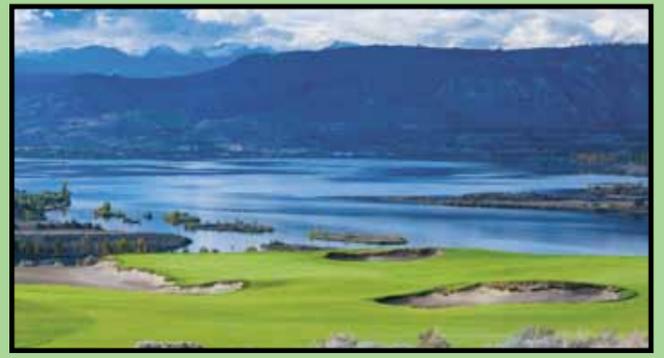




Pacific Northwest Guide: Inside Golf loads you up

If you are looking for new places to play, resorts to visit, places to park your RV's, the toughest courses in the Northwest . . . then Inside Golf has what you need this month with our annual Pacific Northwest Golf Guide, which includes courses like Gamble Sands in Brewster, Wash. See inside for more.



WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

If you play Chambers, you might see the stars

The world will have its eye on the Pacific Northwest in June when the United States Open hits the area at Chambers Bay June 18-21. If you happen to be playing the course before then, you might run into a PGA Tour professional looking to get some inside information. Most have not played the course and you might see them if you happen to have a tee time. For information see www.usga.org.

Central Oregon Shootout will be held April 24-26

One of the Pacific Northwest's top team tournaments, the Central Oregon Shootout, is set for April 24-26 at a collection of Central Oregon's top golf courses.

The tournament, which features two-player teams, features three different days of play, including better-ball, scramble and chapman.

The three-day tournament will be held at Aspen Lakes, Black Butte Ranch Resort and Eagle Crest Resort. There will be a welcome reception scheduled for April 23 at Aspen Lakes.

Cost is \$600 per team and includes green fees, cart, lunch, tee prizes and more.

For information, see www.aspenlakes.com and hit the information button for the Central Oregon Shootout.

Northwest will play host to professionals tours

Every professional golf tour will make a visit to the Pacific Northwest in 2015. The biggest tournament will be the U.S. Open June 18-21 at Chambers Bay.

But the Champions Tour, Web.com Tour and LPGA Tour will also hit the Northwest. Here's a quick look:

- **July 9-12:** Albertson's Boise Open, part of the Web.com Tour at Hillcrest Country Club.

- **Aug. 13-16:** LPGA Portland Classic, part of the LPGA Tour at Columbia Edgewater Country Club.

- **Aug. 21-23:** Boeing Classic, part of the Champions Tour at the TPC Snoqualmie Ridge.

- **Aug. 27-20:** WinCo Foods Portland Open, part of the Web.com tour at Pumpkin Ridge's Witch Hollow course.

Rules Quiz

A player properly plays a provisional ball for a ball that may be lost. He and his group search the area where the ball was "LIKELY" to be and did not find it. He goes forward a few yards and plays his provisional ball to the green. Another 20 yards farther he finds his original ball. You get the call to help the player. What do you tell him? See answer on Page 2.



U.S Open countdown: Tiger exempt; tickets getting scarce

Tiger Woods might not have his best game going right now but he is still exempt for the 2015 United States Open, set for June 18-21 at Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash.

Even though Woods has struggled since returning from surgery, missing cuts and withdrawing because of injuries, he is still expected to tee it up at the U.S. Open. Woods is exempt because he was a winner of the U.S. Open in the past 10 years (2009) and a winner of the Players Championship (2013) in the past three years. He has fallen to No. 62 in the world. Local PGA Tour star Ryan Moore, ranked 33rd in the world is also likely to be exempt for the U.S. Open. He has played Chambers Bay several times.

Tickets to the four tournament rounds are sold out. Tickets are available for the practice rounds June 15-17. Practice round tickets include a three-day Gallery package for \$100 per person. See www.usga.org for more information.

NW courses look to reap Open benefits



When the United States Open hits the Northwest June 18-21, there will be an influx of thousands of golfers. And many of the courses around Chambers Bay like Riverbend in Kent (top) and The Home Course in DuPont (right) are hoping to pick up extra rounds. Some courses have plans to lure golfers to their course, See Page 8 for more.



Paige Mackenzie comeback on hold after nerve injury issues re-surface

LPGA Tour player Paige Mackenzie from Yakima and the University of Washington thought back surgery would get her ready for the 2015 LPGA season. And right before Christmas, she was feeling pain free.

But during Christmas when she was working her way back, she experienced some nerve issues and her return to the LPGA Tour is no on hold.

Mackenzie had surgery to repair a herniated disk that was giving her nerve problems. The surgery seemed to be successful until December.

"I was free and clear and pain free for months," said Mackenzie. "But over Christmas it flared up again. Its getting better but there is still some numbness in my foot."

Mackenzie is working with the Golf Channel as a host while she tries to get her way back to the LPGA Tour. "I'm not going to give up, but maybe my body is sending me a message," said the 32-year-old Mackenzie. "But I'm in a good position. I have a great job at the Golf Channel."



Big Arizona weekend features plenty of NW football and golf flavor

There was plenty of Pacific Northwest flavor to go around when the Waste Management Phoenix Open and the Super Bowl were held in the area during the same weekend.

The Seattle Seahawks had their challenges at the Super Bowl, falling to the New England Patriots, and players like Ryan Moore and Michael Putnam were among the leaders at the Waste Management Open (16th hole pictured right).

See Pages 2 and 12 for more.



Waste Management Open: A party that is disguised as a golf tournament

The timing had just never been right. For years, I had wanted to head to Phoenix see the Waste Management Open. The sights on television made it must-see TV. But it was more than that. It was event that I had to see in person. But the timing was never good.

This year, things were different. this year, the timing was perfect.

This deal in Phoenix is not only must-see TV it's must-see in person. Television does some justice to the event, but when you pass through the front gates and get your first look at the TPC Scottsdale and the circus that is the Waste Management Open, you just can't believe your eyes.

I have been to the professional golf tournaments before. There are grandstands, hospitality tents, beer gardens and everything else you would think that goes along with hosting a professional golf tournament.

