

Free Carolina GOLF JOURNAL

Vol 10 Issue 3

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Renovated courses welcome Charlotte City Amateur Championship players

The Charlotte City Amateur Golf Championship will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year when the city's top golfers tee it up on August 16-18th. The three-day tournament will begin at the Dan Maples designed Providence Country Club, as players will get a good look



at part of the \$4M renovation project completed by the new ownership group – McConnell Golf.

Greensboro-based golf course architect Kris Spence oversaw the

renovation golf course work. Spence's comprehensive renovation focused on bunkers, new expanded irrigation for better course conditioning, transitioning the green complexes from bent grass to Champion Bermuda grass – reworking the green complexes without rebuilding them, especially the surrounds – along with fashioning new, dramatic views from the fairways.

From Providence CC the City Championship moves to the long standing tournament site Cedarwood Country Club. Kris Spence had a hand in renovating this Ellis Maples designed Cedarwood course in 2016, with the transition from bent grass to ultradwarf Bermuda grass on the putting

surfaces and rebuilding all bunkers.

Traditionally, many of the City Championship competitors have scored well during their round at Cedarwood, setting up a

run at the title



in the final round, and in this case at Myers Park Country Club.

Based on Donald Ross's 1945 layout, today's Myers Park Country Club is as close as ever to what Mr. Ross originally proposed in his own re-design of

the club all those years ago. The golf course is a parkland layout with a variety of holes in terms of direction, length, and elevation change. The result is a great rhythm of holes which will always keep the golfer engaged.

Where natural features do not interfere, openings to greens allow for either a ground approach or an aerial approach.

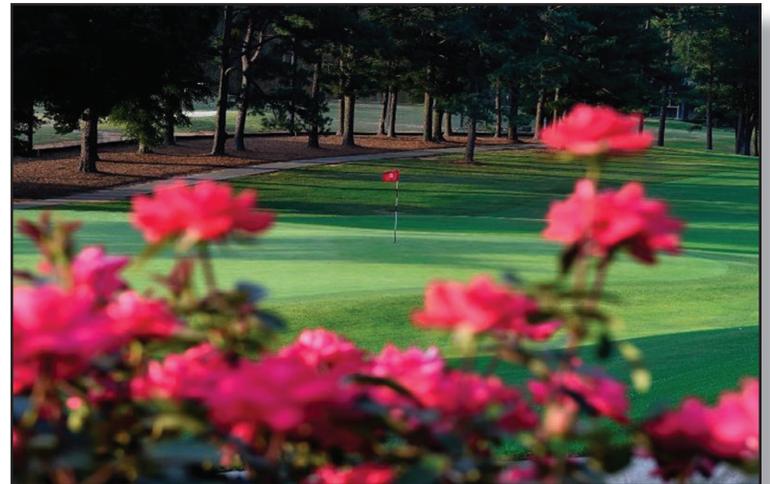
The final field of players, with handicaps 6.4 or

lower, will be completed by two qualifying rounds at Pine Island Country Club on July 8th and 22nd. The low 24 from the 2018 Charlotte City Amateur, Charlotte City Am Champions since 2005, reigning Club Champions from Pine Island CC, Providence CC, Cedarwood CC, Carmel CC, Quail Hollow Club, Charlotte CC, Myers Park CC, and the 2018 Charlotte Senior Amateur Champion are exempt from qualifying. Any player qualifying for a USGA event in the previous year is exempt from qualifying. All exempt players must also currently reside in Mecklenburg County.

Last summer, Brett Boner fired a 5-under-par 66 in the final round at Charlotte CC to capture the 59th Charlotte City Amateur Golf Championship. It marked Boner's second City Championship, after winning the event in 2011.

Bailey Patrick, who led the first two rounds of the 3-day tournament, shot par-71 to finish one stroke behind Boner at 206 overall. Both Boner and Bailey are scheduled to return for this year's event.

Spectators are invited to watch any and all of the Charlotte City Amateur Championship, and there is no charge to attend at any of the tournament courses.



Brett Boner enjoying victory following the 2011 Charlotte City Amateur Championship. (Photo credit – Charlotte Observer)

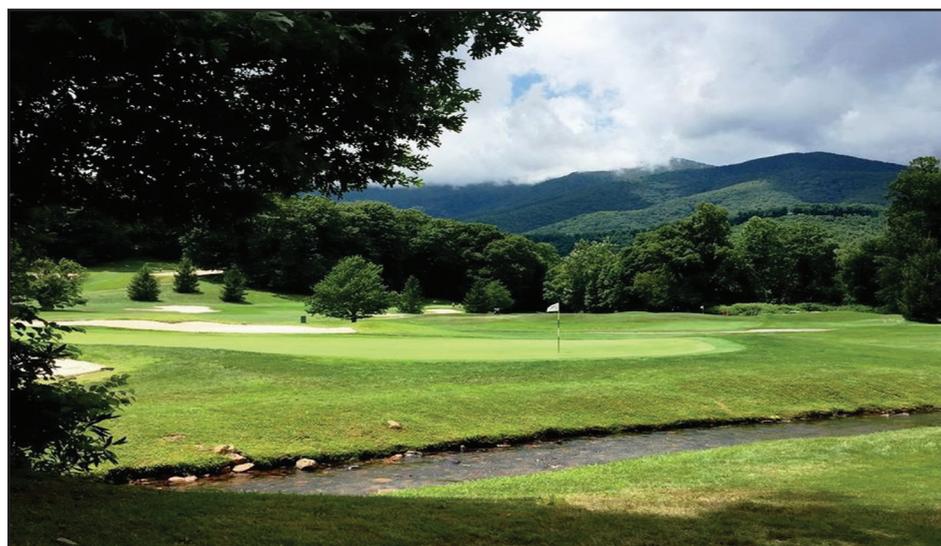


#12 "Best in the State you can play" - Golfweek Mt. Mitchell Golf Club

When golf courses receive the yearly rankings from a variety of golf rating groups they are wishing for the best for their facility. One location that hasn't had to wish every year is Mt. Mitchell Golf Club near Burnsville, as again this year they have been ranked #12 "Best in the State you can play" by Golfweek magazine, and continued their 4^{1/2} stars rating (out of five) by Golf Digest Magazine.

Mount Mitchell Golf Club enjoys a cool run usually from mid-April and until early November, logging a respectable 21,000 rounds a year over a 6½ month period. Golf course architect Fred Hawtree designed the course, his only design in the United States, and it is consistently regarded as one of North Carolina's top public golf layouts as indicated above.

"We are at 3,000 feet and Mount Mitchell, highest peak east of the Mississippi, is at 6,684 just three miles away as the crow flies but our course goes up 3,600 feet, which is pretty dramatic," said owner and co-founder Jim Floyd. "Despite being



surrounded by mountains, we're unlike most mountain courses because it is not uphill and downhill very much. It's pretty accessible to all types of golfers."

Not long by today's standards, the back tees measure just 6,495 yards, however with the South Toe River winding its way throughout the course, accuracy is a must. The 18-hole championship course has bent grass from tee to green, and golfers play a relatively flat front nine, with elevation changes starting at No. 10, and ending with a 125-foot drop to a descending fairway into the finishing hole over water.

Mount Mitchell Golf Club has a catch-and-release program for trout fishing, and Floyd said the fishing aspect of the resort has taken off steadily every year. Permits for one (\$25) or three days (\$50) can be purchased in the pro shop. Anglers must supply their own fly rods.

Trout as large as 30 inches have been caught in the river. Golfers can even purchase bags of fish food in the pro shop and feed the fish near the 2nd tee and heading over a bridge to the 15th green.

"There are some monster trout in there," said Floyd of the two-miles of the river that flows through the golf course. "We're looking for true sportsmen who like catch-and-release. Some guys will golf in the morning and then fish in the afternoon, or vice versa. It has become quite a treat for people to come and do this."

