

Free Carolina GOLF JOURNAL

Vol 10 Issue 5

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Chad Wilfong goes overtime to win 2019 Charlotte City Amateur Championship

The winning road back in the amateur golf ranks took a while for former Wake Forest honorable mention all-American Chad Wilfong, but a victory in the Charlotte City Amateur Championship ended the wait.

Wilfong, a financial executive with Wells Fargo Advisors, had to do a little extra work in the final round to secure the title, after coming into the closing round at Myers Park Country Club with a one-shot lead at 6-under-par on high school sensation Jack Heath of Charlotte Christian High School, and a pair of shots better than former 2017 City Amateur Champion Will Stewart.

Wilfong fired an even par-71 to remain at 6-under-par (208) for the three day tournament. Heath, the PGA Junior Champion faltered with a 4-over-par 75, and finished in 6th place at 213. Stewart was steady in shooting a 2-under-par 69 to catch Wilfong in their head-to-head final pairing. A third player joined the race to the finish, when Walter Simas birdied at #17, and made a slippery 20-foot par-putt on the 18th hole to match the leading score, posting the best round of the day at 3-under-par 68.

In the playoff beginning on #1, a downhill 246-yard par-4, Stewart was putting for a birdie from 20-feet; Wilfong was eying a 15-foot birdie putt while Simas was chipping from the fringe for his 3. After Stewart and Simas had to settle for pars, Wilfong showed the poise of a veteran nailing his 15-foot birdie putt for the

Championship.

“This has been a long time coming,” said Wilfong. “Will and Walter played very well, and I knew if I made one mistake they would be there to take the lead. I was thrilled to see the ball disappear on that playoff hole, and end a long amateur major win drought.”

Wilfong, regained his amateur status after 4 years (2003-2206) chasing a dream on the PGA developmental tours. He had the game after winning the 2001 North Carolina Amateur Championship as a rising junior at Wake Forest, but found he couldn't break through in the pro ranks, and returned to amateur golf competition.



Charlotte City Amateur champion Chad Wilfong, right, presented with the Ron Green, Sr. trophy by Championship Director Braxton McLennan.



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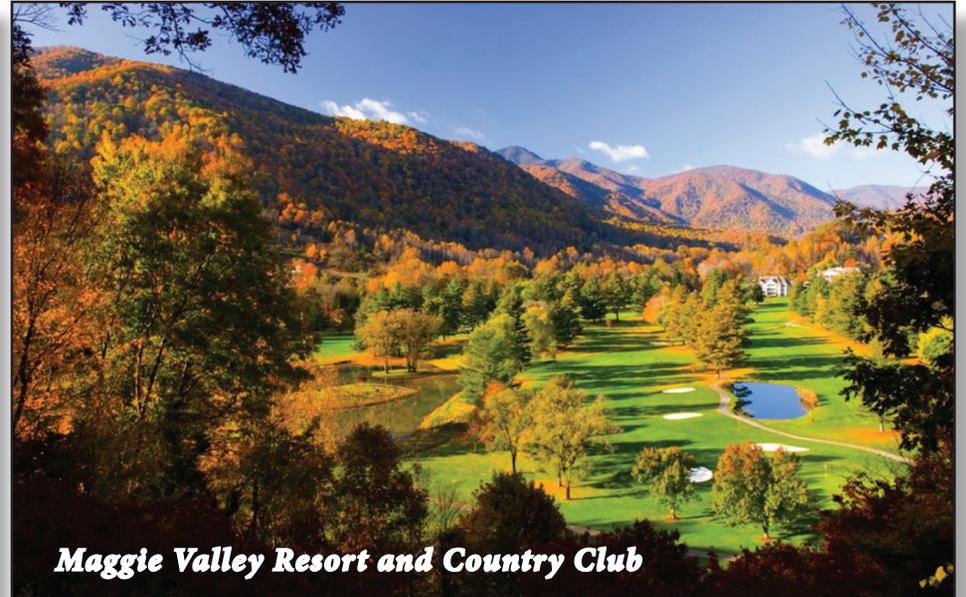
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NC Golf Rating Panel 2019

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'Fall' in love with these golf destinations during autumn's changing of the leaves



Mt. Mitchell Golf Club - Burnsville, NC



Maggie Valley Resort and Country Club

Mother Nature provides one last hurrah before golf season fades away in the North Carolina Mountains.

Playing golf during the changing of the leaves is almost a spiritual experience. If you time it just right, the vibrant colors will explode. Red. Yellow. Orange. Brown. This kaleidoscope, when juxtaposed against a canvass of green grass, looks spectacular.

Some states are famous for their fall colors – with North Carolina listed among the best along with Vermont, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota and New York just to name a few. The color band that stretches south into North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama are even more spectacular considering these states just happen to have excellent golf courses, too.

September 22nd marked the first official day of fall, so daydream a bit and celebrate the changing of the leaves on courses close to home. Wherever you are, don't delay in squeezing in those last rounds of fall. As the Game of Thrones warns: Winter is coming.

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9:00 am - dark Saturday & Sunday



Golf Club @ Ballantyne TODAY

Ever since

Northwood Investors purchased Ballantyne Corporate Park from the Bissell Companies two years ago for \$1.2 billion there has been talk of the

Golf Club at Ballantyne closing its operations in favor of a dense, walkable, urban town center. That talk has now been put in motion by Northwood.

“Let’s make it clear however the Golf Club at Ballantyne is playing well, and is still open for business! It appears certain that the Golf Club will eventually close, but no determined time-table for the immediate future as been announced. The developer submitted a rezoning request this summer and they plan to start construction of the first phase of the project by early 2020,” according to the Golf Club at Ballantyne.

Developer Northwood Office LLC announced in early June that they plan to build the town center, which will include shops, restaurants, 2,000 apartments and even an amphitheater. A new 25-acre town center coming to south Charlotte’s Ballantyne community will transform the area, and its popular golf course.



Ballantyne Town Center FUTURE



“It’s all about unlocking the opportunity here to create a really urban, walkable environment,” said John Barton, President of Northwood Office. “I think it’s a great opportunity to

really freshen the area up.”

Barton said the goal is to re-imagine Ballantyne, transforming it into a more urban community, and to hopefully boost the Ballantyne economy similar to what’s happened with Charlotte’s South End.

