



NEWSLINKS

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



Arizona Women's State Amateur Match Play Championship Papago Golf Course, May 9-12, 2011

A marriage of tradition... there couldn't be a more fitting site for this the original Arizona Women's State Championship than Papago Golf Course. Centrally located, newly restored to its original layout and design, Papago Golf Course is the perfect venue for the 2011 Arizona Women's State Amateur Match Play Championship.

First played in 1924 with such notable participants of the day as Mrs. Josephine Williams Goldwater, mother of Bob and Barry Goldwater, and naming such notable Arizona Champions as Ruth Prather, Joanne Winter, and Heather Farr, the State Amateur Match Play Championship has been conducted annually for 87 years.

We all know that match play is the original format in which golf was intended to be played; a true competition of woman against woman, head to head. While the AWGA honors the tradition of match play in our Championship we also embrace the change in today's woman and her need for choices and variety. This competitive yet extremely fun Championship has been changed this year to attract high and low handicapped players alike. While the low handicappers, the "big girls", duke it out at scratch for the title and the senior title, the competitors in the field flights will be using their strokes to try to capture their respective flight titles. Everyone has the potential to win!

Additionally, the course will be set up from three different lengths to make the course challenging yet playable whatever your handicap. Your \$195 entry fee includes a minimum 3 rounds of golf, a cart and practice balls each day, tee prize (if this is your first AWGA tournament in 2011), a chance at claiming a prize in your flight of 8, and lunch during our awards ceremony following play on the final day. Read the full details of the tournament on our website at <http://www.awga.org/pdf/2011ConditionsofCompetition.pdf>, or see the summary at www.awga.org, "play golf", "tournament registration", "AWGA State Amateur Match Play Championship".

Don't miss out! Register today at www.awga.org. Click on "play golf", "tournament registration". There, you can also print out a registration form and mail it in with your check if you prefer not to register online. Entries close April 20th.

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



Tui Selvaratnam
2010 & 2008 Arizona Women's Amateur
Champion



Brittany Penny
2009 Arizona Women's Amateur
Champion

AWGA Tournament Format Changes

At the conclusion of each tournament, the AWGA Tournament Committee sends a survey to the players and the volunteer tournament staff for feedback to help us continually improve the presentation of our events. You may have thought we weren't listening because it has taken us a good deal of time to respond. Our tournament schedule is on an annual cycle, and changes are made in that same cycle. But, YES, we did hear you! And we've made several format changes for the 2011 season in response to your input. Following are those most significant.

State Match Play *You want your strokes! You get them!*

Well, at least if you are playing against someone with a lower handicap than you! As in past years, the Open Championship, Open First and Senior Championship Flights (and all their respective Consolation flight matches) will play at scratch - no strokes applied. Starting in 2011, in all other flights, matches will be played with strokes - the higher-handicapped player will receive the full difference in Course Handicap between the two players; the lower-handicapped player will play at scratch.

Join us at Papago GC, Phoenix, May 9-12

State Senior Stroke Play *Why am I playing with her?*

Ever wonder why you were paired with someone whose handicap wasn't similar to yours? Well that's because since 1963 players have been competing in the AWGA Senior Stroke Play based on their age bracket. As the game of golf continues to grow, so does the range of handicaps in each age bracket continue to widen. For example, in the Junior age bracket in 2010 we had players ranging from a 0.5 handicap index to 31.9. With regularly having 2 sets of tees, it became difficult to determine who played which tees - by age or by handicap? We have players in their 70's who have handicaps below 10 and players in their 50's who have handicaps above 20. We want to provide an enjoyable yet challenging experience to all players. So for 2011, only the Championship flight will play from the longer set of tees and we will have the following flights, all playing from the appropriate length tees:

- 1) Championship Flight - Paired by Handicap within flight
- 2) Field Flights (# of flights dependant on # of entries received) - Paired by Handicap within flight
- 3) Super Seniors (75-79 years old) - Paired within age group
- 4) Masters (80 + years old) - Paired within age group

Join us at Cerbat Cliffs GC, Kingman, Sep. 26-28

Partner Tournament *We are in our pockets-give us the minimum!*

For the enjoyment of our players, we have changed this event to 36 holes of Four-Ball Stroke Play (Better Ball of Partners) with scoring as a modified stableford. It will be as if we combined our Season Opener and our 4-Ball Championship. Stableford is a fun scoring method in that it allows players to play hard but not get stressed about completing the hole if they become "challenged". They can finish the hole with a minimum point value while the ball is in their pocket.

