



PGA

Western New York Section



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Western New York Section PGA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HOT, HOT, HOT. That is the word of the summer. I hope all is going well at your clubs. If you are like me, everything this year is going fast and the golfing season is now half over. With no rainy days this summer, try to relax and take some time off to avoid a late season burn out. Remember your wife and children during this busy time.

Well, the PGA initiative Golf 2.0 of growing the game continues to thrive. All kinds of programs are trying to help us out. Please try to consider one or more of these programs to help promote the game at your club. One program coming soon is Patriot Golf Day on Labor Day Weekend. Please try to support this worthwhile charity that helps thank the men and women who protect our freedom.

The National race for Secretary is ongoing. To this day, all candidates are still in the race and we will hear more from them at a leadership conference in September.

Congratulations to Rob Horak for making the cut at the National PNC. Well done, Rob.

Lastly, please join me in thanking our Professional Office Staff: Joe Bertino, Executive Director, Steve Bartkowski, Tournament Director, and Kyle Lewis, Junior Tour Director for a job well done. They have led our Western NY PGA Section in running well over 50 events this year, as well as, conducting "business as usual" at the office. Great job guys!

Good Golfing,
Kirk

NOTABLE QUOTE

It is almost impossible to remember how tragic a place
this world is when one is playing golf.

-Robert Lynd

NOTE FROM JOE BERTINO, WESTERN NEW YORK PGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As our fantastic summer draws to a close, it is hard to believe how quickly we find ourselves in the middle of August! I hope you have all enjoyed some success in promoting your operations through some Golf 2.0 initiatives such as Get Golf Ready and Family Golf Month, and I would like to remind all of you that Patriot Golf Day is designated for Labor Day weekend once again this year. If your facility permits, you can raise funds in any way that you wish, whether it is holding a special sweeps event over the weekend or simply asking your members to pitch in a few bucks at the first tee. Rest assured that the funds raised go to a most worthy cause, scholarships for the families of wounded or killed service men & women from our nation's efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In this newsletter you will also see a letter from Rochester Classic Chairman Jim Mrva regarding Ben Wilson, PGA Head Professional at Ridgemon CC, the 2012 honoree at the Rochester Classic. Not only is Ben most deserving of the honor, but Ridgemon CC is a wonderful place, so why not grab an amateur partner and join us on August 27th for this year's event?

Having returned from Monday & Tuesday's practice rounds at Kiawah Island's Ocean Course, and then watching Rory McElroy's blistering finish (reminded me of my own game a bit?), it is hard not get excited about the PGA Championship returning to Oak Hill CC next August! Please make every effort to contribute as often as possible once the schedule of duties becomes available- it is an outstanding chance for us to show just how committed and strong our WNYPGA Section is!

The WNYPGA Annual Meeting is scheduled again for October 15, 2012 at the Seneca Niagara Hotel & Casino, Niagara Falls, NY. Although the time and final details are yet TBD, I expect we will once again have another well-attended meeting, as WNYPGA Members and apprentices have been outstanding in making this a sell-out for several years now. Please note that per the WNYPGA Constitution and By-Laws, any proposed amendments to the by-laws and regulations must be submitted in writing no later than four weeks prior (September 17th), and in proper form. Also, persons interested in nominating a person seeking a position as an Officer or Director may do so in writing by September 1st, and the names of those nominated will be published in the September newsletter.

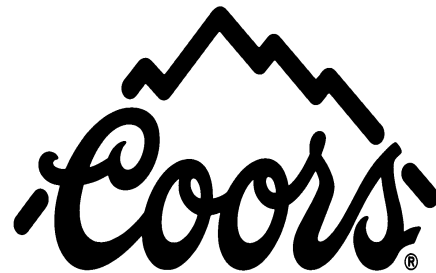
We still have just a few openings for our season-ending Las Vegas Pro-Am, if you are looking for a super travel deal and all the fun you can handle, please contact me at the section office ASAP to get on the list. We guarantee a great time!

Joe Bertino, PGA



PATRIOT GOLF DAY[®]

August 31 – September 3, 2012



**Proud Sponsor of the 27th Annual Coors
Western New York Section Championship**

Oak Hill Country Club-East

Rochester, NY

August 20-21, 2012

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2012 Rochester Classic

Co-Sponsored by our good friends

Ralph Fornuto, USA Payroll and John Quethera, JQ Cigar Hut

On Monday, August 27, 2012 the Western New York PGA will hold the 24th Rochester Classic Golf Tournament at the Ridgemont Country Club.

