Speakers list unveiled for National Golf Foundation Internet conference

JUPITER, Fla. — Executives from GolfWeb, America Online and Reebok will be among a broad array of speakers and panelists at the National Golf Foundation’s golf industry Internet conference in Boston in October.

The conference, scheduled for Oct. 13-15 at the Marriott Copley Place, one of the first hotels in the nation with direct Internet access capability, is titled “The Information Superhighway: Applications for the Golf Industry.”

The list of speakers who’ve committed to the conference includes experts from both inside and outside the golf industry. Some of them will be:

- Chris Marentis, general manager for sports, health and fitness channels at America Online, one of the world’s largest and most experienced providers of online services with 3.5 million customers.
- Brenda Goodell, vice president of New Media Programming for Reebok International Ltd. Goodell has overseen the company’s entry into the Internet since December 1994 when it launched its World Web site.
- H. Elliot Subin, chief executive officer of Spectra.Net, one of the most progressive of the commercial online systems whose partners include such companies as First USA Bank, MasterCard, Chemical Financial Services and The Wall Street Journal.
- Bob Vieraitis, vice president of marketing and sales for GolfWeb, one of the top consumer-oriented sites on the World Wide Web today.

“We’ve been selecting our speakers and building our program around the fact that we want this conference to meet the needs of both experienced Internet users who are seeking to strengthen their current online capabilities ... as well as those who are thinking of making the investment but want to better understand the environment before doing so,” said Charles Mayberry, the director of library resources for the NGF who is overseeing the planning and development of the conference.

The conference will open with a special four-hour introductory session for those wishing to get background and get on the basics of the World Wide Wed and today’s online technology.

The remaining two days of the conference will feature presentations and panel discussions by some of the leading Internet providers and World Wide Web site developers. Among the topics to be discussed are current and future trends in commercial online services, legal and security issues, selecting and evaluating service providers, key concepts, technology and applications and marketing, business planning and operational strategies.

There will also be an exposition during the NGF conference that will showcase the latest online hardware as well as software providers, consultants and home page developers with more than 50 companies and organizations.

Anyone wishing to register for the conference can call 1-888-ASK-4NGF. In addition, the NGF’s own World Wide Web home page (http://www.ngf.org) will carry current information about the conference and exposition.

House bill could help preserve caddie programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A bill that would simplify the tests for independent contractor status and help private clubs preserve caddie programs is working its way through Congress.

The House Ways and Means Oversight Sub-committee held two hearings in June on the issue of worker clarification. One focal point of the hearings was the bill H.R. 1972, H.R. 1972 would simplify the tests for independent contractor status. The National Club Association is spearheading The Coalition to Preserve Caddie Programs in support of this legislation and its Senate version.

According to National Club Association literature, support continues to build as Congressional supporters consider ways to move the legislation to their respective floors for a vote.

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