Join us at Stoneridge GC, Prescott, Oct. 24-25



continued from page two

All AWGA tournaments are flighted by Handicap and we award both gross and net prizes. For further information, please read the 2011 Conditions of Competition on the website or in the Directory.

We hope these changes will encourage new players in 2011 as well as our past players. We will travel the state during the year – from Sierra Vista to Sedona to Kingman with stops in between. Check out our calendar at “Play Golf” on the website.

Lessons Really Do Improve Your Game

One golfer knows this for sure

Claudette Halpern, AWGA and Gallery member, believes in the value of taking golf lessons. Her coach, Kristie Fowler, PGA and LPGA Class A Instructor and Assistant Golf Professional at The Gallery, can see a major difference in Claudette’s game and is pleased with her progress.

Claudette first broke 90 and then 80 under Kristie’s coaching. “I’m a southpaw,” Claudette mentioned. “Kristie was amazing as she hit the ball left-handed so I could see how my swing should look. She recognized how I learned best and taught me in a way I understood. I owe my game to her – going from a handicap of 24 three years ago to a 12. Now I can compete in regional and state tournaments.”

According to her students, Kristie has the gift to help players at any age and level. She describes herself as an encourager, motivator, coach and cheerleader. Kristie’s students agree and believe in the value of lessons and her exceptional teaching ability. “I have learned so much from Kristie,” Claudette said praising her instructor. “She reinforces the fact that everything takes time and regular practice is the game changer.”

Every golfer can use expert input. No one is going to hit every ball perfectly. She believes this is particularly true for skilled players. “They have high expectations for themselves,” she said. “I can watch good golfers play and suggest small changes that can make a dramatic difference for them.” Kristie quipped, “Tour players take lessons on a regular basis. Is there a better testament to the value of professional instruction to a player’s game?” The bottom line: To maximize your potential, get the tips that only an LPGA or PGA Teaching Pro can give you. Taking lessons can bring your game to a new level of both ability and enjoyment!



Kristie helping Claudette with her swing



Kristie and Claudette on the driving range



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We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the "NewsLinks" newsletter. Please submit your ideas to Logan Erickson at logan@awga.org.



INTERVIEW WITH LPGA LEGEND

Rosie Jones, 2011 Solheim Cup Captain

By Mary Ann Souter

MAS- The AWGA is hosting a Wine N' Rosie event on the evening of Saturday, April 30th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Omni Tucson National Resort in Tucson. Many of our members will be there to meet you and hear your inspirational words. But for those that cannot attend, maybe your answers to these questions will give our women a little more insight into LPGA Legend, Rosie Jones. Thank you, Rosie, for sharing your thoughts with us. The Legends Tour and specifically the *Women's Senior National Invitational* is among the favorites for golf enthusiasts to attend and you are one of the most popular players who participates. We expect this year's event in Tucson to be a hit among fans. Since retiring from the LPGA Tour, do you still enjoy competing or do you play in the Legends Tour because of the charitable component? What organizations are your pet projects to receive donations?

RJ- Yes, I still really enjoy the aspect of competition of golf. Playing on the Legends Tour gives me just enough tournaments to get my game in somewhat good shape, but not too much to make me feel that all my time is spent on the game like when I played the LPGA. It's great to be out there with players I played with in the 80s and 90s. I enjoy their friendship and personalities. Charitable organizations I am involved with are the First Tee and the LPGA/USGA Girls Golf.

MAS- You started the "Rosie Jones Golf Getaways" company. Tell us some of the resorts you frequently use and do you accompany the tours (a major selling point, I'm sure)?

RJ- We have been to a lot of great destinations where we base from one resort and play at least 3 championship golf courses in that area. Napa Valley, Palm Springs, New Mexico, Hilton Head Island, SC to name a few. We have also been to Scotland and Ireland on longer trips that were fantastic. I think a great selling point is that our Getaway Gals have the opportunity to play golf each day with someone who was a champion on the LPGA. To have one-on-one help during clinics and receiving on-course instruction with a tournament winner is a big plus on our trips. They also enjoy great social events where they have the opportunity to learn more about life on The LPGA Tour and the players. We also bring other Legends like Kathy Whitworth and Patty Sheehan for special guest appearances. You can check us out at rosiejones.com for more info.

MAS- It must have been a proud moment to hear you were selected by the LPGA to Captain the U.S. Solheim Cup Squad this September in Ireland. Besides choosing the players to participate, what do you see as the most important ingredient for the U.S. to win?