Among the first projects will be the current 18th hole and driving range becoming the site of new mixed-use buildings with dining and shopping options along a new main street — plus thousands of apartments and townhomes.

Northwood will also invest in sprucing up common areas from little-used grassy lawns into more inviting gathering places. They plan to build an amphitheater as a central spot for festivals and celebrations, plus install public art and water features.




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




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Rory McIlroy regains his “swagger” wins FedEx Cup Championship

Local golf fans and television viewers around the world were witnesses to something even more notable than delivery of the richest prize in golf.

Rory McIlroy's bounce, Rory McIlroy's swagger, was back. And with good reason. A season featuring recurring success has now seen the Northern Irishman claim the FedEx Cup at East Lake Country Club in Atlanta.

McIlroy will insist the value of that win - \$15m is not crucial to him - and at his level it is not - but to the watching world the check added ribbons to this triumph. McIlroy joins Tiger Woods as the only multiple winners of the FedEx Cup.

“I'm very proud of myself. To play like that alongside Brooks Koepka and get the win, the FedEx Cup, yeah, it's awesome. It's amazing how different things can be in a year after failing so badly in the final round against Tiger Woods last year.”



The handicapped start afforded to players in the season-ending Tour Championship had caused elements of screaming from afar.

McIlroy delivered the last laugh; his overall score would have been sufficient to win even if the 30-man field had started level.

McIlroy's closing round of 66 meant a four-stroke success over Xander Schauffele, with the champion's 18-under-par aggregate requiring the context of a 10-under-par position before a ball was struck.

There were various strands of significance attached to McIlroy's 17th PGA Tour win. The biggest was perhaps that he swatted aside Brooks Koepka, the world #1 and his final-round playing partner.

When the duo entered the Sunday battle in Memphis at a World Golf Championship, Koepka prevailed pretty comfortably. This time McIlroy outscored Koepka by a half a dozen forth round strokes. McIlroy also pointedly referenced 11 months ago at this venue, when he was afforded an unwanted front-row seat for Woods's first success in five years.

“I didn't enjoy that walk last year like everyone else did,” McIlroy said. “I played terribly. I got myself into the final group and never took the fight to Tiger. Going up against the #1 player in the world, he got one over on me in Memphis and I wanted to try to sort of get some revenge. The final round in Memphis hurt a little bit. I didn't take it to Brooks at all.”

Koepka displayed similar sportsmanship. “Rory played great golf, pretty much mistake free,” Koepka said. “It was impressive to watch. Hats off to him. But, now it's a five-week holiday for me. I'm going to enjoy myself.”



Brooks Koepka still goes one-up on McIlroy by capturing PGA Tour “Player of the Year” honor

Rory McIlroy got the best of Brooks Koepka in Atlanta. A day later, Koepka returned the favor.

The PGA of America announced Koepka as its Player of the Year edging McIlroy for the honors.

The PGA uses a year-long points formula to determine its winner, with tournament victories, official money standings, and scoring averages featured in its equation.

Koepka's wins at the PGA Championship, WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational and C.J. Cup bestowed 50 points, 10 more than McIlroy accumulated for his Players Championship, Canadian Open and FedEx Cup triumphs.

That category proved to be the difference maker, with Koepka finishing with 84 points to McIlroy's 78. Koepka becomes the first player to defend

the PGA Player of the Year since Tiger Woods in 2007.

Patrick Cantlay and Gary Woodland tied for a distant third with 42 points, with Matt Kuchar coming in fifth with 36.

The PGA players will announce its “Player of the Year” which is voted on by the players by October.

Though there's some debate if McIlroy's consistency will top Koepka's major dominance, history favors Koepka.



PRESIDENTS CUP 2019 in Australia

Captain's picks to finalize teams

The golf world has to wait another couple of months before the 13th edition of the Presidents Cup is to be played December 12-15 at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Victoria, Australia. Tiger Woods will serve as the American Captain, while Ernie Els will direct the International team.

The American team will be looking for their 8th straight win, and their 11th overall victory after celebrating the last win at the Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, NJ by a score of 19-11.



American team celebrates 2017 Presidents Cup victory

The Presidents Cup is modeled in part after the Ryder Cup which pits Team USA against Team Europe. Many PGA Tour players are not from either continent, however, and the Presidents Cup was created in part

to give those golfers from Asia, Australia, Canada, etc. a chance to play in a high-profile team format.

This will be the third time that Royal Melbourne has served as tournament site. It previously hosted in 1998 and 2011, and 1998 is the only Presidents Cup, so far, won by the International side. There has been one tie in the competition, when Captains Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player deemed the 2003 event a tie after Tiger Woods and Ernie Els tied 3-playoff hole, and darkness finally halted the action at the South Africa site.

Speaking to the press after the final match, Woods said it was “one of the most nerve-wracking moments I’ve ever had in golf,” which prompted this response from International team player Robert Allenby: “Thank God.”

This year, a minor format change will be implemented, stating each player shall only be required to play a minimum of one match prior to the final-round singles matches. This is a change from previous years when players were required to compete in two matches prior to singles matches.

The top eight players for both squads officially qualified following the 2019 Tour Championship, with four captain’s picks apiece being made closer to the event’s December date. Woods is expect to name his remain 4 players by November 4th, Els has indicated he might wait a week later for his selections.

After Woods failed to automatically qualify for this year’s team, he could still name himself to the team as a rare playing captain. There has never been a playing captain in the Presidents Cup, and Woods said he wouldn’t pick himself unless the rest of team, including his assistant coaches buys in.

“My job is to put together the best team possible,” said Woods. We’ll be going through the whole process of having communication with the eight players already selected and my vice-captains.”



If Woods doesn’t pick himself, he will have a solid group of players to choose from. That list is topped by Tony Finau, Rickie Fowler, Patrick Reed, Gary Woodland, Jordan Spieth or even Phil Mickleson. The latter, who has played in all previous Presidents Cups, could also join the team in Australia as a fourth assistant should Woods name one.

The Golf Channel will carry all four days of action live, while NBC will carry tape-delays of the Saturday and Sunday matches.

For you clock watchers, Australia is 14 hours ahead of the United States. (Ie: If its 1:00 pm in Sydney Thursday December 12, it would be 11:00 pm Wednesday December 11 in Charlotte).

