



PGA Utah Section News

Utah Section

Making Your Golf Game Better — Making Golf A Better Game

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And the Winner is - www.UtahPGA.com

by Scott Whittaker

The movie "Social Network" may have finished second at the Oscars but the launch of the Utah Section PGA's new www.utahpga.com website was the media hit of the "new year" for Utah Section Members! The new website offers many features absent in its predecessor. Need to enter an event or check the results of a recent golf event? No problem. Just access one of the five separate "topic buttons" listed at the top of the page. Or click on our great new calendar to view all of Utah's golf events. Keep up on all the local news or get the latest PGA of America, PGA Tour, or Utah Golf Association updates by clicking on their dedicated areas.

The long awaited website upgrade launched in early March. The front page features three distinct areas of information posted on a backdrop photo from one of Utah's great golf venues. The most prominent feature of the page is the new calendar feature. Click on a date and view every Utah event scheduled on that day! Virtually any event in the state is calendared and available to amateurs and professionals alike.

The navigation buttons at the top of our page represent the major activities of the Utah Section PGA. By clicking on the buttons members can enter events or review tournament results by automatic connection to BlueGolf. Members can also review membership matters and event schedules. Additional clicks can take you to our golf shop for a golf pass purchase or view future golf shop offers. The PGA has a major and ever increasing role in junior golf in Utah. By accessing the Junior Golf navigation bar you can review the "Junior Golf Roadmap" to plan your juniors' summer of great golf



activities or review the high school golf results.

Check out the great new photos that rotate through our site. The rotating pictures on the new webpage tie to our navigation buttons subjects or represent our key sponsors. The logo pictures on the center right of the screen honor our great Presenting Level Sponsors. All of our Championships and the Utah Open are enhanced by the commitment by the longtime partners of the Utah Section. Take a minute and review these logos as they rotate through.

Also featured on our utahpga.com site is a section for current news and events. This newly featured section of the webpage will keep you informed of all the current golf news

in the area. If you have newsworthy items that deserve a state wide focus just submit the item to us for review.

As noted above there are three separate areas dedicated to our three great allied golf association partners. Click on the PGA of America section and access all of professional golf's latest information. The Utah Golf Association has a great website dedicated to amateur golf issues and the important golf handicapping program. Want to follow a specific tour player or check the tour schedule? Just click on the PGA Tour section.

The Utah Section PGA officers were listening intently at the 95th Annual PGA Annual Meeting in Boston. When "futurist" Jim Carroll was speaking, the Utah delegation was listening. Although a complete revamp of the Section website had been a part of the Utah Section's long term planning, the flat golf economy had an upgrade on hold. President Jared Barnes made completion of the communication plan a priority at the recent Section Business Planning Conference. A complete website remodel as well as incorporating Facebook applications into our membership communications plan is in the works for 2011.

We are confident that you will like the new changes that we have made to our "New" utahpga.com webpage. Be sure to browse our entire new site. Email us your reviews or suggestions. If you have worthy news items you want featured on our site or need help navigating the new system just contact one of the Utah Section PGA Staff.

2011 Utah Book of Golf is Here Get Yours While They Last!

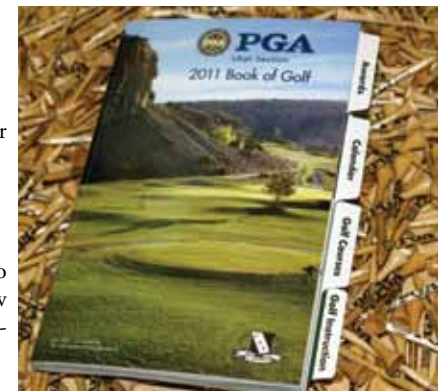
It's almost here- get yours while they last! The award winning publication the "2011 Utah Book of Golf" should be in all of your shops by now. The Utah Book of Golf is a must have for every serious or moderately serious golfer in Utah. This annual publication contains an almanac's worth of golf information. All of the 2011 tournament schedules are listed in the book. All of the professional events; amateur events; women's events, and junior events for the entire golf season are listed.

How You Can Distribute The 2011 Book of Golf: The Utah Section PGA board of directors feels the Book of Golf is important enough to spend countless hours complaining and producing, so you need to do your part to

distribute this important publication by:

- Give them to your men's and ladies leagues.
- Display at your counter and let your customers know it is FREE.
- Place them next to the UGA handicap system computer
- You may understand the value of the Book of Golf, make sure your staff does to so they can get them in the hands of Utah's golfers too.

Please place this valuable Book of Golf in your shop so your members know that it is available and let them know that it is FREE of charge because YOU, the PGA Professional provides it for them.



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Growing the Game: Not an Easy Task

by Connor Dehlin

On a golf course everything is always growing. The grass is cut every single day and grounds keeping and maintenance teams are constantly at work making sure the course is in pristine condition for the golfers. Unfortunately, the grass is one of the only things that is growing in the golf industry. Throughout the nation golf is in decline. Fewer rounds are being played and fewer people are being introduced to the game. Figure 1 shows the gradual decline in rounds of golf played in the last ten years. There are steps we can take to change this trend. If we can understand the reasons for golf's decline, we have a much better chance of finding solutions. By adopting the same commitment and dedication of a groundskeeper then we may be able to grow the game of golf.

Why have people stopped playing golf?

The economics of golf

There are three primary reasons why golf is in decline, the first reason is expense. In the economic recession golf took a major hit. Corporations were looking for ways to cut back and golf was a luxury that many cut quickly. Instead of taking a client out for a day on the course, a quick meeting on Skype has become the new norm. Instead of having large corporate tournaments and pampering your clients, a thank you note is sufficient.