RJ- Being named Captain of the 2011 U.S. Solheim Cup Team is a huge honor for me -- A big feather in my cap as my career is coming to an end. I think the most important ingredient to our success will be much like how I prepared as a Tour player. We will have to work on bringing our team together and making sure we are mentally prepared for the intense week of Solheim Cup.

FOUR

VISIT US AT WWW.AWGA.ORG

MAS- With 13 LPGA tournament titles and a 7 time member of the Solheim Cup team -- you know the game, you can make the perfectly placed shot and are experienced at managing the course. What advice can you offer amateur women golfers to improve their game?

RJ- Most amateurs get really stuck on their "go shot" (the one shot they most trust). There is nothing wrong with having a favorite shot that you really believe in, but you need to use a selection of different shots during the round and you need to practice all of them. Club selection and shot selection are very important, especially around the green and in trouble off the fairway. I try to introduce those selections during our clinics and on-course playing time to get our players used to thinking with more choices on their shots.

MAS- What part of your game do you practice most when getting ready for a tournament?

RJ- Putting. When I get ready for an event, I start practicing more on my putting. There is nothing more frustrating than to hit a lot of great shots and then not be able to score because I'm missing the putts. Or my short game is great, but I'm missing a lot of 4 and 5 footers.

MAS- Do you have any lucky charms or morning rituals to help you get in the right mind-set before an event?

RJ- I always have a favorite divot fixer in my pocket -- one that has retired to the trophy case now. But I like to have a dime and nickel in my pocket in competition. I found that if I got a little too edgy with my lucky charms and then something went wrong, I didn't want the day to be a disaster. It's all in the mind, you know. I did always go out for a morning walk to loosen up and do a good stretch before I started my before-round warm-up on the range.

MAS- When you're not playing golf or working with Rosie Jones Golf Getaways, what do you like to do in your spare time, assuming you have some spare time?

RJ- I like to exercise, bike, walk my dog, garden and landscape around the house. Having time to just piddle around the house is like therapy for me. I'm finding it hard to have enough of that piddle time these days, but the alternative at the moment is very exciting and keeping me on my toes. Solheim Cup!

MAS- What do you think the golf industry could do to attract more women to the game and keep them playing?

RJ- I think the golf industry needs to help women become more successful in the game of golf. They can do this by designing the courses to equalize the playing field with their male counterparts. Many times women step up to a tee and cannot fly over a bunker placed there for strategy off the men's tee. Or a longer player has to lay up because you run out of fairway from the forward tees. I think that could be a good start.

Ladies, Mark your Calendar for a great event on April 30th in Tucson. Meeting Rosie Jones would definitely be one of the highlights in anyone's golf experience!



2005 Solheim Cup



2005 Solheim Cup



Rosie posing with the Solheim Cup



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

April 18 - 19, 2011
Pueblo Del Sol Country Club
AWGA Four-Ball Championship

April 27 - 29, 2011
Tubac Golf Resort
Women's Transnational Senior
Four-Ball

May 2 - 5, 2011
Tubac Golf Resort
Women's Southwestern Golf
Tournament

May 9 - 12, 2011
Papago Golf Club
AWGA State Amateur Match
Play Championship

May 15, 2011
The Gallery Golf Club
LPGA T & CP Central Section
Championship Pro-Am

June 2, 2011
Alta Mesa Country Club
US Women's Open Qualifier

June 6, 2011
Ocotillo Golf Club
US Women's Amateur Pub-Links
Qualifier

June 12, 2011
Seven Canyons Golf Club
AWGA Weekend Classic

June 14, 2011
Antelope Hills Golf Course
NAWGA Seniors Championship

One Person Did Make a Difference

We have all heard the cliché "one person CAN make a difference." Emily Meschter, a member of Oro Valley Country Club's 18-hole WGA, DID make a huge difference in the lives of numerous young people in the Tucson area.

Emily has long realized the importance of a good education. She was acutely aware of the direction children would take if not given the opportunity to become responsible employable adults.

When Emily retired, she moved to Arizona, leaving the cold New York winters behind. Once settled, she pursued her passion for education. With her head and heart, she enlisted the help of the Superintendent of Flowing Wells School District and Emily's "I Have A Dream" program was born. They chose the 4th grade students at Laguna Elementary to be the recipients of her generous offer – she would pay for their college education if they stayed in school through 12th grade. To date, her generosity has sent 30 students to higher education programs including universities, junior colleges and technical schools.