But this deal in Phoenix is a week-long party. Over 500,000 fans are there for the weekend and on Saturday there are over 150,000 fans on that one day alone.

This is an event that lures more than just golf fans. There are the college-age kids ready to party. There are the casual golf fans wanting a look at the stars but always with an eye on the beer garden. There are the true golf fans, loaded up with their binoculars, chairs and pairings sheets.

And then, there is the 16th hole. What started as a par-3 hole which attracted plenty of fans but no seats when Tiger Woods made an ace back in the late 1990's, has become stadium golf. There are 16,000 seats around the 150-yard par-3 hole with 11,000 for suites and 5,000 for general admission seats.

We got our taste of the 16th hole during the third round on Saturday. It was tough to get a seat in the grandstands, but we shoe-horned our way into between some guys with huge orange Styrofoam hats and some young ladies



Steve Turcotte

who seemed more intent who was going to buy them their next Budweiser. You see the 16th on TV, but TV does not do this justice. The alcohol starts flowing early and never lets up. There is a beer stand behind the bleachers and the line never shortens.

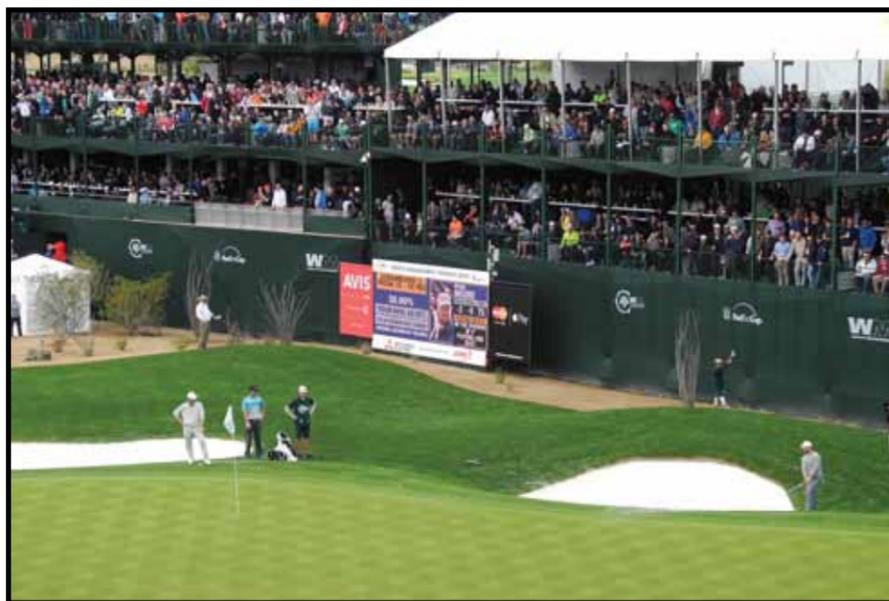
It's amusing to see volunteers holding up

quiet signs around the area, but guess what? No one is ever quiet at the 16th. When players are teeing off and when they are putting, there is no quiet. I remember one woman saying to her friend "these are the most rude fans I have ever seen." Lady, you've never been to the 16th hole at Phoenix before have you?

When a player misses the green, the boos are loud. When a player misses a putt, the boos are louder. Good shots are cheered and most players play to the fans, throwing goodies into the stands as they walk toward the green. Ricky Fowler waved to the crowd ala Happy Gilmore to be loud when he teed off one day.

It's a week-long party and if you get the chance, well worth the visit. And on 16, make sure to ignore the quiet signs.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at sdturcotte@comcast.net.



Over 150,000 golf fans were on hand for the Saturday round of the Waste Management Open; here Puyallup native Ryan Moore hits a terrific shot out of a plugged lie on the 16th hole in the third round.



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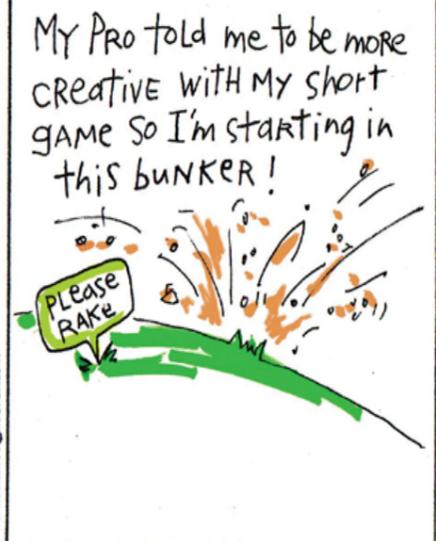
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Double Bogey



Rules Answer

Answer: The original ball is deemed lost when he played his provisional ball from a point nearer the hole than the place where the original ball was likely to be. "Likely to be" trumps reality and so the fact that the original ball was found is irrelevant. If he continues with the original he has played a wrong ball.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his insight on the rules and the questions and answers.

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Mount Si's attraction doesn't end with its view of the mountain

Mount Si Golf Course, nestled up against the base of Mount Si in the Snoqualmie Valley, has roots dating back to 1927 when the nine-hole layout first opened. Today, after numerous upgrades, additions and renovations, Mount Si has evolved into one of the most popular 18-hole venues in the region.

The course is known for its meticulous attention to course conditions, its beautiful landscaping and the jaw-dropping views of its namesake mountain, which overlooks the course.

Mount Si has a strong commitment to junior golf and will host PGA Junior League Golf in 2015 and has hosted the Mount Si High School golf teams (girls & boys) along with a middle school team for many years. It also has junior classes, camps and regular league play. The staff at Mount Si is committed to providing a friendly

environment for families and kids. See their website for junior options and starting dates.

The par-72 course is easy to walk and plays to 6,419 yards from the back tees with a rating of 69.2 and slope of 117. Only 36 minutes from down town Seattle it is easily accessible off Interstate 90.

The Bar & Grill restaurant is a full-service, sit-down affair where you can get breakfast, lunch and dinner while taking in the fantastic views.

Besides golf tournaments they also host weddings, class reunions, receptions, anniversary/birthday parties, sports team get-togethers or meetings of any kind.

Gary Barter and John Sanford acquired the course in 1989 and set about making improvements to the drainage. For more information about Mount Si, see MtSiGolf.com.



Mount Si has a stately presence as it overlooks Mount Si Golf Course in the Snoqualmie Valley.