AMERICAN TEAM (top 8)

Patrick Cantlay	1st Presidents’ Cup
Bryson DeChambeau	1st Presidents’ Cup
Xander Schauffele	1st Presidents’ Cup
Brooks Koepka	2nd 2017
Justin Thomas	2nd 2017
Dustin Johnson	4th 2011, ’15, ’17
Webb Simpson	3rd 2011, ’13
Matt Kuchar	5th 2011, ’13, ’15, ’17

INTERNATIONAL TEAM (top 8)

Marc Leishman	Australia
Hideki Matsuyama	Japan
Louis Oosthuizen	South Africa
Adam Scott	Australia
Abraham Ancer	Mexico
Li Haotong	China
Pan Cheng-tsung	Chinese Taipei
Cameron Smith	Australia

PRESIDENTS CUP SCHEDULE

12/12	Thursday – 5 Foursomes or Four-ball matches
12/13	Friday – 5 Foursomes or Four-ball matches
12/14	Saturday morning – 4 Foursomes or Four-ball matches Saturday afternoon – 4 Four-ball or Foursomes matches
12/15	Sunday – 12 Singles matches

New clubs by *Tour Edge* challenges giants of the golf equipment business

The Tour Edge golf equipment company has taken the challenge of battling the giants of the golf drivers market: TaylorMade/Adams, Titleist, Ping, Callaway and Cobra.

Among their newest performers, the Tour Edge Exotics EXS driver is a high performance club at a budget friendly price. Adjustable hosel and weights allow you to dial in launch conditions, with excellent forgiveness. Setting the EXS down behind the ball, you'll see that the face height is average for a modern driver. There's ample room to miss a little high or low, but it doesn't look like a dinner plate set on edge.

Other factors considered in the testing of the EXS driver were the looks, sound on impact and the feedback through the hands.

The driver looks the part of a premium club with its glossy black crown covered with a subtle carbon fiber texture. Its head is large and triangular that produces a quiet, deep, solid sound at impact that adds to your confidence of

a strong contact. That will add to the feedback you get through your hands, delivering very little difference between centered strikes or mishits that are minimized with the forgiveness of the club.

See if the Tour Edge Exotics EXS driver is as good as any driver on the market. Yes! Even against the giants of the golf equipment world.

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Which driver length is right to get the most out of your tee shots?

More and more golfers are playing with the normal length driver shafts, but are they right for all players? The answer is well discussed but not with a clear-cut right or wrong decision.

Standard, off-the-rack drivers usually check in around 45 inches, while the USGA limits driver length to 48 inches for its competitions. So, why doesn't everyone max that out?

Several of our local club fitters have given their option on going with a longer shaft in your driver. The consensus is that while hitting a longer shaft a player may find more ball speed and longer drives, however the longer shafts makes it more difficult to hit the center of the club face. The more balls that are struck off-center, the more time you'll spend searching for tee shots in the rough.

Many golfers have still gone with the one-size-fits-all shafts, typically 45-46", but are choking down on the grip 2-3" creating less ball speed and distance off the tee. Drivers are set-up with the weight of the club head in proportion with the weight of the

shaft, gripping lower on the club defeats that balance.

Some higher handicap players are finding that going to a shorter shaft and playing the ball a little further back in their stance, similar to

swinging a 7-iron has produced longer drives and better direction control.

In many cases, players are also finding that the GX-7 can be used off the deck replacing the 3-wood with a descending blow gets the ball up faster and with excellent distance and control.

If you have a chance to try the GX-7 driver from Autopilot Golf, the 43" shaft may be the determining factor in your conversion from off-line, weak drives to an enjoyable longer drive in the middle of the fairway.

The GX-7 is the first club that strikes the sweet spot for loft, length and club head dimensions, making somewhere between a driver and a 3-wood.

For more detail and reviews, along with ordering information on the GX-7 go to their website at: go.gx7golf.com





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

12th Annual Fundraiser American Legion- Cornelius

Wednesday, October 9
Mallard Head Country Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 1:00 pm
Cost: \$85 per player
Contact: Berry Pinneke 704-907-4041
corneliuslegion@gmail.com

6th Annual Brody Thompson Foundation Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 12
Lakewood Golf Club - Statesville
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 12-noon
Cost: \$50 per player / \$200 per foursome
Contact: Jay Thompson 704-682-1120
jay@brodythompsonfoundation.com

Annie Mae Watkins Foundation 2019 Golf Classic

Saturday, October 12
The Divide Golf Course
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 8:30 am
Cost: \$75 per player / \$300 per foursome
Contact: Tanis Watkins 704-506-6888
anniemawatkins@yahoo.com

Lake Norman Charter Royal Golf Classic

Sunday, October 13
Skybrook Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 12:30 pm
Cost: \$125 per player
Contact: Brian Bauer 704-948-8600
bbauer@Lncharter.org

2nd Annual Linda Jochim Classic

Monday, October 14
Tega Cay Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 10:00 am
Cost: \$125 per player/ \$500 per team
Contact: Letherman Golf Learning Center
704-527-1123 leathermangolf@gmail.com

2019 Rollin' Hornets Golf Classic

Monday, October 14
Verdict Ridge Country Club
Captain's Choice
Cost: \$130 per player / \$520 per foursome
Contact: Tim Caldwell 704-651-2278
timcaldwell10@gmail.com

Least of These Carolinas Golf Tournament

Friday, October 18
Tega Cay Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 1:30 pm
Cost: \$100 Per player / \$400 per foursome
Contact: Susanna Kavanaugh 704-215-4344
susanna@lotcarolinas.com

The SEU Promotions Charlotte Invitational

Saturday, October 19
Rocky River Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Cost: \$2,500 per four-man team
Contact: Scott Schaeffer 704-999-7020
scott.seupromotionals@gmail.com

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

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

3rd Annual Sanctuary Charlotte Church Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 26
Carolina Lake Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 1:00 pm
Cost: \$85 per player
Contact: SC-Tournament Director
704-587-5657

Paw Creek American Legion Post 353 Golf Tournament

Saturday, November 2
Green Meadows Golf Course
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 8:00am
Cost: \$55 per player
Contact: Doug Mercier 704-929-0426
or Art McCall 704-733-9748

Providence High School NJROTC 2019 Golf Outing

Tuesday, November 5
Raintree Country Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 10:30 am
Cost: \$125 per player
Contact: Cheryl McCauley
mcc1926@carolina.rr.com

