

# The Met Golfer

# EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG



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*This page: Ben Hogan plays out of a bunker at Wykagyl Country Club during the 1950 Palm Beach Round Robin. See page 8 for more on Wykagyl's illustrious championship history. (Photo Courtesy of Wykagyl Country Club)*

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# 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

BY HELEN STOCK

In 2008, a group of young professionals came together to form the Young Benefactors of The First Tee of Metropolitan New York, with the goal of raising funds and awareness of First Tee programs among peers. The group started small but soon evolved, in both its size and its goals. To date, the Young Benefactors have raised more than \$1 million while helping cultivate leaders.

The YBs annually host a fundraiser in NYC, but to mark the ten-year anniversary the party moves across the river with the 19th Hole at Liberty National on May 10. The YBs work with the Path to College initiative that provides SAT prep and tutoring, application assistance, and scholarships. A highlight of the 19th Hole event is hearing from students who have gone through the Path to College program and how it has helped them succeed.

TFTMNY Executive Director Ed Brockner says the most rewarding part of YB's growth over the last 10 years has been, "watching our [Path to College] alumni graduate college, go on to successful careers, and then having some of those individuals come back and be active participants in Young Benefactors themselves. As we cultivate and develop the next generation of leaders in this cause, I envision more of our alumni becoming directly involved in giving back."

*Tickets are available for the 19th Hole at Liberty National, and private ferry service from lower Manhattan will be available for guests. [Click here for more information and to purchase tickets.](#)*



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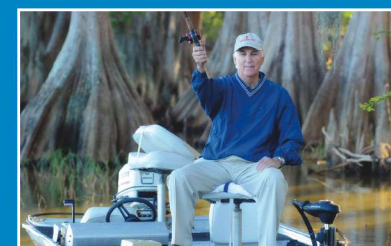


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# GROUND CONTROL

BY SCOTT KRAMER

**C**leatless golf shoes were all the rage for the past five years. And while they are still somewhat in demand, there's a big push back towards cleated shoes this year. Thankfully, most of the major brands have your feet covered. FootJoy's Tour-S (\$280/Boa, \$250/standard lacing) provides excellent footing, support and an oh-so-comfortable footbed. The outsole is a lightweight-yet-stable platform from which you can efficiently transfer power throughout your swing. Several Tour pros, including Kevin Kisner and Charley Hoffman, already wear it in competition. "It feels like a wider platform than I'm used to, like I have more ground coverage and contact and a much more stable base," says Kisner. Callaway's LaGrange (\$200) is billed as the brand's most premium and advanced shoe to date. It features clean, contemporary styling. The "POWERdrive" platform includes a midsole that has a soft, comfortable top layer of EVA foam surrounded by a more supportive bottom layer of foam. The TPU outsole is built for stability and traction, with cutouts to allow more flex during a swing. And adidas Golf's TOUR360 Knit (\$180) is built using breathable Primeknit material that offers style with a sock-like collar that redefines comfort. A full-length "BOOST" midsole adds cushioning and energy return to your feet.



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## at Wykagyl



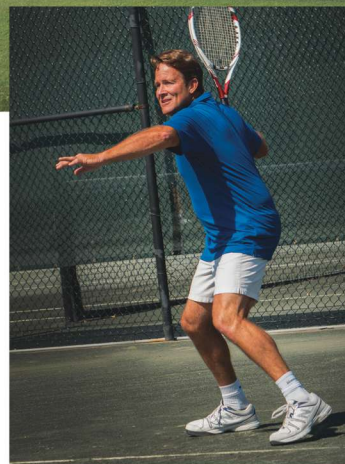
To this day, members—if fortunate enough to find a similar location—step up to their shot on the par-five 6th looking to emulate Ben Hogan from the club's iconic 1957 photo captured by Jules Alexander.



