



# PGA

## Nebraska Section

April/May 2019

### INSIDE 5 THINGS TO KNOW:

- Scholarship Winners
- Volunteer Opportunities
- In Memory of Larry Romjue, PGA
- Player Development Rentals
- Pinnacle Bank Nebraska Qualifier



Second Annual “Legends and Young Guns Golf Classic”  
Held at Highlands GC gives UNL PGM students time to connect  
with some of the true Legends of the Nebraska PGA

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA PGA SECTION

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# PGA

Nebraska Section

## Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Nebraska Section PGA Scholarship winners—Eric Kovarik, Joel Johnson, Blake Schroeder and Kyle Murray



# PGA

Golf Management

# Volunteer Opportunities



# PGA

Nebraska Section

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**The Nebraska Section PGA 2019 schedule is filling up and we have many exciting opportunities coming up this year. There will be several opportunities to see some excellent golfers this summer and we can use your help at the following events:**

- May 28 – Pro/Assistant Champ @ Oak Hills Country Club
- June 6-7—Junior PGA Championship @ Indian Trails Country Club
- June 27 – Pinnacle Bank Championship Qualifier @ ArborLinks
- July 8-9 – Assistant & Senior Championship @ Happy Hollow Club
- July 15 – Web.com Tour Monday Qualifier @ Wilderness Ridge
- July 15 – Web.com Tour Monday Qualifier @ Bent Tree GC
- August 5-6 - Nebraska Section PGA Championship @ ArborLinks
- August 28-30 – Web.com Tour Q School @ Wilderness Ridge GC
- September 13-15 – Wells Fargo Nebraska Open – Elks Country Club
- October 1-4 – Web.com Tour Q School @ ArborLinks

## Junior Events:

### PREMIER EVENTS

- June 3 – Norfolk CC – Norfolk, NE
- June 28 – Table Creek GC – Nebraska City, NE
- July 3 – Wild Horse GC – Gothenburg, NE
- July 23 – Ashland GC – Ashland, NE



### TWO DAY EVENTS

- June 10-11 – Kearney Junior Classic – Kearney CC & Meadowlark Hills GC
- June 24-25 – Capital City Championship – Mahoney GC & Highlands GC
- July 11-12 – Central Nebraska Junior Am – Jackrabbit Run GC & Riverside GC

### NJG TOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

- August 1 – 18-Hole Tour Championship – Champions Run, Omaha
- August 5 – 9-Hole Tour Championship – The Field Club, Omaha

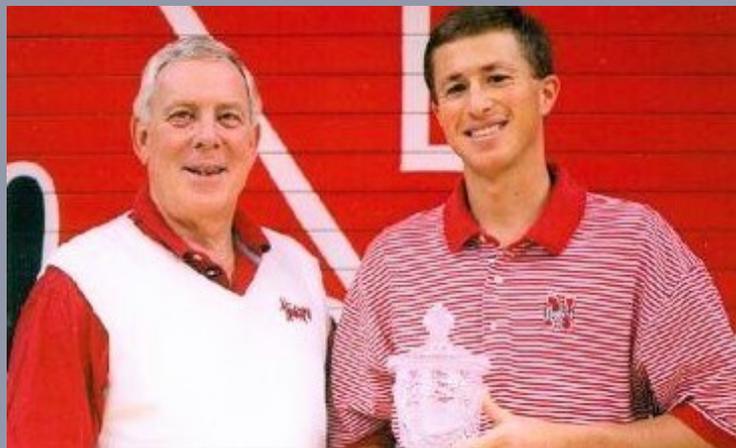
### DRIVE, CHIP & PUTT LOCAL QUALIFIERS

- June 1 – Hillcrest CC – Lincoln, NE
- June 30 – Oak Hills CC – Omaha, NE
- July 12 – Riverside GC – Grand Island, NE



- **As a volunteer you will receive: Hat/Polo for signing up to work 3 events, Hat/2 Polos for signing up to work 6 events**
- **MSR credits for each hour you volunteer**
- **Deadline to sign up: Wednesday, May 22**
- **Contact Renee Tyson: [rtyson@pgahq.com](mailto:rtyson@pgahq.com) | 402-489-7760**

## Larry C. Romjue, PGA 1938-2019



It is with heavy hearts that the family of Larry C. Romjue, PGA a PGA Member for over 40 years announces his passing. Huskers.com also has a story that went out a couple of days ago but the below was something that his son, Chip Romjue wanted to share with all of you.

