

Carolina **GOLF JOURNAL**

Free

Vol. 8 Issue 1

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The Rules of Golf are undergoing a drastic makeover.

In what is the most significant modernization in generations, the USGA and R&A unveiled 30

proposed changes designed to make more consistent, fair and straightforward rules that are easier to understand and apply.

The changes span a wide range of issues – from grounding a club in a penalty area, to determining if a ball moved, to repairing damage on greens, to relaxing dropping procedures. The governing bodies usually revise the rules every four years, but this new edition will be implemented a year earlier on January 1, 2019. They alerted the major pro tours about the proposed changes at the beginning of this year.

Determining whether a player caused his ball to move had been a hot topic before last year's U.S. Open, but the issue received even more scrutiny when the USGA ruled that Dustin Johnson was "more likely than not," or 51% certain, to have caused his ball to move slightly on Oakmont's super-fast greens.

The ensuing chaos (and one-shot penalty after the round) didn't affect the outcome, but afterward players and fans blasted the USGA for issuing what was perceived as an unfair ruling. Now, under proposed Rule 9.2 there is a new standard: A player will be penalized only when it is known, or virtually certain (at least 95%), that he caused the ball to move, which should eliminate many of the questionable calls. Once cleared, a player will be allowed to replace the ball on its estimated original spot.

One of the most radical proposals is that a player will be allowed to ground his club everywhere except a bunker. By allowing a player to touch the ground with his club and move loose impediments in the penalty area, Proposed Rule 17 would eliminate the unintentional infraction that could be detected only after replay, such as when Carl Pettersson, standing in a lateral water hazard, brushed a leaf with his backswing at the 2012 PGA Championship. The next rulebook will feature the term "penalty area," not "hazard."

The rule change that could most significantly affect week-to-week competition is that players now will be allowed to repair any damage on the greens, including spike marks. Previously, players were allowed to fix only ball marks in their lines. In 2013, European Tour player Simon Dyson was embroiled in a cheating scandal after he tapped down a spike mark during an event. He claimed that he wasn't trying to gain a competitive advantage, but he still was placed on probation. Now, under Rule 13.1b(1), players could try to create as smooth a surface as possible to roll their putts.

There will also be a new reasonable judgment standard, Rule 1.3a(2), in regard to estimating a line, drop or distance. With the new rule, a player would need only to do "all that could reasonably be expected under the circumstances" to accurately measure the spot. A recent example: Tiger Woods' controversial drop en route to a victory at the 2013 Players. After finding the water off the 14th tee, Woods discussed where his ball crossed the hazard with his fellow playing competitor, Casey Wittenberg, and his caddie. The group agreed that the ball hooked into the water farther down the fairway, even though video replays suggested it was closer to the tee box. Woods was not penalized, but the PGA Tour felt compelled to issue a statement about the incident. Under the new rule, which relies on the integrity of the player, Woods would still be absolved.

Some other proposed changes:

- Instead of dropping a ball at shoulder height, players can release the ball at any height above one inch. The area in which players are allowed relief is also expanded; rather than one or two club-lengths, there is now a defined relief area of 20 inches (cart paths, ground under repair, etc.) to 80 inches (unplayable lie, penalty area drops).

- Caddies cannot stand behind a player and help with alignment while the player takes a stance – a move that is most common in the LPGA, including with world No. 1 Lydia Ko.

- A player won't be penalized if his ball accidentally deflects off him. That's what happened to Jeff Maggert in the 2003 Masters. Leading by two entering the final round, he received a two-shot penalty after his shot hit the lip of the bunker and rebounded off his body. He made triple bogey and finished fifth. Five years later, the penalty for an accidental deflection was reduced from two shots to one. Now, it is eliminated altogether, a nod to the unpredictability of the act and the inherent disadvantage if it occurred.

- Search time for lost balls is three minutes, not five.

- Players can move loose impediments in a bunker. There still is a penalty if a player (a) touches the sand to test the surface, or (b) touches the sand when making a backswing – the penalty that cost Anna Nordqvist a chance to win last year's U.S. Women's Open.

- Damaged clubs can be used in competition, even if the equipment was damaged in a fit of rage. Previously, only those clubs that were damaged in the "normal course of play" could still be used, so if, for instance, a player slammed his putter in disgust and bent the shaft, he would have no choice but to putt with a wedge or fairway wood for the remainder of the round.

- Players are entitled to free relief from an embedded lie anywhere (save for the bunker), unless limited to the fairway by a local rule.

- Rangefinders can be used to measure distances, except when prohibited by a local rule. It was not immediately known whether the pro tours would enforce that local rule, with players and caddies still responsible for calculating their own yardages.

- Committees are encouraged to mark more hazards with red stakes, not yellow, to allow lateral relief.

- In an attempt to improve pace of play at the recreational level, the governing bodies are encouraging ready golf; allowing putts to be holed with the flagstick in and recommending an alternative form of stroke play with a double-par maximum score.

If all of the proposals are approved, the total number of rules would be reduced from 34 to 24. Criticized in the past for having a rulebook that was complicated and full of legalese, the governing bodies instead have created a user-friendly, simply written "player's edition" covering the most commonly used rules. The USGA and R&A will accept feedback on these proposed changes for the next six months, until the end of August, before drafting a final rulebook next year. The new rules will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2019.



Proposed changes to Rules of Golf revealed

When local PGA golf professional Bruce Parker took over the Golf Depot in Pineville last December, people might have expected just a coat of paint, some grass seed spread and a few golf clubs in the pro shop to serve as an equipment center.

But what has happened has far exceeded their expectations.

First the driving range has a new name - **Effortless Golf Center**



Bruce Parker, PGA Professional
Effortless Golf Center

effortless golf center @ Golf Depot

Dedicated to better golf with one-stop

@ Golf Depot. New grass seed has been spread on the hitting area, and maintained as if it was part of a regular golf course. This effort has produced arguable the “best grass hitting areas” in Charlotte. Plus, the maintenance of the lighting system provides a perfect opportunity for late afternoon and evening practice sessions.

The fifteen covered hitting bays have been improved with new top-grade mats, giving the golfers a better feel with every club. That feel and performance is also enhanced by the addition of new “Volvik” golf balls,

providing unmatched durability and maximize energy transfer for greater distance and accuracy.

The bright yellow Volvik balls come in four different size buckets, depending on the amount of work you want to put into your practice. The prices are as follows: small \$6 (45 balls); medium \$9 (75 balls); large \$12 (110 balls); and for the really serious practice session the extra-large bucket is priced at \$15 for 175 balls.



Effortless Golf Center also offers range cards as well. The \$80 punch cards provide ten (10) large buckets, while for \$60 players can enjoy ten (10) medium buckets. And, Monday-Friday before 4pm medium buckets are only \$7.

To make sure the golfers are dialing in their distance for each club, driving range pin placements will be updated each day to insure

proper yardage. Better drainage has been added on the range to prevent necessary closings after what could be heavy rains in the spring and early summer.

Practicing the short game has not been ignored; work is under way on improving the chipping and putting greens, along with better sand traps to give golfers a true

feel of the sand used throughout this area of the Carolinas.

Instruction is also a vital part of the **Effortless Golf Center** with Bruce Parker and his staff of teachers offering lessons for all levels of golfers from the beginner to the low-handicap players.

Teaching golf has come naturally for Bruce, after starring as the #1 golfer on his high-school team for four years and playing on scholarship for the Georgia State University golf team.

Bruce has been instructing students for over 22 years, his style quickly produced a name for his method of teaching - **Effortless Golf** - with his Atlanta clients coming up with this perfect description.

“I try to keep the swing as simple as possible. I will find out what your personal goals for golf are and accomplish exactly that,” said Parker.

“Basically, I just make your swing better...I do not start you over. We will look at your swing on video, find out what you do well and keep doing that. Find out what makes you miss and make that better. I keep your thoughts to a minimum so you can hopefully bring the improved swing to the course. You will learn how to impact the ball the right way. This way you know where the ball will go when you hit it. Consistency!!”

Inside the clubhouse golfers will find a wide selection of new and used golf equipment, including a complete line of Callaway drivers, fairway metals and irons. Golfers can get cash for clubs or trade-in their old clubs at **Effortless Golf** for a different set of clubs to improve their game.



Parker is the First Tee of Charlotte's best customer, buying many of the better conditioned donated clubs for resale in his pro shop. This allows the First Tee of Charlotte to collect much-needed funds to help grow the game of golf with their excellent youth program. This has proven to be a win-win situation for both parties.

Getting fitted for new clubs is a must and buyers are encouraged to "hit before you buy" on the range of any of the new clubs. That includes the new Callaway Epic driver that has challenged Taylor Made as the top driver of 2017. A launch monitor is also available in their indoor hitting bay to better determine the proper specs of the club to fit the player's style of play.

Handling the proper feel of the new clubs is Fitting Specialist Robert Catlett who also serves as the Head Professional and is in charge of club repairs, ranging from new grips, re-shafting, club head replacement and weight adjustments.



