



NEWSLINKS

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



19 Year Old Kylee Duede Claims First Major Win 2011 State Amateur Match Play Champion

Kylee Duede picked up her first golf club at 16 years old and never looked back. "I fell in love with golf from the first time I played," she said. Although there are few "naturals" in any sport, Kylee seems to be one in golf. She started late in life considering most players begin by playing in junior golf events, but Kylee immediately joined her high school golf team playing for three years and earning the title of Regional Champion for all of them! Kylee knows in her heart that she can make it as an LPGA Touring Pro. She's a serious golfer with a serious goal.

After graduating from Raymond S. Kellis High School in Glendale, Kylee received a golf scholarship and attended Paradise Valley Community College. There she attained the honor of being named Player of the Year in 2010, had the lowest average score for the year and placed 12th in the National Championship. She was offered a golf scholarship at Arizona State University for her sophomore year and although she didn't play as much as she would have liked, it was a great experience. "I received exceptional coaching from Missy Farr-Kaye and Melissa Luellen," she said. Kylee recognized that her game had greatly improved with their instruction and she was grateful for that when an opportunity came from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. The offer was a partial academics/athletic scholarship for her junior and senior years. "I'll be playing more at Drake," she said, "and I'm looking forward to traveling, playing and winning!"

The AWGA State Amateur Match Play Championship was Kylee's first major win and it was the first tournament she entered in 2011. She played in three AWGA tournaments in 2010, including the AWGA State Amateur Stroke Play Championship where she placed ninth overall. "Playing competitive golf with the highly skilled AWGA members made me realize I had to bring my A game every day," she said. "It was really shocking to see how much my game has progressed. I have reached another level in competing and I'm ready and eager to play with the Drake golf team," she added.

Although Kylee won't be playing in many AWGA tournaments while attending school in Iowa, there is no doubt we will be seeing her name as a Champion in the future. As a third generation Arizonan, she will be coming back this way to spend time with her family and will be playing golf while she's visiting. The women of the AWGA wish Kylee success in her quest to become an LPGA Tour Player.

Congratulations, Kylee!

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



Player during Match Play Championship



Players at Match Play on the green



Great camaraderie at the Match Play Championship



It's Tough to Keep a Good Golfer Down! Betsy Bro Wins Senior Match Play Championship Title



Betsy Bro has been playing golf for most of her life. With a string of championships on her record, one could say she is a skilled golfer. But that would be an understatement. For many of us, having to undergo one knee replacement might be discouraging enough to make us give up on golf. Betsy recovered from her first surgery only to find she needed a second knee replacement. Six years of surgeries and rehabilitation put an abrupt end to her frequent golf outings. But that didn't dampen her spirit. With passion and persistence, she worked tirelessly to get back in condition to play. During the last three years, she regained her strength and confidence and turned competitions into wins.

Originally from Minnesota, Betsy earned the title of Minnesota State Amateur Champion in her early golfing years. She perfected her game after moving to Iowa. There her passion for golf reached a peak as she attained many titles including: Iowa State Amateur Champion – 5 times; Iowa State Open Champion – 2 times; Des Moines City Championship – 8 times; Reached Semi-Finals of U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championship – played additional holes and lost on a ruling involving marking the wrong ball. Betsy Bro's accomplishments earned her the honor of being inducted into the Iowa Golf Hall of Fame in 2007.

Betsy's disappointing loss at the U.S. Senior Women's Championship led her to an unexpected meeting with Arnold Palmer at the Solheim Cup at Interlachen in 2002. Arnold Palmer's Rules of Golf based an explanation on Betsy's experience marking her ball and mentioned her by name in the book. Her excitement to meet him allowed her into a closed luncheon. "I introduced myself, he gave me a hug, and signed an autograph for me," she remembered. Betsy had the opportunity to meet Arnold Palmer again this year at Pebble Beach. "He knew exactly who I was when he saw me," she said. "We talked for a few minutes and it was another memorable moment for me."

Betsy joined the AWGA when she and her husband, Kent, moved to Arizona in 1991. Some of her more recent accomplishments include: Senior Trans Mississippi with Ann Zahn – 2009; AWGA Scotch Play Tournament with Kerry Postillion – 2009; Pinnacle Peak Club Champion – 9 times; AWGA State Amateur Match Play Champion – 1996 & 2000; and AWGA State Amateur Stroke Play Champion – 1997.

