



Maine State Golf Association

Serving the Best Interests of Maine Amateur Golfers

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Februrary, 2009 ~ MSGA News

WE'RE MOVING!

By Nancy Storey
MSGA Executive Director

In case you haven't heard by now, the MSGA is very excited to be planning our move to Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland.

In conjunction with the Maine Golf Foundation, the MSGA has been working with the Town of Cumberland for the better part of the past year in the planning stages for the future Maine Golf House. The Board of Directors for the Golf House had its first official meeting and election last month. Plans are underway for all the golf organizations in Maine to work



together to make Maine golf better for every single player and golf course here. Congratulations to Bob Timmins of Waterville, who has been elected as president. He will be joined on

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Join the MSGA today

the Golf Foundation Executive Committee by Vice President Kate Boyle, Treasurer Alan Bouchard, and Secretary Birdie Pearce. The directors for the Maine Golf Foundation are Brian Bickford, John Boswell, Jeff Harris, Dan Hourihan, Scott Johnson, Terri Messer, Ed Michaud, Gary Rees, Rondel Reynolds, Lee Spaulding and Charleen Wiseman. These individuals represent the seven golf associations -- the MSGA, the SMWGA, the WMSGGA, the Maine Golf Hall of Fame, the Maine Chapter of the Ne w

England PGA, the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association and Golf Maine -- that will be coming together as the plans to develop the Maine Golf Foundation continue.

Don Doyon – whom many of you know as the MSGA’s Vice President of Just About Everything – is overseeing the renovation project at Val Halla for us. You can view our new office plans [here](#).

We’ll be moving from our Route One, Yarmouth, location to Val Halla by March 15. We have a new mailing address and telephone numbers, which will be published on our web site in addition to being included here. The Banquet Room of Val Halla will remain pretty much intact after the renovation. In addition to the banquet room, there will be two MSGA offices upstairs. The remainder of the MSGA offices will be downstairs.

The Banquet Room will continue to be used as function space, and anyone interested in renting the room, which seats up to 175 people for a formal function, should call the MSGA. We will also welcome community, social and golf functions for a reduced rate, as we're looking to be good new neighbors to the folks in the surrounding communities. Again, if you're interested in hosting an event at our site, please don't hesitate to give us a call and we'll be glad to work with you!

It will be a three-year process to fund raise for the Maine Golf Foundation project before all the golf associations have a permanent home and can best work together, but we think the end results will be well worth all of our efforts. Imagine what we can do for junior golf, for introducing golf to those who have never played before, and for promoting the values that this wonderful game represents if we all work together. It’s very exciting, and although it will be a lot of work, we're looking forward to the challenge.

We look forward to inviting you to visit our new space and have scheduled an MSGA Open House prior to the kickoff of the season. More information will be available next month, but mark your calendars for April 17-18. We hope you join us as we look forward to the new season!

From Jane's Desk

To Reach the MSGA after March 15:

Telephone : 207.829.3549
Fax Line: 207.829.3584
Address: MSGA 58 Val Halla Road Cumberland, Maine 04021

The Maine State Golf Association is moving aggressively to shift as much of our communications as possible to an electronic format. In 2008 we ended our practice of publishing tournament entry forms in our players' booklet. In 2009, we are doing away with the booklet altogether. All the information that was contained in the booklet is now accessible within the pages of our web site, www.mesga.org.

Players have become used to receiving our players' booklet in the mail upon renewal of their membership. That will not happen in 2009. Members who sign up via eClubhouse will get electronic verification that their membership has been processed, as will those who sign up through the mail, provided they include an accurate email address on the membership form. Otherwise, members may call Jane at the MSGA office if they feel a need to verify that we have processed their membership.

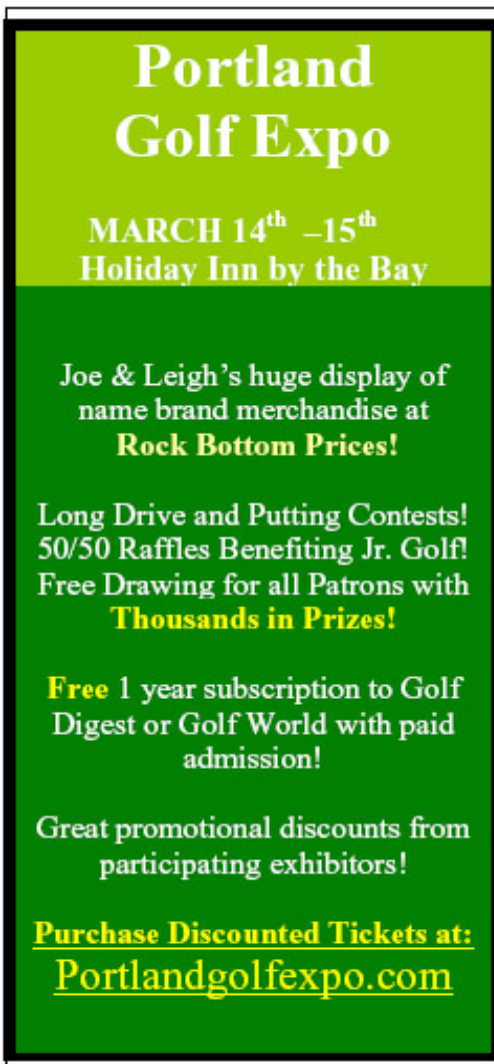
The MSGA welcomes your thoughts on this change and encourages you to let us know what you think.

