

## **SDGA crowns Senior Champion**

The Syracuse District Golf Association's Senior Championship was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Seven Oaks Golf Club in Hamilton, NY. A field of 67 players competed in the 36-hole stroke play competition. **Joe Russo** (Links @ Erie Village) took home top honors with a two-day total of 150. **Frank Plata** (Cazenovia), **Larry Duchaney** (Bellevue), and **Ted Northrup** (Onondaga) tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> at 156. **Mike Garofalo** (Beaver Meadows) with a 160 placed first in the Super Senior division, edging out **Phil Allen** (Bellevue) with 164 and **Parry Noun** (Oswego) with 166.

The Colgate University course proved to be stern test for the entire field. The course conditions were near perfect, and the weather was exceptional. The course played hard and fast both days. Three and four putts were not uncommon. One player commented, "Even though it was like getting your teeth drilled, I would love to play here every day!"

Day one saw Frank Plata set the pace with a 76, to lead by a single stroke over Joe Russo. **Tom Christian** (Liverpool), **Don LaLonde** (Stonehedges), **Don Northrup** and **Rick Jones** (Drumlins) all carded 78's, two off the pace. Upstart Phil Allen's 78 was the shock of day one.

Round two started with nine players within 3 shots of the lead. Early scores on day two showed a trend of improvement for most of the players. Bellevue's Larry Ducheny's 76 vaulted him into the early clubhouse lead. As the leaders finished, it was evident the positive trend had reversed for most. Phil Allen carded an 84 on day two, slipping out of contention for the overall title. Tom Christian was forced to withdraw due to illness. Mike Garofalo fell on hard times, but took the Super Sr. title by 3 shots over Allen. Plata struggled on day 2 and carded 80 good enough for second. Eventual champion Joe Russo sealed the victory with a stellar 73 on day two, besting the field by 3 strokes to pull away by 6 shots. Congratulations to **2009 Senior Champion, Joe Russo** and **2009 Super Senior Champion Mike Garofalo**, and to all whom competed!