Congratulations, Betsy, on winning the title of 2011 AWGA Senior Match Play Champion. Your perseverance in overcoming difficult circumstances and returning to golf as a champion is an inspiration to all of us!

Northern Arizona is Calling all Women Golfers

Summer is the time of year when the sun shines on northern Arizona and golf is in its prime season. Courses maintain lush fairways and meticulously cut greens to keep players content. On these dog days of summer, we encourage our members to head up north, enjoy playing golf with a cool breeze and visit some of the historical sites in the area.

According to Barb Simmons, President of the AWGA Board of Directors, courses up north offer some of the best and most scenic golf in the state. "It's about two hours from the Valley, at least 25 degrees cooler and offers the fresh scent of pine trees outdoors. The rates are reasonable to stay overnight in Flagstaff and you can play golf during the day and party at night. What's not to like about that?" The following events are open to all players. So gather up a foursome for a "girl golf outing" up north!

Continental CC in Flagstaff – July 15th: Guest/Guest day. You don't have to be a member of their ladies group to enjoy this play day. Just come and enjoy the scenery on a challenging but fun golf course.

Elephant Rocks at Williams – July 21st: Golf on the Rocks is a Guest/Guest day two person best-ball. This course is open to the public so if you can't make this event, take a trip another time during the summer. You'll love playing this course! Entry deadline is July 15th.

Flagstaff Ranch GC – July 25th & **The Rim Golf Club** – August 18th: AWGA Girl Golf Day. Exceptional courses for both beauty and quality. Play some fun golf with your friends and family. Register today at www.awga.org

Tina Huiskamp, member of Silver Creek, boasts about her summer course. Silver Creek is a public course and play is open for tee times every day unless there is a tournament. "Our ladies day is Wednesday and all are welcome to try us twice as a guest," Tina said. "It's cooler here than in the Valley and is usually lovely in the evenings. The other public venue is Pinetop Lakes, an immaculate and fun executive course. For players with country club affiliations, play is available at Pinetop, White Mountain, and Torreon."

Silver Creek GC in Show Low – July 9 & 10th: Navapache Amateur with flights for men and women. A USGA handicap is required. Gross and net prizes awarded. Entry deadline is July 7th. July 21st: Sandbagger's Open, Guest/Guest day. One day women's partner better ball tournament. Entry deadline is July 15th.

If you're lucky and have a summer home in northern Arizona, now is the time to join a club and become a member of NAWGA. Phyllis Schiller, President of NAWGA, reported on their golf activities. "This is a great place to be in the summer months. Our season is short but we have a lot of fun tournaments. Over 200 women from the Valley also belong to NAWGA. Come on up and join a club to enter these two events." Below are scheduled NAWGA events.

Flagstaff Ranch -- August 9th: Stroke Play Tournament

Stoneridge GC in Prescott Valley -- September 6th: Partners Tournament



Continental Country Club
Flagstaff, AZ



Elephant Rocks Golf Club
Williams, AZ



The Rim Golf Club
Payson, AZ



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



FOUR

VISIT US AT WWW.AWGA.ORG

Golf with Kathy Whitworth How Lucky Can You Be?

By Mary Ann Souter



2011 was the second year for this two day event which consisted of a Pro-Am Scramble on Saturday, April 30th and the Women's Senior National Invitational on Sunday, May 1st. A "Wine N' Rosie" cocktail reception hosted by the AWGA, took place on Saturday evening with Solheim Cup Captain, Rosie Jones. Several of our members attended the event and according to Cheryl Lewis, "Rosie is an entertaining speaker. She spoke about the honor of being named Captain of the Solheim Cup team and is trying to build enthusiasm among Americans to travel to Ireland in September to support our team." Four AWGA members had the good fortune to play in the Pro-Am with golf legend, Kathy Whitworth. Kelly Loeb, Cheryl Lewis, Cristi Kittle and Jeannie Lallensack, all members of the Omni Tucson WGA, eagerly shared their experience on the course with Kathy Whitworth.

MAS Were you apprehensive about playing with a golf legend? How did Kathy contribute to your round being an enjoyable experience?

Kelly was so excited about playing golf with Kathy and never felt nervous. "I had the opportunity to be her cart partner all 18 holes. We even chatted about American Idol and other things she likes to do when she's not playing golf -- like fly fishing."

