

RIGA NEWS

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Golf Association



RIGA FLASHBACK



▲ The Tri-State Matches of 1967 featured some great players from all three states. For the record, Connecticut won with 21 points followed by Rhode Island with 18 and Massachusetts with 15.

Standing in the top row, third in from left is Massachusetts team member and 1946 U.S. Amateur Champion Ted Bishop. Ed Barry, another big name in Mass. golf, is standing three to the right of Ted. Ed contended many times in state and New England events and played hockey briefly with the Boston Bruins.

Two prominent players from the Connecticut team are standing in the middle row. At the far right is 1969 Northeast Amateur Champion Jerry Courville, Sr. who recently passed away. Two down from Jerry is two-time British Amateur and two-time Northeast Amateur Champion Dick Siderowf.

The Rhode Island contingent is standing in the front row. They are (from L to R) Phil Jones, Edward "Abe" Corveno, Pat DiPadua, Dino Garganese, Dick Vahey, Ed Wholey, Walter "Bunky" Carlson, Jerry Truax, Norm Lutz, Joe Sprague, Fred Campanelli, Ronnie Quinn and Al Faenza.

Sitting in the cart (from L to R) are RI team captain Brad Oxnard, Secretary Ed Perry, Official RIGA Scorer Fred "Chief" Crawford and staff member Jack Baker.

◀ RIGA Secretary Ed Perry congratulates an unidentified contestant at the 1976 Northeast Amateur Invitational. Fashion from the 1970's is back in vogue these days with the Generation-X crowd. One look at these slacks and the question that begs to be asked is, "Why?"

Rhode Island Golf Association
10 Orms Street, Suite 326
Providence, Rhode Island 02904
(401) 272-1350



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 807
PROVIDENCE, RI

EXCURSIONS ON GOLF'S CYBER FAIRWAYS

by Joe Sprague, Jr.

I consider myself pretty good at navigating my way around a golf course. My ball doesn't always go where I want it and my score is often higher than I'd prefer, but at least I know how to get from tee to green in some form or fashion. I know what's expected out there, too. Keep yourself moving, replace divots, don't throw clubs.

It was a different story when I ventured onto the Internet and the World Wide Web. My wife and I just recently got a computer at our house so I was anxious to go online and look up all this good golf stuff that I had read about in magazines. It was slightly frustrating at first, though. It wasn't like walking up to the first tee, sticking a peg in the ground and letting it rip.

WEB SURFING IS NOT A GAME OF PERFECT

Being a computer neophyte, I had to be a little patient. I was making double bogeys or worse in my initial attempts to surf the Web. Eventually I had some success finding my way around but the whole process was slower than I had expected. There are millions of people online all over the world looking up millions of documents so when you try to bring up information it sometimes takes minutes and not seconds.

To add to my frustration I decided to use America OnLine as my Internet provider. Despite all I had read in the papers and seen on the news about the problems with AOL, I had also heard that their ser-

vice was easier to use for beginners. While it is fairly simple to use, gaining access via the phone lines proved to be another matter. One Saturday I attempted to log on probably 30 times and I got 30 busy signals; actually, that would be 60 busy signals because there are two local access numbers which the computer dials up each time. I finally realized that early in the morning was the best time to log on.

IN THE BEGINNING

Before I go any further let me back up for a minute. Many of you out there are, no doubt, already online and familiar with the Internet. Many of you have logged hundreds of hours more than I and you already know about hyperlinks and search engines. But for people who don't have a computer at home (which included me until very recently), talking about the Internet and the World Wide Web is an abstract activity at best. It's in the news everyday, but what the heck is it?

Let me just give a brief description about the Internet itself, at least as far as I've been able to understand it.