Mount Mitchell Golf Club offers a variety of stay-and-play packages that include golf and lodging in one of 25 homes for rent or at the resort's fairway townhomes and condos. Hawtree's Pub & Grill serves a wide variety of menu items at the clubhouse restaurant, from trout and mouth-watering steaks to pasta and healthy salads- all with a spectacular view of the mountains looking over the golf course.

Golf at Mt. Mitchell also features another great element for sweltering Carolina golfers - summer temperatures are usually in the low-to-mid 80s, with mornings dipping into the high 50s.

Heard enough? Make your trip to the mountains by calling 828-675-4923, or log on at www.mountmitchellgolf.com



EAGLE CHASE GOLF CLUB - Marshville

Unique design and picturesque surroundings



When golfers approach Eagle Chase Golf Club in Marshville their first thought is “where is the golf course among all this rolling farm land”?

Upon arrival they quickly find

out that this “Hidden Gem”, as it is billed, is for real.

Designed by Tom Jackson and built in 1994, Eagle Chase Golf Club stands as one of the most unique golf courses in the Greater Charlotte area. Eagle Chase's layout features drastic elevation changes on several holes offering picturesque views of the Uwharrie Mountains in the distance.

The course's green complexes require a variety of shots, as they sit both down in valleys and atop hills. Generous fairways, many tree-lined still offer plenty of landing room and very few hazards. Even though the terrain of this course is relatively hilly, there are no hidden hazards that will sneak up and grab you. From the elevated tees, you will have a bird's eye view of what lies ahead and the task at hand.

With the unique character and course conditions, Eagle Chase has drawn excellent ratings from golfadvisor.com including the #12 designation among golf courses in the state of North Carolina. Added to that lofty rating in North Carolina, with rates ranging between \$36 and \$49 and only \$29 for seniors on weekdays, Eagle Chase has regularly been selected as a Top-15 golf course for value in the United States.

“We are so happy that the avid golfers have recognized our course as an excellent place to play,” said General Manager/Golf Professional Wally Moore. “One key to our success is conversion of our greens from bent grass to Diamond Zoysia several years ago, and we feel they may be some of the best in the Charlotte area.”

Water comes into play on first 3 holes and 7 of 18 overall. A favorite hole of all level of players is #6, a 189 yard-par 3 with elevated tee and pond on the right

and on the back side. Playing downhill, it doesn't play its full-length but being on the right level of this pear-shape green is a must for a good score. Another popular hole is “Big Cut” #13, a 332 yard par-4 with a pond off the tee across and up the right side. A nice little fade leaves a short approach shot into a friendly back-to-front sloping green.

Not a long course, Eagle Chase stretches 6723-yards from the back tees, with a course rating of 72.6/128 slope. On the white tees you are looking at 6100-yards (69.4/122) and from the red tees the course runs 5139-yards (69.6/121).

Eagle Chase provides an excellent practice area including a multi-target range and putting green that is conditioned to give you an early feel of the 18 greens you face on your round.

For more information on memberships, tournament outings or tee times call 704-385-9000 or go online at www.playeaglechase.com



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Quality showing at Charles L. Sifford Golf Course

Many golfers have passed the Dr. Charles Sifford Golf Course at Revolution Park while driving by on I-77 just minutes from uptown Charlotte. Thoughts might have been, "Oh, it's just a little 9-hole golf course." They got the 9-holes right but missed on the character and condition of the city's first municipal golf course.

Built in the 1930's, and completely renovated under the watchful eye of Del Ratcliffe Golf Services in 2010, the Sifford Golf Course has all Bermuda grass greens, improved green complexes, tee complexes, reshaped fairways, cleaned up and added new bunkers and cart paths.

Golfers are also enjoying the ultra-modern pro shop with a full-service snack bar.

The first-class driving range and practice area is open to the public and shared by the students of the First



Tee of Charlotte program. The Sifford course staff has taken an active part in the work offered by the First Tee organization in promoting core life values and growing the sport by introducing young people from all walks of life.

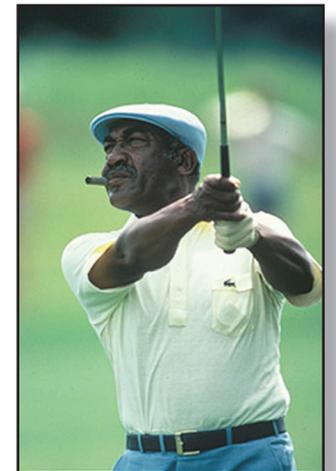
Ratcliffe Golf Services has put a premium on conditioning, and players that have played here for years are saying it's in the best shape ever.

It is an easy walking course, with 6 par-4's, 2 par-3's and the only par-5 coming on the final hole.

The mid-holes run side-by-side offering plenty of room to be a bit off target, while the tee shot at #9 is challenged by woods and a creek that come into play. The approach calls for accurate short irons to a green that is perched on the hilltop.

The best part of a "quick" game at Charles Sifford Golf Course is the 9-hole price ranging from \$23/with cart (\$19 walking) Monday-Thursday, \$26/with cart Fridays and \$29/with cart on weekend and holidays. With the popularity of the golf course after 4pm, one needs to be make tee times in advance tee times if possible.

Call 704-333-3949 for tee-times. Public driving range is open 7-days a week.



Golfers are flocking to Charles T. Myers Golf Course

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 eBay Id - promgolf - <http://stores.shop.ebay.com/Pro-Master-Golf>



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Bring this ad in for \$10 off rack rates or \$5 off Senior or Twilight rates

Get a grip on your golf game this summer

Rob Catlett, PGA
Club Repair/ Fitting Specialist ~ Effortless Golf Center

Summer is here and hopefully everyone is playing a lot of golf! If you haven't already, now is the time to come get your clubs re-gripped and have your lofts and lies checked. Playing with worn grips can make you grip way too hard and lead to a bunch of unwanted swing flaws. We can also make



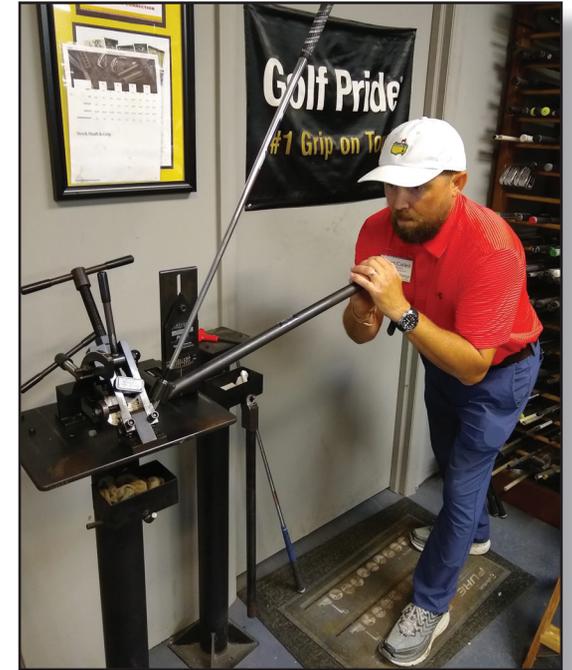
sure you are playing with the correct size grip as this is very important.

We do full bag fittings here and have the ability to use our launch monitor as well as hit balls outdoors to give you the most accurate fitting possible.

Think of it in terms of shoes, if you wear a size 10 you wouldn't go shoot a game of hoops in a size 13 would you? Same thing with golf clubs! If you hit your 7 iron 175 yards you do not need to be hitting senior or regular flex clubs, you would need stiff or extra stiff shafts

to match up with your high club head speed.

For beginners I would say it is much more important to be fit properly than it is to worry about what brand or how old or new your clubs are. With that being said there is a difference in clubs from the last five years vs. clubs from twenty five years ago for sure. Being properly fit will make the game much more enjoyable and a touch easier!



Once you are fit I would strongly recommend taking at least two or three lessons from a qualified golf professional, not your neighbor who plays and probably has as many or more bad habits than you do. Only reason I say this is because we see it all the time and it is much harder to undo a bunch of bad habits than it is to start with a blank slate.