Handicapping Guidelines

By Nancy Storey
MSGA Executive Director

As we get closer to the season, a lot of people have been calling the MSGA office for handicap information.

Either they're planning on joining a different golf club, or they want to know how they can keep their handicap if they're not a member of a club.



**Portland
Golf Expo**

MARCH 14th -15th
Holiday Inn by the Bay

**Joe & Leigh's huge display of
name brand merchandise at
Rock Bottom Prices!**

**Long Drive and Putting Contests!
50/50 Raffles Benefiting Jr. Golf!
Free Drawing for all Patrons with
Thousands in Prizes!**

**Free 1 year subscription to Golf
Digest or Golf World with paid
admission!**

**Great promotional discounts from
participating exhibitors!**

**Purchase Discounted Tickets at:
Portlandgolfexpo.com**

The answer to the first question is simple: As a member of the USGA's Golf and Handicap Information Service (GHIN), everyone's handicapping record is kept for two years on the USGA's mainframe computer. All you need to take your current handicap to a new club is your seven-digit GHIN handicap number. If you don't have that number, simply email us at msga@mesga.org and we'll send it to you immediately, usually within 24 hours.

The important thing to remember here is that when you go to a new club, you don't want to establish a new handicap number -- take your old number with you and your handicap will become effective at the next revision, without having to wait until you amass enough new scores.

The answer to the second question is a little more complicated, but some basic principles apply: Essentially, you can't have a handicap without being a member of a member club because the entire USGA Handicap System is based on the premise of peer review. Therefore, it follows that you can't have peer review if you don't have peers. However, there are several clubs around the state that offer limited memberships which include the GHIN service. If you find yourself just not being able to afford a full club membership this year, we encourage you not to give up golf completely -- look into your options to keep

playing, even if you have to have a limited membership.

Finally, we want you to remember that the USGA is now providing handicapping services year-round, and you can post your winter scores play at in-season clubs on line by going to www.ghin.com. You'll need your seven-digit GHIN number to post and, again, if you can't remember it, we at the MSGA can help you out. Remember, that whenever you play golf under the Rules of Golf, match or stroke play, you *must* post your score. As we like to say at the MSGA, the Rules of Handicapping are no more optional than the Rules of Golf. By doing the right thing, you'll enjoy this wonderful game for years to come.

2008 End of the Year Statistics:

Don, Randy & Romeo combined the results from the Southern and Central Division tournaments and came up with a list of the toughest 18 holes we played during our weekend tournaments. Keep in mind that some of these tournaments were affected by bad weather, course set-up etc. but we thought it would still be interesting.

The 18 toughest holes were as follows:

	GOLF COURSE	HOLE	YARDS	PAR	OVER PAR
1	Lakewood GC	1	365	4	1.96
2	Palmyra GC	12	575	5	1.82
3	Lakewood GC	13	410	4	1.74
4	Bar Harbor GC	2	388	4	1.73
5	Kebo Valley GC	17	349	4	1.65
6	Biddeford - Saco CC	11	443	4	1.59
7	Lakewood GC	8	410	4	1.58
8	Bar Harbor GC	1	427	4	1.55
9	Dunegrass CC	15	443	4	1.51
10	Turner Highlands GC	13	430	4	1.51
11	Jato Highlands GC	1	345	4	1.50
12	Cape Neddick CC	3	577	5	1.48
13	Norway CC	5	415	4	1.46
14	Cape Neddick CC	10	432	4	1.45
15	Samoset Resort	10	338	4	1.45
16	Jato Highlands GC	10	185	3	1.44
17	Fox Ridge GC	6	330	4	1.43
18	Augusta CC	13	456	4	1.42
			7318	73	28.27

So if put together these tough holes would create a Par 73 golf course, of 7318 yards, with an average score for the field of over 101. **Ouch!**

Then we went further and decided to see what were the toughest courses (As if we didn't already know) based on our weekend tournament play.

