

Rick Bronson defeated Mark Tucker in a playoff to repeat as the Central New York PGA Senior Section champion July 30 at Teugega Country Club in Rome. This is the second straight year Bronson needed an extra hole to win the two-day event for players ages 50 and over.

The event was sponsored by Golf Advisor, John Deere and Satch Sales Mobile Solutions.

Bronson (Bronson Turf Renovation) and Tucker (Cazenovia Country Club) finished regulation deadlocked at 1-under-par 141 overall when both players birdied the par-5 18th hole. The pair returned to the first tee to start the sudden-death playoff.

Tucker three-putted for bogey while Bronson sank his second putt for par which secured his third career Senior Section title. Bronson earned \$1,050 for first. Tucker cashed \$900 for second.

“I’m very proud to win, it’s been a rough season,” Bronson said. “I haven’t put any good rounds together and this was a strong field.”

After an opening round 3-under 68, Tucker carded a 2-over 73 Monday. Bronson shot a 69 Sunday and was 1-over 72 in the final round.

“I hit a lot of good shots and played pretty consistent,” Bronson said. “The last two years, both wins were in playoffs so it does feel good to win.”

Tucker held a one stroke lead over Bronson at the turn but lost that advantage with a bogey on 11 followed by a double bogey on 12. Both players had their struggles on the back nine as neither could get any separation from the other.

Bronson and Tucker had three bogeys and a double bogey to go with three birdies on the last nine holes.

“The back nine was rough,” the 59-year-old Bronson said. “Mark and I just kept going back and forth.”

“I may not have won but my goal was to make it to nationals and I did that,” two-time champion Tucker said.

The top four finishers earned a berth in the 30th annual Senior PGA Professional Championship on October 25-28 at Port St. Lucie. Besides Bronson and Tucker, 2008 champ Bruce Martins (Elm Tree Golf Club) and two-time champ Rob Phelps advanced.

Phelps defeated Alan Savage (Turning Stone) in a playoff for the final berth.

A year ago, Bronson edged Phelps (Bellevue Country Club) to win the crown at Onondaga Golf and Country Club.

Joe Tesori (Pompey Club) won the Super Senior Division with a 4-over 146 total.