



UGA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The UGA Could not function in the same capacity without the dedicated help of our volunteers. These extraordinary people give their time and energy back to the game we all love in many different capacities. Each year the UGA will recognize one volunteer who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and contribution to the UGA with our Volunteer of the Year award.

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2021



Mark Meidell

The 2016 Pac-12 Men's Golf Championship brought future PGA Tour players Jon Rahm, Collin Morikawa and Maverick McNealy to The Country Club for likely the only time they will ever compete in Utah. That's not the only lasting impact of the tournament.

After working as a walking scorer that weekend and noticing the presence of rules officials on the course, Mark Meidell was so intrigued about their role that he called the Utah Golf Association office and asked if he could get started.

Five years later, he's the UGA Volunteer of the Year.

Most volunteers can trace their entry to a friend who urged them to become involved. Meidell's origin story as a self-starter is unusual. So is the progression from rules official to UGA board member, thanks to his recent election.

The Alpine resident is a longtime golfer who grew up in Montana, graduated from the University of Utah and worked as a stockbroker in Arizona and California. After selling his business interests in 2009, Meidell "just wanted to get involved in something I had a passion in," he said.

Initially, that was on the mountain as the supervisor of the Deer Valley ski school. In the summers, he wanted to be on the golf course. So he rode a fairway mower at Red Ledges Golf Club and worked as a caddie. Then came the Pac-12 experience that led him to become hooked on the Rules of Golf. "I don't know if I'm a geek or not, but I really enjoy the technicality of the rules," he said.

An official can go hours or even days without being summoned to make an intricate ruling, but Meidell already has experienced his share of interesting moments while working for the UGA, the PGA and the NCAA. He's been summoned to interpret cases of golf balls landing in a spectator's pocket, being shaken out of a tree by a fan and being picked up by a bird. "Almost every tournament, you get some really unusual, weird calls," he said.

Meidell keeps trying to learn more nuances of the rules and continues to impress UGA assistant executive director Easton Folster, who nominated him for the award.

"He encapsulates what it means to be a volunteer, always willing to go the extra mile to ensure the job gets done correctly and the UGA is well represented," Folster wrote. "If there is an extra assignment that needs to be done, he is always one to volunteer."

2020



Ted McGregor

In his youth, Ted McGregor occasionally sneaked onto the Ogden Golf & Country Club and played a few holes. Influenced by his career in law enforcement, he has found more approved ways to access exclusive golf courses in Utah.

McGregor's current method is serving as a course rater for the Utah Golf Association, and he's a devoted member of that team. His commitment and proficiency in that role have made him the UGA's 2020 Volunteer of the Year.

McGregor, 73, credits golf for having "probably kept me alive" and "giving me a reason to get up in the morning."

He clearly loves the game. From caddying at his hometown country club to launching the Utah Highway Patrol Golf Association and volunteering at PGA Tour-brand events in Utah, McGregor has been immersed in golf most of his life. The Roy resident plays with regular groups every week at Eagle Mountain in Brigham City and Schneider's Riverside in Riverdale and eagerly responds when Reese Nielsen asks him to join a team of course raters. In 2020, he has analyzed courses from Bear Lake to Hurricane, joining in the important task of rating courses for handicap purposes.

Nielsen, who leads the UGA's course rating operation and received the Gold Club Award in 2018, nominated McGregor as Volunteer of the Year. With the PGA Tour Champions tournament at Jeremy Ranch and the original Hogan Tour stop in Provo, McGregor "was there when help was needed at a golf event," Nielsen wrote. "and he continues with that spirit as a course rating volunteer."

McGregor readily acknowledges that getting to play Jeremy Ranch as a reward for volunteering initially motivated him to work in security and transportation during the tournament. He especially liked being on the course as a marshal, "watching golf and interacting with people," McGregor said.

By 1992, he had played every golf course in Utah. More recently, the course rating opportunity has enabled him to get on the private courses in the Park City area, keeping his list up to date.

Married to his wife, Silver, for 47 years, McGregor can tell detailed stories about everything that goes into rating a golf course. In the law enforcement tradition, he enjoys the teamwork involved in it and says that any of his colleagues could have been named Volunteer of the Year.

2019



Larry Shumway

Back problems have prevented Larry Shumway from playing golf in his 80s, but that has not kept him giving back to the game.

Shumway is the 2019 UGA Volunteer of the Year, a tribute to what UGA administrators cite as his willingness to arrive early and stay late in helping them conduct tournaments.

He's known for working multiple jobs at the golf course during the day's play. As one example, he was involved in player registration, served as a starter on the first tee and then manned the timing checkpoints at the Nos. 9 and 18 greens.