Please call us to schedule a lesson or fitting or with any questions you may have. We are positioning ourselves to be your one-stop shop for all things golf and we would love to have you come spend some time with us!

"Thank you golfing community"

from Bruce Parker ~ Owner/Director ~ The Effortless Golf Center



I would like to thank our golfing community for the ongoing support and patronage of The Effortless Golf Center, we could not have done it without you. If you have not been here yet, we look forward to meeting you. You will find the staff to be friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful.

Our grass is always open and in great shape. We have a weather proof covered bay with 15 artificial

turf mats. It's heated in the winter and some big fans to keep cool for the

summer. It's the only place to be when it rains and we always have great Wilson balls to practice with.

Our pro shop has new and used equipment and seems to be a favorite place to find what you need. If you need help with your game, we have excellent golf instructors to choose from.

Again, I want to thank my staff for making our center so nice to come to. We are your one-stop shop and can't wait to see you.



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effortless golf center

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Pineville

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theeffortlessgolfcenter.com



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- Expanded pro shop selection of new and used major company's golf equipment
 - Complete line Wilson Staff drivers, fairway metals and irons
- Get cash for trading in old clubs for a different set of clubs with professional fitting
 - Effortless Golf also offers extensive club repair and grip replacement.

9:00 am - 9:00 pm Monday - Friday
9:00 am - dark Saturday & Sunday





Build a Solid Short Game

Karina Sanchez

Instructor at the Ballantyne Golf Academy

One of the keys to better scoring is improving your shots around the green. If we begin to understand the concept of setup and body rotation, this will take the stress out of chipping and make your scores drop dramatically.

First Step: How to Set Up for Shots Inside 30 Yards

Begin by having your feet closer together and play the ball in the middle of the stance. Flair the front foot slightly open, and shift your sternum just forward of the ball. Allow the hands to drift forward, with the butt end of the club pointing towards your lead pocket.



The consistency in this type of shot will come from keeping your body rotation throughout the shot, with extended arms, and controlling the set of

the wrists. If you stop your body rotation, your arms and wrists will likely break down and your results will be inconsistent.

A Great Drill

A great drill to get the feel of your body rotation is by using a resistance band or similar feedback. You want to feel your arms remain extended throughout the shot, while



maintaining

your wrist

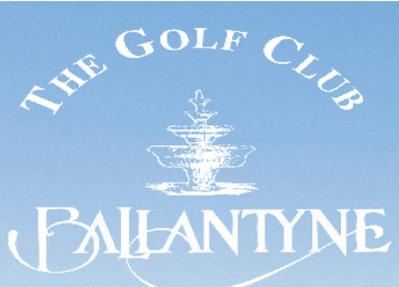
angles. If you lose the

extension in your arms or wrists, the band will give you the feedback.

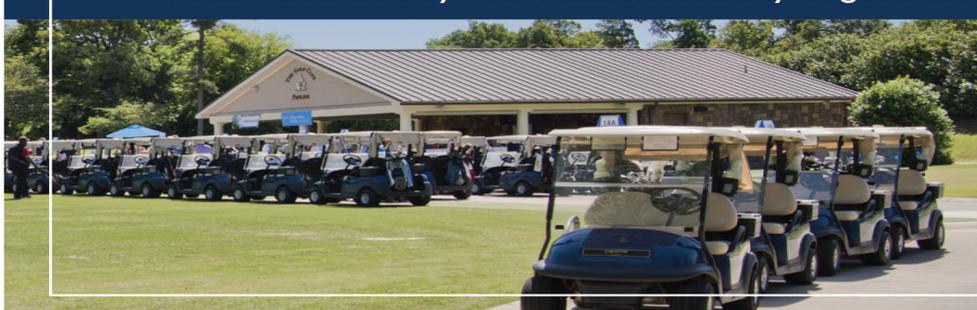
In your finish, make sure you are facing the direction of your target with your weight on the lead side of your body. Your arms should still be extended out in front of your body, with wrists in a similar set.

Contact Karina Sanchez – 704-542-7635 – ksanchez@golfballantyne.com






The Golf Club at Ballantyne features extensive facilities and superior service year-round. Enjoy daily play on the 18-hole championship course, a practice area, driving range, a golf pavilion, overnight golf packages and professionally executed golf outings and tournaments. The Golf Club also features Ballantyne Golf Academy, North Carolina's only Golf Channel Academy for golf instruction, premier golf schools and extensive junior offerings.




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2019 Charity Golf Tournaments for the Greater Charlotte area

Carolina Golf Journal would like to promote your 2019 fundraising golf tournament.

Send your information to: samcsmith@mindspring.com or call 704-774-7748

WSSU National Alumni Association Rams 28th Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 27
The Tradition Golf Course
Individual Scratch Golf (Flighted)
Cost: \$100 per player
Contact: WSSU NAA Charlotte
charlotteqcrams@wssunaa.org

10th Annual Heart Bright Celebrity Invitational

Tuesday, August 27
Golf Club @ Ballantyne
Captain's Choice
Shotgun start 10:30 am
\$100 / foursome
Contact: 704-373-3002

7th Annual Project 2 Heal's "Putt for Pups" Golf Outing & Fundraiser

Monday, September 21
Firethorne Country Club
Captain's Choice Shotgun Start 11:30am
Cost: \$150 per player, \$30 dinner only (non golfers)
Contact: Sandy Pitrizzo 704-577-3548
sandy@project2heal.org

East Lincoln Christian Ministry, INC. 6th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, September, 30
Cowan's Ford Golf Club
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 11:00am
Cost: \$75 per player / \$280 per foursome
Contact: East Lincoln Christian Ministry
704-483-4415 / elcm2@att.net

Annual Business Leaders of Charlotte (BLOC) Charity Golf Classic

Tuesday, October 1
Raintree Country Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun start 11:30
Cost: \$150 per player / \$600 / foursome
Contact: Jamie Lein 704-324-3442 x 402
jamie.lein@frontrowopt.com

3rd Annual Jane Burt Williams Memorial Golf Classic benefits Center for Health and Wellness Thomasville Memorial Center

Friday, October 4
Colonial Country Club - Thomasville
Captain's Choice
Shotgun starts: 8:00 am & 1:30 pm
Cost: \$100
Contact: Kristin Trexler 704-799-5408
krtrexler@novanthealth.org

4th Annual Charlotte Post Foundation Tournament

Friday, October 4
Birkdale Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun start 9:00am
Cost: \$125 Per player / \$400 per foursome
Contact: Linda Johnson 704-376-0498
linda@thecharlottepost.com

Marine Corp League 2nd Annual James T. Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament

Tuesday, October 22
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 12-noon
Cost: \$90 per player / \$360 per foursome
Contact: Hal DesChamps 704-534-0593
hedeschamps@windstream.net

Charlotte Open Golf Classic

Friday, November 15
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
5-man pro-am scramble
Shotgun start 12-noon
Cost: \$1500 per 5-man team
Contact: Scott Schaeffer 704-999-7020
scott.seupromotions@gmail.com
**Pro Tournament - November 16
Double tees - 12-noon



Folds of Honor Patriots Golf Day "Let's not forget how it started"

Labor Day weekend is still weeks away, but remember playing golf on Patriots Golf Day can be the greatest way to honor our fallen heroes that have defended our country.

Let's never forget how this patriotic fundraiser got started.

Returning home from his second tour of duty in Iraq, Major Dan Rooney, a F-16 fighter pilot in the Oklahoma National Guard, became painfully aware of the reality families face when one in uniform is fallen or disabled. As his flight landed, the pilot announced they carried the remains of Corporal Brock Bucklin on board, asking all passengers to respectfully remain seated while his casket is de-boarded.

Major Rooney watched as Corporal Bucklin's twin brother walked somberly alongside the flag-covered casket to meet his family. Among them was the deceased Corporal's young son, Jacob. Major Rooney ached as he thought of his own wife and little girls. Seeing the other side of war through the eyes of Jacob was life-altering.

