



FARE

April 2015

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEPGA Spring Meeting & Town Hall Meeting/Seminar

NEPGA MasterCard

PlayGolf New England

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FRONT COVER: Massachusetts Golf Day at the State Capitol

NEWSLETTER TIP: To click on any of the links included in this newsletter, hover over the hyperlinked text and select the Link button.



NEPGA OFFICERS



Larry Kelley, PGA President larry@fivestargolfcars.com



Susan Bond, PGA Vice President cslcbond@aol.com



Ron Bibeau, PGA Secretary rbibeau@thefirstteemaine.org



Jim Noris, PGA Honorary President jnorisdcpc@aol.com

NEPGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Cook, PGA

District Director MA - Southern (781) 828-9717 toddcookgolfmhc@verizon.net

Rob Jarvis, PGA

District Director Maine (207) 941-0232 robjarvis@pga.com

Troy Pare, PGA

District Director Rhode Island (401) 434-9899 trocklives@gmail.com



District Director MA - Eastern (617) 484-5360 jfields@belmontcc.org

Timothy Loch, PGA District Director New Hampshire (603) 742-8580

Zachary Wyman, PGA

tloch72@yahoo.com

District Director Vermont (802) 864-7770 zackgolf@hotmail.com



Scott Hickey, PGA

District Director MA - Central (508) 869-9900 scotth@cypriankeyes.com

Jack Neville, PGA

Senior Director 617.332.3757 jjneville@comcast.net





Greg Yeomans, PGA District Director Cape Cod (508) 207-9215 gyeomans@bayclubmatt.com



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: Michael Higgins



The month of April has a different feel around the NEPGA office, as I am sure it does at many of your facilities. Not different in a bad way, but more like the feeling of when you returned to high school or college for your junior year. It's not that new experience feeling like when you walked on campus your freshman

year, but the anticipated, excited feeling to be back! Well it is April and we are back! It is time for a new season, it is time for the anticipated and exciting new beginning or new start, and we are ready for the 2015 golf season to arrive. Many PGA Professionals have had some time away from events and your membership, but soon life will be trickling back into your clubs. We will welcome the return of familiar faces as well as the many new ones we will meet. We are excited to introduce new programs, as well as the return of long traditions that have been around for decades and have made our Section so great.

I am also excited because with April's arrival we have the ability to share the results of our offseason projects. For me, this has been the most active "off season" for the New England PGA that I can recall. The employment season started early and continues relatively late in March and into April. (There was terrific utilization of the <u>Employment Tab</u> on nepga.com.)

In an effort to assist our facilities through promotion, exposure and revenue generation, the New England PGA has partnered with BlueGolf to create Play Golf New England. Play Golf New England is an online tee time system that will allow facilities to control pricing and take back the online tee time space. Facilities can list one, two, three or even your entire tee sheet on our website and we will promote the site through all of our marketing vehicles. Nothing bothers me more than companies that take bartered tee times and sell them for a fraction of the going rate. In my opinion this dilutes the product, upsets loyal customers and trains the average golfer to not pay full price for a tee time. Not with Play Golf New England. Read further along in the newsletter to learn more!

This winter we focused on creating member benefits for our New England PGA Professionals. Well I am happy to announce that we have created what I feel is our largest benefit yet. The New England PGA has partnered with Avidia Bank to bring the Avidia Cup to our tournament schedule. This series will be based in a similar fashion to the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup and a season long point series will pave the road to the Avidia Cup! But what about the NEPGA Members that will not play in the Avidia Cup you ask? Well we are thrilled to announce our own New England PGA MasterCard. When I met with Avidia Bank I told them that every NEPGA Professional has a credit card and in order to approach our members to consider getting our card we need to make it so good that you would still have to be paying with gold coins to not get one.

Most reward cards offer 1 reward point for each dollar spent, or maybe they will give you two reward points at gas stations or supermarkets. This card offers PGA Professionals and their friends and family 4 to 1 rewards on all golf purchases. Greens fees, golf equipment, PGA Member dues and even Blue Golf Tournament Entry fees just to name a few. And for those PGA Professionals that own their own shop and use the NEPGA MasterCard to pay their invoices, this card will offer a 90 day no interest and no payment period every April – June! You will receive three reward points for all travel & entertainment purchases (flights, rental cars, restaurants, movies, gas, etc.) and two reward points for every other purchase. There is no purchase where you will receive one point. The points will accumulate faster with this card than any other card on the market which means more benefits to you! There is more information on the NEPGA MasterCard that you can read about in another part of this newsletter and at Spring Chapter Meetings I will be discussing the other NEPGA Member Benefits being offered through the Avidia Bank partnership.

In an effort to improve, enhance and increase member services, the New England PGA is going through staff realignment. Bob Coen was hired as the Tournament Manager to oversee the Massachusetts Chapter, the New England Series, and all Drive, Chip & Putt events. David McAdams will assume a Director of Operations role to manage much of the day to day operation of the Section, while I will be able to spend more time on the Section Membership and member services, business development and our newly created New England PGA Foundation. We will be hiring a new Tournament Director soon and still expect to see David and myself at events this season.

I am very excited about where the New England Section has come and where we are going. The Section leadership and staff understand that everything we do is for the member. As I have said before, our operation is growing at an aggressive, yet manageable pace, and as the Section grows, so will the opportunities for our PGA Professionals.

I look forward to seeing many of you at your Chapter or Section Meeting and I am always available.

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Have a very successful 2015 season.

Respectfully,

Michael Higgins Executive Director New England PGA

MASSACHUSETTS Golf Day | March 20, 2015

Watch the Video Highlights



n what was the first official day of spring, a collaboration of leading organizations representing all segments of the state's golf industry celebrated "Massachusetts Golf Day" at the State Capitol.

Industry leaders met on Friday with members of the House of Representatives and Senate to discuss the industry's economic impact, growth of youth development programs and charitable contributions.

