

# Carolina GOLF JOURNAL

Free

Vol. 8 Issue 4

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

## BIG winners at the PGA Championship!



## Justin Thomas & the Charlotte region

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# Justin Thomas wins PGA Championship

## Charlotte gets record-setting economic impact

The Quail Hollow Club knew they would be under a lot of pressure to produce a world-class event when they were selected for the 2017 PGA Championship. Their success with the Wells Fargo Championship was among the best on the PGA Tour, and the PGA had every confidence that putting on a great show would not be a problem in Charlotte.

Being one of the biggest sporting events in the city's history, Quail Hollow quickly found out that the pressure was gone and the economic impact to the Greater Charlotte area was enormous. Drawing more than a quarter-million fans for the week-long event, and according to the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority creating a \$100-million economic impact, the 2017 PGA Championship was more than just a major golf tournament for the region and the state.

More than 800 media credentials were issued, and the championship was broadcast for more than 28 hours in 200 countries to 570 million households, PGA of America reported.

"The level of exposure to golf fans internationally, disproportionately made up of business people and decision makers is going to be ridiculously beneficial for Charlotte," said Bob Morgan, CEO of the Charlotte Chamber. "People know what we're capable of hosting. This will take it to the next level."

Over the PGA Championship week, hotel demand in uptown Charlotte was up by 54% over the same period in 2016, according to the CRVA. Demand climbed 46% across Mecklenburg and the surrounding counties. Private home rentals also climbed more than 37% from the same time frame the week before the tournament.

With all the fans coming to Charlotte joining the locals, making up one of the largest crowds in the history of the PGA Championship, Quail Hollow proved to be a tough foe to the world's best golfers. With a half-dozen golfers either holding or sharing the final round lead, the course was giving and taking back all afternoon.



round 3-under-par 68, highlighted by a dramatic birdie at the 17th hole after hitting the shot of the day just 12 feet under the hole to go to 9-under par.

With buddies Jordan Spieth and Ricky Fowler watching at the 18th hole, Thomas bogeyed out of the fairway bunker but still beat Francisco Molinari, Patrick Reed and Louis Oosthuizen by two shots with an 8-under par total for the tournament. He became only the second golfer from Louisville to win the PGA Championship since Bobby Nichols in 1964. This was his first major title after winning four times on the regular PGA Tour, and enjoyed an earlier NCAA National Championship at the University of Alabama.

Hideki Matsuyama was bidding to become the first Japanese player to win a major. He had three consecutive bogeys on his back nine to fall off the lead, and finished with a 5 under 72 to tie Ricky Fowler for fifth place. Fowler made a late run Sunday shooting a 67 with four consecutive birdies starting on No. 12. Kisner, from Aiken, South Carolina held a one-shot lead over Matsuyama and Chris Stroud heading into the final round. Kisner bogeyed the final hole to finish with a 4-under-par 74 for the tournament.

It has already been determined that Quail Hollow will host another major golf event in four years - The Presidents Cup - a match-play event held every other year between the United States and a team of non-European international players, in the fall of 2021.

Quail Hollow will host the Wells Fargo Championship for the next two years, with contract talks continuing with the PGA to extend the tournament past 2019.

Johnny Harris, President of Quail Hollow Club, heard the do's and don'ts of hosting a major golf tournament, but as he told Charlotte Observer writer Scott Fowler you keep your focus on the prize. And, always remembered what his father had told him: "If you stop to quiet every barking dog when you walk down the street, you'll never get to the other end."

Harris and Quail Hollow certainly reached the end of an unbelievable week with more than just PGA tournament success, but have also received the respect and praise they deserved from Charlotte and the state of North Carolina for a job well done.



After third round leader Kevin Kisner faltered before reaching the "Green Mile" (toughest finishing holes on the PGA Tour), the final chase belonged to 24-year old Justin Thomas of Louisville, Kentucky. The son of a PGA head professional at Goshen, Kentucky Country Club, Thomas stormed through a pack of golfers with a final



Johnny Harris,  
President Quail Hollow Club

## 2017 Charlotte City Am will be played featuring the winningest champ, and in memory of Xan Law

When the top Charlotte amateurs tee-it-up for the 58th Charlotte City Amateur Championship on August 25-27th, they will be chasing the all-time winningest champion and playing in honor of another great past champion.

Joe Jaspers will be in quest of his 7th City Amateur Championship, after adding to his record total with a one-shot victory over Will Oldham and Matt Kilgo last year.



Joe Jaspers

Jaspers will be challenged by the top 24 finishers from last year's event, along with 72 qualifiers from two qualifying rounds at Pine Island Country Club.

Chad Fultz led the qualifiers with a 6-under par 65, followed by Graham Chase and Nick Karageorgos just one-shot back at 5-under par 66. Four other golfers posted sub-70 qualifying scores: 68 – Levi Kettelhut and Nolan Mills IV; and Garrett Kachellek and John Heffernan with 69's.

Sites for the 54-hole event will be Cedarwood CC, Carmel CC/North and finish at the site of this year's PGA Championship – Quail Hollow Club.

This year's tournament will be played in honor of 1969 City Champion Jared "Xan" Law, Jr. who lost his courageous battle with a very

rare cancer Merkel cell carcinoma this past December. Xan played in his last City Championship last year at the age of 74.

Xan had a passion and love for the game since he was 11 years old, playing as many days a week as possible. He made lifelong friendships from his many golf tournaments and trips. In recent months he "shot his age" in several tournaments.



Xan Law

Xan's love of golf and the friendships he formed throughout the years were recently honored and recognized by the Carolinas Golf Association which announced that the "Xan Law, Jr., Hall of History" would be created at its headquarters in Southern Pines. He was also part owner of the Pinetuck Golf Course in Rock Hill, SC.

Xan was a member of Myers Park Country Club and a past member and Board member of Quail Hollow Club.

He was instrumental in bringing back the City Am, serving on a committee headed by Charlotte businessman Braxton McLennan. Xan was always available to make a call or set up a meeting to assist in securing a course, vital to the success of the event.

He always said, "We are going to put on the best City Am in the country." And in his honor his many friends and fellow golfers are still striving to do just that with the 2017 Championship.

Joe Jaspers' photo credit: Bill Kiser - Charlotte Observer

## BMW Charity Pro-Am awards funds raised by 2017 tournament

Soaring to a total \$12.7 million dollars raised since the tournament began in 2001, 14 Upstate charities benefiting from the BMW Charity Pro-Am, presented by SYNEX Corporation in Greenville, SC, received a check for \$631,495 to further support their respective philanthropic missions.

"The services and care provided by the wide range of charities which were selected for this year's tournament will touch a diverse spectrum of lives," said Bob Nitto, President, BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation.

"While tournament week brings great sport, fun and visibility to the Upstate, nothing is more fulfilling than the afternoon when we are able to present the funds raised during the event to these deserving organizations."

Charities accepting checks at the presentation held at Hall's Chophouse were: The Blue Ridge Council Boy Scouts of America, Center for Developmental Services, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Habitat for Humanity of Greenville County, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Mobile Meals of Spartanburg, National

Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA), Project HOPE Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Carolinas, Shriners Hospital for Children-Greenville, SYNEX Share the Magic, The Blade Jr. Golf Classic, The Furman Advantage and Upstate Warrior Solution.



