

Carolina **GOLF JOURNAL**

Free

Vol. 9 Issue 1

Nine years of providing the best golf information for the greater Charlotte area



Quail Hollow Club #17

Mt. Mitchell Golf Club

2018 Stay & Play Promotion

828-675-4923
mountmitchellgolf.com



2 rounds / 1 night stay
\$119 + tax
Per person based on double occupancy.
3 days / 2 nights for \$179.00
(some restrictions apply)



Ranked #11 in North Carolina
"Best in State" Golfweek 2016

WELLS FARGO
CHAMPIONSHIP



THE ACTION IS BACK IN CHARLOTTE

Be there when the PGA TOUR® returns to the Queen City. Tickets are available now at WellsFargoChampionship.com.

RORY MCILROY,
2010 & 2015 CHAMPION



APRIL 30 - MAY 6, 2018 | QUAIL HOLLOW CLUB | CHARLOTTE, NC

BMW Charity Pro-Am Announces Courses and Charities for 2018 Tournament

Cliffs Valley Golf Course

The BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation has announced two major elements of the 2018 tournament adding a spectacular course, as well as focusing on four featured charities that will benefit from the tournament taking place May 17-20, 2018.

The Cliffs Valley will join The Furman University Golf Club and Thornblade Club to host the 2018 tournament. Not far from Travelers Rest, Cliffs Valley Golf Course offers terrific views and challenging play for golfers at every skill level. Well-groomed fairways and greens keep Cliffs Valley Golf Course difficult yet friendly, and a perfect addition to the lineup of courses for the BMW Pro-Am.

“We are thrilled to return to The Cliffs Valley, and we know that both our celebrity and amateur players will be equally pleased by this news,” said Bob Nitto, president, BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation.

“We have made major investments across our portfolio of clubs, and I know our members are thrilled to welcome the BMW Charity Pro-Am back to The Cliffs,” said David Sawyer, Managing Partner/President, The Cliffs Clubs.

This year, the tournament, broadcasted to a worldwide viewing audience on Golf Channel, will focus on four featured charities: Children’s Hospital of Greenville Health System, Cliffs Residents Outreach, Mobile Meals of Spartanburg and Upstate SC STEM Collaborative. Other local philanthropic organizations will also have the option to earn funds as well.

“This event is much more than a golf tournament, it is purpose-

driven, initiative-focused on maximizing charitable giving and making a difference throughout the community,” said Steve Sellery, Executive Director, BMW Charity Pro-Am.

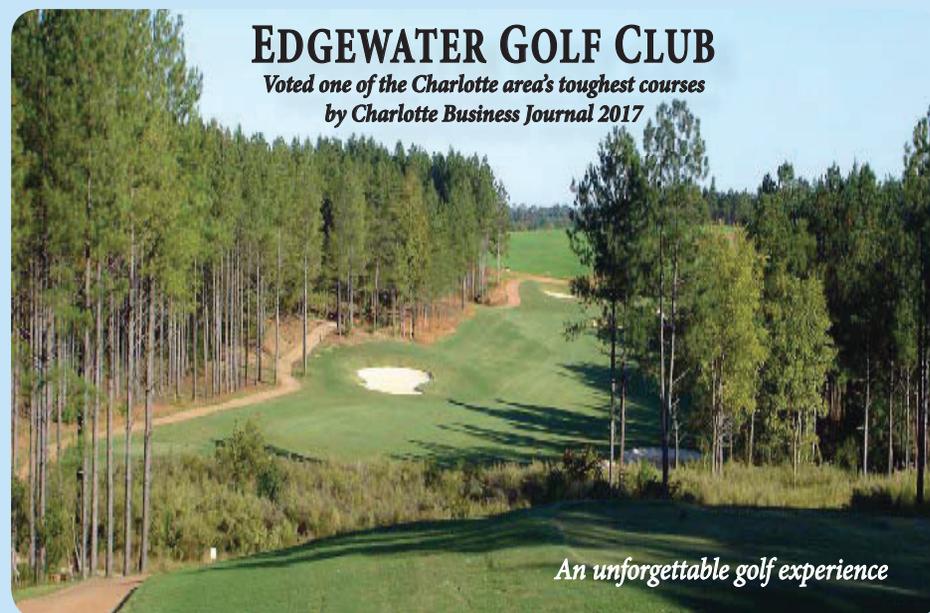
Managed by the non-profit organization South Carolina Charities, Inc., the tournament has donated over \$12.7 million to numerous charities across the Upstate since 2001.

The BMW Charity Pro-Am is the only tournament on the Web.com Tour where amateurs and celebrities are grouped with Web.com Tour professionals in a four-day better-ball competition over three courses.

Visit BMWCharityGolf.com for updates and information, and follow the tournament on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @bmwcharityproam.

EDGEWATER GOLF CLUB

*Voted one of the Charlotte area's toughest courses
by Charlotte Business Journal 2017*



An unforgettable golf experience



#2 - Top 15 Courses in SC
#7 - Top 25 Value Courses in US
#12 - Pace of Play in US
Golf Advisor 2016

Championship course ~ Great customer service
Practice/Teaching facility ~ Wildlife

2380 Catawaba Ridge Blvd ~ Lancaster, SC 29720 ~ 803-283-9800
www.EdgewaterGC.com



players in the world are already planning to compete; players have until Friday, April 27 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time to commit to the Wells Fargo Championship.

"It is always good to have our champions return and Rory has certainly been a key supporter through the years," Tournament Director Gary Sobba said. "Fans around the world have always enjoyed Rory and he has been a wonderful ambassador for our event."

McIlroy is one of three major championship winners currently committed to play. He is also the seventh past champion of the Wells Fargo in the field among the earlier commitments.



Wells Fargo Championship returns home!

11 of top 30 in world and past champions make early commitments

Rory McIlroy, winner of the 2010 and 2015 Wells Fargo Championship and fresh off his most recent victory at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, has committed to compete in the 2018 Wells Fargo Championship, scheduled for April 30- May 6 at Quail Hollow Club.

McIlroy, is the only two-time champion of the Wells Fargo Championship and owns eleven tournament records at Charlotte's annual PGA TOUR event. His 2010 victory at Quail Hollow Club was his first PGA TOUR career title and his win in Orlando was his 14th.

The four-time major championship winner and 2015-2016 FedEx Cup Champion, will be making his eighth start in the Wells Fargo Championship.

McIlroy is currently ranked 7th in the world. Earlier, tournament officials announced commitments from World No. 2 Justin Thomas and World No. 8 Rickie Fowler. Eleven of the top 30



titles on the PGA TOUR and has already won twice in eight starts this season.