Sadly, over half the passengers had disregarded the pilot's request and de-boarded. Major Rooney decided he had to do something. Not only would he pay tribute to American

service-members and their families, he would live as a reminder among civilians that it is our duty to honor the sacrifices of those who preserve the freedoms we so easily take for granted.

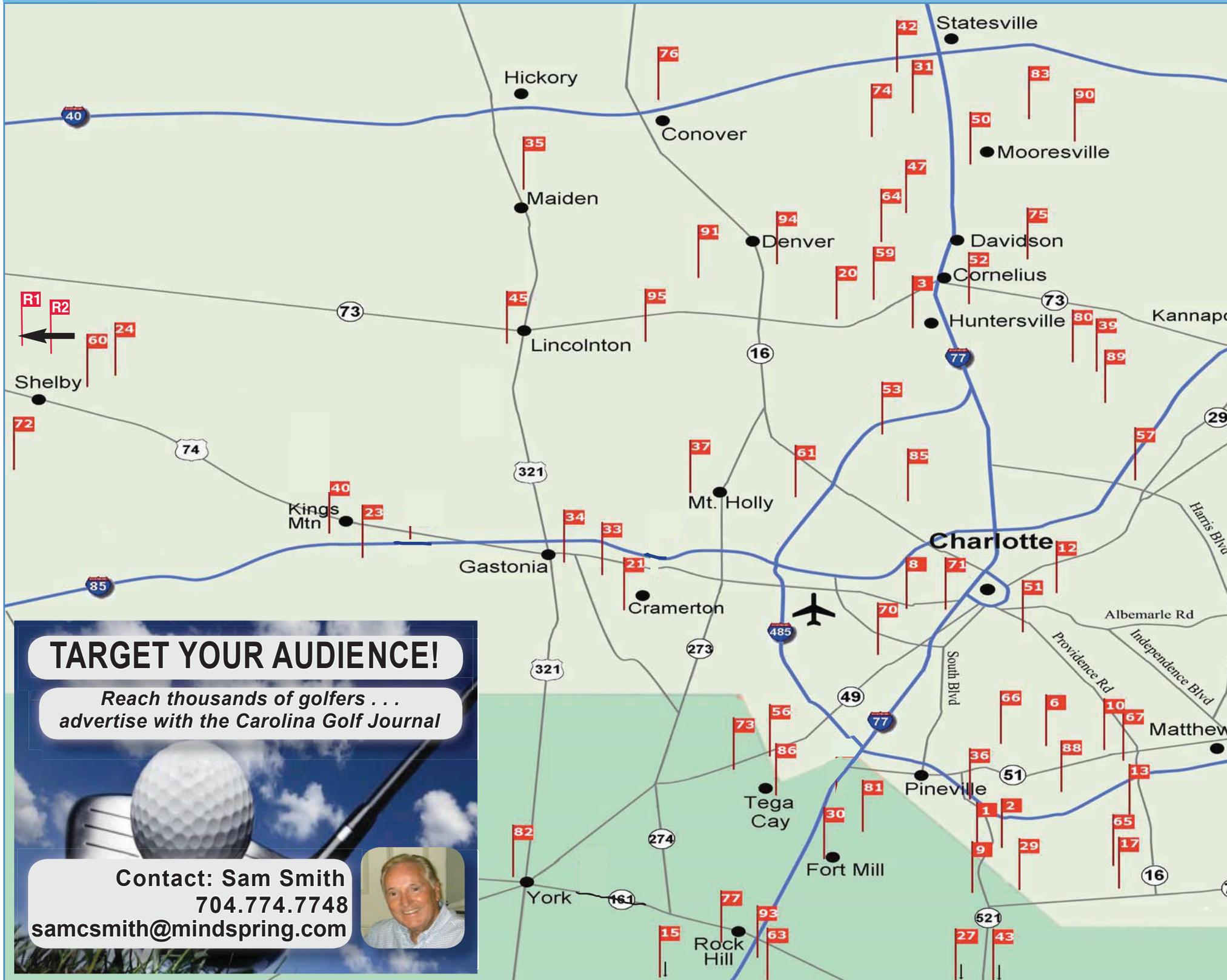
Major Rooney committed to spend his life changing the future of America's grieving spouses and children. In 2007, he formed the Folds of Honor Foundation; a 501C-3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational scholarships to the families of these heroic Americans.

Over the years the Carolina PGA Section has been the #1 fundraising organization in the USA. More than 175 clubs and courses have contributed millions to help provide educational scholarships to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service-members. The local PGA professionals in your home town invite you to play again this year. Contact your favorite course and set a tee-time for you and your golfing buddies. Your donations will help continue the Folds of Honor motto – "Honor Their Sacrifice. Educate Their Legacy."



Major Dan Rooney

GOLF COURSE GUIDE FOR THE



TARGET YOUR AUDIENCE!

Reach thousands of golfers . . .
advertise with the Carolina Golf Journal

Contact: Sam Smith
704.774.7748
samcsmith@mindspring.com

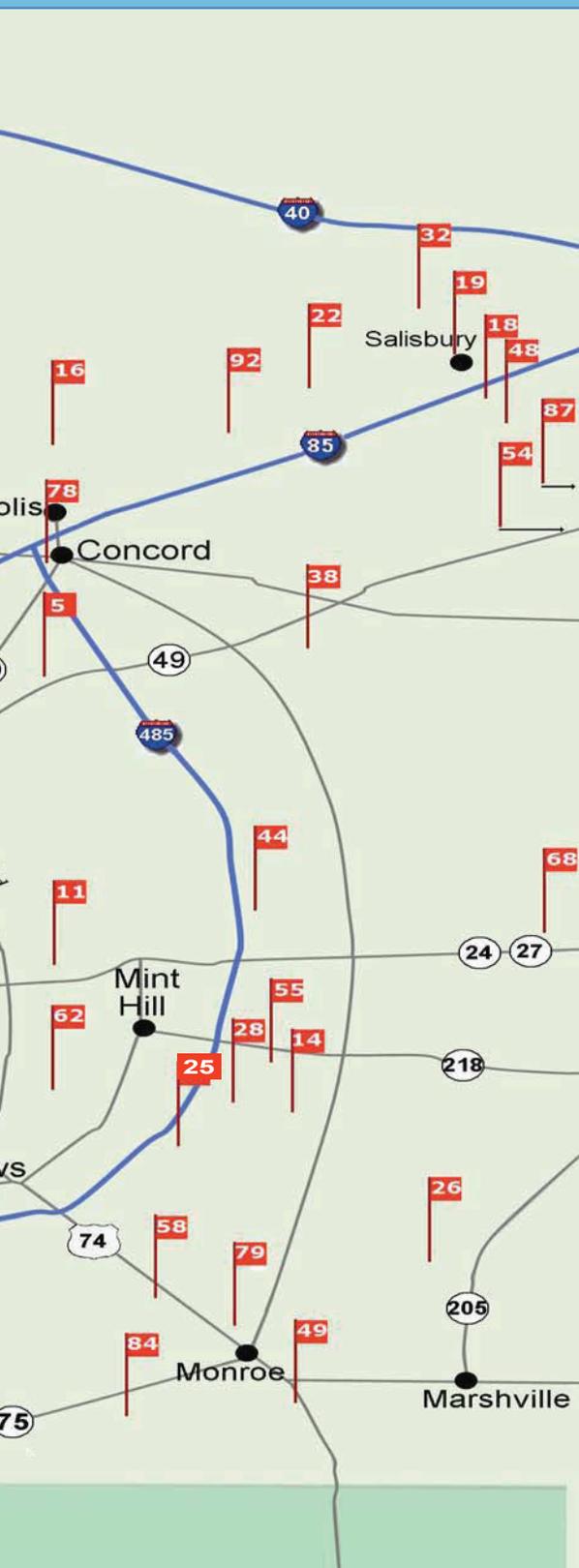


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- R2. Bald Mountain Golf Course - Lake Lure
Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3042
- 1. Ballantyne Country Club - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-544-9755
- 2. Ballantyne Golf Club - Charlotte