It doesn't take an economist to understand the law of supply and demand. Unfortunately, the golf industry may need to take an economics 101 class. The supply of golf courses in America greatly outweighs the demand for golf. While people were cutting back and playing less, multi-million dollar projects were being advanced and even more courses were being built. In the last 20 years over 6,000 golf courses have been built in the United States, bringing the grand total to approximately 19,000, according to Golf Digest. In order to meet the high cost of course operations, green fees were increased. Increased green fees have forced people to cut back.

Time

Time is money! An average round of golf takes four to five hours to complete. This means that playing 18 holes costs a golfer much more than the green fee. When times are tough, people work harder and reduce their leisure time. People simply cannot afford to take the time to play golf frequently anymore.

The family dynamics in America have changed drastically over the last few generations. Fathers, in particular, are spending more time with their families and are unable to dedicate hours to playing golf. "Years ago, men thought nothing of spending the whole day

playing golf — maybe Saturday and Sunday both," explains the New York regional director of the National Golf Course Owners Association, interviewed by Paul Vitello. "Today, he is driving his kids to their soccer games. Maybe he's playing a round early in the morning. But he has to get back home in time for lunch." The evolving family dynamics and tough economic times make golf a large sacrifice of time.

Difficulty

Golf is an unforgiving game. It is nearly impossible to pick up a golf club for the first time and expect to be able to "get the hang of it." As golf courses are getting progressively harder and players are spending less time playing, scores are bound to go up. Golf is very technical and can seem very intimidating to try to take on. The difficulty of the game often makes people feel that they should not even try to start playing.

What can we do?

"When the ship is sinking, it's time to get creative," said the principal owner of the Great Rock Golf Club in Wading River, also interviewed by Vitello. Tough times in retrospect often can be seen as a blessing. In our history, the greatest innovations have often come when they are forced to be made. As our country is coming out of the recession, we must make these innovations now. We have the ability to grow the game to a point that it has never been before.

Junior Golf

I love the famous adage, "Once a golfer, always a golfer." The best way to grow the game is through a renewed emphasis on junior golf. When kids are introduced to the game at a young age they are not intimidated later on. Expanding junior golf has the potential to grow the game by making golf a family affair. This is the natural response to the changing family dynamic. If fathers can go out on the course with their

children, they will not feel guilty about the large sacrifice of time. This effect can also work the other way. If a kid gets into junior golf, they can play a large role in making their parents want to play as well.

Aside from the logistical aspect, golf is a lifelong sport that can positively change the lives of youth. The executive director of the Utah Section PGA Scott Whittaker explained, "Golf is a game of a lifetime and teaches integrity and life values in a way that other activities can't." In a world of cutting corners, golf instills a new philosophy of accountability and honesty.

The importance of the PGA Professional

The PGA professional is in a unique position to promote and grow the game of golf. According to the PGA, the great club professional fulfills many roles, but wears just one badge. These roles include: promoter of golf, role model, community leader, competitor, motivator, junior golf mentor, business manager, and many more. The PGA professional has the opportunity to make these necessary innovations take place. The game of golf needs its professionals now, more than ever.

Sources:

National Golf Foundation and the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, "Total Rounds of Golf Played." 2010.

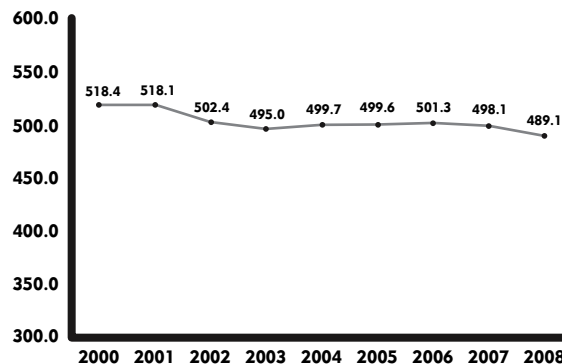
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Total Rounds of Golf Played (in millions)
Data: National Golf Foundation and the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association



National News from the PGA

As we all prepare to celebrate The PGA of America's 95th Anniversary next year, I am pleased to inform you that the PGA Historical Center in Port St. Lucie, was renamed the PGA Museum of Golf, effective Jan. 1, 2011.

This phenomenal structure is being renamed to better define the purpose of the historical building, which houses a myriad of golf artifacts and remembrances that can't be found anywhere else in the world. The PGA Museum of Golf extends The PGA's ability to preserve the history of the game and further educates golfers about the vital role played by the Association and PGA Professionals as we count down to The PGA's Centennial.

Starting in January 2011, visitors to the PGA Museum of Golf will experience new, interactive touch-screen units that will provide them with the opportunity to learn more about the men who have held the office of PGA President, access to highlights of PGA of America spectator championships, profiles of other notable PGA members who are the recognized experts in the game and business of golf.

There will be several new displays when the PGA Museum of Golf is formally launched, including new areas dedicated to PGA Past Presidents and PGA Honorary Members, a collection of items related to the 2010 Ryder Cup in Wales, a PGA 95th anniversary collage that celebrates many of the people who have made the PGA and the game so special, a new set of timeline walls that provides a stronger visual presentation of PGA history and an area filled with personal items loaned by PGA Professional Dow Finsterwald, who captured the first PGA Championship (stroke play) conducted in 1958.



The PGA Moments exhibit at the PGA Museum of Golf in Port St. Lucie, Florida, USA, on Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

There will also be a new website (pga.com/museum) solely dedicated to the PGA Museum of Golf. This interactive site will provide images and videos from the museum and encourage golfers to visit the museum and conduct research in the Probst Library.

