Disc Golf Pennsylvania

Winter 2004 (vol. 2, no. 1) **Bringing PA Disc Golfers Together**

PA Disc Golf News in Brief

DG Course Projects Forge Ahead

Course development throughout Pennsylvania continues to move forward with at least five different venues now entertaining proposals or continuing construction. The Nockamixon SP now has 11 pole holes in the ground and two more are delivered. The Happy Valley DGC in State College is nearing township approval of a nine-hole demonstration course to be installed later this year. In Bethlehem, PA, 19 pole holes have been delivered for installation at the East Reservoir Course. In Western PA, Deer Lakes Park (Allegheny County) has been in the construction plan, since 2001. This may be the year the course finally gets installed. Moraine State Park in northwestern PA has definitively expressed an interest in getting a course in. Any new courses in PA are welcome, since PDGA directory listings actually dropped from 26 to 25 courses in 2003. That was after gaining three new listings after 2002.

Students Make, Install Course

The Conestoga Valley High School students really know how to work together, as the Technical Education metal studies class planned, produced, and provided quality pole holes for use by the Physical Education Dept. In addition, other students made signs for the nine-hole course that is now installed on campus. Congratulations and great teamwork Conestoga.

Big Arm to Take a Year Off

After growing the Big Arm Classic into a tournament that was attended by players from Maine to Maryland, the Pocono Disc Golf Club has opted to take 2004 off in order to regroup and re-energize for what will hopefully be a renewal of the event in 2005. The hard work, thorough preparation, and outstanding execution of the Big Arm will be missed. Adding to the tournament vacancy on the PDGA and MADC schedule is information that the park was interested in reorganizing some of the scenic layout at Prompton.

PA Leads MADC in Grassroots

Pennsylvania disc golf continues to provide grassroots disc golf leadership in the five-state Mid-Atlantic region. Of the 100 events now listed on the MADC Web site, PA will be hosting 49 of them. Yet of those 49, only 14 will be PDGA-sanctioned, suggesting that most state efforts are local, grassroots affairs.

Disc Golf Should Partner with other Disc Sports to Truly Grow

Disc Golf has often been described as "The Sport of the Future." Yet, I am still left wondering when the future will finally get here. Progress has certainly been made and some risks have paid off, but the reality is that recent efforts to grow disc golf have been met with mixed results.

While many of us applaud PDGA's support of DiscTV, I contend it was ahead of its time primarily because of the lack of enough courses for viewers to visit once they had seen the show. More regionally, we are scratching our heads wondering how to get more pro players to our tournaments. And while courses now exist in 22 nations, disc golf has not yet capitalized on its presence in the 2001 World Games; unlike ultimate, disc golf is not a listed event for the 2005 games.

On the positive side, PDGA membership is growing, purses passed $1 million in 2003, and a National Disc Golf Center is in the works. Yet, many of us are still trying to figure out how we can catch the same fire as the X-Games.

Here's a hint—the X-Games are not just skateboarding, or bike-riding, or wall-climbing, but a combination of all these. Disc golf too should partner with other frisbee sports in competitions, in recreation, and organizationally to realize our game's true potential. Only then will frisbee sports be credible, saleable, and marketable for TV broadcast, to gain sustained corporate sponsorship, and to grow into the game we know it can be. *JD FLYER, Editor*

Students from the Conestoga Valley H.S. (Lancaster) Technical Sciences Metals class show off their newly manufactured pole hole, now installed on campus with 8 others.

Club Fundraising Should be Slow and Steady to Ease Burden

While many of us might not like to admit it, the more money we can accrue in our club treasuries, the more flexibility and leverage we have when conducting our events. Over the last few years, debate has centered on escalating entry fees for tournaments. Here, I offer some advice for growing your club's treasury in a slow and steady manner. This may go a long way in avoiding tournament sticker shock.

1. Cap Ace Payouts at $50 or $100
During doubles and local events, make sure to aggressively collect $1 from each player for the ace pot. But cap your payout at $50 or $100, so that, once you reach a certain balance, all the subsequent donations will be profit.

2. Consider Selling Discs as a Club
Delegate a responsible club member to coordinate selling discs at the course. Set modest prices, which over the long-haul will attract buyers and steadily grow your club's nest egg. Call for a discounted price list I offer to PA clubs.

3. Run a Beef 'n Brew for your Club
While this might require more work, ask a local caterer and Fire Hall to help run your annual Beef 'n Brew. Sell tickets in advance (nonrefundable) at an affordable, but profitable rate, and you just might be able to lower those tournament entrance fees.

Devin Frederick, Joe Klosky, and Joe Mela represented PA at the USDGC's in Rock Hill.