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Golf Tip: It's all about the finish

Bruce Parker, Owner/Director of Golf
Effortless Golf Center @ Golf Depot

So much is said about carving a shot from right to left or left to right that it gets confusing and over played. You will hear all sorts of things to do, open your stance, close the face, change the path, etc. There is a simple way to control the ball flight with all your clubs.



If you finish with the shaft above your head, the ball will leak away from you (cut shot).



If you finish with the club below your head, the ball will curve back to you (draw).



Finally, if you finish with the club between your ears the ball will go pretty straight.

If you have a problem with the ball slicing, work on finishing lower. If the problem is a hook, work on finishing high. This is a very simple way to improve your ball flight. Come find out why my clients keep improving.

Wells Fargo Championship makes one-year trip to Wilmington

By Sam Smith

When the Wells Fargo Championship opens on May 4-7, it will mark the first time the tournament will be played away from Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte. Due to the selection of Quail Hollow as the 2017 PGA site in August, the annual Wells Fargo event will be played at the Eagle Point Golf Club in Wilmington, NC.



Eagle Point Golf Club - Wilmington, NC

Wells Fargo Championship also to be a determining factor.

uphill 17th hole that could separate the men from the boys. Again back into the wind, this hole could play close to 500 yards on the final day, and is protected by one-shy of a dozen bunkers along both sides of the fairway with four more greenside bunkers. Risk or reward will be the hallmark of the 17th hole, with win or lose the

One of the PGA Tour's most popular golf tournaments, the Wells Fargo has been an award-winning success for local Charlotte charities and golf fans alike. David Toms, now at 50-years old and on the Champions Tour, captured the first tournament championship in 2003. James Hahn was the 2016 winner, beating Roberto Castro on the first sudden-death hole at the difficult 18th hole. Hahn will strive to become only the second golfer to win the Wells Fargo twice, joining Rory McIlroy's victories in 2010 and 2015.

Quail Hollow has always been considered an outstanding challenge for the PGA's best, but reports from Wilmington indicate that the Tom Fazio designed Eagle Point Golf Club could possibly be an equally difficult four days of golf.

Boasting of Augusta-like conditions, this Tom Fazio design embraces the coastal surroundings with tree branches meticulously trimmed to shape the playing corridors and water features that were created to add esthetics and challenge to the course. The course features gentle contours and elevation changes that help add to the stiff challenge found at Eagle Point. Like most Fazio courses, it is tough to identify a true signature hole when the course is so solid from start to finish. The firm conditions allow working the ground game while the speedy greens demand absolute precision.

Just like the many great finishes at Quail Hollow, the final four holes will test the winners with a little different challenge – ocean wind. Arguably the par 3, 222 yard 15th hole is the most difficult on the course. The tee ball played into the breeze must carry a water hazard to a kidney shaped green. Late rounds will find that the green will become dryer and super-fast creating a lethal combination for costly bogies to ruin a winning score.

If the players manage the 15th hole, the toughest par 4 is the 442 yard slightly



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Callaway Epic drivers outshine Taylor Made

Most of the buzz in 2016 was over the Taylor Made M series drivers being showcased on the PGA Tour by the world's best players. Their endorsement sparked giant sales of the M series among every level of golfers.



This year appears to be a different story, with the Great Big Berta Epic drivers showing strong sales since its introduction in January.

Being called the latest "game changer", the two models - the Epic and the Subzero are remarkably similar in design, but there are some noticeable differences that one should be aware of.

The Epic offers more adjustability and more forgiveness on off-center hits which will benefit the higher handicap players.

The Subzero driver offers a solution for the more advanced golfer. The center of gravity is below the center of the face, lowering the spin rate, which can be an enormous benefit. The only tradeoff with the Subzero is that off-center hits will be less stable.

For the most important test factor, golfers gained on average 1.7 mph in extra ball speed, which resulted in 5-plus yards of extra distance and 3.5 yards closer to their target on average, which was actually more important to most players.

The Callaway Epic drivers have offered excellent test numbers, however, you won't know if it is going to perform better for you until you test it.

Certain players are going to try out this club, and it is entirely possible they could gain 20 extra yards (one of our testers did). Others might see marginal gains, or none at all, or it might not be worth it to switch.

Meet two GGE staff professionals

Kent Simpson - After a career in computers, in 1991 Kent built a driving range and golf shop with some friends. He held beginner clinics and gave individual lessons, repaired clubs and performed club fittings. After selling the range, Kent worked for Las Vegas Golf and Tennis in Foley, Alabama. He moved back to Charlotte in 2013 and went to work for Edwin Watts and was there until the tragic fire that ended their presence in Charlotte. Kent has now found a new home at Greater Golf Express doing club fittings, club repair and sales.



George Santizo joined Greater Golf Express in 2015, after seven years with Duke's II golf shop in Rock Hill. He served as manager for three years while honing his skills in repair and maintenance of golf clubs. He was raised to play golf with his first set of clubs at age 3 in Guatemala City, Guatemala before moving to Denver in 1994. George joined the Navy in 1996, serving a two year tour of duty before moving to Charlotte. Prior to Duke's, Santizo worked at Skybrook Golf Club, Sweet Spot Golf and Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation.



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

Time saver ideas for a better round of golf

Each year the Carolina Golf Journal offers suggestion to help speed up play, so here we go again. In earlier issues we have presented the common ideas of the following: play ready golf; play forward at least one tee box; only mark short putts to clean it; park carts on exit side of green toward the next tee; and several more tried and proven guidelines.

But this year, we have a collection of new ideas to help your foursome play faster and enjoy the game better.

- Ditch your headcovers. Taking them on and off all day is a serious time suck.
- Play like you have only three hours to finish the round before the sun sets.
- Mixed foursome? Forward-tee players should ride with other forward-tee players. Back tees with back tees.
- Don't wait for dawdlers. They'll start playing faster as a result.
- First golfer on a par-3 gets the yardage and announces it to everyone.
- First to hit on a par-3 stands at the ready to fill divot holes.
- Glean as much knowledge as you can about your next shot while approaching it.
- Approximate yardages instead of walking them off.
- Two players in the same bunker? The last one to hit rakes. The first one to escape marks and reads the putt during the raking.
- Always be moving forward. If you have to double back for anything - bag, cart, clubs—you're losing time.



- Always have a spare ball handy.
- A little radical for some, but leaving the flagstick in the hole saves a lot of time.
- Have an exit strategy. Know where the next tee box is and be prepared to make a direct exit toward that box as soon as the hole is finished.
- Jokes and stories are best told after teeing off, not before. Otherwise you're interrupting another player's preparation.
- Playing on the tail of the people in front of you will subconsciously push them to play faster, even if they try not to.

Try a couple of the new ideas and see if this will cut your playing time, but not diminish the enjoyment of a fun round of golf with your foursome this week. Thanks for trying!

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Guests Welcome ~ Memberships Available

Golfers of all levels are always fighting with their game, but are they using all that energy and not producing any positive results? A new book by LPGA Northeast Teacher of the Year Tiffany Faucette will show players how to rethink ways they use their bodies and brains so they can train their fighting spirit into producing winning shots.

Faucette captained Florida State University's women's golf team and

Fight your golf game the right way

New book on positive approach to winning shots

The new book, *Fighting Golf: Flow with Force and Fly*, gives all readers – from rank novices to elite tournament athletes – a full spectrum of instruction, inspiration and advice. With her fierce-but-friendly approach and detailed photographs, Faucette breaks down complex swing theory into comprehensible drills such as “Throw a Punch,” “Pick up a Heavy Bucket,” “Hold off an Intruder” and “Bored at a Cocktail Party.” While drill names may elicit smiles, they directly address simple postures and grips that turn soft swings into powerful ones. Close-up and full-body photographs help players put tips immediately into practice and their games.

The conversational style of the book introduces readers to Faucette's playing background on the pro circuit and how she overcame roadblocks in her swing with simple changes to body mechanics that have huge impacts on any swing.

“It was imperative to make *Fighting Golf* easily digestible and enjoyable, so players would keep turning pages,” Faucette says. “At the same time, I give very detailed instructions, so each movement makes sense and is easy to replicate on the range, course or at home.”

rose to No. # 1 in the Titleist Golfweek Rankings. Following a playing career on the LPGA Futures, European, and Asia tours, and scores of teaching accolades from national and regional organizations – Faucette is revered for quelling players' frustrations and restoring their enthusiasm for the game. She is lead instructor at 1757 Golf Club, managed by Billy Casper Golf, in Dulles, Virginia.

Fighting Golf is on Amazon.com where it's quickly become five-star rated and the #1 new golf coaching book. It is also for purchase on fightinggolf.com where golfers access “F Your Game” tips. A part of the proceeds of *Fighting Golf* benefit LPGA Girls' Golf.



Jason Sutton at Carmel Country Club collects top teaching honors

Carmel Country Club Director of Golf Instruction, Jason Sutton has started off 2017 with a bang, gaining national and PGA Chapter honors for his outstanding service as golf instructor.

After several nominations for the Golf Magazine Top 100 Teachers of the Year, Sutton was named to that list for the first time this year. He was joined in the Top 100 by three (3) other PGA Carolina Chapter professionals; Tim Cooke, Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head, SC; Krista Dunton, Berkley Hall, Bluffton, SC; and Ed Ibarquen, Duke University Golf Club, Dunham, NC.