2017 champion Brian Harman has committed to defend his Wells Fargo title. Harman, currently ranked No. 22 in the world, won the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship in thrilling fashion in Wilmington last year. He birdied the final two holes, including a 28-foot putt on the 72nd hole to win by a stroke over World No. 1 Dustin Johnson and Pat Perez.

The other top 30 in the world, currently in the field, include Japan's top-ranked player Hideki Matsuyama (No. 6), England's Tommy Fleetwood (No. 12), England's Tyrell Hatton (No. 16), Sweden's No. 2 ranked player Alex Noren (No. 17), PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year and TOUR Championship winner Xander Schauffele (24), Italy's Francesco Molinari (No. 25) and three-time TOUR winner Gary Woodland (No. 28).

Including McIlroy, Fowler and Harman, the tournament has also received commitments from past James Hahn (2016), J.B. Holmes (2014), Lucas Glover (2011) and Sean O'Hair (2009).

15 minutes
from Brevard &
Hendersonville



ETOWAH VALLEY GOLF & RESORT

Western North Carolina's PREMIER mountain golf resort

Spectacular 27-hole golf course

Customized Stay & Play Packages for 1 to 100 Guests

For reservations: 877.312.4848 or 828.891.7022 ~ www.etowahvalley.com



Titleist Vokey SM6 Wedge – Key Technology

Still having problems getting your scoring clubs (your wedges) to deliver a shot that will set up a better score on the greens? You may be hitting the wrong set of wedges designed to fit your game.

Greater Golf Express is featuring a special selection of the hugely popular Titleist Vokey SM6 wedges (46-52-58-60 degree) with a progressive center of gravity (CG) design that aligns the CGs with the impact position of each loft to produce more precise distance and trajectory control with exceptional feel.

The design is visible on the back of the SM6 and, in simple terms, it means the CG is lower down the face on the lower lofted wedges for the best feel and control on pitch shots and higher up the face for the same benefits when you open up the face with your sand or lob wedge.

It's especially beneficial in the lower lofted models (46-52°), where the CG now lines up with the CG in a typical PW from an iron set, for more predictable flights and carries club-to-club through your bag.

The Spin Milled TX4 groove and face texture combination also delivers up to 200rpm more spin, possibly thanks to machine-

milled grooves with a parallel face texture that creates a sharper, more consistent groove edge.

These features (progressive CG and grooves) will be especially useful for the type of player who chips and pitches with different clubs depending on their distance from the flag, as it will improve the consistency of your trajectory and feel, and make judging the landing and run out more predictable.

Improve your game with Titleist Vokey SM6 wedges, available in 46-62° lofts and three finishes: Tour Chrome, Steel Grey and Jet Black (raw). Don't let your short game ruin your next round, ask a Greater Golf Express staff expert to show you the excellent wedges from Titleist.




greatergolfexpress

Centrum Plaza
10400-C Centrum Parkway
Pineville
704-544-5018

Titleist Vokey SM6 Wedges

Was \$149.99

Now
\$119.99



Bridgestone B330 Series Balls

Reg. Price: \$45 per dz

OUR PRICE:

\$34.99 / dz

2 doz \$59.99



Cleveland/Srixon

We are stocking the entire product line!
Hybrid sets are back!



Former World Long Drive Champion
now playing the Cleveland HB driver!

10% OFF

Purchase of \$50 or more

(not valid with any other offer, some manufacturer restrictions apply)

Valid through 7/1/18
On-line coupon code: Journal

Hours: Monday - Friday 10 am - 7 pm ~ Saturday 9 am - 7 pm ~ Sunday 10 am - 6 pm

www.greatergolfexpress.com

For virtual tour: www.shoppecharlotte.com

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



THE ULTIMATE GOLF GIVEAWAY

REGISTER TO WIN FREE GOLF FOR A YEAR!

www.CharlotteGolf.com

Play the 7 Biggest Names in Charlotte Area Golf



CharlotteGolf.com is an affiliated site with Pinnacle Golf Properties. All Contest details found online.

*Skybrook Golf Club*

Charlotte's Pinnacle Golf adds stability to golf course properties in Charlotte

Charlotte-based Pinnacle Golf Properties (PGP) — a full-service golf and club management company — has become a major player in the growth of golf in the Greater Charlotte area. With the addition of five Charlotte-area golf clubs to its portfolio last year along with the introduction of a new Financial Services Division, PGP has doubled its portfolio in the past year and now represents 14 courses all located in North and South Carolina.

The recent five-club portfolio is owned by Canadian based Romspen Club Holdings and represent some of the best layouts in the Charlotte area: Waterford Golf Club, The Tradition Golf Club, Highland Creek Golf Club, The Divide Golf Club and Birkdale Golf Club.

*Tega Cay Golf Club*

In addition, PGP also represents 3 additional Charlotte-area courses: Tega Cay Golf Club, Skybrook Golf Club, and River Hills Country Club.

“We were extremely excited to add the five Charlotte area courses to our growing portfolio

and to expand to eight courses in our hometown of Charlotte,” said David Taylor Managing Partner and President of PGP. “These golf courses represent some of Charlotte’s best layouts and we are continuing to make improvements to provide area golfers a premier golf experience at a truly affordable price.”

In addition to the Charlotte portfolio PGP operates five top-rated courses in the Greensboro/Winston-Salem area of North Carolina: Bryan Park Golf & Conference Center, Meadowlands Golf Club, Oak Valley Golf Club, Sapona Ridge Country Club and Stoney Creek Golf Club.

In late 2016, PGP hired Roger Wolfe, a veteran Certified Club Manager and financial accountant to serve as PGP’s FSD Chief Financial Officer. Wolfe’s hiring has helped bring management stability to the golf courses represented, and with these trying times for the golf business that is a very positive necessity.

“Managing a golf club and ensuring its economic success requires both a love of the game along with proven financial skills,” said Kim Worrel, Managing Partner and Chief Operating Officer of PGP.

“Without question, the financial side of club management and integrating this with marketing are perhaps the biggest challenge today’s club owners and operators face on a daily basis in running their business with affordable and sufficient financial controls.”

*Birkdale Golf Club*

Improving your favorite golf courses doesn’t just happen, it takes experience at all levels. With more than 150 years of collective experience on its executive team, PGP has built a reputation rooted in proven results in a variety of golf arenas including private, resort, semi-private and daily fee operations. In aggregate, the PGP team has operated more than 80 golf courses, opened 30 new courses, renovated or constructed more than 20 courses, and evaluated more than 200 golf course operations. This experience translates into an array of benefits for PGP’s partner clubs and to avid golfers just like you playing a Pinnacle golf course.



by Tim Baines

In a small South Carolina town less than a three-wood, they say, off Hwy I-95, there's some golf magic happening. It's not what you might expect in a town that a census says has less than 800 residents, but make no mistake about it, Santee which bills itself as "America's Value Golf Destination" – is a beauty.