Cristi was a bit nervous at first, but Kathy was so friendly that the butterflies went away very quickly. Because she met her the night before at the cocktail party, she felt a bit more comfortable. "It was a scramble and Kathy joked about never wanting to putt. Unfortunately on a couple of holes she had to pull out her putter. She gave us a hard time about that and we all laughed out loud."

Jeannie wasn't at all apprehensive about playing with Kathy Whitworth. "I was truly honored. She was very friendly, easy to talk to and joked around with us which made the day a lot of fun. She told us she always wanted to take the last shot or putt and would be upset if she DID have to putt."

MAS Did Kathy share any tips along the way to improve your game?

Cheryl -- "Kathy was very helpful in explaining the advantages of selecting one shot over another and reading the greens".

Cristi -- "She did help us read some of the putts. I'm sure she did that so she wouldn't have to putt out herself! HAHA"

Jeannie -- "During our round of golf she told us how she thought the greens would break based on grain and the surroundings. She also explained why she would take one shot over another during the scramble".

MAS While watching Kathy play, did you notice anything specific about her technique – for example in her warm-up, practice shots, stance, tempo, swing, etc. – to better your own game?

Kelly -- "I enjoyed watching all her techniques like her position at impact. The sound at impact was unreal. Her turn was quite impressive".

Cheryl -- "Kathy has a very fluid, easy swing and great tempo. She gets a good shoulder turn, which makes me determined to continue working on my flexibility".

Jeannie -- "She still makes a great turn. I asked her if she did strength training to help with that, and she said it was just good genes and the great training she received from Harvey Penick. She has a very beautiful, fluid swing--like it takes no effort at all".

Cristi -- "Kathy's tempo was super and it helped us remember to swing easy".

MAS With five on the team, did you enjoy the playing format? Who rode in the cart alone? Did you have time to get to know each other during the round?

Kelly -- "The scramble was a lot of fun. When I realized that Kathy did not have a caddy, I immediately jumped out of mine and Cristi's cart and into Kathy's cart. She cracked jokes mentioning the fact that she has 88 wins and 97 runner up finishes. Kathy said, "that means I choked 97 times," a comment she heard from a comedian during one of her Pro Am events".

Cheryl -- "We all enjoyed playing together and had a lot of fun. We'd get a good drive and then we'd try to improve on the position. Our team sank some awesome putts".

Cristi -- "Loved the scramble format. Kathy stood for pictures on the first hole and signed our scorecards. We made some super long putts for birdies and she was just as excited for us as we were. She was a joy to meet and I will always remember her kindness and enthusiasm. I cannot remember when I have had more fun at a golfing event".

MAS Anything more you would like to add?

Kelly -- "I was assigned to Hollis Stacy as her caddy and had breakfast with her Friday morning before our practice round. In the Pro Shop Hollis asked where my clubs were and I told her they were at home. She said to get them and she invited me to play 18 holes with her as well as caddy for her. She gave me some great advice during our round about swing, bunker play and green reading".

Cheryl -- "Kathy would gladly pose for pictures and give autographs and she never seemed rushed when talking with fans".



Kathy Whitworth & Barbara Byrnes



Kathy Whitworth with one of her many fans,
Susan Hayward



LPGA Legends



LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Tucson helped out at the
Women's Senior National Invitational





Patty Sheehan teeing off at the WSNI



Christa Johnson & Cindy Rarick signing score cards at WSNI



Patty Sheehan and two fans at WSNI

Words of Wisdom from Kathy Whitworth

An interview with an LPGA Legend

By Mary Ann Souter

Kathy Whitworth was enthusiastic about being interviewed for our AWGA NewsLinks. She was open and eager to share her thoughts with us. Kathy lives in the Dallas area and plays in 10-15 charity events a year. She hopes to be invited back to the Women's Senior National Invitational (WSNI) Pro-Am if it returns to Tucson next year.

MAS -- What tips can you give women to help us improve our game?

KW -- 1) When practicing on the driving range, always try to have a target. Get in the habit of aiming at something – the smaller the target, the better. Repetition builds confidence.

2) Develop a pre-shot routine. Make your first move away from the ball smooth, low and deliberate. That will help to develop a smoother tempo. Use that routine to get your tempo and rhythm going.