The entire list of weekend courses sums up like this:

	GOLF COURSE	STROKE AVERAGE	YARDS	PAR	OVER PAR
1	Sugarloaf	97.730	5946	72	19.913
2	Old Marsh	89.234	6032	70	19.234

3	Sunday River	93.663	6494	72	18.496
4	Turner Highlands	87.896	6033	71	18.316
5	Kebo Valley	88.683	6131	70	18.014
6	Samoset	87.981	6000	70	17.641
7	Dunegrass	88.423	6056	71	17.423
8	Waterville	86.962	6267	70	17.311
9	Jato Highlands	84.981	5731	72	17.214
10	Fox Ridge	88.739	5832	72	17.131
11	Biddeford-Saco	88.301	5818	71	16.968
12	Northeast Harbor	85.309	5504	69	16.884
13	Bar Harbor	87.825	6450	71	16.861
14	Naples	87.698	6039	72	16.770
15	Springbrook	86.118	6060	71	16.621
16	Cape Neddick	86.456	5698	70	16.456
17	Bath	86.418	5840	70	16.418
18	Dutch Elm	85.761	5889	72	16.329
19	Willowdale	86.251	5817	70	16.251
20	Rockland	87.120	5831	70	16.124
21	Augusta	88.070	6199	70	16.041
22	Boothbay	87.600	5861	71	15.991
23	Palmyra	88.250	6367	72	15.774
24	Falmouth	91.111	6192	72	15.490
25	Nonesuch	84.055	6003	70	15.442
26	Lakewood	88.013	6278	72	15.136
27	Bucksport	89.220	6710	74	15.032
28	Cape Arundel	83.364	5881	69	15.032
29	Natanis (Tomahawk)	86.751	6060	72	14.989
30	Outlook	87.952	6004	71	14.796
31	Wawenock	84.303	6041	70	14.303
32	Northport	85.367	6087	72	14.119
33	Norway	84.051	5740	70	14.051
34	Meadows	84.310	5316	68	13.919
35	Val Halla	86.531	6275	72	13.801
36	Webhannet	85.271	6088	71	13.623
37	Gorham	82.637	6159	70	13.362
38	Mere Creek	85.089	6148	72	13.297
39	Lake Kezar	87.005	5961	72	12.674
40	Penobscot Valley	84.550	6280	72	12.550
41	Hermon Meadow	84.517	5896	72	11.426
42	Bangor Muni	82.221	6345	71	11.271
43	Fairlawn	85.454	6300	72	10.402
44	Riverside	83.726	6073	72	10.203

**To sum up the MSGA golf season for the past five years
the following shows the number of entries by event type:**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Central Division	1,550	1,131	1,166	1,299	1,124
Southern Division	4,340	4,182	4,048	3,903	4,421
Summer Schedule	2,877	3,015	3,203	3,086	2,655
Senior Only				299	310
Scholarship Classics	231	281	180	184	180
Championships	1,373	1,286	1,206	1,387	1312
Totals	10,371	9,895	9,803	10,158	10,002

Senior Tour started in 2007

FEATURED MEMBER CLUB - MARTINDALE COUNTRY CLUB

The 2009 Maine Amateur Championship will be hosted at Martindale Country Club in Auburn later this summer, continuing a long, rich history of hosting some of the state's top golfing events. As we prepare for the season, we take a look at Martindale and what the traditions behind one of Maine's oldest clubs. The following information is taken directly from Martindale's web site. Please enjoy it, and if you get the chance, please visit us at this historic club the second week in July as the state's top men golfers tee off for the title.



Martindale Country Club opened for play on the long-ago summer of 1921. The front nine was designed and routed through the woods and dairy pasture by the Chisholm brothers, Alex and Fred, on land purchased in 1920 by the Martindale Holding Company. The first Martindale members were a very sociable group according to the opening day accounts. There was golf on the nine holes, a tennis tournament and, in the converted

barn, a dance attended by over 100 new members.

Fred Chisholm was Martindale's first professional greens keeper. Fred's brother Alex was Portland Country Club's Pro in the twenties. The two brothers were a formidable competitors in early New England pro golf events. The Maine Open Championship was held at Martindale in 1925 and was won by Frank Gilman of Augusta. Gilman's younger brother Harlan would become head pro in 1945.

During the 1930's the colorful George Dunn served as pro. Such great junior players as Ed Abbott, Royce Abbott, Ray Lebel, Paige West and Walter Emerson dominated amateur golf at Martindale and throughout the state. It was during this era that Martindale was first called "The Mother of Champions." This legacy of top-flight amateur golf was continued into the forties. Tom Lamey was Pro into the war years. Harlan Gilman began his long tenure at the brick house "in the dale" in 1945. Golf's popularity grew throughout the country in post-war America. Dr. Ray Lebel moved on to Portland to capture more championships. The great Ed Abbott and Fred Bendtsen stayed at Martindale and were besieged by young Turks, Bill Lever, Denny Blais, Joe Leigh, Norm Chase and eventual State Champion, Dr. Dan Shields. Along with Dan Shields, Martindale produced another fine player Andy Bunker. Andy was a great club champion who lost his life in a tragic boating accident.