The BMW Charity Pro-Am will return to Greenville May 14-20, 2018, bringing professionals, amateurs and stars of the field, stage and screen together for competitive play at Thornblade Club, The Preserve at Verdae and Furman University Golf Club.



# ETOWAH VALLEY celebrates 50 years of golf at the “Brickyard”

A golf course that sprang from unique beginnings is celebrating its 50th anniversary this summer.

Etowah Valley Golf & Resort, which transformed the hardscrabble terrain of a brick mining operation into a popular mountain golf destination, opened to much praise on July 8, 1967. Architect Edmund Ault designed a long and challenging 18-hole layout and crafted nine more holes in 1988.

The resort now spreads across 246 manicured acres with 27 holes of golf, 65 lodge rooms, three restaurants, a 200-seat banquet facility and a 200-seat outdoor pavilion. New owners have invested nearly \$2 million in the stay-and-play resort to set the stage for another 50 years of golf at the brickyard.

“There are not a lot of clubs that have been around 50 years. We’re very proud of it and we’ve done a lot of good things since the course first started in 1967,” says head golf professional Rick Merrick. “Our new owners came in a few years ago and provided the capital and vision to turn things around. They have a great plan and it’s exciting to see what they’re doing.”

The ownership group, based in nearby Asheville, is comprised of 14 partners. Managing partner Tim Rice learned to play golf at Etowah years ago and feels strongly that his group has charted a successful future for Etowah Valley.

“We have a vision for Etowah Valley Golf & Resort and feel good about the plan and execution after nearly three years,” says Rice, whose group took over in late 2014. “Our members and resort guests are excited about our efforts. They see that our dollars are being well spent.”



In just under three years, the ownership group has purchased a new fleet of golf carts and course maintenance equipment, installed a new irrigation system on the South Nine, hired a veteran course superintendent respected industry-wide, renovated all 65 lodging rooms, upgraded the on-site restaurants, and purchased and rebranded a smokehouse on the edge of the resort.

Rice says Etowah Valley’s leaders have always shown great vision, from Bruce Drysdale, the owner of the brick corporation who conceived the course, to his daughter and son-in-law, Betty Anne and Frank Todd, who built the facility, ran it for decades, and expanded it to a stay-and-play resort with 27 holes.

“We recognize Frank Todd and his family for being pioneers in the hospitality business in Henderson County,” Rice says. “Especially for them to have the vision to reclaim a distressed piece of land that had been stripped of all the clay for bricks. They put a lot of love and care into it and here we are celebrating their vision 50 years later.”

The biggest improvements people will notice this 50th summer involve course conditions, accommodations and guest service.

Course superintendent Steven Neuliep is in the third year of a five-year plan to elevate course conditions. He has removed trees to improve turf growth, worked on drainage and irrigation issues, and made great strides with the bent grass greens. Neuliep delays opening each nine one morning a week for extensive maintenance that can’t be done when golfers are on the course.





The lodging component has been upgraded as well. Each room received new furnishings and bathroom fixtures, high-definition flat screen televisions and high-speed Wi-Fi.

“We brought the hotel lodging up to modern standards,” says Rice, noting that all the rooms overlook the golf course.



On the hospitality side, the non-descript snack bar in the clubhouse has been tripled in size, with a bar and dining patio added. Now called Zeke's Greenside Tavern, it seats 160 and is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week, with live entertainment throughout the week.

Chelsea's Events Center, also on property, serves an extensive country breakfast buffet seven days a week, and the partnership purchased the original BBQ Shak on the edge of the South Nine and rebranded it the Old Etowah Smokehouse.



The pit-cooked barbecue is quite popular and the pickle-brined dipped

chicken recently appeared on the cover of *Garden & Gun*.

Of course, the main attraction at Etowah Valley is the course itself. Most layouts built a half century ago have become outdated by modern technology that allows golfers to hit the ball much farther. But Ault designed the original 18 holes at nearly 7,000 yards, which remains a stout number to this day, and the third nine is a respectable 3,318 yards in length.



“Most people think when they come to the mountains they are going to play a real hilly golf course, but we're in a valley here,” says Merrick.

“And we've got three different nines. Our South Nine is relatively flat, but tree-lined and very challenging. Then our West Nine is kind of rolling hills and a little bit wider in the fairways and a little bit longer. Then we have the North Nine built in the late 1980s that is a little shorter, but hillier with smaller greens and a totally different look.”

In 26 years at Etowah Valley, Merrick has seen a lot of repeat customers from all over the nation. He credits the convenience factor of having a stay-and-play facility with all the amenities.

“Golfers feel like they are playing a different golf course each day when they pair two nines together,” Merrick says. “They play golf all day and don't have to go anywhere for dinner or hospitality. We have groups that have been coming here for nearly 40 years and there are people booked here for the next 10-12 years. They really enjoy it.”

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# TOPGOLF opens to large crowds in Charlotte

By Sam Smith

The biggest question surrounding the opening of the first TOPGOLF in Charlotte might be: Is it a golf practice facility or a social gathering location? You will be happy to learn it's a lot of both.

The much anticipated recreation venue to open in Charlotte in many years as drawn overflow crowds to the 65,000-square-foot facility near Arrowwood Road and I-485.

The Queen City location is the first in North Carolina, and the company's 33rd worldwide. It can best be described as your favorite golf video game brought to life inside your favorite upscale sports bar. More than 200 high-definition TVs

can be found throughout the facility.

One of the most interesting stats released from TOPGOLF concerning the people coming to enjoy the fun is that 70% of them are non-golfers.



Serious golfers can come and bring their own clubs to sharpen their short game skills, while novices can rent clubs and choose to sign up for classes with a pro, or just come for the full-service restaurant food, drink and entertainment.

The 102 hitting bays in the massive, 3-story driving range are rented by the hour and can accommodate groups of 1 to 6 people. It's like bowling with a group, but instead of paying per person per game, you pay per bay at a rate of \$25 to \$45 an hour, which includes unlimited balls.

All players will also have to purchase a \$5 member playing card, which is used to track your account. Monthly membership cards are also available for the more frequent visitors that include food discounts, event discounts, free guest passes and free club rental.

Players score points by hitting balls, assigned using microchip technology, into any target. The more accurate the shot and the further the distance the more points you earn, in the competition among your friends in your hitting bay.

The Charlotte location at 8024 Savoy Corporate Drive doesn't have any close company, as the next-nearest TOPGOLF facility is 230 miles away, in Alpharetta, Georgia. However, that could change as TOPGOLF is in final negotiations to open a second location in Charlotte's University City area at West Mallard Creek Road and I-85.

Heading to TOPGOLF, be prepared for large crowds and some wait time, particularly on the weekends, but come to enjoy the most unique golf-related opportunity targeted to help grow the golfing experience in many years.



## Precision Pro Golf - NX7 and NX7 Pro Rangefinders

Precision Pro Golf, a golf technology company that designs and manufacturer's golf laser rangefinders and golf GPS devices has added simplicity to distance measurements with the new NX7 and NX7 Pro models.

The NX7 Rangefinder follows up on the popularity of the Nexus Rangefinder with 1-second Target Lock function that allows a golfer to scan on the flag and lock in on the correct distance, eliminating any background objects. The NX7 features a 30% faster laser, a compact design that is 25% smaller than their previous model, a premium hard carrying case, and an extended 2-year warranty.

