



RIGGA *news*

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Golf Association

Rhode Island Loses Two Golfing Greats in 2006

After starting out on such a high note with the anticipation of the U.S. Women's Open coming to Newport, 2006 ended on a sad note with the passing of two great Rhode Island golf champions. Former RI Amateur Champion, Al Faenza, passed away on November 29 at age 86. Eleven-time RIWGA Amateur Champion, Julie Greene, died on December 11 at age 70 after a yearlong battle with cancer.

Al Faenza grew up in New Jersey and learned the game as a caddy at the famed Baltusrol Golf Club. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and at the end of the war was stationed in Davisville, RI. He joined the Narragansett Brewing Company as a salesman in 1946 which led to a 34 year career with Narragansett and later Falstaff Brewing.

Faenza made an almost immediate impact on the local golf scene. Playing out of Metacomet Country Club, Faenza was a fixture on the RI Tri-State Team for more than two decades. He won the Four-Ball in 1952 with partner Brad Oxnard. In 1954 he won the State Amateur by defeating Frank McBride in the final match. He later joined Point Judith Country Club where he remained a member until his death. He was a Past President of both the RIGGA and the John P. Burke Memorial Fund.

Julie Greene won more State Amateur titles than anyone else in Rhode Island, man or woman. Beginning with her first RIWGA title in 1963 she won at least once in four different decades. The gracious, ever-smiling Greene also took



Al Faenza

the RIWGA title in 1970, '76, '80, '82, '84, '85, '96, '97 and '98. She was a 1954 graduate of Skidmore College and taught physical education at five different universities before being named athletic director at the Lincoln School, a position she held for 11 years. Not long before her death the RIWGA Championship trophy was renamed the Julie Greene Cup.

Julie twice won both the New England Amateur and Eastern Women's Senior Amateur Championships, and she was a past champion of the Eastern Amateur. She was a runner-up in the Canadian Senior Amateur and twice a quarter-finalist in the US Women's Amateur (1975 & '77), both times losing close matches to eventual champion and future LPGA Hall of Famer, Beth Daniel.

Julie was a member of the inaugural class of the RI Golf Hall of Fame in 2001, and she was also inducted into the Halls of Fame at Skidmore College, International



Julie Greene

Scholar Athletes and Northeast New Agenda.

Julie gave back to the game she loved. She volunteered her time in teaching golf to juniors, and served on various committees for the RIWGA, Women's Eastern Golf Association and Trans National Golf Association. She was a member of the USGA Girls' Junior Championship Committee for 22 years.

We shall miss Al Faenza and Julie Greene. †

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Message from the President



Newly elected RIGA President, Don Lamb (R) from Montaup CC, poses with his son, Chris, prior to the 2006 RIGA Annual Meeting. Chris is an assistant pro at Rhode Island Country Club.

Happy New Year! Great golfing enjoyment and competition to all. I hope you had as wonderful a 2006 as I did, which ended with the great honor of being elected to serve as President of this outstanding golf association.

I love the RIGA! Why? Because it is a very professionally run organization. I will take this opportunity, my first opportunity, to tell you why I feel the way I do and something about the RIGA. The RIGA was founded in 1902. Its primary purpose is to promote the game of golf and to serve the interests of its clubs and

members. The RIGA now comprises 47 member clubs.

The most visible functions of the RIGA include conducting 12 major and 25 weekly tournaments; administering USGA Handicaps for all member clubs through GHIN (more than 12,000 USGA Handicap Indexes are provided by the RIGA); serving as the local authority on the Rules of Golf; and conducting qualifying for USGA championships as a local arm of the USGA.

The RIGA measures and rates courses according to the USGA Course Rating System. It is through these ratings that accurate Handicap Indexes are obtained. Courses are re-rated at least once every ten years. The RIGA is responsible for providing the USGA Course & Slope Rating information for all RI courses to the USGA National Course Rating Database.

The “key” to what makes the RIGA an “outstanding” organization is people. The Association, its member clubs and

members are very fortunate to have Joe Sprague, Bob Ward, and Kate McCurry as their permanent executive staff. These three individuals work countless hours, but more importantly are always there when you need them. Jules Cohen, Director of Handicapping, also does a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes assisting clubs with a variety of hardware and software issues related to handicapping.

The officials and volunteers who support the Association by officiating, rating golf courses and conducting Rules seminars are invaluable. The member clubs and individual members of the association who provide their support are also a significant “key” to the ongoing success of the RIGA.