Since the PGA Historical Center was opened in

2002, it has been recognized as one of the leading golf museums in the world. The PGA Museum of Golf will build on that identity and bring the history of The PGA of America to life in a more exciting, interactive and dynamic way.

Golf Industry Profile - Joe Judd

by Justin Moore, Utah Section PGA Communications Chair

Recognize this guy? It's Joe Judd, store operations and marketing manager for Uinta Golf stores.

Born in St. George, Utah and a graduate of Dixie High School, Joe didn't play golf as child but one of his best friends growing up was Reed McArthur.

Before Uinta Golf, Joe spent 10 years in the grocery business as a store and district manager for Smith's Grocery. While at Smith's Joe met and forged a relationship with Sean Smith.

After Smith's was sold and Sean bought the Salt Lake City Uinta Golf store, Joe was asked to manage the new Sandy Uinta Superstore. According to Joe, he didn't know anything about golf, but knew a lot about retail and learned the rest. Joe fell in love with golf and

is currently a 17 handicap. (sandbagger?)

Joe's current responsibilities include handling store operations, marketing and promotional events for all five Uinta stores. You will find Joe at the upcoming Ladies Day event on May 20th and the big Uinta Demo Day at Mulligan's South on April 30th.

In addition to golf, Joe enjoys traveling to his favorite destinations; Lake Powell and Hawaii.

His favorite golf courses, in no particular order, are Thanksgiving Point, River Oaks and Sleepy Ridge.

When I asked him if he could choose any foursome, alive or dead to play a round of golf with, he answered, "With any of my fellow workers at Uinta Golf!"



Sand Hollow Resort Earns Double-Feature Award

by Scott Whittaker, Executive Director



You may have recognized one of our rotating website wallpaper courses as the Sand Hollow Resort. The Utah Section chose to feature it on our website because of its scenic vistas and great local reputation. Well someone else has also recognized the beautiful sandstone vistas of Sand Hollow.

The prestigious national golf magazine Golfweek has recognized Sand Hollow as the #1 course in Utah for their annual “Golfweek’s, Best-Courses-You-Can-Play” rankings. They validated the honor by featuring a picture of Sand Hollow on the front cover of their March issue. This is the third straight year that Sand Hollow has been tagged Utah’s best.

Several other Utah courses were honored as “Utah best courses to play” list. Thanksgiving Point, Lehi, Utah; Coral Canyon, Washington, Utah; Soldier Hollow, Midway, Utah; and the Hideout in Monticello, Utah were all listed in the top five. If you would like to see more courses that were honored please visit the following link.

www.golfweek.com/news/golfweeks-best/courses-you-can-play

In the May issue of Golf Digest, another prominent national golf publication, Sand Hollow was again honored with a Top 10 ranking (#8) in the magazine’s “Best in State” list. Utah is fast losing its

reputation as only a hidden “Golf Mecca” and is moving into the “main-stream” of golf destinations. Utah’s golf scene is gaining a lot of respect for its scenic courses and its affordability. Utah is fast being considered a good regional golf destination and is making some noise nationally. Hosting the USGA Publincs Championship at Soldier Hollow in 2012 can only continue to enhance our new reputation.

If you have a great photo of your golf facility that you want us to consider for our website please contact one of our Utah Section staff members.

Presidents Message

by Jared Barnes



I am able to write this message because it is once again raining in Davis County. I read in the newspaper today that the mountains have received so much snow late in the year that ski resorts are contemplating staying open past Memorial Day this year. Believe it or not, according to the calendar spring has arrived and the 2011 golf season will soon be in full swing. There have been some exciting things going on in the Utah Section that will affect all of us as members as well as all golfers in Utah.

In early March the Utah Section unveiled our new website. It is the same address as before www.utahpga.com, but that is where the similarities end. While a new website has been talked about for quite some time it was decided at this year's planning session that the time for change was now. As nice as the new site is in appearance, it will only be as successful as our membership contributes to it. For the first time, our section staff has complete access to input information directly onto the website without having to go through other channels and wait on the timelines of others.

The new website will be the place to go for all tournament results in the state, golf tips from our Utah Section professionals, and all other Utah golf information. This can only happen if we are getting this information to the section staff. I would ask each of you to make it a habit as you type up results from events at your club to attach them to an email to the section office and see the results go up on the website immediately. Please send the staff any other items of interest that you think would make for great material on the website. For those of you who are using Facebook, we also have a Utah Section PGA Facebook page and Utah Section smartphone app is currently being developed as well. It is our goal to be able to communicate our message effectively to not only our membership, but to all golfers in Utah.

You all have received the 2011 Utah Book of Golf at your facilities. This is a great resource for us as golf professionals and all golfers in Utah. It would be a shame if every one of those books didn't get passed out to the golfers at your facility. Make sure that the books are visible in your golf shops and encourage your customers to take one.

The Spring Pro-Pro and Spring Meeting will be held Monday, April 18th once again at Alpine Country Club. I look forward to seeing everyone then. On behalf of the officers of the Utah Section I wish all of us a great season with good weather and full tee sheets.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly!

by Scott Whittaker, Executive Director

The Utah Section PGA is starting the 2011 golf season with a heightened effort to communicate with its membership and the local golf community. With the expanded use of social media in today's business arena the Utah Section leadership is upping its communication game!

Several factors had postponed a Utah Section Website upgrade for nearly four years. Funding and coordination issues with the PGA delayed the upgrade for several years. At the 96th PGA of America Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, we were presented with a glimpse of the future by several of the speakers. This information reconfirmed the immediacy of updating and improving our communications with both our members and the Utah golf community.

