

Windy City Tee Times

May 2013 Newsletter



President's Message

Is May still tune-up month or was that supposed to be completed in April?

Well I don't know about you – but I'm still getting tuned up for the season. I took the tune-up to a new extreme this year; albeit a new low. Usually I get to play a several times after the first of the year; this year – I could only carve out short periods of time to hit balls. No actual golf planned until May 5th!

I think I've made good use of the small time slots and thought I'd share a few ideas with you – there is still time for tune-up activities! Clubs re-gripped as needed – done, new shoes – done; lots of balls marked – done; club fitting – done (more about this below), callus on my little finger – done; chipping practice, putting practice, several buckets of balls – done, done and done. Will it ever really be time to play! You know the first time you step on the first tee for the season – you want to be prepared and confident – but let's GO already!

As part of my 2012 golf goals I wanted to schedule a club fitting. Well, better late than never; I finally had my appointment a couple weeks ago and this was the crowning moment of my tune-up. Very interesting opportunity to learn about my smash factor, ball flight, swing speed and club angle. The good news – I have the right clubs, the correct shafts and am fairly consistent with them even in April on a chilly Friday evening. Even when the examiner built me "perfect" new technology demo clubs for my swing, speed, etc. – I still hit those about the same as my current clubs. Part of me hoped every club was wrong so I could upgrade the whole bag, but I'm glad to know I've done a good job collecting clubs over the years. There was an opportunity to change my club angle to help ball flight and direction – so I went all-in for a few adjustments on my irons; -2 degrees to be precise. And then – since I either had to pay for the club fitting which seemed sort of anti-climactic or buy a new club (easy answer here) I bought one new club as part of my 2013 tune-up session. I'm awaiting the delivery of my new addition.

NOW I'm ready!

If you ever have a chance to treat yourself to a club fitting – I'd recommend you do it. Minimally, I have a little more confidence knowing I really do have clubs that fit me. With all the other mental parts of this game – one more positive swing thought is a good thing. Ask around; we have many members who have done this and can probably recommend a certified fitter near you.

I hope you have completed your annual tune -up and are ready to hit the links. See you on the course!

Robin

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GOLF EVENTS

By [Sue Miller](#)

For all members registering for events on the website, please use the PayPal option and avoid sending checks. The PayPal option gives you a guest option that allows you to use your personal credit card if you do not have a PayPal account. This also gives you verification that you have paid for an event.

When registration for a golf event has closed an email is sent to all participants reminding them of the event and that more information, such as tee times, will follow in the coming week. If you have not received an email notification 7 days prior to an event, please contact me at golfevents@ewgachicago.com.

MEET a MEMBER GOLF EVENT

Join us on Sunday, June 2 at White Pines in Bensenville for a relaxed afternoon of golf. If you are new to golf or new to the EWGA, then this is your chance to connect with members and the EWGA. For existing members this is your chance to connect with new members. Everyone is a winner. There are great opportunities to win prizes both on and off the course.

Event fee (\$73) includes golf, cart, door prize, on-course competitions and buffet dinner. Additional "I Want That" and charity raffle prizes will be available. Click the following link to register:

<http://www.ewgachicago.com/eventInfo.php?eid=13&n=Meet+a+Member>

CHAPTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Registration for the 2013 EWGA chapter championship is open! Sign up to participate in the largest women's amateur golf tournament in the world. The chapter championship is the first qualifying leg of the national EWGA championship.

Compete in either the individual championship, or form a scramble team. There are 5 individual flights, with prizes awarded for low gross and low net scores. The Chicago-Metro chapter championship is on June 30, 2013 at Bartlett Hills Golf course in Bartlett IL. The registration deadline is Monday June, 10. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** To compete, you must have an established handicap - Five 18 hole posted scores - by June 14. You must also have posted at least two 18 hole rounds played in 2013 by June 14 to be eligible.