Shumway said that assignment hardly was overwhelming; all he had to do was sit in a cart between the adjacent greens. That observation reflects his attitude about a volunteer role that enables him to "stay close to the game."

Shumway, 87, spent 31 days at tournament sites in 2019. His only concession to age is not traveling to events in St. George or Wendover.

Shumway worked all over the world and around the United States as a mechanical engineer. The Texas native moved to Utah in 1984. He mostly has remained in the state ever since then and now lives in Sandy.

2018



James Mitchell

James Mitchell readily acknowledges that the occasional opportunity to play an exclusive golf facility in Utah is part of the attraction of rating courses. A lot of work comes with that reward, though. And his dedication in attending nearly all of the UGA's annual course-rating site visits made him the organization's 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

Reese Nielsen, who directs the UGA course rating operation, values Mitchell as a longtime member of the group, helping with some of the less experienced workers, "Jim is one of the bedrock raters," Nielsen said.

Mitchell has a knack of interacting with golfers, as they're playing the course and the raters are trying to do their jobs.

That personable nature comes from his former career as a telephone company sales executive, and the North Salt Lake resident has joined in the rating process for nearly 20 years. Rating courses "is work," Mitchell said. "Fun is not a word I would use to describe it, but it's rewarding." He emphasized "how much I enjoy working with such great people, the other volunteers. We have a cop, a minister, military generals, a teacher, business people and on and on, all donating their time and talents."

That captures the fiber of the UGA. Mitchell is part of a vital operation. "I feel like I'm contributing in a very small way to the quality of golf in Utah," he said.

It's bigger than that, certainly. And in a golf community filled with volunteers, Mitchell deserves his turn to be recognized.

2017



Mike Steele

The Utah Golf Association would not be able to provide its members and member clubs with the quality and quantity of services without the tireless efforts of volunteers. It is our pleasure to announce Mike Steele as its fourth annual Volunteer of the Year.

Mike was born on September 1, 1948 in Provo, Utah, to Ralph and Beth Steele and moved to Orem at age 11. Growing up, he was an avid sports fan and played baseball and basketball competitively. According to his wife, Mike often threw no-hitters and was an excellent point guard before injuring his shoulder, ending his potential career with the Cubs or Giants.

After graduating from Orem High School, Mike was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1968 and spent a year and a half in South Korea. After returning home, Mike enrolled in classes at Utah Valley Technical College, now Utah Valley University, where he graduated in 1971 with an AAS in Machine Tool Technology.

He spent three years as a machining apprentice for Clark Engineering before moving on as a journeyman. After earning his machinist certification, Mike worked five years for Geneva Steel before its closure and Hercules Aerospace. Twenty-eight years of Mike's career was spent with Orbital Alliant Techsystems (Orbital ATK), a global leader in American aerospace and defense technologies, as a space systems machinist before retiring in 2010.

In 1987, Mike married his sweetheart, Gloria Wall of Wallsburg, Utah. Mike and Gloria met at the wedding of Mike's sister, Valerie, and Gloria's son, Brian. Mike was supposed to be videotaping the bride and groom, but he could not keep the camcorder off Gloria. The two reside near Alpine Country Club in Highland, Utah.

Mike picked up golf at the age of 58 to spend time with his son, Will. He later joined the Orbital ATK Golf League and currently plays in the Fox Hollow and Sky Mountain men's leagues with his buddies.

The 2011 Amateur Public Links at Soldier Hollow Golf Course was Mike's first experience as a UGA volunteer. He ended up making so many new friends and having so much fun that he began attending the UGA Rules of Golf Workshop and the USGA Rules of Golf classes in Utah, providing him with the rules knowledge necessary for on-course officiating.

Six seasons and nearly 100 championships later, Mike is one of the UGA's most talented and reliable rules officials. His dedication to learning and practicing the rules has made him a tremendous asset to the UGA. He is a pleasure to work with, and the UGA could not be more grateful to have him on our team. Thank you for all you do, Mike!

2016



Gary Chadwick

The Utah Golf Association would not be able to provide its members and member clubs with the quality and quantity of services without the tireless efforts of volunteers. It is our pleasure to announce past UGA president, former UGA board member, and 40-year volunteer Gary Chadwick as the third annual Volunteer of the Year.

