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The Official Newsletter of the Southern Nevada Golf Association

# *The Grind*



## Whats New for 2012!

The SNGA Staff and Executive Committee have been working diligently to prepare for 2012. Many of our efforts will be rolled out throughout the year and we are very excited about the opportunity to provide more services to our members.

The SNGA is also proud to announce significant changes to several aspects of our operations that we expect will enhance the products that we provide, thus greatly benefitting our members and member clubs. We look forward to a very successful and fruitful 2012.

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**Here Comes Rocketballz, R11S for SNGA Golfers From TaylorMade,  
Las Vegas Golf & Tennis**

Southern Nevada Golf Association golfers won't have to wait much longer for the newest releases from TaylorMade Golf. The launch of the 2012 golf club equipment products will be February 3, and the two Las Vegas Golf and Tennis locations—an official sponsor of the SNGA-- will be a part of the fun. The R11S is the extension of the hugely popular R11 series in 2011. The brand new RocketBallz woods will share center stage with the updated R11S.



TaylorMade executives are saying the new R11S is the "most adjustable driver in golf", allowing golfers seemingly unlimited ability to hone in the club to their specific specs. "The R11S is a golfer's dream come true; it's the realization of every ounce of innovation, adjustability, and performance we could package in a bigger, more aerodynamic, white clubhead," said Sean Toulon, executive vice president, in a recent statement. "It would have been easy for our product creation team to rest on the laurels of the original R11™ driver, the most successful product we've ever created. Instead, we're delivering golfers yet another significant advancement in adjustability and performance. And, with the proper fitting, we know golfers of all skill levels will be longer and straighter off the tee." According to *Golfweek* writer James Achenbach, the name of the new Rocketballz series is somewhat attributed to Dustin Johnson, who works with Las Vegas Golf Region resident Butch Harmon. Johnson, early in the testing, said "It's like a rocket" after hitting the new golf club. The [Butch Harmon School of Golf](#) is located at [Rio Secco Golf Club](#), a Las Vegas resort course designed by Rees Jones. Both the School and Rio Secco are open to the public with reservations. Read Achenbach's article now by [clicking here](#).

There are two conveniently located Las Vegas Golf and Tennis locations in the Las Vegas Golf Region. And visiting and local Las Vegas golfers flock to the locations. The newest store is also a TaylorMade SuperStore and is located minutes from the Las Vegas Strip at Dean Martin and Tropicana. While the other location is just off the I-215 freeway at Green Valley Parkway and across the street from the Green Valley Ranch Resort. Call 702.892.9999 for details on the launch of the new products or stick to this website for more info.

*Brian Hurlburt is the Founding Editor of [GolfLasVegasNow.com](#) and recently released *The Las Vegas Country Club: Chronicle of an Icon*. [www.LVCountryClubBook.com](#)*

## *New and Updated Rules for 2012!*

Information provided by the USGA. For more information please visit [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org)

### Definitions

**Addressing the Ball:** The Definition is amended so that a player has addressed the ball simply by grounding his club immediately in front of or behind the ball, regardless of whether or not he has taken his stance. Therefore, the Rules generally no longer provide for a player addressing the ball in a hazard. (See also related change to Rule 18-2b)

### Rules

**Rule 1-2. Exerting Influence on Movement of Ball or Altering Physical Conditions.** The Rule is amended to establish more clearly that, if a player intentionally takes an action to influence the movement of a ball or to alter physical conditions affecting the playing of a hole in a way that is not permitted by the Rules, Rule 1-2 applies only when the action is not already covered in another Rule. For example, a player improving the lie of his ball is in breach of Rule 13-2 and therefore that Rule would apply, whereas a player intentionally improving the lie of a fellow-competitor's ball is not a situation covered by Rule 13-2 and, therefore, is governed by Rule 1-2.

**Rule 6-3a. Time of Starting.** Rule 6-3a is amended to provide that the penalty for starting late, but within five minutes of the starting time, is reduced from disqualification to loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Previously this penalty reduction could be introduced as a condition of competition.