Hawthorne Academy Annual Fall Golf Classic

Tuesday, November 5
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 9:00 am
Cost: \$100 per player
Contact: Vincent Armstrong 980-343-6011

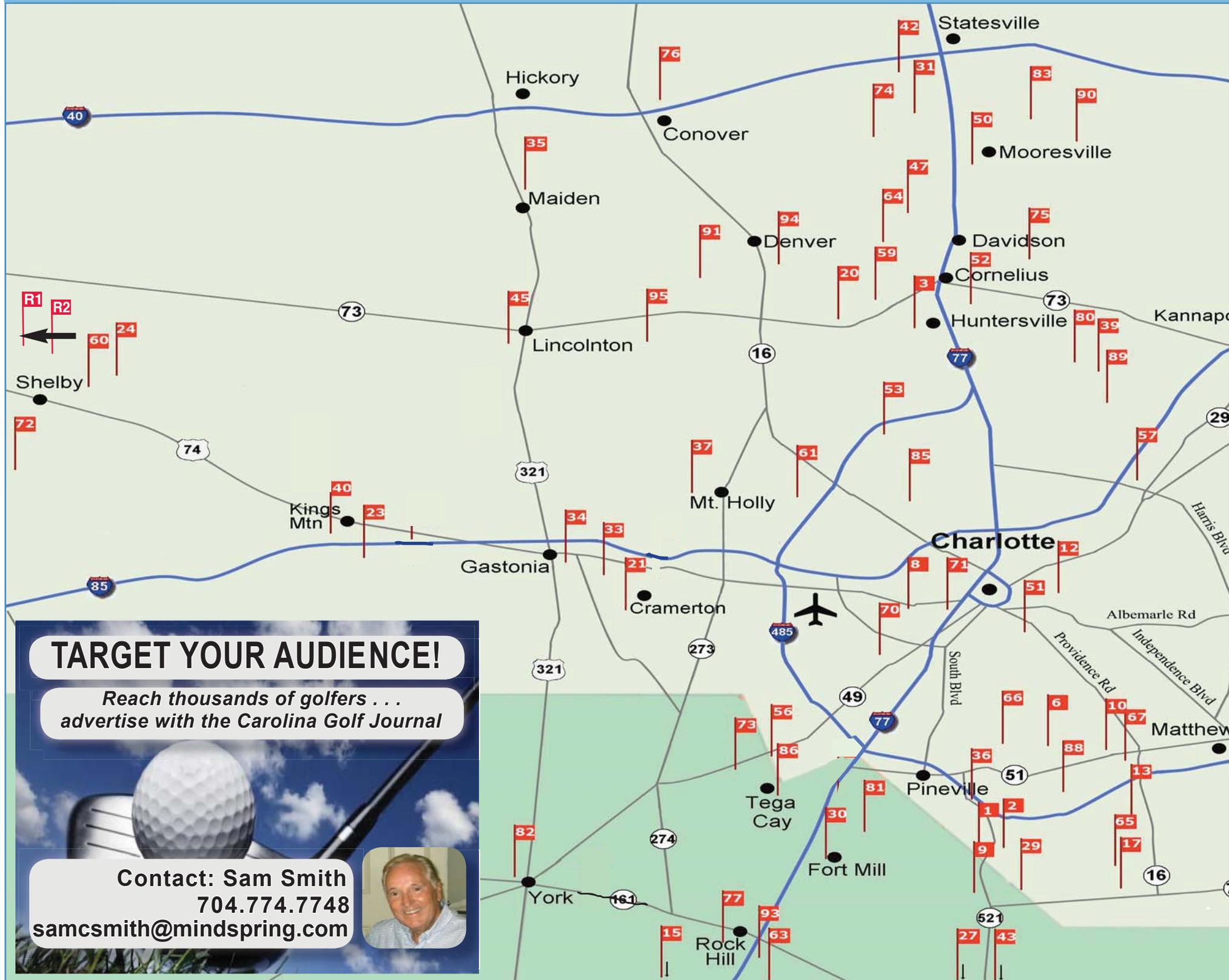
Charlotte Open Golf Classic

Friday, November 15
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
5-man pro-am scramble
Shotgun Start 12-noon
Cost: \$1500 per 5-man team
Contact: Scott Schaeffer 704-999-7020
scott.seupromotionals@gmail.com
**Pro Tournament - November 16 - Double tees
12:00 noon

2nd Annual Christmas Miracle Golf Tournament

Saturday, November 16
Charlotte National Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start 8:30 am
Cost: \$75 per player / \$300 per foursome
Contact: Mike Long 704-891-7992

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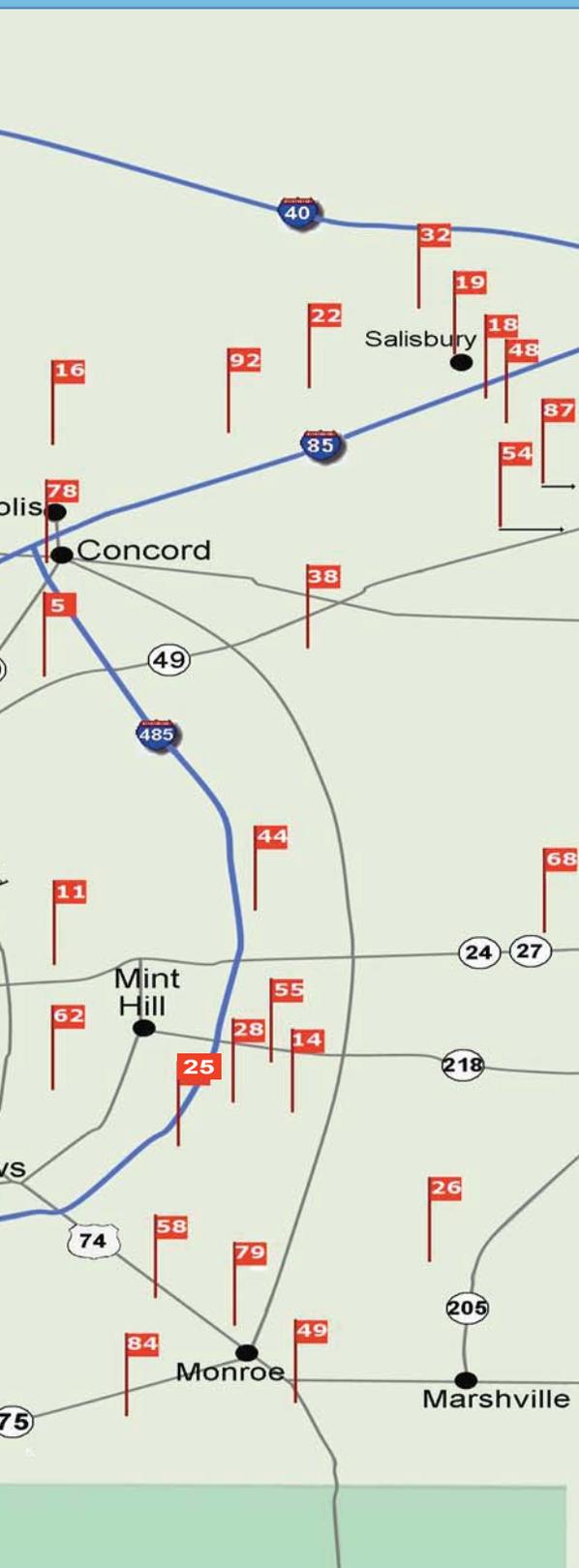