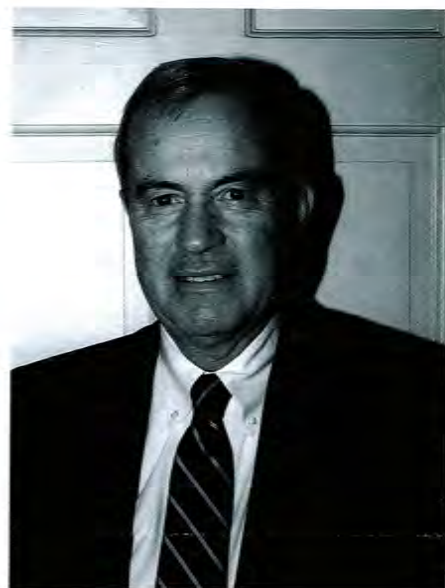
First of all, the Internet and the World Wide Web are not the same thing. The Internet is, basically, a network of computer networks. It's millions of people using millions of computer programs worldwide. It was first developed in the 1960's as a communications system which would be difficult to destroy in the event of global nuclear war. Eventually it became a popular tool for business.

The World Wide Web is the most popular activity which takes place across the Internet. It allows people to transfer files and obtain and exchange information which is easily accessible to anyone who has Internet access.

The Web is just a name for the almost infinite collection of documents residing

Continued on page 5.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Edmund M. Mauro, Jr.

Rhode Island's small size has often made us a target of jokes across the country. When it comes to golf and being an RIGA member, the last joke's on them. How many Weeklies do you think you could play if you were one of 66,000 members in the Georgia State Golf Association?

Because of our size every tournament has a reasonable handicap requirement. And some of our best and most fun tournaments such as the Mixed, Father & Son, Parent & Daughter have no handicap limits.

I'm looking forward to serving as RIGA President for the 1997 season, and I hope to see you at one of the tournaments. Come out and compete at whatever level you choose in one of the nation's premier golfing states... Rhode Island.

RIGA RULES CORNER



Think you're pretty good with the Rules of Golf? Are you the person in your foursome whom everyone looks to when a Rules question arises? Then you need to take it a step further by attending a USGA/PGA Workshop on the Rules of Golf.

The USGA and PGA of America hold a series of Rules Workshops during the fall and winter months which are open to anyone. To attend an Advanced Workshop you must score 85 or higher on the written exam at a Regular Workshop which is no small feat. For most people, starting off at an Introductory Workshop is a good idea. It's two days of nothing but Rules with two expert instructors – one each from the USGA and PGA. Handouts, slides and overhead projections are all used to demonstrate various aspects of all the Rules. The instructors

are very patient about answering any and all questions from attendees. At the end of the two days an optional open-book exam is given.

The instructors will also go over certain nuances regarding procedures which are not covered by the Rules. For example, when dropping a ball must you be facing the hole? Most people would probably answer "yes" to this question, but the correct answer is "no". You may stand anywhere, facing any direction provided the dropped ball lands where it's supposed to. Do you know what's considered by most Rule gurus as the most important Rule? That would be Rule 20 – Lifting, Dropping and Placing; Playing from Wrong Place.

The instructors are not devoid of humor, either. In paying the Rules' ultimate price (i.e. disqualification), an instructor might refer to a player as a "trunk slammer" or someone who's "heading to Dairy Queen". (Hold the chocolate sprinkles, please.)

If you're interested in attending a Rules Workshop you'll have to wait for the fall of '97 as all current workshops are full. Call the PGA of America for more information at 1-800-474-2776. To order a 1997 Rules Book you may call the USGA Order Department at 1-800-336-4446.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Have you been stretching, swinging, hitting balls or better yet, grooming your game in some warm, sunny climate? If so, lucky you. You'll get a good jump on the rest of us. Meanwhile, the only thing we're grooming is the '97 schedule along with other plans for the upcoming season. We're hoping that the '97 season is the most exciting and informative one yet.

- For the first time, the A.T. Cross Open will be held at a public facility – Green Valley CC. If it's as good as our State Amateur there in '95 we're in for another treat. Knowing the Raposa family – not to worry.

- This year will feature the second playing of the USGA's State Team Tournament in Arizona. The event is played over 54 holes for both the men and women. There should be good competition among our top tournament players this summer vying for the three coveted spots.