**Rule 12-1. Seeing Ball; Searching for Ball.** Rule 12-1 is reformatted for clarity. In addition, it is amended to (i) permit a player to search for his ball anywhere on the course when it may be covered by sand and to clarify that there is no penalty if the ball is moved in these circumstances, and (ii) apply a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2a if a player moves his ball in a hazard when searching for it when it is believed to be covered by loose impediments.

**Rule 13-4. Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions.** Exception 2 to Rule 13-4 is amended to permit a player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including before playing from that hazard, provided it is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and Rule 13-2 is not breached.

**Rule 18-2b. Ball Moving After Address.** A new Exception is added that exonerates the player from penalty if his ball moves after it has been addressed when it is known or virtually certain that he did not cause the ball to move. For example, if it is a gust of wind that moves the ball after it has been addressed, there is no penalty and the ball is played from its new position.

**Rule 19-1. Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped; By Outside Agency.** The note is expanded to prescribe the various outcomes when a ball in motion has been deliberately deflected or stopped by an outside agency.

**Rule 20-7c. Playing from Wrong Place; Stroke Play.** Note 3 is amended so that if a player is to be penalized for playing from a wrong place, in most cases the penalty will be limited to two strokes, even if another Rule has been breached prior to his making the stroke.

**Appendix IV.** A new Appendix is added to prescribe general regulations for the design of devices and other equipment, such as tees, gloves and distance measuring devices.

## *Have a rules question? Contact the SNGA!*

## Whats New in 2012! (Continued from Page 1)

### SNGA's New Logo and Website

The SNGA has a new look! We are proud to launch our new SNGA website and new Logo. The SNGA decided on a new logo that exhibits a fresh look while encompassing a traditional and historical frame of reference. Using the State of Nevada "Battle Born" concept, a blend of unique colors and some minor tweaks, a new and more versatile logo was born. We are confident this new logo will help in our efforts to brand SNGA as a community golf organization dedicated to the advancement of golf in Southern Nevada.



The SNGA Website is also completely revamped, with a new look, new navigation, and enhanced features. Some of the new features include an updated and more interactive Member Club Directory, complete with weather information, and directions to each course. Many other enhancements are included in the new design of the website and we are excited to present them to you in the months to come.

### SNGA Tee Times

The SNGA is proud to roll out a new program to help our member clubs increase revenue while providing a service to golfers across the country. With the help of Golfswitch, a tee time booking engine provider, the SNGA has created a new tee time reservation website we call SNGA Tee Times. We have already begun our drive with area golf courses, and our plan is to provide incentives to other Associations across the United States in an effort to drive golf to Nevada and help increase our member courses' play. Just another way SNGA is working to help our local area member courses.



Tee Times

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit SNGA Tee Times

### SNGA Days

SOON TO COME IN 2012, SNGA Members will have the opportunity to experience SNGA tournament-quality events in a non competitive environment through SNGA Days. Each outing invites you to enjoy a day of golf at a premier public course or private club. Many of the events may be held at courses that most SNGA members may not normally play.



Each event is administered by the professional staff of the hosting club and formats for these events are up to their discretion. Event formats will range from individual stroke play, team scrambles, two person best balls, and much more. Often these events will include prizes and incentives to the winner. It's a great way to play golf and socialize with other SNGA members.

All members are welcome, regardless of skill level. The SNGA has created a calendar on our new website that will showcase all the SNGA Days events throughout the 2012 season. Be sure to check back often as we expect many courses will add events to the schedule over the next few months.

### NEW SNGA Tournament Handicap Policy

The SNGA Tournament Season will start in March of 2012 and with it will come some important policy changes.