In keeping with the history of the Classic we honor a PGA member who has exhibited the highest standards of a Golf Professional. This year's tournament will honor Ben Wilson, Ridgemont Country Club's Golf Professional.

Ben grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Lees McRae College, Banner Elk, North Carolina and Guilford Technical Community College.

Ben's career spans a number of very fine country clubs including Assistant positions at Linville Golf Club, Big Horn Golf Club, La Quinta Country Club and Oak Hill Country Club. Ben also was the Head Professional at Grandfather Golf and Country Club in Linville, North Carolina.

In 2005 Ben was named Head Professional at Ridgemont Country Club. He joined Western NY PGA Section Board in 2008 as a Director at Large and has served admirably on a number of important committees.

Ben is a highly decorated Golf Professional having been named the 2010 and 2011 Horton Smith Award Winner and President's Plaque Winner 2005 through 2009. In 2010 Ben was honored as the Golf Professional of the Year – Western New York PGA's highest award.

He has been married to his wife Katie for six years. He is the proud father of two children, four year old son Reid and two year old daughter Kyle.

Please join us in honoring Ben Wilson as this year's 24th Rochester Classic Honoree.

Sincerely,

Jim Mrva, Rochester Classic Golf Chairman

2012 Rochester Classic Format

Three Divisions: Individual Professional, Senior Professional and Individual Super-Senior Pro-Am Better-ball (amateurs play at 90% handicap)

Limited to first 50 teams (teams consist of one Professional and one amateur)

Professionals invite one amateur to play a better-ball format (90% handicap)

\$120 entry fee per amateur: includes golf fees, hors d'oeuvres, keg (cash bar, prizes, professional purse contribution and donation the First Tee of Rochester:

- \$40 green fees and cart fee

- \$20 food and beverage – hors d'oeuvres & keg (cash bar)

- \$20 prizes per amateur at host club

- \$20 Professional purse contribution from each amateur

- \$20 First Tee of Rochester contribution from each amateur.

Many thanks to the good people of M&T Bank who will be contributing an additional \$500 to the First Tee of Rochester.

Upcoming Tournaments

8/19/2012	<u>*Locust Hill Pro Am - Locust Hill CC</u>
8/20-21/2012	<u>*27th Annual Coors Section Championship - Oak Hill CC East</u>
8/27/2012	<u>*Rochester Classic presented by USA Payroll and JQ Cigar Hut - Ridgemont CC</u>
8/31/2012	<u>Mizuno Pro-Assistant Championship - Penfield CC</u>
9/5/2012	<u>National Car Assistant Pro Championship presented by Cobra Puma Golf - Kahkwa Club</u>
9/7/2012	<u>PAT - Conesus GC</u>
9/7/2012	<u>WNYAA - Oak Hill CC</u>
9/10/2012	<u>Kids Escaping Drugs Pro Am - Transit Valley CC</u>
9/17-18/2012	<u>*Cutter & Buck Match Play Championship - Lake Shore CC</u>
9/24-25/2012	<u>*Sun Mountain Tour Championship - Orchard Park CC</u>
9/28/2012	<u>WNYAA - Brook-Lea CC</u>
10/1/2012	<u>Pro-Pro Championship presented by Antigua and Nuttall Golf Cars- Blue Heron Hills GC</u>
10/5/2012	<u>PAT - Gowanda CC</u>
10/5/2012	<u>WNYAA - Penfield CC</u>
10/9/2012	<u>WNYAA - Orchard Park CC</u>
10/15/2012	FALL Annual Meeting - TBD
10/17/2012	WNYAA vs CNYAA Ryder Cup - Oswego CC
10/20-25/2012	<u>Las Vegas Pro Am</u>