The NX7 Pro Rangefinder includes all of the features of the

NX7 model and includes Adaptive Slope Technology, which provides the ability to measure elevation, but is also tournament legal since the slope mode can be turned off (for USGA tournament events). The NX7 Pro edition also includes Pulse Vibration Technology, which pulses when the rangefinder locks onto the target (pin, tree, or bunker).

"The NX7 and NX7 Pro Rangefinders are our 4th generation products," said Clay Hood, PGA, Co-Founder of Precision Pro Golf. "We've put in a lot of work to improve the accuracy, durability, and design. The NX7 Rangefinders are our most advanced and accurate models that will compete head to head with the more expensive rangefinder brands that sell for \$299-\$399."





# Rocky River Golf Club

## still a cut above public golf course

**R**ocky River GC, owned by the City of Concord continues to enhance its status as a premier public course in the Charlotte metropolitan area. The course was recently ranked #83 in the entire state of North Carolina, and is the highest ranked public facility in the Charlotte/Concord metro region, and #5 "most fun to play" course as well. Adding to that, RRGc has also been rated #11 best in the area among all golf courses, including the metro country clubs.

It is also ranked #25 in the entire state of "courses you can play" which only includes public and resort courses. Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Concord guests receive a discount on golf while staying at the Concord property.

"We have been very fortunate to be a part of the City of Concord's recreational program," said PGA Director of Golf at Rocky River Ryan Brickley. "Their support and improvements to the course have been greatly instrumental in our success."

The course is situated on a beautiful property with no houses on the course and a back 9 that has several holes set around some natural wetlands, and the Rocky River that borders the course. It features four different sets of tees for all levels of ability, and features fully mature MiniVerde Bermuda greens that are always in great shape. Adding to the greens complex, all greenside bunkers were completely renovated last year.



They offer 18-hole, twilight and 9-hole rates in order to accommodate all schedules. Whether you have some free time for your regular round of golf or after a meeting for a spontaneous round of golf they eagerly await the opportunity to serve you.

The newly renovated clubhouse is a perfect spot to host your next golf outing, or consider as an ideal location for a private party or a wedding.

For more information about Rocky River, please call (704) 455-1200 or visit our website at [www.rockyrivergolf.com](http://www.rockyrivergolf.com) to book tee times online.

# Rocky River Golf Club

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**[www.rockyrivergolf.com](http://www.rockyrivergolf.com)**



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Non Resident	\$225	\$150
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Athletic	\$175	\$100

\*\$60 monthly food minimum required for each category  
\$500 Non Refundable Application Fee Required

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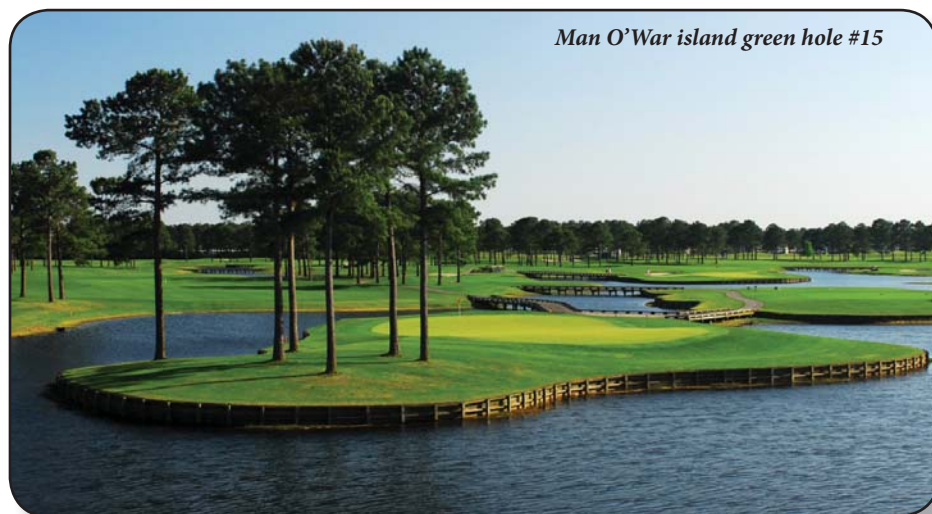




# MYSTICAL GOLF TOUR packages feature

## 3 acclaimed courses, villa accommodations & numerous extras

**M**ystical Golf – offering “Myrtle Beach’s finest 54 holes of golf” on its celebrated Witch, Man-O-War and Wizard courses, announces stay-and-play packages ideal for exceptional late summer vacations to the “Golf capital of the U.S.”



Man O'War island green hole #15

Mystical Golf’s three layouts are highlighted by wonderfully fun elements including the only back-to-back island greens in the game (Man-O-War), a front nine of dramatic holes weaving through secluded swampland teeming with wildlife (The Witch), and a splendid layout reminiscent of Scotland and Ireland’s classic courses complete with authentic sod-faced bunkering and castle-style clubhouse (The Wizard).

The trio of courses designed by Dan Maples are consistently recognized by Golf Channel to be among Myrtle Beach’s “five best courses” and “best values.” The Witch and Man-O-War courses are ranked in the “Top 15 Courses in South Carolina” in Golf Channel’s Golf Advisor rater reviews.

Mystical Golf marked the 20th anniversary of the opening of its acclaimed Man-O-War and Wizard courses in 2016. Since joining Mystical Golf’s first course – The Witch, which debuted in 1989 – Man-O-War and The Wizard have formed a trifecta continually lauded by customers and major golf media.

Man-O-War’s 15th hole ranks among GOLF Magazine’s “Five Most Memorable Island Greens” alongside No. 17 at TPC Sawgrass, the “Alcatraz” hole at PGA West’s Stadium Course and Coeur d’Alene Resort’s moveable, floating putting

surface. The Wizard has earned an exceptional 4-1/2 stars from Golf Digest.

Now through September 6<sup>th</sup> the three-day **Gold Package** starts as low as \$279 (per person, per day, taxes included). It includes three rounds with cart on each of the much-admired Mystical Golf layouts (plus one complimentary round), free lunch at the courses, three nights’ lodging in well-appointed three-bedroom villa (four beds), free IHOP breakfast daily (available 24 hours per day), and a gratis steak dinner at Logan’s Roadhouse (includes non-alcoholic beverages, taxes).

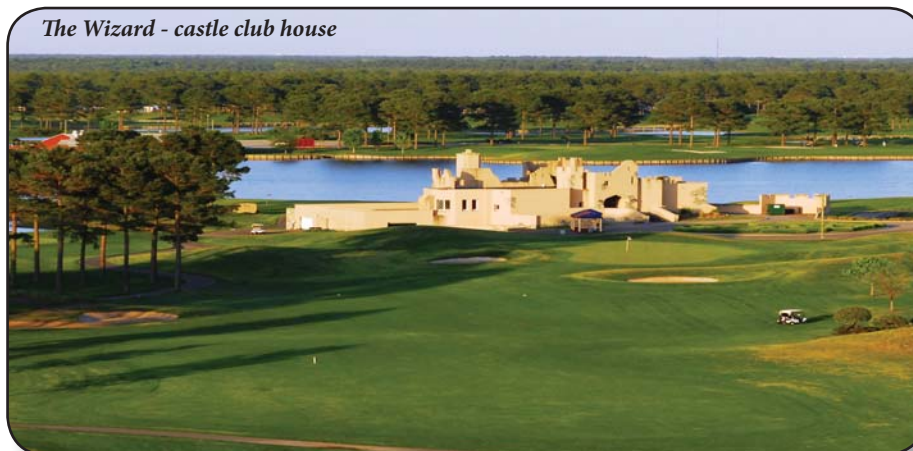
Over the same time span, the **Silver Package** begins at \$249 (per person, per day, taxes included) and features all the components of the Gold Package except the complimentary round, daily lunch, breakfast and steak dinner. Both stay-and-plays offer one complimentary golfer for groups of 20 or more players.

