

HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!

Rock Harbor News

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2016

Cole's Corner: History of U.S Open

By Cole Lee, Tournament Director:

Beginning in 1895 as almost an afterthought to the U.S. Amateur, the U.S. Open golf tournament is now one of golf's four majors, and one of the most storied tournaments in the world.

The United States Golf Association holds the tournament, which is held on some of the top-rated and most well respected golf courses around the country.

The U.S. Open is staged at a variety of courses, set up in such a way that scoring is very difficult with a premium placed on accurate driving. U.S. Open play is characterized by tight scoring at or around par by the leaders, with the winner usually emerging at around even par. A U.S. Open course is seldom beaten severely, and there have been many over-par wins (in part because par is usually set at 70, except for the very longest courses). Normally, an Open course is quite long and will have a high cut of primary rough (termed "Open rough" by the American press and fans); undulating greens (such as at [Pinehurst No. 2](#) in 2005, which was described by [Johnny Miller](#) of [NBC](#) as "like trying to hit a ball on top of a [VW Beetle](#)"); pinched fairways (especially on what are expected to be less difficult holes); and two or three holes that are short par fives under regular play would be used as long par fours during the tournament (often to meet that frequently used par of 70, forcing players to have accurate long drives). Some courses that are attempting to get into the rotation for the U.S. Open will undergo renovations to develop these features. [Rees Jones](#) is the most notable of the "Open Doctors" who take on these projects; his father [Robert Trent Jones](#) had filled that role earlier. As with any professional golf tournament, the available space surrounding the course (for spectators, among other considerations) and local infrastructure also factor into deciding which courses will host the event.

The first U.S. Open was played on October 4, 1895, on a nine-hole course at the [Newport Country Club](#) in [Newport, Rhode Island](#). It was a 36-hole competition and was played in a single day. Ten professionals and one amateur entered. The winner was a 21-year-old Englishman named [Horace Rawlins](#), who had arrived in the U.S. in January that year to take up a position at the host club. He received \$150 cash out of a prize fund of \$335, plus a \$50 gold medal; his club received the Open Championship Cup trophy, which was presented by the USGA. ^{[1][2]}

In the beginning, the tournament was dominated by experienced British players until 1911, when [John J. McDermott](#) became the first native-born American winner. American golfers soon began to win regularly and the tournament evolved to become one of the four [majors](#).

Since 1911, the title has been won mostly by players from the United States. Since 1950, players from only six countries other than the United States have won the championship, most notably [South Africa](#), which has won five times since 1965. A streak

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fresh From The Grill 2

The Hartman Tree 2

From The Ground Up 3

Welcome New Members 4

Member Calendar 4

Inserts

Tournament Updates 1

Member Interviews 3

Notes from G 6

Continued on page 3.....see "U.S. Open"

**PEOPLE WHO
LOVE FOOD
ARE ALWAYS
THE BEST
PEOPLE**

Fresh From The Grill

*Chip Connelly,
Director of Food and Beverage:*

Greetings from the Grill! We hope you are enjoying the “kinder” weather we have been experiencing as (at the time of this writing) March has finally surrendered, April showers are passed (maybe) and we are into summer weather.

The season is definitely getting busy fast. The best way to know what is going on is stay in touch with the website, rockharborgolf.com and go to “Course Info” and then “Calendar of Events” to see what’s happening at The Rock. **Member/Guest** is just

around the corner. Our dates are June 16-18; Thursday evening social, Friday & Saturday tournament play. As before, you and your guest are



invited to all meals; your significant others are invited to the Thursday social, Friday dinner and the Saturday luncheon (reservations for these events are imperative). We will try to honor seating request, but some of the larger groupings may have to

be split, but seated in close proximity. Please remember to make reservations for Saturday’s “Steak Night” to let us know you are coming and to discover what the weekly special is. Also, with the longer daylight hours, we are seating more golfers coming off the course, so we ask that if you must place a carry-out order, to do so for pick-up prior 6 p.m.