So it made perfect sense when Santee Cooper Resort's GM Todd Miller and Claudio DeMarchi, the long-time Canadian rep for the area, began to develop the idea for a tournament in early December.

"We have an event mid-summer, let's have one in the winter" was Todd's suggestion. Referring to the Patriot's Day Event at Santee Cooper Resort. It was a natural fit – a Winter 4-Ball Classic in a place one southern gentleman leaned in over a couple of beers and dubbed "the biggest small town I've ever seen."

In early December, 56 golfers got a taste of Santee which has three wonderful golf courses a hop, skip and jump from each other, with 14 more within 40 minutes or so.

If you didn't believe in Santa before this you may just reconsider! The Winter 4-Ball Classic entry fee of \$499 US not only included two tournament rounds at Lake Marion and Santee National and a practice round at Lake Marion, plus two nights' stay at either Lake Marion Villas/Townhouses or Clark's Inn, there was a

welcome reception, breakfast, lunch, two dinners and cocktails.

Oh, and then there was the swag – a Tour Edge fairway wood or hybrid (and until you've tried Tour Edge, you have no idea how good these clubs really are), your choice of FootJoy shoes from a huge pro shop selection, a FootJoy wind shirt and glove, a dozen Titleist golf balls and a Winter Classic hat and shirt.

Just take a second and put a value on the swag. "It's worth more than what we paid" one foursome gushed over the haul of goodies and the quality of the event. When one of them caught wind of the Winter 4-Ball Classic, he mentioned it to his golf course's head pro, who scoffed and said it was too good to be true. But it is true, and the 2018 Winter 4-Ball Classic is set for December 2-4, 2018.

But why Santee, why do so many Americans and Canadians head south to a two-stoplight town to play golf?

"Part of what we are not is what people like about us," said Miller. "We don't have the hustle and bustle. The three courses are so close together, they're less than a mile apart. We have good golf, good food and good hospitality. The mayor had a great line, 'we're literally a town of 700, but on any given weekend night, we sleep 20,000 people.'"

The local courses also have \$5 replays and a laid-back atmosphere that makes the town perfect for a single golfer, a couple or groups.



Santee Cooper Country Club

Take my word for it, it's perfect for a buddy trip. You can stay in a condo/townhouse right at the golf course or not far away stay in one of the area's many terrific accommodation options.

Santee Cooper Country Club, designed by George Cobb and opened in 1967, is the oldest of the three courses and arguably the venue you should never leave off any Santee itinerary, due to its prime positioning on Lake Marion. Set among majestic pines, this classic challenge winds its way from an opening tee shot over water, through a series of scenic dogleg holes, with elevated greens and featuring some of the best par 3s in the region. The best closing hole in Santee is unquestionably the par-4 No. 18 that provides a panoramic view of Lake Marion from its elevated green.

Lake Marion Golf Club, which opened in 1978, is Santee Cooper's sister course and features outstanding, Miniverde greens. Architect Eddie Riccoboni designed the traditional layout with tree-lined fairways, bordering lakes and dotted by 47 sand bunkers that will test your golf course navigational skills. Santee Cooper and Lake Marion are part of the Santee Cooper Resort.



Santee Lake Marion Golf Club

Another popular golf course on the menu at Santee is the Porter Gibson-routed Santee National Golf Club, which opened in 1989 and underwent a renovation in 2005 is positioned in a truly natural setting filled with mossy live oaks and has a more wide-open layout.

Santee offers a good selection of dining options, including Pedro's Mexican Restaurant (you have to try the monster margaritas), Wilbur's Cocktails and Supper Club is a happening spot, Captain's Quarters (seafood), and a Thai restaurant rank among the golfer's favorites.

Of course the landmark eatery in town is the fabulous Clark's Inn and Restaurant (est. 1946 has been in the family for more than 70 years), currently owned by the wonderful couple - Bill and Patricia Clark. There are room options suitable for everyone. And the staff serves up a huge dose of southern hospitality.

Southern Living Magazine has twice now recognized Clark's as a must stop in "The South's Best Road Food." Customers come away raving about the food, with the fried chicken at the top of the list of deliciousness followed closely by the prime rib.



Santee National Golf Club

"Santee, it's amazing, there really are a lot of things to do," said the extremely likeable and engaging Bill Clark.

You've got a state park and some of the finest fishing in the state, if not the country. Lake Marion has held and continues to hold some pretty impressive world records over the years including large-mouth catfish and striped bass.

If you want to get onto Santa's naughty (sandbaggers) or nice list and play in the 2nd annual Santee Winter 4 Ball Classic, - December 2-4, 2018 - contact the following Santee hosts: Santee Cooper Resorts: 1-800-344-6534; Clarks Inn: 1-800-531-9658; Santee Tourism: 1-800-250-3080

Of course you don't have to wait until next year to visit Santee. They are open for golfers all year long. Come check out the fun in advance and get the edge when Santa arrives early in Santee.

Charity tournament leader: The Golf Club at Ballantyne

Many charitable organizations and corporations that support community programs with high-profile fundraisers are always looking to find an efficient way to raise money. One avenue toward that goal is a successful golf tournament, but preparing that event the proper way is a must to raising funds.

The Golf Club at Ballantyne has established a reputation for executing effortless golf tournaments and outings with the region's finest facilities and services, dedicated team of PGA golf professionals and golf event coordinators ready to assist.

"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, The Golf Club at Ballantyne director of golf. "With our unparalleled resources, we can tailor an experience that is ideal for each client."