Larry C. Romjue was born November 9, 1938 in Marshalltown IA and died on April 16, 2019 in Lincoln NE. Larry graduated from Nebraska City High School in 1956. He attended the University of Nebraska graduating with a BS/BA in 1960. While at Nebraska,

Romjue was president of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, a member of multiple academic honor societies and the varsity golf team. Larry joined the ROTC program and after graduating, continued his military service as an Army officer until 1965. While stationed in Williamsburg VA from 1960 to 1963, he played some competitive and team golf with Orville Moody.

Larry's life passion was golf. He lettered 3 times in college and eventually coached the Nebraska women's golf team (1975-1979) and the Nebraska men's golf team (1970 to 2001). He was known by many in the golf community as a gentleman and an intense competitor. He was a lifetime member of the PGA of America and won multiple Nebraska PGA section tournaments and awards including the 1980 Nebraska PGA Player of the Year, 1984 Nebraska PGA Professional of the Year and 1987 Nebraska PGA Match Play Championship. He qualified for the National Club Pro Championship and Senior Club Pro Championship several times and was a participant in the 1991 Senior PGA Championship at PGA National.

He was the head golf professional at The Knolls Country Club in Lincoln during two stints from the 1970's into the 1990's. Under Larry's leadership, the golf membership and golf schedule grew exponentially. He supervised the development of many young golfers who progressed from beginners to college caliber players. During the mid 1980's he took over the role of head professional at Seward Country Club for three years after the previous manager abruptly left SCC in debt to multiple top line golf club/apparel companies. After restoring the credit lines of the club and confidence of the local members, Larry returned to The Knolls to complete his PGA career.

Some of Romjue's family members followed his path into competitive golf. His son Chip represented Nebraska in the PGA Junior National tournament and Insurance Youth Classic in 1981 before playing for Nebraska Wesleyan during his college years. Larry's grandson Trevor Romjue was a top 10 individual finisher as a member of the 2009 Nebraska State High School Championship golf team. Granddaughters Madison and Brooke Romjue both competed for their high school golf teams. Madison continued her golf career in college and played a key role as Missouri Western advanced to the 2016 NCAA Division II National Championship tournament for the first time in school history.

# Rules Update with Tom Hearn, PGA

As most of you are aware by now, beginning January 1st of this year, the USGA introduced a new set of Rules with wide sweeping changes to the old code. As expected, there have been certain situations that have come up the past several months that have led to necessary tweaks to these new Rules along with explanations about certain items.



Knowing that this “finetuning” will probably be a necessity for a while, the USGA plans on updating and distributing these clarifications on a quarterly basis. The following is a list of the most major updates that were made available last week:

1. There is now a new Model Local Rule (G-9) has now been made available by the USGA that deals with the replacement of a club that is broken or significantly damaged. It is recommended that this new Model Local Rule be implemented at all courses and at all levels of competition. Click [HERE](#) to view this new Model Local Rule.

2. Because of concerns over a player being penalized for playing from a wrong place due to confusion regarding the new procedure for “Back-on-the-Line Relief” when taking relief from a penalty area, unplayable lie or relief from an abnormal ground condition in a bunker, the USGA has created a new Model Local Rule (E-12) to minimize this possibility. It is recommended that this new Model Local Rule be implemented at all courses and at all levels of competition. Click [HERE](#) to view this new Model Local Rule.

3. The USGA has issued a statement adding an additional update to previously issued clarification of Rule 10.2b(4) (Restriction on Caddie Standing Behind Player). Click [HERE](#) to view this statement.

4. There is now a revised answer to Question #12 on the previously issued FAQ list relating to Interpretation 4.3a/1 which limits the use of Greens Reading Materials. Click [HERE](#) to view this revised answer.

Click [HERE](#) for a complete and updated list of all of the Clarifications that have been issued by the USGA. The next scheduled update will be in July.



# Augusta National Women's Amateur was the stuff of dreams

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Before the week of the Master's, Amanda Doherty had only seen Augusta National once. It was Sunday, April 11th, 2010. That day Phil Mickelson won his third green jacket. Amanda was with her dad, Mike, and a friend of his.

It goes without saying, but Augusta National wasn't hosting women's tournaments back then. The club had not even admitted a single female member. But Mike Doherty's buddy had a hunch. "He said, 'You know, the next time I'm here, I'm gonna be watching Amanda play,'" Mike recalled Saturday afternoon. But back then he quickly discarded the idea. Yeah, right.

