

John Olive hovered within striking distance, then claimed his second straight SCGA Senior Amateur over the last three holes at The Ranch Course at The Alisal

The late birdies fly

For as long as John Olive maintains his membership in the SCGA (he belongs at The Farms in Rancho Santa Fe), he figures to be the man to beat in the SCGA Senior Amateur championship.

Olive, a Phoenix resident, who has won amateur golf titles of varying descriptions in several western states, rallied from three strokes off the pace to score a two-stroke victory this year at The Ranch Course at The Alisal. Olive's 73-68 — 141 total was the second best total in the 25-year history of the over-55 event, bested only by his own 137 last year at Victoria Club.

Bud Bradley captured the accompanying Super Senior (age 65 and over) crown.

Although the field was missing several top performers (former and current California Senior champions Mike Riley and Ted Lyford and 2001 U.S. Senior Amateur champion Kemp Richardson among them), Olive still topped a quality group that included co-first round leaders Lee Davis and Frank Merhar. Davis is a former SCGA Amateur champion and Merhar won the SCGA Senior the last time



John Olive flipped on the shotmaking switch when he had to in defending his SCGA Senior Amateur title.

it was held at the pastoral Ranch Course in the Santa Ynez Valley four years ago.

Merhar, who celebrated his 57th birthday on the day he won at The Alisal in 1998, handed in a steady 70 on the first day, recovering from bogeys at Nos. 1 and 2 (his 10th and 11th holes). Two of his birdies came at par-3 holes.

Davis, the 1975 SCGA Amateur champion who just missed out on a plate a year ago, was 3 over-par at the turn on the first round but lit up the back side with a 31 that included birdies on his last three holes.

Senior newcomers Peter McDade of El Cajon and Jacques Courtois of Santa Barbara came in at even-par. Meanwhile, Olive, couldn't get untracked, shooting a 1-over 73 in the first round.

During the second round, Davis maintained control until the eighth hole, when he double bogeyed and followed it with a bogey at the ninth. He recovered with birdies at the 10th and 12th, but dropped two strokes on the penultimate hole to the eventual champion when he had to lay up at the difficult 420-yard 17th and made bogey.

Double bogeys at par-3s were disastrous for Merhar. He bogeyed the eighth, then doubled the ninth. He rallied with birdies at 10 and 12, and another at the par-five 13th, but gave it back when he left his ball in a bunker at the 14th, doubling that par-3 as well. A birdie at 15 was too little, too late.

Olive's locomotive began gathering



Former SCGA Amateur champ Lee Davis had the Senior Amateur crown in his sights until the second-to-last hole.



Ron Ramsey took home his first SCGA award plate with a 1-over-par performance.

steam when he birdied the par-3 ninth. He slipped with a bogey 5 at No. 12, but made long birdie putts at both the 377-yard 16th and the 420-yard 17th to assure his 4-under par 68 and provide the margin of victory.

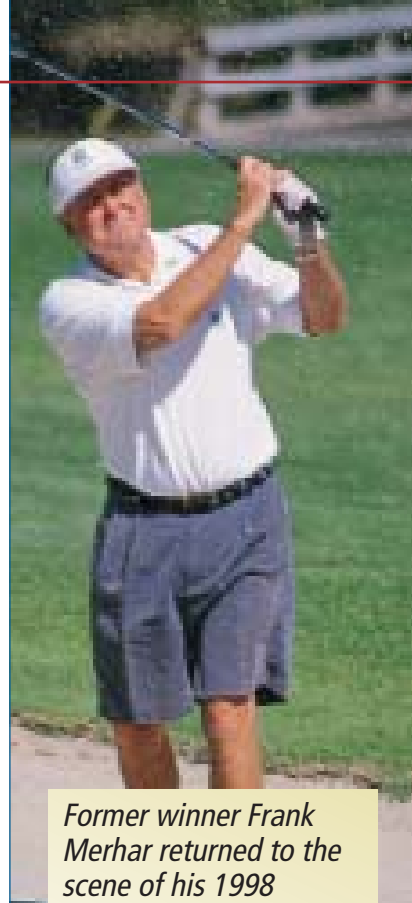
Olive is a five-time and current Colorado Senior stroke play champion (he's won the match play event the last two years, too), and is currently ranked second in the senior standings in the Arizona GA.