- Public 18 ~ 704-248-4383
- 3. Birkdale Golf Club - Huntersville
Public 18 ~ 704-895-8038
- 5. Cabarrus Country Club - Concord
Private 18 ~ 704-786-8154
- 6. Carmel Country Club - Charlotte
Private 36 ~ 704-542-2457

- 8. Carolina Golf & Country Club - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-392-6366
- 9. Carolina Lakes Golf Club - Indian Land
Public 18 ~ 803-547-9688
- 10. Cedarwood Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-542-0206
- 11. Charles T. Myers Golf Course ~ Charlotte

THE GREATER CHARLOTTE AREA



16. The Club at Irish Creek - Kannapolis
Private 18 ~ 704-933-4336
17. The Club at Longview - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-443-2500
18. Corbin Hills Golf Course - Salisbury
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-636-0672
19. Country Club of Salisbury
Private ~ 704-636-7070
20. Cowans Ford CC
Private 18 ~ 704-827-3088
21. Cramer Mountain Club ~ Cramerton
Private ~ 704-879-4888
22. Crescent Golf Club - Salisbury
Public 18 ~ 704-647-0025
24. Deer Brook Golf Club ~ Shelby
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-482-4653
25. The Divide ~ Mint Hill
Public 18 ~ 704-628-6438
26. Eagle Chase Golf Club ~ Marshville
Public 18 ~ 704-385-9000
27. Edgewater Golf Club ~ Lancaster
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-283-9800
28. Emerald Lake Golf Club ~ Mint Hill
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-882-7888
29. Firethorne Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-843-3111
30. Fort Mill Golf Club
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-547-2044
31. Larkin Golf Club - Statesville
Public 18 ~ 704-872-9990
32. Foxwood Golf Course ~ Salisbury
Public 18 ~ 704-637-2528
33. Gaston Country Club ~ Gastonia
Private 18 ~ 704-865-7949
34. Gastonia Catawba Creek GC ~ Gastonia
Public 18 ~ 704-866-6945
35. Glen Oaks Golf Club ~ Maiden
Semi-private 18~828-428-2451
36. Golf Village ~ Pineville
Public Par-3 ~ 704-889-5086
37. Green Meadows Golf Course ~ Mt. Holly
Public 18 ~ 704-827-9264
38. Green Oaks Golf Course ~ Concord
Public 18 ~ 704-786-4412
39. Highland Creek Golf Club - Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-875-9000

40. King's Mountain Country Club
Public 18 ~ 704-739-5871
42. Lakewood Golf Course ~ Statesville
Public 18 ~ 704-873-6441
43. Lancaster Golf Club
Public 18 ~ 803-416-4500
45. Lincoln Country Club ~ Lincolnton
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-735-1382
47. Mallard Head Country Club ~ Mooresville
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-664-7031
48. McCanless Golf Club ~ Salisbury
Public 18 ~ 704-637-1235
49. Monroe Country Club
Public 18 ~ 704-282-4661
50. Mooresville Country Club
Public 18 ~ 704-663-2539
51. Myers Park Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-376-0745
52. Northstone Country Club ~ Huntersville
Private 18 ~ 704-948-4286
53. Oak Hill Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-394-2834
54. Old North State Club ~ New London, NC
Private 18 ~ 336-461-4447
55. Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation ~ Mint Hill
Public 18 ~ 704-573-1000
56. The Palisades Country Club - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-548-0099
57. Paradise Valley Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public Par-3 ~ 704-548-1808
58. Pebble Creek ~ Indian Trail
Public Par-3 18 ~ 704-821-7276
59. The Peninsula Club ~ Cornelius
Private 18 ~ 704-896-7060
61. Pine Island Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-394-1011
62. Pine Lake CC - Mint Hill
Private 18 ~ 704-394-1011
63. Pinetuck Golf Club ~ Rock Hill
Public 18 ~ 803-327-1141
64. Trump National ~ Mooresville
Private 18 ~ 704-660-1192
65. Providence Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-846-6325
66. Quail Hollow Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-552-1726

Public 18 ~ 704-536-1692

. Charlotte Country Club ~ Charlotte

Private 18 ~ 704-333-9809

. Charlotte National Golf Club ~ Indian Trail

Public 18 ~ 704-882-8282

. Chester Golf Club - Richburg, SC

Public 18 ~ 803-581-5733

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>67. Raintree Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 36 ~ 704-542-8150</p> <p>68. Red Bridge Golf Club ~ Locust
Public 18 ~ 704-781-5231</p> <p>70. Harry L. Jones Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-357-3373</p> <p>71. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 9 ~ 704-333-3949</p> <p>72. Riverbend Golf Club ~ Shelby
Public 18 ~ 704-482-4286</p> <p>73. River Hills Country Club ~ Lake Wylie
Private 18 ~ 803-831-2249</p> <p>74. River Oaks Golf Club ~ Statesville
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-883-8724</p> <p>75. River Run Golf & CC ~ Davidson
Private 18 ~ 704-896-7355</p> <p>76. Rock Barn CC & Spa ~ Conover
Semi-Private 36 ~ 828-459-9279</p> <p>77. Rock Hill Country Club ~ Rock Hill
Private 18 ~ 803-327-7790</p> | <p>78. Rocky River Golf Club ~ Concord
Public 18 ~ 704-455-1200</p> <p>79. Rolling Hills Country Club ~ Monroe
Private 18 ~ 704-283-8201</p> <p>80. Skybrook Golf Club ~ Huntersville
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-948-6611</p> <p>81. Springfield Golf Club ~ Ft. Mill
Public 18 ~ 803-548-3318</p> <p>82. Spring Lake Golf Club ~ York
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-684-4898</p> <p>83. Statesville Country Club ~ Statesville
Private 18 ~ 704-873-8376</p> <p>84. Stonebridge Golf Club ~ Monroe
Public 18 ~ 704-283-8998</p> <p>85. Sunset Hills Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-399-0980</p> <p>86. Tega Cay Golf Club ~ Tega Cay
Public 18 ~ 803-548-2918</p> <p>87. Tot Hill Farm Golf Club ~ Asheboro
Semi-Private 18 ~ 336-857-4455</p> | <p>88. TPC at Piper Glen ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-846-1515</p> <p>89. The Tradition ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-503-7529</p> <p>90. Twin Oaks Golf Course ~ Statesville
Public 18 ~ 704-872-3979</p> <p>91. Verdict Ridge Golf & CC ~ Denver
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-489-1206</p> <p>92. Warrior Golf Club ~ China Grove
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-856-0871</p> <p>93. Waterford Golf Club ~ Rock Hill
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-324-0300</p> <p>94. Westport Golf ~ Denver
Public 18 ~ 704-489-8088 - Denver</p> <p>95. White Oak ~ Alexis
Public Par-3 18 ~ 704-263-9990</p> <p>97. Royster Memorial Golf Course ~ Shelby
Public 9 ~ 704-484-6823</p> |
|---|---|---|

THE DIVIDE GOLF CLUB

Returning to “must play” status

The question is, “which county takes the greatest pride in the Divide Golf Club – Mecklenburg or Union?” The answer is both, with the fact that it stretches across both North Carolina counties.

Just minutes off I-485 on Stevens Mill Road between Idlewild and Lawyers Road, the Divide Golf Club is making an excellent comeback from some difficult times.

For several years the Divide suffered from the monetary problems of the failed Carolina Trail. Now under the management of Pinnacle Golf Properties, the Divide, which opened in 1995, has returned to enjoyable playability.

Most notably are the conditions. Hard work and daily care have greatly improved the spacious Bermuda fairways and tee boxes, while the much talked about large bent grass undulating greens have been brought back to consistent excellence, approaching respectability and featuring true rolling putting surfaces again.

