

MISSOULA COUNTRY CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2009

EST. 1916

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOULA COUNTRY CLUB



MANAGER'S MEMOS

BY RON SVIEN



MISSOULA COUNTRY CLUB
3850 Old U.S. Hwy 93
MISSOULA, MT 59804
www.missoulacountryclub.com

Phone Numbers

Pro Shop251-2751
Fax251-5344
Clubhouse Bar & Dining Room251-2404
Office251-2414
Fax251-5896
Maintenance Building549-4601

2009 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

Joe JohnstonPresident/Bylaws
Allen Pickens..... Vice President/Finance
John DayriesSecretary-Treasurer/Green
Janet Donahue.....Long Range Planning
Myles Link House
Justin Anderson.....Rules & Games
Bob Tutskey Membership
Barbara Dufour..... Immediate Past President
Wayne Capp Eagle Fund
Rocky Ginter Handicap - Ad hoc

Staff

Ron Svien.....General Manager
Skip Koprivica PGA Golf Pro
Connor Sproull..... Assistant PGA Golf Pro
Tom Russell.....Superintendent
Scott Lennemann..... Assistant Superintendent
Richard Kolenda.....Executive Chef
Sharon Jeszenka Office Manager
Dayton ScottController
Megan Suddaby..... Food & Beverage Director

Office Hours

Monday 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Bar Service Hours

Tuesday through Saturday
10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Lunch Service Hours

Sunday & Monday
11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday
11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Dinner Service Hours

Tuesday through Saturday
5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

The 2009 Couples Chapman Tournament was action-packed with 144 Players that included a practice round, a putting contest, a derby event, two rounds of competition, six meals, and great prizes/awards. There are many people to thank and we begin with Tom and the grounds crew for providing optimum playing conditions on the golf course. As usual Skip and his staff did an outstanding job, and our Food & Beverage crew with Megan and Brook at the helm did a great job! Also, many thanks to Vicki Houk for her hard work gathering a mountain of prizes and gifts for this event.

I want to thank Brook Robison for his efforts over the last three years. Brook's last day of work was August 29 and we wish him the very best. Richard Kolenda has joined us and began his duties as the MCC Executive Chef on September 1. Richard has an extensive food & beverage background and spent the majority of his career in Southern California. Richard comes to us from the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park, where he has been since he and his wife relocated to Missoula in 2007.

It's hard to believe that our summer season is nearing an end. We had a very good year at the swimming pool and I want to acknowledge Ashley Reynolds and her lifeguard staff, as well as Nikki Herzog, Markie Russell and the pool service staff for a job well done!

How about those CHAMPIONS? I'm referring to the Missoula Country Club State Champions – Bill Dunn, Joanne Steele, Bob Gray, Julia Jones and Travis Williams. Please see the **GOLF WEEK** article, which has been reprinted within this publication. Speaking of champions...congratulations also goes to Gary Koprivica who was the medalist at the U.S. Senior Amateur local qualifier recently held at The Rock Creek Cattle Company. Gary will now play in the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship, which will be played in September at the Beverly Country Club in Chicago.

September & October, 2009 Restaurant & Bar Hours of Operation

Sunday & Monday

Lunch Service 11 am to 7 pm
Bar Service 10 am to 9 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Lunch Menu Served 11 am to 9 pm
Dinner Service 5 pm to 9 pm
Bar Service 10 am to 9 pm

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JOE JOHNSTON

The best month of the year....fall golf at the MCC and football season all wrapped into one! It has been quite a summer for our Club from a golfing perspective. What are the chances of a private club capturing six MSGA golf titles and a U.S. senior amateur birth all in one golf season? Simply amazing. I guess all that training (and money) I've given Fudds and Billy Dunn over the years is finally paying dividends....for them anyway! I think it is safe to say whatever we are doing around here is working, now let's keep it rolling into next year. I'm hoping this is all good Missoula karma for the Griz as they begin their quest for another Big Sky Conference title.

We are beginning the process of looking at the

clubhouse remodel for the winter of 2010. When, and if, votes are approved by the membership to start planning this project, please weigh-in on ideas and thoughts so we don't make the same mistakes twice! There seems to be a lot of excitement and buzz about this happening very soon, so be sure to return your ballots and attend the planning meetings if you want your ideas and voices to be heard. There will be postings around the Club and in the newsletter about future meeting dates and times, so please stay tuned.

I hope you enjoy fall golf at the MCC and don't forget to holler at the football officials this fall.... believe it or not, some of them actually enjoy it.