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If it's March, it's time to start posting scores again; Semiahmoo is multiple award winner

If you are a regular player in the Pacific Northwest, then March 1 is a date you need to know. On March 1, 2015 that signals the date that scores can once again be posted from rounds played in the Pacific Northwest.

The Northwest has always used a system where scores get posted from March 1 through November 15. Any rounds played during the winter months at Pacific Northwest golf courses don't get posted because of the wintery conditions. However, rounds played in other areas like Hawaii and Arizona, can be posted during those winter months.

The Washington State Golf Association and Oregon Golf Association both have March 1 on their calendars as dates to start posting scores again.

Western Washington PGA Section honors Semiahmoo's Eaton, Coston

Semiahmoo Resort, Golf, & Spa, the iconic seaside resort located on the Semiahmoo Spit in Blaine, Wash., announced Director of Golf Brett Eaton as the recipient of both the Golf Professional of the Year and Merchandiser of the Year award from the Professional Golfers Association's Western Washington Chapter. Golf Instructor Jeff Coston has also been awarded Teacher of the Year.

Eaton received the highest honor of Golf Professional of the Year, which recognizes a golf professional whose total contributions to the game best exemplify the complete PGA Professional. He was recognized as Merchandiser of the Year for excelling as a business person and merchandiser in the promotion of golf. Coston was honored for the second time as Teacher of the Year for being an outstanding teacher of golf among the ranks of PGA membership.

The top western Washington professionals in

nine categories were recognized by their peers for outstanding performance during 2014. The winners were all presented plaques and trophies at the PGA Pacific Northwest Section's spring meeting on February 12, 2015.

Eaton has more than 20 years of experience in the golf industry. He has been a staff member of the Titleist National Leadership Advisory Staff and a PGA National Ambassador. Coston came to Semiahmoo Resort in 1994. Before becoming an instructor, Coston played on the PGA tour twice, the nationwide tour from 1991 to 1994, and played in one U.S. Open and two U.S. Senior Opens. He also qualified for the 2015 Champions Tour. He has dedicated the last twenty years to being a coach and mentor to golfers from beginners to PGA Tour and LPGA Tour Players.

If you are a single golfer, American Singles Golf Association can help

If you are a golfer and single, the Seattle Chapter of the American Singles Golf Association (ASGA) might be the right place for you. An informational social/dinner is held on the second Tuesday of each month to announce the activities scheduled. The Seattle Chapter usually has an event planned every weekend during the summer months. Courses such as Bellevue Municipal, The Cedars at Dungeness, Snoqualmie Falls, and The Home Course, are examples of courses that will be played during the 2015 golf season.

Non-golf socials are held in the off-season such as Bowling, Theater, Dinner and Movies. The ASGA offers regional and inter-chapter golf tournaments that provide a chance to meet and play with singles from other areas. Members planning a trip, who are interested in playing a round of golf while traveling, can also check for scheduled ASGA golf events in areas in which

they plan to visit. The ASGA is made up of 3,000 members across the country in 75 cities. Besides local events with the Seattle Chapter the ASGA National offers regional and inter-chapter tournaments including trips to Europe, Scotland, and Hawaii. Multi-chapter golf weekends are planned each year and usually feature 100-300 golfers from various chapters.

For more information contact Ben Watson, the Seattle Chapter president at 206.661.5570 or the National office at 1-888-465-3682 or www.singlesgolf.com. Or see Meet-up.com.

Pacific Northwest Golf Association hires two new staff members for 2015

The PNGA has recently brought on two new staff members this year, Victoria Saul and Torrin Westwood. You may recognize these faces as they were both our USGA P.J. Boatwright Jr. Interns last year. We are happy to announce that they are now working for the Association!

Victoria is the Member Operations Assistant and Torrin is now the Assistant Manager of Rules and Competition.

Rounds of golf in the country were up in 2014 compared with 2013

PGA PerformanceTrak, the golf industry's leading rounds and revenue data collection and benchmarking service, from the PGA of America, in cooperation with the NCGOA, announced that according to preliminary year-end results, golf rounds played per days open in 2014 were up nearly 1% when compared with 2013 data.

PGA PerformanceTrak is the leading source for golf facility performance indicators and the largest single source of rounds played data in the golf industry, with more than 2,600 facilities contributing to the report on a monthly basis.

2015 Portland LPGA event looks forward to new August dates

After two years of overlapping with the start of college football and playing into Labor Day weekend, the Portland Classic will move to an earlier August date in 2015. The LPGA Tour event will be played Aug. 13-16 at Columbia Edgewater.

"After two years in the Labor Day weekend, we are very excited to move two weeks earlier," said Tom Maletis, president of Tournament Golf Foundation, the Portland non-profit that runs the event. "The earlier part of August proved very popular in prior years with our fans, sponsors and the top LPGA professionals."

The Portland Classic has undergone several recent changes, starting with the loss of title sponsor Safeway in 2013. Also, after a successful four-year run at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club in North Plains, the tournament returned to long-time home Columbia Edgewater in 2013 and changed to a 72-hole format after being a 54-hole tournament throughout its history.

The tournament lost Safeway after the 2013 tournament, but TGF brought the event back in 2014 without a title sponsor, with Cambia Health Solutions signing on as presenting sponsor.

In 2013 and '14, the tournament was played the final week of August, which meant Saturdays were played on the same day that both Oregon and Oregon State started their college football seasons with home games, cutting into attendance. The final round was played the Sunday before Labor Day, meaning families that left town for the long weekend would not attend.

The late date also hurt the tournament's 2014 field as such stars as Stacy Lewis, Michelle Wie, Paula Creamer, Lydia Ko and Inbee Park skipped the Portland stop, which in years past had drawn most of the tour's top golfers. The tournament was played as the fourth in four weeks on tour, with the preceding three played on the East Coast, and the next event on the calendar being a major, the Evian Championship in France.

With the weaker field, the 2014 event drew 62,000, down from the 71,500 in 2013.

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Home Course, Eugene Country Club and Wine Valley will host qualifiers for 2015 U.S. Open

The Home Course in DuPont, Wash.; Eugene Country Club and Wine Valley in Walla Walla, Wash. will be three of the host courses for local qualifying for the 2015 U.S. Open, which will be played June 18-21 at Chambers Bay.

