

Midwest Deaf Golfers Association

Spring Newsletter

Message from the Host Chairperson...

Welcome to Pleasant Hill, Iowa

It is really exciting for me to welcome you all to Pleasant Hill, Iowa, the site of 61st Annual MDGA and 44th Annual MDLGA tournaments on August 3-6, 2008.

Pleasant Hill is located just east of Des Moines, Iowa. The city is a community of 6,691. The city is situated at the intersection of Iowa I63 and US Highway 65, part of the Des Moines Metropolitan Area's freeway system. Pleasant Hill is less than ten minutes from downtown Des Moines and the Iowa State Capitol and fifteen minutes from the Des Moines International Airport. Pleasant Hill has experienced rapid growth over the last ten years, with a growth rate of nearly 40%.

Copper Creek Golf Course is located just off East University Avenue in Pleasant Hill. Copper Creek Golf Club is the perfect blend of friendly and challenging. This 18-hole championship course has been designed around mature trees and rolling Iowa hills.

The hotel, Settle Inn, is in Altoona, Iowa about a couple minutes from the golf course. You will find many restaurants to eat in. It is easy drive both ways without having to fight any traffic.

Toad Valley Golf Course at Pleasant Hill opened in 1973. Its name came from a "Brady Pow-Wow" where everyone submitted names. Sixty-four names were submitted and Toad Valley was the chosen name.

Our committees work hard to get ready for the tournament. I hope everyone will enjoy the courses and events.

Anyone of you who will have some time to spare, can go to the casino or go to the mall (Jordan Creek Mall) in West Des Moines.

Please feel free to contact me at rljoe58@msn.com or rljoe58@tmail.com or VP 515-986-4211.

Chairman Robert Lawson

Greetings fellow MDGA golfers...

As I type this, it is about 60 degrees and sunny outside, my wife opened a few windows in the house, smells nice. Finally, the true first day of spring is here in Michigan. On

March 20th (the so-called "official" first day of spring) the high temperature at my home was just 32.

No, I have not yet played golf. My "boss" says, before I play golf, I have to do work outside around the house. Sigh. My wife and son will be at my in-laws from April 13th to 15th. I believe that will be first time I go out to play golf, probably first go to range, then next day play 9 holes. Hope the weather cooperates!

This will be the 61st MDGA tournament, and the 8th in Iowa. I am looking forward to the drive past all those cornfields on both sides of I-80 once again. I wonder if Wilbur Sawhill will shoot his age again this year. The chairman, Robert Lawson, has been in touch with me a few times since last year's tournament. I am confident they will do a wonderful job of hosting the MDGA and MDLGA tournaments this year, and am looking forward to another enjoyable week with fellow golfers.

ONE BIG REMINDER: We have a new dress code for the banquet. Pants are now required for men. No more shorts, no more blue jeans. This will be enforced. If you do not wear pants to the banquet, we will not allow you to enter.

Any questions, please feel free to send email to deafgolfnut@comcast.net. If you wish to VP with me, just let me know ahead of time.

Hope to see you in Iowa!
Darrell

2007 Shootout Proves to be very Exciting...

Submitted by Darrell Hovinen

After two rounds of golf, the 10 low scorers qualify for the MDGA shootout. At The Rail GC in Springfield, Illinois, those golfers were John Rush, Darrell Hovinen, Bob Dramin, Curtis Blankenburg, Justin Van Valey, Bill Stricklen, Bryan Jendra, Doug Schnoor and two seniors Bob Graf and Art Gendreau. It was in the high 90's and very humid. The seniors decided not to play in the shootout due to the weather. This allowed Tom Perkins and Mark Nagy to participate in the shootout. Remember this part when you read the end of the story.

On the first hole, a par 4, five golfers made par and five golfers made bogey. Bill Stricklen was knocked out as he was farthest from the hole in a five-way shootout, very exciting stuff. On the second hole, a par 3, Tom Perkins hit his tee shot just short of the green into a bunker. The bunkers at The Rail were quite hard and firm. It was very easy to get the ball out, did not have to swing hard. Tom swung too hard and sent his ball about 40 yards over the green. That led to a triple bogey, the high score of the hole, which knocked Mr. Perkins out.

On the third hole, a par 5, Doug Schnoor hit his tee shot out-of-bounds which led to a double bogey and knocked him out of the shootout. On the fourth hole, a par 4, there was a three-way shootout in which Bob Dramin lost. On the fifth hole, a long par 4, Bryan Jendra hit his tee shot out-of-bounds and made double bogey to bow out. On the sixth hole, a par 5, Justin Van Valey was knocked out with a bogey.

Now it's down to four golfers. Rush, Hovinen, Blankenburg and Nagy. Yes, Nagy, the last golfer to qualify for the shootout is still alive. On the seventh hole, a par 3 over water, Darrell Hovinen hit too much club off the tee and hit the ball about 30 yards over the green. He made double bogey and was knocked out. The 8th hole, Blankenburg used his driver to cut the dogleg carry over the pond and was close to the green in the rough, about 50 yards, but made bogey. Nagy and Rush both hit safe shots in the fairway and made par to advance to the last hole. The two most experienced golfers (Rush 52 years old, Nagy 60 years old) made it to the final hole.