Courtois was steady, but couldn't mount a charge after going out in 1-over with a bogey-bogey finish, leaving his even-par back nine only good for fourth. Ramsey traveled a different road with similar results. He birdied the eighth and ninth holes to get back to even-par and played par golf all the way in.

Bradley, of Santa Monica, whose long career includes a U.S. Junior Amateur title and British and Canadian Senior Amateur championships, added another win with his 1-over-par performance in his first Super Senior competition, held concurrently with the Senior Amateur. His total, in fact, would have netted him a top five finish in the "main" event. Bradley claimed two consecutive SCGA Senior titles in the early '90s. For the second year in a row, Joe Gallardo of Los Angeles was runner-up, trailing Bradley by three shots.

Bradley opened both his rounds by birdieing his first hole, the 493-yard 10th. But for a bogey string on holes 5, 6 and 7 coming in on the second day, Bradley would have played sub-par golf.

— Mike Peck



Former winner Frank Merhar returned to the scene of his 1998 championship and shared the midway lead, only to finish four back.



Newcomer Jacques Courtois' long putter helped propel him to a top-five finish.

Senior Moments

■ John Olive's back-to-back victories earned him a spot on the SCGA's 2002 Seaver Cup team in the biennial matches earlier this month at Ojai Valley Inn and Spa (for results, log online to www.scga.org/special).



■ Richard Nordlund (pictured) had an ace during the first round of the Senior Amateur with his five iron at the 14th hole.

■ The 2003 SCGA Senior Amateur and Super Senior Amateur will be played September 22-23 at The Farms GC.



Top finishers in the SCGA Senior Amateur were Frank Merhar, Lee Davis, champion John Olive, Ron Ramsey and Jacques Courtois.

**SCGA Senior Amateur Championship
at The Ranch Course at The Alisal
6,551 yards; par 70
FINAL 54-hole results:**

141 — John Olive, Phoenix, 73-68.
143 — Lee Davis, Thousand Oaks, 70-73.
144 — Frank Merhar, La Jolla, 70-74. 145 — Jacques Courtois, Santa Barbara, 72-73; Ron Ramsey, San Diego, 73-72.
146 — Paul Kay, Encino, 73-73. 148 — Peter McDade, El Cajon, 72-76; Terry Andrews, Encinitas, 74-74; Tom Eastlack, Menifee, 75-73. 149 — Arthur Arns, Rancho Santa Fe, 75-74; Mas Matsumoto, Monterey Park, 77-72. 150 — Len Santoro, Fountain Valley, 73-77; Robert Irwin, Whittier, 74-76; Tom Mahoney, Long Beach, 74-76; Richard Davis, Los Angeles, 75-75; Richard Nordlund, Santa Barbara, 77-73. 152 — Joe Byrom, San Diego, 74-78; Peter Daley, Newport Beach, 75-77; Preston Davis, San Juan Capistrano, 75-77; Lenny Ignelzi, Encinitas, 75-77; James Saivar, San Diego, 76-76; Barry Weatherbee, La Verne, 77-75; Mike Schell, Los Angeles, 77-75; William Klump, North Hollywood, 79-73. 153 — Stephen Wilson, Solana Beach, 76-77. 154 — Tony Lehman, Palm Springs, 74-80; Garrett Garland, Northridge, 76-78; Karl Stewart, Chino Hills, 79-75. 155 — Farrell Hinkle, Costa Mesa, 76-79; John Erdhaus, Hacienda Heights, 78-77; Phil Patterson, La Jolla, 81-74. 156 — Paul Ladin, Westlake Village, 77-79; Ted Safford, San Diego, 80-76. 158 — Robert Latiano, Carlsbad, 77-81; Ed Rieu, Bermuda Dunes, 80-78.
159 — Ron Deovlet, Westlake Village, 75-84; Rick Scott, Camarillo, 80-79; David Irwin, Long Beach, 83-76. 160 — Ken Palmer, Helendale, 78-82; Robert Wernick, Rancho Mirage, 78-82; Tom McCutcheon, Los Alamitos, 79-81; Lloyd Sappington, Rancho Santa Fe, 80-80. 161 — Michael Flanagan, San Marino, 79-82; Donald Whitaker, Newport Beach, 80-81; Burt Swart, Long Beach, 80-81. 162 — Martyn Temple, Anaheim, 78-84; Ronald Koepsell, Los Angeles, 83-79; Larry Sheldrup, Fallbrook, 84-82. 163 — Brian MacGregor, La Canada, 81-82; Bob Imlay, San Diego, 83-80; Robert Vales, Cardiff, 84-79. 164 — John