- R1. Apple Valley Golf Course - Lake Lure
Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3043
- R2. Bald Mountain Golf Course - Lake Lure
Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3042
- 1. Ballantyne Country Club - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-544-9755
- 2. Ballantyne Golf Club - Charlotte

- 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

- 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

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

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

Public 18 ~ 704-536-1692

. Charlotte Country Club ~ Charlotte

Private 18 ~ 704-333-9809

. Charlotte National Golf Club ~ Indian Trail

Public 18 ~ 704-882-8282

. Chester Golf Club - Richburg, SC

Public 18 ~ 803-581-5733

67. Raintree Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 36 ~ 704-542-8150
68. Red Bridge Golf Club ~ Locust
Public 18 ~ 704-781-5231
70. Harry L. Jones Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-357-3373
71. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 9 ~ 704-333-3949
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 ~ Monroe
Public 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
97. Royster Memorial Golf Course ~ Shelby
Public 9 ~ 704-484-6823

Jacksonville, NC pro captures Carolina Open title

Rick Morton uses new putter grip to win

Rick Morton, PGA, of the Rock Creek Country Club in Jacksonville, NC apparently got tired of finishing runner-up in the BB&T Carolina Open, and used a consistent and strong game to capture the 95th edition of the event at



Rick Morton, left, accepts the 95th Annual Carolina Open Championship trophy from CPA Executive Director Jeff Abbot at the Eagle Point Golf Club in Greensboro.

Eagle Point Golf Club in Greensboro.

Morton held his lead from the second round, as tough competition battled to pass him on the leaderboard. Shooting a 2-under 70 in the final round, Morton finished at the top with a three-day total of 205 (-11).

He took a sigh of relief to hold the trophy in the winner's circle. Morton attributes his success to his new and improved putting.

"I switched to the claw putting grip about a month ago and my putting has improved tremendously."

With only 23 putts in the second round, it seems that sure has helped him reach the top level of his game. With a short par putt on the 18th hole to win, Morton reflects: "It was only a foot and a half, but I was nervy over that last putt!" The nerves didn't show as he sunk his putt, leading to his victory.

Finishing as the Low Amateur for the event and in the tied for second position, Stephen Carroll, the rising junior at East Carolina University, fought hard in his round. Carroll shot 68 in the final round to finish one shot back from Morton at 10-under 206 for his 54 holes, and tied PGA Professional Rohan Allwood who also shot 68 to finish 10-under.

Three players finished T-6 at 8-under, three shots back from the lead. Addison Manning, the rising junior at Guilford College, played hard in his second and third round, shooting 67-68 to push him into this position. With him is Spencer Oxendine (A) and Chris Haarlow, PGA, both shooting 69 in the closing round to secure their position towards the top of the leaderboard.



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Highland Creek renovations - reaching for higher standards again

The Highland Creek Golf Club is setting pins again after the maintenance staff gave a

“thumbs-up” on the completion of the inter-seeding all greens with A1/A4 Bent Grass that has already produced smooth grainless putting surfaces.

When Highland Creek open for play in 1993, the 18-hole Championship course, designed by Clifton, Ezell and Clifton was rated both the best and the toughest public golf course in the Charlotte area. Following a decade of living up to their high ratings the course went through some low maintenance years due to owner and management problems.

With this renovation under the watchful eye of Pinnacle Golf Properties, Highland Creek's management company, the course has started to make giant strides to returning to the standards expected of the once premier layout in Northeast Charlotte.

As planned and designed with extra care to preserve the natural beauty of the area, Highland Creek Golf Club winds through towering trees and meandering creeks. The neighboring community surrounding the course provides an upscale backdrop set well back to offer plenty of open space.

With the new Bent Grass greens, Highland Creek features Bermuda fairways, four sets of tees measuring from 5,080 to over 7,000 yards, 67 bunkers, and water features on 11 holes.



Highland Creek Golf Club is setting pins again

The par-4 9th hole along with the par-5 12th hole are the #1 and #2 handicap holes.

At the 9th, it calls for a very precise tee shot to a narrow fairway.

Any miss-hit, shot

left, will find the creek and can definitely add up to a big number.

At the 12th, a layup to the meandering creek off the tee sets up a decision - to challenge the water with a long fairway wood or hybrid into a tight green or layup to a tight sliver of fairway on the right and then approach the green over water with a short iron. Although these two holes and several others may be challenging, it is set amidst some of the most picturesque golf holes in Charlotte.

The practice facility at Highland Creek includes a driving range, 12,000 square foot putting green, chipping green, and practice bunker. The 15,000 square foot clubhouse has men's and ladies locker rooms and a restaurant with full bar. The dining area has wonderful views of the 18th hole and surrounding lake, which



460-yard par-5 #18 finishing hole @ Highland Creek

always makes a great setting for hosting golf tournaments, outings and corporate events.

Golf memberships offer easy

access to the golf course, no initiation fees, no food and beverage minimum spending requirements, and no assessments. Plus, golfers can register for a full year of golf from CharlotteGolf.com and Pinnacle Golf Properties participating courses including Birkdale, Skybrook, Tega Cay, The Divide, The Tradition and Waterford.