1st and foremost, the SNGA Handicap Policy has been changed for 2012. New players to SNGA events will no longer have their 12 month low Handicap Indexes cut by 50% as a means to protect the field. The SNGA has instead implemented a policy based on the USGA probability charts found in Appendix E and throughout the USGA Handicap System Manual.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the New SNGA Handicap Policy

## **NEW 2012 SNGA Code of Conduct Policy**

The SNGA has updated the Tournament Code of Conduct Policy for 2012 on the basis of providing a more detailed and all-encompassing policy that will protect both the player and the Association.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the New SNGA Code of Conduct Policy.

## **2012 SNGA Tournament Schedule**

The SNGA is proud to release our 2012 SNGA Tournament Schedule. We are additionally happy to announce that all SNGA events will include all 4 of our divisions, Scratch, Net, Senior(50+), and Super Senior (60+).

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2012 Tournament Schedule, officially posted to the SNGA website. \*Please be aware that the Tournament Schedule is subject to change.\*

## **2012 Nevada State Amateur is coming to TPC Summerlin!!**

Yes it's true! The SNGA is proud to announce the Nevada State Amateur will be played this year on a PGA Tour Facility. TPC Summerlin will host the event July 9th-11th.

Scratch Players, if you would like to play in this event the field size is limited so please be aware of the different ways in which you can qualify:

1. Be one of the top 10 on the 2012 Nevada State Amateur Points Race (requires SNGA tour membership).
  2. Be one of the Top 10 finishers in last year's Nevada State Amateur.
  3. \*Qualify at the SNGA State Am Qualifying Event held during the Southern Nevada Amateur on May 19th & 20th.
- \*There is a \$25.00 qualifying fee that must be paid during registration in order to be eligible to qualify.



SUMMERLIN

## **2012 Nevada State Net Amateur Championship will be held at Cascata!**

The SNGA is proud to announce the Nevada State NET Amateur Championship will be played this year at Cascata! Cascata will host the event August 4th-6th. this event has a 36 hole stroke play qualifier, just like the US Amateur. The top 8 finishers in the qualifier will participate in the match play championship.

CASCATA

Net Players, if you would like to play in this event the field size is limited so please be aware of registration requirements. The top 8 qualifiers from last years event are automatically eligible to play in this years 36 hole qualifier. Please visit the SNGA tournament schedule for more information on the event.

## **Rules Officials and Volunteers**

The SNGA is looking for Rules Officials and Volunteers for the 2012 Tournament Season. If you are interested in helping the SNGA continue to hold excellent tournaments, we have many different events where you can volunteer. All SNGA volunteers receive complimentary lunch at the event for any day that they participate.

USGA Rules officials are an important part of a very proud and sought after tradition in the game of golf. The SNGA has been fortunate enough to have some of the best Rules Officials in the country grace its events for many years. If you have this skill or would like to learn, please contact the SNGA Offices to discuss USGA Rules Officials volunteer positions. All Rules officials receive complimentary lunch each day of the events in which they participate.

## **PJ Boatwright Jr. Internship Opportunity**

The SNGA is looking for a new PJ Boatwright Jr. Internship to learn and assist in the day to day operations of the Association. The PJ Boatwright Jr. Internship is an 8 month paid position and provides the recipient with a great opportunity to learn about the Association side of the Golf Industry.

Please visit the [snga.org](http://snga.org) website or contact the SNGA offices for more information about the PJ Boatwright Jr. Internship opportunity.

The SNGA is very excited about the upcoming year and we expect that these added programs and policies will help facilitate achieving one of our main goals...promoting and growing "Golf" in Southern Nevada. Wishing all of our Members and Member Clubs a Happy New Year!!



# BRING GOLF TO A CHILD

This is your chance to assist a child in learning both the game of golf and valuable life lessons. You may choose to donate 1 or more ala carte costs via the menu; or, donate a complete package for a young golfer.