- Much work is being done in restoration at some of our Donald Ross area courses – most notably Metacomet, Warwick, RICC, Wannamoisett and Point Judith. Let's hope it's restoration and not change taking place.

- Do you think Tiger's having an impact? Not only are young people showing up to watch, but ticket sales have also increased wherever he's played – most notably The Skins Game at the end of the '96 season. This will only help to add to the ever growing popularity of the game.

- Spikes or spikeless? That's a hot issue being discussed around the country today. There are valid arguments on both sides, and many clubs are holding to the status quo while others are giving the spikeless approach a go on a trial basis.

- What's on the horizon for RI golf in 1997? Will some new faces emerge in the upcoming season or will Capone, Quigley and Lunnie continue to dominate? I'm sure this trio will be up to the challenge.

- What would this winter have been like without the Patriots? If we only had the Bruins and Celtics to entertain us we'd be in dire straits. I'm sure glad we have golf on TV on Saturday and Sunday. I hope the weather continues to cooperate. So far – not bad.

- Next issue – an update on what's happening in golf around Rhode Island. Keep swinging or at least keep putting on that living room rug.

– Joseph J. Sprague

ASSOCIATION NEWS & MISCELLANY



Ed Mauro (left) and Billy Andrade.

The RIGA's Annual Appreciation and Recognition Banquet was a great success. Held at Wannamoisett Country Club in early December, the evening's highlights included the presentation of the 1996 Player of the Year Award to **Brad Adamonis** and the election of 1997 RIGA President **Ed Mauro**.

The P.C. vs. URI basketball game kept a lot of people away, but there were still upwards of 125 who attended, and they were all there to listen to the evening's guest speaker **Billy Andrade**. He talked about his beginnings in junior golf at Wanumetonomy and caddying for **Charlie Hayes** in the 1980 RI State Amateur finals. He also talked about his back to back wins on the PGA Tour in 1991 as well as his aspirations for 1997 and beyond. He even mentioned the time he and his wife Jody hitched a ride on "Air Bear", **Jack Nicklaus'** private jet.

Are you one of the many golfers who have complained about the USGA's Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) procedure? ESC sets a maximum score that can be posted on golf holes to make USGA Handicap Indexes more representative of a player's potential ability.

Some of the most vocal opponents of ESC have been single-digit handicap golfers. With the maximum score allowed for posting purposes being six, low handicap golfers are able to post a triple bogey on a par-3, but can not post a double bogey on a par-5 which is viewed as a much more common occurrence.

For 1997 the USGA will implement a test procedure at a number of golf associations including Massachusetts (sorry, not the RIGA) which will allow single-digit players to post a maximum score of double bogey on a hole. The test procedure is expected to raise the USGA Handicap Index of the single-digit players only an average of .15 strokes, while lowering the Index of the high handicap players by the same amount.

If by mid-1997 the results of the test indicate that a change is warranted, the USGA could decide to implement the change for January 1, 1998. The test ESC is as follows:

Course Handicap	Maximum number that can be posted		
	Par 3	Par 4	Par 5
9 or less	5	6	7
10-19	6	7	8
20-29	7	8	9
30-39	8	9	9
40+	9	10	10



If you can never seem to find the time to visit the USGA Museum in New Jersey, there's still hope for you. The USGA has recently announced that it is introducing a series of nine historical traveling exhibits which will be displayed at more than 20 sites throughout the U.S. and Canada during 1997.

Museum curator **Andrew Mutch** says, "The program has been designed to bring our extensive collection to the public." Display sites include Las Vegas, San Antonio and at the Georgia State Golf Association.

Closer to home, there are plans to bring a part of the museum's collection to the U.S. Women's Amateur which will be held this summer at Brae Burn CC in West Newton, MA on August 4-9. For more info on the USGA's traveling displays, you can contact Andrew Mutch at (908) 234-2300.