Disc Golf Pennsylvania

Publisher & Editor
Dr. John G. Duesler, Jr.
74 Radburn Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215)914-0677 Voice
jgduesler@bioteca.com
http://bioteca.com/discgolfpa/

Disc Golf Pennsylvania: 2003 Annual Report

Distribution: 224 mailed (Fall 2003 Edition), ~50 handed out (Fall 2003)
Readership (est.): ~300
Visitors to Web Site (May through October): 22-70 per month
Income:

Donations (from James Davis)	$ 100
Advertising (Leh. Val. DC, Hickory Run)	$ 50
Out of Pocket	$ 461.85
	Total= $ 611.85

Expenses:

Postage (a total of 855 pieces in 2003)	$ 316.35
Paper/Envelopes	$ 26.16
Toner	$ 94.34
Course Support (Nockamixon Fund)	$ 100
Player Sponsorship (USDGC State Rep)	$ 75
	Total= $ 611.85

Summary:
Being the first year of *DG PA*, our objective was to establish a common ground upon which disc golfers could inform, promote, and communicate all the great things that are happening in our Keystone State. Since there has been a historical divide between what happens in western PA and what happens in eastern PA, this newsletter seeks to bring the two ends closer together—and I believe we are doing that. Courses in Indiana, Hanover, State College, and Altoona are beginning to bridge disc golf activities throughout our big state. This year, through advertising and sponsorship, *DG PA* will now attempt to gain better financial footing, not just for the newsletter, but for the continuation of course expansion throughout Pennsylvania. It is my sincere wish to make PA the best disc golf state in the nation and, with your hard work and commitment, I know that wish will come true.

Thanks for your continued support! JD FLYER

PA to Bid on '05 PDGA Am Worlds

The Lehigh Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau has expressed an interest in working with PA disc golf leaders to win PDGA approval for hosting the 2005 Amateur World Championships. While the details are rather preliminary, we are currently conducting meetings with the bureau, chamber of commerce, local disc golf clubs, and other MADC leaders to develop a proposal that will bring the world's best to our great commonwealth.

Certainly much work still needs to be done just to get the proposal completed, and we know that there is already a bid in for the same event. Regardless, there is no doubt that the Lehigh Valley, with its local and regional club support, lodging facilities, tourist attractions, and growing number of fabulous disc golf courses would be a superior venue for this coveted event. Keep posted for further details in *Disc Golf Pennsylvania*.

Local PA Clubs Rally to Sponsor State Flag at the USDGC's

Pennsylvania continues to provide a leadership role on the national disc golf scene. The most recent example was the extraordinary level of sponsorship provided by local PA disc golf clubs to the USDGC. We raised in excess of $355 for the event, including more clubs than any other state.

The sponsoring clubs listed in the USDGC Commemorative Program were: Pocono DGA: Spinning Bees; Pittsburgh FDS; Hanover Area DC; Tinicum Owls; Duck Golf Club; Lancaster Area Frisbee Sports; French Creek Dead Dogs; F.E. Walter Dam; Bucks County Whitetails; Friends of Sedgley Woods; Flying Squirrels; IUP College Lodge; Jordan Creek Barking Spiders; LV Stonecutters; Pinchot SP; Disc-go Links; Hickory Run DG; and Happy Valley DGC. Thanks to all!

Support Your Local Ice Bowl!

Advertising Rates for *Disc Golf PA*

Circulation for Winter 2004 issue: 228
Our advertising contracts run in one, two, and four issue rate schedules. If you provide the 228-250 copies of the ad, omit the printing costs. Otherwise, we will handle the printing and mailing of your ad. Call me for more details.

#	mailing	printing	total
1	$25	$5	$30
2	$45	$10	$55
4	$75	$20	$95

Disc Golfers Asked to Join PDGA during 2004 Membership Drive

Pennsylvania disc golfers are being asked to join the PDGA in 2004 and support the organization that provides governance, oversight, promotion, and credibility to our great game.

Whether you play in one PDGA-sanctioned event or ten, being an active member of the PDGA gives you the benefit of being a card-carrying member of largest disc golf organization in the world, plus gets you a subscription to the quarterly-published *Disc Golf World News* magazine. Many consider this publication alone worth the price of membership.

You can (re)join the PDGA by using the application found in this mailing or by visiting the PDGA's Web site at: http://www.pdga.com/.

With your membership dues, the PDGA will continue to grow from its current level of nearly 8,500 players, as well as guide the rules of the game, set disc standards, mandate tournament quality, and insure course specifications. Recent efforts to calculate player ratings has allowed all of us to objectively measure our performance in tournament play, as well as identify how tough various courses are playing.

And if you do not consider yourself a tournament player, joining the PDGA might be the kick you need to give it a try. There are divisions for every skill level, and, more importantly, you will receive great support and encouragement along the way.

I urge you to consider joining the PDGA in 2004, whether its for the first time or an overdue renewal.

PROFESSIONAL DISC GOLF ASSOCIATION
TOUR PLAYER

Next Issue…Spring DG in PA!
Featuring… Local Club Newsletter & Web Site Directory; Tips for Proposing a DG Course; Construction Updates, & more!

E-mail me for FREE subscription
Ad Deadline, Last Week in March