



Member Profile
Eddie Breeden
 Upland, Calif.

California native Eddie Breeden's first love was baseball. He started playing at age 9 in 1989 and began following his beloved Los Angeles Angels (now the LA Angels of Anaheim) and hasn't stopped rooting for them. A respectable middle infielder and outfielder, Eddie played baseball until knee surgery curtailed the sport just as he was entering Chaffey College as a freshman. Later, he played in competitive adult travel baseball leagues as a pitcher and had some good seasons.

"One year, on our championship team, I pitched 65 innings, striking out 80 and walking only 11 batters. My ERA was in the low 2's," he says.

Baseball began to fade when Eddie picked up hickory golf in 2006 and he left competitive adult baseball in 2009 for mashies and niblicks. Romance played a hand, too. At a hickory tournament in Austin, Texas a few years back, Eddie met his future wife, Darcie. "I owe a lot to the game of hickory golf," he says.

Eddie attended and graduated from Cal State University San Bernardino (2003), with a major in kinesiology and now teaches physical education at Oaks Middle School in Ontario, Calif. He and Darcie share their home with two much-loved greyhounds.

"Darcie does have a set of hickories and has played in two hickory events – the Iowa Hickory Classic and a GCS Region 9 event – but she is still a beginner to golf," Eddie says. "She does dress the part at the events."

Though Eddie's dad, Les, introduced him to hickory golf, his father is not a golfer or even an athlete, but restores classic cars as his hobby. "About six years ago," Eddie says, "he brought home an old golf club that he picked up for me from the Pomona antique car swap meet. It was an old Spalding Kro-flite 5 iron he got for five bucks. At that time I didn't even know golf shafts were once made of wood."

A little chipping in the front yard with that old club was all that was needed for the hickory bug to strike.

"I usually try to play in a handful of hickory tournaments throughout the year," Eddie says. "These are usually during summer months, which I have off. However, because hopping on a plane can be expensive, I have started hosting a few close to home so I can participate in more, and spread the word of hickory golf. My lifetime golf is to play golf in all 50 states."

How often do you play hickories?

Always! I have been playing hickory golf clubs exclusively since 2008. I picked up the hickory game two years before and was playing about 50/50. Hickory just became more fun and challenging. It was not a hard decision.

What's in your play set?

- Driver – no name
- Spoon – Spalding Kro-flite
- Mid-Iron – Nicoll playklub
- Mashie – Spalding kro-flite 4-iron
- Mashie-Niblick – Tom Stewart
- Niblick – Spalding symmetric
- Niblick – 56 degree flanged Maxwell
- Putter – Burke blade

Favorite club?

Whichever club is hitting the best... probably the Spalding Kro-flite Spoon.

What ball do you play?

I use the McIntyre Mesh ball.

Favorite course for hickories?

I like playing any hickory-era golf course. Pacific Grove Golf Links is one of my favorites. Hoping to play Pebble Beach one day again.



Eddie Breeden at the 2011 U.S. Hickory Open.

Favorite hickory tournament?

The National Hickory Championship. Also, the North-South tournament held in Monterey, Calif.

Any particular player or aspect of golf history you especially enjoy?

I have been getting into and reading about hickory era California golf courses and their history. Also, the hickory era course designers out here on the West Coast.

Best thing about hickory golf?

The people. The camaraderie. Playing with golf history and feeling like you are taking a step back in time. And the scores CAN get low.

Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

I have been working hard to put the word out there about hickory golf. I am always trying to find new players, and have put some extra hickory sets together for friends and others to try. I just published a website for the Pacific Coast Hickory Golfers to help attract others who may find hickory golf interesting and possibly try their game. It's at www.pacifichickory.com

Most recent book on golf that you read?

I recently read "The Captain; George C Thomas and his Golf Architecture", and Donald Ross' "Golf Has Never Failed Me." My favorite book is probably "The Greatest Game Ever Played."

Note: Eddie has been a devoted hickory player and supporter of the SoHG for many years. He has stood for the SoHG Board on several occasions. Recently he has begun organizing West Coast hickory golf tournaments, chief among them the North-South Tournament on the wonderful Pacific Grove course in Monterey, Calif.