**A**ugust's 103rd Met Open Championship Presented by Callaway will add another page to the already rich championship history at Wykagyl Country Club, where walking the course is truly walking in the footsteps of golf giants. From 1948 to 1952 and in 1956 and 1957, the New Rochelle, N.Y., club hosted the Palm Beach Round Robin, in which greats such as Jimmy Demaret, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead and Jackie Burke (*pictured, 1950*) competed. Snead won the title in both 1952 and 1957, continuing to prove that worthy champions rise to the top at Wykagyl. Previous Met Opens held at the club led to titles for Wykagyl's heralded pro Alex Smith (1909) and Johnny Farrell (1927). Wykagyl has also welcomed the world's best in women's golf, hosting LPGA events in every decade from the 1970s to 2000s. With no surprise, these events also produced a high pedigree of titlists, including Nancy Lopez, Betsy King, Annika Sorenstam, and Paula Creamer. While joining the illustrious list of Met Open winners is typically pleasing enough, this year's champion will also add their name to Wykagyl's renowned list of championship winners.



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Nestled among the natural beauty and rolling terrain of the nature preserves, the Fazio and the Hills courses at Old Trail provide a pure golf experience. This golfer's paradise presents a true test for players up to the challenge. The Fazio has been described as one of Tom Fazio's best designs and is revered as Jonathan's Landing's true championship course.

The Hills, designed by Arthur Hills, is a shot maker's dream. This course lends itself to the pristine, natural surroundings and is known for requiring accuracy more than power. The courses at Old Trail offer an unparalleled experience that, golf purists will agree, leaves you wanting to play these courses again and again.

The Village location, just a few miles east in the heart of Jupiter, is home to the JL Village course, designed by Tom Fazio. Meandering around the neighborhoods of the gated

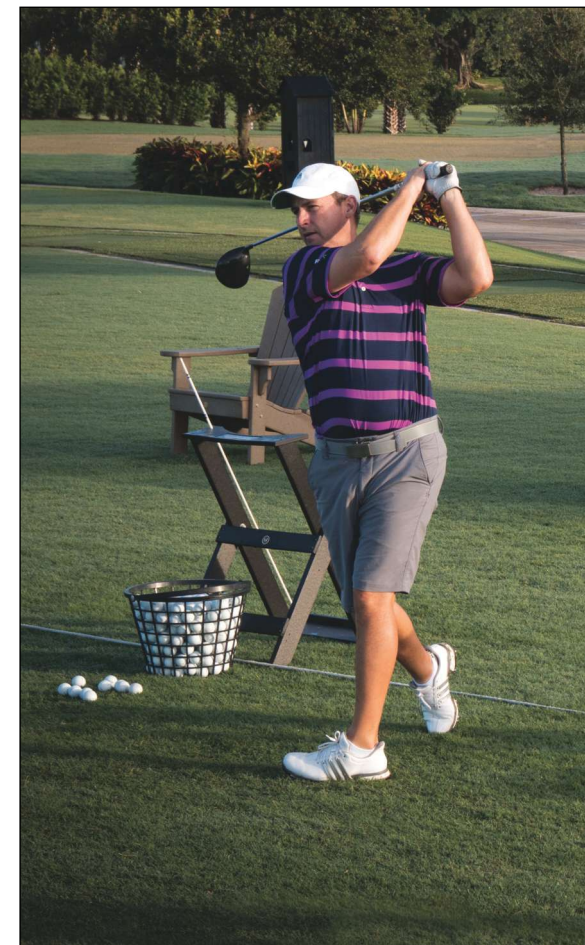


community and Intracoastal waters, this course features a one-of-a-kind ferry boat ride over the scenic waterway at the signature 17th hole. Whether you're a beginner or an avid golfer, these three courses will test your skills and provide you with the variety of play every golfer searches for.

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# BALTUSROL PRIMING FOR U.S. JUNIOR



**B**altusrol Golf Club hosts its 16th USGA event this July, when golf's rising stars from around the world compete in the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. Since the USGA announced Baltusrol as host in 2014, the club has been mapping out the necessary logistics for a successful hosting. Member and MGA Secretary and Treasurer Andy Stock was appointed as General Chair of the Championship and shared the inside scoop on how the club is working with the USGA to plan the event.