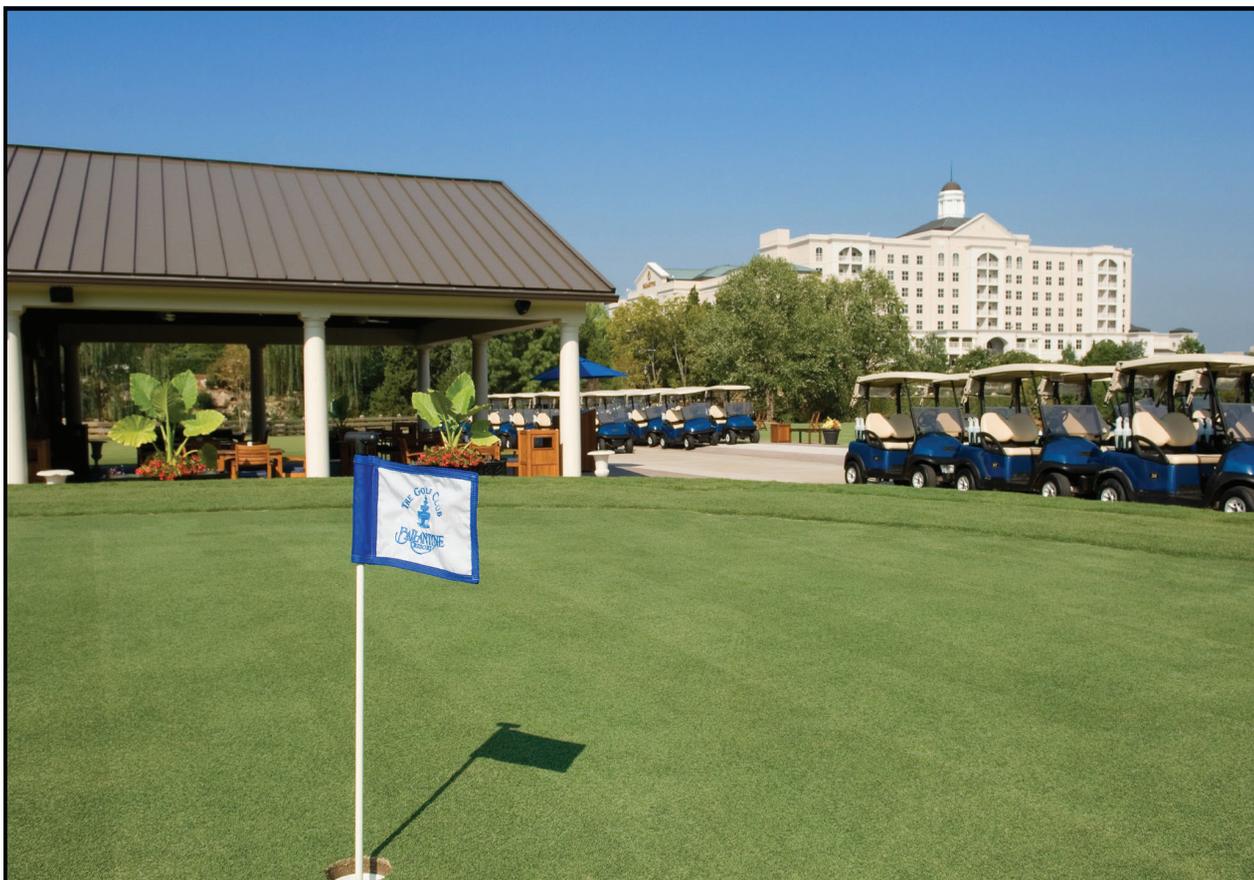
As a leader in golf tournament preparation for years, the Golf Club at Ballantyne hosts an annual golf tournament planning clinic, presented by Golf Events Coordinator Noelene Grosso, detailing all elements of getting the most out of many hours of hard work in putting on their main fundraising effort of the year.

"Having a strong golf committee is one of the most important assets," said Grosso. "Defining the objective for the tournament sets the course for the entire event. Guidelines for publicity, how to sell sponsors, recruiting golfers, deciding on the food and beverage needs for the players, gathering prizes and awards and setting timetables for preparation and event-day execution are all part of our expertise."

Golfers can enjoy an 18-hole, par 71 PGA course, selected as a Best Place to Play with 4.5 Stars by Golf Digest, 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 golf clinic & team building at the Ballantyne Golf Academy are also popular among guests.

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



PROFESSIONALLY EXECUTED OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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

We look forward to assisting you in making your event both successful and memorable.



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

2018 Charity Golf Tournaments for the Greater Charlotte area

*Carolina Golf Journal would like to promote your 2018 fundraising golf tournament.
Send your information to: sam@carolinagolfjournal.com or call 704-756-9909*

Curtis Renfro Golf for a Cause Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 7
Corbin Hills Golf Course
Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start - 1:00pm
Cost: \$50 per golfer
Contact: Harvey Renfro 704-576-0743
hrenfro5@icloud.com

2nd Annual Charity Global Golf Tournament Presented by: British Int'l School of Charlotte

Thursday, April 12
Golf Club at Ballantyne
Captain's Choice
Cost: \$125 per golfer
Contact: The Sand Box 980-224-0231
info@Whatsinyoursandbox.org

4th Annual Lydia's Legacy Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 21
Stonebridge Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Contact: Lyndia's Legacy, Inc. 980-429-4653
info@lyndiaslegacy.com

Charlotte-Metro Florida A&M Alumni Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 21
Red Bridge Golf Club
Two-person Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start 9am
Cost: \$90 per player
Contact: Don Jordan 704-517-5505
donjordan@carolina.rr.com

17th Matt Blackwell Foundation Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 21
Lancaster Golf Club
Captain's Choice / Shotgun: 1:30pm
\$65 per player
Contact: lancster Pro Shop 803-416-4500

Marvelous Marvin Inaugural Golf Tournament Proceeds go to PKD Foundation

Monday, April 23
Golf Club at Ballantyne

Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start 8:30am
Cost: \$175 per player / \$700 per foursome
Deadline April 16 to register
Contact: Marcus Jones 704-236-7966
or Joe Berrigan 816-268-8498
joeb@pkdcure.org

3rd Annual Golf Tournament - A Health Charlotte Event Benefit: The Heart of Community Health

Monday, April 23
Carolina Golf Club
Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start: 9:45am
Cost: \$150 per player / \$600 per foursome
Contact: Jennifer Peele 704-248-3727
jpeele@careringnc.com

"Live Again Ministries" Golf Tournament

Friday, April 27
Red Bridge Golf Club
Captain's Choice / Cost: \$100 per player
Contact: Live Again Ministries 980-721-0099
live-againministries.org

"Heroes Classic" Golf Tournament To benefit Veterans (Independence Fund)

Sunday, April 29
Golf Club at Ballantyne
Captain's Choice
Cost: \$250 Individuals / \$900 foursome
(Vets - \$200)
Contact: Jessica Marinaccio 704-493-9848
j.marinaccio@independencefund.org

Children's Miracle Network Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 10
Golf Club at Ballantyne
Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start - 9am
Cost: \$1000 per foursome
Contact: Jillian Goetz 704-358-6519
jillian.goetz@marriott.com

Fight for the Cure Human Para Foundation Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 17

Verdict Ridge Golf & Country Club

Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start - 11am
Cost: \$75 per golfer (buffet dinner \$25)
Contact: Para Foundation 980-222-1006
fightforthecuregolf.eventbrite.com

Joe Gibbs Inaugural Celebrity "Game Plan For Life" Launch Party and Golf Tournament

Monday, May 21
The Peninsula Club
Captain's Choice
Launch Party - with Joe Gibbs and Lou Holtz - Sunday, May 20
Contact: Renaldo Wynn 704-944-5010
gameplanforlife.com

Ella Foard Foundation Rett Syndrome Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, May 21
Cabarras Country Club
Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start - 10am
Cost: \$120 per golfer / \$480 per foursome
Contact: John Foard 336-327-0148
john@ellafoard.org

Robert W. Anderson III Charity Golf Tournament Alpha Phi Alpha Greenville Foundation

Saturday, June 2
The Cliffs @ Glassy
Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start - 11am
Cost: \$200 per player (deadline to register May 18)
Contact: Alpha Phi Alpha Greenville Foundation
864-735-0880 / alphagreenville.org

27th Annual Ray Booton Golf Tournament

Hosted by: Kappa Foundation of Charlotte
Saturday, June 9
Skybrook Golf Club
Cost: \$75 per player
Contact: R. Robinson 704-806-6813
kappafoundationofcharlotte.org

Carolina Golf Journal Golf Course G



TARGET YOUR AUDIENCE!