In addition to the national award, Sutton collected the Palmer Maples Teacher of the Year recognition from the PGA Carolina Chapter, demonstrating an impact on teaching and golf instruction in the Section, involvement in junior golf activities at Carmel Country Club and in Charlotte, innovative contributions of golf instruction and any articles written for publication.



Sutton believes teaching has more to do with helping players get the changes to the golf course (unconscious). Situational training: pre-shot routine, course management, helping them develop practice habits that match the way they play. Most teachers and students get stuck in blocked (mechanical) practice and never learn how to play the game.

Sutton started as an assistant professional at a couple of clubs in West Virginia, learning the business, after playing college golf at Glenville State College in West Virginia. He moved to Charlotte in 1997 and was the Head Golf Professional at the NorthStone Club for three years. He started to pursue his passion for teaching when he joined the Dana Rader Golf Schools where he worked for 12 years. The ability to give a ton of lessons and learn from one of the best (Ms. Rader) was a huge step for Sutton and his career.

“At Carmel I can work with members and non-members as well. I have some mini-tour players and elite juniors that have been out to see me. My first priority is taking care of the Carmel members but it is nice to be able to fill in the gaps with some regulars that you have worked with for several years.”

Host a Successful Golf Outing at The Golf Club at Ballantyne

Recognized as a Best Place to Play with 4.5 Stars by Golf Digest, The Golf Club at Ballantyne provides one of the finest public golf experiences in the region. With its first-class facilities and superior service, The Golf Club has established itself as a top course to host a corporate golf outing or charitable tournament.

The Golf Club specializes in executing effortless golf tournaments and outings. “Our dedicated team of PGA professionals and golf event coordinators can assist with every detail to make an event both successful and memorable,” said Woody Allen, director of golf, The Golf Club at Ballantyne. “With our unparalleled resources, we can tailor an experience that is ideal for each client.”



The Golf Club offers all the essentials to create an unforgettable golf experience. Golfers can enjoy an 18-hole, par 71 PGA course, and facilities include a golf pro shop, practice area, driving range and custom club fitting.

An impressive golf pavilion located adjacent to the driving range

can accommodate up to 140 guests for tournament receptions.

Enhancements such as sponsored holes and logo golf merchandise are also available to elevate any event. Glow-in-the-dark putting challenges, long drive contests and lawn games are also popular among guests.

The Golf Club’s ideal location at The Ballantyne offers unlimited opportunities to customize an event with versatile venues, extensive food and beverage options, well-appointed accommodations and desirable amenities.

Interested in planning a golf outing or tournament at The Golf Club? Contact Noelene Grosso at 704-248-4036 or ngrosso@golfballantyne.com.



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The Golf Club at Ballantyne’s world-class facilities, expertly maintained course and superior service provide the region’s finest golf experience.

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To book an outing, please contact Noelene Grosso at ngrosso@golfballantyne.com or 704 248 4036.

2017 Charity Golf Tournaments for the Greater Charlotte area

Carolina Golf Journal would like to promote your 2017 fundraising golf tournament.

Send your information to: sam@carolinagolfjournal.com or call 704-756-9909

6th Annual Birdies & Bagpipes Golf Tournament for Alpha-1 Village

Friday, March 17
Golf Club at Ballantyne
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 1:00pm
Cost: \$150 per player/ \$575 per foursome
Contact: Brittany Shelley
alpha1village.com

All Hands On Deck Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, April 10
Raintree Country Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 11:00am
Cost: \$125 per player/ \$500 per team
Contact: On Deck Academy – 704-889-2287
info@ondeckacademy.com

20th Annual Charlotte-Metro Florida A&M Alumni Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 29
Larkin Golf Club
2-Man Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 8:30am
Cost: \$90 per player
Contact: Don Jordan – 704-517-5505
dondjorden@carolina.rr.com

Make-A-Wish Golf Classic

Monday, May 8
Providence Country Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 11:00am
Contact: Make-A-Wish Central & Western NC – 704-339-0334
nc.wish.org/makeawishgolfclassic

Fairways for Wishes 3rd Annual Golf Classic

Monday, May 14
Cedarwood Country Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 12:30pm
Contact: Make-A-Wish Central & Western NC – 704-339-0334
nc.wish.org/makeawishgolfclassic

2017 YMCA Golfing for Good Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, May 15
Carolina Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Starts: (2 tournaments) 8:00am & 1:30pm
Cost: \$300 per player/ \$1,200 per foursome
Contact: Heather Hammond
heather.hammond@ymcacharlotte.org

15th Annual Friends Fore Hospice Golf Tournament

Monday, May 15
Catawba Country Club, Newton, NC
Format - Captain's Choice
2 Shotgun Starts – 8:30 am and 1:30 pm
Light Breakfast – 7:30 am, Buffet Lunch 11:00 am-2:00 pm
Cost - \$125 per player/\$500 per team
Contact – Sue Mulay 828-466-0466 ext. 2357
Email – smulay@pchcv.org
www.CatawbaRegionalHospice.org/golf

8th Annual Ella Foard Foundation for Rett Syndrome Charity Golf Classic

Monday, May 15
Cabarrus Country Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 10am
Cost: \$125 per player
Contact: Grant Goodwin - 404-667-0141
ggoodwin@bbridgefin.com

2017 St. Jude Charlotte Charity Golf Classic

Tuesday, May 16
The Peninsula Club Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 8:30am
Cost: \$125 per player
Contact: Megan Hannon – 704-554-7710
megan.hannon@stjude.org

DSA-GC Annual Golf Tournament:
in memory of Nicholas G. Kwiatkowski
Friday, May 19
The Divide Golf Club

4-Man Modified Captain's Choice

Shotgun Start: 11am
Cost: \$135/player, \$540/team
Contact: Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte
(704) 536-2163 or scook@dsa-gc.org

William Wilson Celebrity Invitational

Tuesday, May 23
TPC @ Piper Glen
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 8:30am
Cost: \$250 per player
Contact: William Wilson Foundation
704-269-8869
info@williamwilsonclothing.com

15th Annual Hooptee Celebrity Golf Classic

Thursday, July 20 (Pairing Party July 19th)
Golf Club at Ballantyne
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 10:15am
Cost: Individual w/hotel - \$2,100
without hotel -\$1,700
Team with hotel - \$8,200 / without hotel - \$6,500
Contact: hooptee@theeventauthority.com

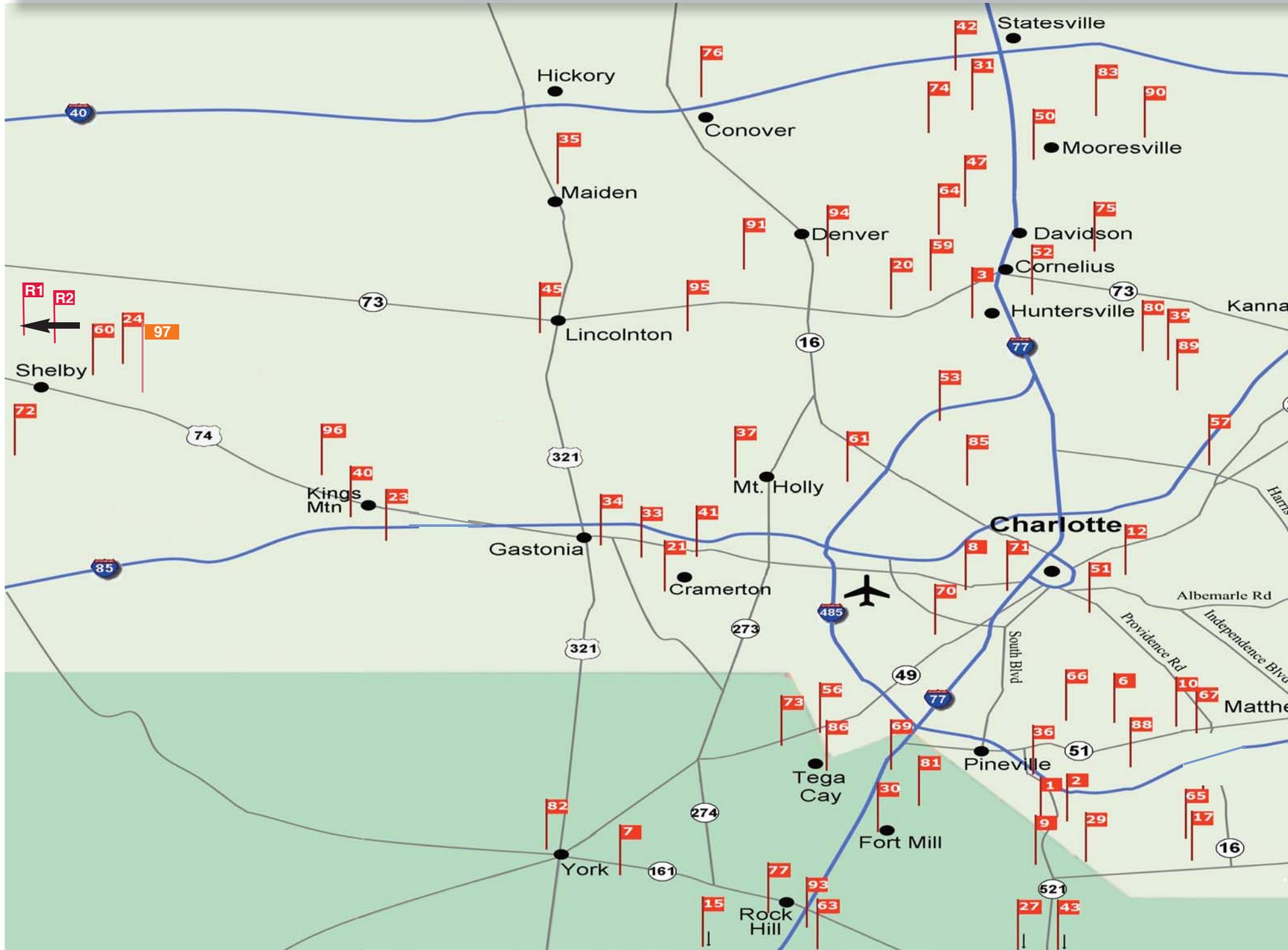
12th Annual Cassandra M. Thompson Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 19
Rocky River Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 1:30pm
Cost: \$125 per player/ \$500 per team
Contact: Carolina Cross Connection 704-721-0033
info@teesfortuition.org