At Highland Creek, golf outing packages are designed to provide a first class golf event. Whether it's a corporate outing, charity event or social occasion, they will create an event to exceed your expectations.

Things are certainly looking up at Highland Creek, and the staff invites golfers of all levels to come back and try out the improved layout that once again is reaching for better and happier days.



Highland Creek #3 165-yard par-3

Call 704-875-9000 to book your tee time, or logon at highlandcreekgolfclub.com



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South Carolina's **Olde English District**

Drawing golfers south for golf variety

Does the name 'Olde English District' bring to mind golf? Probably not. Yet, this South Carolina region is a wonderfully surprising golf destination. Most of the area is situated along the heavily traveled Interstate 77 which stretches from Charlotte to Columbia, SC. This makes it a great place to settle in and play for a day, or two, or three.

Golfing in the Olde English District of South Carolina can take you on a historical journey down the Donald Ross-designed fairways of Fort Mill Country Club, or a scenic ride through the rolling hills of Tega Cay Golf Club, tumble across rolling hills covered with a blanket of matures trees at Edgewater Golf Club, or through the unique layout and the sandhills of Cheraw State Park's 18-hole golf course where no two fairways are adjacent to each other.

Local golfers are also familiar with several other of the 18-Olde English District courses just a short drive from Charlotte. This list includes the four Leroy Springs courses, Springfield, Lancaster and Chester Golf Clubs along with the earlier mentioned Fort Mill Golf Club. Carolina Lakes Golf Club at

Sun City, Waterford in Rock Hill and Spring Lake Country Club in York just adds to the variety of courses featured in the District.

Edgewater Golf Club, opened in 2008, has continued to be one of the top rated courses of the District between Charlotte and Columbia. Edgewater has a peaceful setting with a terrain as scenic as it is challenging, providing the layout with dramatic elevation changes and plenty of water.

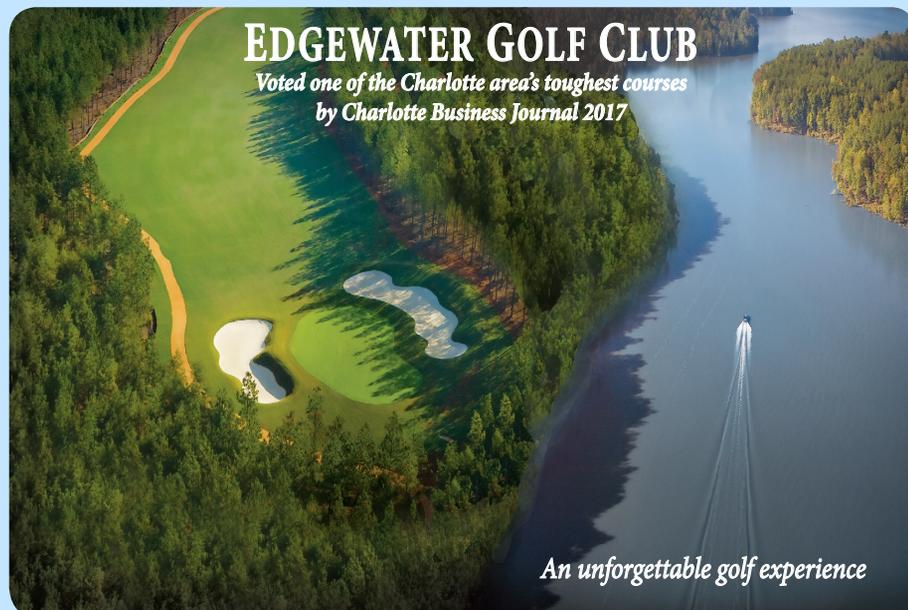
In addition to the natural hazards, there are numerous strategically placed bunkers lurking along the greensides. One of Edgewater Golf Club's most memorable holes is the par-4 7th. This tricky hole is a downhill dogleg left that forces you to drive right-center of the fairway, followed by a tough approach to a green that sits on the bank above Fishing Lake Creek.

Still another gem of the District is Cheraw State Park golf course. This layout will remind knowledgeable golfers of those classic golf courses designed and built in the early 1900's.

With gentle sloping greens and generous landing areas on most par-4 and par-5 holes, golfers will experience golf in a true parkland setting. Lake Juniper serves as a backdrop on several holes, making Cheraw Park a visual treat.

Except for Cheraw and Camden, all of the courses are short trips off the interstate. One of 40 courses in the country to be designated by Golf Digest as a 'Super value,' Cheraw State Park Golf Course is located about an hour north of Florence and is well worth the drive. The best kept secret in South Carolina won't be that way once you have played it.

Dip into history and enjoy a variety of golf courses in the Olde English District of South Carolina. For a list of all of the courses with contact information and courses descriptions logon at OldeEnglishDistrict.com.



Golf Advisor rates Edgewater
Top 15 courses in S.C.
Top 25 value courses in U.S.
Top 15 in pace of play in U.S.

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

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2380 Catawaba Ridge Blvd ~ Lancaster, SC 29720 ~ Edgewatergc.com



Harry L. Jones Golf Course eyeing a “renaissance” in 2020

The 18-hole Harry L. Jones Sr. Golf Course (previously known as Renaissance Park Golf Course) in Charlotte has been earmarked for future renovation by Ratcliffe Golf Services, the company that operates the course for the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department.

With Del Ratcliffe overseeing the work similar to the renovations made recently to the Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course just off I-77 near uptown, the major changes will be made to improve the playability with the flat stick.

The greens will be converted from bent-grass to Bermuda, with the green's complexes on several holes re-worked to provide a variety of shot options into the medium size putting areas.

Playing 7,360 yards from the back of the four tee options, the course will provide golfers with perfect challenges for their game with tricky doglegs, strategically placed bunkers and even a water hazard.

Once the construction begins later this year, or earlier 2020, the layout will basically remain the same with only minor changes in the course routing.



Some of the rolling hills in Northwest Charlotte create some elevation changes, especially on the back nine. The closing 3 holes will challenge all golfers beginning with the par-5 16th hole, with your 3rd shot over a fronting pond.

The par-4 17th hole features a green down in a valley, calling for approach shots off a sloping dogleg lie. Another pond protecting the green makes the par-4 18th perfect to test your nerves at the end of your round.

