



## **New member beats the odds after golfing only a year**

*Jennifer Wood, who joined EWGA-PDX this spring because she's "obsessed with golf," had her first hole-in-one on May 16, using a 7-iron on the 130-yard No. 8 at Colwood Golf Center. Here are her recollections about her 12,500-to-1 shot:*

### **What did you think when you hit it? Did you see it go in?**

It was a good, clean shot. Both Karen Alexander, my playing partner, and I saw the initial landing spot. I turned to clean my other golf balls while Karen took her tee shot. As we approached the green, I couldn't see my ball. I thought it was odd, and wondered if maybe someone was pranking me, but when I walked up to the hole, my ball was in the cup. Neither Karen nor I saw the ball roll in, but to be honest, we may not have been able to see it because of the placement of the pin. Colwood has some really tricky greens!

### **Did it fly right on target? Describe your shot.**

It was a well-struck, lofted shot, right at the pin, maybe 1-2 yards pin high. Hole 8 is an uphill hole (blue tee to blue flag is 135 yards). There's a bunker to the left of the green, as well as a bunker at the back of the green, with trees to the right of the green. The green is large and has distinct plateaus (higher in back, lower in front).

### **What was your reaction when you got up to the hole and saw it was in?**

Disbelief! I seriously looked around to see if someone was pranking me! I made Karen come look at it to verify. I was especially grateful she and I were playing together that night because I often golf Colwood alone. It would have been so frustrating to make a hole-in-one without a witness!

### **Did you win anything? Did you buy drinks for everybody in the clubhouse?**

I won a one-week stay in Mexico, courtesy of Kemper Sports, to one of their two golf properties. (I haven't decided which one or when to use it yet!) As for drinks, unfortunately, both Karen and I were pressed for time so we took an IOU. (I don't know who or how many people were in the clubhouse at the time, but in my excitement and rush to leave, I committed a faux pas!!)

### **How long have you been golfing? Do you have a handicap yet?**

I took my first golf lesson about 15 months ago (February 2015) with John Bowen. The good news was there weren't any bad habits to break; the bad news is I was starting from the very beginning. I got hooked immediately! I spent most

of last year mainly at Colwood, either on the driving range or playing nine holes. I did venture out to other courses last year (mostly for charitable fundraiser scramble events), but I never established a handicap. I just enrolled in GHIN and have four official rounds of 18 holes under my belt now. (Two rounds at 101 in San Diego, two rounds in Portland at 113 and 114).

**Why did you join EWGA?**

I joined EWGA because I'm obsessed with golf. I would play all day, every day, if I thought I could get away with it (and afford it)! My husband, Roger, isn't quite as enthused by the game as I am, but he would play with me occasionally, until recently when he was diagnosed with bursitis in his shoulder. I'm not shy about walking on as a single, but sometimes I really want to play with someone I know! I met Marilyn Rae, interestingly, as walk-ons at Colwood. She invited me to consider joining EWGA, which was part two of a one-two punch because Dennis Dolin, head pro at Colwood, had suggested I look into EWGA maybe 1-2 weeks earlier. After playing with Marilyn and her partner (also an EWGA member who recently moved to Iowa), I saw that I could meet some fun ladies who have a serious interest in golf. It seemed like the perfect fit for me, and it has continued to impress me with the opportunities to play different courses, in leagues, and with a great group of ladies!

**Any other comments?**

Getting this hole-in-one was a lot of luck! Afterward, I was so excited I flubbed the next hole! I know some amazing golfers with single-digit handicaps who have been golfing over a decade, and have never shot an ace. A hole-in-one doesn't necessarily mean someone is a good golfer! (As evidenced by many of my recent rounds!) But it is an incentive to get out there and keep working at accuracy on distance and direction!