The 1997 RIGA Mid Amateur Championship is set for May 28-29 at Newport CC and Wanumetonomy Golf & CC. The field will be limited to a maximum of 120 players, and the handicap limit will be set at a maximum of 8 strokes (7.6 Index).



The 1997 RIGA Four-Ball Championship will be held at Triggs Memorial GC on June 9-10. Maximum Handicap Indexes are 7.6 strokes per player with a combined team Index not to exceed 11.2 strokes.



Plans for the '97 USGA State Team Tournament are coming together. Both the men's and women's events will be held concurrently on September 16-18 in Scottsdale, AZ. Each state will be represented by a three man team.

The USGA has announced that college golfers are not eligible. As a reminder to RIGA players, the team will be selected based on two-year cumulative Player of the Year point totals with '96 points counting 75% and '97 points counting 100%.



RIGA Handicap Consultant **Jules Cohen** has announced that he will be holding a meeting for all handicap chairs in late March at Metacomet Country Club. Jules will go over any changes and updates with the GHIN system for the 1997 season. A formal notice will be forthcoming for those involved.



Warwick CC member **Harold Boggess** recently pulled off one of golf's rare feats – shooting his age. Playing his home course on a recent warm winter day, the 89 year old Boggess bettered his age by one shot with an 88. Congratulations Harold!

– TO ALL RIGA MEMBERS –

This will be your last issue of RIGA NEWS unless you renew your membership for '97. Take a minute to sign up now so you don't miss out on the spring issue!

POINT JUDITH'S BIG PROJECT

Point Judith Country Club began renovations this past fall to holes 1, 2, 3 and 10. The golf course has been battling poor drainage for many years so the club decided to take major steps to correct the problems.

Using the plans of golf course architect Ron Prichard, four ponds have been dug to accept all the run-off water from strategically placed drainage pipes and catch basins.

While the ponds were being dug, contractors were also stripping the top seven inches of soil over this 16 acre area. The soil was then taken to two mixing stations located on holes 1 and 3 and mixed with sand. The final mixture will be spread back over the four holes and groomed with various gradings and slopes



to encourage further draining.

Mother Nature did not cooperate very well in the fall and early winter with more than 25 inches of rain falling between September and early January. This prevented the heavy machinery from doing the planned grading work. The club hopes to sod in May, and plans to open the course for play will again depend on the weather.

In addition, Ron Prichard, a Donald Ross disciple, has assisted the club in restoring hole #4 to its original par-4 design with the green being re-contoured and the tee boxes moved back. The course will remain a par-71 because hole #10 will now be played as a par-4 with a more forward tee box.



STEWART CINK

There are many rookies on the PGA Tour who will likely be overshadowed by the exploits and media scrutiny of Tiger Woods. Stewart Cink is one rookie who could very well make some noise of his own.

Cink won three times on the Nike Tour in '96 including the Nike Tour Championship. The former NCAA All-American also shattered the Nike single-season money record with \$251,699 to earn his '97 Tour card in style.

The 24 year-old Cink who is mature beyond his years wasted no time proving to his peers that he belongs. In his first event, the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, Stewart tied for 9th and collected a tidy \$34,714.

Stewart Cink pictured playing in the 1994 Northeast Amateur where he tied for 4th.

Excursions On Golf's Cyber Fairways

Continued from page 1.

on millions of different computers worldwide produced by millions of different people. The Internet provider (AOL, CompuServe, etc.) works much like your long distance phone company (MCI, Sprint, etc.) in providing access to the Internet and the Web. There's usually a monthly fee and often an hourly fee involved.

All you need to get hooked up to one of these services is a personal computer, a modem and a phone line. Once you're connected you can look up information on any subject under the sun and beyond.

TEeing IT UP

So I was finally ready to tee it up on the Web. I'd gone through my pre-shot routine – plugged in the modem, turned on the computer and signed onto America OnLine – and I clicked my computer mouse onto the globe icon which took me to the Web. I got a little intimidated when the words "Welcome to the World Wide Web" appeared on the screen. It was as if I'd just hit a 300 yard drive down the middle and then had no clue what club to hit once I got to the ball.