As mentioned before, there are some new faces this year, so please introduce yourselves and let your servers know your account numbers to ensure proper billing. As always, we look forward to seeing you, and serving you.



Bob and Nancy Hartman were beloved members of Rock Harbor Golf Course who both passed away last year. In their memory we

The Hartman Tree

have planted a tree on Rock #1 to replace the unshapely elm in front of the green. An “October Glory” has been chosen to honor their memory. Each time I would see The Hartman's they would always want to talk about something new they had discovered on the course or recent course strategy they had been thinking about. When considering placement of the tree, I chose

the front entrance so I could see the tree each time I pull in to the course, I hope when you see the tree you will think of The Hartmans and the light and joy they brought to Rock Harbor. They will be greatly missed and always thought of fondly. You can read their member interview from November 2014 on our website.
- Denny Perry





Gift Certificates to the Pro Shop for apparel or cigars make great Father's Day gifts for the golfer in your life.

of four consecutive non-American winners occurred from 2004 to 2007 for the first time since 1910. These four players, South African [Retief Goosen](#) (2004), New Zealander [Michael Campbell](#) (2005), Australian [Geoff Ogilvy](#) (2006) and Argentine [Ángel Cabrera](#) (2007), are all from countries in the [Southern Hemisphere](#). Northern Ireland's [Graeme McDowell](#) (2010) became the first European player to win the event since [Tony Jacklin](#) of England in 1970; three more Europeans won in the next four editions, making it only three American wins in the 11 tournaments from 2004-2014.

The U.S. Open is the only one of the four major championships which retains a full 18-hole playoff the following day (Monday). If a tie exists after that fifth round, then the playoff continues as sudden-death on the 91st hole. The U.S. Open has advanced to sudden-death three times ([1990](#), [1994](#), [2008](#)), most recently when [Tiger Woods](#) defeated [Rocco Mediate](#) on the first additional playoff hole in 2008. Before sudden-death was introduced in the 1950s, additional 18-hole rounds were played ([1925](#), [1939](#), and [1946](#)) to break the tie. When the playoff was scheduled for 36 holes and ended in a tie, as in

[1931](#), a second 36-hole playoff was required. (That is a lot of golf!!)

So as usual I run the golf pool for the majors. The format will be 3 player aggregate scoring with 1 alternate player in the event you have a player miss the cut. Each entry is \$5.00 as before. I will need the entry the Wednesday before the tournament begins. Good Luck to everyone and happy Father's Day!



U.S. Open Trophy at the 2008 PGA Golf Show

From The Ground Up

*Bobby Jenkins,
Course Superintendent:*

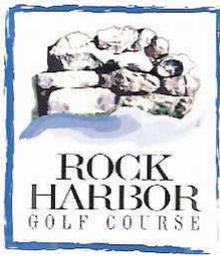
As you know, May has been a very wet month but our maintenance crew has done a fantastic job of keeping the course in good playing condition. The greens are healing pretty good but they are in need of some warm days and nights so the vitamins (per say) that were applied will kick in and start showing results.

The maintenance crew is spending all their time mowing and trimming right now. Our crew is also diligently trying to get everything ready for the upcoming Member/Guest tournament in mid June. Have a safe Memorial Day.



“You have one problem, you stand too close to the ball after you hit it.”

-Sam Snead



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To subscribe or unsubscribe to this free newsletter send
an e-mail to mistyautumn@comcast.net

Welcome to New Members

The Foley Family: Edward, Kimberly,
Kayla & Dalton
D. Craig Morcom, II
George Bivens



We're on the web
Rockharborgolf.com

Follow us on **Twitter**
and **Instagram**

We're on
Facebook

Summer Activities for Members

Member/Guest Practice Rounds Thursday 6/16
Member/Guest Friday & Saturday 6/17-6/18

Member Glow Ball Saturday 6/25

Member Evening Social Wednesday 6/29

Check out our website for all our leagues and events
happening throughout the month

Please visit our website for full details