*Extra:* As General Chair of the championship, what is your main role?

**Andy Stock:** My responsibilities include helping to recruit the Executive Committee, which is made up of both club members and employees; serving as the primary liaison between Baltusrol, the USGA and Octagon Sports—who is helping to manage the championship; ensuring that the planning for the Championship remains on schedule and that we meet our collective goal of providing a world-class experience for the 156 players who will join us in July.

*E:* We're just several months out from the Championship—what aspects are becoming finalized at this point?

**AS:** Right now, we're working on volunteer recruitment, fundraising, course preparation—mainly tree trimming at this point—and critical operational plans including evacuation, parking, security, food and beverage, and medical, among others. We regularly have meetings with the USGA team to help ensure that we execute our plans appropriately over the next several months.



Baltusrol last hosted a USGA event in 2000, when Jeff Quinney (center) won the U.S. Amateur in 39 holes over James Driscoll.

USGA/J.D. CUBAN

The par-four 18th on Baltusrol's Upper Course, on which all matches will be conducted for the 2018 U.S. Junior Championship.

*E:* What can the players expect when they arrive at Baltusrol in July?

**AS:** At our first Executive Committee meeting, I stated that the one guiding principal for all of our decisions is to provide the players with the best experience possible. A Championship Ambassador will welcome each player and will guide the player through registration, conduct a tour of the clubhouse and grounds, and provide a brief history of Baltusrol. We will strive to make the players and their families feel as welcome as possible through positive interaction with our registration team, volunteers and staff. Director of Grounds Mark Kuhns and his team will ensure the players can expect a very challenging yet fair test of golf on both the Lower and Upper courses. Hosting major national, regional and state championships is part of the very fabric of Baltusrol's history. We are very honored to host the world's best junior golfers and proud that this is our 16th USGA event.

Read the full-length Q&A with Andy Stock about Baltusrol's U.S. Junior Amateur preparations on [mgagolf.org](http://mgagolf.org).

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# READYING for the Rules in '19

By Chris Gaffney

Several Rules changes for 2019 involve searching for a lost golf ball.

The USGA's recent release of golf's new Rules has the golf community reacting to the first fundamental review of the Rules since 1984. Taking effect Jan. 1, 2019, the new Rules are the product of the USGA and R&A's effort—which began in 2012—to modernize the Rules and make them easier to both understand and apply. Simplified wording in the Rules book also helps provides an easier read, encouraging golfers to deepen their Rules knowledge.

One of the more discussed proposed Rules was defining relief areas as a standardized 20 or 80 inches. After review, the governing bodies settled on *club-length* as the decided measurement and added the definition to the Rules of Golf as, "The length of the longest club of the 14 (or fewer) clubs the player has during the round, other than a putter." Building on relief area changes, players will also have a new procedure for dropping a golf ball. The drop, instead of coming from shoulder height, has been modified to knee height. This provides a more controlled drop and will make it more likely for the ball to come to rest in the defined relief area, while still providing some randomness to where the ball comes to rest.

Meanwhile, on greens, players will be permitted to putt from the green without having the flagstick tended or removed, will be able to repair all types of damage to the putting green (spike marks, animal damage and indentation from club/flagstick), and can now touch the line of play on the putting green as long as it doesn't improve the line of play.

Additional major changes include a reduced search time for a lost ball from five minutes to three minutes, relaxed bunker Rules that allow a player to remove loose impediments, eliminated penalties for a player moving their ball during a search and for a double hit, and always allowing a player to substitute a ball when taking relief.

As a reminder, the current edition (2016) of the Rules of Golf is in effect for the 2018 golf season and any rounds played under the "2019 Rules" are not eligible for score posting. For more information on the 2019 Rules, visit [mgagolf.org/rules](http://mgagolf.org/rules) where you can also find links to extensive USGA resources.

