



#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