Winners advance to the regional championship in Madison WI on Saturday August 27. Winners in Madison WI will advance to the national championship in Phoenix AZ. Last year the Chicago-Metro chapter had the distinction of sending 5 individual champions to the national event. Further information can be found at www.ewgachampionship.com and our Chicago-Metro Facebook page. Hope to see you there!

Register now: <http://www.ewgachicago.com/eventInfo.php?eid=14&n=Chicago-Metro+Chapter+Championship>



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Education Tip of the Month

By [Kelly Storm](#)

Short Golf Game Tips

By Arnold Anderson, Demand Media

It is common for average golfers to inflate their scores with a bad short game. It can be relatively simple to smash the [ball](#) off the tee and then use a long [iron](#) or two to get the ball within a few yards of the green. But once the green is in sight, many golfers find it difficult to get the ball up and down for par.

Chipping or Pitching?

A common dilemma for golfers in their short game is deciding when to pitch and when to chip. If you have very little green to work with then pitching may be dangerous. If you overshoot the target and do not put enough backspin on the ball then you could be off the green on the other side. A good rule of thumb is to chip when you want to roll the ball up to the hole, and pitch when you need the ball to land and stop in a tight spot. You can also use distance as a determining factor as well. If you are 10 yards or less to the pin then chip. Beyond 10 yards and you should pitch. In some cases it may come down to personal preference. Phil Mickelson is famous for his ability to stop a pitch on a dime, while Tiger Woods is one of the best chippers in the world. If you have a higher comfort level with one over the other then follow your instincts.

The Right Club for the Job

Never assume that the only clubs you can use for your short game are your sand wedge, your pitching wedge and your putter. Take some time on the driving range to see what you can do with a 7-iron when you choke up on it. If you find yourself in the woods surrounded by trees and your only way out is to burn a low shot under some branches, then you are not going to want to use a [club](#) with the loft of a wedge. Choking up on a long or medium range iron will allow you the control to keep the ball low, and the loft on the club will give you the punch you need to get the ball out. Experiment and learn how to use the right club for the job.

Divots

Many golfers make the mistake of thinking that professional golfers dig up a divot either before they hit the ball, or while they are hitting the ball. If you take up a divot before you strike the ball then you are going to hit the ball fat and it will not go anywhere you want it to. Taking up a divot while you are hitting the ball means you got way under the ball and it will probably roll 10 feet in front of you. A proper divot is taken up after the ball is struck. In order to get the spin you need on the ball in your short game, you must make contact with the ball before you make contact with the ground. A divot is essential to a good iron shot because it indicates that you had the proper follow through. When you are practicing on the range, work on making solid contact with your short irons to get that spin you need. You will feel a huge difference between creating a divot at the wrong spot in your swing, and when you create a divot in the right spot of your swing.

What can EWGA do to Help Your Short Game?

We are offering two short game clinics this month. Many of you responded to our survey at kick-off and you were interested in attending short game clinics on a weekend day and in a variety of spots in Chicagoland. Well, we listened! There will be a short game and putting clinic on Sunday, May 19, at 12:00 pm at George Dunne golf course with golf pro Ben Mutz. On Sunday, May 26, at 9:00 am there will be a short game clinic at Harborside with Harborside golf pro George Wrende. Each has limited spots available so sign-up now at [education events](#).



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EWGA Chicago Metro Logo Shirts on sale!

The EWGA logo shirts worn by the Officers and League Captains were such a hit at the Kick Off that we have made them available for all our members. The shirts are \$29.00. Order one today at this link:

<http://www.ewgachicago.com/eventInfo.php?eid=18&n=Order+Chicago+Metro+Logo+Shirt>

Golf Etiquette

* **Pace of play:** Pace of play is a **PRIORITY!** Please keep up with the group in front of you. One player from each foursome should be designated as the **pacesetter** for their group – this person should ensure that the group keeps pace. If your group falls behind, you may be asked to pick up your balls and move on, or let the groups behind you play through.