Rush's tee shot on the last hole was not hit well and he was close to trees on the right side and could not reach the green. Nagy hit his tee shot very well and also failed to put his second shot on the green. Rush had the more difficult chip from the rough on the left side. Nagy was just below the green, an uphill chip. Rush missed about a 10 footer for par while Nagy made his shorter par putt (about five feet).

The last (and oldest) golfer to qualify for the 2007 MDGA Shootout is the champion. Congratulations to Mark Nagy! Anything can happen in a shootout! Anybody can win it!

There will be a shootout in Iowa this summer, the 4th Shootout in MDGA history. I guarantee it again will be an exciting event for the players and the fans. It looks like a few of the top USA deaf golfers Bill Roberts, Brandon Babineaux, Dano Aldaz, and of course, John Rush, the defending MDGA champion, will enter this tournament. If they all do, there should be a very exciting shootout this August.

We hope to make this an annual MDGA tradition.



61st Annual Midwest Deaf Golfers Association

44th Annual Midwest Deaf Ladies Golf Association

August 4 ~ 5 ~ 6, 2008

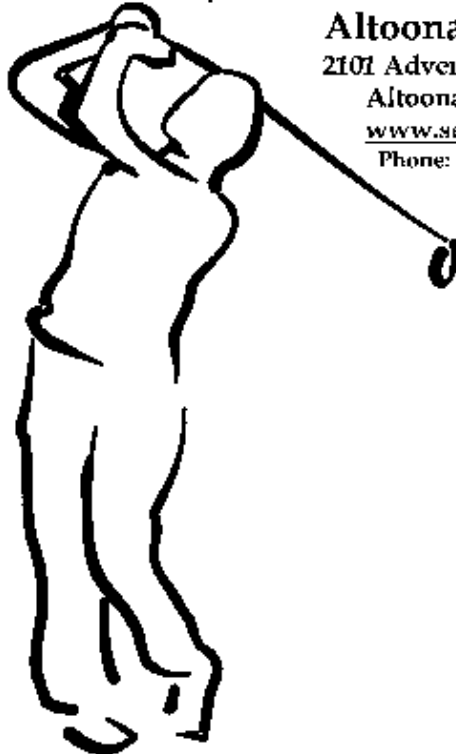
Hosted by Des Moines Deaf Golf Association

For more information, contact Robert Lawson (rlp0258@msn.com)

MDGA / MDLGA TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

Altoona Settle Inn

2101 Adventureland Drive
Altoona, IA 50009
www.settleinn.com
Phone: 515-967-7888



MDGA

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Copper Creek Golf Course
4815 Copper Creek Drive
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
Phone: 515-263-1600



MDLGA

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Toad Valley Golf Course
237 N.E. 80th
Runnells, IA 50237
Phone: 515-967-9575

Ramblings:

Called to the Great Beyond:

Roger Dempewolfe, 85, of Des Moines, Iowa on April 25, 2008. He had participated in 36 MDGA tournaments, the latest in 2006.

Bobby Locke, 55, of Webster City, Iowa on May 4, 2008. Bobby had participated in 8 tournaments.

Congratulations to SWDGA:

The MDGA extends its congratulations to Southwest Deaf Golf Association (SWDGA) on its 50th anniversary. The SWDGA will hold its tournament at Lakeway, Texas on June 9 through 12.

The Southeast Deaf Golfer Association (SEDGA) and Far West Deaf Golfer Association (FWDGA) will each hold its 39th anniversary tournament this year. Congratulations.

Our organization, MDGA, is the oldest golf tournament started in 1947 and is still going strong! You can find more information on various deaf golf tournaments through our website at www.mdga1947.org.

State Scramble Competition:

There will be a State Scramble competition on Sunday, August 2, 2008 in the morning. Last year Illinois walked over the other states and will be defending the title again this year. President Darrell Hovinen will reserve several tee times for this purpose so please contact President Hovinen if you plan to participate as part of a state team.

The other golfers who are not participating on the state scramble team can still have a practice round on Sunday.

Reminder of Meetings:

There will be a delegate meeting in the afternoon on August 2 at two o'clock and the regular MDGA meeting in the evening at 7 o'clock on Sunday, August 2, 2008. The President and Secretary are up for election.

Again remember the tournament will start on Monday (NOT TUESDAY) like in the past...

Sunset League:

In Minnesota, the Sunset League has started its 19th(?) season. This league meets every Monday evening for 12 weeks starting early May teeing off at 4:24 pm at Highland Park golf course. Sixteen members (mostly diehards) play different games every week collecting points. Different games such as Scramble, Best Ball, Wolf, Pink Ball, Scramble with string, 666 format, Chicago Points system, Play with just three clubs and so on. Individual tournaments are held after six weeks and at the end of season. Prizes are distributed according to the points collected.

This year is a different type as we now have two ladies playing with us for the first time. At this writing three league events have occurred and the two ladies are now leading the league in points. It shows that anyone can compete in golf unlike any other sport. Smile.