Sixt, San Diego, 80-84. 165 — Larry Hampsten, Laguna Niguel, 82-83; Robert Corry, Hermosa Beach, 82-83. 166 — Ralph Rubenstein, La Quinta, 85-81. 167 — Robert Forster, Huntington Beach, 86-81. 168 — Jeffrey Fritz, Carlsbad, 82-86; Dennis Van Der Maaten, Carlsbad, 84-84. 170 — Al Cariss, Murrieta, 81-89. 173 — Thomas Walker, La Quinta, 85-88. 184 — John Richards, San Diego, 93-91.

WD — Spencer Beard, Westchester; Steve Lindstrum, Solvang; Steve Cherry, Tehachapi, 80-WD; Dave Hellman, Mission Viejo, 80-WD

**SCGA Super Senior Amateur Championship
At The Ranch Course at The Alisal
6,122 yards; par 70
FINAL 36-hole results:**

145 — Bud Bradley, Santa Monica, 72-73. 148 — Joe Gallardo, Los Angeles, 76-72. 152 — Roger Little, Rancho Mirage, 73-79. 153 — Robert Buckley, Downey, 74-79. 154 — Stanley Hillygus, Taft, 77-77. 155 — Joe Bolstad, Westlake Village, 78-77. 156 — Jerry Davee, San Diego, 82-74. 157 — Don Glover, Fountain Valley, 81-76; Peer Hegg, Hacienda Heights, 80-77. 158 — Russell French, Fallbrook, 80-78; Dr. Walter Kearns, Woodland Hills, 79-79. 160 — Paul Cameron, Hemet, 79-81. 161 — John Burri, Rancho Cucamonga, 80-81. 162 — George Lombino, Bermuda Dunes, 81-81; Charles Wagner, Camarillo, 80-82. 163 — Manny Hernandez, Camarillo, 83-80. 164 — James Martin, Glendora, 82-82. 165 — Richard Hill, San Diego, 83-82; Robert Burns, Laguna Woods, 77-88.



Bud Bradley's victory in the SCGA Super Senior Amateur added another title to his illustrious resume.



Super Senior top three were Joe Gallardo, Roger Little and champion Bud Bradley.

Tenacious McGihon grabs a Mid-Am

**Former SCGA
Amateur champion
makes up nine shots
on the final day to
win by one at Big
Canyon**

In case you've forgotten what a mercurial game golf can be, the story of Ed Cuff and eventual champion Scott McGihon at the 2002 SCGA Mid-Amateur Championship could serve as a reminder as clear as a sharp rap on the back of your head.

If you've followed amateur golf in the Southland for any length of time, you know Cuff's name. A former pro who returned to the amateur ranks more than a decade ago, Cuff won the California



Playing the final day's low round earned Scott McGihon an unexpected victory in the SCGA Mid-Amateur.



Left-hander Mike Turner was the only golfer to match par over the final two-rounds at Big Canyon. He tied for fourth, with fellow Woodland Hills CC member Tim Hogarth.



Bill Coleman was right when he thought he had a chance to finish in the top three (which carries an exemption from California Amateur qualifying) at the SCGA Mid-Amateur. He tied for second, just a stroke behind the winner.

Amateur in 1998. That was four years after he lost in the finals, despite handing Stanford freshman-to-be Tiger Woods his only match play loss that summer in the semifinals — Woods' final defeat as an amateur player. Ed's the reigning SCGA Four-Ball champion with 2002 U.S. Senior open low amateur Bob Clark.