Club displays amateur dominance (reprinted from Golfweek Magazine)

by Julie Williams

There might have been a rare celestial occurrence over Missoula (Mont.) Country Club this summer, helping the club to achieve a historical feat never before seen in the state. Until last weekend, five state major amateur champions – men's amateur, mid-amateur, men's senior, women's senior and women's amateur – hailed from the club.

"I don't know about any particular thing. . . . The stars were aligned, and they were aimed at Missoula," said Jim Opitz, executive director of the Montana Golf Association. "I don't have any explanation for it."

When reigning Montana Mid-Amateur champion Travis Williams was replaced at last week's Mid-Amateur, it might have loosened MCC's grip on that monopoly, but it still doesn't erase the extraordinary occurrence from the record books. Consider also that the MCC winners hail from one of only 45 private courses in the state (there are 49 public courses), and come from about 20,000 golfers registered with the state handicap system (though Montana Golf Association officials estimate the total number of players at about 80,000), and the occurrence is even more notable.

"I haven't seen that anywhere that I've been where you've got just even a duplicity, but in this case a multiple situation of players," said Ron Svien, the general manager at MCC. Svien has been in the golf business for almost 20 years, nearly 17 of those in California.

Svien speaks of MCC's reigning champions fondly, and sees many of them honing their games on the club's practice facilities, which he calls second to none. State Amateur champion Bill Dunn has been a force since his days as a junior player; State Women's Amateur champion Joanne Steele won her second championship this year after undergoing a heart transplant in 2006; and State Senior Amateur champion Bob Gray is as much of a contender with the young men as he is in the senior division. Svien also doesn't count out Julia Jones, the State Senior Women's Amateur champion as well as the low senior at the State Women's Amateur, and Kelsie Crippen and Derek Colberg, the low juniors in their respective State Amateurs.

"We've had a lot of quality players here at the Missoula Country Club," Svien said of the course, which is strictly a private facility that allows guest play only with members or from members at reciprocal clubs.

The western half of the state, where Missoula is located, is an area of heavy golf activity. However, MCC still has managed to draw some of the state's finest players. There are six other golf courses in the city of about 68,000 residents, including Canyon River Golf Course, which appears on the Golfweek's Best list of courses you can play.

In the history of the Montana Golf Association, other clubs have emerged as dominant in state majors, most notably Butte Country Club which claimed 11 of the first 12 State Amateur champions as well as the first

(continued on page 5)

PRO SHOP

BY SKIP KOPRIVICA,
PGA GOLF PROFESSIONAL AND STAFF



With the end of summer around the corner, the daylight is becoming shorter and the morning air is cooler. The best time of the year to golf is just ahead of us!

On August 5 our ladies' Helen Tremper Invitational was very successful with a field of 128 players. Our overall gross champion was Jo Smith with a 76. The overall low net champion went to Jenni Fangsrud with a 64. A special thanks goes to Penny Ritchie, Sydney Carlino, Julie Smith, and Shari Linjala for organizing the event and making it a great success.

On Saturday and Sunday, August 22 and 23, we had a full field of 72 teams competing in our annual Couples Chapman Tournament.

A Flight

- 1st place gross – Troy and Ann Rausch
- 2nd place gross – Gary Koprivica and Rose Stepanek
- 1st place net – Tracy and Tammie Roy
- 2nd place net – Bob and Sherri Stolzenbach
- 3rd place net – Doug and Jo Smith
- 4th place net – TIE – Ken and Marianne Crippen;
Brad and Karen Colberg

B Flight

- 1st place gross – George and Cynthia Stern
- 2nd place gross - Randy and Lonnie Warner
- 1st place net – Tom and Alice Layne
- 2nd place net – Scott and Mari Markle
- 3rd place net – Dick and Kelly Shull
- 4th place net – Terry and Carol Kay

C Flight

- 1st place gross – Brian and Janet Kekich
- 2nd place gross – Glen Henkel and Barbara Dufour
- 1st place net – TIE – Stewart and Mysta Ward;
John Velk and Susan Langley
- 2nd place net – TIE - Joe and Irene Topel; Greg
Anderson and Web Harrington

D Flight

- 1st place gross – Billy Bolt and Jenny Caywood
- 2nd place gross – Mark and Christine Hopwood
- 1st place net – Shane and Rochelle Wolfe
- 2nd place net – Bob and Tijon Morin
- 3rd place net – Steve and Ellen Carey
- 4th place net – Rocky and Shauna Ginter

As the summer is winding down so does our tournament schedule. In September we have three golf outings left:

Thursday, Sept. 10 – Montana Carriers Association – early morning shotgun, course will open after 1:00 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18 – Grizzly Roundball Outing – course closes at 11:00 a.m. and will reopen at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21 – Montana Tavern Association – course closes at 11:30 a.m.