3) Line up your clubface to point directly at the target. A square clubface will be in position to hit the ball in a direct line toward your target. Proper alignment is crucial to a good golf swing and comes from having a square clubface at address.

MAS -- As we age, what can help us stay in the game?

KW -- One, correct weight shift. Get help with it from a Pro or Golf Fitness Specialist. You'll hit the ball a lot easier if you learn to shift your weight better. Two, using our legs better. Our legs provide power. To use the legs, they must be flexed and relaxed at address. Shifting your weight gives you more power. Using the legs correctly comes from a good weight shift. It is easy to get our legs locked into a strained position. Don't be rigid.

MAS --Do you think some women are "naturals" and will automatically play better than others?

KW -- Some are more athletic than others but we can all learn to play better. Learn to work around your weak points and you will play better. Don't let the fact that you're not a "natural" be a deterrent. I have seen players who had to work hard to become skilled golfers and who ended up being more successful than some with natural ability.

MAS -- The AWGA ladies who played with you at the Pro-Am were amazed with your ability to turn so easily. To what do you attribute your flexibility?

KW -- I have been very fortunate in that I have no arthritis. I'm not rigid but I still hold my posture. I owe a great deal to Harvey Penick, who gave me a good foundation and taught me how to maintain a correct grip.



MAS -- What do you think about issues women have feeling comfortable at the golf course?

KW -- I know it's an issue. Women's golf has come a long way but we still have a long way to go.

More men than women play golf and more men are in charge of Pro Shops and golf retail stores. Women often feel intimidated in a Pro Shop. We don't feel comfortable asking for help with club selection or other purchases. On the other hand, you have to sell a woman. Women have many questions and men don't want to spend time explaining the function of clubs. Men feel more comfortable talking with other men. But women do buy and shops can lose a great deal of money by not serving their women customers. If you don't feel that you are being treated fairly, talk to management. Tell them that if they don't make women feel comfortable in their shop, we'll take our money elsewhere!

On the course women have to realize that men do not play any faster than women. Women worry about it unnecessarily and if women feel tense about being in front of a group of men on the course and it affects their game, just let the men's group pass by. Get rid of the distraction!

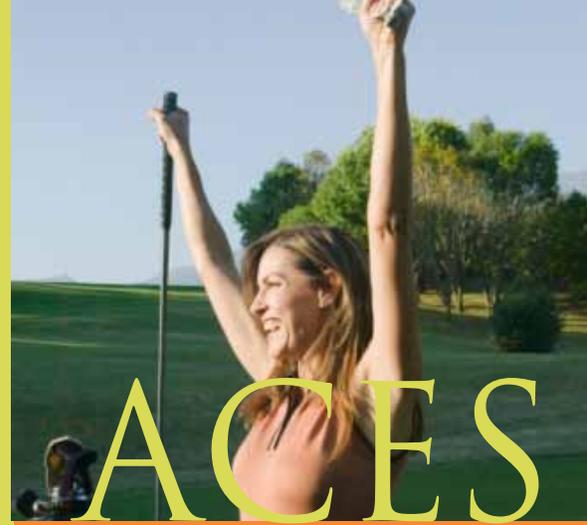
MAS -- There are so many young women playing in championship amateur events and on the LPGA Tour. Why do you think they have become such skilled players at such young ages?

KW -- I think it's because they are starting at younger ages now thanks to programs such as The First Tee and the AJGA. There is so much out there for junior players. They also get professional instruction and play tournament golf at earlier ages. Playing in competitive events creates better players. They start competing in junior golf events and move on to women's events quickly. Unfortunately right now at the professional level, there are so few tournaments for competition. Women need to qualify to play overseas and to qualify you have to win money. With competitions so scarce, it's hard to win the money needed to be able to continue to compete. We definitely need more places to play. I think the players would agree to smaller purses to have more venues. Their future is being denied by the lack of competitive events offered. Hopefully the LPGA leadership can make some changes.

MAS -- What did you think about your time in Arizona and the events held?

KW -- The Meet and Greet party on Friday night was great fun. I met a lot of people who were planning to play in the Pro-Am and who were enthusiastic about golf. I really enjoyed the company of the women from the AWGA. It was very easy to socialize with them and have a good time. You have a strong group of women golfers in Arizona and I enjoyed meeting everyone. I felt welcomed and appreciated and I had a good time with my team during the Saturday scramble.