A recent Golf 20/20 economic report reported golf's direct economic impact in Massachusetts was \$2.7 billion in 2012. The state's golf industry supports 25,500 jobs and \$796.8 million in wage income. Massachusetts is home to more than 370 golf courses with more than 70% open for public play.

"This is an industry that is very strong. A lot of people discount the Northeast for having good golf, but here in Massachusetts it is a long-time tradition," said Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, who addressed attendees in the Nurses Hall. "[It generates] 25,000 jobs and is a multi-billion dollar industry. That is all very impactful. The part that I love most about it is that it spreads across our Commonwealth in every region of our state."

Massachusetts Golf Day featured attendees from leading industry organizations - Deutsche Bank Championship, Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund, Golf Course Superintendent's Association of New England, Massachusetts Golf Association, New England Club Managers Association, New England Golf Association, New England Golf Course Owners Association, New England PGA, and the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts.

Click here to continue reading.

CONNECT- ---

~ Massachusetts Golf Association







Pictured above: NEPGA Executive Director Mike Higgins, Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, NEPGA President Larry Kelley, PGA & NEPGA Honorary President Jimmy Noris, PGA celebrate MA Golf Day.

Pictured below: NEPGA was well represented at MA Golf Day, with tournament and memorabilia displays as well as putting bays on hand for the event.

<u>You</u>

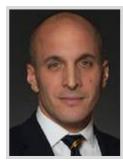
Tube

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App Store

Register Online for NEPGA Spring Meeting & Town Hall Meeting/Seminar Andover CC | April 14, 2015



If you have not done so already, please take a moment to register online for the NEPGA Spring Meeting being held at Andover Country Club on Tuesday, April 14th. We encourage you to join us, along with special guest speaker PGA of America CEO Pete Bevacqua, for this important, annual event.

Just added! A Town Hall Meeting/Seminar will follow the Spring Meeting where members can earn an additional 2 PGA Required MSR credits! The luncheon will take place after the Spring Meeting with the Town Meeting running from 1 pm to 3 pm.

The meeting will begin at 9 am, with registration starting at 8 am, followed by lunch and the Town Hall meeting.

This is also a great opportunity to earn PGA Required MSR credits before the MSR cycle ends on June 15, 2015.

<u>Click here</u> to learn more about our guest speaker, Pete Bevacqua. In addition, <u>click here</u> to read a featured article on Pete from Sports Illustrated.

The NEPGA will also be holding its annual Sponsor Appreciation Day in conjunction with the Spring Meeting, in which all sales representatives and sponsors that support our NEPGA Professionals throughout the year are invited to attend the meeting and lunch. This is a great opportunity for us to show our appreciation for all that they do to support our Section.

The complete Chapter and Association Spring Meeting schedule can be found on page 18 of this news magazine.

Spring Meeting Registration

Town Hall Registration

NEPGA Welcomes Bob Coen to Section Staff



The New England PGA is excited to welcome Bob Coen to the New England PGA. Bob previously served the Section as the Tournament Operations Intern in 2010, where he helped to launch the New England Series, which has become the premier amateur tour in New England.

Bob grew up caddying at Abenaqui Country Club in Rye, NH under the direction of Jim Sheerin, PGA. He continued to gain experience in the golf industry while working for the Cleveland Golf Tour in the early 2000's, and also as a PJ Boatwright Intern for the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts.

Following his internship with the NEPGA, Bob worked for American Express and most recently with Ace Ticket in their sales department.

In his new role as Tournament Manager, Bob will oversee the Massachusetts Chapter operations, the Drive, Chip & Putt qualifiers throughout New England, as well as the New England Series events and its members. Bob will also be a fixture at Section events and programs throughout the season where his schedule allows.

"I am thrilled to return to the NEPGA as the Tournament Operations Manager" said Coen, "and I look forward to picking up where I left off in 2010; by serving the great PGA Members in New England and continuing to help grow the Section's programs."

Please help us in welcoming Bob back to the New England Section! He can be reached at <u>rcoen@pgahq.com</u>.







Hover over the "Click Here" text and click the Link button to visit the NEPGA MasterCard website

Put more pover behind your

purchases.



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Avidia Bank

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The NEPGA Avidia Bank MasterCard®*

Now you can get the card that's just right for you-right from us. You'll enjoy very competitive rates and personalized local service.

Benefits:

- > No annual fee
- > No balance transfer fee
- > Zero liability
- Extended warranty
- > ID theft protection
- > Purchase assurance
- Avidia Bank will credit a portion of every NEPGA MasterCard® purchase to the NEPGA Foundation

Generous rewards program:

- > 10,000 points after initial purchase and annually thereafter
- Earn 4 points for each dollar spent for all NEPGA sponsored events and any merchandise purchased in PGA Pro Shops
- Earn 3 points per dollar spent for travel and 2 points per dollar spent for all other purchases**
- No expiration or cap on points earned
- Redeem points for merchandise, cash and gift cards

Apply Online!

You can apply for the NEPGA Avidia Bank MasterCard® faster and easier than ever before. Visit nepga.avidiabank.com to apply.

*The MasterCard rate for which we approve you will be based on your creditworthiness and other factors.

**Transactions excluded from point calculation include cash advances, ATM withdrawals, convenience checks, and balance transfers, any fees and card-related charges posted to a Card account, tax payments or any unauthorized charges or transactions. Avidia Bank is not affiliated with any retailer participating in the bonus point program. Avidia Bank reserves the right to change the program at any time.





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GREENSIDE: Ron Green, PGA



April, Spring-time, warmer weather, longer days, The Masters, The Red Sox Home Opener...all positive uplifting events and boy do we need some positive things to look forward to.

Now the only question is did Mother Nature get the memo?

Let's hope so because April is also the start of another New England PGA Tournament season, we hope.