"Education is the answer to every problem in our society," Emily said. She believes it's the key to better government, raising the standard of living for everyone, having qualified candidates in the job market, and reducing crime. When asked why she chose 4th graders, she answered, "4th graders are old enough to understand the offer, its potential effect on their lives, and still innocent – no gang, drug or pregnancy issues." Emily was also instrumental in bringing the Rodel Master Teacher program to Tucson. "Getting gifted educators to make long term commitments in low income elementary schools is a powerful tool in creating a thriving community," Emily said. "We all benefit from helping children get the start in life needed to succeed." The Flowing Wells School District honored Emily by naming its new preschool "The Emily Meschter Early Learning Center" with a goal to help 250 preschool, special needs and at-risk students in the area.

Emily Meschter has been a member of the Oro Valley WGA for over 20 years. "When I joined, pairing chairs made sure new golfers played with different women each week, giving me the opportunity to meet others with similar interests. By playing regularly in ABCD events, I was able to meet a wide variety of players, some of whom have become good friends. I'm not a competitive golfer. I just appreciate being outdoors and playing golf for fun."

To most people Emily appears to be a typical woman with varied interests. She is an avid golfer, enjoys playing bridge and loves to read. But the women at Oro Valley know differently. Just ask Gayle McMullen, Sue Mitchell and Julie Anderson. "Emily is making a difference and we are so proud to have her in our midst," Gayle said. "She has inspired an entire community with her great heart and commitment to education."



The Spotlight is on Sharon Graham

2011 Season Opener Overall Net Champion



Kim Eaton is becoming a very familiar name in Arizona women's golf. Kim won the overall gross prize in the wind and rain of the 2011 Season Opener at Corte Bella Golf Club in a three way playoff against Judy Miller and Barbara Byrnes. But this article is about a different champion, Sharon Graham.

Sharon is the quintessential avid golfer. From the time she took her first swing in 1986, she knew this was the game for her. Now, after 25 years, Sharon hit a high point when she claimed the title of Overall Net Champion at the AWGA Season Opener. It was a cold and rainy day and Sharon was surprised to find she had won. Her friends affectionately dubbed her "Mudder" since she played so well in adverse course conditions.

Moving to Arizona from Missouri in 1992, Sharon joined the El Caro Women's Club. She served as their President for more than 10 years and was also their AWGA Representative. She was a member of El Caro until it closed in 2007. She is also a member of the Working Women's Golf Association (WWGA), the Central Arizona Golf District (CAGD), and the Girls at Coldwater (GAC). She was the President of the CAGD for two years and plays regularly in their tournaments. She recently won the CAGD Partner Tournament at Superstition Mountain GC with her friend, Cheryl Kwiatkowski. Sharon plays two Saturdays a month with the GAC group and with the WWGA in their monthly events. And she checks her calendar for AWGA tournaments, entering when her schedule allows.

"I love to play different courses," Sharon said, "and I love to be outside. Because I golf with several groups, I meet people at various tournaments and remember them from past events. I have made so many friends because of golf." Sharon is the Director of Programs for the Upward Foundation, a non-profit whose mission is to improve the lives of children and families with special needs, through education, therapy and loving care. Sharon has held this position for 17 years! In addition to her main job, she also teaches online Master's Level Special Education and Reading classes for Grand Canyon University.

"Golf is my release," she said. "My life is full with work, family, golf and church and there isn't time for much more." Sharon is 55 years old and the step-mother of four children. She proudly adds that she has 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren too! "I love to play golf," she continued. "I enjoy competing against myself and seeing how much I improve. And there's always room for improvement!"

Congratulations, Sharon, on a well-deserved win! We're happy to have you as a long time member of the AWGA and look forward to seeing your name appear as a winner in future events!