Thank you, Kathy, for giving us a glimpse of your thoughts about women's golf!



January

- 10 | Anne Newman | Bear Creek WGA
- 28 | Terri Mitchell | Apache Wells Country Club

February

- 1 | Mary Pat Campbell | Tatum Ranch WGA
- 13 | Doris Hunt | Mountainview/Preserve WGA

March

- 13 | Betty Cole | Mountainview/Preserve WGA
- 17 | Norma Hill | Sun City West - Grandview Women
- 23 | Jeannine Albach | Apache Wells Country Club

April

- 9 | Bunny Johnson | El Conquistador CC Women
- 11 | Penny Creagh | Apache Wells Country Club
- 16 | Arlene DesJardins | Mountainview/Preserve WGA
- 25 | Erma Magee | San Ignacio Golf Club WGA
- 27 | Jackie Nigh | Pebblecreek LGA

May

- 5 | Ann Stockdale | CC of Green Valley Women
- 5 | Dee Zoline | SaddleBrooke WGA
- 6 | Shirley Culp | San Ignacio Golf Club WGA
- 7 | Erma Magee | San Ignacio Golf Club WGA
- 10 | Kathy Roady | Sun City West - Grandview Women
- 10 | E.J. Lindquist | Saddlebrooke WGA
- 10 | Marcia MacDonald | San Ignacio Golf Club WGA
- 10 | Linda Abbey | Tatum Ranch WGA
- 11 | Carol Karstens | Palmbrook CC Ladies
- 12 | Cathe Brierly | Ahwatukee Country Club WGA
- 17 | Pam Costner | Robson Ranch Ladies 18 Golf Club
- 17 | Hannah Bolster | Alta Mesa Golf Club WGA
- 18 | Pat Wellman | Desert Hilla Golf Club WGA
- 19 | Lois Dejarnette | Pebblecreek LGA
- 19 | Shirley Sanekoff | Bunker Babes
- 21 | Norma Sorensen | Coyote Lakes WGA
- 22 | Lonni Hocker | Oakwood CC WGA
- 24 | JoAnne Dove | Sun City Riverview WGA
- 25 | Diann Jones | Country Meadows Ladies GA
- 28 | Ellen Victor | Mountainview/Preserve WGA
- 30 | Carlyn Hampton | Tatum Ranch WGA





2011 AWGA Course Calibration Team

Calibration Seminar for AWGA Course Raters

AWGA Team Placed Second

Each year four members of the AWGA Course Rating Committee attend a USGA Calibration Seminar. This two-day event, offered by the USGA, assesses the skill of state certified course raters and presents updated information to improve their proficiency. A four-hole rating competition is part of the seminar. Our AWGA team has consistently been among the top scorers and this year's team, composed of Logan Erickson, Peggy Iacobelli, Judy Fick and Maria Cockrum, kept with the tradition and placed second, trailing the local Colorado team by a mere fraction of a point.



Preparing to rate a course

As a first-time attendee, Maria Cockrum, a Captain-in-Training from Papago, came prepared for the two days in Colorado. When the team arrived in Denver, it was sunny and pleasant and Maria was eager to get started. The next morning was less welcoming with freezing temps resulting in a late start for the course rating. They were in for a surprise when snow started falling suddenly and heavily. May in Colorado is certainly different from May in Arizona, but our team was undaunted. "Attending this seminar added to my confidence in many ways," Maria said. "Having to work while it was snowing gave me some valuable insights into course rating. It was fun, constructive and a positive learning experience for all of us."



Ladies measuring green speed

Judy Fick is an eight year veteran of the Course Rating committee from SaddleBrooke Country Club in Tucson. "These seminars offer an opportunity to listen to others and talk about the various ways teams are set up," she said. "We always learn something new from the evaluation of the holes by the USGA officials," she added. "We have Captain's meetings periodically and discuss topics in detail, which really adds to our knowledge and ability. That, in turn, gives us the edge we need to make a good showing at the Calibration Seminar."

Most importantly, it was confirmed that the AWGA has high-quality teachers, a highly regarded team and comprehensive training. Congratulations to all for representing the skill of the AWGA Course Rating Committee at the USGA Calibration Seminar!