Honestly, it really is up to Mother Nature now, while I have told you in the past about the amount of respect I have for the Superintendents at our facilities; I feel like I am working with magicians with some of the amazing things they manage to pull off.

Well, this is going to take something magical, more than just knowledge and hard work. You can't make snow melt when the temperatures are well below average and you can't make all that water that it leaves behind when it does, magically disappear. We are ready to kick off another season, but the question is, will Mother Nature cooperate.

Only time will tell, in the meantime registration is open for all events, so check out the schedule at <u>nepga.com</u> and please sign-up for any and all that fit your schedule.

Here are the events for April, including the first Championship of the 2015 season.

NEPGA Spring Meeting/ Sponsor Appreciation Day

Come visit with our sponsors for 2015 before the NEPGA Spring Meeting at Andover CC on April 14th. Registration starts at 8 am. Unfortunately, due to course conditions the Sponsor Pro-Am is canceled this year.

Lunch will be available after the Spring Meeting for the sponsors and those who have registered for the Town Hall Meeting.



NEPGA Thorny Lea Pro-Am

A week later we have the Thorny Lea Pro-Am, scheduled for Tuesday, April 21. Thorny Lea is a fixture on the NEPGA schedule, host PGA Professional Peter Norton, Superintendent Jim Medeiros and the Thorny Lea membership have once again stepped up to provide us with a great golf course and facility. Thorny Lea is a true friend to the NEPGA. They have



hosted multiple events over the years for us, including our Section Championship. We owe them a great deal of gratitude for their generous use of their facility.

You may pick your own tee time for this event. File your entry early to guarantee you get your preferred time slot.

Lincoln Motor Company continues their sponsorship role with the NEPGA and for this event. In addition, the Thorny Lea Pro-Am offers the first opportunity of 2015 to qualify for the Mohegan Sun Pro-Am that will be played later this year at Mohegan Sun Country Club on October 7th.

REGISTER

You Tube

NEPGA Pro-Pro Match Play

The first Championship on the 2015 schedule, the Pro-Pro Match Play at LeBaron Hills, takes place on Monday-Wednesday, April 27-29.

It's early in the year, but for those who qualify and keep winning, we start with a marathon, not a sprint. A Qualifying round on Monday morning to decide the twelve qualifiers will be followed that afternoon with first round matches for eight of those twelve teams. The top four qualifiers receive byes into the Quarter-Final round on Tuesday.

Quarter-Final and Semi-Final matches are scheduled for Tuesday morning and afternoon respectively. The Championship match will be played on Wednesday morning.

Available on the iPhone App Store

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Frank Dully & Steve Bramlett are the defending Champions.

NEPGA.com

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Golf Max, Ollie Hallet and Bill Higgins are returning sponsors.

LeBaron Hills is another long time host of NEPGA events, many thanks to the membership for hosting us, as well as Host Professional Tom Rooney, PGA and Superintendent Mark Klimm who always provide us with everything we need and make us feel welcome.

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April Sponsors

REGISTER

NEPGA Portsmouth Pro-Am

Even though this is the April edition of Tournament News we wanted to remind you of another event in early May that always draws a large field. The Portsmouth Pro-Am on Monday, May 4. Tee times off both the first and tenth tees in the morning and afternoon will fill up quickly, so get your group together and register early.

₩ LINCOLN



REGISTER

Another reminder that you can register now for almost all of the events on the 2015 NEPGA schedule, do it now and you won't get shut out of any events you want to play in.

On a similar note, I received an email from PGA of America in the middle of March; "PGA News" was encouraging me to "Plan to Compete in Your Section Championships".

While I may not be competing, I will be administering them and I have them duly noted on my schedule. Start looking at the dates of the major events. We'll remind you of deadlines in this space and watch for our weekly NEPGA emails and you can always check-in at nepga.com for information on all things tournaments.

Let's hope the tough finish we had to winter results in some nice spring/summer weather. Mother Nature owes us a little something for all she put us through.

Ron Green, PGA (Greenie) Director of Rules & Championships New England PGA









Supporting Sponsor of PGA of America Professional Tournaments

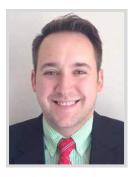








NEPGA Staffer Takes on a New Role



The New England Section is excited to announce that Dave McAdams has been promoted to Director of Operations for the New England PGA, effective March 19th. Dave has spent the past four seasons serving as our Tournament Director and helped elevate our already strong

tournament program to new heights.

"I am excited to begin this next phase of my career, and to be able to continue to grow within the New England Section is a welcomed opportunity," said McAdams. "I look forward to working with our current and future staff to continue to bring outstanding service to our Membership."

In his new role, Dave will oversee the day-to-day operation of the New England PGA, including all Section, Chapter, Junior Tour, and New England Series events, while also assisting Mike Higgins and the Board of Directors in all areas of our Association including Membership, Employment, Finance, Sponsorship and Foundation activities.

Sign Up for Direct Deposit of Tournament Winnings

If you are a NEPGA member or apprentice who plays in Chapter and/or Section events, please consider going green by receiving your tournament winnings through an ACH transfer to your checking or savings account.

Every year there are instances of paper checks getting lost in the mail. When this happens, we have to notify our bank to stop payment on the lost check (and there is a fee involved) and have a new check re-issued. This process can delay your payment for about two weeks! The section has paid the stop payment fee in the past but this fee is now passed on to the professional.

To avoid this happening to you, please <u>click here to</u> <u>download the ACH Form</u> from PGALinks.com; it is very easy to fill out. All you need to do is to send it to the office (P O Box 743, Boylston, MA 01505) along with a voided check.

New England PGA Sponsor and Travel Partner Celtic Golf will be running their 20th Annual Father-Son Championship in June of 2015. Click the link below to read more about this tremendous opportunity to visit one of the finest pieces of property in the world, Old Head Golf Links!

