pay close attention to all areas of your set-up position for better shot making. And above all, have fun!



Swing Tip from Kathy Knadler
Class A LPGA Teaching Professional
Director, LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Phoenix
kknadler@jgaa.org
(602) 944-6168