The Divide can stretch out to just under 7,000-yards, while the men’s tee measures just over 6,000-yards. Water comes into play on 10 holes, including the two finishing holes on both the front and back side. The par-5’s are muscle holes with the signature 18th playing 555-yards with the approach over water to finish the round. The 9th hole is a 387-yard par-4 with a downhill lie for the approach shot, also over water in a small creek.

Golfers are finding that the 30-station turf driving range is perfect to warmup or work on their game. A well-conditioned putting green and a maintained sand bunker lets golfers of all-levels hone their skills needed to improve their score.



The Divide staff with Head PGA Professional Rusty Bumgardner and General Manager/PGA Professional Boyd Everling are available for individual or group lessons, and are offering excellent junior clinics this summer.

A very flexible membership program offers semi-private club privileges with options designed to accommodate individual or family needs. With no initiation fees, or food and beverage spending requirements, the Divide membership includes use of range balls, practice grounds and green fees at no additional charge.

For tee-times to play the steadily improving Divide Golf Club call 704-628-6438 or logon at thedividegolfclub.com



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Davidson College Golf Program becomes first fully endowed athletic scholarship program

The Davidson College Golf Program has come a long way since Steve MacMillan '85 was one of the team's captains. In those days, "practice" meant taking a bucket of balls to the football practice field, hitting them over the goal post, collecting them and starting again.

Today, the team has a 2018 A-10 Championship under its belt -- the first conference title in 50 years -- and was the 2019 A-10 runner-up. Viraj Garewal '22 was named 2019 A-10 Rookie of the Year, and Jack Lang '19 was named 2019 A-10 Player of the Year. Both years, Head Coach Tim Straub was named the conference's Coach of the Year.



That upward trajectory will continue. A \$2.7 million gift from MacMillan and his wife, Jennifer, makes the golf program, Davidson College's first fully endowed athletic scholarship program.

"We have been inspired by the current players on the team as well as the excellent leadership of Coach Straub," said the couple. "We wanted to make a gift that

would really make a difference and raise people's creativity for supporting other programs. Everything we do is to be a catalyst for others."

The significant gift means the program will be able to recruit top scholar-athletes to Davidson, ensuring a promising future for Davidson golf.

"I can't thank Jennifer and Steve enough for this amazing gift to our program," Straub said. "I am very humbled by their dedication to our team and to me. Jennifer and Steve have made history for our golf program."

"Steve and Jennifer's tremendous gift is an absolute game changer for Davidson Athletics," Athletic Director Chris Clunie said. "The golf program will now serve as the model for what all of our athletic programs can achieve."

Current and future players will be able to see the impact of this gift, most immediately through recruiting efforts.

"This generous gift will put our team on a springboard to becoming one of the top programs in the country for the remainder of my college career and long after I leave," said current rising-junior Alex Ross. "I know I can speak for my entire team in saying that we truly cannot thank the MacMillans enough!"



Call Him "Mr. 57!" Davidson's Alex Ross

The Dogwood Invitational at Druid Hills Golf Club in Atlanta was another stop for Davidson College's Alex Ross, but will be a lingering memory in his golf career for years to come.

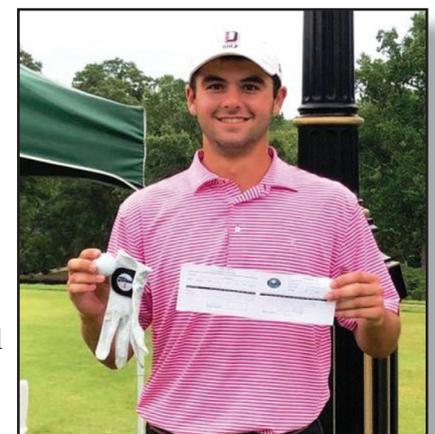
The rising-junior for the Wildcats, from Pace Academy in Atlanta, played the first two-rounds of the event in 4-over par (75-73), but if Ross found trouble in earlier rounds those thoughts all went away in the third round. Fearing he might miss the cut, Ross jumped back into contention for the championship with a sensational 15-under 57 on the par-72, 6,836-yard layout, carding 13 birdies and an eagle.

Ross shot 9-under 27 on the back nine, his first nine. He chipped in on the opening hole and eagled the par-5 14th after hitting a 6-iron within 30 feet. He drove the green at the par-4 16th and two-putted from 15 feet. "From then on, it was just ridiculous," said Ross, who birdied seven of his final 10 holes, as well.

In all he made 13 birdies and one eagle, and not a bogey to be found on his scorecard. That's three shots off what would have been a "perfect" score of 54, the equivalent of going under par

on every hole. (Scorecard - birdie par birdie birdie birdie par birdie par -9th birdie birdie birdie birdie birdie 14th- eagle birdie birdie par birdie).

Ross followed up the 57 with a final round 2-under par 70 to finish tied for 11th in the talented field of amateur golfers.



Brandon Mancheno, a rising-junior at Auburn captured the tournament title firing a 21-under par 267 (69-68-65-65), 8 shots better than Ross. His win is to be highly saluted, but the 57 by Ross will always be a milestone of the Dogwood Invitational and of college golf.

The Guinness Book of World Records recognizes Rhein Gibson's 16-under 55 as the lowest official round of golf ever recorded. Gibson, then a college player at Oklahoma Christian, posted the number at River Oaks Golf Club in Edmond, Oklahoma in 2012.

Duke wins a thriller for 7th NCAA women's golf title

The Duke women's golf team was expected to play well in the NCAA Championship Finals at the Blessings Golf Club in Fayetteville, Arkansas, but the title seemed to be in the grasp of another ACC team, Wake Forest. Their number

one player, Jennifer Kupcho deferred her LPGA membership this spring in hopes of leading the Demon Deacons to their first NCAA team title, and they seemed to be on the cusp of achieving their ultimate goal.

Duke outlasted defending champion Arizona in the semifinal, with freshman Gina Kim delivering the winning point with a fairway bunker shot to 2 feet. Wake Forest had no trouble against Auburn, winning four of the matches and tying the other.

In the finals, trailing in four of five matches on the back nine, Duke sent three of those matches to extra holes, won two of them and walked away with a seventh NCAA title.

Ana Belac went out first and put the first point on the board for Duke with a 5-and-3 win over Vanessa Knecht. Emilia Migliaccio, who won all three of her matches for Wake Forest, birdied the 18th for a 1-up victory over Kim to keep a fourth match from going extra holes.

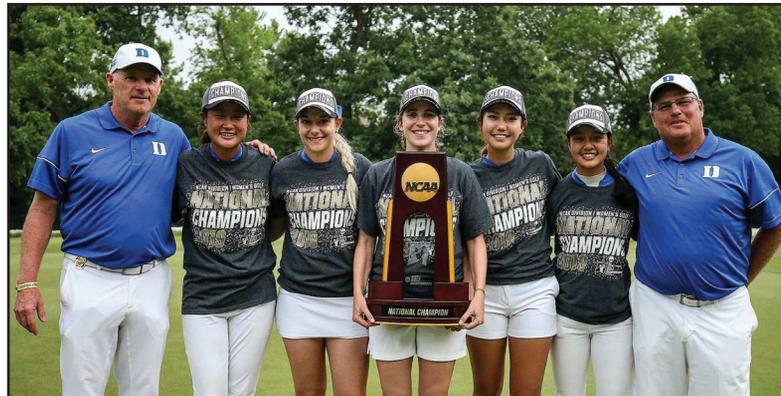
Kupcho, who won the NCAA individual title last year and the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur, had never trailed in any of her three matches until Duke sophomore Jaravee Boonchat made a 12-foot birdie on the 17th hole for her first lead of the match, but took a bogey on the 18th to go to overtime.

But on the first playoff hole, Kupcho pulled her tee shot into a hazard, hacked out and Boonchat didn't let her escape by making par to win in 19 holes.