20th Annual Lather & June 24-26, 2015

Old Fead Golf Links Treland

Click for more information!



New England Section

The **New England PGA Golf Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, is committed to its mission of impacting lives through golf. We are dedicated to positively impacting the lives of veterans, youth and diverse populations.

Recently founded, the New England PGA Foundation, through PGA Reach, will continually work to promote the game and improve the lives of thousands of children, military veterans and their families, as well as diverse populations through golf each year. Although the NEPGA fosters competition, the New England PGA Charitable Foundation is designed to encourage fellowship, good sportsmanship, continued skill development, honesty, integrity and etiquette.

The New England PGA Foundation has three pillars: **Youth**, **Military** & **Diversity**.

YOUTH

The Youth Pillar of the New England PGA Foundation seeks to improve and advance opportunities for youth. Introduction to the sport at an early age has proven to provide great opportunities in the areas of education, health and wellness and character building centered on the sport of golf.

New England PGA Foundation programming will ensure that cost doesn't prohibit youth from entering the sport and will serve as a central role in the golf industry's effort to introduce the sport to youth of all ages and backgrounds in a safe, fun environment. Some program examples include: PGA Jr. League Golf, Drive, Chip & Putt Championship, The First Tee, Junior Tour and more.

MILITARY

Helping our Patriots Everywhere (HOPE) is a year round program designed to keep interested veterans playing golf, in order to embrace their mental, social, physical and emotional well-being. PGA REACH, the New England Section and PGA Professionals partner with local VA hospitals and military installations to initiate this program. The program includes a working partnership with physical therapists, introduction of the participant to the sport of golf, golf instruction, playing opportunities and social events. Using golf as an activity to assist them with their progress in rehab along with helping them to assimilate and mainstream with their families and into their communities and into life. Programs take place in local markets nationally and are fully funded for military and their families' participation.

DIVERSITY

Diversity and inclusion are core values and a focus of the New England PGA Foundation, and we embrace the spirit of differences. We work each and every day with the PGA of America to have our commitment to diversity and inclusion resonate throughout the organization, the activities, programs and business we conduct, and any practice we implement. We strive to look through a lens of diversity and inclusion at all times.

On our quest toward creating a culture of inclusion within the golf industry, we actively seek collaboration with those who champion diversity and inclusion – organizations and golf facilities that have successfully demonstrated growth with diverse groups. It is vital that the game of golf is truly welcoming to all and perceived barriers are eliminated.

This takes an investment and a commitment to enact real change. As the PGA of America serves its members and grows participation in golf, we help drive the awareness that golf is in fact affordable, welcoming and fun for all individuals regardless of age, gender, ability, background or lifestyle.

We ask ourselves daily, what have we done to increase diversity and accessibility within the game? Taking action and making regular progress fuels the cultural transformation and our commitment that the face of the game will become more reflective of the face of society.

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MIZUNO MAKES HOT LIST HISTORY SIX GOLD MEDAL IRONS 2015



JPX-850 FORGED

JPX EZ



MP-H5

MP-15

MP-54

WINNER OF THE MOST HOT LIST GOLD MEDALS IRONS IN 2015, 2014 AND 2013



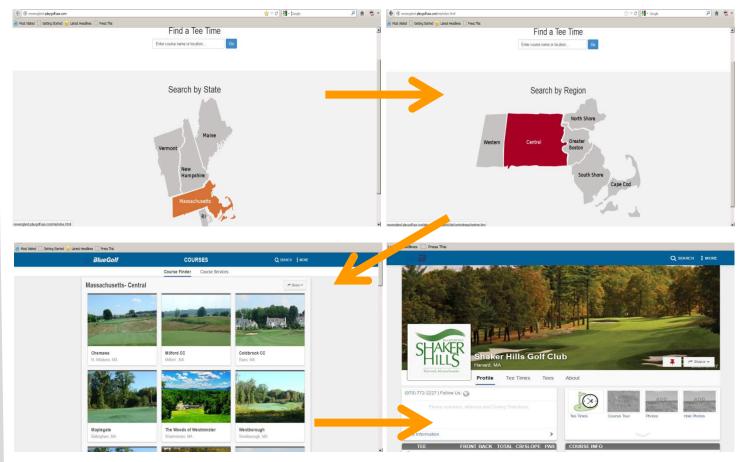


Welcome to PlayGolf New England!

Welcome to PlayGolf New England (PGNE), a new online Tee Time Finder & Reservation service designed to help New England courses grow and prosper while providing golfers with an exceptional service.

For golfers, <u>PGNE starts with a superior service for golfers</u>. PGNE features the easiest and fastest way to find and book tee times. It is the most convenient and enjoyable tee time reservation service available anywhere. The service provides a great experience on phones, tablets and PC's. The service also provides access to a wealth of resources for each course including Photos, Course Tours, Scorecards and News.

There are many compelling benefits to having your course listed on PlayGolf New England. Highlights include:



Increased Exposure

The PGNE service is promoted to golfers, throughout the state, by the New England PGA. It is your best way to reach NE golfers.

Barter- Free

Offer online bookings on your website and PGNE without having to barter your valuable tee times for services.

Pricing Control

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Take back control of your pricing. Courses are in complete control of their rates on PGNE.

FREE to Courses

A listing for your facility on PlayGolf New England is free. There are no fees to be included in the search results or to customize your Course Profile.

Access to your Tee Sheet

PlayGolf New England includes links to your Tee Sheet. Innovative Tee Sheet available for PGNE courses via BlueGolf.

Showcase your Facility

NEPGA.com

A feature rich Course Profile is available to your facility on PGNE. The Profile includes tee times, photos, logos, aerial tour, weather, driving directions and more.