At Big Canyon CC in late August, the Murrieta resident was at his best on the first day (with its two rounds). Cuff found the conservative approach rewarding. "I hit only six drivers (over the 36 holes)," Cuff told the Orange County Register's John Reger, "and I'm putting better than I have in quite a while." Actually, not much was wrong with any of Cuff's game that first day. On one particularly difficult bunker shot from well below the hole, Cuff left the ball within 18 inches of the cup. "I don't think I could throw it up there any better than that," he said with a smile.

Had Cuff not slipped to a double bogey at the 18th hole, he would have had an eight-shot lead over the field instead of six after 36 holes. As it was, he was the only player under par at the demanding Big Canyon CC layout. Even though the field, as always, was top quality, few entertained thoughts of actually catching "Cuffy."

However, McGihon did just that, from nine shots in arrears, winning by a single shot over the first-day leader and another steady closer, Bill Coleman of Huntington Beach. Another shot back were 2000 Mid-Am champion Tim Hogarth of Northridge and lefty Mike Turner of Van Nuys.

McGihon, who shared the first-round lead with Cuff, Mike Rowley and Scott Almquist of nearby Santa Ana CC, played collegiate golf (UC Irvine) often at Big Canyon, and although the course has been reworked in the meantime, he still knows the real estate.

Not that his second round would prove any of that. The eventual champ was no different than most of the field late that afternoon, playing the demanding last three holes in 5 over par to plunk down a 79. That left him in the top nine, but with the challenge ahead of gaining a stroke every other hole.

McGihon plugged away and was enjoying a 3-under-par day through No. 16, at which point he had tied Cuff, though he didn't know it. Not until he bogeyed his only hole of the day, 17, did he learn that Cuff had done the same. McGihon's critical approach to No. 18 found the green; he two-putted for his par and, as it turned out, the title.

A lot of things happen on the way from 70-70 to 80 and a downcast Cuff laid it to, "Ah, I just played bad," after the round was over. One of those shots he lost, however, attests to Cuff's status as a consummate competitive golfer. At No. 16, his ball moved ("maybe an eighth of an inch," according to SCGA board member and Big Canyon member Dennis Harwood) on the green and Cuff

called the penalty on himself.

It was at 18, the hole that had issued a storm warning with that closing double bogey the day before, that everyone on hand could see the final costly strokes — in grim detail. Cuff's drive at the 391-yard par-four kited to the left and came to earth out of bounds on the

Mid-Am Minutes

■ Scott McGihon's winning score of 219 tied the record for high score since the event was switched to 54 holes in 1998. That year, Pat Duncan shot 219 at Saticoy CC. As was the case this year, there were no rounds in the 60s that year, either.

■ Just three years ago, former U.S. Amateur Public Links and California Amateur champion Tim Hogarth lit up Victoria Club in Riverside to win the title with just 204 strokes over 54 holes. Any two of Hogarth's rounds would have won all but three of the previous Mid-Amateur titles when it was

conducted over 36 holes. Speaking of Hogarth, he was accompanied by a proud caddie through the final round — his grandmother, Betty.

■ One of this year's contestants was Johnny Holmes, whose dad, Ed, is on the SCGA Board of Directors. Dad wasn't at the tournament, but he followed the proceedings via the SCGA web site from Ireland, where he was on a golfing vacation.

■ The 2003 SCGA Mid-Amateur will be played August 26-27 at Mesa Verde CC in Costa Mesa. Two rounds will be played the first day.

hillside, only to bound back in, but still in a lie that required him to punch out to the fairway. When he did, the ball remained in short rough and his approach flew the flagstick, barely avoiding the lake to the right and back of the hole. He had to chip in for a par to tie and couldn't do it.