On Saturday, nine years removed, the prophecy has been realized. And it wasn't just that Amanda competed in the Augusta National Women's Amateur. Her golf-crazy father carried her bag. And yes, his buddy was in the crowd.

This Augusta National really is the place of dreams — it's all anyone wants to talk about. Perhaps that was the idea all along.

"I don't think I fully got it until I actually stepped on the Augusta's ground. I was like, 'This is real. It's pretty real,'" said Sofia Anokhina, the lowest-ranked am in the field. On Tuesday evening, Anokhina, who is Russian, rode in a quiet van filled with Italian players. The vehicle turned onto Magnolia Lane. "I heard the adjectives they were using, but very quietly," she said. "I was just like, 'No. You guys can say it out loud! It's gorgeous.'"

An event photographer snapped a pic of Anokhina in the moment. Encyclopedia Britannica could use it for "dreams realized."





Anokhina and Doherty were two of 10 women who advanced to Saturday's final round through an 11-for-10 playoff for the final spots. At five over with just 18 holes to play, were they going to chase down Jennifer Kupcho, who eventu-

ally reached 10 under Sunday, four clear of the field? No. But few people were completely locked in to the scoreboards at Augusta National Saturday.

As Doherty, Anokhina and the other competitors finished their rounds, with the event they've looked forward to for months finally closing, a train of high-fives awaited them. Right behind the 18th green was a line of four little girls, their right arms reaching out over the ropes far as they could stretch. Opposite them was another group of future women amateurs.

Back near the clubhouse was Kinley Brazell. She's an 8-year-old golfer, and she very eagerly told a reporter she'll be nine in just 11 days. Kinley was with her father, Kevin, from nearby Columbia, S.C. Her dad sported a newly purchased Augusta National backpack. Tucked into one of its pockets was an Augusta National teddy bear, price tag still affixed. Kinley was seeing Augusta National for the first time. She clutched a yellow Augusta National Women's Amateur flag while looking to score autographs from all 30 competitors. "They can sign anywhere on the flag but right here," she said, motioning to the bottom right corner. "That's where we're putting our tickets." In her mind, the flag is already framed and hanging on the wall.

**CONTINUE READING**

# Nebraska Qualifier - Pinnacle Bank Champ



# Pinnacle Bank

## CHAMPIONSHIP



Presented By



**HEARTLAND  
CHEVY DEALERS**

## **Pinnacle Bank Championship Qualifier Returns to ArborLinks This June**

*Nebraskans invited to compete for spot in Web.com Tour Stop*

Omaha, Neb. – Golfers with Nebraska ties will have the opportunity to earn a spot in the PGA TOUR's 2019 Web.com Tour Pinnacle Bank Championship and compete for a share of the \$600,000 purse.

The 36-hole qualifier returns to ArborLinks in Nebraska City on Thursday, June 27, 2019. Professional and amateur golfers with Nebraska ties can vie for an exemption into Nebraska's only Web.com Tour event, the 2019 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Heartland Chevy Dealers and hosted at The Club at Indian Creek.

"We anticipate a competitive field of Nebraska golfers and look forward to providing one player with a chance to play with some of the best on the Web.com Tour," said Jessica Brabec, Pinnacle Bank Championship Tournament Director. "We hope our fans come support the winner of the qualifier at our event held at The Club at Indian Creek this July 18-21."

Any professional or amateur with a 4.0 handicap index or less with Nebraska ties will be eligible to compete. Current legal residents of Nebraska, Nebraska Section PGA Members and PGA Associates, students and graduates of Nebraska colleges or universities and individuals born in Nebraska and graduated from a Nebraska high school are eligible.

The qualifier at ArborLinks is limited to the first 60 entrants who meet all eligibility and handicap requirements. Entry deadline is Friday, June 21 at 5:00 p.m. Complete details are available by visiting the tournament website at [The Pinnacle Bank Championship](#) or the [Nebraska PGA](#).

"Last year the Nebraska Qualifier came down to the last hole and featured arguably one of the best young amateur golfers in Nebraska history in Luke Kluver and Web.com Tour member Brandon Crick," said David Honnens, CEO of the Nebraska Section PGA.

"It's a great opportunity for Nebraskans," said Kluver, who beat Crick, a three-year Web.com Tour veteran, by one stroke to win last year's qualifier. "I want to thank the Nebraska Section PGA and Pinnacle Bank for giving me a chance to achieve my dream of playing professional golf."