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# LAYOVER ▶ COACHELLA VALLEY

BY TIM HARTIN

**W**hether referred to as the Palm Springs area or Coachella Valley, one thing stands true about this desirable desert destination in southern California: it doesn't lack for options to tee it up. Approximately 140 courses provide nearly endless possibilities, with many public courses offering country club-like service and conditions at affordable daily rates.

The Firecliff Course at Desert Willow owns an impressive quartet of par-threes, including the 17th, which plays over 200 yards from the back tees.

## COURSES:

**1 Desert Willow Golf Resort** – The Firecliff Course receives rave reviews for both its challenging characteristics—natural areas, forced carries, water features, and green complexes—and its scenic views of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Tabbed as more of a “resort” style layout, the Mountain Valley Course features wider fairways and sizable greens while still offering outstanding sights of the surrounding landscape.

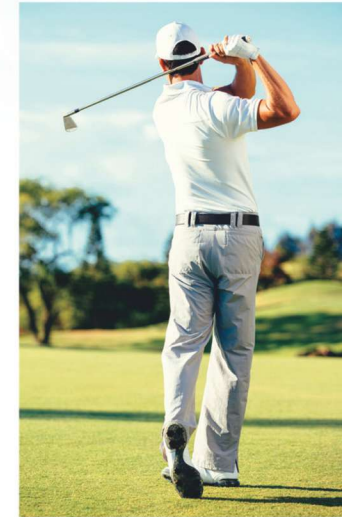
**2 SilverRock Resort** – This Arnold Palmer design, owned by the city of La Quinta, opened in 2005 and hosted the Bob Hope Classic from 2008-2011. In addition to natural areas, water serves as a frequent looming threat, especially on the inward nine. Large, receptive greens welcome approach shots, while the memorable layout is highlighted by several holes skirting alongside mountain walls.

**3 Mission Hills Resort & Spa** – This popular family destination offers two distinct courses, one by Pete Dye and one by Gary Player. The Dye design proves more challenging, boasting Dye signatures such as railroad ties, challenging bunkers and an array of risk/reward opportunities. The Player layout melds with the landscape and is more straightforward with wider landing areas. Both offer outstanding greens.



GOLF  
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If you haven't visited Willoughby Golf Club lately, you're in for a wonderful surprise! The newly and superlatively redesigned pool and cabana was just completed in November 2015. It's the perfect atmosphere to relax with family and friends. Feel free to unwind at the poolside Cabana Bar & Grill and indulge in afternoon cocktails or enjoy evening social events. The renovated clubhouse and updated men's and women's locker rooms give that extra-exclusive feel. To add to the ambiance, the brand new enclosed back patio features a Pecky Cypress ceiling and



large fireplace, making the back patio an irresistible escape during the cool weather months.

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# Education Season

The Spring Education Series, annually sponsored by the MGA Foundation, kicked off in March, opening a month-long schedule of programming for club leaders, the golfing public and juniors looking to become a caddie.

On March 14, more than 100 golf course superintendents, professionals, green chairmen and club officials convened at Edgewood Country Club in River Vale, N.J., for the Green Chairman Education Series to hear from experts in the field of golf course management, maintenance and agronomy.

Presentations from Shinnecock Hills Superintendent Jon Jennings (*inset*) and Championship Director of the 2018 U.S. Open Charlie H.R. Howe IV highlighted an impressive list of speakers, while Bethpage State Park Golf Course received the 2018 Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environment Leaders in Golf Award for its reduced energy usage and expanded pollinator gardens.

The Education Series continues in April with Handicapping and Rules Seminars, both of which will include timely information surrounding the USGA and R&A's recent World Handicap System (implemented in 2020) and the new Rules of Golf (effective Jan. 1, 2019) announcements. Plus, this year's Caddie Academy schedule includes nine dates at sites throughout the Met Area. The free after-school programs equip attendees with skills necessary to become a caddie.

Visit [mgagolf.org](http://mgagolf.org) for complete details and a full schedule for the Spring Education Series.