“Simply put, we offer the best stay-and-play packages in the U.S.,” says Claude



The Witch - well-protected green at #7

Pardue, President and CEO. “Our three courses continue to draw nothing but raves from our first-time guests, loyal repeat customers returning year after year and the major golf media.”



The Wizard - castle club house

Additional package highlights include two free beers and lunch at the course each day, complimentary daily range balls, instant replay round for cart fee only, and \$15 gift card toward a golf shirt. Extra night stays are available at a moderate cost per person.

For Mystical Golf information: call 843.282.2977 or log on to [www.mysticalgolf.com](http://www.mysticalgolf.com),



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# 2017 Charity Golf Tournaments for the Greater Charlotte area

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

*Send your information to: [sam@carolinagolfjournal.com](mailto:sam@carolinagolfjournal.com) or call 704-756-9909*

## PGA Championship Scramble

Sunday, August 12  
Rocky River Golf Club  
2-person Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 9:00 a.m.  
\$85 per player  
Contact: Rocky River Pro Shop  
704-455-1200

## 12th Annual Cassandra M. Thompson Charity Golf Tournament

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

## 2017 Ladies Four-Ball Play Day

Wednesday, September 6  
Northstone Country Club  
52 Team Field  
Shotgun Start: 10 a.m.  
\$140 per team  
Contact: Carolina Golf Association  
910-673-1000

## 11th Annual USO of North Carolina Charlotte Ctr

"Tradition of Honor Cup" Golf Tournament  
Monday, September 11  
Ballantyne Country Club  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 10:00 a.m.  
\$175 per player / \$600 per foresome  
Contact: Ellyn Brotherton - 704-359-5583  
[ellyn@USO-nc.org](mailto:ellyn@USO-nc.org)

## 17th Annual Marine Corps League "Gung Ho" Charity Golf Tournament

Tuesday, September 12  
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantaion  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 12:00-noon

\$90 per player / \$360 per foresome

Contact: Hal Deschamps - 704-534-0593  
[hedeschamps@windstream.net](mailto:hedeschamps@windstream.net)

## 2nd Annual Charlotte Post Golf Tournament Proceeds to benefit after school program at Walter G. Byers Elementary School Title I.

Friday, September 15  
Birkdale Golf Club  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun start: 9:00 am  
Cost \$125 per individual or 4 member team \$400  
Breakfast, lunch and beverages included  
Contact: Linda Johnson 704.287.9843  
Email: [linda@thecharlottepost.com](mailto:linda@thecharlottepost.com)  
[www.thecharlottepost.com](http://www.thecharlottepost.com)

## Land vs. Air & Sea 2017 Military Golf Playoff

Tuesday, September 21  
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantaion  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 11:00 a.m.  
Contact: Janet Perkins - 704-844-0506  
[vtsinc2013@gmail.com](mailto:vtsinc2013@gmail.com)

## "The Emmett" Mayberry Days Golf Tournament

Thursday, September 21  
Cross Creek Country Club  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 12:30 p.m.  
\$100 per player  
Contact: Surry Arts Council - 336786-7998

## 2017 National Kidney Foundation Golf Classic

Monday, September 25  
River Run Country Club  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 12:00-noon  
\$450 per player / \$1800 per foresome  
Contact: Bob Hayden - 704-519-0020  
[robert.hayden@kidney.org](mailto:robert.hayden@kidney.org)

## Ballantyne Rotary Club's

### Safe Water "Fore" People Golf Tournament

Monday, October 2  
Cedarwood Country Club  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 1:00 p.m.  
\$90 per player / \$360 per foresome  
Contact: [Ballantynerotaryclub.org](http://Ballantynerotaryclub.org)

## Levine Senior Center 14th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, October 2  
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 1:00pm  
Cost: \$100 Individual/ \$380 Team  
Contact: Dahn Jenkins - 704-846-4654

## Dan Jansen Celebrity Classic benefitting

### Dan Jansen Foundation & Cool Kids Campaign

Monday, October 2nd  
Trump National Golf Club  
Captain's Choice  
Contact: Chris Federico 410-560-1770  
[chris@coolkidscampaign.org](mailto:chris@coolkidscampaign.org)

## 7th Annual "Tee off for a Veteran" Golf Tournament & Silent Auction Supporting Welcome Home Veterans

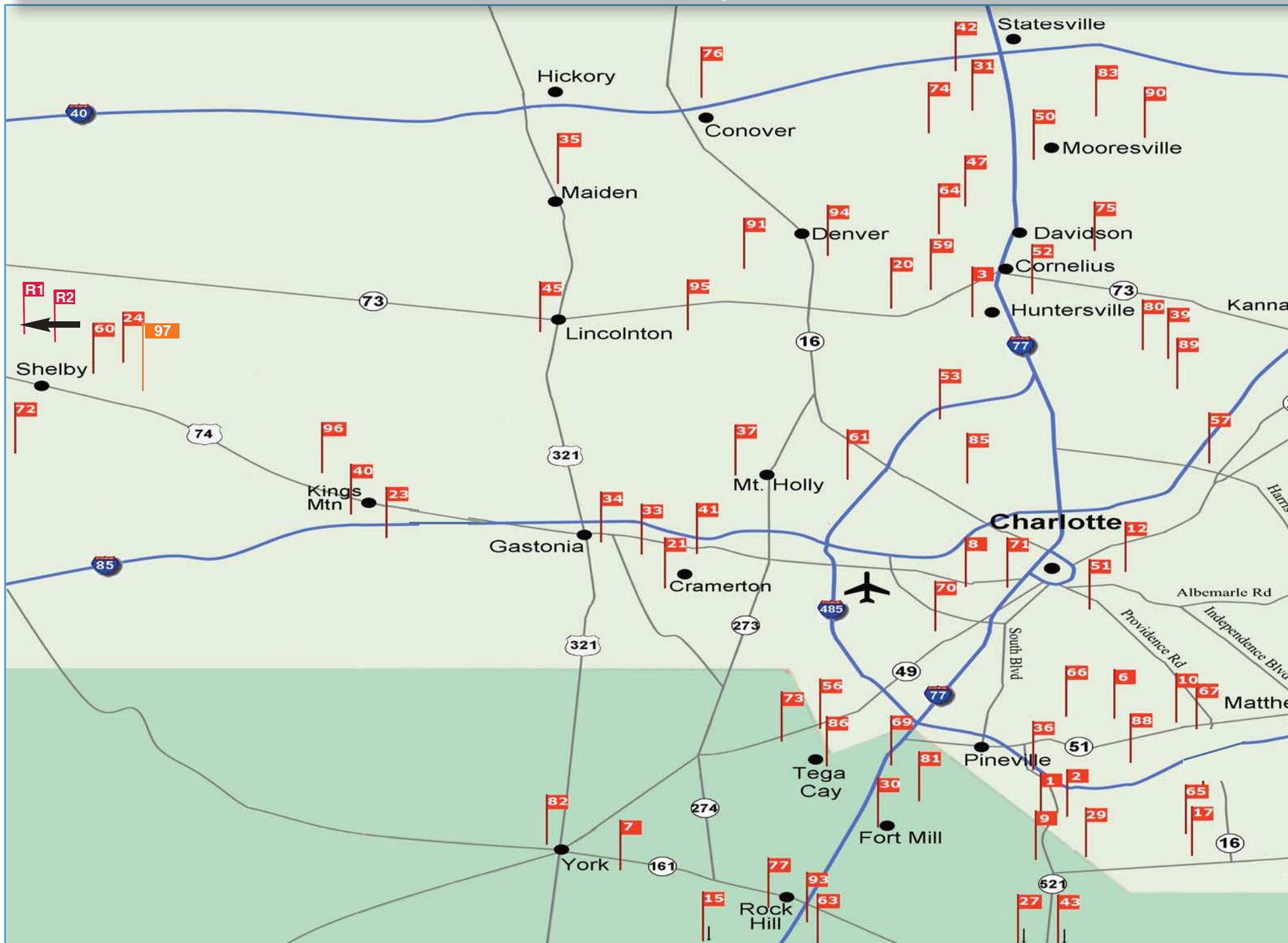
Saturday, October 7  
Warrior Golf Club  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 1:30 p.m.  
\$90 per player  
Contact: Bryan Holliday - 704-408-6162  
[bkhollidaync@gmail.com](mailto:bkhollidaync@gmail.com)