Be sure to stop in the Pro Shop to check out our end of the season fall sales throughout the shop. We hope everyone enjoys the beautiful fall golf weather and tries to come out and enjoy the golf course during the next couple months before winter is here!

Skip Koprivica, Connor Sproull, Justin Mills and Staff

MCC DIRECTORY CHANGES

NEW

Palmer, Laurie (George) B
3820 Bellecrest, Msla. 59801 721-6579
First Interstate Bank 523-4269

CHANGE

Bryan, Michael (Sarah) R
111 Addie Ct., Msla. 59803 251-8734
Prudential Montana Real Estate 329-2022
Doncaster Consultant (Sarah) 544-3091
Anderson, Zac
409 Spanish Peaks Dr., Msla. 59803

RESIGNED

Mike Hickey/First Interstate Bank – Business
Florence Jones – Honorary (passed away 7/24/09)
Ladd Lincoln - Social

MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS OF 8/19/09

| PLAYING MEMBERSHIPS | 430 | (450 max.) |
|---------------------|-----|------------|
| REGULAR | 347 | |
| BUSINESS | 63 | (80 max.) |
| ASSOCIATE | 20 | (40 max.) |
| NON RESIDENT | 18 | (25 max.) |
| SOCIAL | 57 | (120 max.) |
| BUSINESS SOCIAL | 5 | (20 max.) |

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

BY MEGAN SUDDABY,
FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

With the 2009 MCC pool season coming to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our wonderful seasonal staff of Chelsea Janssen, Markie Russell, Grace McKoy, Jade Schroeder and Bree Bates, who worked through these past summer days serving your families. I would also like to thank our 2009 pool supervisor Nikki Herzog, for an exceptional job this past summer. Nikki has been a huge asset to the Missoula Country Club over her past three seasons of employment. She has gone above and beyond to ensure the memberships' satisfaction at the pool by creating trivia games for the kids, developing a healthy choices menu, decorating for holidays, incorporating new products and supplies, and most importantly, being a friendly, efficient server for the membership. We encourage your comments and feedback so we may continue making improvements for the 2010 season.

Griz football season is here! I would like to invite all Griz fans to join us in the clubhouse for away game

Grizzly football parties. The events will consist of beverage features, football snacks, and raffle prizes. Come relax and cheer on your Montana Grizzlies in the comfort of your clubhouse while enjoying ice cold beer and fantastic tailgate food.

Food and beverage specials will begin one hour prior to kickoff.

- **September 12** vs. UC Davis: Kickoff at 8:00 pm
- **September 26** vs. Northern Arizona: Kickoff at 4:00 pm
- **October 24** vs. Sacramento State: Kickoff at 3:00 pm
- **November 7** vs. Idaho State: Kickoff at 3:30 pm
- **November 21** vs. Montana State: Kickoff at 12:00 pm

I hope to see you and your family in the clubhouse for away Griz games.

dominance *(continued from page 3)*

five State Women's Amateur champions beginning in 1917. However, since the Mid-Amateur was added to the schedule in 1987, no other course has been able to claim four state major amateur champions at once.

State Amateur champion Bill Dunn, who has been a member at MCC for ten years, views the course as one of the best in the state, with a tight set-up that calls for strong shot-making skills. Dunn also describes a recently-remodeled driving range where members are granted unlimited practice balls, as well as a unique short-game facility.

"It's a short game triangle, you can hit any type of wedge you want," Dunn said. "From side to side I can hit as much as a 6 or a 5 iron."

In Dunn's mind, this summer's occurrence was nothing short of rare, and he can't remember anything like it in his 25 years as a golfer in Montana. Still, it wouldn't surprise him if the MCC name doesn't continue to be associated with great golf.

"I think it's pretty conducive to junior golf out there, which is good," he said. "I think you're going to probably see a lot of the juniors from Missoula Country Club in the next few years graduate into some of the bigger tournaments."

With MCC players making such a statement in state championships, it follows that the weekend games at the club would feature pretty stiff competition. And any player eyeing the club championship should be ready to fire considerably sub-par rounds. This year that title barely slipped from Dunn's grasp, but State Senior Amateur champion Bob Gray was ready to snatch it. A final round 65 – which included an eagle on the par-4 11th on the way to a back-nine score of 31 – putt Gray one ahead of Dunn's two-day 135.

"We've got lots of groups of good guys to play with," Gray said. "I got into a group several years ago and at first I was paying and now I'm collecting. You need to play with better players to improve your game."

Dan Brown, president of the Montana Golf Association, offered another possible explanation for the situation, which he also called a rare one.

