

Member Spotlight - Ronda Henderson

By Suzanne Desmarais



What kind of year did Ronda have in 2023? She won the Nevada State Senior Amateur, the Nevada State Quad, and the Tournament of Champions!

In addition to qualifying for the USGA Senior Amateur, she was the WSNGA Team Play captain for Boulder City and motivated her team to a first-place overall finish.

And, to top it all off, Ronda was named the WSNGA Inaugural Player of the Year 2023! Ronda was extremely honored to be presented by Rusty Beckel as the Player of the Year but knows that without ladies like Rusty and Sherry Jackson, this award would not have been possible.

Ronda has been a member of SNGABW for three years. She is also a member of Reflection Bay and Boulder City. She joined SNGABW for a couple of reasons. The Reflection Bay group doesn't have a lot of women on their roster, and Business Women offered the opportunity to play many different courses. Her interest in golf was sparked, like a lot of us, by a former boyfriend at the age of 19. But she was also a multi-sport athlete playing soccer, softball, and basketball along with coaching and refereeing/umpiring. Ronda was not playing golf that often and then quit for 10 years as growing her two businesses took most of her time. She was able to play with her husband at Anthem on the weekends.

Ronda has been playing golf for about 25 years off and on, but when she was able work on a part time basis, she started to really apply herself to the game. She retired in 2020 and golf became her sole focus!

Her favorite local golf courses are Reflection Bay and LV National. Ronda's dream golf courses to play would be Augusta and Riveria.

Asked about the representation of women in golf, Ronda recalled that, 30 years ago, when she started going out, she would get push back from guys – they would want to give her a lesson, or be resentful being paired with her, until they saw her hit the ball (sound familiar, Ladies?). Her quote - I don't play for dinner, drinks or dates and I



don't play for free! She feels women in golf now are more accepted but have a long way to go. She believes that the USGA could pay The US Open winners the same purse, instead of the dramatic difference in purses currently offered. Equal representation is important to her.

Ronda's golfing routine includes playing 5 – 6 days a week. She likes to be at the golf course about an hour before her tee time. Her routine includes putting for about 20 minutes, then hitting balls on the range for about 20 minutes. She always packs a snack.

Ronda's favorite club in her bag is her Callaway Epic Driver. She plays Callaway Chrome Soft balls and insists on leather gloves. She has a wide selection of summer bucket hats, and switches to a baseball cap in the winter. Her must have golf tool is a retractable ball mark tool –

no chance of her getting stabbed while it's in her pocket!

When asked about her favorite aspect of golf, Ronda enthusiastically spoke of her love of competition! Casual golf is fine, but she loves the pressure and challenges of competing. Getting better is extremely rewarding to her. And she loves the comradery of playing golf. She met 90% of her dearest friends through golf.

Before she injured herself in January of 2022, and was off for 9 months, she carried a 0 – 1 handicap. Her goal is to get back there. (She is on her way there with a 2.3 right now!)

Advice that she would give to other members? If you are new to golf, take lessons! Do not expect to get better overnight! Be open to the experience, don't

apologize for not being a great player, and DON'T BE SLOW!!!

Ronda's other Achievements include: WSNCA State Delegate and she Qualified for the Senior Women's open in 2019. She hopes to qualify for the upcoming Senior Women's Open and the Senior Women's Amateur.

I hope you all get a chance to meet and play with Ronda. She is a true champion, an inspirational golfer, and a delightful person!