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

Contact Sam Smith
704.756.9909
sam@carolinagolfjournal.com



- | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----|
| R1. Apple Valley Golf Course - Lake Lure
Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3043 | 3. Birkdale Golf Club - Huntersville
Public 18 ~ 704-895-8038 | Private 18 ~ 704-392-6366 | 14. |
| R2. Bald Mountain Golf Course - Lake Lure
Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3042 | 5. Cabarrus Country Club - Concord
Private 18 ~ 704-786-8154 | 9. Carolina Lakes Golf Club - Indian Land
Public 18 ~ 803-547-9688 | 15. |
| 1. Ballantyne Country Club - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-544-9755 | 6. Carmel Country Club - Charlotte
Private 36 ~ 704-542-2457 | 10. Cedarwood Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-542-0206 | 16. |
| 2. Ballantyne Golf Club - Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-248-4383 | 7. Carolina Crossing Golf Club - York, SC
Public 18 ~ 803-684-5878 | 11. Charles T. Myers Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-536-1692 | 17. |
| | 8. Carolina Golf & Country Club - Charlotte | 12. Charlotte Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-333-9809 | |

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
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
70. Renaissance Park Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-357-3373
71. Revolution Park Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 9 ~ 704-342-1946

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

Rocky River Golf Club

#1 public course in Charlotte metro!
NC Golf Rating Panel 2017

Great Mini Verde greens



Newly remodeled clubhouse &
banquet facilities -
Book your outings now!
Dates going quickly!



704-455-1200
www.rockyrivergolf.com

2018 Symetra Classic returns to Charlotte at River Run Country Club

The Symetra Classic, an event on the LPGA Symetra Tour, is returning to the Charlotte metro area. The showcase for future LPGA stars will be played at River Run Country Club in Davidson on May 17-19. The Symetra was played at Raintree Country Club in Charlotte from 2012-16 before moving to Atlanta National Golf Club in 2017.

The Symetra Tour is the LPGA's official developmental tour and is known as "The Road to the LPGA", and will host 144 players from 21 countries, and will be the first women's professional golf tournament hosted by River Run. The club previously hosted a playoff event on the Web.com Tour from 2013-15.

Charlotte natives Allison Emrey (Ardrey Kell - Wake Forest) and Laura Wearn (Charlotte Country Day - Furman) are scheduled to play in the Symetra Classic.



Former Furman and Charlotte Country Day golfer Laura Wearn, enjoyed the thrill of winning on the Symetra Tour in 2016. Just one year removed from back surgery, Wearn, one of the long-hitters on the Tour, won the Gosling's Dark 'n Stormy® Classic on the Symetra Tour at Atlanta National Golf Club. Her career earnings total \$69,712.

Wearn won the North Carolina State Women's Amateur Championship in

2010 while a freshman at Furman. That followed an MVP career at Charlotte Country Day where she earned a 2008 North Carolina Junior Girls All-State honor.

At Audrey Kell High School, Allison Emrey helped the Knights win the 2010 4A West Regional title and then led her team to a NCHSAA 4A State Cham-



pionship. She was the 2008 4A Individual State Champion, followed by a runner-up finish at the state tournament in 2009 and was fourth in 2010. Emrey was the No. 1-ranked junior golfer in the state of North Carolina according to juniorgolf-scoreboard.com at the time of her signing to attend Wake Forest.

Emrey, a 2015 graduate of Wake Forest, had plenty of those expectations when she turned pro after an All-American career in college.

She achieved many honors including winning a team title, breaking the Wake Forest scoring average for the year, and being named to the WGCA All-American team.

In her two seasons on the Symetra Tour, Emrey has earned a little more than \$50,000 with eight career top-10 finishes. She will continue to play on the Symetra Tour when she's not playing in the Monday-qualifying on the LPGA Tour.


SYMETRA
 TOUR
 ROAD TO THE LPGA





**A Challenging
Tom Jackson Design**

**Enjoy the
mature
Zoysiagrass
greens**

Dramatic elevation changes &
a mountain golf experience at Union
County's premier semi-private golf course -
just minutes from uptown Charlotte!

**The Hidden Jewel
of the Carolinas**



Spring Specials

Monday - Thursday - \$34
 Senior Monday-Friday - \$28
 Friday - \$38
 Weekends & Holidays - \$46
 after 2:00 - \$30

704-385-9000
www.playeaglechase.com



Improve your game with one-stop at Bruce Parker's new effortless golf center

I-485 at Polk Street
Pineville
704-962-3838
effortlessgolfcenter.com

Professional golf instruction

Expert club repair and fitting

Wide selection of new and used clubs
"We pay cash for clubs"

Driving range with new Volvik golf balls

Covered and grass hitting areas

Directly behind South Charlotte Mazda, CarMax
and next to the Family Fun Center on Cadillac Street

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday- Friday / 9:00 a.m. - dark Saturday & Sunday



effortless golf center is a full retail shop!

Wide selection of new and used golf equipment,
including a complete line of Callaway drivers, fairway metals and
irons. Golfers get cash for trading in old clubs for a different set
of clubs to improve their game.

Come get fitted for new Taylormade or Callaway golf equipment!



Good Golf, Good Weather, Goodyear: *Make Tracks to Phoenix's West Valley*



Wigwam Resort

make an ideal golf destination, particularly in autumn, winter and spring.

And, in case you're wondering, Wigwam Resort remains an important player on the West Valley golf scene. The classic resort is now home to 54 holes and has undergone a renaissance under a new ownership group led by Jerry Colangelo, who formerly owned the Phoenix Suns and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

A visit to Wigwam Resort offers the dual distinction of stepping back to the classic era of American hospitality, while enjoying modern luxuries and conveniences. It's a place that still emphasizes customer service and makes guests feel pampered and special.

By Craig Distl

In 1917, with World War I raging in Europe, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company purchased 16,000 acres in an arid valley west of Phoenix. Goodyear needed a supply of long-staple cotton to make rubber tires for airplanes and the hardscrabble desert land was surprisingly fertile ground for the crop.