For more information about the Pinnacle Bank Championship, please visit [thepinnaclebankchampionship.com](http://thepinnaclebankchampionship.com).

## ABOUT THE PINNACLE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP

The Pinnacle Bank Championship, presented by Heartland Chevy Dealers, is a stop on the PGA TOUR's Web.com Tour and will be held July 15-21, 2019 at The Club at Indian Creek. The event features a purse of \$600,000 and was awarded the 2018 Web.com Tour's Truck Award and 2017 Web.com Tour's Tournament Rookie of the Year Award in its inaugural year. The 2017 champion, Sam Ryder went on to compete in the PGA TOUR, following in the footsteps of previous winners of the Web.com Tour's Omaha event, including Bo Van Pelt, Johnson Wagner, Heath Slocum and Jason Gore. The 2018 champion, David Skinnis, is currently 88 on the Web.com Tour money list. The tournament's charity partner, TeamMates Mentoring Program, receives proceeds from the event to help fund education and mentoring programs for Nebraska youth. In 2018, that donation totaled \$40,000, bringing the tournament's total charitable contribution amount to over \$140,000 since its inception.

## ABOUT THE NEBRASKA SECTION PGA

The Nebraska Section of the PGA is one of 41 Sections that together comprise the PGA of America. The Nebraska Section PGA is a non-for-profit organization comprised of approximately 261 PGA Members and 21 PGA Associates who strive to promote the enjoyment and growth of the game of golf. The Nebraska Section PGA encompasses the entire State of Nebraska, western fifth of Iowa and a small portion of South Dakota including Dakota Dunes and Yankton. The Section office is located in Lincoln, NE and acts as a resource for local and national golf information for the golf professional and amateur players alike. Our members are often referred to as "Club Professionals", not to be mistaken as PGA Tour Professionals. Each Nebraska Section PGA Professional serves as an expert in the ever-changing business of golf. They are the leading expert players and teachers, skilled business managers, community leaders, and superior merchandisers who have dedicated their careers to the local delivery of these services.

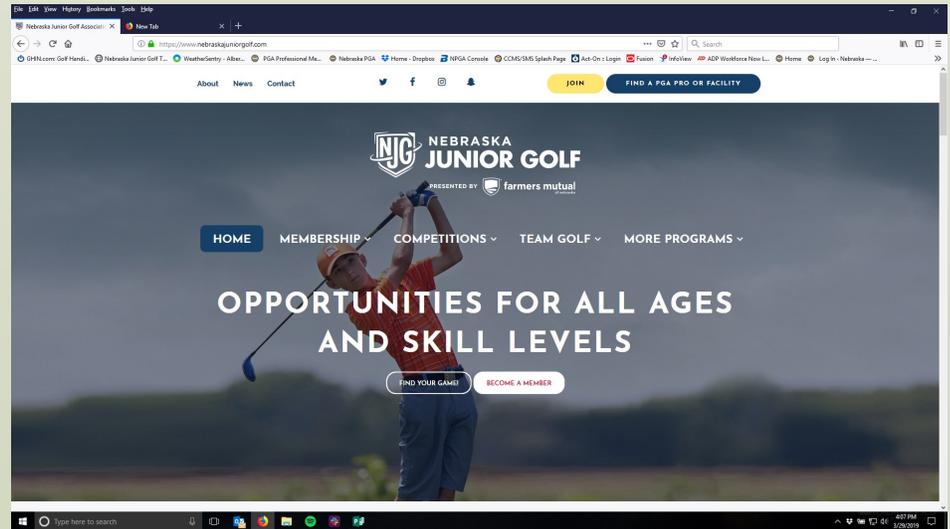
## ABOUT THE NEBRASKA GOLF ASSOCIATION

The Nebraska Golf Association, founded in 1966, is comprised of all members of public and private clubs and/or municipal or regional golf associations which utilize an approved handicap service recognized by the USGA and provided by the NGA. The NGA's mission is to uphold and promote the game of golf and its values to all golfers in Nebraska. Among the duties of the Association include governance of member clubs and service as their handicapping and course rating authority, conduct of state golf championships, local USGA qualifying & other notable competitions, promotion of junior golf, presentation of worthwhile educational programs and support of allied golf organizations in Nebraska.





## New Nebraska Junior Golf Website!



Visit us at [www.nebraskajuniorgolf.com](http://www.nebraskajuniorgolf.com)



Registration for the 2020 Drive, Chip & Putt is now OPEN!