## Tees for Tuition Charity Golf Tournament

Tuesday, October 10  
Golf Club at Ballantyne  
Captain's Choice  
Shotgun Start: 9:00am  
Contact: Tees for tuition - 980-321-7562  
[nc.wish.org/make-a-wishgolfclassic](http://nc.wish.org/make-a-wishgolfclassic)  
[info@teesfortuition.org](mailto:info@teesfortuition.org)



# Carolina Golf Journal Golf Course G



R1. Apple Valley Golf Course - Lake Lure  
Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3043

R2. Bald Mountain Golf Course - Lake Lure  
Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3042

1. Ballantyne Country Club - Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-544-9755

2. Ballantyne Golf Club - Charlotte  
Public 18 ~ 704-248-4383

3. Birkdale Golf Club - Huntersville  
Public 18 ~ 704-895-8038

5. Cabarrus Country Club - Concord  
Private 18 ~ 704-786-8154

6. Carmel Country Club - Charlotte  
Private 36 ~ 704-542-2457

7. Carolina Crossing Golf Club - York, SC  
Public 18 ~ 803-684-5878

8. Carolina Golf & Country Club - Charlotte

Private 18 ~ 704-392-6366

9. Carolina Lakes Golf Club - Indian Land  
Public 18 ~ 803-547-9688

10. Cedarwood Country Club ~ Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-542-0206

11. Charles T. Myers Golf Course ~ Charlotte  
Public 18 ~ 704-536-1692

12. Charlotte Country Club ~ Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-333-9809

14.

15.

16.

17.



# Guide for the Greater Charlotte Area



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

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

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

The Club at Longview - Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-443-2500

18. Corbin Hills Golf Course - Salisbury  
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-636-0672
19. Country Club of Salisbury  
Private ~ 704-636-7070
20. Cowans Ford CC  
Private 18 ~ 704-827-3088
21. Cramer Mountain Club ~ Cramerton  
Private ~ 704-879-4888
22. Crescent Golf Club - Salisbury  
Public 18 ~ 704-647-0025
23. Crowders Mountain CC ~ Kings Mtn  
Public 18 ~ 704-734-0383
24. Deer Brook Golf Club ~ Shelby  
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-482-4653
25. The Divide ~ Mint Hill  
Public 18 ~ 704-628-6438
26. Eagle Chase Golf Club ~ Marshville  
Public 18 ~ 704-385-9000
27. Edgewater Golf Club ~ Lancaster  
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-283-9800
28. Emerald Lake Golf Club ~ Mint Hill  
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-882-7888
29. Firethorne Country Club ~ Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-843-3111
30. Fort Mill Golf Club  
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-547-2044
31. Larkin Golf Club - Statesville  
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-872-9990
32. Foxwood Golf Course ~ Salisbury  
Public 18 ~ 704-637-2528
33. Gaston Country Club ~ Gastonia  
Private 18 ~ 704-865-7949
34. Gastonia Catawba Creek GC ~ Gastonia  
Public 18 ~ 704-866-6945
35. Glen Oaks Golf Club ~ Maiden  
Semi-private 18~828-428-2451
36. Golf Village ~ Pineville  
Public Par-3 ~ 704-889-5086
37. Green Meadows Golf Course ~ Mt. Holly  
Public 18 ~ 704-827-9264
38. Green Oaks Golf Course ~ Concord  
Public 18 ~ 704-786-4412
39. Highland Creek Golf Club - Charlotte  
Public 18 ~ 704-875-9000
40. King's Mountain Country Club  
Public 18 ~ 704-739-5871
41. Lakewood Golf Course ~ Cramerton  
Public 18 ~ 704-825-2852
42. Lakewood Golf Course ~ Statesville  
Public 18 ~ 704-873-6441

43. Lancaster Golf Club  
Public 18 ~ 803-416-4500
44. Larkhaven Golf Course - Charlotte  
Public 18 ~ 704-545-4653
45. Lincoln Country Club ~ Lincolnton  
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-735-1382
47. Mallard Head Country Club ~ Mooresville  
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-664-7031
48. McCanless Golf Club ~ Salisbury  
Public 18 ~ 704-637-1235
49. Monroe Country Club  
Public 18 ~ 704-282-4661
50. Mooresville Country Club  
Public 18 ~ 704-663-2539
51. Myers Park Country Club ~ Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-376-0745
52. Northstone Country Club ~ Huntersville  
Private 18 ~ 704-948-4286
53. Oak Hill Golf Course ~ Charlotte  
Public 18 ~ 704-394-2834
54. Old North State Club ~ New London, NC  
Private 18 ~ 336- 461-4447
55. Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation ~ Mint Hill  
Public 18 ~ 704-573-1000
56. The Palisades Country Club - Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-548-0099
57. Paradise Valley Golf Course ~ Charlotte  
Public Par-3 ~ 704-548-1808
58. Pebble Creek ~ Indian Trail  
Public Par-3 18 ~ 704-821-7276
59. The Peninsula Club ~ Cornelius  
Private 18 ~ 704-896-7060
61. Pine Island Country Club ~ Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-394-1011
62. Pine Lake CC - Mint Hill  
Private 18 ~ 704-394-1011
63. Pinetuck Golf Club ~ Rock Hill  
Public 18 ~ 803-327-1141
64. Trump National ~ Mooresville  
Private 18 ~ 704-660-1192
65. Providence Country Club ~ Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-846-6325
66. Quail Hollow Country Club ~ Charlotte  
Private 18 ~ 704-552-1726
67. Raintree Country Club ~ Charlotte  
Private 36 ~ 704-542-8150
68. Red Bridge Golf Club ~ Locust  
Public 18 ~ 704-781-5231
69. Regent Park Golf Club ~ Ft. Mill  
Public 18 ~ 803-547-1300



- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>70. Renaissance Park Golf Course ~ Charlotte<br/>Public 18 ~ 704-357-3373</p> <p>71. Revolution Park Golf Course ~ Charlotte<br/>Public 9 ~ 704-342-1946</p> <p>72. Riverbend Golf Club ~ Shelby<br/>Public 18 ~ 704-482-4286</p> <p>73. River Hills Country Club ~ Lake Wylie<br/>Private 18 ~ 803-831-2249</p> <p>74. River Oaks Golf Club ~ Statesville<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-883-8724</p> <p>75. River Run Golf &amp; CC ~ Davidson<br/>Private 18 ~ 704-896-7355</p> <p>76. Rock Barn CC &amp; Spa ~ Conover<br/>Semi-Private 36 ~ 828-459-9279</p> <p>77. Rock Hill Country Club ~ Rock Hill<br/>Private 18 ~ 803-327-7790</p> <p>78. Rocky River Golf Club ~ Concord<br/>Public 18 ~ 704-455-1200</p> <p>79. Rolling Hills Country Club ~ Monroe<br/>Private 18 ~ 704-283-8201</p> | <p>80. Skybrook Golf Club ~ Huntersville<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-948-6611</p> <p>81. Springfield Golf Club ~ Ft. Mill<br/>Public 18 ~ 803-548-3318</p> <p>82. Spring Lake Golf Club ~ York<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-684-4898</p> <p>83. Statesville Country Club ~ Statesville<br/>Private 18 ~ 704-873-8376</p> <p>84. Stonebridge Golf Club ~ Mineral Springs<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-283-8998</p> <p>85. Sunset Hills Golf Course ~ Charlotte<br/>Public 18 ~ 704-399-0980</p> <p>86. Tega Cay Golf Club ~ Tega Cay<br/>Public 18 ~ 803-548-2918</p> <p>87. Tot Hill Farm Golf Club ~ Asheboro<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 336-857-4455</p> <p>88. TPC at Piper Glen ~ Charlotte<br/>Private 18 ~ 704-846-1515</p> <p>89. The Tradition ~ Charlotte<br/>Public 18 ~ 704-503-7529</p> | <p>90. Twin Oaks Golf Course ~ Statesville<br/>Public 18 ~ 704-872-3979</p> <p>91. Verdict Ridge Golf &amp; CC ~ Denver<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-489-1206</p> <p>92. Warrior Golf Club ~ China Grove<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-856-0871</p> <p>93. Waterford Golf Club ~ Rock Hill<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-324-0300</p> <p>94. Westport Golf ~ Denver<br/>Public 18 ~ 704-489-8088 - Denver</p> <p>95. White Oak ~ Alexis<br/>Public Par-3 18 ~ 704-263-9990</p> <p>96. Woodbridge Golf Links ~ Kings Mountain<br/>Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-482-0353</p> <p>97. Royster Memorial Golf Course ~ Shelby<br/>Public 9 ~ 704-484-6823</p> |
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# Carolinas PGA professionals gear up for Folds of Honor "Patriot Golf Day"

**PGA** professionals and local golfers throughout the Carolinas are preparing for the annual Folds of Honor "Patriot Golf Day" fundraising event from September 1-4 at more than 150 golf courses in both North and South Carolina.

The Carolinas PGA Section has been the top contributor to the Folds of Honor Foundation in contributions and PGA facilities to host events and initiatives, since the beginning of the fundraiser in 2007. The Carolinas PGA Section has contributed more than \$3,000,000 to the foundation, including more than \$550,000 each of the last two years.

"The Carolinas PGA is proud to support the Folds of Honor through their Patriot Golf Day initiative," says Jeff Abbot, Carolinas PGA Executive Director. "The opportunity to honor the sacrifices made by

our military to help provide educational scholarships to their dependents through golf is something we take great pride in."

Since 2007, the 41 PGA sections in all 50 states have donated more than \$6.1 million to support the Folds of Honor Foundation's scholarship program, which has awarded more than 16,000 educational scholarships. These scholarships go to children and spouses of men and women who have fallen or been disabled while serving the United States.

For the third time in event history, a true American icon, Jack Nicklaus has joined the Folds of Honor as the honorary chairman of the 2017 event.

"I am honored to be named the Chairman of Patriot Golf Day," Nicklaus said. "I am passionate and committed to any initiative that allows us to recognize, assist and support the men and women of our military, who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. I encourage every golfer in America to play golf during the Labor Day weekend, and support the Folds of Honor Foundation."

To find the Carolinas PGA Section facility for you to play and help maintain our local pros strong support of the Folds of Honor, go to their website and at [foldsofhonor.org/patriotgolfdays/](http://foldsofhonor.org/patriotgolfdays/) or call your favorite golf course to make a tee time anytime for September 1-4, 2017.



linas PGA Executive Director. "The opportunity to honor the sacrifices made by

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## Argolf putters appearing in more golf bags

### Kenny Perry wins U.S. Senior Open with Argolf

Professional golfers drive the public's perception of golf equipment, and Kenny Perry gave a new putter company a big boost by winning the U.S. Senior Open after changing from a Taylormade Ghost Spider putter to the Argolf Pendragon mallet-head putter.

"I went to the slightly heavier Argolf putter on Wednesday and my distance control greatly improved," said Perry. "This putter is very stable and balanced, providing a consistent and precise feel that gave me my best putting week in years. I grabbed it during practice, the next thing you know I'm holing putts all over the place and shoot 16 under par. I almost felt like a kid again."

Argolf is a French golf company, based in Brittany, France that has been making metal parts for Boeing, Airbus and NASA. The company owner is an avid golfer, and he had been playing with high-end putters, but was looking for an even better putter in the same price range. He personally designed the putters, with a goal to produce the finest premium putters in the market.

"We are excited to be the exclusive Charlotte area distributor of the Argolf Putter line," said Greater Golf Express owner Fred Porter. "Argolf offers three different

*models of putters - the Lancelot, Arthur and the Pendragon to meet the look and feel of every golfer. Kenny Perry's recent win in the U.S. Senior Open using the Pendragon model has pushed it forward with the senior golfers, but has also been useful for players that have distance and direction control with long putts."*

Argolf uses highly pure metals for making its putters, creating superior consistency and providing a better chance for golfers to create consistent impact and roll when putting. Every Argolf putter is derived from a solid block of aluminum, stainless steel or in the exclusive case of the Argolf Graal, titanium. Argolf putters have no inserts, thus enhancing feel and consistency even more.

Greater Golf Express is encouraging golfers to do a field test of the new Argolf putters. Putt with other premium putters available at their Pineville store and then try Argolf to feel and understand the difference. Left-handed Argolf putters are also available.





