

The VGA Eagle

First Quarter 2017

From the Board Meeting March 7, 2017

Upcoming tournaments

The **Champion of Champions** tournament is set for early April. It is a two-week handicapped total strokes event for those members who won at least one tournament in the previous tournament year (approximately November 1, 2015 through November 1, 2016). The Wednesday champions' tournament will be on April 5 at Club West and April 12 at Aguila. The Saturday champions' tournament will be on April 1 at Falcon Golf Club and April 8 at Cave Creek. The two Wednesday and Saturday winners will have an 18-hole playoff to decide the overall Champion of Champions and the two second finishers will play for third.

The other upcoming tournaments are as follows:

The **Don Peterson two-man better ball** tournaments are scheduled for Wednesday September 6 and Saturday September 9.

The **VGA Club Championship** is scheduled for Saturday November 11 at a site to be determined and Saturday November 18 tentatively at Palm Brook Golf Course. The VGA annual **awards banquet** will follow the round on the 18th. Members attending the banquet will be able to order a meal from the menu to be paid by the VGA. Drinks are not included.

The **Jim O'keefe Cup** tournament has yet to be scheduled.

You can get detailed tournament information on the VGA website under VGA Event News by clicking on **VGA Special Events here**.

Local rule change

The Board voted to require members and to play and **score a minimum of 13 holes** in a round to qualify for birdie money and closest-to-the-pin money. A player who elects to write in an X for a score will be disqualified from placing in the tournament. However the player should also write in a projected score for that hole based on how he/she may have finished the hole. For example: a player loses his ball on the second shot and decides to **Xout** that hole. The score for the hole may be calculated as a tee shot, a fairway shot, lost ball penalty, assumed fairway shot to the green, and assumed two-putt for a six. If a player fails to write in a score for an Xout, then the rules of golf state that the score for that hole will be par plus handicap for that individual on that hole.

USGA rule change

The Board voted to amend **rules 18-2, 18-3, and 20-1** per the USGA's local rule option as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1. Failure to replace the ball or marker will result in a one-stroke penalty.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball while on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water, or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is however replaced.

Eagles and Aces

Unbelievably, **Fred Baldwin** had another **hole-in-one** this past January 21. He scored his most recent ace on the 136-yard third hole at Wickenburg Country club with a six-iron. The conditions that day were very difficult due to high winds and heavy overnight rain. It was Fred's fourth ace since March 2011.

Some interesting hole-in-one facts from "Golf Digest":

There are 150,000 holes-in-one per year out of 490,000,000 rounds of golf.

Tiger Woods scored an ace at age six and **Michelle Wie** had one at age 12.

The **youngest player** to score a hole-in-one was Jack Paine, age three, at 65 yards.

The **oldest player** to score a hole-in-one was Elise McLean, age 102, at 100 yards.

Marie Roble had the **longest ace reported by a woman** at 393 yards.

Mike Crean had the **longest ace reported by a man** at 517 yards.

John Adair eagled the 518-yard par five 16th hole at the Cave Creek on March 4. He was 220 yards out and hit a 3-hybrid to 12 inches for a tap-in eagle! Nice going John!

Jeff Rhodes eagled the 444-yard par five 4th hole at the Aguila on March 25. He was 210 yards out and hit a 3-hybrid to five feet for his eagle putt! Nice going Jeff!

It's time to buy a 3-hybrid!

Highlights from the Quarter One

Ken Baca shot a round of 80 with a net score of 58 on January 14 at Ken MacDonald. Nice going Ken! However he is slipping a little, he had a net 57 in 2016.

Margaret Storms shot a net score of 63 on January 18 at Western Skies. You go girl!

Dan Campos shot a hot 66, net 63, at Tres Rios on March 18. Fist bump to you!

Big Dog Bites

Standings through March 25

Doug Patterson won three early Wednesday tournaments to jump out to an early lead

with 19 points. However, **Fred Baldwin** has two recent wins to close within two points of Doug for second place. **Tom Giljum** is in third place with 16 points, **Rich Golz** has 13 points and is in fourth place. **Rich Brooks** and **Dave Dean** share fifth place with 12 points each.

Dan Christiansen has been playing well recently and has taken over first place in a tight race for the Saturday lead with 15 points. Close behind with 13 points each are a trio of regulars, **Dan Clark**, **Jeff Currie**, and **Tom Hecoeks**. **Harley Ewing** and **Steve Richter** share fourth place with ten points each, and in fifth place with nine points are **Neal Fisel**, **Tom Hebert**, and **Ben Hughes**.

Letters to Arnie

Dear Arnie, I recently hit a shot that landed on the cart path from which I was entitled to relief. My foursome had a discussion as to where the “nearest point of relief” would be. What is the interpretation on this rule? **Beltin’ Bill**

The “nearest point of relief” rule is a little tricky. Let’s make the point that the “nearest point of relief” **is not always** the side of the cart path closer to the ball.

First the player should take his stance, then he gets an additional one-club length. Let’s suppose that a right-handed player hit the ball on the cart path. If he takes relief on the left side (facing the green) of the path, his ball will be only one “stance” from the cart path. But, if he takes relief from the right side of the path, his ball will be one stance plus a club length from the cart path. So, he is required to take relief from the left side because it is the “nearest point of relief”.

However if a left-handed player takes relief from a cart path in the same manner, his ball will be only one “stance” from the right side (facing the green) of the cart path. But, if he takes relief from the left side of the path, his ball will be one “stance plus a club-length” from the cart path. So, he is required to take relief from the right side because it is the “nearest point of relief”.

See Rule 24-2.

Dear Arnie, I have a question about the “unplayable lie” rule. Recently while golfing, I hit my ball to the base of a tree and I needed to use the “unplayable lie” rule. What were my options in that situation? **Golfin’ Gordon**

Dear Gordon, you have three options in applying the “unplayable lie” rule. They are – you may play the ball as it lies, you may declare the ball “unplayable” and move the ball two club-lengths no closer to the hole, or you may drop the ball as far back from the hole as you want as long as you do so directly back from the pin.

Rule 28 states:

a. Proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule [27-1](#) by playing a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule [20-5](#)); or

- b.** Drop a ball behind the point where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped; or
- c.** Drop a ball within two club-lengths of the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole.

The Phoenix City Golf Card

VGA members may renew their Phoenix City Golf card on the yearly anniversary of its purchase. The renewal cost is \$30. The VGA will continue to reimburse \$10.00 to VGA members who purchase a new city card.

VGA Hats for Sale!

The VGA has a selection of good quality hats with our logo. There are two styles including: white with a blue or tan trim for \$35, sand with a tan trim for \$35 (not shown in the picture), and white with a blue trim and chin tie for \$30. There are also white golf hats for \$15 and visors for \$10. See Fred Baldwin for details.