The Home Course will host its qualifier on Monday, May 11 while Wine Valley will conduct its event on Tuesday, May 12 and Eugene Country Club will have its qualifier on Monday, May 18.

There will be a total of 111 sites for qualifiers in 43 states taking place from May 4-21. The players who advance out of local qualifying will compete in sectional events conducted over 36 holes at 10 sites in the U.S. on June 8.

For information on how to sign up for a local qualifier see www.usga.org.

UW men finish second in Hawaii

Cheng-Tsung Pan finished off a great tournament at the Amer Ari Invitational, earning individual medalist honors. He led the Huskies to a runner-up finish as Washington finished just two strokes back of Arizona State in the team race.

Pan shot a round of 3-under 69 to finish at 17-under 199 for the tournament. He won by two strokes over Brandon McIver of Oregon and Scottie Scheffler of Texas. Pan birdied the final two holes to clinch the individual championship of the tournament.

As a team, the Huskies finished the final round at 6-under 282. For the week, the Dawgs were 36-under, but finished two strokes back of Arizona State. USC and Oregon tied for third, one shot back of UW.

Fourth-ranked UW women win

The No. 4 ranked Washington women's golf team recorded its fourth, first place finish of the season as the Huskies stole the show at the UC Irvine Invitational. Playing at the Santa Ana Country Club, Washington finished the tournament 10-under par,

finishing 11 strokes ahead of the next team, No. 2 USC.

The four wins this season are the most since the Dawgs won five times way back in 1977.

Washington entered the final round at 10-under with an 11-stroke lead, which is exactly how things would finish. The Dawgs finished the day at an even-par 288 with the only teams having better final rounds being No. 19 UNLV and SMU. The Running Rebels had the best day, shooting a 12-under par 276, but finished fourth overall on the final leaderboard.

All five Huskies were in the top-25 individuals, with four Husky players finishing in the top 10. Both Charlotte Thomas and Jennifer Yang finished tied-for-third place with a score of 4-under 212. Thomas was sitting at tenth place heading into the fin

Champions Tour, Schwab extend deal

The PGA Tour and Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. announced an historic 20-year extension of their multifaceted marketing partnership. This represents the longest marketing agreement the PGA Tour has ever entered.

The Champions Tour will hit the Pacific Northwest with the Boeing Classic at the TPC Snoqualmie Ridge Aug. 21-23.

In conjunction with the extension, the Champions Tour will be creating a playoff system beginning with the 2016 season, with details on the structure forthcoming. The announcements were made by Schwab Founder and Chairman Charles R. Schwab and PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem.

Key elements of the marketing extension include the continuation of:

- Schwab's Official Marketing Partner status as the Official Investment Firm of the PGA Tour and Champions Tour and Schwab's umbrella sponsorship of the season-long Charles Schwab Cup competition on the Champions Tour;

- Schwab also will continue its sponsorship of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, the culmination of the Charles Schwab Cup.

Tour Players With Northwest ties

PGA Tour

- Ben Crane • Portland • 177th on the list with \$58,000
- Robert Garrigus • Gresham • 194th on the list with \$40,018
- Andres Gonzales • Olympia • 42nd on the list with \$619,164
- Troy Kelly • Bremerton • No cuts made
- Richard H. Lee • Bellevue • No events
- Ryan Moore • Puyallup • 10th on the list with \$1,561,793
- Alex Prugh • Spokane • 61st on the list with \$464,248
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 122nd on the list with \$195,392
- Michael Putnam • Tacoma • 94th on the list with \$282,399
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • 184th on the list with \$51,590
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 26th on the list with \$839,765

Web.com Tour

- Jeff Gove • Seattle • 50th on the list with \$6,290
- Brock Mackenzie • Yakima • 78th on the list with \$2,267
- Andrew Yun • Tacoma • 6th on the list with \$46,400

Champions Tour

- Jeff Coston • 89th on the list with \$3,340
- Fred Couples • Seattle • 13th on the list with \$133,000
- Rick Fehr • Seattle • No events
- Bob Gilder • Corvallis • 81st on the list with \$5,335
- Brian Henninger • Eugene • 57th on the list with \$16,254
- Peter Jacobsen • Portland • 48th on the list with \$22,454
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 28th on the list with \$62,329

LPGA Tour

- Paige Mackenzie • Yakima • No events
- Sadena Parks • Tacoma • No cuts made yet
- Wendy Ward • Edwall, Wash. • No events

LPGA Symetra Tour

- Lindsay Aho • Brush Prairie • No events
- Jessi Gebhardt • Bellingham • No events
- Jimin Kang • Seattle • 3rd on the list with \$3,344
- Renee Skidmore • Everett • No events
- Kim Welch • Ex-WSU • 35th on the list with \$675
- Christy Yun • Tacoma • No events

Did you know....

• Score posting began March 1 for players who belong to the Washington State Golf Association. Scores at courses in the Pacific Northwest must be posted on the GHIN computers from March 1 through November. Rounds played outside the Northwest should have still been posted during the winter months as well. For questions see www.thewsga.org/



• The Oregon Golf Association put its 2015 Explore Oregon Golf Passport on sale last month. The Passport will cost \$129 or \$179 if golfers want an OGA membership and handicap as well. The Passport will feature courses throughout Oregon and offer green fee and cart discounts at reduced prices. See www.oga.org for more information on the Passport.



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Northwest courses hope to see benefits of U.S. Open with an increase of golf rounds in June

When the United States Open hits the Pacific Northwest June 18-21 at Chambers Bay the economic impact will be felt by restaurants and hotels throughout the Puget Sound area. Thousands of golf fans are expected to visit the area for a week and pump millions of dollars into the Northwest economy.

Local golf courses are also hoping to get a part of the action. There are many courses within a short drive of Chambers Bay and those courses are hoping to get a piece of the action.

"You never know what will happen with a big event coming to the area, but we want to be ready," said Eric Hinrichs of Riverbend Golf Course in Kent. "There will be a lot of golf fans in the area, hopefully we can get some."

Hinrichs said plans are for a U.S. Open type of tournament the week of the championship and special pricing might be involved.

Other courses know they will have some plans in place, but are still waiting to put the final piece in place. At North Shore Golf Course in Tacoma head professional Dave Wetli said there will be a U.S. Open Ball Buster event on Wednesday of tournament week. "We want to put our best foot forward and show people what we have."