In 1945 the club was reincorporated as Martindale Country Club, Inc. The fledgling corporation's beginning was marked by a onetime redemption of 1921 holding company stock.

There was apparently some consternation among the few members who missed the meeting. It was in this era that the Club sought a bank loan for some course improvements. When the bank inquired after collateral, an emphatic president, Fred Bendtsen, immediately put up his residence as surety! In 1955, Jack Linnell held forth as Martindale's Caddy Master.

Yes folks, there was a time when we had a lot of caddies and few carts.

John "Blackjack" Turner, one of our notable golfers, was one of Jack's charges. Dick Craw, a good amateur golfer who lives in the Augusta area, was another along with Tom Benoit, local

pro and former member Will Benoit's son. The biggest deal for caddies at the time was to get to carry doubles for The Big Four, as they were known: Rad Mitchell, Mike Gentile, Sam Paition and Bill Clifford Sr. They were the best tippers in the club and had exciting matches even though the quality of the golf may have been suspect.

The late fifties and early sixties brought us Arnold Palmer and the Masters Tournament on television. At Martindale a new generation burst on the scene and it wasn't just the boys this time. Martha and Penny Page formed their championship careers under Harlan Gilman and spent many hours honing their games by the rock garden putting green. Martha would win six State Crowns and Penny three. Another state champion coached by Harlan was Arlene Gilman, Harlan's daughter, who was a two-time WMSGGA Champion.

The young men of the late fifties and sixties took a back seat to no one in Maine. Todd Read won the State Amateur in 1964 and was defeated in the semi finals of the New England Amateur at the Portland Country Club. Dr. Dan Shields won the Amateur in 1966. Ralph Noel won the Amateur Championship in 1968, 1980 and 1981. Martindale lost Mr. Gilman in 1967. He was a great professional and a friend to hundreds of golfers. Anyone who caddied at Martindale under Harlan Gilman could not help but develop love and respect for the game. The mid-sixties were marked by outstanding Club Championship duels between Ralph Noel and Bob Jordan, two of the state's best.

The back nine project was completed. Philip Wogan designed a formidable nine holes along the little Androscoggin that bedevils golfers to this day. We are forever indebted to the members who worked to complete the new nine.

A monument on #10 marks the accomplishment in it's dedication to O.B. Britten. "Hit the Ball" is the anthem of Martindale's back nine.

Dick Harris began his twenty year tenure in 1968. Martindale hosted the Men's State Amateur in 1970, won by future Assistant Pro John Mills. Martindale was the Amateur venue again in 1989 when the best players in the state struggled on fast greens and high winds. The great Mark Plummer of Augusta prevailed that summer. Bob Darling, Jr. was hot for the 1989 Amateur in his first full season as Head Pro. Bob had a distinguishing career at Maryland and continues to play top-rank professional golf in New England.

In 1992, Club Champion, David Brewster set a new course record of 63. Martindale's long awaited new clubhouse became a reality in 1993. It has received rave reviews from golfers and guests throughout the state. In 1998 Martindale Country Club elected its first woman president Ms. Diane Heutz. 2007 sees the advent of Nick Glicos as our new Head Pro. He follows a great line of professionals who loved the game, and inspired Martindale's fortunate members.

The MSGA Welcomes Our New Directors:

Joe Alvarez, Penobscot Valley CC
Erik Fitch, Castine GC
Sam Marzenell, Cape Arundel GC

HANDICAP eREVISIONS

If you haven't already signed up for eRevision emails, you should do so today. Your handicap index and score history will be automatically emailed to you at each handicap revision. To sign up go to www.ghin.com and choose "Email Update" at the top of the page. Handicap revisions are now every two weeks during the season and monthly in the off season. Click here for the 2009

revision schedule. Also you will be able to take advantage of great deals offered by our eRevision sponsor, Harris Golf, at all their fine courses. So tell your friends to sign up as well and remember if your email address changes, you will need to update your information to keep receiving the revision emails.

JOIN THE MSGA

Is 2009 the year you finally join MSGA? You may not know, but membership is open to men, women, juniors & seniors alike? The rewards gained by being an MSGA member are significant; whether it's the MSGA Player Rewards card, that gives you significant discounts at many great Maine golf courses, the great tournament schedule open to all members or the satisfaction of helping us promote golf in Maine to all levels of golfers, it's time to consider joining the MSGA. It's easy, just go to our web site at www.mesga.org and follow the link under Membership/Player Rewards Card in the center of the page. Membership is just \$25 (you'll save more than that by just one trip to several of the golf courses participating in the Member Rewards program), and you can sign up on line using our eClubhouse microsite.

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Local Time: 4/25/2009 8:12:32 pm E.S.T.

Contact **Maine State Golf Association:** msga@mesga.org

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