Nomination Time for AWGA Board of Directors

Making A Difference

The AWGA is governed by an elected Executive Board of 9 members who reside in all areas of the state. In order to ensure that those elected to do the important work of directing the Association are very well versed in the purpose and operation of the AWGA, nominating procedures include looking first to the working committees of the Association to select candidates. This process begins in July. Each Committee Chair will submit recommendations to the Nominating Committee who will then select the best qualified candidates for election and present you, the members, with a ballot.

So why should you care?

1. Because volunteering with the AWGA is fun and rewarding! Just ask those who are already involved. We all play golf because it's fun, and we volunteer for the same reason. Get involved now and see how enriching it is to work with this group of fun and passionate women at this very exciting time in women's golf.

2. Because the long term health of women's golf in Arizona depends on it! The right people doing the right things makes all the difference. Now is the time for you to take action to help us make sure that our Executive Board continues to be made up of the best our membership has to offer.

How can you take action?

- Help us staff our Committees with the best.
- Go to the AWGA website, click on *About AWGA - Committees*
- Print out the list of AWGA Committees and their responsibilities
- Print out the volunteer interest form
- Think about the membership at your club. Do you have members who you think would make wonderful additions to the governance of women's golf in Arizona? If so, give them the interest form and suggest that they might consider volunteering.
- Think about yourself. Are you one of those women?
- If you know women who have already had successful experience on an AWGA or other State Association Committee, talk with them about stepping forward to be nominated directly to the Board of Directors.

AWGA members can nominate themselves. All nominations must be submitted to the Nominating Committee not later than July 31st.



AWGA Board of Directors



Robin Lane, AWGA Vice President, helping out at an AWGA Tournament



Tui Selvaratnam & Barbara Byrnes



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

July 13, 2011

U.S. Women's Amateur Qualifier
Trilogy Golf Club @ Power Ranch, AZ

July 16, 2011

AWGA Day in Hades
Rio Verde Country Club, AZ

July 26 - 31, 2011

Women's Transnational Amateur
Championship
Powderhorn Country Club, WY

August 6 - 7, 2011

AWGA Mixed Stix
Tubac Golf Resort, AZ

August 9, 2011

NAWGA Stroke Play Championship
Flagstaff Ranch Golf Club, AZ

August 22, 2011

U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Qualifier
Phoenix Country Club, AZ

August 24, 2011

U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Qualifier
Arizona Country Club, AZ

LPGA T & CP Pro Am Donates \$7500 to Arizona Girls Golf Programs



As the amateur body in Arizona for women's golf, the AWGA's #1 strategic goal is to strengthen our collaborative relationship with the LPGA and the PGA to promote and grow the game for women. We had a wonderful opportunity this spring to deliver on that goal, when the LPGA came on all fronts to present events in Arizona that included the LPGA Tour, the Legends Tour, and the Teaching and Club Professionals. The final event in our triple header, the LPGA T&CP Central Section Championship and Pro-Am promotion ended with a much needed \$7,500 donation to the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf programs in Arizona. The event itself raised just over \$5,000, and the AWGA added an additional \$2,500 to round out the total. The funds will be distributed through the Girls Golf Development Committee of the Junior Golf Association of Arizona.

The LPGA T&CP Central Section consists of professionals from 10 western states including Arizona, Colorado, and Texas. In the Championship proper, Karen Davies of Carefree, Ariz., shot a consistent 71-71=142 to take the title in the Championship Division of the Fry's LPGA Central Section Championship presented by the Vineyard House at The Gallery Golf Club in Marana, Ariz. Dede Cusimano of Basalt, Colo., retained her first round lead (73-75=148) to win the Senior Division title. Peggy Carroll (89-87=176) of Houston, Texas, won the Super-Senior Division. With the win, Davies receives an exemption into the 2012 Wegmans LPGA Championship. Davies and Cusimano are also the 2010 LPGA T&CP National Champions in their respective divisions.

2011 Partners



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TEN

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AWGA Mixed Stix August 6 - 7, 2011 at Tubac Golf Resort

Bring your spouse, bring a friend, bring a ringer, or we will try to pair you up to compete August 6 - 7th at the AWGA Mixed Stix tournament. If you do not have a partner, notify the AWGA by emailing intern@awga.org or calling the office at 602.253.5655 and we will work to partner you with an AGA member!

Entry opens June 24th! Don't miss out on this great event!