## ALA CARTE MENU

- First Tee/Tour Membership.....\$75  
(Access to all events)
- Danny Gans/Jr Golf Academy.....\$30/session  
(4 sessions available per year)
- Intermediate Tournament.....\$35 (average cost)  
(1 day events)
- Butch Harmon Tour Event.....\$85  
(2 day events)
- Las Vegas City Junior Championship.....\$85
- Boulder City Junior Championship.....\$85
- Tournament of Champions.....\$95

## COMPLETE PACKAGES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>BEGINNER...\$105</b><br/>         First Tee/Tour Membership<br/>         1 Jr Golf Academy</p>   | <p><b>INTERMEDIATE...\$530</b><br/>         First Tee/Tour Membership<br/>         All Intermediate Tournaments<br/>         LV/Boulder City Champ.<br/>         Tournament of Champions</p> |
| <p><b>BUTCH HARMON TOUR...\$765</b><br/>         First Tee/Tour Membership<br/>         All Butch Harmon Tour Events<br/>         LV/Boulder City Junior Championship<br/>         Tournament of Champions</p> |  |

Please circle your choice or choices above to **Bring Golf to a Child!**  
 Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Checks payable to: TFTSN Address: 2625 N Green Valley Pkwy #100  
 Henderson, NV 89014



The WSNGA is looking forward to a great 2012. We have kicked off the New Year in style. Sue May, our newly elected President, has been awarded the PGA Chapter "Person of the Year" at a January 10 banquet. Sue continues to generously volunteer her time to area events, local associations, collegiate events and the PGA; serving as a USGA rules official as well as giving numerous rules seminars. Sue was the force behind the forming of the Las Vegas Rules Team; a group of USGA accredited rules officials that avail themselves to all types of tournaments locally and even some out of state tournaments. The WSNGA is extremely proud to call Sue May one of "ours." CONGRATULATIONS, SUE!



The first of WSNGA event for 2012 will be a FUN DAY Monday, March 27 at Dragon Ridge CC. Please check our website for details, [www.wsnga.org](http://www.wsnga.org). Applications for this event will be coming soon!

A schedule of competitive events for 2012 is also available on our website. The first big event will be the Southern Nevada Senior Amateur Championship to be held May 7-8 at Painted Desert Golf Course. This is always a favorite event for the women of southern Nevada, so be sure to keep your eyes on the website for the information and entry forms! Let's see if 2012 can be the year we fill every event!



**2012 Southwest Golf Club Membership**  
Sign Up For a 2012 SGC Membership and Receive:

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receive one complementary  
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# SPIRIT OF GOLF

Peak Performance through the Power of the Mind

## Golf & the Mind Game

A Full-Day Workshop and Clinic - May 5

Boulder Creek Golf Club, Las Vegas (Boulder City), Nevada



One of the most basic principles in our lives that becomes important to understand is that we cannot have anything until we first imagine it through the mind. This is as true with a golf shot as it is with anything else. It is how we internally activate an idea through imagination, emotion, and belief that either brings the experience closer to us or pushes it further away.

Join Tim N. Kremer, M.A., president and founder of Spirit of Golf, for an exceptionally powerful daylong workshop/clinic as you learn to tap into the power of the mind to improve every aspect of your golf game. You'll experience first-hand how the inner world of thought and emotion precedes every golf shot you hit, and you'll learn to access a calm, focused, and confident state you can carry with you onto the golf course or anywhere else you go.

This daylong event, brought to you by the Southern Nevada Golf Association (SNGA), includes a morning workshop in which you will learn new mental and emotional skills, followed by an early afternoon clinic on the practice range (limited to 35 participants).

Following the workshop, Tim will conduct a 9-hole playing clinic for up to nine players. Attendance in the morning and mid-day sessions is a prerequisite to this playing lesson. If there is enough interest, Tim will conduct similar events the following day.



"Tim has taken some of the latest and most advanced concepts in the field of mind/body development and made them available to golfers and others through Spirit of Golf. He offers a pioneering and leading-edge approach to peak athletic performance that will serve anyone extremely well. I believe that the information he shares will become the new standard for improvement in golf, and I encourage those who are interested in taking their games to a higher level to attend one of his events."

- Linda Vollstedt, Arizona State University Golf Coach  
1980-2011, 6 NCAA Championships, mentored 22 LPGA Tour Players, NGCA Hall of Fame along with 4 other halls of fame.