This began a long-standing relationship between the Ohio-based tire conglomerate and what became known as Phoenix's West Valley.

By 1930, Goodyear established the Wigwam Resort, which included the area's first 9-hole golf course. The course expanded to 18 holes in 1941, the town of Goodyear formed in 1946, and noted golf architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. arrived in 1965 to develop a second golf course and redesign the original layout.

The popularity of golf had risen in the Valley of the Sun and visitors from the North and East discovered a warm, sunny playground in cold-weather months.

Fast forward to today and that fertile ground for long-staple cotton has given way to dozens of verdant golf courses, joined by a new set of westward-looking organizations from Ohio – the Cleveland Indians and Cincinnati Reds, who share a spring training complex in Goodyear.

Goodyear and the adjacent suburb of Litchfield Park are thriving cities that

Wigwam guests stay in casita (small house) guest rooms that frame the resort. From there, it's an easy walk to the golf complex and a host of amenities ranging from a full-service spa to lavish pools to indoor and outdoor dining options.

When the morning sun rises over Wigwam Resort, as it does practically every day of the year, it bathes the lush greenery of 54 holes of championship golf. The courses, thanks in large part to the design work of Robert Trent Jones Sr., have a classic, East Coast feel to them. Jones preferred tree-lined doglegs and those are in ample supply on the Gold and Blue courses at Wigwam.



Wigwam Gold Course #16

Unlike many West Valley courses, the fairways are not framed by desert. The Goodyear folks went the extra mile to frame the courses with trees, landscaping and something you rarely see in the desert – rough.

Water hazards are also in ample supply at Wigwam. Jones placed small ponds around greens, and a five-foot wide canal meanders through the property. It is said that Goodyear went all out with the Gold Course to challenge the South Course at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, owned by rival Firestone.

Less than 10 miles from Wigwam Resort is another excellent West Valley golf destination – Verrado Golf Club.

Verrado's two courses are about two miles apart and each is a superb design. The Founder's Course at Verrado is a Tom Lehman/John Fought design that opened in 2004 and the Victory Course is a solo Lehman design that opened in early 2017.

The setting and routing at the Founder's Course are about as good as you will find anywhere. The course is framed by the White Tank Mountains and meanders through desert terrain with a nice amount of elevation change. The Phoenix skyline, about 30 miles eastward, is visible from multiple vantage points.

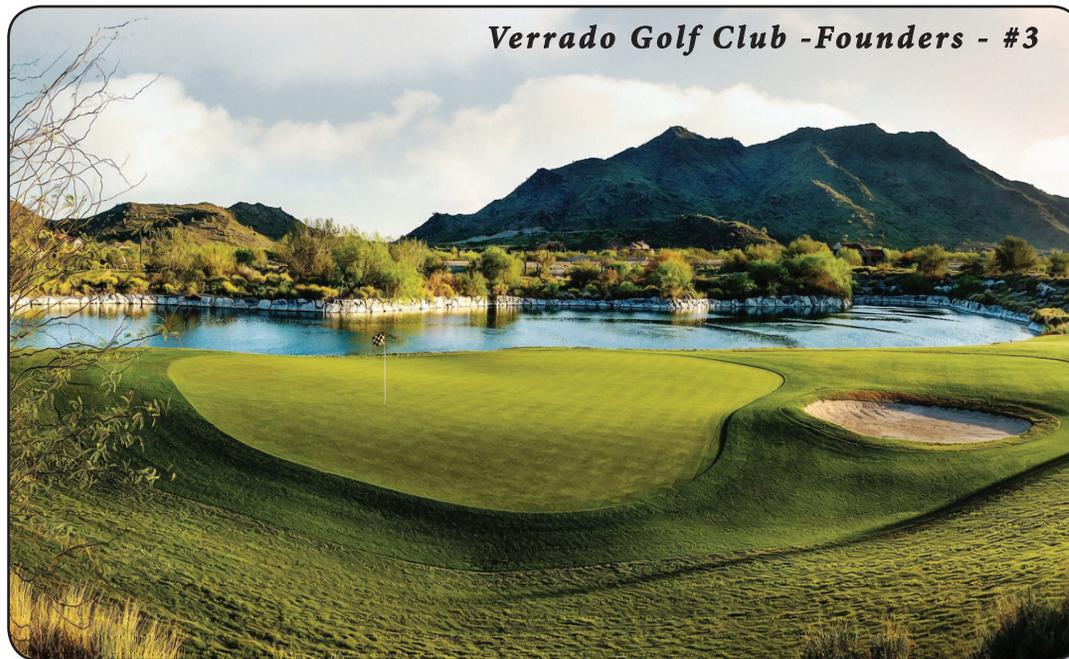
The Founder's Course is plenty long at 7,258 yards, to challenge the scratch golfer, and becomes imminently more playable across six sets of tees ending with the forward tees at 5,142 yards. Fought and Lehman built wide fairways and left room around the greens.

The four closing holes at The Founder's Course are an exceptional combination of challenging, fair, and scenic golf holes.

Lehman was given a solo set of keys to design Verrado's new offering, the Victory Course. The 7,258-yard layout sits on a rocky site that was the former proving grounds for Caterpillar heavy equipment.

Amongst the rocks and boulders, Lehman took more chances than he did while teaming with Fought at the Founder's Course. The course has a couple of blind tee shots over desert terrain to hidden fairways, and he built a drivable par-4, replete with hazards, at the 14th hole. Another par-4, the 17th, invites the golfer to hit a tee shot over a huge mound in the fairway that hides an eight-foot-deep and 20-foot-wide grassy hole about 130 yards from the green.

Lehman opted for two monster par-5s of 632 and 616 yards, but it is the last par-5, No. 18, that really captures the public's attention. This spectacular hole was blasted out of bedrock and features a downhill tee shot over a lake to a valley fairway with vineyards on the left. The downhill tee ball gives extra distance and



Verrado Golf Club -Founders - #3

the ability to go for the green in two, which requires an uphill shot of about 210-240 yards to a green carved from rock and protected by mounding and a fall-off bunker.

The dramatic 18th at Victory sums up the course itself – fun, challenging, scenic and rocky. High above that green is the clubhouse, known as the Cliff House, overlooking the back nine with open air dining and a relaxing way to finish the day.

Another Goodyear course worth a visit is the Golf Club of Estrella. Designed in 1999

by Jack Nicklaus II, Estrella is located south of the city near Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Jackie designed a very playable course with ample fairway landing areas and only two water hazards. Bunkering is the method of defense, with most greens well protected.

The greens themselves are often in immaculate condition. In its literature, Estrella makes this claim: "You will be treated to some of the smoothest and best-conditioned surfaces in the world."

There are no blind tee shots or quirky elements at Estrella. Just golf the way it was meant to be, with distinct visual lines on every shot.