I had a list of certain addresses of particular golf related Web sites, but I thought I'd keep it simple. I typed the word "golf" into the space provided for keywords. I clicked the mouse again and sent the system on its labyrinthian search. After a couple of minutes the search was completed and the system told me that it had found over 100,000 sites related to golf. "Gee, this might take a while", I thought.

I randomly scanned through some of the descriptions of sites to see which ones I might like to check out. I found many to be people just hocking their wares in one form or another. This became a little tedious so I decided to go ahead and type in an address of a particular site.

DRIFTING IN CYBERSPACE

Having always been a fan of Ben Crenshaw, I decided to go to his site first. The Web address is: <http://www.bencrenshaw.com>. It's what you'd expect from Ben Crenshaw – classy and traditional looking. You can read Ben's biography or get some putting tips. You can download a Ben Crenshaw screen saver or read about his architectural design firm.

And then, of course, there's the merchandise. In fairness to Ben, you're not hit over the head with tons of gimmicky things. There are a couple of videos and books. You can even buy Harvey Penick books and the recent Ben Hogan book at a discount,

and if you have an extra \$500 you can buy a canvas reproduction of a painting commemorating Ben's '95 Masters victory signed by both the artist and Ben himself. The painting actually looked quite nice, and with a limited edition of only 50, it seems like quite a piece for the true collector.

There are also 17 hyperlinks (graphics that, if clicked on, will bring you to a completely different document) ranging from Buick and Cobra (somebody had to pay for the page) to the USGA and PGA Tour. There are also links to The Golf Channel and various golf magazines. All in all, for an obvious commercial adventure, I found Ben's Web page to be both enjoyable and informative.

From Ben's page I clicked onto the USGA page which is absolutely chock full of information. You can tour Golf House, read about their championships, check your Rules expertise or read about the latest developments at golf's governing body. The USGA page is very lavishly done, and they report 180,000 hits or visitors per month. During U.S. Open week they reported 1,000,000 visitors last year. To get to the page type in <http://www.usga.org>.

There is also a separate U.S. Open page (www.usopen.com) which will be up and running once the Open draws near. A visitor will be able to get score updates about any player on the golf course within 30 seconds after a player completes a hole.

In case you were wondering, the PGA Tour also has its own site (www.pgatour.com) which encompasses the Senior and Nike Tours as well. You can read about your favorite player, get tournament news and find out about upcoming events. You can also get up-to-the-moment live scoring for all tour events.

Titleist's page was one of the more fun sites that I visited. (www.titleist.com). Slick as a television commercial, it has all kinds of information regarding its products as well as links to other pages. You can also view the golf swings of its tour staff members including Brad Faxon and Billy Andrade. I clicked on the Brad Faxon icon, waited a few seconds and up came a front view of Brad at his address position. I waited a few more seconds and there was Brad smacking that ball right out of view. You can even watch the swings in slow motion.

I've spent many hours on the Web so far and I haven't even begun to scratch the surface. It's a whole different game out there where you can play the whole course with one club – your computer mouse. I don't expect to find the meaning of life on the Internet, and I doubt my presence there will shave strokes off my handicap. But as I traverse the cyber fairways, no matter how tight they might get, there is one thing of which I am certain. I will not lose any golf balls.

OTHER GOLF WEB SITES WORTH VISITING



- Golf Web: www.golfweb.com
As its moniker states, "Everything Golf on the World Wide Web."

- The Golf Channel: www.thegolfchannel.com
The upstart golf network has plenty to see on its site.
- Golf.com: www.golf.com
The name says it all.
- PGA: www.pga.com
Informative with links to many other golf sites.

- Tourgolf.com: www.tourgolf.com
A site which is set up as a free golf fantasy pool. Pick your own PGA Tour team for a chance to win weekly prizes and a season-ending grand prize.
- Caddyshack Movie Sound Archive www.ee.duke.edu/~ceh/caddy/caddy.html
More than 50 audio snippets from the best golf movie of all time.