

Signal Point Golf Club

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PO Box 1134

Fort Benton, MT 59442

February 2021



Message from the President, Joey Diekhans

2020 was quite a year at Signal Point. We started not knowing if we would even be open but finished the year in the black. I would like to thank Mark, Cam, their crews, and members of the board for their hard work in accomplishing this. We would also like to thank all the people who helped with branch pick up, tee boxes, and painting the clubhouse. I'd also like to thank Andy Taylor for sharing the cost of the new fountain.

Signal Point has once again received a grant from the Lippard-Clawiter Foundation. This year the money will be used for the removal and planting of trees. We are very grateful to have their continued support.

Over the past year, we have made some upgrades to the course. The bathrooms in the clubhouse were finished, we painted the inside of the clubhouse, leveled 2 and 7 tee boxes, started construction of a new women's tee box on 1, and purchased 10 new golf carts. We also had a main water line break by 3, but we were able to get it fixed before any major damage was done.

The Board is pleased to announce that the rates/fees will remain unchanged for 2021. We will be having the annual meeting at the Ag Center on March 26th at 6 p.m. There are bylaw changes to vote on as well as 3 board positions up for election. Finally, thanks to all of our great members for making 2020 another successful year at Signal Point.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Ag Center
March 26, 2021
6 pm

**3 board positions up for election

**Bylaw changes

LIPPARD-CLAWITER GRANT

\$10,000

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joey Diekhans, President
Rex Baack, Vice President
Orry Fruit
David Scott
Dave Danitz
Julie Bowers
Ernie Fultz

Cameron Tuss, Greens' Supt
Mimi Heydon, Sec/Treasurer

Cam's Corner

I know that a lot of people are glad that 2020 is behind us and are hoping that 2021 will be more of a "normal" year. Only time will tell. There were some obvious changes to how golf was played last year. The major differences were not being able to remove the flagstick and having the foam in the bottom of the cups and not having rakes in the sand traps. Some other less noticeable changes included not putting the ball washers and water coolers out. From a golfing standpoint, these new rules were an inconvenience. From a maintenance standpoint, they were an unplanned welcome. A lot of time was saved not doing normal tasks and spent working on other areas. Most of which seemed to be cleaning up branches and limbs after wind storms. Speaking of trees, about 12-14 green ash trees died the last year. The county extension agent said it was due to a weather event that occurred the previous fall. Those and several other trees will be removed this winter. We are also planning on removing all of the old willow trees. This will be a larger project and will take more time to complete. The Lippard-Clawiter Foundation gave the golf course \$10,000 to go towards trees (removal and planting new ones).

Last year, we had several member workdays. The first one was in the spring when we cleaned up branches and twigs. There was one to strip the sod off #2 and #7 tee boxes. We had a small work party to roughly level those tee boxes. Finally, there was a large group of people that showed up to sod the tee boxes. The list of volunteers too long to thank everyone individually, but I want to thank everyone for the help. It is great to see members and guests help with projects and take pride in the golf course. The newly sodded tees were open for play last fall. There are plans to build a new forward tee on hole one and a tournament tee behind the main tee on hole two.

In September, we had a major irrigation line break right outside of the pump house near the right-side sand trap on #3. Once we had it excavated, we found that a 6" tee and about 4 feet of 6" pipe had cracked. We all agreed that it was caused by cottonwood roots that wrapped around and growing alongside the pipe and fittings. Eventually, the force of the roots and the water caused it to crack. Luckily, it happened during the day and was spotted right away. If the break had happened during the night, who knows how much of #3 approach and green would have been washed away.

On a final note, this will be my last season as your Golf Course Superintendent. My family moved to Great Falls in November 2019, and I commuted to Fort Benton last season and will again this year. For me to do the job how I want it done is hard to do when I can't be there all the time. I do have very capable staff, but irrigation is the main issue. The main irrigation needs a "babysitter" for lack of better words, and the river pump always needs to be monitored. And, there is the commute itself. There was an issue with a \$6,000 deer one morning. So, here is the plan for this season. Connor Debruycker, who has worked for me in the past and who recently received his Horticulture Degree from MSU, will be back to work for the entire season. My job is to pass on to him, all of the ins and outs of Signal Point and turf management in general, that I have learned over the last 24 years. Then in 2022, Connor will be your new Superintendent. To round out the team for this season, Marta Ferguson and Justin Cartwright will be back. I look forward to seeing everyone in the spring. Be ready for a member workday, there are already millions of sticks to clean up.



2021 ANNUAL FEE SCHEDULE

Member Type	\$100 Certificate	Non-Certificate	Other	Carts
Family	\$615.00	\$645.00	\$455.00 new	Inside \$410.00 Outside \$315.00
Couple	\$530.00	\$570.00		
Single	\$410.00	\$440.00	\$300.00 new	
College Student	\$195.00			
Senior +70	\$105.00			
Senior Couple	\$320.00	\$350.00		
	\$440.00	\$470.00		

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____



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