App Store

App Store

Contact the New England PGA Office for more info or with any questions at 508.869.0000

You

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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT NEWS: Brian Bain, PGA



Don't Be on the Outside Looking In! *Register NOW!*

The first step in becoming involved is registering to "Host a Team" on the PGA JLG website: pgajrleaguegolf.com

Watch and share the PGA recruitment video with your members to help create excitement: https://vimeo.com/121157644

Please feel free to contact myself at 617-820-4411 or **bbain@pgahq.com** to help find other facilities in your area to create your league.

PGA JLG will definitely create more energy and excitement at your facility and at the end of the day help you shine brighter!



Change to PGA Life Insurance Program

The PGA of America Board of Directors approved an increase in the life insurance annual premium to paid, from the current \$26.00 to \$34.00 (an \$8.00 increase). As a reminder, the PGA Life Insurance annual premium is included as a separate line item on the PGA Annual Dues statement, and the increase will be reflected in the amount due.

With the premium increase, the death benefit will increase as well. The new death benefits will be as follows:

| Age | Death Benefit | |
|----------|---------------|--|
| Under 35 | \$15,000 | |
| 35+ | \$10,000 | |

In addition, as a reminder, this PGA Life Insurance benefit will also include Apprentices beginning with the Fiscal Year starting July 1, 2015, as previously approved. Below is a chart to serve as a summary of the changes:

CURRENT PROGRAM

| Age | Death Benefit | Premium |
|----------|---------------|---------|
| Under 35 | \$13,250 | \$26 |
| 35 - 49 | \$6,600 | \$26 |
| 50 + | \$2,650 | \$26 |

NEW PROGRAM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015

| Age | Age Death Benefit | |
|----------|-------------------|------|
| Under 35 | \$15,000 | \$34 |
| 35 + | \$10,000 | \$34 |

Complimentary Access to the Masters for Members

The Masters will be held on April 6-12, 2015 at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga. For ticket information please call 706.667.6700 or visit masters.com. As a courtesy extended by Augusta National, complimentary access is offered to Class A PGA members, Life members and Master Professional members (PGA members only; this offer is not extended to apprentices). No spouse or families (including practice rounds). Must show membership card and photo I.D. each day. Go to Gate 6A off of Berckmans Road then report to Gate C to receive daily ticket. NOTE: Daily tickets are not available to purchase for spouse.

NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR TOUR: Jacy Settles



NEPGA Junior Tour presented by

aylorMade A

We're excited to announce that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the New England PGA Jr Tour (NEPGA Jr Tour). That being said, I offer my most sincere thanks and

appreciation to all of the NEPGA Professionals and apprentices for their continued support of the NEPGA Jr Tour. Whether you are a host site or simply spreading the word about the tour, it's appreciated.

On another note, The Jr PGA Championship and the addition of the Big "I" Massachusetts State Qualifier have aided in the development of the one-day junior events and the Elite Tour as they provide the junior golfer a long term goal. Last year, we took over the Big "I" Massachusetts State Qualifier for the first time and the participation rate went from the worst in the country to the first. Considering such, we received extra spots in the Big "I" National event for 2015!

I'm extremely proud of the NEPGA Jr Tour as it provides many avenues for the junior golfer. Whether the junior is just looking for fun tournament competition or focused on collegiate golf, we really have it all. Please help us spread the word to the juniors as we strive to get 100 events again in 2015!!!

NEPGA Jr Tour Membership & Tournament registration is now open for the 2015 season. <u>Click here</u> to view the schedule.

Considering that Masters week is fast approaching, we will be seeing a lot of advertisements about the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship, which is aimed to promote and stimulate the interest in the game of golf. Just to remind you, the Drive, Chip, and Putt Championship is a free, nationwide skills competition for juniors 7-15, which concludes at Augusta National Golf Club during Masters Week.

The Drive, Chip, and Putt Championship is a great "contest/competition " to get the kids to the Masters, but I'd like to challenge NEPGA Professionals, not to think of it as just a "contest/competition" but more of a revenue generator for their facility. In order to generate revenue, NEPGA Professionals can create a Drive, Chip and Putt teaching series for their juniors and charge a fee. It could be a complete packaged program or an a la carte option (see chart). Don't forget that this series of instruction can be for adults as well.

As you can see, the Drive, Chip and Putt Championships provides a great opportunity for juniors, but don't forget of the opportunity it can create for NEPGA Professionals.



Example Revenue Breakdown DCP Instruction Packages/ or A La Carte

| Quantity | Option | Price | Total | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|--|
| 50 | Complete training package | \$100 | \$5,000 | |
| | Complete training package Includes: | | | |
| | Driving instruction | | | |
| | Chipping instruction | | | |
| | Putting instruction | | | |
| | Simulated Competition | | | |
| | | | | |
| 10 | Driving Instruction (a la carte) | \$35 | \$350 | |
| 5 | Chipping Instruction (a la carte) | \$35 | \$175 | |
| 5 | Putting Instruction (a la carte) | \$35 | \$175 | |
| 10 | Simulation competition (a la carte) | \$15 | \$150 | |
| | | | \$5,850 | |

Available on the iPhone App Store

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Drive, Chip & Putt Registration is Open!

For more information visit www.nepga.com/chipandputt

Register on www.drivechipandputt.com

NEPGA New England Sites



| DATE | <u>SITE</u> | LOCATION |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday, May 31st | Val Halla Golf Club | Cumberland, Maine |
| Friday, June 26th | Button Hole Golf Club | Providence, Rhode Island |
| Sunday, June 28th | Cyprian Keyes Golf Club | Boylston, Massachusetts |
| Tuesday, June 30th | Renaissance Golf Club | Haverhill, Massachusetts |
| Thursday, July 2nd | Links at Lang Farm | Essex Junction, Vermont |
| Wednesday, July 8th | Ferncroft Country Club | Middleton, MA |
| Tuesday, July 14th | The Bay Club at Mattapoisett | Mattapoisett, Massachusetts |
| Tuesday, July 21st | Windham Country Club | Windham, New Hampshire |
| Thursday, July 23rd | LeBaron Hills Country Club | Lakeville, Massachusetts |
| Wednesday, July 29th | Granite Links Golf Club | Quincy, Massachusetts |

Our Condolences...