Allenmore Golf Course is just minutes from Chambers Bay and is a course which will be seen by hundreds of golfers heading to the U.S. Open. The course is owned by the Elks Lodge and they plan some events during the week.

Oki Golf, which runs several courses in the Pacific Northwest, has its closest course at Hawk's Prairie in Lacey. Kevin Myers the director of golf said that a couple of deals are in the works including taking reservations well in advance and a possible Stay and Play package with the Red Lion.



North Shore Golf Course in Tacoma should see an increase in rounds when the U.S. Open hits.

The Home Course in DuPont, which hosted the U.S. Amateur along with Chambers Bay in 2010, will have a couple of special events planned during the week and will work with the USGA on the tournament as well as the events at The Home Course.

There will be plenty going on the week of June 18-21. The local Puget Sound courses will be ready. "This is a one-time deal," said Wetli. "We need to have people know how good golf in the Pacific Northwest is."



Allenmore (top) and the Golf Club at Newcastle expect to see increased traffic because of the U.S. Open.

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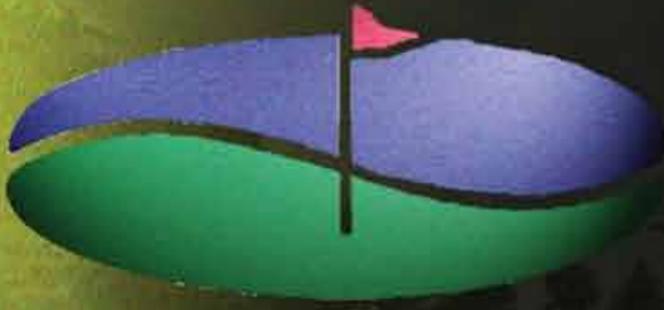
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Don't be fooled by the name. Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club in Federal Way, Wash. might say private club and have all the feel for a private club, but this is a place where the public is invited.

Twin Lakes has been around since 1967 but a few years ago when the economic pinch was started to be felt by golf course, Twin Lakes opened up its tee sheet for public play. It's been a case of so far, so good says the club. The club still has a private feel to it and give public golfers a chance to play a course with private-course quality. Through the month of March, golfers have a chance to play for only \$30.

It's called Golf Madness for the entire month of March, \$30 gets a round of golf at Twin Lakes, a place with an 18-hole course and some terrific

practice facilities. "It's a way early in the season to get some golfers in here at a great price to see if they might want to become members of Twin Lakes," said head professional Kris Runge. "The NCAA might have it March Madness so we came up with our own Golf Madness."

Twin Lakes also offers a variety of memberships, and a new addition to the membership program is a Member's Plus package giving the chance to play unlimited golf at both Twin Lakes and Kitsap Golf and Country Club in Bremerton. Almost like being a member of two clubs.

"It's a way of adding value to our memberships," said Runge. "We feel we have a great product now, and just made it better."

For information on tournaments or green fees, call the course at 253.838.0345.



The third at Twin Lakes features a watery challenge for shots that come up short on this par-3.

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The Hickory Corner: Hickory players just keep coming back

By Brian Giboney, Special to Inside Golf

How many times have we been out on the course playing the modern game with someone who is having a bad day, then all of a sudden they hit an amazing golf shot out of nowhere and tap in for a birdie? Or maybe they make a 40 foot putt for par after two doubles and a triple. The response is the old saying "That will keep you coming back!" Smiles for everybody and all of a sudden the entire foursome is having a blast out on the golf course.

This is where hickory addicts like me keep coming back no matter the score. With the modern game we almost expect to play solid every time out because the equipment is so advanced. For most of us, it is more advanced than us. When we hit a bad shot it really feels like we are failures. Now with hickory golf, the equipment is very basic. There is a crude club head, a wood shaft, and a leather grip. It is almost as if failure

is certain to happen anyway so we might as well enjoy it as part of the journey. In 2015 this might sound like a revelation, but during the hickory era (pre-1935) scores were much higher than they are today. A fun time on the golf course in the 1920s and 1930s was certainly different than it is today.

Most people have heard of the great Harry Vardon. Harry is a legend and a genius in the game of golf who won 7 major championships. Did you know Harry posted several rounds in the 80s in the majors he won? Golf is a much different game from the hickory era to the modern era and so is the fun.

I love the modern game. Over half my time on my backyard putting green is spent chipping and putting with modern equipment. What I am saying is no matter the score, you will have fun playing hickory golf! When you make your first par it will feel like an eagle and every par you

ever make in hickory golf will feel like a birdie. You will have those "That will keep you coming back" moments much more often than you can imagine and your new found fun for the game will in turn have you enjoying the modern game from a fresh new perspective as well. If you have not made your first hickory swing yet, you will have many opportunities to do so in 2015.

Here is a list of upcoming hickory tournaments:

- March 21: Jefferson Park Seattle Old Sticks Hickory Classic (Centennial).
- May 2: Meadow Park 3rd Annual Vintage Hickory Invitational (Centennial).
- May 24: Chambers Bay "The Open before The Open" Chambers Bay Hickory Open.
- Oct 3: The Home Course Washington State Hickory Open Championship More details are available at: <http://apnationalgolfclub.com/hickory/> or contact the tournament director (Durel Billy) directly at durelbilly@yahoo.com.



Hickory tournaments are becoming a hit.

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No shortage of Northwest flavor in the desert for both Super Bowl, Phoenix Open

By Steve Turcotte, Inside Golf Editor

If you were lucky to make it to Arizona during a certain weekend in late January and early February, you were treated to two monster events and both events featuring plenty NW flavor.

Two different sports, two of the biggest sporting events you can imagine.

Inside, the Super Bowl took centerstage in the football world as the Seattle Seahawks took on the New England Patriots. The world watched as the Seahawks drove to the 1-yard line, only to get a pass picked off with less than 20 seconds left in the game to fall 28-24.

Outside, the Waste Management Open was held at the TPC Scottsdale and drew obscene numbers like usual. How obscene? There were over 150,000 spectators during Saturday's third round alone and more than 500,000 fans came throughout the week. And the Pacific Northwest was well represented with a pair of players who were near the top of the leaderboard throughout the week as Puyallup native Ryan Moore and Tacoma's Michael Putnam each was close to the top spot during the week.

