

2024 Northern Virginia Senior Amateur Championship Summary

10 July 2024 at Springfield Golf & Country Club, Springfield, VA --- The 2024 and 41st annual Northern Virginia Senior Amateur Championship concluded today with Eric Walker (Springfield) winning the title in a sudden-death playoff over fellow club-mate John Astorino (Springfield) on the 3rd extra hole. Eric shot even par 71 on day one and began the day with a one-stroke lead over John in the Senior Division, but John reversed that result on day two shooting a 2-over 73 to Eric's 3-over 74 to end up in a tie at 3-over 145.



Eric Walker (left) with John Astorino (right) at start of playoff

The playoff began on the par-4 #1 hole where both players just missed the green with their approach shots from the left rough. Both had putts just inside 10 feet for par but missed and the hole was tied. On the par-5 #2 Eric was a little outside the left green-side bunker on an up-slope in thick rough in 2 shots with John lying 4 about 4 feet from the hole. Eric's pitch shot left about 12 feet for birdie which just missed the hole; John made par to force another hole. The playoff then moved to the short par-4 #17 hole --- both players hit trees with their tee shots with John ending up well back about 150 yards from the green while Eric got a good bounce from a tree right of the cart path back into the fairway about 90 yards from the hole. John's approach ended up in the back-left corner of the green about 40 feet from the hole while Eric's approach finished about 12 feet below the hole. John's putt was long and tricky with the green sloping away from the hole and his approach putt ran about 15-18 feet past the hole. John missed his par putt and Eric made an easy 2-putt par to win the title.



Tournament Chairman Mark Boedicker with 2024 Champion Eric Walker (Springfield)

Congratulations to Eric Walker for winning the 2024 Northern Virginia Senior Championship!

Other notables in the Senior Division: Jon Krinn (Westfields) and Dan Hosek (Ft. Belvoir) tied for 3rd at 151 (+9), Chris Robb (Augustine) and Dean Griffith (Blue Ridge Shadows) tied for 5th at 152 (+10); Dan Lesando (Trump National) and Tim Vigotsky (RTJ Club) tied for 7th at 153 (+11), and Pat Mullin (Army Navy) and John Lombardozi (RTJ Club) tied for 9th at 154 (+12).

In the small Pre-Senior Division (age 50-54) which began with 5 players, Tim Hummell (Eaglewood GC) and Danny Ott (Trump National) tied at 153 (+11) with Tim winning the top spot in a scorecard playoff (USGA method --- last 9, last 6, last 3, ...). No photo of the winner is available.

In the Super-Senior Division, Harry Thomas (Washington Golf & CC), the 2015 Champion, opened with a 3-over 74 and led Mark Boedicker (RTJ Club) by 1 shot and Richard Lion (Springfield) by 3 shots after day 1. Harry was steady on day 2 with a 2-over 73 to win the division by 2 shots over Richard Lion.



Super-Senior Division winner Harry Thomas (left) with Mark Boedicker

Other notables in the Super-Senior Division: Mike Johnston (Evergreen) finished 3rd at 155 (+13); Mark Boedicker (RTJ Club) finished 4th at 158 (+16), and Brian West (Blue Ridge Shadows) finished 5th at 161 (+19).

In the Legends Division (age 70+) John Hoffman (Laurel Hill) had a 4-shot lead over Lynn Wessman (Army Navy) and a 5-shot lead over Joe Wallenfelsz (Blue Ridge Shadows) after day 1. John had the best round of the field on day 2 with an even-par 71 to win the division by 12 shots in a runaway. Joe finished 2nd at 163 (+21) and Lynn finished 3rd at 164 (+22).



Legends Division Winner John Hoffman (Laurel Hill) with Mark Boedicker

The golf course was in excellent condition despite the lack of rain and high temperatures. With the heat index above 100 both days several players withdrew from the competition before or during play on day 2. The bent grass fairways were well-watered to keep them healthy in the heat and were relatively soft which limited the roll and the course played longer than its yardage. The course was a stern test of golf with challenging greens and no players were able to shoot under par in this tournament.

We would like to thank Springfield General Manager Steve Lawson, Director of Golf Alessandra Maurtua, PGA, Head Golf Professional Casey Weston, PGA, and Assistant Golf Professional Cameron Consolvo for their outstanding support and excellent hospitality. The club staff personnel were welcoming, and it was a pleasure and privilege to play at this wonderful club!



Thanks to the players who participated in this event and for your support of Northern Virginia Golf!

Mark Boedicker (Chairman) and Lynn Wessman (Co-Chairman)