Our new utahpga.com website reflects the commitment of our officers to not only improve our existing website but make it a premier communications tool for the PGA Members and Apprentices. Making the website something that they would be proud of was an important factor moving forward. We will continue to post quality information and notices to our website and hope that all members will feel free to contribute to that effort. We want you to submit "golf tips"; "best practices"; and "tournament information" to the Section staff so that we can have informative and interesting content on our website at all times.

Utah Section leaders recently returned from the PGA Spring Conference of Leaders. It was a two day conference held in St. Louis, Mo. A meeting for PGA Delegates was called by the PGA Officers to hear and vote on legislation concerning Member Service Regulations (MSR) legislation.

Delegates at the 96th Annual Meeting last November defeated new legislation that would have changed MSR during the current MSR Cycle. The critical issue was that the requirement to have 12 "Meeting" credits was sending quality members into Class "F" status. The Delegation felt that the MSR credits were well publicized prior to the start of and during the cycle and in fact each member had been given an extra year to complete the "Meeting" component.

The PGA board of directors proposed that the Delegation at the Conference Leaders pass two new Resolutions. The first resolution would change the way people were able to move from "Class F" status back to full Membership Status. Instead of a "Class F" member having to complete their entire deficit MSR credits plus all of the next "cycles" MSR credits (54 credits) the proposed Resolution #1 requires a "Class F" member to pass the deficit number of credits from the current "MSR Cycle" and a number of "credits" equal to the deficit number in the new

"MSR Cycle" to regain regular member status.

Resolution #2 proposed that a "Class F Member" could only stay in a Class F status for one cycle (three years) before being dropped from PGA Membership. The prior regulation allowed for two cycles or six years before being dropped from membership. After long and sometimes heated discussion both Resolution #1 and Resolution #2 passed and will be enforced beginning July 1, of this year.

This next subject is one that I usually try and approach with humor or just appeal to my fellow PGA member's good and honest nature. I have often played-off an old movie analogy trying to coerce members into volunteering or meeting their minimum PGA membership obligations. The following item actually stunned me a little so I am reporting it "straight-up" hoping that you also will feel a little stunned. At our March Board Meeting, PGA Employment Representative Jeff Beaudry, reported that the Utah Section finish 41st out of 41 sections for completing the online Membership Employment Survey.

When you belong to an organization that has as rich a history of member service as we do it is important that we step up and answer the call from time to time. Jeff sent individual and personalized emails to each member who had not filled out their survey asking them to do so before the deadline. This makes me feel even worse that we dropped the ball. Although the Utah Section was the 41st Section to be established within the PGA family and we are one of the smaller sections by number of members we have never ranked dead last in any member obligation other than this. Were you really that busy over the winter months that you couldn't spare 20 minutes especially when you were being bribed with MSR credits? Employment or lack of it is the number one discussion point in the PGA right now. I guess we are lucky not to have any employment issues in our Section.

The Utah Section will be giving you many opportunities to redeem yourselves over the next months. Many of you willingly offer and provide service within the golf community and we as Section officers and staff don't plan to quit asking. If you are one of those members that are just barely meeting MSR this cycle get a jump start on the next cycle and volunteer, attend meetings as they come, and attend education opportunities. Please pick a special activity or area of the business that you are interested in and join us in making the game of golf as good as it can be! I'll leave it to you to judge the good, the bad, and the ugly for the 2011 golf season.

Scott Whittaker, Executive Director

The Nike Winter Classic and Winter Meetings Tee-Off Utah's 2011 Golf Season

by Scott Whittaker, Executive Director

Over 100 of Utah's PGA Golf Professionals converged on Utah's Dixie in early February. The Nike Winter Classic is the first major event of Utah's plentiful golf season. While hundreds of thousands are still visiting Utah's snow-laden ski slopes or rubbing shoulders with the "rich & famous" at the Sundance Film Festival, the Utah Section officers and staff are busy planning and presenting their schedule of activities for the new golf season. The Nike Winter Classic and Utah Section PGA Winter Meetings have become the traditional start of the new golf season each year for the Utah Section PGA.

Section members are able to squeeze an amazing number of activities into one short week. Blessed with good weather in St. George, Utah the 2011 season tee-off was a great success. The traditional gathering included three days of Pro-Pro events running concurrent with the individual Nike Winter Championship, the Utah Section PGA Awards Banquet, The Utah Section 2011 Open Forum Meeting, and the 2010 Utah Section Annual Meeting. Add in a Section Board Meeting and an Apprentice Orientation and you have a pretty lively week of activities.

Zack Johnson won the championship title for Nike Winter Classic. Johnson represents a group of quality young players working in the Davis County area of the Section. His two day "Modified Stableford" score of 65 "points" represented scores of 69 at Sand Hollow Resort and a score of 63 at SunRiver Golf Club. Not a bad way to start a new season! Long-time sponsor Nike Golf and Nike Apparel



not only supported the Championship portion of the event but also hosted three days of pro-pro golf events and provided great tee gifts for all participants. No wonder this event has become such a traditional fixture on the Utah Section calendar.

The Section's line-up of "Winter Meetings" also offered something for everyone. The Utah Section Awards Meeting and Banquet featured popular local sportscaster Wesley Ruff as the Master of Ceremonies.

Jared Barnes from Glen Eagle Golf Club in Syracuse, Utah was honored as "Professional of the Year." Doug Roberts won his second "Teacher of the Year Award." Prescott Arizona Golf Professional Mack McCarley was honored as the "Utah Section Horton Smith Award" recipient. McCarley a Southwest Section "Hall of Fame Member" served diligently on our Education Committee and instituted an updated Apprentice Orientation program prior to moving back to Arizona. Honorary President Henry White was presented the "Bill Strausbaugh Award". The Utah Section also honored Fairways Media owner and Fairways magazine publisher, Randy Dodson as the 2010/2011 "Bill Howard Golf Citizen of the Year" award winner. This is the highest "amateur award" that the Utah Section bestows each year.