With rates ranging from \$26 to \$35 on weekdays, and \$28 to \$45 on the weekends, the Harry L. Jones course is a very affordable option for the fall golf in Charlotte.

For tee times and more information on the course call 704-357-3347, or logon at

charlottepublicgolf.com.

Ratcliffe Golf Services (RGS), also offers a variety of affordable membership options that includes an additional 4 other courses -- Charles T. Myers, 9-hole Charles L. Sifford (formerly Revolution Park), Sunset Hills and the par-3 Paradise Valley.

Golfers are flocking to Charles T. Myers Golf Course

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Golf's LITTLE BIG TOWN – Santee, SC

A “must stop” for golfers

A book appeared on shelves that spotlights this most unlikely of golf meccas, “From Cotton Fields to Golf Courses.” is a pictorial history that chronicles the transformation of lively little Santee’s profitable cotton fields into even more profitable golf courses. It’s must reading for anyone planning an affordable golf trip.

While there are three golf courses in this town of less than 1,000 people, the ‘trinity’ has become sacred ground for many thousands of golfers who make the annual pilgrimage here to play what some consider the “best valued golf” in North America.



Lake Marion Golf Club

Just an example: **Golf packages that include rounds with power carts, accommodation and breakfast, start at just \$75 a day.**

Now that’s a good value, especially when

you see the quality of golf offered for that price. Over 100,000 golfers took advantage of those deals last year.

The accommodations in Santee vary from comfortable motel and hotel rooms to well-appointed 2-bedroom condos and villas, some of which back onto the courses. All accommodation properties are within a mile of the 3 courses in town.

The town of Santee has lots of excellent dining and entertain-



Santee Cooper Resort Country Club

ment options as well: some golfer favorites include the elegant Clark’s Inn and Restaurant, Captain’s Kirks, fish and prime rib are the specialties there, Armando’s for some awesome Mexican and jumbo margarita’s, while Wilbur’s will give

you an amazing selection of fine wine for your dinner.

Another reason golfers keep coming back to Santee is because the courses keep getting better – Todd Miller, general manager at Santee Cooper Resorts reports that all courses are continuously spending and improving with the golfers in mind.

Golf Santee that manages Santee National and the Ballard Pointe waterfront condos, expects the town’s popularity to increase even more in the coming years thanks to the addition of hundreds of new condo units, which are favored by golf groups.

There are 17 other courses a short drive from Santee, but here are the “real stars” awaiting golfers when they reach the first tees at Santee’s courses:

LAKE MARION GOLF COURSE: Wide fairways with challenging greens test golf-

ers on a course that stretches to 6,670 yards from the back tees; four sets of tee blocks; five of its 18 holes have water hazards; there are 47 cleverly set sand traps scattered about the golf course..



Santee National

SANTEE COOPER RESORT COUNTRY CLUB: The serene setting surrounding you at this 6,512-yard beauty will make you forget all your troubles. Tall pines, flowering Craig Myrtle trees and graceful birds that call this course home make it a surreal place to play. The course is first rate and a must play.

SANTEE NATIONAL: Five lakes scattered about this course make it a real test and quickly makes you realize why it caught the eye of Golf Digest (4 Star Rating). Rolling fairways lined with massive oak trees, slick greens make the National a treat to play and at 6,858 yards, get ready for a real test.

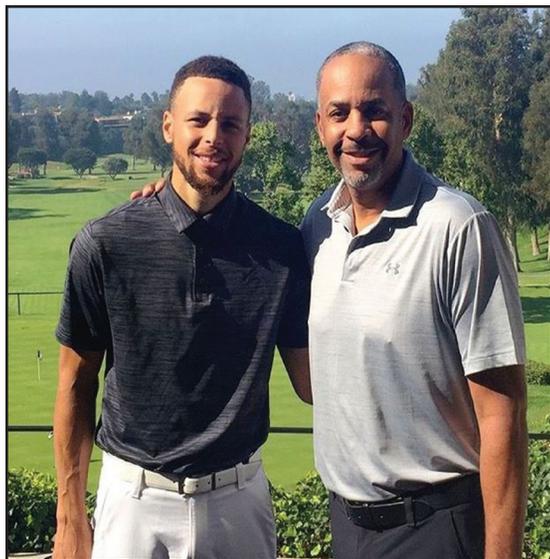
The great thing about the courses in Santee is that they’re all within a short drive – think 3-wood here - of your accommodation and the town’s surprisingly vibrant nightlife.

**For a FREE Golf Guide call 1-800-250-3080
or logon at santeetourism.com**

Charlotte's Stephen Curry scoring points for golf off the basketball court

Stephen Curry is not only building momentum in his surefire race to the basketball Hall-of-Fame, but the two-time NBA superstar is showing great class off the basketball court as well.

Drawing a love for basketball and golf from his Charlotte Hornets' scoring star father, Dell Curry, Steph has long enjoyed golf as a hobby; his purpose with the sport is bigger.



This summer Curry announced a six-year partnership with Howard University to fund the historically black college's golf program, helping the Bison field a Division I team for the first time.

Thanks to a reportedly seven-figure sum Curry has provided for disbursement over six years, with the intention

of forging a sustainably self-funding program, golf makes a return to the historically black university for the first time since the 1970s. Callaway is also involved, vowing to provide equipment for Howard's teams once they get going in the 2020-21 season.

With Curry's financing, the Howard men's team will play in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, while the women will compete as independents. In addition, the teams will be outfitted by Under Armour -- the shoe company that Curry endorses -- rounding out the guard's post-career ambitions.

"I will be involved in golf in some way, shape or form," Curry said. "Playing the game and in the business side, helping grow the game from a competitive standpoint for under-represented people, I hope will offer lot of opportunities."

Curry has played several PGA pro-am events, celebrity tournaments, and on the Korn Ferry Tour (formerly known as Web.com Tour) during the off-season. In a recent PGA pro-am at the Safeway Open, Steph was teamed with future Hall-of Famer Phil Mickelson, who finished the day with a glowing assessment of Curry's golf game.



"The great thing about Steph Curry's game is his touch, his hands, his chipping [and] putting," Mickelson said. "He's got this incredible touch, but he's also got a ton of speed."

This is not Steph's first commitment in promoting golf. He became involved with PGA REACH last year when they asked him to become an official ambassador for the foundation's young pillar program, PGA Jr. League.