Miranda Wang won the decisive match on the 20th hole when Letizia Bagnoli of Wake Forest tried to hit a fade around a tree with a fairway metal and pulled it into a creek. A final hour of nail-biting moments ended when Bagnoli picked up Wang's ball and conceded par.

"I couldn't feel more proud than I do right now,"

said Duke's head coach of 35 years Dan Brooks. "Just talking about what this team has accomplished, fighting through rain delays, multi-round days and close-calls, it's been a heck of a week and a great day for Duke University."



Head Coach Dan Brooks, Gina Kim, Ana Belac, Virginia Elena Carta, Miranda Wang, Jaravee Boonchat, Assistant Coach Jon Whithaus



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La Cana Golf Club

Puntacana Resort & Club

Dominican Republic's exclusive golf experience

By Sam Smith

Arriving in the Dominican Republic on a recent golf tour, I was struck by the beauty of the Punta Cana Resort & Club beneath the wings of my non-stop American Airline flight from Charlotte. The resort privately owns the Punta Cana International Airport which is located right inside the gated community property.

Located on the eastern shore of the island, the waves display a rainbow of colors as they crash against the coral rocks that protect the resort. With VIP service available from the resort, I was escorted nicely through customs and on my way to the luxurious Westin Punta Cana Resort &



Club, passing through additional well protected security gates.

Featuring 200 ocean-view rooms on Playa Blanca beach, the Westin was clearly a hub for all of the activities available at the Resort. Ocean-side restaurants, an expansive outdoor pool, beachside grill, lobby bar, hand rolled cigar bar, walking trails, a variety of water-related sports and access to white sand beaches.

While I was excited to enjoy the Caribbean's ultimate beach, my focus was going to be on the highly rated Punta Cana Resort & Club's two golf courses.

La Cana Golf Club is a 27 hole golf course consisting of three nines that features 14 holes with striking ocean views of the crystal blue Caribbean Sea. Designed by P.B. Dye, Golf Magazine has compared La Cana to Pebble Beach and declared it the "number one course in the Caribbean."

The four shoreline holes prompted the #1 claim, and the two finishing holes are a perfect example of bringing your fabulous golf day to a high-light conclusion. The 18th features a split fairway that leads to a most unusual sea-water loving paspalum grass green measuring 72-yards from front to back. Kept in pristine condition by the ocean spray, a smooth rolling putt for a five sent me off to a wonderful ocean-side evening dinner at the hotel's Brasserie Grill & Bar.

The second day of golf featured the newest of the Punta Cana Resort golf courses, the Tom Fazio designed Corales Golf Course, home the PGA Punta Cana Resort & Club Championship held in March. PGA pros and



*Sam Smith with Head PGA Professional Jay Overton,
Director of Golf*

visiting amateur players like this venue due to the conditions of the course, hospitality of the Punta Cana Resort community and the easy access to the airport and hotels.

As Fazio does in most of his designs, he provides wide fairways to keep your spirits up. And they did! Offering multiple tee boxes, risk-reward approaches and even optional greens, at the par-4 3rd and 15th holes- just adds variety if you play Corales more than once.

The exhilarating challenge culminates playing the Devil's Elbow, Corales' last three holes. The Devil's Elbow features the striking 18th hole with a dramatic forced carry over the cliff lining the Bay of Corales, a truly

magnificent closing act of my golf experience to the Caribbean's ultimate beach. And, yes even a bogey at the 18th couldn't spoil this day.

To bid farewell, the Punta Cana Resort & Club invited my group to a Punta Cana Village Festival, where hundreds of Resort residents, staff and visitors enjoyed the taste and drinks of the Dominican Republic. It was there that I got to visit with Resort developer and owner, Frank Rainieri who started the Resort with 10 small huts on the beach, and has grown his dream into one of the most breathtaking locations in the world.

On my final morning with the help of VIP service, available to all guest of the Resort, I easily departed the on-property airport and settled in my airline seat, my head filled with great memories of Punta Cana.

For a once in a life-time vacation, consider a visit to the secure and pristine Punta Cana Resort & Club.

For more information go to puntacana.com



*Sam Smith with Punta Cana owner
Frank Rainieri at Village Festival*



Before or after practice at **GOLF VILLAGE** enjoy **MIDDLE JAMES BREWING** in Pineville

Golfers have been getting their summer golf game in proper order at the Golf Village in Pineville. Starting this month they will not only be able play their par-3 practice course or hit some golf balls, but will also be able cool down before or after their practice at the newest craft-beer brewery in the Charlotte area – the **MIDDLE JAMES BREWING** located above the **GOLF VILLAGE** pro shop at 400 N. Polk Street.

GOLF VILLAGE owner, Ted Lawson, PGA, has been talking about the partnership with the two businesses for several months and is now very excited with the grand opening information.

“Having the **MIDDLE JAMES BREWING** open at our location will be a big plus for area golfers,” said Lawson. “They will be able to have lunch or enjoy sports with the 15 large screen televisions in their large 5,200 square-foot taproom seven days a week that will match our daylight schedule at the driving range.”



Shannon Wallace, Michael Smoak and Andrew Viapiano have partnered to bring Pineville its first brewery. (Paul Nielsen/SCW photo)

Michael Smoak, Andrew Viapiano and Shannon Wallace have teamed up to launch **MIDDLE JAMES BREWING** that will produce a variety of beers - including IPAs, pale ales, pilsners, Kolsch and stouts. There are also plans to brew sours in the future.

“We are not going to shy away from brewing anything, and we are going to try and keep 8 to 12 different beers on at all time,” Viapiano said. “There will also be beers that change with the seasons.”

The new family-friendly brewery will also feature a covered deck that overlooks the **GOLF VILLAGE** driving range and a second-floor room that can

accommodate private parties.

“We are going to be heavy on sports,” Smoak said. “We want a place where a person can go and watch a game, football, soccer, basketball and drink good beer, even if you want to watch an obscure English League game. There are not many good places where you can get good beer, have sports and get good food. We will be a little different from some of the other breweries in that aspect.”

“We are calling the menu upscale bar food,” Wallace said. “One thing that we are going to push is our corned beef sandwich. It is going to have a nice twist to it.”

The **GOLF VILLAGE** has one of the largest driving ranges in Charlotte with all grass hitting areas, and a brewery/restaurant to boot for a complete day or late evening of practice and refreshing food and drink just upstairs at the new **MIDDLE JAMES BREWING** - opening soon in Pineville.



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“Better Speed equals better putting”

Practice tips from Matt Gotto, PGA ~ Edgewater Golf Club

When practicing putting, the majority of your time should be focused on the speed of your putts rather than the line. Most 3-putts occur because we fail to get the first putt close to the hole and that is almost always because of speed. Players rarely miss the correct line by more than 2 or 3 feet, so why do we continually have putts longer than 2-3 feet for our second putt?

Having better speed control will not only help your 3-putts, but it will also help you make more breaking putts. When you pick a line on a breaking putt, you have to match the speed to the line. A putt hit too hard will result in a miss on the high side of the hole, and too soft will miss on the low side.



Practice Drill #1

Practice Drill #1

When you go to the practice green, place balls at varying distances from the edge of the green. The goal is to try to putt each ball close to the edge of the green without rolling onto the fringe. Putting to the edge of the green will help to eliminate focusing on the line, and will help you dial in your speed.