The Annual Meetings also provided the opportunity to update Utah Section Members on the Section's new website, www.utahpga.com. Using social media as a way to promote both section and facility activities was presented and discussed during the Open Forum Meeting. During the Annual Meeting the new Utah Section Officers were formally installed. Jared Barnes is now Section President; Colby Cowan is Vice President; Chris Stover is Secretary. New Board Members are Section Champion Director, Matt Baird and Director Jeff John.

Season Kickoff

by Chris Stover, Utah Section PGA Secretary

It is my privilege to write a little kick-off to the season from the board and officers. Let me start by saying that it is an honor to serve the members of the Utah Section of the PGA. Many of the greatest people I know are affiliated with our section. I have had wonderful mentors like Sonny Braun (childhood golf pro), John Evans (college golf coach), Reed McArthur, Scott Draper, and Scott Brandt (former bosses...sorry about that guys). Many others of you have shared your expertise and friendship with me, and I am a better person because of my associations with you.

The PGA of America and therefore the Utah Section of the PGA, cannot be ALL things to each of its members. We are simply too diverse in the types of jobs we have and the responsibilities that those jobs ask

of us. The PGA is like anything else in life—we get out of it largely what we put into it.

With that in mind, I suggest each of us look at our schedule and see if we can support programs like Get Golf Ready, Play Golf America, Patriot Day, Junior Golf Connection, High School Golf, Clubs for Kids, or create one of our own. By becoming more involved in these kinds of programs we will each be doing our part to grow the game we love.

Many of the before mentioned programs and others like them are designed to be carried out at the golf course level, thus potentially adding to the facility's bottom line. If we choose to get involved and create an event, we could use the success of the program to demonstrate to our employers the value we have as

PGA professionals. It has been said, "Those who don't understand the past are destined to repeat it." Therefore, I have been inspired this year to implement one new idea that will help grow the game at my facility. As we all try one new thing this year the impact will be tangible.

I just want to finish up by reminding us the quote Jared Barnes brought back from the national meetings of the PGA of America, President Allen Wronowski said, "If it's not the PGA member who grows the game of golf, then WHO? And if it's not now, then WHEN?" The time to act is now, both for the good of the game and also for the maintaining of the jobs and affiliations we are so blessed to enjoy.

Our Old Friend Bonny

by Mike Sorensen



There aren't many golf courses in Utah that can match Bonneville Golf Course for its history, beauty and popularity.

Situated on the east bench of Salt Lake City, "Bonny," as it is known to its loyal group of regulars, has been a mainstay on the Utah golf scene since opening back in 1929.

With pristine, rolling fairways, smooth greens and striking views of the Salt Lake Valley below, Bonneville can match any public course in the state. To many Bonny regulars, it is the closest thing a golfer can get to a country club without paying the hefty fees a club requires.

The days of long waits and five-and-a-half hour rounds of the 1980s and '90s are gone, but Bonneville is still crowded most days, particularly on weekends. It's always been a favorite hangout for teenage golfers and many of Utah's top players have honed their games at Bonny.

For the majority of its existence, Bonneville's head pro was the legendary Dick Kramer, a future Utah Golf Hall-of-Fame inductee. He was a fixture at the course for 56 years, wearing his aviator sun-

glasses, rarely missing a day at the course from 1943 until his retirement in 2000. Steve Elliott, a long-time assistant to Kramer, handles the head professional duties today.

The original nine was built 82 years ago and those holes comprised seven holes on the current front nine (all except 2 and 3), plus the present 10 and 18. Back in the 1930s, Bonneville was referred to as the "goat ranch" because shepherders used to herd their sheep right across the fairways.

In 1957, the upper nine was added and the course was reconfigured. Most of the upper nine holes became a par-37 front nine in the early 1970s, before the course switched back to its original 18-hole layout in the past decade.

The most memorable holes are on the front nine, starting with the birdieable, short par-5 opening hole off an elevated tee and finishing on an elevated green. No. 5 is a downhill par-5 with a blind second shot to a two-level green with a bunker to the right.

The par-3, 6th hole features an elevated tee shot to a green just in front of Foothill Boulevard. The par-4, 7th runs parallel to Foothill and has a scary

approach shot to a skinny green bordered by a fence on the left and a bunker on the right. The 9th is another downhill par-3 from an elevated tee to a two-tiered green.

The back nine features four holes that run parallel to each other on the easternmost part of the course with the dogleg left 14th, perhaps the toughest on the course. No. 18 is a great finishing hole, a 454-yard downhill par 4 with an approach shot over Emigration Creek and a beautiful view from the tee.

Bonneville has been home to one of the state's most prestigious tournaments, the Salt Lake City Amateur, for more than 50 years. The Bonneville course record of 60 was set in the 1970s by Mack Christensen, who later went on to be the head pro for several years. Kury Reynolds set the competitive record of 62 in 1995 at the City Parks Open.

Mike Sorensen is a sportswriter for the Deseret News and a frequent contributor to Fairways and the Utah Section PGA Newsletter.

Apples and Oranges

by Annie Fisher, Utah Section PGA

In the last few years, the Utah Section PGA has been thrilled to be part of one of the biggest changes in Utah golf. It is hard to believe that it has already been three years since High School Girls' Golf was recognized as it's own sport. In the spring of 2008, high school aged girls who played golf started living the dream of so many. They started playing in what many called "a league of their own."