The Super Bowl had been played in Phoenix before. And held at the same time as the Waste Management Open. There were two weeks worth of parties, a huge NFL Fan experience held downtown and tickets that were scarce and brutally expensive. I had two friends that went down to the game without tickets thinking they price might go down. They spent \$6,000 for tickets right before kickoff. So much for the theory of tickets getting cheaper as the game got closer.

It was the second straight Super Bowl appearance for the Seahawks who came within one



Ryan Moore was in the hunt at Phoenix.

play of winning their second straight title. The Northwest was in full force in the stands, outside the stadium and around the streets of Phoenix all week with 12th Man flags and Seahawk jerseys. Even at the Waste Management Open, there were thousands of golf fans dressed in Seahawk gear, waving 12th man flags and rooting for the Pacific Northwest players.

And wherever you went - from the streets to the golf course. The Seahawk chant could be heard. It was week like no other.



The Northwest was represented by the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl (top photo) and plenty of PGA Tour players at the Waste Management Open, where a couple of players were in contention.



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The Lesson Tee: Champions Tour is an eye-opener, but the putts must fall

Last fall I went to the Champions Tour qualifier. The Champions Tour gives five exempt cards for the following tournament year. Not many spots. About 1,000 golfers throughout the world go to the qualifying for those five spots. I shot 69-74-73-66 to tie for third. Bingo! One of the 5 spots.

I've played two events. The Allianz Championship in Boca and the Ace Group Classic in Naples, Florida. To be honest, I did some good things in the first two events although my scores have not been my usual scores. Golf is weird! Sometimes so am I. I've driven the golf ball well which is normally a recipe for success. I'm longer than most players out there and I was told I hit somewhere around 80% of the fairways. I'll take that. As I've written before that the driver sets up the hole. It is our offensive weapon! Practice that driver and get the correct fit of loft, lie and proper shaft. So important!

I was told I hit about 70% of the greens. I'll take that also. I am convicted that mastering the curve of your golf ball and the path of your swing are huge keys to successful ball striking.

I could have made more putts. Everyone can make more and we always want to. Making more putts is the quickest and easiest way to lower scores. I made some putts, sure. I want to make more. Since I've been home I've spent at least an hour a day on the putting green.

As always, I'm hitting many 40-foot putts to master my speed. Proper speed promotes trust and confidence in not three-putting. I roll many putts from 2' - 5'. Yes, two-footers. I want to see the ball go in the hole. Seeing the ball go in is a confidence boosting image. We all need that. A couple



Jeff Coston

practical keys to making putts that I am re-visiting:

Hit the putt on the sweet spot of the putter. I always go back to this procedure. Make sure I hit the putt solid on the sweet spot of the putter so the ball rolls and doesn't jump. I make sure I get the ball started on my intended line. On a short putt its the first six inches and a longer putt the first 12 inches. This was a Jack Nicklaus tip. I commit to and trust my read with a reactionary, less thinking, quicker routine. I imagine a basketball player at the foul line. Carefree, rhythmic and less is more. Less thought, less time and less try.

Reflecting, I made mistakes that I usually do not make. If we limit our silly mistakes or unforced errors our scores are much lower. I had fun playing with Gil Morgan, Bobby Wadkins, Larry Mize, Tom Purtzer, Bob Gilder and many more.

Check me out on The Champions Tour. I play next in Tucson the middle of March.

Jeff Coston is a 20-time Pacific Northwest PGA Player of the Year. Jeff can be reached at the wonderful Semiahmoo Resort by calling 360-201-4590 or jeffcoston.com



I could have made more putts. Everyone can make more and we always want to. Making more putts is the quickest and easiest way to lower scores. I made some putts, sure. I want to make more. Since I've been home I've spent at least an hour a day on the putting green. As always, I'm hitting many 40-foot putts to master my speed. Proper speed promotes trust and confidence in not three-putting.



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Rules of the Game: Make sure to know what to do if your golf ball does strike the flagstick



Mike Peluso

Last month, we talked about the flagstick and the Rules regarding attending the flagstick. What do the Rules say about the situations when the ball strikes the flagstick or the person attending it?

There are many "myths" about the ball striking the flagstick or the person attending it. So, let's look at all the variations of this Rule. First of all, the player is penalized (two strokes in stroke play; loss of hole in match play) if his ball strikes the flagstick only if he has made a stroke from the putting green. It doesn't matter if the flagstick is in the hole or has been removed. If a player makes a stroke from off the putting and green and it strikes the flagstick, there is no penalty.

However, it's slightly different if he asked someone to attend the flagstick or if someone is deemed to be attending the flagstick (see last month's article about being "deemed" to be attending the flagstick). Now the player is penalized if his ball strikes the flagstick OR the person who is attending it. In addition, this also applies if the player is making a stroke from OFF the green.

What if someone attends the flagstick



The ball may not strike either the flagstick when attended or the person attending it. It doesn't matter where the stroke was played from.

The ball may not strike the flagstick that has been removed when the stroke has been played from the putting green. Also, if the player is absent-minded enough to leave the flagstick in the hole when making a stroke from the putting green, he is penalized if the ball strikes the flagstick.

without being asked to by the player?

Under Rule 17, this is known as "Unauthorized Attendance." If someone attends the flagstick before the player makes his stroke, the player merely needs to tell him to move away and there is no penalty to anyone. But if an opponent or fellow-competitor attends the flagstick after the player has made a stroke, it's the opponent or fellow-competitor who gets the penalty if there is a possibility that the ball might strike the flagstick if it were left in the hole.

What if the ball strikes that person or the flagstick? What happens then?

If the stroke was played from the putting green and strikes either the flagstick or the person attending it (who was unauthorized), the stroke is cancelled and the player must

Under Rule 17, this is known as "Unauthorized Attendance." If someone attends the flagstick before the player makes his stroke, the player merely needs to tell him to move away and there is no penalty to anyone.

replay the stroke, without penalty. If the stroke was played from off the green, the ball must be played as it lies.

Mike Peluso is a rules official with the USGA, PNGA and other organizations. He can be reached for questions at mikepeluso@comcast.net.

Women's golf: You can find ways to get out of bunkers

By Becky Fossum, Special to Inside Golf

So many women have anxiety, stress or embarrassment issues with bunkers. I believe there are a few keys to success in green side bunkers.