Tees for Tuition Charity Golf Tournament

Tuesday, October 10
Golf Club at Ballantyne
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start: 9:00am
Contact: Tees for tuition – 980-321-7562
nc.wish.org/make-a-wishgolfclassic

Carolina Golf Journal Golf Course G



R1. Apple Valley Golf Course - Lake Lure

Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3043

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

7. Carolina Crossing Golf Club - York, SC

Public 18 ~ 803-684-5878

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

Public 18 ~ 704-536-1692

12. Charlotte Country Club ~ Charlotte

Private 18 ~ 704-333-9809

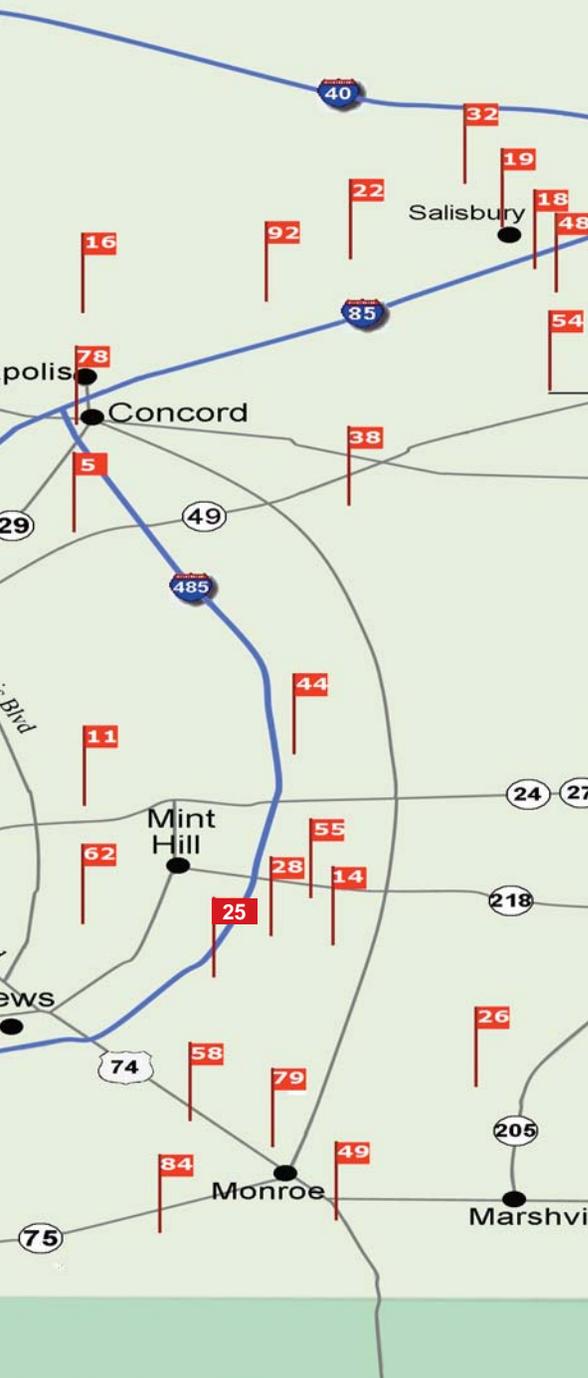
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Guide for the Greater Charlotte Area



Charlotte National Golf Club ~ Indian Trail
Public 18 ~ 704-882-8282

Chester Golf Club - Richburg, SC
Public 18 ~ 803-581-5733

The Club at Irish Creek - Kannapolis
Private 18 ~ 704-933-4336

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
23. Crowders Mountain CC ~ Kings Mtn
Public 18 ~ 704-734-0383
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
Semi-Private 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
41. Lakewood Golf Course ~ Cramerton
Public 18 ~ 704-825-2852
42. Lakewood Golf Course ~ Statesville
Public 18 ~ 704-873-6441
43. Lancaster Golf Club
Public 18 ~ 803-416-4500
44. Larkhaven Golf Course - Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-545-4653
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
67. Raintree Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 36 ~ 704-542-8150
68. Red Bridge Golf Club ~ Locust
Public 18 ~ 704-781-5231
69. Regent Park Golf Club ~ Ft. Mill
Public 18 ~ 803-547-1300
70. Renaissance Park Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-357-3373

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| 71. Revolution Park Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 9 ~ 704-342-1946 | 81. Springfield Golf Club ~ Ft. Mill
Public 18 ~ 803-548-3318 | 91. Verdict Ridge Golf & CC ~ Denver
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-489-1206 |
| 72. Riverbend Golf Club ~ Shelby
Public 18 ~ 704-482-4286 | 82. Spring Lake Golf Club ~ York
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-684-4898 | 92. Warrior Golf Club ~ China Grove
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-856-0871 |
| 73. River Hills Country Club ~ Lake Wylie
Private 18 ~ 803-831-2249 | 83. Statesville Country Club ~ Statesville
Private 18 ~ 704-873-8376 | 93. Waterford Golf Club ~ Rock Hill
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-324-0300 |
| 74. River Oaks Golf Club ~ Statesville
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-883-8724 | 84. Stonebridge Golf Club ~ Mineral Springs
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-283-8998 | 94. Westport Golf ~ Denver
Public 18 ~ 704-489-8088 - Denver |
| 75. River Run Golf & CC ~ Davidson
Private 18 ~ 704-896-7355 | 85. Sunset Hills Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-399-0980 | 95. White Oak ~ Alexis
Public Par-3 18 ~ 704-263-9990 |
| 76. Rock Barn CC & Spa ~ Conover
Semi-Private 36 ~ 828-459-9279 | 86. Tega Cay Golf Club ~ Tega Cay
Public 18 ~ 803-548-2918 | 96. Woodbridge Golf Links ~ Kings Mountain
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-482-0353 |
| 77. Rock Hill Country Club ~ Rock Hill
Private 18 ~ 803-327-7790 | 87. Tot Hill Farm Golf Club ~ Asheboro
Semi-Private 18 ~ 336-857-4455 | 97. Royster Memorial Golf Course ~ Shelby
Public 9 ~ 704-484-6823 |
| 78. Rocky River Golf Club ~ Concord
Public 18 ~ 704-455-1200 | 88. TPC at Piper Glen ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-846-1515 | |
| 79. Rolling Hills Country Club ~ Monroe
Private 18 ~ 704-283-8201 | 89. The Tradition ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-503-7529 | |
| 80. Skybrook Golf Club ~ Huntersville
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-948-6611 | 90. Twin Oaks Golf Course ~ Statesville
Public 18 ~ 704-872-3979 | |

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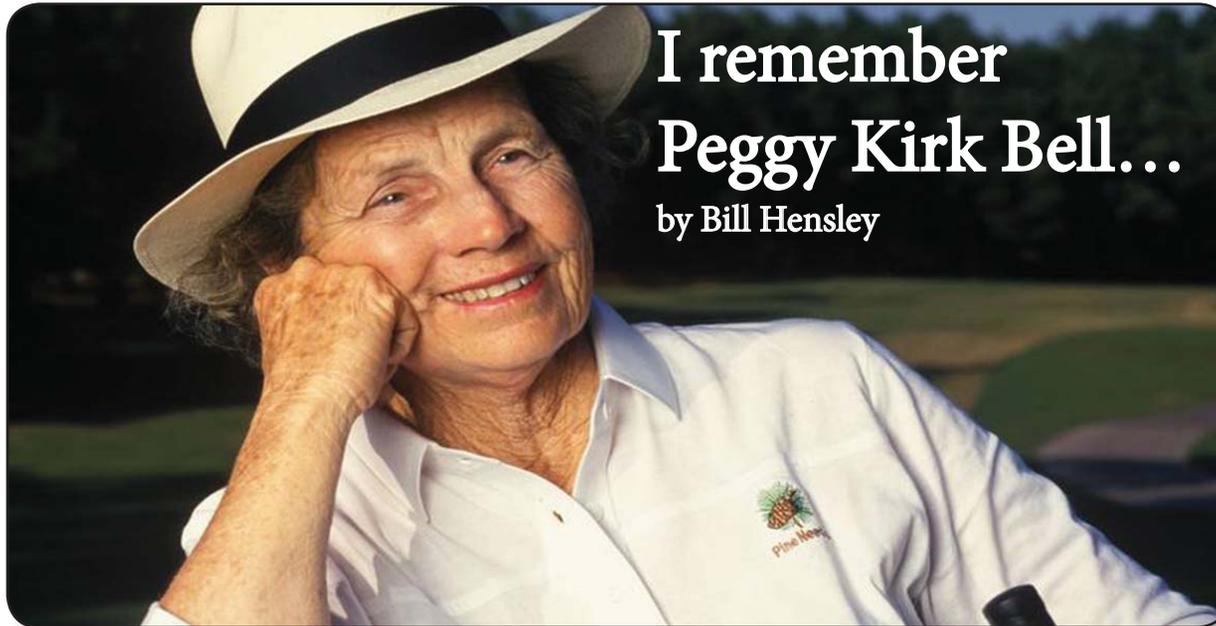