Girls' Golf has come a long way in a few short years. What we are hoping for is that everyone can still be patient with the program. Some may remember way back in the 60's when the boys program was just starting. Schools with a golf program only sent one player and only played 18 holes. Little by little it grew. The Boys' State Championship expanded to four players and eventually became a two day, 36-holes event. Only within the past ten years have the boy's teams taken six players to the State Championship. These changes took place over a span of 40 years!

I think the girls program will grow faster than the boys did. However, we have only been alive for three, going on four years. Trying to compare the current girls program to the boys program is like comparing apples to oranges. If regulations and guidelines for the girls program were the same as the boys, the program would die before it really gained its roots.

From the outside looking in, there have been a few nay-sayers that may think the Utah Section PGA and Utah High School Activities Association only discuss briefly in passing what would be best for the program. This is far from the truth. Countless hours of meetings have taken place to determine what would be best for the program as a whole.

The hot topics of discussion have been the season the girls play (spring), number of girls that go to the State Championship and scoring. I could write a novel on why the decisions were made in each area, but let me give you a quick explanation of each.

Season: This was the most difficult decision by far. Many wanted the girls program to be in the fall with the boys. The problems we saw with this were #1: The courses having enough time to put girls AND boys on the course for practice and region matches, especially when they usually start later in the afternoon so the kids don't miss too much school. There just isn't enough daylight. #2: If we put the boys and girls together, many schools thought they would just share a coach and a bus. We found that many of the girls would still be intimidated to play the game with boys around, and in many cases they could be treated as "extras" or "in the way" when a coach is devoting time to the boys. Although having the program in the spring could present weather problems, fall can too! It was important for us to create a program that had the best



chance to succeed and splitting the boys and girls was determined to be the best route.

Number of girls invited to the State Championship: Although many discussions and meetings have taken place on this issue, it has been a fairly simple decision. Like I stated earlier, we have to be patient with the program and let it grow. We are well aware that some schools could field a team of six to send to the State Championships, but there are far too many schools that couldn't do it and would in turn leave them out of the event. Our hope is that one day that number will increase, but not yet.

Scoring: In my opinion, the Utah High School Activities Association and the Utah Section PGA adopting the Modified Stableford scoring system at the State Championships for girls was one of the smartest decisions. With this program still being so new, we also had very new golfers. The Modified Stableford system gives the girls a chance to pick up the golf ball and put it in their pocket during a bad hole. They can take a breath and start over on the next hole. We felt that if we made

a girl play the ball out, she may get frustrated, possibly get a 20 on a hole and never come back. During the pilot program, we took on the "ten stroke rule" which is not within the rules of golf. Some regions were even doing a "7 in the fairway- 3 on the green" scoring system, again not within the rules of golf. Pace of play was becoming an issue. The Modified Stableford scoring keeps the game fun while at the same time following the rules.

For a program that is still so young, it is doing remarkably well. I am looking forward to watching girls golf continue to grow in Utah. Everyone involved in girls golf, from the Utah Section PGA, UHSAA, coaches, parents but most importantly the players are all having a great experience and developing in the game of golf. That has been the goal from the beginning and we are tickled at how many people are getting involved in the game through this program. It will be fun to look back in ten years to see how far we have come, but for now remember as Saint Augustine said, "patience is the companion of wisdom."

Junior Golf Connection Offers Three Levels

by Annie Fisher, Utah Section PGA



As the 2011 season approaches I'm excited for the events we have planned for the Junior Golf Connection. The program continues to grow not only in numbers, but in purpose as well.

The Utah Section PGA board of directors developed the Junior Golf Connection a few years ago with one main purpose, to introduce juniors to the game of golf. Although competition is a big part of the game, we feel it important to put most of our focus on developing the juniors and getting them ready for tournament play instead of tossing them on the course hoping they do well. Many different programs have been developed within the Junior Golf Connection and we are constantly adding different aspects in hopes of keeping the members excited.

In 2011 the Junior Golf Connection will be pro-

moting its three levels.

Level I: Introductory level where we will get kids involved that have never picked up a golf club before. This will include Clubs for Kids events, golf in schools, free clinics with swing and rules instruction as well as family golf days to encourage the entire family to get involved.

Level II: It's important to keep kids comfortable and confident on the golf course. Sending a junior out to fend for themselves right after getting their first club could scare them away instantly. Level II of the Junior Golf Connection is developed with the intention of slowly getting the kids used to playing beyond the range. This will include a developmental 3-5 hole series, parent junior events and our newest event, the Itty Bitty Open.

Level III: Once a player is ready to tackle the course

on their own, they are ready for Level III. At this point the junior should be able to get around the course without any (or much) assistance. They know how to select the right club, keep score and make it through the entire round on their own. This level is fairly broad because it hits kids who may play a small 9-hole event all the way up to playing in our PGA Junior Championship and High School Golf Program.

The Utah Section board of directors feels it is very important to develop junior players from the beginning and take them through the program until they are ready for competitive amateur events, collegiate play and maybe even a professional career. The Junior Golf Connection is the perfect place for any junior on any level to help accomplish their goals in the game.

The Step Drill

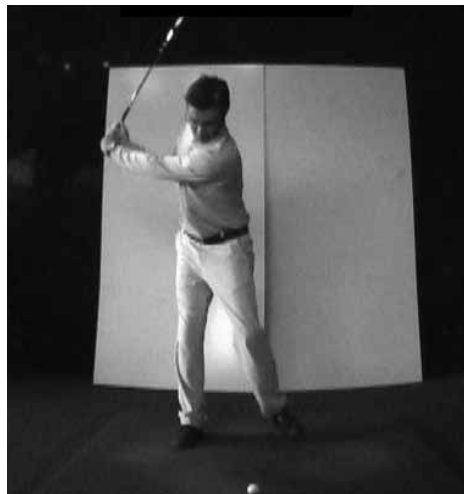
by Shawn Edwards, PGA Professional, Golf Lab

This is a drill that is designed to help the golfer that has trouble with coming over the top, casting, as well as problems sequencing their downswing.