- Breathe: You need no tension in your wrists or shoulders, relax and loosen up your wrists.

- Correct loft: Sand wedge (56°) or lob (60°) for most greenside bunkers are two great golf clubs... (a PW or gap is NOT normally enough loft for greenside bunkers). Loft is your friend. To make sure you clear the lip of the bunker... Step on your club face outside the bunker to see if it is enough loft to clear the lip.

- Correct set up: Ball position is forward in the stance, dig your feet, head inside triangle, weight slightly to front leg, keep knees flexed

- Vertical swing: We call it the "v" swing.... The angle of attack has to be more steeper. Great way to remember: vertical = vertical.... Shallow = shallow.... You need to pick the club away on a more "vertical way"... Don't drag the club low on the takeaway

- Wrists wrists & more wrists: Hinge the wrists is a height element (more wrists= more height= more spin= more stopping the ball) Please don't stiff arm your bunker shots... Or you will be hitting it again from the lip of the bunker or over the opposite side of the green.

- Speed: If the ball needs to get up "fast"... Think "airplane jet" taking off the tarmac... You need speed to ask the ball to get "up fast". Take two balls: hit two different "speeds" and see what they do.

You can get out of bunkers. It will just take a little practice.

Becky Fossum is an LPGA teaching professional based in the Pacific Northwest and Palm Springs. She can be reached at beckyfossumlpga@yahoo.com for questions to set up a lesson.

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Finding the best golf teachers

Publisher's note: here are four golf teacher listings that we failed to include or had published wrong information about them, in last month's special feature called 'Finding the Best Golf Teachers.'

Meadow Park Golf Course, Tacoma



Erik Haag - PGA Head Golf Professional
Meadow Park Golf Course - Tacoma (253) 473-3033
erikh@tacomaparks.com

- PGA Certified Golf Professional
- Professional Golf Association of America (Member)
- Experienced in Adult & Junior player development programs
- Former instructor of the Palm Springs Japanese Golf Academy
- WWC PGA Junior Golf Committee Member
- WWC PGA Golf In Schools Instructor
- Active in PGA- Pro AM series
- Continuous lesson education provided by the PGA of America
- Golf Management Degree from the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, CA.

Erik turned golf professional in 1995 and has been with Meadow Park Golf Course since July 2008. Erik provides a state of the art lesson, junior golf & club fitting programs which provides multiple levels of services for golfers of all ages.



Rick Giroux - PGA Golf Professional
Meadow Park Golf Course - Tacoma (253) 473-3033
gyrotalent@yahoo.com

- Experienced Golf Clinician
- Experienced Instructor at college and high school level
- Active in PGA - Pro Am series
- Continuous lesson education provided by the PGA of America
- WWB/VA Hospital Clinician and Volunteer
- Four-time Hagen Cup Team Member

Rich has been involved in the golf industry for over 30 years. His prior experience included The Classic Club (Head Golf Professional), Twin Lakes Golf & CC and University Golf Course. Rick provides individual, state of the art instruction with a common sense touch for fundamentals. Beginners and juniors will benefit from Rick's simple teaching methods.



Joseph Kim - Teaching Professional
Experience and Achievements:

- Graduate of Clover Park High School - 1979
- University of Washington - 1984
- WPGA Teaching Professional since 2004
- Attended Mike Bender Golf Academy - 2004
- Instructor at Meadow Park Golf Course since 2005
- Low Career Round - 65 (-7) at Tumwater GC
- Participant in PGA Pro-Member Series in 2010 and 2011

A lifetime golfer and student of the game, Joseph has been a golf professional since 2004 and has been with Meadow Park Golf Course since 2005. You will walk away from each session with a clear understanding of how to make easy improvement to your all-around golf game. Joseph can be contacted at: nwkga1991@gmail.com.



Doug Gullikson - PGA Professional
Meadow Park Golf Course - Tacoma (253) 304-1751
As club professionals we wear many hats in our jobs, I've always had the passion to teach this great game. My philosophy is to be as simple as possible! We all know how hard the game is, I work hard to keep it SIMPLE! I work with all abilities and make sure that my students have fun and always striving to "stay in the moment!"

My own success as a golfer has kept me always believing that someday I'd play at a level that I felt that I could play! I had a break through last October winning our Western Washington Chapter Senior Championship!

Please give me a call and let's unlock your potential in your golf game!

To arrange an appointment call: 253-304-1751 or e-mail at: gulliksongolf@comcast.net

Bear Creek County Club, Woodinville, WA



Bryan Steven - Bryan has a strong passion for teaching, coaching and playing the game. As a long time tournament player and student of the swing, he is able to bring both the art and science of teaching the game to his students. Bryan teaches sound fundamentals, body mechanics and swing sequencing. He also teaches proper club metrics and ball flight laws using a launch monitor. Some of his credentials include K-Vest Level 2 Certified, TPI Level 1 and TPI Level 2 Certified Junior Coach and is a Titleist Certified Club Fitter.

Bryan is also the Head Men's and Women's Golf Coach at Bellevue College and works with many of the area's top high school and collegiate players. Bryan and JD Cline run the highly successful Bear Creek Jr. Academy, where aspiring juniors are prepared for tournament level competition and collegiate golf. Individual full swing, short game, and K-Vest lessons are available as well as monthly coaching programs. To find out more go to www.bryanstevensgolf.com Bryan can also be contacted at 206-619-4575 or bks105@gmail.com.

Madrona Links, Gig Harbor



Joe Langer - Head Professional
One of the friendliest guys in the business. Joe turned pro in 2006 and worked at Riverbend Golf Complex in Kent, Wash., where he honed his skills for teaching: "I learned from some of the best teaching pros around."

Coached high school golf at Foster High School for 8 years, where I coached a team and individual to the state championship. Moved to Arizona and was the head professional at Las Colinas, where my focus was on individual lessons and played on the FNGA Tour. I am the head professional at Madrona Links in Gig Harbor, Wash. My teaching philosophy is to find out what the student's goals are and what they want to accomplish with their game, and then I keep it as simple as possible - as I always say, "Keep it stupid simple." I'm very excited to focus more on the short game with my students at Madrona Links with our great chipping and putting areas. Joe can be reached for lessons at 253-851-5193 or by email at: joelanger@madronalinks.com

Pacific Amateur set for September event in Central Oregon

Looking for some top amateur competition to keep your game sharp, then look no further than the Lithia Pacific Amateur Classic which will take place this September and some of Central Oregon's top golf courses.