November

- 1 | Peg Norheim | Canoa Hills WGA
- 2 | Marilyn Brown | CC of Green Valley Women
- 2 | Marguerite Lawler | Rio Verde Country Club WGA
- 4 | Judy Thompson | Red Mountain Ranch CC
- 8 | Debbie Morse | Terravita Golf Club WGA
- 11 | Sharon McKoy | Palo Verde CC WGA
- 11 | Gene Voelkner | Palo Verde Country Club WGA
- 26 | Mary Sanchez | Palo Verde Country Club WGA

December

- 5 | Sherry Imparato | Mixed Stix
- 5 | Jan Springer | Fountain of the Sun WGA
- 7 | Pamela Geistweit | Terravita Golf Club WGA
- 7 | Suzanne Blanchard | Tonto Verde WGA
- 7 | Jeanne Otto | Tonto Verde WGA
- 9 | Luanne Westphalen | Terravita Golf Club WGA
- 12 | Margie Pais | Pueblo Del Sol Women's GC
- 14 | Keiko Vleming | Granite Falls Ladies 18
- 16 | Bernice Shrum | Dorado Ladies Golf Club
- 20 | Kimmie Webster | Bear Creek WGA
- 23 | Dorothy Picton | Apache Wells Country Club WGA
- 28 | Jackie Ware | Apache Wells Country Club WGA
- 28 | Judy Sickau | Sunbird Women's 9

January

- 4 | Carolyn Connelly | Alta Mesa Golf Club WGA
- 12 | Ivy Howard | Dobson Ranch WGA
- 16 | Sue Neubauer | Rio Verde Country Club WGA
- 17 | Rosie Humphries | The Ritz-Carlton WGA
- 18 | Paulette Pelc | Working Women's GA
- 18 | Anne Triquart | Palo Verde Country Club WGA
- 18 | Janet Chidester | Palo Verde Country Club WGA

February

- 1 | Jan Board | Rio Verde Country Club WGA
- 4 | Ursula Mirovaliev | Valle Vista Women
- 8 | Kittie Day | Pebblecreek LGA
- 10 | Betty Beard | Cottonwood Country Club 9ers
- 10 | Nicole Wadley | Ironwood Golf Club WGA
- 10 | Jean Hedberg | Ironwood Golf Club WGA
- 14 | Kathy Larson | Sunsites WGA
- 15 | Mireille Coleran | Sun City South Women
- 15 | Truda Cox | Ahwatukee Lakes Tuesday Swingers
- 16 | Alesia Brown | Sun City South Women
- 17 | Betty Biel | Palo Verde Country Club WGA
- 20 | Dari Akin | Oakwood CC WGA
- 21 | Barb Koshuta | Sunbird Women's 18

March

- 2 | Donna Gray | Fountain of the Sun WGA
- 3 | Sandra Rathburn | Ironwood Golf Club WGA
- 3 | Gabriele Frazier | Granite Falls Ladies 18
- 7 | MaryAnn Lear | Palo Verde Country Club WGA
- 10 | Carol Poirier | Cocopah Ladies Club

AWGA POWER HOUR

Golf AZ Radio



What are you doing on Wednesdays during your lunch hour, 12pm to 1pm? Hopefully you are tuned into 1260AM or 96.1FM to listen to AWGA Power Hour on Golf AZ Radio!

Uncle Buck and the AWGA ladies host the AWGA Power Hour to feature players, professionals, women working in the golf industry, golf tips, member clubs, and anything that revolves around golf!

We like to have fun and get the interesting facts and information about our guests out to our listeners.

If you would like to be a guest on AWGA Power Hour to showcase your club or talk about women's golf, please contact Abby at the AWGA, abby@awga.org or call 602.253.5655.

2011 Partners



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EIGHT

VISIT US AT WWW.AWGA.ORG

AWGA Night At the Ballpark

Date: Friday, April 29, 2011 at 6:40 pm

Cost: \$25 per ticket (Regular price \$38)

Purchase tickets online: www.dbacks.com/awga

Promotional Code: awga

Payment: Pay Online by credit card or download a flyer from the AWGA website and pay by check made to "Arizona Diamondbacks"

Deadline: Tickets must be purchased by 5:00 pm on April 28th



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The Girls are Back in Town!

Wine N' Rosie

Saturday, April 30, 2011 • 7:00 - 9:00pm

Join the AWGA for an evening of wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres with Rosie Jones an LPGA Legend and the 2011 Solheim Cup Captain. The evening includes:



- Wine and hors d'oeuvres (cash bar provided for those that do not drink wine)
- Once in a lifetime chance to meet and listen to Rosie Jones, 2011 Solheim Cup Captain
- Your name entered in a drawing, upon registration before April 22, for a spot to play in the Women's Senior National Invitational Pro-Am on Saturday, April 30, 2011. Drawing for spot will occur on April 25th.
- Great auction and free door prizes
- 2 tickets to the Legends Tour Women's Senior National Invitational on May 1, 2011
- Cost: \$60 per person

Go to www.awga.org for more details and to register