BRUNO, FREDERICK 70, passed away Wednesday, March 25, 2015 in Avon Park, Florida surrounded by loving friends. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Alfred and Philomena (Cirella) Bruno. He had been a winter resident of Avon Park since 1978. He was a member of the R.I. National Guard and served in

Vietnam.

Fred discovered his love of golf at age eight, playing and caddying at Triggs Memorial in Providence. He won both the R.I. and New England Caddy Championships. He developed into one of the finest PGA Golf Professionals in the history of Rhode Island, according to his peers in the golf community.

Fred served as head professional at Rhode Island Country Club for over 30 years, retiring in 2002. He was named professional emeritus and continued to teach until recently. He was named New England PGA Teacher of the Year in 1986. He mentored and taught golfers such as Brad Faxon, Brett Quigley and Billy Andrade. He gave Brad his first formal golf lesson.

He is survived by his sister, Carolyn (John) Najmowicz of Johnston.

Evolve Golf Survey

Evolve Golf is requesting your participation in a product research survey. Your participation will provide invaluable insights that will help Evolve Golf grow and better support the section and your customers. The survey will take between five and eight minutes to complete. Please <u>click</u> <u>here</u> when you are ready to take the survey.

New Volunteer Opportunities

There are plenty of new volunteer opportunities for our NEPGA members and apprentices to get involved and grow the game this Spring. Check out our <u>Community</u> <u>Outreach</u> page to view all the details!

What's Coming Up in our May issue...

Player of the Year Points Standings **New!** Avidia Cup Points Standings Recap of the First Major of the Year

EDUCATION UPCOMING SEMINARS lucation opportunities are open to all NEPGA members.

New England PGA/New Hampshire Golf Association Rules Clinic

Saturday, April 4, 2015 9am-2:30pm Date/Time: Location: Beaver Meadow Golf Course, 1 Beaver Meadow Road Concord, NH 03301 **Cost:** \$25 (includes lunch) **MSR Hours:** 5 PGA Required Education MSR Credits Registration: To register, contact John Jelley at jjelley@nhqolf.com

NEPGA Town Hall Meeting with Seminar featuring PGA CEO Pete Bevacqua

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 following the NEPGA Spring Meeting, 1pm-3pm Location: Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St, Andover, MA 01810 Cost: \$20 (includes lunch) MSR Hours: 2 PGA Required Education MSR Credits Deadline: April 14, 2015

Maine Chapter Seminar: The Complete Marketing Plan | Click Here for Details

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 12pm-3pm Location: The Woodlands Club, 39 Woods Rd, Falmouth, ME 04105-1153 **Cost:** \$25 (includes lunch) MSR Hours: 3 PGA Required Education MSR Credits Deadline: April 13, 2015



Available on the iPhone App Store

App Store

<u>Register Here</u>

2015 Spring Meeting Schedule

| MEETING | DATE | SITE | TIME |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| NEPGA Section | Tuesday, April 14th | Andover C.C. | 9 am with 8 am registration |
| Maine | Wednesday, April 15th | The Woodlands Club | 9 am |
| Cape Cod | Thursday, April 16th | Sandwich Hollows | 9:30 am |
| Assistants' Association | Thursday, April 20th | Oyster Harbors Club | 8 am |
| Massachusetts | Thursday, April 23rd | ТВА | 10 am |
| Seniors' Association | Friday, April 24th | Middleton Golf Course | 10 am |
| Vermont | Monday, May 4th | Rutland C.C. | 9 am |
| | | | |

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CAPE COD & RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER NEWS

Submitted by Mickey Herron, PGA, Cape Cod & Rhode Island Chapter Tournament Manager

EDUCATION

Many colleagues have attended seminars in both Rhode Island and on Cape Cod this calendar year. The RIPGA held a Player Development Workshop on March 27th as well as Technology in Instruction Seminar on April 1st, just prior to the Chapter spring meeting at Kirkbrae. The Cape's Spring Meeting is at Sandwich Hollows on April 16th at 9:30 am.

LOOKING BACK

With so many RI & CC professionals wintering and working in Florida, the rest of us were re-gripping our shovels. And the lucky few who managed to play in PGA-sanctioned events over the winter? The Cape was well represented by Gregg Richbourg, PGA-Cape Cod National, John Paesani, PGA-The Bay Club, Mike Demakos, PGA-Nantucket GC, Rusty Gunnarson, PGA-Rochester GC, Bob Giusti, PGA-Halifax, Paul Rudeen, PGA-Ocean Edge and finally Sankaty Head's PGA Assistant Jake Pleczkowski who returned stellar results in both the PGA Winter Series in addition to the

Winter Match Play, an event where he was medalist in the

managed his way all the way

Jake also fired 72-72-70-73

Stroke Play Championship.

Paesani put up a spirited

68 214 (T-15) this past

287 (T-20) in the PGA Winter

defense of his age group title

won in 2014 shooting 72-74-

qualifier (65) and then

to the quarter-finals.



Jake Pleczkowski

Competing in PGA Winter Championships from Rhode Island were: Ed Kirby, PGA-Alpine, Gary Dorsi, PGA-Green Valley, Bob Tramonti, PGA-Triggs with the Senior/Junior team of Kirby & Tramonti (RIPGA's two most recent

winter.

Chapter Champions) placing a fine 11th (-20 under par: 268) at PGA Golf Club.

LOOKING FORWARD

Tournament Registration has officially begun for both chapters and the Section as well. Log onto BlueGolf and review each events' Tournament Info Page for more info, deadlines and entry fees.