The PGA Jr. League brings boys and girls together for team golf experiences with expert coaching from PGA and LPGA Professionals.

So even during the prime of what seems a surefire Hall-of-Fame career, NBA superstar Steph Curry has embraced golf in a way few fellow athletes have.

Anyone who loves the game and wants others to love it should be proud to note the announcement that Curry will be stepping up to help restart the men's and women's golf programs at Howard University, located in Washington, D.C.



Use your time off the course this winter to improve your golf game

By Rudi Fann, PGA
Former Assistant Golf Professional
Wake Forest Golf Club, Wake Forest, NC

Avid golfers know there is no golf off-season. There is always something to work on to keep our game sharp. During winter months, most of that work is done off the course. Here are three things you can do off the course this golf off-season to avoid any drop off in your game.

Visualization

Much success in golf focuses on visualization, and winter is a great time to work on your visualization skills. I once read about a study conducted regarding shooting free throws in basketball. In this study, a group was asked to simply visualize shooting and making free throws for a couple of hours per day. In the end, it was discovered that this group was actually able to improve their free throw shooting with nothing but visualization.

Applying this technique to putting can have the same positive effect. Take some time each day and visualize sinking a 10-foot putt. Picture yourself standing over the ball and making a smooth stroke through the ball. See the ball roll straight and true, falling into the cup. Not only can this improve your actual putting stroke, it improves your ability to visualize on the course and contribute to more success on all shots.

Physical Conditioning

A second way to improve your game during the golf off-season is through physical conditioning.



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Conditioning addresses issues that affect your swing and performance. For the purpose of this post, I'm focusing on the flexibility portion of conditioning. Increasing your flexibility helps you can make a free swing and generate more clubhead speed.

Find time each day to go through a stretching routine that you can take to the course as a part of your warm-up routine. Focus on stretching the major muscles you use playing; legs, back/core, and arms.

You can also take time to get to the gym to strengthen your core, lose or gain a few pounds, or just get in better shape in general. (Bonus tip: pass the time on the treadmill or elliptical working on your visualization technique.)

Get Your Clubs Checked

Finally, the golf off season is a great time to visit your local PGA Professional to get your club's loft, length, and lie angle checked.

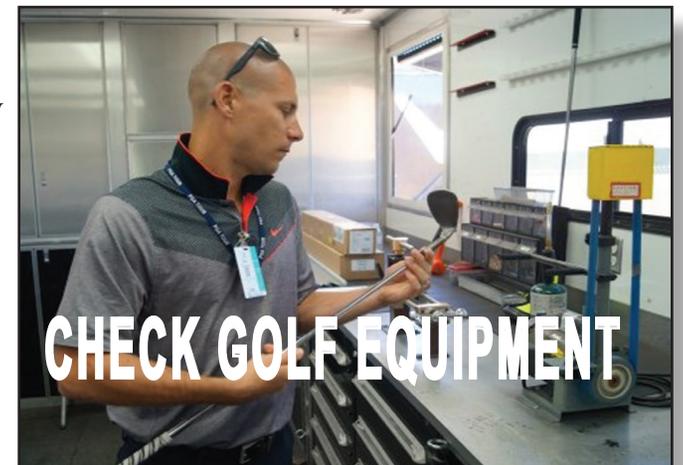
Your club's specifications will change with use, especially if you have a softer, forged club.

Your game/swing can also change from the beginning to end of the season.

The lie angle affects ball flight, and loft needs to be corrected to eliminate distance gaps. Therefore, it's important to make sure your clubs still fit you and your swing.

Having your clubs adjusted (if needed) starts you off on the right foot for the upcoming season or during the time available this fall.

You now have your golf off-season to-do list. Now add this to the other items - *play as much as you can during the early months of winter* because sooner-or-later the weather will be in control of your outdoor activities. Cold weather makes it virtually impossible to get outside to work on your game. There are indoor things you can do during the golf off-season to get ready for the next season. Make some time to work on visualization, flexibility, and get your clubs in for a check-up.



Still looking for a better putter grip? Oversized grips are not just a fad!

Many golfers that have struggled with making putts have problems with the mechanics of their swing, not reading the greens. To address this problem major grip companies have developed the oversized grips to minimize the golfer's hand rotation at impact. And, contrary to common belief this is not just another golf equipment fad.

Smaller putter grips have been shown in on-course testing to create



Jordan Spieth celebrates 2015 Masters' win using The Super Stroke putter grip.

twitchy and inconsistent wrists which can result in misalignment of your club-head as it hits the ball. This puts the ball on a different path than the one you wanted, and ultimately, results in missed putts.

In comparison, jumbo grips can help the golfer's accuracy by increasing the diameter of the putter grip. This increased size forces the golfer to use the larger muscle group in their shoulders and arms, the group that moves dramatically less than the wrists do, which results in higher levels of accuracy around the greens.

For players that tend to get a little too handsy or wobbly while putting, the larger grip can make them more stable. This is another reason you'll see players with the putting yips turn to an oversize grip. The oversized grip can quickly smooth out the putting stroke making the player more consistent and accurate on their putts.



Phil Mickleson switched to The Super Stroke putter grip in route to his 2013 British Open win.

Another common problem golfer's face with their putting technique is shoulder alignment. In an ideal world, your shoulders would be completely square at setup and impact of the ball, creating consistent ball striking and results in good distance control.



In reality, many golfers have a dominate right hand which results in misaligned shoulder angle, again making solid ball striking difficult. While this problem can be solved by switching to a left-hand-low or cross grip style, however a majority of golfers are



Two thumb grip

switching to the jumbo grips that put the thumbs closer to each other during the stroke. This will readjust the shoulder tilt that will encourage sound putting techniques.

SuperStroke putter grips are "parallel" from the top down. While traditional putter grips tend to taper from the top of the grip down to the tip end, oversized SuperStroke putter grips maintain the same width from top to bottom. According to SuperStroke, parallel grips allow golfers to grip the putter with equal pressure throughout, leading to less hand tension and a more consistent putting stroke.

As always the best way to find out if the over-sized putter grips are for you is to head over to your favorite golf shop or club pro shop and try out a few of the jumbo grips available. Many of them will vary in size and weight but trying out a variety of different grips might help you find the one that's best for you.

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