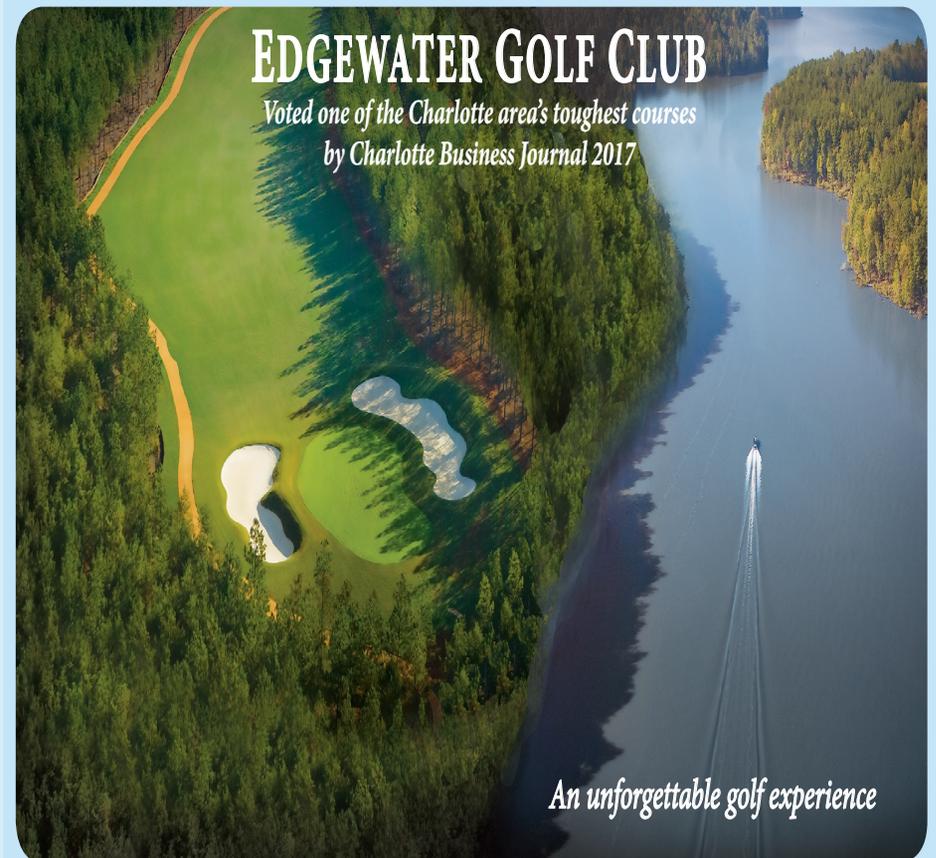
Practice Drill #2

Practice Drill #2

Of course it is important to practice hitting putts on line, and when practicing, find a straight putt 3-5 feet long and see how many you can make in a row. This will do more than just improve your accuracy; it will also provide positive reinforcement by seeing a lot of balls go in. If you can make all straight putts from 3-5 feet, you will be able to get your ball started on the correct line for putts of any length.

For more help with your golf game, consult your local PGA Professional.

Matt Gotto, PGA
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The British Open returns to Northern Ireland

World's best to be tested by challenging rough and testy greens



The Open Championship returns to Northern Ireland July 18-21 for the first time in 68 years with this year event at Royal Portrush Golf Club in County Antrim. The links is named after the ruins of Dunluce Castle located on the edge of a basalt outcropping overlooking the sea between Portrush and Portballintrae.

Royal Portrush Golf Club is home to one of the best and most challenging links golf courses in the world, the Dunluce Links, and the hidden gem, the Valley Links. Maybe the closest thing to a photo of a golf course on the moon, the only difference being Royal Portrush is a bit greener.

Royal Portrush Golf Club was founded in 1888 and has hosted many championships, such as the first Open Championship ever held in Ireland in 1951. In more recent times, Royal Portrush has hosted the Senior British Open 1995-1999, The Amateur Championship in 1993 & 2014 and The Irish Open 2012.

The Dunluce Links at Royal Portrush Golf Club ranks amongst the world's most challenging and among a hand-full of the greatest courses. Unimaginable rough and testing greens combined with the unpredictable weather of the roaring North Atlantic make this course an admirable test for the world's best golfers. This site commands distant views of the hills of Donegal in the Irish Republic and the island of Islay.



At age 16, Rory McIlroy set a Royal Portrush record shooting a round of 61.

It will be a homecoming of sorts for Northern Ireland's most notable professionals. At the age of 16, Rory McIlroy shot a course record of 61 on Dunluce as a signal of his intentions, before winning two PGA Championships (2012, Kiawah Island and 2014 at Valhalla), the US Open (2011 at Congressional), and the Open (2014, at Royal Liverpool).

Graeme McDowell, Portrush born, won the US Open at Pebble Beach in 2010, one year before Darren Clarke presented his Royal St. Georges Open Championship medal to Royal Portrush, the club he adopted as his home club.

Padraig Harrington rounds out the four honorary members of Royal Portrush. As the winner of two Open Championships (2007 at Carnoustie and 2008 at Royal Birkdale), and the PGA Championship (2008 at Oakland Hills), Harrington was also a big part of the staging of the 2012 Irish Open at Royal Portrush. That event made a huge impact on the R & A in their decision to return The Open to Northern Ireland for the first time in 68 years.

LOCAL PRO and AMATEUR GOLF SCHEDULES 2019

NATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF TOUR

July 14-15	Low Country Junior Championship RiverTowne CC ~ Mt. Pleasant, SC
July 21-22	Lake Lure Junior Championship Rumbling Bald Resort ~ Lake Lure, NC
August 3-4	Savannah Junior Open The Club at Savannah Harbor ~ Savannah, Georgia
August 15-16	Glen Dornoch Junior Open Glen Dornoch Waterway Golf Links ~ Little River, SC
August 31	NJGA 19th Annual Adult/Junior National Championship The Hackler Course Coastal Carolina Univ. Conway, SC
Sept 1-2	NJGA 19th Annual National Championship Hackler Course at Coastal Carolina University Conway, SC
Nov 9-10	Charlotte Junior Open ~ Rocky River Golf Club Concord, NC
Dec 7-8	Atlantic Dunes Junior Open ~ Atlantic Dunes Hilton Head

SENIOR AMATEUR TOUR – CHARLOTTE AREA

July 8	Firethorne CC	Marvin, NC
July 17	Lancaster CC	Lancaster, SC
Aug 5	Senior Open – Peninsula CC	Cornelius, NC
Aug 28	Ballantyne CC	Charlotte, NC
Sept 10-11	The Players – Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
Sept 18	River Hills CC	Lake Wylie, SC
Oct 1	Pine Island CC	Charlotte, NC

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN PRO GOLF TOUR

Monday, July 8th	Olde Sycamore ~ Mint Hill, NC
Tuesday, July 30th	C.C. of Spartanburg ~ Spartanburg, SC
Monday, Aug. 12th	Furman University G.C. ~ Greenville, SC
Tuesday, Aug. 20th	Green Valley C.C. ~ Greenville, SC
Monday, Aug. 26th	Wooden Ridge ~ Inman, SC
Tuesday, Sept. 3rd	Greenwood C.C. ~ Greenwood, SC
Monday, Sept. 16th	Village Greens ~ Gramling, SC
Monday, October 7th	Monroe C.C. ~ Monroe, NC
Monday, October 21st	Kenmure C.C. ~ Flat Rock, NC

SWING THOUGHT TOUR – Carolina's Events

July 26	Tanglewood GC	Clemmons, NC
July 29-30	Stoney Creek GC	Whitsett, NC
Aug 20-21	Pine Island Country Club	Charlotte, NC
Aug 26	Cutter Creek GC	Snow Hill, NC
Aug 29	Greensboro Ntl Golf Club	Greensboro, NC

CHARLOTTE GOLF WEEK AMATEUR TOUR

Wednesday, July 17	Lancaster Country Club	Lancaster, SC
Saturday, July 27	Firethorne Country Club	Marvin, NC
Saturday, August 3	River Hills Country Club	Lake Wylie, SC
Monday, August 12	Pine Island Country Club	Charlotte, NC
Saturday, August 17	Warrior Golf Club	China Grove, NC
Saturday, Sept. 14	Local Finals – The Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis, NC
Sunday, Sept. 15	Local Finals – Northstone Country Club	Huntersville, NC

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LOCAL TOURS:

Charlotte Senior Amateur Tour
704-844-8264
senioramateurgolftour.net/charlotte

Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour
704-844-8264
amateurgolftour.net/charlotte

Swing Thought Tour
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swingthought.com

National Junior Golf Tour
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nationaljuniorgolfassociation.com

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