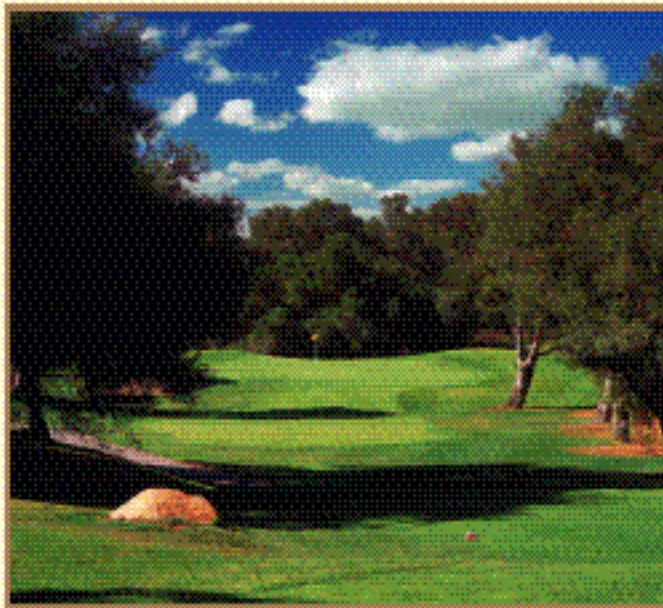
With McGihon's victory, the soft-spoken secondary-school teacher (and high school golf coach) from Bermuda Dunes, lengthened an interesting list: in the five years since the Mid-Amateur championship became a 54-hole event, McGihon is the fourth player to complete a Mid-Am-SCGA Amateur double. Only Tim Hogarth, who tied for fourth this year and won in '99, doesn't have an SCGA Amateur title to his credit (he is a former California Amateur and U.S. Amateur Public Links champion).

Big Canyon, the site of the U.S. Women's Mid-Am a year ago, surrendered zero rounds in the 60s, equalling the Saticoy total the year Pat Duncan won it with a total equal to McGihon's 219.

The second round at Big Canyon produced an average score of almost 80 (79.64) and only eight rounds were played below par 72. And, yes, No. 18 (which is No. 9 in the course's usual configuration) was the toughest of the par-fours at 4.7 strokes per player over the 54 holes.

— Mike Peck

A LOT HAS CHANGED, BUT
ONE THING REMAINS THE SAME.



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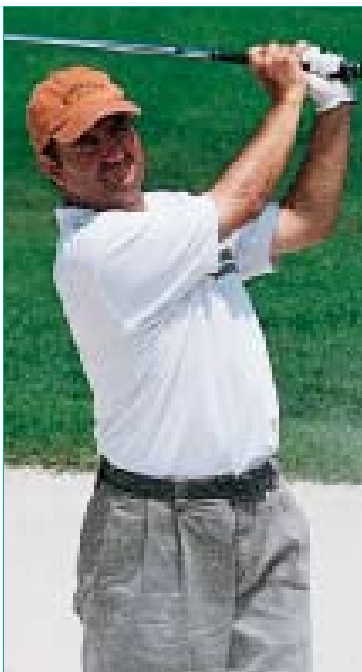
however, will be more interested in hearing that the 27-hole championship course — rated four stars by *Golf Digest* *Places to Play* — hasn't changed a bit.

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Mr. Sandman: Bunkers played no favorites during the SCGA Mid-Amateur. From left (or however they end up being placed). Fourth place finisher Tim Hogarth, runner-up Ed Cuff and first round co-leader Mike Rowley.



SCGA Mid-Amateur top finishers were, from left, champion Scott McGihon, Ed Cuff, Bill Coleman, Tim Hogarth and Mike Turner.

**19th SCGA Mid-Amateur Championship
at Big Canyon Country Club
6,941 yards; par 72**

FINAL 54-hole results:

219 — Scott McGihon, Bermuda Dunes, 70-79-70. 220 — Ed Cuff, Murrieta, 70-70-80; Bill Coleman, Huntington Beach, 73-76-71. 221 — Michael Turner, Van Nuys, 77-72-72; Tim Hogarth, Northridge, 74-72-75.

222 — Michael Rowley, San Luis Obispo, 70-76-76. 224 — Scott Almquist, Santa Ana, 70-82-72; Nick Ushijima, Coto De Caza, 75-75-74; Don Baker, Canoga Park, 77-72-75. 225 — Craig Steinberg, Van Nuys, 75-74-76.