To register [CLICK HERE](#)

Local Qualifiers:

Hillcrest Country Club, Lincoln—Saturday, June 1, 2019

Oak Hills Country Club, Omaha—Sunday, June 30, 2019

Riverside Golf Club, Grand Island—Friday, July 12, 2019



**FOLLOW US!**



# Membership Matters

## Watch Presentations; Earn MSR Credits



You can earn PGA Education MSR credits by [watching presentations](#) recorded during the 2018 and 2019 PGA Merchandise Shows and successfully completing assessments at the conclusion. The 2018 seminars will remain available on PGA.org through 5 p.m. on April 12.

## Access PGA Logos and Brand Guides

The [Marketing Resource Center](#) includes member, associate and student logos for all of your business needs. Logos are available in high and low resolutions and embroidery. You can also download usage guidelines and the most recent PGA Stylebook.



## Save on a New Cadillac

Save hundreds, even thousands of dollars on select new 2019 Cadillac vehicles by participating in the [Cadillac PGA Member Discount Pricing Program](#). Delivery must be taken by 1/2/20.



## Pace of Play Initiative

Take advantage of a very creative and professionally produced [Pace of Play video](#) by the Indiana PGA.

# Membership Matters



# PGA™

## Quarter Century PGA Members

Congrats to the following PGA Members on reaching Quarter Century Status:

Clay Anderson, PGA  
Greg Johannesen, PGA  
Tim Kruse, PGA  
Tim Whalen, PGA



### Register Your Club for Women's Golf Day, June 4

Join facilities nationwide when you [register to host](#) Women's Golf Day. Dedicated to engaging, empowering and supporting women through golf, this four-hour experience can help to build a foundation for the player no matter what skill level.



### Best Practices Added

Several best practices have been added to the SBO Portal including the Illinois PGA Birdies for Charity Program and a great idea to help with Drive, Chip & Putt staffing from the Tri-State PGA. See ALL ideas [HERE](#)

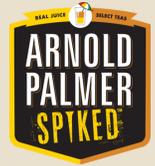


### Complete the 2019 PGA Facility Operations Scorecard

The [Scorecard](#) is available to the ranking PGA Professional, based on classification, at each facility. This valuable resource can help you com-

# Tournament News

## Antonio, Petersen and Vermeer Squeaked Passed The Field To Capture Professional Only Event



Supporting Sponsor of PGA of America Professional Tournaments



PGA

[Read Full Article](#)

## Second Annual “Legends and Young Guns Golf Classic”



[Read Full Article](#)



# Tournament Schedule—2019

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GOLF COURSE</b>
5/6	Fremont Golf Club Pro Am
5/13	Iron Horse GC Pro-Pro
5/20	Dakota Dunes Country Club Pro Am
5/28	Pro/Assistant Championship at Oak Hills Country Club
6/10	Yankee Hill Country Club Pro Am
6/17	Happy Hollow Club Pro Am
6/22-6/23	Green Valley 36 Hole Pro Am
6/27	Pinnacle Bank Qualifier at ArborLinks
7/1	Golf FORE! The Troops at Wilderness Ridge
7/8	Nebraska PGA Assistant Champ at Happy Hollow Club
7/8-7/9	Nebraska PGA Senior Champ at Happy Hollow Club
7/15	Pinnacle Bank Monday Qualifier
7/29	Firethorn Golf Club Pro Am
8/5-8/6	Nebraska Section PGA Championship at ArborLinks
8/12	Hillcrest Country Club Pro Am
8/19	PGA REACH - Nebraska Pro Am (invitation only)
8/26	Quail Run Pro/Pro
9/3	Bent Tree Pro Am
9/9	TBD Pro Am
9/13-9/15	Wells Fargo Nebraska Open at Elks Country Club
9/23	Team Championship at Wild Horse Golf Club
9/30	Country Club of Lincoln Pro Am
10/7	Vinnie Krikac Cup Series at Quarry Oaks (invitation only)
10/11	Legends of Golf Classic at The Pines Country Club
season long	MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP
season long	Assistants MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

[\*\*REGISTER FOR ALL EVENTS HERE\*\*](#)

## COATMAN TAMES THE GUSTERLY WINDS TO CAPTURE THE E-Z-GO/COLUMBIA GOLF PRO-AM



A Textron Company



*Tito's*



*Handmade*

VODKA

AUSTIN ★ TEXAS

[Read Full Article](#)

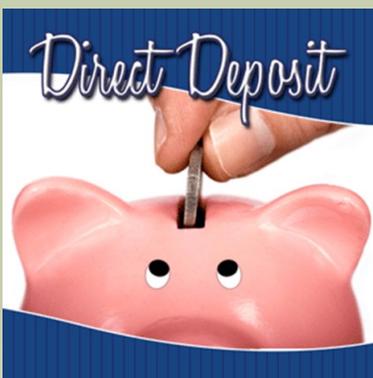
Discover why over 17 million homeowners trust State Farm®.