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I remember Peggy Kirk Bell...

by Bill Hensley

The game of golf lost one of its most ardent supporters recently with the death of Peggy Kirk Bell of Southern Pines, a pioneer of women's golf, one of the nation's top-rated teachers and promoters, and a talented player who made her mark in both amateur and professional golf.

I had the pleasure of working with her for over thirty years, and she never ceased to amaze me with her dedication to the game. She literally lived and breathed golf, and spent every waking moment in some aspect of the game.

In addition to helping the women's tour get started in the 1950s, she was one of the first teachers to establish golf schools. The schools became a popular reality at Pine Needles, the resort she owned with her late husband "Bullett," in the early 60s. Known as "Golfaris," the schools have been a regular feature for over fifty years.

Peg was so wrapped up in golf that she would give an impromptu lesson, when asked, anytime in any place. Often she would stroll through the Pine Needles or Mid Pines dining rooms and would soon be seen making swings or grip changes to an eager diner who was frustrated with his game. And it was the same in golf shop, the locker room or the lobby. There was no out-of-bounds for golf lessons.

Over the years her friends in golf were numerous and included all the top names such as Babe Zaharias, Patty Berg, Annika Sorenstam, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. Even basketball great



Peggy Kirk Bell (L) with Babe Zaharias

Michael Jordan was a golfing buddy. But she seldom talked about them, except for Zaharias who was her closest friend when they were on the LPGA tour.

"Babe was a real character," she said, "and beating her was a rare occasion for me." Peg tells the story of visiting Babe in the hospital when she was dying of cancer. "Babe asked me if I brought my clubs, and I told her no. She said that's too bad because even though I'm dying I can still beat you."

"And she probably could," Mrs. Bell remarked. "She was the toughest competitor I ever played."

On another occasion, Peg said that she and Babe were having dinner one night and the two faced each other in a tournament the next day. "You are awfully quiet tonight, Peg" Babe offered. "You're not thinking about our match tomorrow are you?"

"I told her I was," Peg explained. "Well, forget it," she said emphatically. "You know I'm going to win."

"And she did," Mrs. Bell commented. "But I always gave it my best shot."

When Mrs. Bell had her first child, a daughter, Babe begged her to name it after her. "Just think. With a name like Babe Bell she will be a holy terror on the links." But Mr. and Mrs. Bell named their new daughter Bonnie instead.

Throughout her career as a player, teacher and resort owner, Mrs. Bell was a recipient of numerous honors for her many outstanding contributions to golf, including the USGA's Bobby Jones Award, the Golf Writers Association's William Richardson Award, the LPGA's Ellen Griffin Rolex Award, the National Golf Foundation's Joe Graffis Award, and the National Golf Course Owners Order of Merit.

She was elected to seven Halls of Fame including the North Carolina Sports Hall and the Ohio Sports Hall, the LPGA and the North Carolina Business Hall. The LPGA awarded Pine Needles three US Women's Open tournaments due to Mrs. Bell's involvement.

The game of golf and I have lost a dear friend. But anyone who knew her will have many fond memories. Peggy Kirk Bell was a winner.....

Charlottean Bill Hensley has been honored on several fronts for his sports promotional prowess, with induction into the NC Journalism and Public Relations Hall of Fame; NC Golf Hall of Fame; NC Sports Hall of Fame; and the Wake Forest University Sports Hall of Fame. He was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine on his 89th birthday in 2015.



CLUB CHAMPION opens in Charlotte

Club fitting takes giant step forward

By Sam Smith

Golfers in the Greater Charlotte area have been encouraged to improve

their game by getting their clubs fitted by one of the nation's premier golf club fitting and building company. The new club fitting store, Club Champion, has opened at the Sharon Corners Shopping Center across from South Park Mall. Charlotte becomes the 20th studio in 18 major markets to service the club fitting needs of the golfing communities.

"We are excited to be opening our club fitting and building studio in Charlotte," said Nick Sherburne, Club Champion founder. "This is a natural fit for our service in an area with year-round golf, and a large population of golfers from North and South Carolina. We are confident that Club Champion will fit, service and support the most discerning golfers at the highest possible level."

Private clubs and some public golf courses in the area have offered club fitting normally from a single club manufacturer (Ping, Callaway, TaylorMade and etc.), but now the Club Champion professionals offer a selection of more than 35,000 interchangeable combinations of heads, shafts, and grips. This wide-variety delivers a Tour-quality fitting that produces longer, more accurate shots with a nearly 100% satisfaction rate for golfers of any caliber.

Selected by Golf Digest as one of the Top 100 Best Club Fitters for six years run-

ning, Club Champion's new studio includes indoor hitting bays with the Trackman launch monitors for analyzing performance, SAM PuttLab's fitting technology to find the perfect putter on their practice green, and a build shop for assembling golf clubs by hand.

You can feel the professional approach to club fitting from the moment you step in to the new store, starting with the friendly welcome from the staff that has had countless hours of training to improve your game with properly fitted clubs.

Bruce Raffe, Master Fitter & Builder, was the professional that took me under his arm and prepared me for the process of getting better results out of my golf clubs. Bruce started by sitting down to discuss the tendencies of my golf game, ranging from number of rounds per month, ball flight (high or low), fade or

hook, best part of my game and general feeling on realistic goals to improve my golf score.

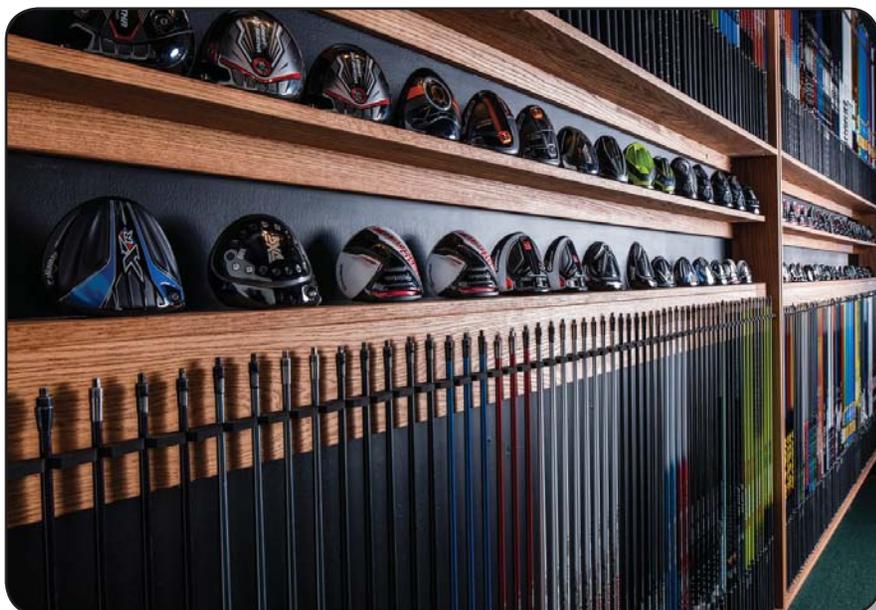
"My responsibilities include qualifying potential clientele for the desired golf equipment needs," said Raffe. "This is done through a thorough training regimen in both classroom and

"hands-on" environments. Using the latest in head, shaft and fitting technology Club Champion provides the ultimate fitting process. Comprehensive detail and precision allow Club Champion to provide our client with a one of a kind experience."

From our conversation, we went right to the hitting bays where I did several swings and hits with my old driver to determine several factors important to Bruce to start the search for a better club. The Trackman launch monitor gave him a bevy of numbers including: swing speed, launch angle at impact, clubhead speed, launch speed, ball spin rotation, carry and roll-out, along with other technical figures analyzed by Bruce and studio manager Rob Gallagher to pinpoint the direction toward the club fitting selections.

... 8 out of 9 CLUB CHAMPION customers gained an average of 21 yards off the tee and lowered their scores by as much as 6 strokes per round.