* **Pace of play suggestion #1:** If you fall behind, do not play more than your **ESC stroke maximum** per hole. This is the maximum number of strokes per hole to use when posting your score.

Course handicap of 40+: 10 strokes

Course handicap of 30-39: 9 strokes

Course handicap of 20-29: 8 strokes

Course handicap of 10-19: 7 strokes

Course handicap of 9 or less: Double Bogey

Course Handicap = Your USGA Handicap x Course Slope / 113. Course slope varies depending on which tees you play.

* **Pace of play suggestion #2:** If you believe your ball is lost outside a water hazard, or may be out of bounds, please hit a **provisional ball**. Play your provisional ball until you reach the place you think your original ball is. Do not search for your ball for more than 5 minutes. If the group behind you is waiting to play, let them play through as soon as it is apparent the ball will not be easily found; do not continue play until the players have passed through and are out of range.

* **Pace of play suggestion #3:** The PGA/USGA came out 'Tee It Forward' recommendations for playing the course at a distance aligned with your average driving distance.

Driver Distance	Recommended 18-Hole Yardages
275	6,700-6,900
250	6,200-6,400
225	5,800-6,000
200	5,200-5,400
175	4,400-4,600
150	3,500-3,700
125	2,800-3,000
100	2,100-2,300

For more information:

<http://www.pga.com/pga-america/pga-feature/pga-and-usga-step-new-sets-tees-in-nationwide-tee-it-forward-initiative>



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Member Services News

By [Cristine Marik](#)

Member Privacy vs. Required Contact Information

Here is an important message from Becky Macaluso, EWGA Managing Director, Chapter & Member Service that we wanted to pass along to you:

More and more EWGA members are concerned about having their personal contact information appear online. We respect that, and have a couple options for you to have control over what you want to appear.

- The option of marking your record in the EWGA database as “Do Not Publish Online” is available, however it has negative consequences. If this is done to your record, then you will be blocked from being able to login to the EWGA Member Clubhouse and the Handicap Service. **We do not recommend this option.**
- We have even had some members go online and delete their mailing address, phone number, and email so that they won't appear online. **We definitely do not recommend this option** as then there is no way to communicate with you at all. This impacts the Chapter too, as your contact information won't appear on the roster sent to the Chapter each week.
- The **best option** is for members to login to the Member Clubhouse (www.myewga.com) and update their “Privacy Settings” under the “My Profile” tab. You can choose very specifically which information you want to show online, and to whom it will be visible (including nobody).

If you have any questions about the online privacy settings, please contact Cristine Marik, Member Services Director at currentmembers@ewgachicago.com

Welcome & Congratulations!

We are excited to welcome some new members to our Chapter. In addition, congratulations are in order for members celebrating their anniversaries with the Chicago Metro Chapter this month.

Welcome to Our New Members!

Patsy Albrecht	Laureen Fleming	Jaime Lusk	Katie Zeller
Nicole Bellino	Krista Linn	Allison Porterfield	Beth Long
Susan Blodgett	Kristin Lonergan	Lisa Senkir	Patti Cregg

Happy Anniversary!

5 Years

Carole Dansdill
Sheryl Ghezzi
Deana Hawley
Rosemary Rocha

10 Years

Pegi Gage

15 Years

Nancy Haney

We are so happy you are part of our Chapter!

Contact US

EWGA Chicago Metro 2013 Board

Chapter President – [Robin Natzke](#)

Events & Activities Director – [Sue Miller](#)

Member Services Director – [Cris Marik](#)

Member Recruitment Director – [Liz Tallman](#)

Golf Programs & Services Director – [Kelly Storm](#)

Finance & Records Director – [Julie Suh](#)

For More Information: Website: ChicagoMetroILChapter.com

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Marketing Director – [Patricia Tripar](#)

Communications Director – [Carol Gouty](#)

Handicaps – [Joan Adamczyk](#)

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Website – [Chris Busch](#)