"I think it's tradition, for one thing," Brown said. "There's been a lot of very influential and skilled players from Missoula, . . . and as you know tradition is important in golf."

This could be one tough tradition to keep.

TOM'S TURF TALK

BY TOM RUSSELL
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT



Greens were quad-tine aerated on August 31. The greens will be aerated again on September 28 with 1/2" tines. Aeration is beneficial by removing organic matter and breaking through layering in the growing medium. I apologize for any inconvenience to the membership.

A bunker sand trial will be set up in the practice bunker. The bunker will be partitioned into 4 quadrants with different sand in each section. Please play out of the sand, both when wet in the morning from irrigation, and dry. Feedback is appreciated and will be collected at the Pro Shop. Comments about bunker consistency continue to be the number one issue regarding the golf course. The goal is to find sand that has similar playing characteristics

throughout the day. If the trial indicates an improvement in consistency with different sand, a cost analysis on a complete sand change-out will be presented to the green committee.

Monday course maintenance continues to work well. Every other week the greens are verticut and topdressed, and greens are fertilized and preventative fungicide applications are applied. The next week greens are just fertilized and applications as needed are applied. On Mondays the speed of the greens is not our goal, the health of the plant is our goal. Greens will always be slower on Mondays.

The irrigation system will be blown out on October 15. It is hard to fathom already reserving a compressor, but the summer does fly by.

The green committee has an email address for questions and comments – mccgreens@gmail.com.

Enjoy your golf,
Tom Russell
241-6031

I'M ALRIGHT



By Carl Spackler

The other day I was cruising the course, which is in great shape by the way, on the greens mower. I was listening to the radio with my Alpha Dog noise cancelling headphones. The song *Sounds Life-Like to Me* came on, and I listened to the litany of tragic things happening to this guy. His friend responds "Sounds like life to me, ain't no destiny, the only thing for certain is uncertainty." That's pretty profound when you absorb it.

A recent college grad told me in applying for positions, one employer required an answer to an essay question – If you could participate in a TV reality show, which would it be, and why do you think you could win? He let me read his answer, and it was awesome! He chose the *Amazing Race*, and spoke of travel, and understanding other cultures to gather

perspective on our own life. Physical and mental challenges were discussed and how fundamental reasoning and the ability to think help us develop diverse solutions to a problem. One needs a strategy but must quickly adapt to changes in environment and circumstances; accept detours, and adapt to dilemmas. Lastly, not everything goes according to plan in life or the *Amazing Race*. He closes with the thought that participating is as important as winning. That's an answer any Dad would be proud of. Sounds like life to me!

When the sun comes up tomorrow, and the next day, and the next, participate and enjoy your amazing life!

cspackler@rocketmail.com

MISSOULA COUNTRY CLUB 2009 GOLF COURSE & TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| September 8 Tue | MCC Swimming Pool Closes |
| September 10 Thur | Montana Carriers Assn. Golf Outing – <i>course opens 1:00 p.m.</i> |
| September 18 Fri | Grizzly Roundball Golf Outing – <i>course closes 11:00 a.m. – opens 6:30 p.m.</i> |
| September 21 Mon | Montana Tavern Golf Outing – <i>course open until 11:30 a.m.</i> |

WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

NEWS FROM THE RED TEES

BY SHARI LINJALA,
MCCWGA PRESIDENT

JULY ECLECTIC WINNERS

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Class A Gross | Jo Smith (63) |
| Class A Net | Susan Toder (55) Carol Van Valkenburg (55) |
| Class B Gross | Sue O'Neil Stage (69) |
| Class B Net | Barbara Weishaar (55) |
| Class C Gross | Irene Topel (80) |
| Class C Net | Kathy Turner (55) Carol Hayes (55) |
| Class D Gross | Janet Donahue (83) |
| Class D Net | Margie Gall (50) |

July 2009 Chip-Ins: Arlene Breum, Ellen Carey, Cathy Correll, Carol Hayes, Sally Hickman, Diane Sheridan, Irene Topel.

July 2009 Birdies: Lisa Buseman, Ellen Carey, Raelynn D'Angelo, Janet Donahue, Shelly Geiszler (2), Sue Hadnot, Carol Key, Julie Smith, Susan Toder, Irene Topel, Shan Toussaint, Carol Van Valkenburg.