226 — Dan Anderson, San Diego, 71-80-75; Rick Martin, Lake San Marcos, 78-72-76; Johnny Holmes, Riverside, 74-73-79. 228 — Greg Puga, Los Angeles, 73-78-77. 229 — Greg Sato, South Pasadena, 82-75-72; Kemp Richardson, Laguna Niguel, 78-76-75; Masao Sugimoto, San Diego, 75-79-75; Gary Havro, Claremont, 74-78-77.

230 — Jeffrey Payne, Garden Grove, 79-78-73; Jim Fuchs, Costa Mesa, 74-80-76; John McClure, Los Angeles 76-79-75. 232 — John Pate, Santa Barbara, 78-81-73; David Ujihara, Brea, 79-75-78; Donald O'Connor, Carlsbad, 81-75-77. 234 — Martyn Temple, Anaheim, 81-75-78; Steve Rhorer, Costa Mesa, 79-77-78; Steve Lass, Santa Barbara, 75-80-79.

235 — Dan Chappelle, San Diego, 77-82-76; Bradley Jacques, West Covina, 81-78-76; Jim Camaione, Upland, 80-78-77; Ted Lyford, Redlands, 80-77-78. 236 — Mark Nickeas, Westlake Village, 80-77-79; Scott Stewart, San Diego, 76-80-80; Gary Singer, Newport Beach, 81-74-81; Patrick Carrigan, Alhambra, 75-77-84. 237 — Scott Parker, Placentia, 79-70-78; Charlie Black, Temecula, 78-80-79; Gary Wing, Irvine, 79-79-79. 238 — Greg Grohs, Arcadia, 78-81-79; John Tamney IV, Long Beach, 79-80-79. 239 — Jaycy Igarashi, Rancho Santa Margarita, 80-79-80; Eddie Repanich, Los Angeles, 80-79-80. 240 — Jeff Johnston,

Calabasas, 80-79-81.

WD — Mike Wanamaker, Costa Mesa, 77-82. NS — Wayne Trella, Santa Barbara, 77-81.

Failed to advance to final round:

160 — Mark Fernando, San Diego, 82-78; Craig Anderson, Fallbrook, 81-79; Wayne Merich, Moorpark, 78-82; Jonathan Petke, Rancho Santa Margarita, 85-75; Greg Uberuaga, San Diego, 81-79; Thomas McKee, Carlsbad, 74-86; Howie Knodt, Chula Vista, 81-79; Geoff Park, Oceanside, 79-81. 161 — Greg Fuller, Corona Valley, 82-79; Chris Hughes, Palm Desert, 77-83; Tim Fuhrman, Laguna Niguel, 87-74; Ray Navis, Santa Barbara, 84-77. 162 — Doug Higgins, Oceanside, 77-85; 162 — Dave Quisling, Silverado, 81-81; Bill Brooks, Simi Valley, 79-83. 163 — Bobby Grassa, La Jolla, 88-75; David Oas, Carlsbad, 82-81; Rik Newby, Tustin, 80-83.

164 — James Alger, San Diego, 79-85; Jim Stevens, La Quinta, 88-76. 165 — Dan Sivadge, El Cajon, 74-91; Gary Singer, Newport Beach, 81-74; Andy Kang, Buena Park, 81-84. 166 — Jeff Johnson, Carlsbad, 82-84; Michael Guerete, Carlsbad, 83-83; Robert Darwin, Thousand Oaks, 85-81; James Gilland, Chino, 83-83; Mike Lincoln, San Diego, 79-87. 167 — Jim Myers, Oceanside, 84-83; Jerry Stenger, Palm Desert, 79-88. 168 — John Mack, Alta Loma, 81-87. 170 — Dan Donovan, Manhattan Beach, 82-88; Tim Moyers, Huntington Beach, 84-86. 171 — Eugene Medlock, Westlake Village, 86-85. 173 — Michael Curtis, Moreno Valley, 85-88. 175 — Jon McGihon, Palm Desert, 87-88.

WD — John Bridges, San Diego; Ted Mamola, Mission Viejo; Donald DuBois, Montecito; Iain Macdonald, Fullerton.