Golfers do much more than play at MAGA tournament

By KATIE CASTATOR
Sun Sports Writer

This item is for people who believe that golf associations are organized strictly for the pursuit of golfing pleasure.

It's not true, folks. Sure golfers enjoy the game, that's the idea. Worriers enjoy worrying, skiers enjoy skiing, eaters enjoy eating ... or they wouldn't do it.

But the San Bernardino Chapter of the Mexican American Golf Association recently proved there is another dimension to golfing. It's called caring.

Sept. 14, MAGA members from throughout Southern California joined the local chapter at San Bernardino Public Golf Course in a 18-hole benefit tourney for 33 year-old Gene Ortiz of Rialto.

Ortiz, the father of two young children, underwent cancer surgery this summer. And hospital and post-operative treatment costs had become an added burden.

So MAGA decided to help. Members not only entered the tourney, paying $20 each, they also donated goods and services to be auctioned off.

The bottom line was *mucho dinero* — $3,500 for the family.

Flight winners in the tourney: A flight—Mark Valencia, low gross, and Chico Flores, low net; B flight—Rudy Sanchez, low gross, and Bob Flores, low net; C flight—Eddie Martinez, low gross, and Manuel Oropeza, low net.

and D flight—Sal Rodriguez Sr., low gross, and Ray Santoya, low net.

Pioneer Pass Golf

The longest golf course in the world is opened each year for the annual Pioneer Pass Golf Challenge. The 27-mile course begins at Baldwin Lake and ends at Blue Skies Country Club in Yucca Valley.

This year's 22nd annual version kicks off Friday with a no-host cocktail party and rules discussion at Blue Skies. Then after a 6 a.m. breakfast on Saturday, the 60 entrants will be transported to Baldwin Lake for a day of shooting for holes that range in length from a few yards to 1¼ miles.

Spotters and judges will accompany the players. Spectators can catch the 8th hole at Pioneertown's Hayden Ranch at noon.

On Sunday, a traditional round of golf will be played at Blue Skies.

Chip Shots

El Rancho Verde CC will host the **Stars of the Future Golf Classic Pro-Am** Nov. 5 with a noon shotgun start. A $55 entry fee, includes greens fee, cart, buffet, door prizes and a chance to play golf with one of 36 outstanding young club professionals from the Southland selected by the PGA. Entries close Oct. 31.

ERVCC's Jerk and Jill will be played Oct. 19. The Scotch two-some play starts at noon. A fee of $15 per couple includes greens fee, prizes and refreshments. Interested members may sign up in the pro shop.

The sixth annual **City of Rialto Golf Championship** features individual low gross and partners best ball competition Nov. 29 and 30 at ERVCC. The event is open to all amateur golfers with a SCGA Nonresident handicap. The entry fee is $90 per team or $45 per person. Entries close Nov. 26. For additional information, call 875-5300.

ERVCC Men's Club annual Fall Festival (member-member or member-guest) is set for Oct. 11 and 18. Call 875-5348 for information.

The San Bernardino County Ladies Amateur Golf Tournament, which was to begin today at San Bernardino Public Golf Course, has been canceled because of a conflict in dates. The event has been rescheduled for Oct. 17.

golf notes

A few spots remain in the **Mickelodi Class, Women's Professional Golf Tournament Pro-Am** Sept. 28 at Victoria Club in Riverside. Joining the regular group of WPGT players will be Shirley Englehorn and Shirley Spork, both teaching pros in the Palm Springs area and former LPGA players. The entry fee is $50 for Victoria members and $60 for non-members. Entry forms are available at Victoria.

The first annual **Hesperia Open Golf Tournament,** sponsored by the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce, begins at 8 a.m. Oct. 26 at Hesperia CC. The entry fee is $20. For information call Alex Rickards at 244-6201, Doug Hunt at 244-0018 or Kervin Harrison at 244-5106.

Jurupa Hills CC has a new assistant pro. Former San Bernardino Valley College player Mark Lyons joined head pro Ben Robinson there this month. Lyons was a member of the Mission Conference's all-star team and was the No. 3 player at the University of Missouri.

Gary Blumenberg, a former assistant pro at Redlands CC, is teaching at Orange Show Golf Course.

The fourth annual **Braille Invitational Blind Golfers' Classic** will be held Dec. 5-6 at Mission Hills CC. The event, which features the top 70 blind golfers in the world, has a $5,000 professional purse this year.

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