Please invite a fellow club member to join the RIGA for 2007. Whether or not someone plays in a tournament, supporting the RIGA is just good for the game. Enjoy your golf in 2007. ↑

What's New For 2007

By Joe Sprague, Jr.

I know that many of you never put your clubs away with the mild start to winter. As of this writing we have been “live” with online registration for 2007 major tournaments since February 1st. The RIGA receives about 75% of its entries through online registration, so this feature has obviously been well received.

I am happy to announce and welcome two new member clubs to the RIGA – Country View GC in Harrisville and Melody Hill CC in Harmony. We welcome both of these clubs and look forward to serving them and having their members participate in RIGA tournaments.

There's been no change of policy regarding the use of distance measuring devices in 2007. They will not be allowed for use in RIGA major tournaments. We will review this policy again at the end of the 2007 season.

There are a few changes on the tournament front: There will be five packages instead of six in the Weekly Invitational program, and there will be a season-long points race – the RIGA's version of the FedEx Cup! Top point-getters will be invited to play in a year-end tournament at

Alpine in October. We wanted to make the Weekly Invitational program more interesting for players who want a little competition. Of course, players who enter the Weekly program just to visit and play different courses are still welcome and under no obligation to compete in the season-long series. (See additional info on facing page.)

The State Amateur Pre-Qualifying round for unaffiliated players has been eliminated. Unaffiliated players (provided they are full-time RI residents) may enter State Amateur pre-qualifying for one of the two regular pre-qualifying sites. Qualifying spots have been increased at each site to 40 players plus ties. The State Amateur is the only tournament an unaffiliated player may enter.

With the overwhelming popularity in recent years of the Ed Perry Senior Four-Ball and the Senior Amateur Championship, each tournament has been split

in two and will comprise separate net and gross championships. In effect, what was formerly two tournaments has now morphed into four separate tournaments with four unique sites and sets of dates. There will be no cut in any of the four tournaments, and the gross tournaments will have maximum handicap limits. Please refer to the RIGA web site for further information on dates and entry requirements. ↑



GHIN Wizards: Ever wonder who's in charge at GHIN and responsible for handicapping enhancements like e-Revision? The USGA GHIN Dept comprises 25 full-time employees. The 2006 GHIN Users' Meeting was held in Portland, ME this past October. Pictured left to right are Steve Edmondson, Asst. Dir., Regional Assn Services & Software Development; Mrs. Kevin Hartigan, GHIN Director; Kevin O'Connor, Sr. Director, Handicapping, GHIN & Info Service; and Ross Galarneault, Manager, Regional Association Services.

2007 Weekly Invitational Packages

The registration process for the RIGA Weekly Invitational packages will be the same as in recent years. The program is open to all members, and players are required to sign up as a group (foursome) with one player from each group acting as the designated captain. Players are asked to cooperate in ensuring that they have become RIGA members prior to their first event. Please call the RIGA office with any questions.

The only applications that will be considered are those that arrive via U.S. Postal Service Mail postmarked no earlier than February 21. Tee times will range from 7:30-12:15.

There are two changes to the program for 2007. The packages have been reduced by one from six packages to five. Secondly, there will be a season-long points competition for those players who would like to participate. At the end of the season, points will be tallied, and qualifiers will be invited to play in a season-ending tournament on October 22 at Alpine CC. Final details have not been worked out, but will be available on the RIGA web site prior to the start of the season. Players are not obligated to participate in the "points race", but may choose just to play in the Weekly tournaments on a noncompetitive basis.

It's likely that groups will be able to participate in more than one package, but they will be accommodated

on a space-available basis. For the initial registration period groups will be guaranteed one package. Additional packages will be designated soon after. There are spaces marked "first choice, second choice and third choice". Please write the package number in the space provided for each choice. We will assign "first choice" to as many groups as possible, but we can not guarantee it. Foursomes that would like to participate in more than one package must check the appropriate box.

The RIGA reserves the right to reject applications that list the same (*or very nearly the same*) group of players as another application with the names reshuffled to reflect a different captain. The intent is to provide as many unique groups as possible a chance to participate.

The sign-up period will begin on Wednesday, February 21. Any mail postmarked prior to February 21 will be returned. No USPS Express Mail will be accepted that was initiated prior to February 21. "Walk-ins" to the RIGA office are also not permitted.

Packages will be processed on a first come/first served basis. The fee for each package is \$700 per group.