The Golf Club of Estrella is part of a resort community which recently added its 5,000th home. One of those homeowners is Hall of Fame baseball player Tim Lincecum, who starred with the Montreal Expos and Chicago White Sox.

"If you ask anybody who has been here or anybody who lives around here," Lincecum says, "they will say that Estrella is one of their favorites."



Golf Club of Estrella #17

Deliberate Practice

Not every player likes to practice the game of golf, but most people understand that it is difficult to implement any significant change or improvement in any sport, if little time is given towards learning something different and new. Many golfers who enjoy practice, hit balls on the range without much thought, and with a lot of repetition. I call this recreation, not practice.

What has been proven to work for motor skill acquisition is what we call, deliberate practice. Deliberate practice is about improving your performance, and reaching for objectives and goals that may be just beyond your current level of competence; and being mindful and gaining feedback on your results. Deliberate practice is not simply hitting golf balls, it is learning.

Listed in the action box are some suggestions to make better use of your time on the range and how to make your practice more deliberate.

“While I am practicing I am also trying to develop my powers of con-

Bruce Wilkins, PGA
Golf Instructor at Ballantyne Golf Academy

centration. I never just walk up and hit the ball. I am practicing and adopting habits of concentration which pay off when I play. Adopt a habit of concentration to the exclusion of everything else around you on the practice tee and you will find that you are automatically fol-

lowing the same routine while playing a round in competition. Play each shot as if it were part of an actual round.” - Ben Hogan.

Ask yourself why you are practicing. If it is for recreation - that's great, enjoy it! There is nothing wrong with spending time outdoors hitting golf balls. However, if you want to improve, learn, or have goals you want to achieve, then consider refining how you spend your time on the range. Make your practice more deliberate.

- Have a plan for what you want to work on or accomplish for every practice session and try to stick to your plan.
- Try hitting to different targets with different clubs, and even from different lies.
- Practice with fewer balls in front of you, giving more focus and purpose to each shot.
- Take time to visualize your desired ball flight between shots.
- Develop and implement your pre-shot routine for every shot, and choose small targets.
- Try keeping a journal - write down what is working and lessons you have learned. Reminders will facilitate improvement and keep you on track.
- Finally, always allow for more deliberate practice on and around the green, not just on the range.



PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Customized to Improve Your Game

Ballantyne Golf Academy features an award-winning team of teaching professionals who make it their mission to be continuous learners and outstanding instructors. From new golfers to single-digit handicappers, we can assist you in achieving your golf goals.

Book a lesson online or contact
704-542-7635 or info@golfballantyne.com.



Learn more at ballantynegolfacademy.com | 13404 Ballantyne Corporate Place, Charlotte, NC 28277

Bruce Wilkins, PGA Joins Ballantyne Golf Academy

Bruce Wilkins, PGA is the newest member of the teaching staff at the Ballantyne Golf Academy with Dana Rader, a Golf Channel Academy in Charlotte. Bruce's coaching and teaching are influenced by golf knowledge from the past and present. He is a true student of the game and incorporates time honored principals and fundamentals with modern methods of understanding and motion analysis.



Before joining Ballantyne Golf Academy, Bruce was a coach and instructor in Arizona, California, and most recently in Southern Oregon, where he was Director of Instruction for the Arnold Palmer signature course at the Running Y Ranch Resort. Bruce also worked as an instructor for the Oregon Tech college golf teams.

Wilkins began his professional golf career after graduating from the Professional Golf Management program at Arizona State University. After gaining his Class A status with the PGA of America, he was fortunate

to work at several of Tucson's premier golf courses including Tucson Country Club and Ventana Canyon Resort. Bruce's career has also included time working for Troon Golf Management at Sun Valley Resort's Elkhorn, and as a

private golf coach in San Diego, California.

With over 15 years of instructional focus, Wilkins is a true student of the game. Bruce understands that there are many ways to swing a golf club, but an effective way for each player to maximize their potential.

As an instructor, Bruce has been certified by TrackMan, the Titleist Performance Institute, BodiTrak Sports, and is a Certified Movement Specialist for Tathata Golf. Bruce uses video analysis in all lessons and offers an online training space through Edufii. Bruce also uses a TrackMan 4 launch monitor and BodiTrak Sport pressure mapping as additional ways to support and educate his students and athletes.

He strives to individualize each lesson, and help players improve through communicating a better understanding of their patterns, and in becoming more efficient with their motion. Lower scores, longevity, and enjoyment of the game, are his goals for every student at the Ballantyne Golf Academy with tips that you will be enjoying this year in the Carolina Golf Journal.



Ballantyne Golf Academy names Steve Bogdanoff Director of Junior Golf

Ballantyne Golf Academy with Dana Rader, North Carolina's only Golf Channel Academy, has promoted Steve Bogdanoff to director of junior golf. With more than ten years of teaching experience, Bogdanoff recently earned certifications from Operation 36 and U.S. Kids Golf.

Before joining Ballantyne Golf Academy several years ago, Bogdanoff worked as an assistant professional at private clubs in Washington, D.C., Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head Island.



He has more than five years of experience working with FlightScope, a 3D Doppler tracking radar, and has a level 1 certification for Swing Catalyst, a ground force pressure matt. Bogdanoff is a certified PING club fitter and is also 'True Temper' certified for club fitting and repair.

Bogdanoff will lead efforts as Ballantyne Golf Academy launches its first

long-term coaching program for juniors in partnership with Operation 36. With a goal to get kids to shoot a score of 36 for nine holes of golf, Operation 36 includes classes, supervised practices and matches. The engaging program works for students of all levels, and progress is easily measured.

"Steve has played an instrumental role in revitalizing our junior programs and offers a well-rounded approach to game improvement," said Woody Allen, director of golf at The Golf Club at Ballantyne. "He understands what it takes to connect with his students and coaches them in a way that gets them to do their best while teaching them skills they can apply both on the course and in life."

Ballantyne Golf Academy will host a Junior Golf Open House on Tuesday, April 10, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Meet new PGA teaching professionals, tour facilities, learn about results-focused junior programs, get kids fit for U.S. Kids golf equipment and more. Receive 10% off equipment ordered at the event.

For information on junior programs, please visit Ballantyne Golf Academy or call 704-542-7635.