*WNYPGA Player of the Year Point Events

Click on a Tournament Name to view the Results

5/7/2012	Titleist Scratch Pro Am - Brook-Lea CC
5/10/2012	WNYAA - Ridgemont CC
5/11/2012	*Make a Wish Foundation Pro Am - Webster East GC
5/14/2012	*WNY Open - Niagara Falls CC
5/18/2012	*Stafford Pro Am Invitational - Stafford CC
5/21/2012	*Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel Pro Am - Elkdale CC
5/25/2012	WNYAA - The Park CC
6/1/2012	*Lawrence Park Pro Am Invitational - Lawrence Park GC
6/4/2012	*Bartlett Pro Am - Bartlett CC
6/6/2012	NYS Open Qualifer
6/8/2012	*Lake View CC Charity Pro Am Invitational - Lake View CC
6/11/2012	Children's Hospital Pro Am Invitational
6/15/2012	WNYAA - Cobblestone Creek CC
6/18/2012	*Moon Brook Pro Am Invitational
6/25/2012	*Chautauqua Pro Am - Chautauqua GC
7/2/2012	*Holiday Valley Memorial Library Pro Am - Holiday Valley Resort
7/9/2012	*Bradford Hospital Foundation Pro Am for Kids - Pine Acres CC
7/16/2012	*Wellsville Pro Am
7/30-31/2012	*WNYPGA Professional Championship presented by Club Car, Mercedes-Benz & Omega-Whispering Woods GC
8/9-10/2012	WNYPGA Senior Championship - Lawrence Park GC
8/12/2012	*Midvale Pro Am Invitational - Midvale CC
8/13/2012	GC Supply Pro President - Transit Valley CC

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- How does Bubba do It!
- Teaching tips from top PGA Professionals
- Rickie Fowler and friends' awesome target practice
- And much more...



How Cool Is This?

Rickie Fowler and friends find a fun way to take target practice

You're never golf courses with island greens. But what about hitting shots from a floating island? And instead of being at a green, you were aiming at a giant ring with three bullseyes for targets? Well, that sounds pretty cool.

That's exactly what Rickie Fowler and his friends did on Thursday at the PGA Tour's first-ever 'How Cool Is This?' event. The idea was simple: Fowler and his friends would compete in a series of challenges that would test their skills in a fun and unique way. The first challenge was to hit a shot from a floating island. The second was to hit a shot from a giant ring. The third was to hit a shot from a giant target. Fowler and his friends all did well, but Fowler was the winner. He hit a shot from a floating island that landed in the hole. He hit a shot from a giant ring that landed in the bullseye. And he hit a shot from a giant target that landed in the bullseye.



Practice Tips FROM THE PROS

Bubba Says:

Learn to Hit it Hard

The Masters champ likes to keep his practice fun. BY DON JACOBSON

A lot of top professionals were child prodigies, with talent identified and nurtured from a young age with years of swing lessons. And there you have Bubba Watson. You know how the saying is that he's a little different than most PGA Tour players (he the way, his actual first name is Gerry). That, and the fact that he plays a bright pink driver and hits left-handed shots that are almost too long and too hard to be believed.

BUBBA WATSON

Y ONE DRIVER IS BBA LONG.



And other PING pro Bubba Watson likes the G20. With its weight concentrated through a low-density 15.5-11 alloy, gives Bubba the power and control to take on any hole. It's the longest driver on the PGA Tour. Complete your driver to the event-winning G20 and get it today. But you'll have to wait.

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Obituary

Alexander Greer Jr., a PGA Member since 1946 and member of the WNYPGA Hall of Fame, died Wednesday in his Williamsville (NY) home. He was 97.

Born in Toronto, Mr. Greer was raised in East Rochester, where he began caddying at age 10. He moved to the Buffalo area as a teenager and became a protégé of and caddy for local professional golfer Elwyn Nagle at what was then Meadowbrook CC in Clarence, later Brookfield CC.

Mr. Greer became assistant pro at the club in 1939, winning the WNYPGA Championship that year. His career was interrupted when he was drafted into the infantry during World War II. He achieved the rank of captain in the Army and served throughout the Pacific with the 11th Airborne Brigade. It was while he was stationed in Japan in 1946, he received a telegram inviting him to become head golf professional at Brookfield CC.

He won the WNYPGA Championship in 1948, and tied Ben Hogan's course record 64 at Brookfield in 1955. Mr. Greer was named WNYPGA Golf Professional of the Year in 1964 and 1978, and in addition to his two WNYPGA Section Championships, was also Senior Champion in 1985, also having finished runner-up six times.

Greer retired from Brookfield in 1979, and was inducted into the WNYPGA Hall of Fame in 1987.

He married Carolyn Catlin (who passed away in 2002) in 1947, and he is survived by two sons, James A. and Alan J., and his sister, Doreen G. Marconi. A private funeral service was planned.

Section Updates

CONGRATULATIONS!

Zachary Metcalfe, PGA was elected to Membership on June 12th. He is an A-8 at Country Club of Rochester.

WNYPGA has two new apprentices. Christopher Stoddard registered on May 14, 2012 as a B-8 at The Park Country Club. Joshua Flock registered as a B-8 at Harvest Hill Golf Club on June 18, 2012

Look for WNY PGA on Facebook



Updates on local
PGA Tournaments, Junior Golf & More!!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