I'm here to help you protect what's important.

[Contact Me](#)

Vinnie Krikac, Agent  
Bus: 402-474-1173  
vinnie.krikac.cra@statefarm.com

## Direct Deposit Enrollment



We are asking for ALL of our Nebraska Section Members and Associates who play in any Section events to please enroll in our ACH Direct Deposit Service.

[Sign Up HERE](#)

# Award Winners Spotlight

## 2018

### Assistant Professional of the Year Connor Farrell, PGA



2018 was my favorite year that I have had in the golf industry. It had the perfect balance of tasks and people that I was familiar with combined with new items that provided challenges and learning experiences. Last year was great preparation for life in the golf business for years to come.

At Happy Hollow Club, I was given the opportunity to perform many job duties. For the last few years, I was largely in charge of Men's Club tournament operations, especially building and operating the tournaments in Golf Genius, as well as handicap and tournament handicap management. Last year also brought me my third year of overseeing the Men's League, The Gaggle. We are very proud of the fact that this was the third consecutive year we were able to live score and be paperless.

I had worked on the technological side of the golf shop for a few years and last year I added Textron GPS to my list which included maintaining the golf side of the website, the Foretees App, as well as social media. The GPS was a lot of fun to install the geofences around the greens and to utilize different features like the food and drink menu that members could order from straight from their cart.

My other new duty was managing the Bag Room. The Bag Room employed twenty different individuals last year. I brought a new approach to scheduling by having the group enter their availability on a Google Sheet. This got rid of any physical paper that could get lost as well as gave people the opportunity to take time off when they wanted. No one was getting scheduled to work when they didn't want to be there which makes for a more productive employee.

My final accomplishment of 2018 was that I became PGA Certified in Golf Operations. I also got half way through my General Management Certification by December which I have now completed. My volunteering with the PGA whenever I have a chance and continuing my education through the PGA has been very important to me.



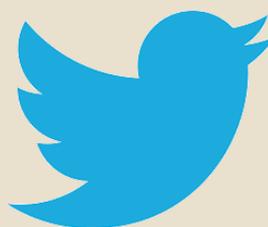
NEBRASKA

## PGA HOPE conducts first Spring Camp at Eagle Hills GC

Zach Wigginton, of Chesterman Co. Coca-Cola, presented PGA REACH Nebraska with a check for \$2,000 to support the great work of PGA HOPE in the Nebraska Section. We are excited to announce this partnership in 2019!



## Follow us on Social Media



# Player Development—Rentals

The Nebraska Section PGA will have the following items for rent this year. All Rentals are \$100 plus tax.

To reserve your rental, contact Renee Tyson at [rtyson@pgahq.com](mailto:rtyson@pgahq.com) or 402-489-7760

## RENTALS AVAILABLE



**GOLFZILLA**



**GOLFRILLA  
AVAIL 5/1**



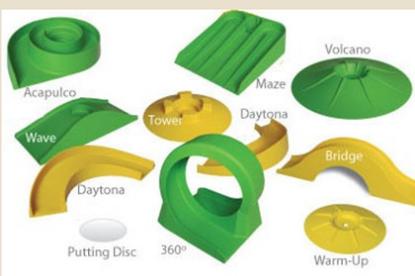
**KWIK GOLF**

**PUTTSKEE**



**SPOKE TARGET**

**SNAG**



**MINI  
GOLF**



**HACK  
GOLF**

# Career Consultant Update

## Jeff "JD" Drimel, PGA - PGA Career Consultant



Dear District 8 PGA Members & Friends,

The Masters has placed itself into the history books yet again with the Tiger Woods victory! Now, it's onto the PGA Championship in May and Bethpage Black...a historic move and one that we hope to see benefits leading into our golf seasons; generating excitement, energy, and lots of rounds & revenues.