Golf Digest study



CLUB CHAMPION

Sharon Corners Shopping Center

4724 Sharon Road, Suite 2J

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 6 pm

Friday & Saturday 9 am - 5 pm

(980) 585-2926

www.clubchampiongolf.com



It was quite amazing how you could feel the difference the various clubs offered, from a lighter/heavier clubhead, shaft flex, degree of loft and size of grip. As Raffe worked through combinations, we started to focus on tightening the target pattern with each club, total carry and final roll-out distance.

As a senior golfer, any additional distance can only help lower my score. After Bruce's patience and expertise, I was able to pick up more than 12-yards of carry and up to 20-yards roll-out distance with my new Callaway driver. Giving me the confidence to swing away and set up better short irons into greens, and better scores. I felt very good about my results based on a Golf Digest study that found that 8 out of 9 Club Champion customers gained an average of 21 yards off the tee and lowered their scores by as much as 6 strokes per round.

The beauty of Club Champion is that you don't have to change clubs entirely, they can customize your current clubs for a better fit by changing a variety of elements to better fit your swing. This personalizing is just part of the additional service offered along with other repair work.

The Charlotte studio located at 4724 Sharon Road, Suite 2J, is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information on the company can be found at www.clubchampiongolf.com or by calling (980) 585-2926.

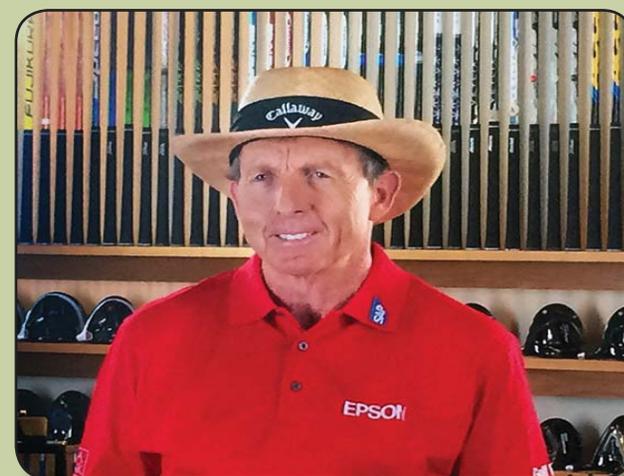


CLUB CHAMPION signs David Leadbetter “Properly fitted clubs will make it much easier to lower your scores”

Club Champion, the country's #1 premium golf club fitter, builder, and retailer of the best brands in golf, has signed an endorsement deal with world-renowned golf coach David Leadbetter to spread the word on the benefits of club fitting. With advances in golf club technology, most golfers could easily hit the ball further and more accurately. Yet a Golf Magazine study found that 90% of U.S. golfers may be playing with improperly fit clubs.

Says David Leadbetter, “It never ceases to amaze me that golfers buy clubs off the shelf and assume they're right for them. Whether you're a great golfer or a casual one, getting a custom club fitting is one of the quickest ways to improve your game.”

Leadbetter is a Golf Digest top-4 instructor and has coached players to 20 Major Championship titles and over 100 individual worldwide tournament victories. Seven of those players have been ranked #1 in the Official World Golf Rankings. When it comes to understanding the importance of having properly fitted golf clubs, no one is better qualified than Leadbetter to speak on the subject.



According to Club Champion President Joe Lee, “David is an ideal representative for Club Champion. His reputation as a top instructor and his understanding of club fitting make him uniquely qualified to speak to golfers on the topic of fitting.”

For more than 30 years, David has operated the Leadbetter Academy. He and his instructors have seen countless players fall short of their potential because of improperly fitted golf equipment.

“A club fitting will definitely help any golfer play better,” David states. “My students all benefitted from a custom club fitting. Lessons are critical, but if you're fighting your equipment, you can only progress so far. Properly fitted clubs will make it much easier to lower your scores. I'm confident Club Champion will find the perfect clubs for you.”

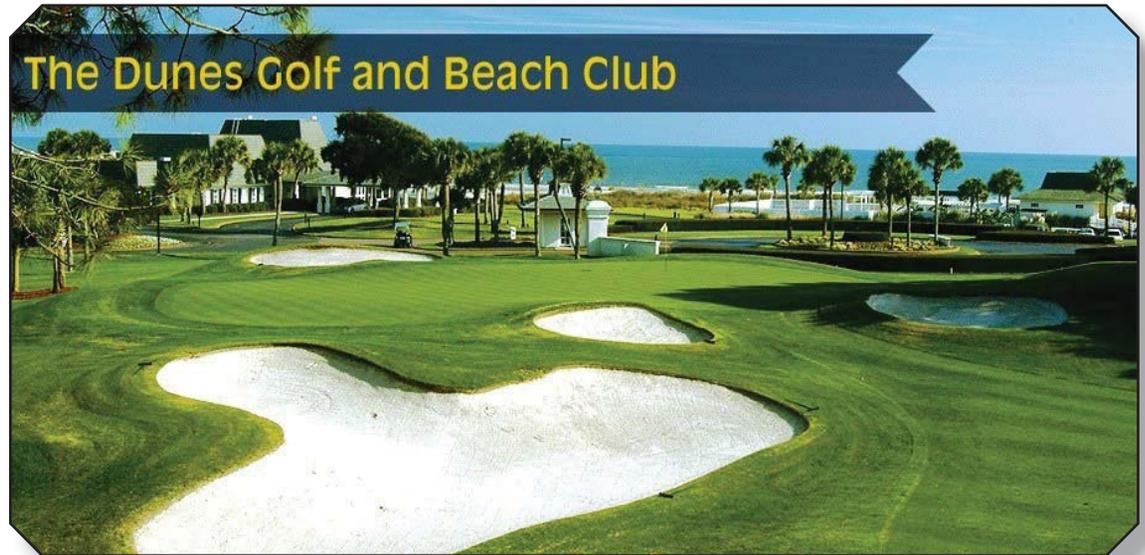
National Resort Rankings: Myrtle Beach trio among America's elite

Golfweek's Best: Resort Courses 2017 - a ranking of America's premier resort courses, has three of Myrtle Beach's most acclaimed layouts included among the nation's 100 best.

The Dunes Golf & Beach Club is ranked 24th, Caledonia Golf & Fish Club 27th and True Blue Golf Club 63rd, led the Myrtle Beach honorees.

The Dunes Club has hosted six Senior PGA Tour Championships and will host the USGA Women's Four-Ball in 2017, offers a classic design, stunning views and some of the best greens complexes in the south.

Caledonia, the late Mike Strantz' first solo design, wows players with its low-country beauty and emphasis on shotmaking. The course, which is set amidst live oak trees draped in Spanish moss, is highlighted by an unforgettable 18th hole, featuring a green that rests in the shadow of an antebellum style clubhouse.



The Dunes Golf and Beach Club

True Blue has been rocketing up the Top 100 lists in recent years, earning acclaim from Golfweek, Golf Magazine and Golf Channel, and the reasons are many. True Blue features some of the Myrtle Beach area's largest fairways and greens, and Strantz framed the massive fairways with waste bunkers, creating stunning visuals. As part of the Golfweek's Best: Resort Courses 2017 initiative, the magazine also released the "Next 100," the layouts ranked 101-200, and several of Myrtle Beach's most popular courses were included among that group.

The Moorland Course at Legends Resort ranked 116th, led the area's entrants among the "Next 100," followed by King's North at Myrtle Beach National 120th, Dye Course at Barefoot Resort 142nd, Grande Dunes Resort Course 149th, Love Course at Barefoot Resort 193rd and the Fazio Course at Barefoot Resort 194th.

In all, nine of America's 200 best resort courses, according to Golfweek, are located along the Grand Strand, a testament to the depth and quality of the area's offerings.

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EDGEWATER GOLF CLUB

Selected #2 by golfers in SC

You would expect golf courses like Harbour Town, Kiawah Island, Links at Wild Dunes, True Blue and other well known golf clubs to be ranked among the top places to play in South Carolina.

However, what a pleasant surprise it was to find Edgewater Golf Club in Lancaster listed as the #2 golf course in SC on the Golf Advisor rankings.

Edgewater, designed by Bruce Brodsky in 2008, was also selected as the 7th best value in the U.S. with a five (5) star rating, and the 12th ranked Pace of Play course in the U.S.. Three to 3^{1/2} hour rounds are common at Edgewater.



The Golf Advisor ranking process begins with the ratings and reviews in 2016, features a mix of both great bargains at courses beloved by locals that you may have never heard of as well as the bucket list stuff played by golfers from around the world.

Edgewater Golf Club located between Lancaster and I-77 off of Hwy 9, features rolling hills framed by towering pines with A1/A4 Bent grass greens and Bermuda fairways, tees and roughs. Selected by the Charlotte Business Journal as one of the toughest courses in the Greater Charlotte area, Director of Operations Aaron Black is quick to point out that they still provide a pleasant golf experience for all level of golfers with friendly tees for juniors through seniors.

“Our Golf Advisor rating indicates that we have taken the right steps in presenting our golf course to all golfers,” stated Black. “We have done that with our golf course challenge, pricing, conditions and friendly service of our staff. We take pride in our customer service and promise you will not be disappointed in your visit to Edgewater.”