1. From your set-up bring your front foot back so your feet are together.
2. As you swing the club back, take your front foot and step towards the target.

Make sure that your front foot plants into the ground before you start your arms down towards the ball.

3. You should be able to follow through into a nice balanced position.



Utah Section PGA Member Profile: Matt Baird

I grew up in Seattle, WA. I started playing the game at the early age of 5 years old. Before graduating from high school I had a few scholarship offers to play golf at various colleges but decided to serve a religious mission for my church. I served two years in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

I decided to turn professional after my mission instead of playing college golf. I played six years on numerous mini tours and other professional tours. In 2008 I decided to move Utah to be closer to my family and to find my wife. My wife and I are very excited because we are expecting our first child in October.

I am currently teaching full time at Riverside Country Club. I have met plenty of great people and have seen many of my clients succeed in their golf games. I am a firm believer in each of my clients finding their own individual swing and potential by focusing on the fundamentals of the game and using drills to improve.

I believe each golfer should know "WHY" they tend to do certain bad habits so while they are playing on the course they are able to correct the errors and enjoy the game more. There isn't only one way to play the game of golf, each person has their own individual "PERFECT" swing.



Utah Section PGA Membership Updates

New Utah Section PGA Members

Rick F. Allison, Bonneville GC
 Jeffrey R. Cliften, Ben Lomond GC
 Casey D. Fowles, Coral Canyon GC
 Christopher R. Johnson, Eaglewood GC
 Darci D. Olsen, Roosevelt City GC
 Bruce P. Summerhays Jr., Sky Mountain GC
 Bobby E. Trunzo, Park Meadows GC*

*Bobby Trunzo transferred to the Utah Section from "Rim Golf Club at Chaparral Pines" in Payson Arizona. He is currently working at Park Meadows Golf Course.

New Utah Section Apprentices

Joshua T. Coon, Hidden Valley CC
 John M. Cunningham, Bountiful Ridge GC
 Matthew W. Eves, Park Meadows CC
 Aaron M. Goodman, Bountiful Ridge GC
 Casey D. McClellan, Cedar Ridge GC
 Robert C. McLam, Mountain View GC
 Joseph B. Summerhays, Glen Eagle GC

Education

PGA Members that reside in the Utah Section have always had a strong sense of giving back to the game of golf. Across the country a lot of the motivation for participating in Section Meetings and activities as well as educationally improving as a golf professional has been wrapped up in the soon to end MSR Cycle.

Unless you have been in a "golf coma" for the past 12 months you are aware that the current MSR Cycle ends on June 15, 2011. On that date any member that does not have 54 MSR Credits (hours) for this cycle will be automatically transferred to Class "F" status by the PGA Membership Department. Of the 54 credits needed 12 credits must be "education credits" and 12 credits must be "meeting credits."

The Utah Section of the PGA has provided more than three-times the number of credit opportunities locally than were required within this MSR Cycle. Despite all of the local and national MSR credit opportunities many members have procrastinated getting their "MSR points". The Utah Section also made exceptional efforts to not only provide educational and meeting opportunities to their members but elevate the awareness of each member regarding MSR issues. The Utah Section Teaching Summit (which was poorly attended) was the last Section sponsored education for this MSR



Cycle and the Spring Meeting at Alpine CC was the last meeting opportunity for this cycle.

The failure of many PGA Members to make the MSR Meeting requirement has created quite a national governance fervor. Delegates from all the PGA sections met both at the 96th PGA Annual Meeting and at a Special PGA Leadership Conference Meeting to further discuss and pass legislation related to the PGA MSR Policy. [Editors note: please go to the Executive Directors Article in this newsletter or pgalinks.com for further information and updates].

It is critical that every PGA Member check on and be aware of their current MSR Status! We would suggest that you review your MSR status with your own personal log in on pgalinks.com and contact the Section Office should you have any questions.

2011 Utah PGA Championship Season

The 2011 Utah PGA championship season kicks off with the re-formatted, Matchplay Championship May 16-19 at Hubbard Golf Course. New this year will be the addition of a Monday Pro-Am and seeding event before the championship and an increased purse! Make sure to mark your calendar for a championship season packed with great players, great venues, and great fun!

Reid Goodliffe Utah Senior Open/Senior PNC Qualifier*
August 3-4, Toana Vista Golf Course

Siegfried & Jensen Utah Open
August 22-28, Oakridge Country Club

Callaway Assistants Championship*
September 14-15, Promontory Clubs Dye Course

Utah Section Championship/PNC Qualifier*
September 20-21, Toana Vista Golf Course

Pro-Assistants Championship
December 5-6, Entrada Golf Club and Bloomington Country Club

* Requires national PGA entry.
Visit pgalinks.com, or call 1-800-474-2776 for registration.



Don't forget about all the Utah PGA Affiliated events, mark your calendar now!