2009 MONTANA STATE WOMEN'S & SENIOR WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONS



Joanne Steele
Women's Champion &
Hall of Fame Inductee



**Joanne Steele & Rose
Stepanek**



Julia Jones
Women's Senior Champion

The MSWGA 2009 Amateur Championships were a success due largely to the 61 volunteers who helped throughout the event. Special thanks go out to the following volunteers from MCC: Carol Key, Bonnie Snowden, Dianne Pickens, Janet Donahue, Shauna Ginter, Patsy O'Keefe, Kate Joyce, Diane Sheridan, Barb Olson, Jo Smith, Peggy Kane, Paul Loehnen, Bill & Penny Ritchie, Tom & Dee Butorac and Ed & Shari Linjala.

Golf Ruling

The following situation happened in the recent Women's State Amateur:

A player hit her tee shot into the fescue. Thinking it could be lost she played a provisional ball into the fairway. She did find her first ball and decided that it was unplayable. Knowing that one of her options with an unplayable lie was to hit again from where she had originally (the tee box in this instance) and remembering that she had hit a provisional, she went to the provisional ball and played it into the hole. What was the ruling?

Unfortunately she was disqualified. A provisional ball can continue to be played only if your original ball is lost or out of bounds. Once her original ball was found the provisional ball was to have been abandoned. When she declared the original ball unplayable her three options under that rule came into play. 1.) Two club lengths from the unplayable ball no closer to the hole. 2.) On a line with the ball and flagstick as far back as she wants. 3.) She could have gone back to the tee box and hit from there yet again. (Rule 27-2c, Rule 28)



Helen Tremper Ladies Invitational

The Helen Tremper Ladies Invitational, held August 5, was a huge success with 133 participants. The theme was "Flowers and Birdies." Participants enjoyed breakfast, cookies and lemonade at the turn, and a delicious buffet lunch consisting of sliders with three salads and brownies for dessert. The Committee had creative items on the course for hole prizes, including a bird bath, bird house and metal sculpted flowers. Dawn Palmer decorated the tables with flowers from her gardens. Hole prizes were donated by night league teams and ladies day's play. Between hole prizes, the 50/50 drawing, the raffle and extra donated prizes, many ladies went home winners.



Helen Tremper Co-chairs
Syndey Carlino & Jule Smith



Shan Toussaint & Ginnie Horner

Awards Banquet September 29th 2009

All paid WGA members are invited to attend a free dinner and awards reception on September 29. Night league, RSVP to your team captain. Day's Play, call Shari Linjala (550-2571) for reservations. Please make reservations by September 24. This is a fun evening!! Flyers will be coming out soon.



P.O. Box 3057 • Missoula, MT 59806
 406-251-2404
 www.missoulacountryclub.com

SEPTEMBER 2009

MISSOULA COUNTRY CLUB



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | Lunch Service 11 am-9 pm | 1 11 am-9 pm | 2 11 am-9 pm | 3 11 am-9 pm | 4 11 am-9 pm | 5 11 am-9 pm PRIVATE FUNCTION MEMBER DINING AVAILABLE IN MILLER BARBER LIBRARY |
| 6 PRIVATE FUNCTION LUNCH MENU AVAILABLE AT THE POOL 11-7 Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | 7 PRIVATE BRUNCH IN MILLER BARBER LIBRARY LAST DAY OF SWIM POOL Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | 8 11 am-9 pm | 9 11 am-9 pm | 10 11 am-9 pm MONTANA CARRIERS ASSN. GOLF OUTING (COURSE CLOSED 9-11) D.A. DAVIDSON GOLF OUTING (9 HOLES 4:00) MEMBER DINING AVAILABLE IN LOUNGE ALL DAY | 11 11 am-9 pm | 12 11 am-9 pm PRIVATE DINNER FUNCTION MEMBER DINING AVAILABLE IN LOUNGE |
| 13 Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | 14 Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | 15 11 am-9 pm | 16 11 am-9 pm | 17 11 am-9 pm | 18 11 am-9 pm GRIZZLY ROUND BALL GOLF OUTING (COURSE CLOSED 11:00-6:30) | 19 11 am-9 pm |
| 20 PRIVATE LUNCHEON IN DINING ROOM MEMBER DINING AVAILABLE IN LOUNGE Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | 21 MONTANA TAVERN GOLF OUTING (COURSE OPEN UNTIL 11:30 AM) Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | 22 11 am-9 pm | 23 11 am-9 pm PRIVATE DINNER IN MILLER BARBER LIBRARY | 24 11 am-9 pm | 25 11 am-9 pm | 26 11 am-9 pm |
| 27 Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | 28 Lunch Service 11 am-7 pm | 29 11 am-9 pm WGA AWARDS BANQUET | 30 11 am-9 pm | 1 11 am-9 pm OCTOBER | 2 11 am-9 pm | 3 11 am-9 pm PRIVATE DINNER FUNCTION MEMBER DINING AVAILABLE IN LOUNGE |