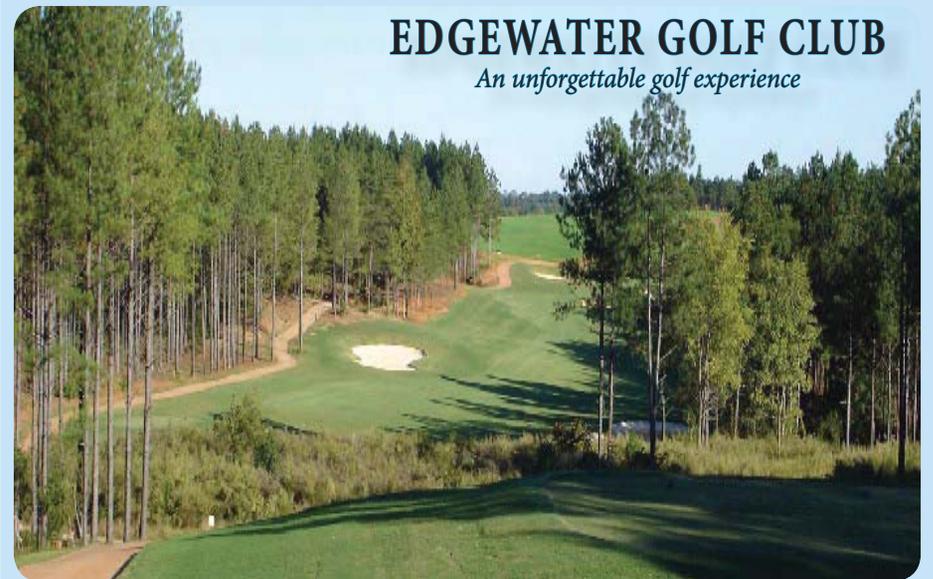


Harbour Town in Hilton Head was again the top ranked course on the Golf Advisor poll of South Carolina courses with Kiawah Island picked #3.

Another area golf course, the Donald Ross designed Lancaster Golf Club, a member of the Leroy Springs Golf Group, was also listed in the Top-25 in South Carolina coming in at #23.

EDGEWATER GOLF CLUB

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#2 - Top 15 Courses in SC
#7 - Top 25 Value Courses in US
#12 - Pace of Play in US

Golf Advisor 2016

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PUTTERS

CURE PUTTERS deliver success to all level of players

At first the new Cure RX Series putters were the talk of the major professional golf tours, but now amateur golfers of all level of play are making the switch.

The 2017 Cure RX Series putters deliver incredible stability throughout your stroke; helps you square the putter at impact and

offers unmatched forgiveness on mishits. This translates to better distance and directional control and improved consistency.

“I’ve putted with a number of putters over the years, long and short, I’ve probably done everything,” stated PGA Tour Player Robert Garrigus. “It was really refreshing when I picked up the Cure putter. Once I picked up one of these, I started rolling putts in right away. That gave me confidence and confidence in the game is everything.”

Fully customizable with a wide range of both weight and lie adjustability, you can easily dial in the perfect fit and feel to suit your stroke and tempo. With a

higher center of gravity, lower loft and deeper face that impacts the ball at the equator, Cure Putters deliver a superior roll – getting the ball rolling sooner, helping it stay on the intended line. Golfers of every skill level will putt more consistently, build confidence and achieve better results with a Cure RX Series putter.

The 2017 RX Series features an updated look with new alignment lines and black hardware.

All Cure Putters are CNC milled from a solid block of T-6160 Aircraft Grade Aluminum and 100% Made and Assembled in the USA.



BACK TO BASICS: Nail your impact

Brandon Stooksbury, PGA
Author of “The Wedge Book: An Owner’s Manual For Your Short Game.”

When striking a golf ball with any club, the moment of impact between the ball and the clubhead is one of epic proportions. It’s the point in time where all of the information from the moving clubhead is delivered and, ultimately,

determines what the flight of the ball will look like in the air. Get this moment wrong, and hitting consistent golf shots will be very challenging!

Most of the problems at impact come either from a lack of knowledge concerning what should happen or a flawed perception of what’s actually happening. It’s a scientifically proven fact that the clubhead should be moving down when we strike the ball, meaning that the shaft of the club will be leaning forward, toward the target, at impact. A golf club is actually built to be used that way. The problem is that striking down on a ball you’re trying to hit up in the air is a difficult concept for most golfers to grasp. The human brain is very skilled at creating movements in the body that support our perception of what we think should be happening, which can be a very powerful tool if we can just get our perception and reality to line up.

The image (R) here illustrates a drill to help you understand what the correct impact position should look like so you

and your brain can start communicating with each other more effectively.

The only possible way to drive the nail into the ground in the top photo would be to deliver a forward-leaning shaft with a downward strike. The only way to accomplish both is to have your weight well into your lead foot, with your chest and head directly over the ball. If you imagine the nail through your golf ball the next time you’re playing, your brain will start to better understand what’s necessary to deliver the club in a way that would drive the nail into the ground—and that thought will lead to a much more consistent impact position!

The second image (R), you’ll see the brain’s normal response when asked to make the body move in a way that would loft the ball up in the air (the single most common misconception among most golfers). The weight moves heavily into the trailing foot, the chest and head move backward, and the hands try to “throw” the clubhead under the ball in order to hit up and get it airborne. This type of motion often leads to the club striking the ground before the ball and taking a heavy divot or sometimes striking the ball without hitting the ground and taking no divot.

Photo top left is a great visual for you to use when trying to understand what actually should be happening during impact. It would be physically impossible to drive the nail into the ground at such an angle with your weight back and your hands throwing the club under the ball. If your brain was given this task, it most certainly wouldn’t tell your body to move in that fashion.



Photos By Rick Sessinghaus, PGA

RUMBLING BALD RESORT on LAKE LURE

Hundreds of Charlotte area golfers and their families flock to the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains each year to enjoy the Rumbling Bald Resort. Nestled beside beautiful Lake Lure and surrounded by the towering cliffs of Bald Mountain, the 3000-plus area offers a white sand beach, water sports, hiking and biking trails, excellent accommodations in attractive private homes, spacious condominiums or comfortable villas; distinct dining, and two Golf Digest 4-star championship golf courses.

Breathtaking mountain and lake views add to the golf experience at both Apple Valley and Bald Mountain golf courses. Apple Valley, designed by Dan Maples has been dubbed one of the most beautiful mountain courses by Golf Digest's "Place to Play". Not a long course at 6,756 yards from the tips, Apple Valley is still a very challenging shot-making golf experience.

Apple Valley will be seeing the most exciting upgrade with the addition of the RXV EZ-Go carts. It offers an oversized well for bags, deep cup holders, coolers with

complimentary water, rolled towels in each cart, automatic brake technology,

USB port for electronics, and the TKV GPS system with amazing course graphics, real time yardage to the green, and 3D flyovers of each hole.

Bald Mountain Golf Course, designed by William B. Lewis was the first course created at Rumbling Bald. The shorter of the two Rumbling Bald courses will test every level of player with well-guarded greens and tight fairways, golfers must be precise

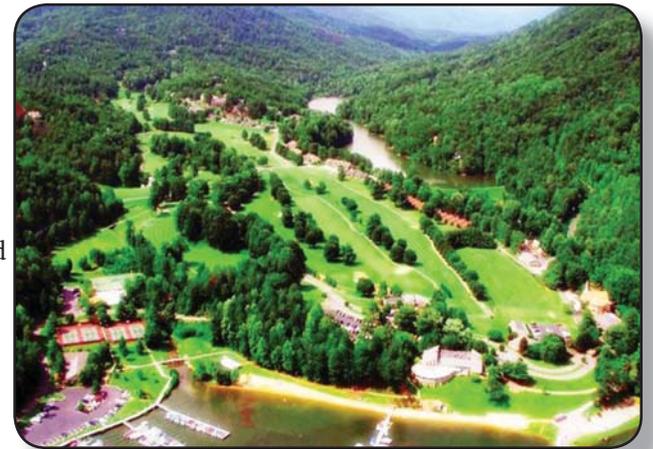
with their drives and approach shots. Drawing high marks from Golf Digest readers as a comfortable course for all ages and abilities, with four sets of tees stretching to the back tees at 6,283 yards.

Bald Mountain has received the new TXT EZ-Go cart model which has a larger well in the back for oversized bags, deep cup holders, and a USB port for charging phones or devices while you play.

Rates at Rumbling Bald, both at the Resort and at the courses have always been very affordable and Golf Operations Manager, Allen Bowles indicates that affordability will remain the same in the new year.

"We believe we have very comparable rates to surrounding golf properties and that our great product of our two courses are very affordable." says Bowles. "Apple Valley will be slightly higher to play since it will have the GPS system, towels and bottled water on each cart, but the increase will only be \$5 more than it is to play at Bald Mountain. Plus, juniors play free with a paying adult, one junior per paying adult."

For tee times or accommodation reservations call 828-694-3050 or logon at rumblingbald.com.



15% off additional nights by mentioning code: CGJ 2017!



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*Monday and Tuesday only. **Per person. Arriving Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. All tax and fees included, and based on the availability of a standard studio double occupancy. Valid through 11/30/17.