The event is set for Sept. 19-24 and will feature divisions for men, women and seniors. Up to 700 players are expected to take part in the 19th annual event. The tournament features three days of individual play with the top players from each flight playing at Sunriver's Crosswater for the tournament championship on the final day.

Cost is \$530 or \$475 for a returning player and includes tee gifts, food, golf and more. See www.pacmgolf.com for more.

Special PSGA rate @ Gamble Sands

Puget Sound Golf Association invites NW golfers to play **Gamble Sands** @ special group rates of \$50 - \$75 (walking) on **May 15-17**. Cart add \$25. 9am - Noon \$75 1:30 - 3pm \$50. Please advise time(s) & other courses in May 14 - 18 itinerary.

PSGA area Lodging - mention PSGA to reserve LAKESHORE INN Pateros \$129 - (509)-923-9555.

To review entire 2015 PSGA schedule including 16 area private clubs (no membership required) visit nationalgolftours.com [psga link](#).

Each outing includes an **optional** Gross/net competition for players with a current WSGA GHIN Handicap.

You may register for any event(s) at psgagolfer@yahoo.com or call PSGA regional office at (206) 226 5332

CENTRAL OREGON SHOOTOUT

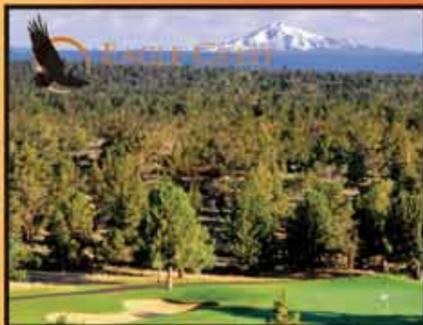
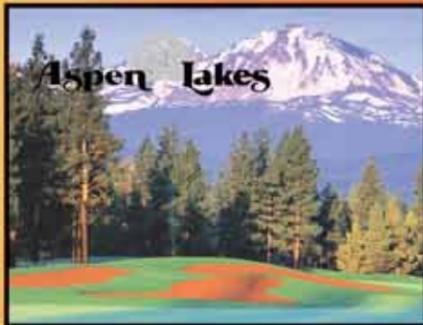
13th ANNUAL

2 PERSON TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

13th ANNUAL

3 GREAT DAYS...3 GREAT COURSES

www.centraloregonshootout.org



6 DIVISIONS

One Gross, Four Net Divisions, Two Ladies Divisions
9:30 Shotgun each day (Max 6 Stroke Differential)

2015 SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 23
Welcome Reception
6:00pm at Brand 33 - Aspen Lakes

Friday, April 24
2 Person Scramble
3rd Net & Ladies - Aspen Lakes
Gross & 1st Net - Eagle Crest Resort
2nd & 4th Net - Big Meadow Black Butte Ranch

Saturday, April 25
Best Ball
3rd Net & Ladies - Big Meadow at Black Butte Ranch
Gross & 1st Net - Aspen Lakes
2nd & 4th Net - The Eagle Crest Resort Course

Sunday, April 26
Chapman
3rd Net & Ladies - The Eagle Crest Resort Course
Gross & 1st Net - Big Meadow at Black Butte Ranch
2nd & 4th Net - Aspen Lakes

TEAM ENTRY FEE: \$600

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

- Green Fees
- Carts • Range Balls
- Tee Gift
- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch
- Merchandise Pay-Out (Over \$20,000 in payouts -1/3 of field!)

Final Round will be re-paired by score within flights

SIGN UP TODAY!!

Entry Deadline April 16th or first 150 teams

For more information and entry form call:

Aspen Lakes Golf Course

Rob Malone 541-549-4653 Rob@AspenLakes.com

Black Butte Ranch

Brendon Bain 541-595-1292 BBain@BlackButteRanch.com

Eagle Crest Resort

Kevin Story 541-504-3877 KevinS@Eagle-Crest.com



RIVERBEND
GOLF COMPLEX

Events at RIVERBEND

Spring Break Junior Golf Camp

April 8-10, 2015 • \$100 per student

Spring Demo & Season Kick Off Event

April 18, 2015 Free Lesson Clinics, All Major Club Manufacturers Demo Day, Launch Monitor Fittings, Hickory Golf Introduction clinic, Huge Savings and Discounts, Free Hotdogs and Soda – See Riverbendgolfcomplex.com for details

Riverbend is Social

follow us on your favorite social media sites.



/RiverbendGolfComplex | @RiverbendGolfWA | @RiverbendGolf

post your picture on the course or at the range
with #RiverbendGolf

photo of the month receives free round of golf!



Here is a taste of what your \$75 membership gets you for 2015:

- 2 Complimentary Rounds at Riverbend (\$84 value)
- USGA Handicap (\$35 value)
- 5 Complimentary Buckets of Range Balls (\$30 value)
- Discounted Range Key (\$75 savings)
- 1 Complimentary Par 3 Round at Riverbend (\$14 value)
- PPGA and WPGA Membership
- Savings at Riverbend Discount Center (10% discount)
- USGA Handicap (\$35 value)
- Savings at Mick Kelly's Irish Pub (15% discount)
- Numerous discounts to local retail establishments

***New for 2015 – Refer 3 new members and receive a FREE MEMBERSHIP!**

Some restrictions apply – see application for details

APRIL GROUP LESSONS

Weeknights 6 p.m. • Saturdays 10 a.m.
\$75 per student

Have you been asked to plan your company event for 2015? Look no further than Riverbend Golf Complex. Awesome dates still available! Check our website for more details.

2015 RIVERBEND EVENTS SCHEDULE

April 8-10th 2015 Spring Break Junior Camp

June 13-14th 2015... 19th Annual 2 man @ the Bend

July 13-16th 2015 Summer Junior Golf Camp

August 8-9th 2015... 22nd Annual Riverbend Amateur

Par 3 Golf Course: 253-856-5195 Driving Range: 253-856-5175
A City of Kent Facility | 253-854-3673 | riverbendgolfcomplex.com