# BEAU RIVAGE Golf & Resort

## *Carolina's best value for Stay & Play Golf in Wilmington*

By David Theoret

The Beau Rivage Golf & Resort is like no other golf course – or resort for that matter – in the Carolinas. Sure, you can find plenty of courses in the state with fairways framed by towering Carolina pines, and there are several resorts that feature lush, Bermuda fairways leading to TifEagle greens.

Or, maybe it's that the course drains better than any other course in the area. It has never been closed due to rain, in fact their motto is "never cart path only." I think it's the way the resort is run.

Beau Rivage is a family-owned resort and is managed by Jake Walker, the youngest of the four Walker children. All but one of the kids is involved in the day-to-day operations of Beau Rivage as are mom Ellen and father Charlie. Ellen heads up the food and beverage department at the resort and Charlie does a little bit of everything – as long as it involves a backhoe or his new Toro sprayer!

Jake seems to be the face of Beau Rivage while brother Adam does a lot of work in the background. Jake's a real people person, willing to talk to anyone about his resort, you can see the pride in his eyes. His sister Audra is moving back to the area to re-open the resort's banquet kitchen and work with the resort's Director of Sales, Chelsea Malkmus, to bring in meetings and special events. The resort's classically unique 6,000+ feet of meeting space can handle groups of 450 for receptions or 290 for banquets.

The first thing you'll notice as you drive up Rivage Promenade in Wilmington,



North Carolina is the charming Old Southern Plantation, the centerpiece of the Beau Rivage Golf & Resort. Apart from the playing of the game everything happens in this building: check-in, checkout, dining, drinking, the pro shop and the rooms.

Beau Rivage opened in 1988 and was designed by Joe Gessner. You're not going to be awed by its length - from the back tees, it plays a mere 6,546 yards with a



course rating of 72.4 and a slope of 138. Move up to the white tees and the yardage drops down to 6,028 yards, but still challenging (70.1/133). There is a total of five sets of tees so golfers of all abilities can enjoy themselves.

Beau Rivage sits on a unique piece of land. It's rare that you will find property this close to the Atlantic Ocean with 75 feet of elevation changes along the Carolina coast. The first hole plays over a valley and if you can make it to the top of the hill on the other side, you'll have an easy pitch to the green.

As you make your way around the course, rolling hill and undulating valleys pave the way, leading to mostly elevated TifEagle greens with subtle breaks, manicured to PGA tournament level. Forests of long-needle pines border many of the fairways and can wreak havoc with errant shots. Trying to recover from the thick pine straw can prove to be quite challenging.





This place has it all - narrow fairways framed by majestic Carolina pines to test your accuracy off the tee, uphill and downhill shots to greens, plenty of sand and water, a few blind shots and some of the best greens in the area. The ups and downs of the terrain can provide some interesting lies, which can make your up and down attempts a little tricky.



If you're not a golfer, Beau Rivage is still a fun, affordable place to stay. The rooms are considerably larger than your average hotel room, the food is great and there is live entertainment on most weekends. The resort is located 5 miles from downtown Wilmington and the island beaches. Wilmington's historic river district has over 50 locally owned restaurants and pubs. Wilmington has a lot to offer non-golfers as well.

All 32 rooms are suites and are connected to the main building. The rooms to the left of the main building are all king beds with pullout sleeper sofas in the living room area. The rooms to the right have two double beds. The bottom line is a foursome of guys can fit comfortably in one suite and not be cramped. Two couples is even easier; just flip a coin to see who gets the bedroom!



Getting from your resort suite to the course is easy. Just back your golf cart up to the walk-out patio's French doors, load up your clubs and you're at the tee in less than a minute and to the practice facility even quicker. This is the only golf resort in the coastal Carolinas where you can play an award-winning golf course and stay directly on-site.

Beau Rivage offers golfers and non-golfers some great packages. There's no longer a need for golfers from the northeast to flock to South Carolina for their winter and spring golf vacations. Beau Rivage Golf and Resort in Wilmington can save you considerable drive time each way, so much that you may be able to get in an extra round! To see their latest packages, visit their website at [www.beaurivagegolf.com](http://www.beaurivagegolf.com).



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# Check the lie for better fairway shots

by Jay Reid, PGA Professional ~ Birkdale Golf Club

I really enjoy a good par 5 that you can reach in two shots and have an EAGLE putt. The excitement of two under on one hole is enticing enough to grab the 3 wood and take a rip.

There is just one BIG thing you need to consider - can I hit the three wood from the lie I have?

As you can see in the photo to the right the club is higher than the ball. This is almost always a sure bet you will not hit the green and more than likely will top the ball. The weight of the club must be under the ball to gain lift and with only 15 degrees of loft this ball is not flying high. EAGLES fly high and we all know that.



Now in this photo you can really see the ball is up above the club. Now we are talking and flying HIGH. The weight of the club can now strike the ball below the ball's center causing it to fly high and land on the green for the eagle putt.



When you are playing, check the lie of the ball in relation to the club you are looking to play. Sometimes a wedge for birdie is the better play. Make a choice based on your lie and let me know how I can help you *Play Better Golf*.

Jay Reid, PGA Professional  
Jay Reid School of Golf @ Birkdale Golf Club  
704-668-7343

## ARNIE'S ARMY *remembers the King* *at the PGA Championship*

Saluting the man that turned the PGA Tour into the strong sports entity it is today, Arnold Palmer has been a key element in the golf tournaments held this year following his death last September.

The PGA Championship in Charlotte was no exception where thousands of fans wore "Arnie's Army" buttons, and banners were found throughout the course with the likeness of Palmer. Arnie's Army was established in 1959 during The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club, when an "army" of U.S. soldiers followed the defending champion Arnold Palmer around the course prompting the press to coin the name.

Palmer's charisma and unfailing sense of kindness endeared him to millions around the world. Spectators and PGA players were very vocal on their love for Palmer, some going back to his great years of playing the old Kemper Open in Charlotte, and when he hosted the Senior's tournament at Piper Glen.

"Arnold Palmer was a hero to all golf fans, including me as I watched him charge around the golf course with this "can do" spirit," said Robert Fullerton, a Charlotte native now



**ARNIE'S ARMY**  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

living in Bluffton, SC. "We members of Arnie's Army felt that when he came over to the galleries watching, and touched as many hands as possible, it was with a sincere thank you for coming to the tournament. That's something lost in some of the current players today."

Palmer's comments to Phil Mickelson at one of the Bay Hill Classic events seemed to echo that sincerity mentioned by the many fans that watch his "well played" career. "I talked to him about it and he said, 'It's the volunteers and fans who allow us to play golf for a living. They're the ones buying the tickets and promoting the game,' " Mickelson said, "That always stuck in my head."



Over the past four decades, the Palmer family contributed time and resources to helping others, making a profound impact on many lives. Founded in 2015, Arnie's Army Charitable Foundation has been entrusted to continue Arnold's legacy of philanthropy by investing in the health, well-being and development of children & youth. For more information or to join Arnie's Army, visit [www.ArniesArmy.org](http://www.ArniesArmy.org).