GOLF FIGHTS CANCER

Peter Guild, who represents Callaway Golf, longtime major sponsor for both RI & CC Chapters is headed to the Marathon next month! His goal to raise \$10,000 needs your help. Let's show Peter how much we respect what he is trying to do by running for this worthy cause and give back to someone who has been loyal to all of us for so many years. Contact Peter for more info: peter.guild@callawaygolf.com

PGA JUNIOR LEAGUE EXPANDS

Both the Cape and Rhode Island fielded two Jr. Leagues each last year. New leagues are forming already and Kirbrae's PGA HP Mike Bradshaw is leading the charge in forming a U-16 league, too! Good contact info if you or your club are interested begins with the talented Brian Bain, PGA – <u>bbain@pgahq.com</u> or fellow Chapter pros John Rainone, PGA-N. Kingstown, <u>johnrainone@hotmail.com</u>, Jeff Halunen, PGA-Pocasset, <u>jeffhalunen@pga.com</u>, Greg Yeomans, PGA-Bay Club, <u>gyeomans@bayclubmatt.com</u>, or the aforementioned Mike Bradshaw, pgapro@kirkbrae.com.

Congratulations to Zach Sweet, Cape Cod National, who has recently earned PGA Membership.



MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER NEWS

Submitted by Bob Coen, Massachusetts Chapter Operations Manager

The Mass Chapter is actively working with its host facilities to solidify its tournament schedule. Weather has been a hindrance for most and the Chapter tournament schedule is no different. Operations Manager, Bob Coen, is working with Granite Links in an effort to host the 6-6-6 tournament in the middle of April, and we will notify all Chapter Members once we are able to solidify a date. At this present time, the Assistant's Association is on-track for a Spring Series event in Rhode Island at Carnegie Abbey Club on April 16, 2015. That event will be open to non-Assistant Professionals, with an emphasis on mentorship. It will be a fun atmosphere, with the format being a 4-player scramble, and we encourage any Massachusetts Chapter Professionals looking to shake the rust off to participate. You can view more info on the event at www.nepgaassistants.com.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER NEWS

Submitted by Frank Swierz, New Hampshire Chapter Tournament Manager

Martignetti Liquors is on board, once again, as the Chapter's title sponsor. The company is the major sponsor and will conduct four tastings at Chapter pro-am sites. This year they are featuring Tullamore D.E.W. Irish Whisky as their brand.

The Chapter's tournament schedule begins on April 6th at Green Meadow and the following week at The Oaks. Frank Swierz, Tournament Manager, has been in touch with both facilities and we're playing a "waiting game" to determine playing conditions. Both events could be victims of the prolonged winter.



Alex Kirk, head professional at Hanover CC and head coach of the Dartmouth College Women's golf team, with his wife Betsy Knights on the 18th fairway at Pebble Beach. The golf team was on a 10-day trip to San Francisco and Monterey Bay for some practice and competition.



Cory Mansfield, head professional at Montcalm GC, and his wife Jen doing a little skiing at Montcalm instead of playing golf. Cory notes, "Still looks like winter!"



Alex Kirk, Hanover CC head professional, with his Dartmouth College women's golf team at Cypress Point.



Craig McLaughlin, head professional at Candia Woods, just a "little itchy" to get the golfing season going.



MAINE CHAPTER NEWS

Submitted by Tom Moffatt, PGA, Maine Chapter Operations Manager

Spring is here and that means the golf season in New England. Well, hopefully we will have some golf played in the spring! With the winter that we had and are still having, I am optimistic that the snow will melt and our scheduled events will be played. The Maine Chapter schedule is posted on the Chapter website (www.mainepga.com) and registration for the early events begins on April 1st on BlueGolf. The tournament committee was hard at work in the fall to improve our events and make them enjoyable for all. We have put together a schedule that takes us to a lot of the top clubs in Maine. Some venues and dates are mainstays in our Chapter, and others will be new. Thank you to the Host PGA Professionals and there clubs for supporting the Chapter and allowing us to visit for a day. Also, thank you in advance to all our sponsors and future participants, both professional and amateur for a hopeful golf season of success.

The committee voted to change the format for our Pro-Ams. All of our Pro-Ams (except for the Championships) will have a 2 Best Ball of 4 (1 Gross + 1 Net) format. The rule of only 1 player with a 4.5 index or less will not be in affect for this format. Some other changes include, bring back the Pro-Pro blind draw, Senior Tees and the option to bring a second team only if the field for the event is below 15 teams a week prior to the registration deadline. We believe the changes are all positive and the goal is to help with participation. Please take the time now to set your schedules and make an effort to play in a few more events than you played in a year ago.

For more information regarding tournament related issues in the Maine Chapter please contact Tom Moffatt tmoffatt@pgahq.com or (508) 523-4261.

I am excited for year two as your Operations Manager. Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. I am here for you!

Upcoming Important Dates:

Wed., April 15 - Spring Mtg, The Woodlands Club, 9 AM Sun., May 3 - Jr Golf Maine Open House, Val Halla GC, 1-5 PM Tues., May 12 - First Pro Am of Season, Biddeford Saco CC Sun., May 31 - Family Golf Day

Sun., May 31 - Drive, Chip, and Putt Maine Qualifier, Val Halla GC





VERMONT CHAPTER NEWS

Submitted by Dave Christy, PGA, Vermont Chapter Tournament Manager

On March 9th, at Gonzo's HD sports indoor golf, we had a Pro Am with 8 professionals and their 4 man teams. Winning teams were led by Steve Gonsalves, PGA, Links at Lang Farm, and Sean Toof, Vermont National CC.

District Director Zack Wyman, PGA and Chapter Vice President Roger King, PGA Both attended the Section Planning Section at Andover CC in late February.