Local Pro and Amateur Golf Schedules - 2018

National Junior Golf Tour – Charlotte Area

April 3-4	Spring Break Championship Qualifying for NJGT National Championship Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
April 14	Warrior GC	China Grove, NC
April 15	Lenoir Golf Course	Lenoir, NC
May 19-20	College Prep Series NC Qualifier for IMG World Junior Championship Rumbling Bald	Lake Lure, NC
May 26-27	Wyboo GC	Manning, SC
June 11	Qualifying for NJGT National Championship Rock Barn Golf & CC	Conover, NC
June 23	Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
June 26	Qualifying for NJGT National Championship Lenoir Golf Course	Lenoir, NC
July 31	Qualifying for NJGT National Championship Northstone CC	Huntersville, NC
August 14	Bermuda Run West	Bermuda Run, NC
August 16	Qualifying for NJGT National Championship Warrior GC	China Grove, NC
Sept. 1	18th Annual Adult Jr. Championship @ Hackler Course-Coastal Carolina	Conway, SC

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

Swing Thought Tour – Carolina's Events

April 3-5	Gates Fours CC	Fayetteville, NC
April 23-24	Tanglewood GC	Clemmons, NC
May 30 – June 1	Greensboro Natl. GC	Summerfield, NC
August 1-3	Belmont Lake GC	Rocky Mount, NC
August 6-7	Bryan Park Golf Club	Greensboro, NC
August 21-24	Columbia CC	Blythwood, SC

Tournaments scheduled from Sept. 19-Dec 22 - TBA

Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour

April 9	Cedarwood CC	Charlotte, NC
April 21-22	Monroe Masters - Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
May 19	Palisades CC	Charlotte, NC
May 29	The Peninsula CC	Cornelius, NC
June 11	River Run CC	Davidson, NC
June 23-24	Golfweek Open - Irish Creek	Kannapolis, NC
July 2	Pine Island CC	Charlotte, NC
July 28	Firethorne CC	Marvin, NC
August 11	Northstone CC	Huntersville, NC
August 25	Cabarrus CC	Concord, NC
Sept 15	River Hills CC	Lake Wylie, SC
Sept 29	Local Finals - Cowans Ford CC	Stanley, NC
Sept 30	Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis, NC

Senior Amateur Tour – Charlotte Area

April 18	Northstone CC	Huntersville, NC
May 2	Cowans Ford CC	Stanley, NC
May 16	Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis, NC
June 6	CC of Salisbury	Salisbury, NC
June 18	The Peninsula CC	Cornelius, NC
June 27	Pine Island CC	Charlotte, NC
July 9	Firethorne CC	Marvin, NC
Aug 6	The Sr. Open –Peninsula CC	Cornelius, NC
Aug 7	The Palisades	Charlotte, NC
Aug 20	River Run CC	Davidson, NC
Sept 4	The Players – Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
Sept 5	Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
Sept 19	River Hills CC	Lake Wylie, SC

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: 800-992-8748
swingthought.com

National Junior Golf Tour: 704-824-6548
nationaljuniorgolfassociation.com

Larkhaven's long history expected to change

Housing development to replace fairways and greens

Another area golf course is expected to go under in the near future if a sale of the Larkhaven Golf Course to Meritage Homes is approved. The Meritage application to rezone the golf course for residential development will be considered by the Charlotte City Council in the coming months. With approval of the sale, Larkhaven is expected to close later this year or early 2019.

The signs of this development have been appearing for quite some time now. A development for senior citizens, Cresswind, is under construction on the adjoining property, 850 new houses will replace land that has been a forest area for years, and Novant Health is building a medical center next door. An even more tell-tale sign has been the installation of a sewer pipe by the Charlotte Water crews through the golf course, a clear signal that this deal could be close.

Larkhaven has a rich history since its opening in 1958 when Barron Connell turned his family's dairy farm into the first nine-hole public daily fee course that Charlotte golfers could play. After growing to a full championship 18-hole golf course that non-country club members called their own, Larkhaven drew high praise from players and in-the-know media writers alike.

"In a city that loves its own sparkle, Larkhaven is a grassroots reminder of how Charlotte used to be and how golf, for most of us, will always be," former Observer columnist Ron Green Jr. wrote in a 2008 story on the course's 50th anniversary. "It is not a country club and has never tried to be one."



Better days at Larkhaven

Despite the recent and expected future closings, there are still a lot more golf options in Charlotte than when Larkhaven opened, but golf continues to struggle with a shrinking number of players. Larkhaven Golf president Ken Jamison commented on better days at the east Charlotte golf course.

"Thirty years ago, all you had to do was open the gates, and you had players," said Jamison. "It's a lot more competitive now than it used to be. All the courses are in better shape." Jamison added that Larkhaven is still planning commemorative events to mark its 60th anniversary this year.

Other golf course closings in Charlotte in the past two decades include:

- Charlotte Golf Links gave way to the bulldozers in 2014, with the 194-acre property rezoned for mix-use that has transformed the Providence at Audrey Kell area.
- In 2007, a homebuilder bought the 164-acre Pawtuckett Golf Club at Interstates 85 and 485 for \$2.1 million, and is now building hundreds of houses on the land.
- 2006 marked the final year for Crystal Springs Golf in Pineville for a new housing development.
- In 2000, Eastwood Golf Club, a staple in public golf since 1947 closed after more and more of its land was being sold for commercial and residential development.
- Sharon Golf Course was closed in 1999 to make room for the Cypress Senior Center.

Charlotte has a bevy of country clubs, most of them built during the golf course building boom on the 1990's. Most became the anchor of thriving upscale neighborhoods, with only a couple having real trouble. Firethorne Country club was struggling with closure hanging over the course, but found a buyer in 2015. Their buyer was the same Dallas-based company, ClubCorp that purchased TPC Piper Glen after it fell into bankruptcy in 2010.

Ken Jamison of Larkhaven may have summed up our golf situation in Charlotte in its quest for more golfers to play their courses. Let's hope his prediction is much further down the road.

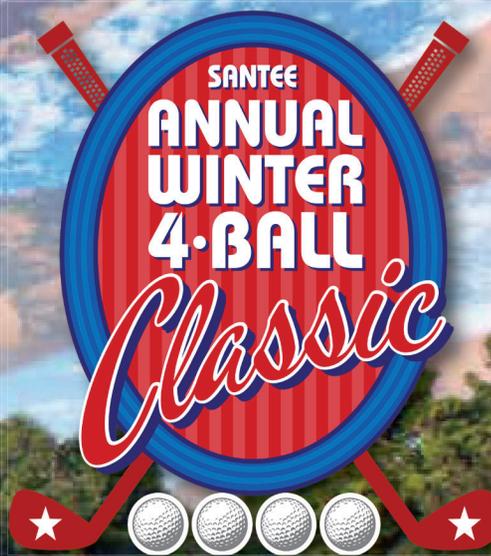
"Change happens," said Jamison. "There's a time for everything."

America's Great GOLF TRIFECTA

3 *Great* Courses and 2 *Great* Events
14 additional courses within a 45 minute drive!



August 31-
Sept. 3, 2018



December
2-4, 2018

www.santeetourism.com

For a FREE Santee Golf
Guide call 1-800-250-3080



South Carolina
Just right.