Please remember, no pre-dated mail and no walk-ins. The RIGA office will inform the captains by mail or email as to which package the group received during the week of March 12-16. ↑

PACKAGE 1

Quidnessett CC	Tues, April 24
The Misquamicut Club	Wed, May 16
Triggs Memorial GC	Tues, July 3
Crystal Lake GC	Wed, August 8
Montaup CC	Mon, Sept 24

PACKAGE 2

Potowomut CC	Tues, May 22
Winnapaug CC	Tues, June 19
Swansea CC	Tues, August 21
Rhode Island CC	Tues, Sept 25
Agawam Hunt	Wed, Oct 10

PACKAGE 3

Ledgemont CC	Mon, April 23
Metacomet CC	Tues, May 15
Green Valley CC	Tues, June 5
Cranston CC	Tues, August 28
Newport National GC	Tues, Sept 18

PACKAGE 4

Kirkbrae CC	Mon, May 7
Wannamoissett CC	Tues, May 29
New England CC	Tues, July 10
Valley CC	Tues, Sept 11
Point Judith CC	Tues, Oct 2

PACKAGE 5

Pawtucket CC	Mon, April 16
Laurel Lane CC	Tues, May 8
Crestwood CC	Tues, June 12
North Kingstown GC	Tues, July 31
Sakonnet GC	Tues, Oct 9

Weekly Invitational Net Championship

Alpine CC	Mon, Oct 22
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Points system will be available on RIGA website no later than 3/01/07.

Please clip or copy and mail to the RIGA office not postmarked earlier than **February 21**.

Packages are \$700 per foursome per package.

Captain's Name _____ Club Affiliation _____
 Captain's Address _____ GHIN# _____
 Captain's Telephone (day) _____ (eve) _____ Captain's email _____

List other players, club affiliation and GHIN #:

Name _____	Club _____	GHIN# _____
Name _____	Club _____	GHIN# _____
Name _____	Club _____	GHIN# _____

WRITE PACKAGE NUMBER IN SPACE NEXT TO CORRESPONDING CHOICE

First Choice _____ Second Choice _____ Third Choice _____

TEE TIMES

7:30-8:15 _____ 8:15-9:00 _____ 9:00-10:00 _____ 10:00-10:45 _____ 10:45-11:30 _____ 11:30-12:15 _____

Would you like to participate in additional packages? Yes No

Enclose check payable to RIGA, One Button Hole Drive, Providence, RI 02909

Envelopes postmarked prior to February 21, 2007 will be returned unopened.



RHODE ISLAND GOLF ASSOCIATION

One Button Hole Drive
Providence, RI 02909
(401) 272-1350
WWW.RIGALINKS.ORG

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PROVIDENCE, RI
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FIRST CLASS

2006 RIGA AWARD WINNERS

The RIGA Appreciation and Recognition Night was held at Potowomut GC on December 6th. In addition to recognizing the year's major award winners, the evening also serves to thank everyone who helps make the RIGA season a success. **Dr. George Pirie** won the inaugural RIGA Senior Player of the Year in a closely contested race with Wannamoisett's Tom Goryl. Pirie edged past Goryl in the points standings after winning the Senior Amateur at Montaup, the season's final senior major.

Brad Valois' RIGA Player of the Year crown was sealed after winning in back to back weeks in July. He won the 101st RI Amateur at RICC and a week later captured the New England Amateur Championship at The Woodlands in Portland, ME. Valois is the first Rhode Islander to do so since Billy Andrade in 1983.

For the second time in three years **Jason Pannone** won the Stroke Play Championship. He did it in dominating fashion in 2006 with an eight-stroke margin of victory at Triggs after also winning the quali-



Pictured (L-R) Dr. George Pire (Valley CC); Brad Valois (Valley CC); Jason Pannone (Potowomut GC); and Bill Reid (Lincoln CC).

fyng medal at the State Am earlier in the summer. His steady play and 70.13 stroke average earned the URI Senior his first Joseph Sprague, Sr. Award.

Bill Reid has been a fixture at RIGA major tournaments for the past 15 years. His tireless dedication and loyalty made his selection an easy one for the 2nd RIGA Fred Malcolm Award. The award

is named in honor of the longtime official scorer of the RIGA who embodied all that was good about the game. The award was established to recognize individuals who have provided great service to the game and helped the RIGA fulfill its mission of promoting and preserving the best interests of the game. †