## Local Pro and Amateur Golf Schedules - 2017

### Swing Thought Tour – Carolina's Events

September 1-3	Grand Dunes & Pine Lakes	Myrtle Beach
September 9-10	TPC Myrtle Beach	Myrtle Beach
October 23-28	Columbia	Columbia
October 31 – Nov. 2	Carolina Series	TBA
November 9-12	The Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis
December 12-17	TPC Myrtle Beach	Myrtle Beach

### Senior Amateur Tour – Charlotte Area

August 21	Firethorne Country Club	Marvin
September 5-6	The Players @ Cabarrus CC	Concord
September 20	River Hills Country Club	Lake Wylie

### National Junior Golf Tour – Charlotte Area

August 22	Oak Valley Golf Club	Advance
Sept. 3-4	NJGT Ntl Championship	
	Gen. James Hackler Course	Conway

*For other junior golf schedules in the Carolinas go to [tygajuniorgolf.org](http://tygajuniorgolf.org)*

### Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour

August 26	Cabarrus Country Club	Concord
September 16	River Hills Country Club	Lake Wylie
September 23	Local Finals ~ Cowans Ford CC	Stanley
September 24	Local Finals ~ Club @ Irish Creek	Kannapolis

### Contact information for local tours:

- Charlotte Senior Amateur Tour: 704-844-8264 [senioramateurgolftour.net/charlotte](http://senioramateurgolftour.net/charlotte)
- Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour: 704-844-8264 [amatuergolftour.net/charlotte](http://amatuergolftour.net/charlotte)
- Swing Thought Tour: 704-992-8748 [swingthought.com](http://swingthought.com)
- National Junior Golf Tour: 704-824-6548 [nationaljuniorgolfassociation.com](http://nationaljuniorgolfassociation.com)

## Mooresville Golf Club completes renovation

### Returns to Donald Ross traditional challenges

If you hear some loud cheers coming from Mooresville, it's emanating from the area golfers that are now playing the renovated Mooresville Golf Course. Closed for nearly two-years, the town targeted a two-story, \$4.8 million clubhouse and new parking lot – a \$5 million project including the new entrance road to accommodate the increased traffic for golf and community events at the club.



The course renovations were handled by Donald Ross redesign expert Kris Spence from Greensboro, and includes greens

with TifEagle hybrid Bermuda grass, 70 sand bunkers to increase strategy during play of the course and 8 foot concrete cart paths. The new driving range has been built on an 18 acre piece of the golf course property that has improved the short game practice area and putting green.

"I am ready for this community to play our new course," said Erskine Smith, Mooresville Town Manager. "Kris Spence did a masterful job reframing the course and keeping the character, heritage and tradition of Donald Ross to make Mooresville an enjoyable challenge for all levels of golfers."

The town also recently hired Luke Steimke as the new golf course manager to join Head Golf Professional Jeremy Elliott. Steimke has extensive experience in private and semi-private country clubs and public courses. Previously, he worked for a company that specializes in challenging turnarounds of private clubs and public courses throughout the United States and served as general manager for two public clubs in Florida.

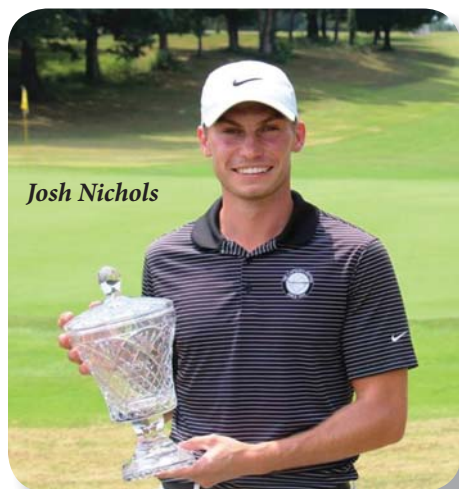
"We are excited to introduce the newly-renovated Mooresville Golf Club, and we believe our course will be one of the best in North Carolina," said Steimke.

"We hope to see everyone teeing it up and enjoying course conditions, layout, clubhouse amenities and exceptional customer service that will guarantee a great round of golf."

For more information about the Mooresville Golf Club, contact Luke Steimke at 704-663-2106 or [lsteimke@ci.mooresville.nc.us](mailto:lsteimke@ci.mooresville.nc.us).







Josh Nichols

## Former Mountaineer Josh Nichols captures Carolina Open Championship

Former Appalachian State golfer Josh Nichols, an amateur from Kernersville, NC, came from 4-shots back to win the 93rd Carolina Open at Bryan Park Golf & Conference Center located in Greensboro. The victory was insured following a dramatic birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff

with Garrett Reband.

The Carolinas Open is the oldest professional golf tournament in the Carolinas, having been conducted since 1923 when the Carolinas PGA Section was first founded in Greensboro. One hundred and fifty of the top playing PGA Professionals and amateurs in North and South Carolina were competing for the title.

Nichols, a two-time State Champion at Salem Baptist Christian, entered the third and final round tied for third place at -4, four strokes back of amateur Grant Powell of Colfax, N.C., a member of the Greensboro College golf team (-8). However, that lead was lost when Powell played the front nine in 40 strokes (+4).

Coming down the stretch, Nichols and amateur Garrett Reband of York, S.C., a member of the 2017 University Oklahoma National Championship golf team

traded spots atop the leaderboard. Nichols made an unfortunate but heroic bogey, draining a long putt to finish his round at 34-34=68 (-4) for a total 208 (-8).

With the door wide open, Reband was unable to take advantage, giving up bogeys on both of his final two holes to post a 34-35=69 (-3) also totaling 208 (-8).

Both players reached the green on the first playoff hole at the par-4 18th, Nichols was first to play. His putt measured 51 feet up a ridge and then had about 20 feet of break left to right and down a hill. After studying the putt from various angles, Nichols made his stroke and watched the ball roll for approximately five seconds before watching it fall in at perfect speed for the birdie. Reband gave his birdie attempt a good run, but was unable to match.

John Thompson, the PGA Director of Instruction at Carolina Lakes GC in Indian Land, S.C., and Rohan Allwood, the PGA Apprentice Director of Instruction at Woodlands CC in Columbia, S.C., tied for first in the professional contest at 211 (-5). No playoffs are conducted for the professionals.



## Local Teen to Play in PGA Champions Event Gavin Gwaltney heads to Pebble Beach

The First Tee of Greater Charlotte is sending Gavin Gwaltney to compete in the 2017 PURE Insurance Championship, an official PGA TOUR Champions event to be contested at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach, California the week of September 19-24, 2017. The tournament, which is hosted by the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, will be televised internationally on the Golf Channel.

Gwaltney is a rising junior at Charlotte Latin School where he plays on the varsity golf team. He has been a participant at The First Tee for six years and has had the opportunity to compete in local, regional, and national tournaments. Away from the golf course, Gwaltney is a member of his school's debate team and enjoys volunteering for Teen Court of Charlotte and The First Tee of Greater Charlotte.

"I doubt I could be more excited for this event, participating in The Pure Insurance Championship has been a goal of mine ever since I joined The First Tee," said

Gwaltney. "Being selected to The Pure Insurance Championship is a tremendous honor because it means that The First Tee considers me to be one of their most outstanding participants in the entire nation."

Gwaltney will join 80 other participants from The First Tee chapters, selected by a national panel of judges. Participants were selected based on playing ability and comprehension of the life skills and core values learned through their involvement with The First Tee. The juniors will be teamed with 81 PGA TOUR Champions players and 162 amateurs as they compete for the pro-junior title at Pebble Beach and Poppy Hills.





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