A) **Forms** – A year ago I sent a “Get to Know Me Form.” We are happy to report that many took advantage of this form and as a result, updating the form will be a spring ritual. Please click on the link below, complete the form and help me help you achieve your goals. I plan to keep these forms on file to help identify possible opportunities for you in the future. Also, feel free to reach out anytime to discuss any issues...

### [2019 Member Information Form](#)

B) **Jobs** – There are still a few open opportunities in District 8. Please contact me if you are looking to move quickly for the 2019 season. Go to the PGA Job Board or review your Career Links notifications for updated information.

C) **Recruitment** – One of the areas, that is important for the longevity of our Association, is to help promote the business of golf. It is our duty to communicate the benefits of working in a game that we love. We all need to do a better job promoting the business but with that comes responsibilities. Increasing compensation, in all areas, can be challenging. Working long hours is difficult. Making ends meet and finding a work/life balance is hard. However, I found the business of golf to provide me everything I was looking for and a career I am still happy to look back to as it was the right thing to do...Let's be promoters of our business by preaching the good things about the business of golf rather than be the ones tearing it down.

D) **Confidence and Confidentiality in All Areas** – Our goal is to build confidence and trust as we navigate our Careers, Employment and other areas of discussions. One of the hardest tasks the Career Consultants have is to maintain the levels of confidence and trust, but we cannot do our mission effectively if we do not keep privacy at its highest levels. Yes, we sometimes know of someone planning to leave a position, but we are never allowed to disclose that type of information. Please help us respect the wishes of each PGA Member by not asking the uncomfortable questions. Everyone needs to understand these conversations are confidential no matter the content.

Take Care and I look forward to seeing you soon

JD Drimel, PGA  
PGA Career Consultant  
Serving the Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska Sections  
561-386 -7715 Cell

Jdrimel@pgahq.com

# District 8 Director

## David Schneider, PGA District 8 Director



Dear District 8 PGA Members & Associates:

Do you remember where you were when.....?

We can all answer this question when it comes to a special event or major happening in history. Relating it to sports, some of us older folks might be able to remember the details of some of the greatest sports moments ever. Maybe it was the 1980 US Men's Hockey team beating the Russians. "The Miracle on Ice"- I was with my brothers laying on the floor in the living room in Milwaukee. Maybe it was Dwight Clark receiving a pass from Joe Montana in 1982 where the 49'ners beat the Cowboys. "The Catch". I am a huge Cowboys fan and can recall crying in the living room in Bettendorf, Iowa again with my brothers and my parents. Then in 1986, I was curled up in a blanket made by my grandma watching the Masters with my mom listening to Verne Lundquist say "Maybe.....Yes Sir!" Each of these moments I can remember almost every detail all the way down to what shirt I was wearing.

Then there was Sunday April 14th, 2019 late in the morning. I was in my favorite, old, comfy, faded Navy-blue PGA chair, (my wife and I acquired when we were first married in 1994) watching my favorite player pull off the impossible in the state of Georgia. I was sitting with my wife, Deb, and my youngest son, Colin. As things started to unfold on #12, then on #13, #15 and then #16.....I started to scream louder and louder. Could this really happen? When Tiger tapped in the one-foot putt on #18, just for a little more drama, I jumped out of my chair and tackled my son saying, "Can you believe it? He did it! He did it!".

Sports can take our minds off our troubles and reduce the stresses of daily life. For me, GOLF transcends me to another place that I cannot go alone. Especially great golf tournament finales. Who knows what will unfold at Bethpage Black for the PGA Championship? All I know is my DVR will be recording.

Have a great spring!

David Schneider, PGA, CCM  
District 8 Director  
515-419-5653 Cell  
daves@happyhollowclub.com

# Nebraska's flood damaged golf courses are slowly opening



Flooding caused seven holes at Quail Run in Columbus to be completely covered in about 10 feet of ice. This photo was taken from the seventh fairway looking south toward the Loup River.

Once the Platte River flood waters receded, PGA professionals Don Dravland and Pete Balerud were relieved.

Their golf courses were largely intact. No greens were damaged.

Dravland's course, Pines Country Club in Valley, opened its back nine last week to member-only play. Balerud's North Bend Golf Course isn't open yet, needing to get its irrigation system running to wash debris from the course.

Oakland Golf Club, which was flooded by Logan Creek for the second time in less than a year, could get its back nine open in a week or two.

The Nebraska course hit the hardest is Quail Run, the municipally owned 18-hole facility in Columbus along the Loup River.