Chadwick was first introduced to golf when he started working as a caddy at Ogden Golf and Country Club at the age of 10. However, caddying was the extent of his golfing experience until later in life when he married his wife, Elaine. Gary and Elaine were married on May 23, 1958. They have four children, Doug, Cherie, Kent, and Robert, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Soon after their wedding day, Chadwick purchased his first set of golf clubs and later bought Elaine a set as well. She eventually joined the Bountiful Springs Ladies Golf Association at Lakeside Golf Course before deciding golf was not for her. Gary stuck with it and grew to love the game, but before Elaine, he focused on sports such as baseball and basketball. In fact, he lettered three years in baseball while attending Weber High School.

Following high school, Gary spent 11 years in the U.S. Army Reserve where he worked as an ammunition sergeant among other jobs. He served six months on active duty, four of which were in El Paso, TX, at Fort Bliss. After his years in the Army Reserve, Chadwick began installing chain-link fences for American Fence Company. After one summer working for the fencing company, he began a career selling windows, doors, and hardware to residential and commercial real estate. He continued this career with multiple companies in the same industry until his retirement in 2008.

Gary has a very impressive resume when it comes to his time with the Utah Golf Association. He has been a tournament volunteer for more than 40 years, served 12 years on the Board of Directors and was president of the UGA for two years from 1986-1987. He also served on the USGA Public Links Committee for 19 years.

In addition to his UGA and USGA responsibilities, Chadwick has been an active junior golf volunteer for many years and was president of the Utah Junior Golf Association (UJGA). He served as the captain of the Junior America's Cup team for 10 years, the Hogan Cup team for nine years and was the recipient of the UGA Gold Club Award in 1995. He also received the Utah Section PGA Presidential Service Award in 2014. The UJGA has since honored Gary by creating the Gary Chadwick Division for boys ages 9-10 and the Chadwick Tournament of Champions.

"He has gained and earned the respect of different golf organizations and people all over Utah," stated past UGA president, current volunteer, and close friend Sherm Hatfield. "I appreciate all that he has done for me and for Utah golf, and I think that most people feel the same."

The UGA is truly honored to have volunteers like Gary. These volunteers allow the UGA to fulfill its mission to promote interest in the game of golf by encouraging, organizing, supporting, sponsoring, and administering golfing activities and programs.

2015



Joyce Friesema

The Utah Golf Association would not be able to provide its members and member clubs with the quality and quantity of services without the tireless efforts of volunteers. It is our pleasure to announce course rating volunteer Joyce Friesema as the second annual Volunteer of the Year.

Joyce grew up in Midland Park, New Jersey, and graduated from William Patterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, in 1978 with a bachelor's in business administration. She met her husband, David Friesema, on a blind date set up by mutual friends. Joyce and David have one son, Doug, and one daughter, Kim.

Before marrying David, Joyce had never swung a golf club. They decided taking lessons together 30 years ago and were immediately hooked. Joyce and David view golf as a way to spend time with each other, and their clubs follow them wherever they go.

"David and I have moved to various states over the years, and we've discovered that joining a golf club gives us instant friends," she said. Before moving to Utah in 2006, they made friends in states such as New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Texas.

2014



Eric "Doc"
Iverson

The UGA, recognizing the importance of volunteers, has instituted a Volunteer of the Year Award, and the first recipient is Eric 'Doc' Iverson. Upon hearing news of the award he said, "I've been having a ball volunteering for the UGA. Do you get awards for that?"

And to that question UGA Executive Director Bill Walker said, "Yes, we rely on volunteers and you are an ideal example of volunteerism."

Doc was born in Salt Lake City in 1955, but his family moved to California when he was two and he spent the next 50 years of his life in California on both sides of the education equation, learning and teaching. In 2009, one day after retiring as the principal at Del Mar High School he returned to Utah to be near his mother and sister in Orem.

Shortly after arriving in Utah he picked up Fairways Magazine and noticed that the UGA was seeking volunteers to help with the USGA National Public Links Championship at Soldier Hollow. He was there all day, every day.

"That was my first time as a golf volunteer and I had a wonderful experience. It made me happy, broadened by friendships, and I felt like I had contributed to the success of the event, that I was really needed," he said. "I also realized that I was lacking in many ways and that I needed to improve my skills to become a better volunteer."

With that he began a study of the rules and "although I'm not an expert, hopefully I have learned enough to stay out of trouble."

In California he graduated from Del Mar High School and San Jose State where he majored in political science. After graduation he took a temporary job teaching math at his former high school and it turned into a full time position. He also taught physical education and special education and then moved into administration for 20 years, the last five years as the principal.

Golf was his leisure time activity in San Jose and he settled in at about an 11 handicap.

His love of the game comes from his mother, Bevelyn, who didn't take up the golf until she was 65. For her the game is more social than competitive, but she has been interested in improving and has been to many clinics. At 86, she still plays the game quite regularly and walks most of the time.