### SPIRIT OF GOLF

Tim N. Kremer, Founder  
Spirit of Golf, LLC  
236 SW Coconut Key Way  
St. Lucie West, FL 34986

Phone: 772-879-1978  
E-mail: [info@myspiritofgolf.com](mailto:info@myspiritofgolf.com)  
[www.myspiritofgolf.com](http://www.myspiritofgolf.com)



[CLICK HERE](#)

to view a sample of one of the Spirit of Golf Clinics.

"When You Really want to Improve."

**Date:** Saturday, May 5

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (morning and mid-day workshop/range clinic);

2:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (9-Hole playing clinic)(Three 3-somes)

**Location:** Boulder Creek Golf Club  
1501 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Boulder City, NV 89005

**SNGA Member Cost:**

\$100, which includes the workshop, continental breakfast and lunch, and the early afternoon range clinic;

\$150, which includes the workshop, continental breakfast and lunch, the early afternoon range clinic, and a 9-Hole playing clinic (maximum of 9 players)(Three 3-somes)

**Non SNGA Member Cost:**

\$150, which includes the workshop, continental breakfast and lunch, and the early afternoon range clinic;

\$200, which includes the workshop, continental breakfast and lunch, the early afternoon range clinic, and a 9-Hole playing clinic (maximum of 9 players)(Three 3-somes)

**Info:**

SNGA must have 35 committed attendees by March 1, 2012 and payment by March 14, 2012 in order for this amazing clinic to take place.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register.

## Southern Nevada PGA of America Pros Honored for Excellence

This article previously posted at [GolfLasVegasNow.com](http://GolfLasVegasNow.com).

The annual Southern Nevada Chapter, Southwest Section PGA of America Awards ceremony was held January 10 on the campus of UNLV, home of a very successful Professional Golf Management program. One of the evening highlights came when former United States Marine Thom Blinkinsop was honored as the 2011 Golf Professional of the Year. Blinkinsop is the general manager of [Red Rock Country Club](#) and Siena Golf Club, and oversees 54 holes of Las Vegas golf. --By *Brian Hurlburt*



Under his direction is the Arnold Palmer-designed Arroyo golf course and the private Palmer Course at Red Rock CC, and the Schmidt/Curley-designed Siena Golf Club. "It is such an honor that the people you work with or have worked for, and who work in the same profession pick you as one of the best," said Blinkinsop about the honor. "It really makes you feel proud!"

He served for five years in the Marine Corp., and was stationed in Maryland, Hawaii, Okinawa, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. He also went to Korea with Team Sprint. He fought in Desert Storm where he arrived in August as the "Advance Party" and left in May as the "Rear Party." He was also in "Charlie Battery" which is an artillery unit. According to Blinkinsop, that unit was "America's most forward group during the attack on Khafji in Saudi Arabia." During his career, he earned 12 medals and ribbons, and was qualified as a rifle expert.



The evening was emceed by Amy Bush, Chapter president and the head coach of the UNLV Women's golf team. She, along with the awards committee chair person, Greg Brockelman, helped to honor several PGA of America professionals and a longtime United States Golf Association rules official. Sue May

earned the Person of the Year award for her efforts in assisting area professionals with rulings and other work at major Las Vegas golf tournaments. In her speech, she mentioned how "The Las Vegas Golf rules team" was behind her success.



Also in attendance to honor the award winners were Southwest Section PGA President Michael Haywood and Executive Director Kurt Hudek. Longtime area golf pro Patrick Duty collected several awards for his stellar play in 2011. He was the Player of the Year for both the Regular and Senior divisions, and also earned the Stroke Average award for the senior division at 72.0. Duty is from Wynn Golf and Country Club. Travis Long, from Anthem Country Club, earned the Regular Division stroke average award at 71.38.