"Nothing has been done at this point," course pro Doug Dunbar wrote in an email, "as FEMA and the city's insurance company cannot assess the extent of the damage until the ice melts.

As of Wednesday, April 3rd, ice flows 5 feet thick still covered six holes on the south side of the dike, according to the Quail Run Facebook page.

Other courses that reported flooding included those in Niobrara, Neligh, Pender, Spalding, South Sioux City (Covington and South Ridge), York, Ord, Battle Creek (Evergreen Hill), Schuyler and Omaha (Knolls).

At the Pines, Dravland said several holes in the middle of the front nine received the most damage. The par-3 seventh hole is closed indefinitely as the course turns bunkers into grass moguls. The par-4 sixth, along old U.S. 275 (Reichmuth Road), was covered with mud along the left side and it might have to be temporarily shortened to a par-3.

He said he couldn't believe the debris left on the front nine, "billions of corn stalks, cobs and husks. And there's a lot who drink a lot of Fireball (cinnamon whiskey) from the bottles we've found."

The only greens with any damage were those for practice putting and chipping near the clubhouse, which itself was on dry ground. Of the two cart barns, the newer one had a lot of debris, but the original next to the practice range was dry.

Dravland and his wife, Lori, moved back recently to their home at the Pines. Their house had several inches of water in the basement. Mike Ten Eyck, the club's other pro, had 3 feet in his basement but was able to return home sooner.

At North Bend, the most damage was connected to the par-3 second hole. Some of the bank leading to the green eroded and the cart path has washed out. Another cart path between the 17th and 18th holes needed repairing.

Balerud said he hopes the course can open by the end of April. Seven holes he considers playable, but they are split between the two nines and away from the irrigation lakes that run west to east.

While two greens went under water, none were damaged. Balerud said only one ice chunk was found. The clubhouse was not flooded, nor were the cart shed and maintenance building, though members helped move the fleet of new carts to higher ground.

“As odd as it sounds, I’m happy with what we found,” he said. “I had envisioned the second green being washed away.”

Oakland continues its cleanup.

“We have moved corn stalks, pushed silt, washed off greens, removed debris, pushed more silt, cleaned out sheds, cleaned out equipment, moved even more silt, and are now working on turning our water on and assessing potential damages,” read a statement on the course’s Facebook page.



“This flood has presented some similarities to last year and also has brought some very sticky and slimy challenges. We will continue to remove silt from the course and hope Mother Nature will help us in drying some of these areas out.

The Oakland club’s plan for reopening is for the back nine to open to walkers only while cartpaths are repaired. The front nine and range will take longer to get ready.

While Quail Run waits for inspection and possible reopening in April as a makeshift nine-hole course, the Nebraska School Activities Association had to move its Class B boys golf championship in May from there to Elks Country Club across town.

Van Berg, the city’s nine-hole course, also was flooded and closed for a time.

Niobrara’s nine-hole course winds through the streets of the old town site. Because of recurring flooding, the town moved to higher ground about 40 years ago.

Large ice chunks were still on the course a few weeks ago, from photos posted on Facebook, but volunteers helped with cleanup.

Nebraska Section PGA Executive Director David Honnens of Lincoln said the PGA of America’s Golf Relief and Assistance Fund can help golf industry personnel affected by the flooding. To make a tax-deductible contribution to the Golf Relief and Assistance Fund or to apply for assistance, go to [GolfReliefFund.org](http://GolfReliefFund.org).



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# MEMBER UPDATES

EMPLOYEE	CLASS	CURRENT FACILITY	PREVIOUS FACILITY	PREV CLASS
Jordan Williams, PGA	A-8	Elks Country Club	Whirlwind Golf Club	A-8

## UPCOMING MAY BIRTHDAYS

Name	Birth Date
Joe Finnegan, PGA	5/2
Tom Everett, PGA	5/3
Scott Harmelink, PGA	5/7
Josh Enholm, PGA	5/9
Tyler Lane	5/11
Tim Kruse, PGA	5/16
Brian Steventon, PGA	5/18
Mark Mooberry, PGA	5/18
Kyle Bullerman, PGA	5/19
Seth Scollard, PGA	5/19
Tom Potvin, PGA	5/21
Kirk Hogen, PGA	5/22
Tom Jeffers, PGA	5/25
Loudan Steffes, PGA	5/27
John Farrell, PGA	5/28
Jacob Burling, PGA	5/29
Bill Keane, PGA	5/31



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