April 17th is official Golf Day in Vermont. Vermont Chapter leaders will be present joining other state golf industry associates for a sponsored breakfast celebration at the Vermont State House in Montpelier.

Planned Educational Opportunities for 2015:

April 21st Growth of the Game seminar and roundtable, Neshobe GC

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May 13th Vermont Chapter Teaching seminar, Okemo Valley GC

September 30th Teaching Seminar with Jim McLean, Dorset Field Club

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES Changes reported between 3/5/2015-4/1/2015

| NEW MEMBERS | | | EMPL |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| NEW MEMBERS | Class | Facility | Name |
| Brendon S. Ray, PGA | A-8 | Carnegie Abbey Club | Dan Ben |
| | | | James J. |
| NEW APPRENTICES | S | | Shawn C |
| Name | Class | | Daniel J. |
| Eric B Morris | B-8 | Kebo Valley GC | Christop |
| TRANSFERS INTO S | SECTI | | Donald F |
| | Class | Previous Section | John A. |
| Ryan M. Mazula, PGA | 4-8 | NE New York Section | Philip B. |
| | | | Nathan / |
| CLASSIFICATION | HAN | GES | Matthew |
| Name | Class A-8 | Facility | Roman S |
| Dan Benedetti, PGA | А-8 А-13 | Ocean Edge Resort & Oub Groton CC | John R. |
| Shawn C. Campbell, PGA | | | Daniel J. |
| Christopher M. Colucci, PGA | A-1 A-13 | Weekapaug GC Rockland GC | James P |
| John A. Dalrymple, PGA | | | James B |
| Philip B. Davis Jr., PGA | A-1 | Beaver Meadow GC | |
| Dick R. Dichard, PGA | A-4 | Nashua CC | Ryan M. |
| Matthew D. Gaynor, PGA | A-1 | Hidden Creek CC | Joseph E |
| Roman S. Greer, PGA | A-4 | Cranberry Valley GC | Paul H. I |
| John R. Hickson, PGA | A-1 | Sebasco Harbor Resort | Troy S P |
| Paul H. Meunier, PGA | A-6 | Gonzo's Indoor Club & Academy | Barry G. |
| Anthony Morosco, PGA | LM | | James D |
| Barry G. Pearson Jr., PGA | A-8 | Keene CC | Michael |
| James D. Pollini, PGA | A-1 | Wentworth GC | Brett A. |
| Joel St. Laurent, PGA | A-4 | Passaconaway CC | Eric D. Z |

| (| EMPLOYMENT CHANGES | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Name Dan Benedetti, PGA | Class A-8 | Start 3/31 | Facility Ocean Edge Resort & Club | |
| | | A-14 | 5/17 | Maynard Country Club, Inc. | |
| | Shawn C. Campbell, PGA | A-13 | 3/15 | Groton CC | |
| | Daniel J. Colton | B-8 | 3/30 | Pine Brook CC | |
| | Christopher M. Colucci, PGA | A-1 | 3/15 | Weekapaug GC | |
| | Donald F. Daley, PGA | A-1 | 4/1 | Fall River CC | |
| | John A. Dalrymple, PGA | A-13 | 3/30 | Rockland GC | |
| | Philip B. Davis Jr., PGA | A-1 | 3/9 | Beaver Meadow GC | |
| | Nathan A Durant | B-8 | 3/23 | Wellesley CC | |
| | Matthew D. Gaynor, PGA | A-1 | 3/10 | Hidden Creek CC | |
| | Roman S. Greer, PGA | A-4 | 3/5 | Cranberry Valley GC | |
| | John R. Hickson, PGA | A-1 | 4/30 | Sebasco Harbor Resort | |
| | Daniel J. Kish | B-8 | 3/30 | Eastman Golf Links | |
| | James P. Landers, PGA | A-8 | 4/1 | Weston GC | |
| | James B LeClair | B-8 | 3/15 | Lake Morey Inn & CC | |
| | Ryan M. Mazula, PGA | A-8 | 3/23 | Shining Rock GC | |
| | Joseph E. McNulty, PGA | A-6 | 3/31 | Olde Barnstable Frgds GC | |
| | Paul H. Meunier, PGA | A-6 | 3/15 | Gonzo's Indoor Club & Academy | |
| | Troy S Pare, PGA | A-1 | 4/1 | The Preserve at Boulder Hills | |
| | Barry G. Pearson Jr., PGA | A-8 | 4/1 | Keene CC | |
| | James D. Pollini, PGA | A-1 | 4/1 | Wentworth GC | |
| | Michael H. Pratt, PGA | A-8 | 4/1 | York Golf & Tennis Club | |
| | Brett A. Smestad, PGA | A-8 | 4/1 | The Ledges GC | |
| | Eric D. Zadorian, PGA | A-8 | 3/30 | Weston GC | |

NEPGA SECTION STAFF

Michael J. Higgins Executive Director mhiggins@pgahg.com

Dave McAdams Director of Operations dmcadams@pgahg.com

Joan Stuart Accounting/Finance Director jstuart@pgahg.com

Ron Green, PGA Rules & Championships Director rgreen@pgahg.com

Jacy Settles Director of Junior Golf Programs jsettles@pgahg.com

Ph: 508.869.0000 | Fax: 508.869.0009

NEPGA CHAPTER TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

Dave Christy, PGA (VT) Ch. Tournament Manager Ch. Tournament Manager Cell 802.476.7007 dchristy@pgahq.com

Bob Coen (MA) Cell 781.291.9583 rcoen@pgahq.com

Mickey Herron, PGA (CC/RI) Tom Moffatt, PGA (ME) Ch. Tournament Manager Cell 508.505.5120 mherron@pgahq.com

Ch. Tournament Manager Cell 508.523.4261 tmoffatt@pgahq.com

Frank Swierz (NH) Ch. Tournament Manager Cell 603.493.5282 f.swierz@comcast.net



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