Local Pro and Amateur Golf Schedules - 2017

Swing Thought Tour – Carolina's Events

April 5-6	Diamondback Golf Club	Loris
April 11-12	Monroe Country Club	Monroe
April 14-15	Magnolia Greens	Wilmington
April 20-23	Castle Bay	Hempstead
May 3-6	Compass Pt. Golf Club	Wilmington
May 10-11	River Hills Country Club	Lake Wylie
May 17-18	Gaston Country Club	Gastonia
May 26-27	Myrtle Beach National	Myrtle Beach
May 31 – June 2	Bryan Park	Greensboro
June 15-18	TPC Myrtle Beach	Myrtle Beach
July 7-8	Lions Paw	Ocean Isle Beach
July 28-29	World Tour Golf Links	Myrtle Beach
July 31 – August 5	The Patriot	Grand Harbor
August 9-12	Three Ridges Golf Club	Knoxville
September 1-3	Grand Dunes & Pine Lakes	Myrtle Beach
September 9-10	TPC Myrtle Beach	Myrtle Beach
October 23-28	Columbia	Columbia
October 31 – Nov. 2	Carolina Series	TBA
November 9-12	The Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis
December 12-17	TPC Myrtle Beach	Myrtle Beach

Senior Amateur Tour – Charlotte Area

April 5	Northstone Country Club	Huntersville
April 24	River Run Country Club	Davidson
May 10	Cowans Ford Country Club	Stanley
May 17	Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis
June 7	Country Club of Salisbury	Salisbury
June 19	Peninsula Country Club	Cornelius
June 28	Cowans Ford Country Club	Stanley
July 12	Pine Island Country Club	Charlotte
August 7	PGA @ Peninsula Club	Cornelius
August 8	Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis
August 21	Firethorne Country Club	Marvin
September 5-6	The Players @ Cabarrus CC	Concord
September 20	River Hills Country Club	Lake Wylie

Contact information for local tours:

- Charlotte Senior Amateur Tour: 704-844-8264 senioramateurgolftour.net/charlotte
- Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour: 704-844-8264 amatuergolftour.net/charlotte
- Swing Thought Tour: 704-992-8748 swingthought.com
- National Junior Golf Tour: 704-824-6548 nationaljuniorgolffassociation.com

Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour

April 3	TPC @ Piper Glen	Charlotte
April 22-23	The Masters @ Stonebridge	Mineral Springs
May 13	Palisades Country Club	Charlotte
May 30	Peninsula Country Club	Cornelius
June 5	River Run Country Club	Davidson
June 24-25	Golfweek Open ~ Club @ Irish Creek	Kannapolis
July 22-23	Southern Regional	Kiawah Island
August 5	Firethorne Country Club	Marvin
August 12	Northstone Country Club	Huntersville
August 26	Cabarrus Country Club	Concord
September 16	River Hills Country Club	Lake Wylie
September 23	Local Finals ~ Cowans Ford CC	Stanley
September 24	Local Finals ~ Club @ Irish Creek	Kannapolis

National Junior Golf Tour – Charlotte Area

April 2	Westport Golf Club	Denver
April 9-10	Spring Break Championship	
	Monroe Country Club	Monroe
April 23	Tanglewood Park Golf Club	Clemmons
May 20-21	IMG Jr. World College Prep	
	Rumbling Bald Resort	Lake Lure
June 5	Rock Barn CC & Spa	Conover
June 12	Stonebridge Golf Club	Monroe
June 13	River Hills Country Club	Lake Wylie
June 19	NC West District Optimist Qualifier	
	Catawba Country Club	Newton
June 24	Monroe Country Club	Monroe
June 26	Olde Sycamore Golf	Charlotte
June 27	Edgewater Golf Club	Lancaster
July 6	Statesville Country Club	Statesville
July 13	Twin Oaks Golf Club	Statesville
July 25	Meadowlands Golf Club	Winston-Salem
July 27	Lenoir Golf Course	Lenoir
August 1	Warrior Golf Club	China Grove
August 10	Deer Brook Golf Club	Shelby
August 22	Oak Valley Golf Club	Advance
September 3-4	NJGT Ntl Championship	
	Gen. James Hackler Course	Conway

For other junior golf schedules in the Carolinas go to: www.tygajuniorgolf.org

BMW Championship



BMW Charity Pro-Am welcomes new challenge - Furman University Golf Club added to playing rotation

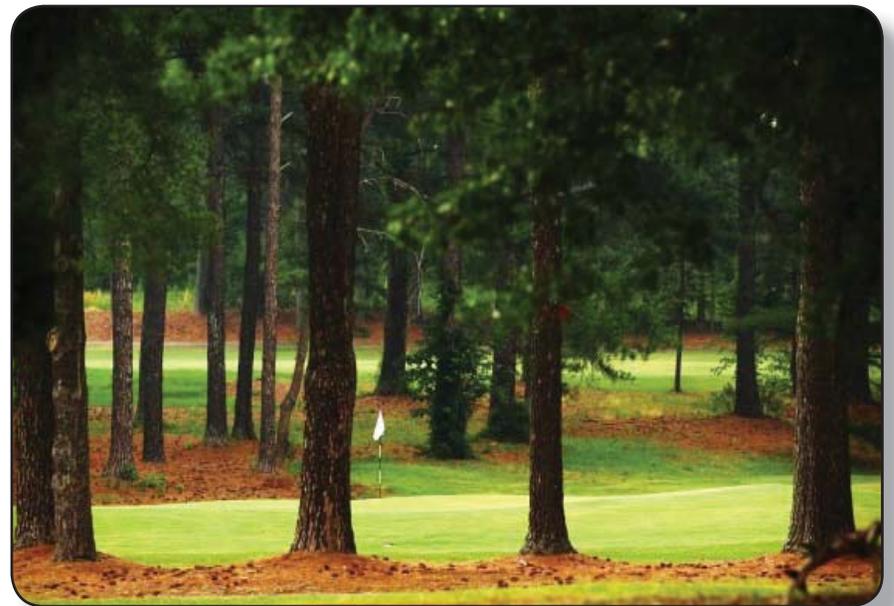
The most unique Web.com tournament on the 2017 schedule is again the BMW Charity Pro-Am set for May 18-21 in the Greenville, South Carolina area. This year the touring pros and top celebrities will be challenged by a new golf course, the Furman University Golf Club, one of the nation's top college golf facilities. Thornblade Club and The Preserve at Verdae will again be part of the three-course rotation of the tournament that is managed by the non-profit organization South Carolina Charities, Inc. which has donated over \$12 million to more than 200 charities since the tournament's inception in 2001.

The Furman University Golf has been voted the #1 Public Golf Course in the Upstate by the South Carolina Golf Ratings Panel and is currently ranked #17 in Golfweek's "Best Campus Courses." It is also where Furman alums Betsy King, Beth Daniel, Dottie Pepper and Brad Faxon played their college golf.

The 7,004-yard, par-72 layout underwent a major renovation in 2008, where all 18 greens were reconstructed under USGA specifications and reseeded with Champion UltraDwarf Bermudagrass.

Located in the picturesque valleys and foothills on the eastside of Greenville, S.C., Thornblade Club is a private 18-hole golf course, designed by Tom Fazio that was renovated and lengthened in the summer of 2010, with new greens, a new drainage system, laser-leveled tees, additional tees, renovated cart paths, and beautiful rock walls. The 2017 tournament will be Thornblade Club's tenth year as a host course.

The Preserve at Verdae championship golf course designed by William Byrd, is carved into the lush Carolina Forest with hills and mountain-like brooks making it both scenic and challenging to play. Located adjacent to the Embassy



Suites Greenville Golf Resort and Conference Center, The Preserve has proven to be among the favorite courses on the Web.com Tour.

Standout local golfer gains status on PGA Latin America Tour



Victor Wiggins

One of the most successful junior golfers in the Greater Charlotte area, Victor Wiggins has risen through the high school and college ranks to qualify for his PGA-Latin America Tour playing card.

The 22-year old Wiggins, a homeschooled student in Gastonia, will start his professional playing career in

South America with a higher goal that is within his reach. He also could pursue

a qualifying school for the PGA Canadian Tour and will participate in as many Monday PGA tour event qualifiers as are possible.

"I'm trying to set up my schedule so I can get my tour card on the web.com tour and, hopefully, on to the PGA tour," said Wiggins, who finished his sociology degree at UNCC this past May. "I've just had an opportunity come up that I couldn't say no to."

Wiggins, a long time student of PGA Professional Chris Leatherman, taking lessons with Chris since the age of 8, started his college career at Auburn before transferring to Charlotte, where he became a two-time All-Conference USA golfer for the Charlotte 49ers. In the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years, Wiggins made second team All-Conference USA and had a stroke average of 73.14 in 73 rounds of golf.

Charlotte's 2015 team MVP, Wiggins helped the 49ers win the NCAA regional in Chapel Hill in 2015, was medalist of the 2014 Gopher Invitational and also was honored by Conference USA for academics (2015 commissioner's honor roll) and golfer of the week (Sept. 10, 2015).

"I wanted to come to Charlotte and have some success and then go on to a pro career," Wiggins said. "I think I've met that goal."



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