Brockelman earned the prestigious Bill Strausbaugh Award that goes to impactful PGA of America pros. The award was established in 1979, and is presented to a PGA Golf Professional who, by their day-to-day efforts, has distinguished themselves in mentoring their fellow PGA Golf Professionals in improving their employment situations and through service to the community. The Award is named in honor of the late Bill Strausbaugh who was a PGA Master Professional in the Middle Atlantic PGA Section.



The Junior Golf Leader of the Year was Chapter Operations Director Paul Brown. Brown organizes events on the Antigua Junior Series and other junior events on behalf of the local chapter. The Horton Smith Award went to UNLV PGM Director Chris Cain, who was also recognized for becoming the first pro from the Southern Nevada Chapter to be named the Pro of the Year for the Section. The Smith Award recognizes those pros who make a positive difference in the area of education. Click to view more about Cain's Section [Professional of the Year Award](#).

The 2011 Merchandisers of the Year were Lee Smith (TPC Summerlin) from the private sector, Brian Hawthorne (Wynn) from the resort sector, and Tom Fischer ([Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort](#)) from the public sector. Brandon Stooksbury from [TPC Las Vegas](#) was named the Teacher of the Year.

*Brian Hurlburt is the Founding Editor of [GolfLasVegasNow.com](http://GolfLasVegasNow.com) and recently released *The Las Vegas Country Club: Chronicle of an Icon*. [www.LVCountryClubBook.com](http://www.LVCountryClubBook.com)*

# Las Vegas Country Club book captures historic Club and story of Las Vegas

The recently released coffee table book, *The Las Vegas Country Club: Chronicle of an Icon*, authored by long-time Las Vegas golf writer Brian Hurlburt, captures everything that the Club and Las Vegas are about. The first private, equity Club in Las Vegas was the home of the movers and shakers (Irwin Molasky, Steve Wynn, Kirk Kerkorian, Carolyn and Oscar Goodman, etc.). Also a part of the Club history is the presence of members of organized crime—the Club was the real-life back drop for the movie *Casino* as the main characters (Frank Rosenthal, Tony Spilotro) were Las Vegas Country Club members. Also, celebrities, politicians, and athletes from all over the world played and partied at the Club. Among them were Gerald Ford, Dean Martin, Bill Clinton, Jim Brown, Joe Dimaggio, and many, many more. Legendary Las Vegas Country Club tennis pro Johnny Lane captures what many are saying about the book:



“I have been fortunate to have been the tennis pro at The Las Vegas Country Club for the last 30 years, and I know a lot about this wonderful place, but after reading this book, I know even more of the story. It seems like with every page there were more and new interesting details and information about the members and the Club. I stayed up very late when I first got the book and read it cover to cover.”

*The Las Vegas Country Club: Chronicle of an Icon* is available for purchase at The Las Vegas Country Club (734-1122) or at Stephens Press (387.5260). More info: [www.LVCountryClubBook.com](http://www.LVCountryClubBook.com)



## Nominations Open for 2012 Class of the Las Vegas Golf Hall of Fame

The public is welcome to nominate potential inductees into the 2012 Class of the Las Vegas Golf Hall of Fame. The deadline is March 1, 2012. Please visit [www.LasVegasGolfHOF.com](http://www.LasVegasGolfHOF.com) for more information and how to nominate worthy golfers. Also at the site are the guidelines under which people can be nominated. You can also learn about previous inductees at the official website.



# SNGA

Southern Nevada Golf Association

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702-458-4653  
[www.snga.org](http://www.snga.org)

## final thoughts...

*"The secret of concentration is the secret of self-discovery. You reach inside yourself to discover your personal resources, and what it takes to match them to the challenge."*

– Arnold Palmer

## What's on Tap >>>

### 2011 SNGA Awards Banquet

The SNGA will be holding its annual Awards Banquet at Rio Secco Golf Club on January 30th. The banquet will commemorate the year long efforts of our directors, players and volunteers. All six of our player's of the year will be honored for their accomplishments as well as our most outstanding director and volunteer.

For more information about the SNGA and its affiliates, please visit [www.snga.org](http://www.snga.org).