Glenmoor Pro-Am & Open	April 22-23
Spanish Oaks Pro-Am	April 25
Spanish Oaks Open	April 30-May 1
Ed Kenley Memorial Pro-Am	May 2
Rose Park Pro-Am & Open	May 6-7
South Mountain Pro-Am	May 9
Palisade Open	May 20-21
Alpine Pro-Am	May 23
Eaglewood Open	June 10
Riverside Pro-Am	June 13
Promontory's Nicklaus Painted Valley Pro-Am	June 15
Bountiful Ridge Pro-Am	June 20
Black Diamond (Carbon) Pro-Am & Open	July 8-10
Gladstan Pro-Am	July 13
Brigham City Pro-Am & Open	July 22-23
Palisade Pro-Am	August 1
Sunset View Pro-Am	August 8
Promontory's Dye Canyon Pro-Am	September 9
Riverbend Pro-Am	September 16
Carbon Pro-Am	October 10

2011 Play Golf America Update

The 2011 golf season is upon us! As you are planning ways to increase rounds don't forget to include some of the Play Golf American programs.

PGA free lesson month is a great way to increase lesson revenue and bring new golfers to your course. The PGA has chosen the month of May as the free month, so make sure you go online and sign up today!

While you are signing up check out other options offered on a National level. Programs include, Get Golf Ready, PGA Free Fitting & Trade – Up Month, Women's Golf Month and Family Golf Month. Also remember to register your Men's, Ladies' and Junior programs on the site.

As always the Utah PGA will be partnering with several facilities across the state to offer local Play Golf America Days. These days will include free instruction, Clubs for Kids, demo equipment and lots of fun.

Please join us as we grow the game here in Utah. These events offer a great opportunity to get MSR points. Contact the Section office if you would like to help us out.

Play Golf America Days:

April 30th	Golf in the Round	Clubs for Kids & Junior Golf sign ups
May 14th	River Oaks	Clubs for Kids & Demo Day
May 30th	Roosevelt G C	Clubs for Kids
June 18th	Venture Outdoor Fest	Clubs for Kids
July 30th	Nationwide Tour	Club for Kids

Together we can grow the game! Play Golf UTAH!

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Utah Section PGA Womens Pros are Investing in Utah's Golf Industry

by Kurt Kragthorpe

Considering how history is constantly being written, I'm starting with the present and working backward in launching this series of stories about the history of the Utah Section PGA.

The involvement of women professionals in the section is a relatively new phenomenon, helping to shape the culture of the organization. So by recently completing their Class A requirements, working together and motivating one another, Darci Olsen and Kelly Plaisier have made themselves part of the history of the Utah PGA.

From the start, let me say I welcome the opportunity to share some thoughts in this forum. In covering Utah golf for The Salt Lake Tribune and Fairways magazine, I've developed a love of the game's history in this state and strong respect for PGA professionals' role in building and maintaining that tradition. I hope to highlight those contributions over the years, even predating the section's founding in 1986, and I'll gladly take any suggestions – people, places and events all will make good subjects. So I'll welcome your ideas. (If you have a story idea with a Utah Section PGA historical perspective, please email kkragthorpe@sltrib.com).

The stories of Olsen and Plaisier, beginning with their childhoods in golfing families, give credibility to the PGA and its membership. They chose this demanding educational process because they wanted to be involved in the complete operation of a golf facility, beyond the teaching emphasis of the LPGA.

Olsen (the former Darci Dehlin) knew she wanted to become a golf pro as of kindergarten. On career day, she drew a picture of herself, spikes and all, in that role. While she interrupted that pursuit to work in real estate, she got back into the game at Hidden Valley Country Club. Olsen then became the head pro at Roosevelt Golf Course, where her husband, Joey, works as the superintendent.

"I definitely got back to my roots," said Olsen, the mother of a 9-month-old girl. Olsen has a similar background to Kami Terrion (the former Kami Whitehead), who also grew up at Glenmoor Golf Course and played for Weber State, then became the section's first head pro at Central Valley Golf Course in 2002. She now teaches at Golf in the Round.

A sister of longtime pro Devin Dehlin, the section's foundation and operations director, Olsen may pursue LPGA certification as well. Yet she values the broad training of the PGA, enabling to run the whole operation at Roosevelt.

Plaisier's story is much the same. As the daughter of a PGA professional and course part-owner in



Michigan, she knows what it means "to have the three letters, PGA, behind your name."

A former Eastern Michigan University golfer, Plaisier followed her future husband, Mark, to Utah in 2007. After working briefly at Meadow Brook Golf Course, she became the second assistant at WillowCreek Country Club in February 2008 and began her PGA education. Her view of membership's value should be validating to all pros.

"Becoming a PGA member doesn't just mean that you are certified, it means that you are investing in the golf industry," she said. "Being a woman in the PGA is especially important to me. As a female, I hope to encourage other women to participate and play this game."

That's also the goal of Melanie Van Delden. While she has developed a teaching niche, the Utah section's first female member values the well-rounded education she received through the PGA, having initially worked through the LPGA.

"They don't just hand out memberships lightly," she said. "You've got to know your stuff."

Van Delden appreciates how she was welcomed in the Utah section in the 1990s. Utah's roster of fe-

male members is relatively short, but reflects about the same percentages as neighboring sections. The Rocky Mountain Section lists seven members and two apprentices and the Southwest Section has 45 members or apprentices on its 1,100-person roster.

Other women on the Utah roster include Lynsey Myers of Wingpointe, Amanda Rollins of Dinaland, Sarah Hindi of Coral Canyon and Colleen Walsh of the Ogden Golf & Country Club.

Now working at River Oaks Golf Course's north range facility, Van Delden focuses on teaching. "I just really love helping golfers become better players," she said, "and they love me for it."

Ultimately, that's why everybody is involved in the business, right? Each in her own way, the women professionals of the Utah Section PGA are making great contributions to the future of the game, while history is being made.

Kurt Kragthorpe is a sportswriter for the Salt Lake Tribune and a frequent contributor to Fairways and the Utah Section PGA Newsletter.

Section Office

580 West 3300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
Phone 801-566-1005
Fax 801-326-8098

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