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## Will pros get another bumpy ride at British Open?

he golf fans might have received a preview of the British Open when the

best golfers in the world struggled at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in the 118th playing of the US Open. Only Brooks Koepka was able to master the difficulty of the course, greens and the wind to win his second consecutive US Open title.

Koepka's over par final score (+1) was the first in a US Open event in five years, when Justin Rose (+1) won at Marion Golf Club near Philadelphia in 2013, and Charlotte's Webb Simpson (+1) captured his US Open title in 2012 at the Olympic Golf Club in San Francisco.



Question is will Carnoustie in Scotland produce another above par score in the

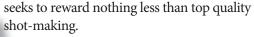


The Open Champion-ship in July?

The most northerly course on The Open rotation, Carnoustie has hosted golf's oldest

major on seven occasions. Carnoustie has a reputation for being the toughest venue with the demanding closing four holes being the scene of many dramatic Open moments.

Golf has been played at Carnoustie since the early 16th century and first hosted The Open in 1931. The course is long and narrow with penal bunkering that





Boasting Champion golfers such as Henry Cotton, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Tom Watson, Carnoustie is sure to deliver another worthy Champion Golfer of the Year in 2018.

Watson is one of five golfers to win The Open five times (1975, '77, '80, '82, and '83). He is joined on that list with five wins by Englishman J.H. Taylor, Scotland's James Braid and Australian Peter Thomson. Only one golfer has more than five British Open victories, and



that golfer is Harry Vardon. Vardon won the Open Championship a record setting six times (late 1890's and early 1900's).

Much will be said during the telecast about Peter Thomson, a five-time winner of The Open Championship and only golfer in the 20th century to win the tournament

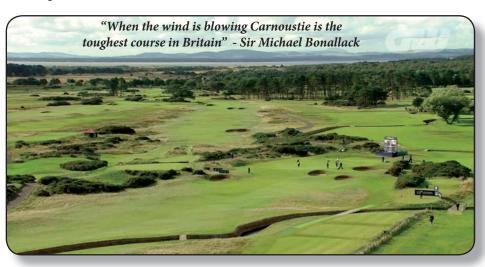
for three straight years. The Aussie died of Parkinson's disease at his home in Melbourne in late June at the age of 88.

The Australian's wins came in 1954, '55, '56, again in 1958 and lastly in 1965 against a field that included Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

Despite not being able to see the sea from the links, the exposed Carnoustie layout means strong winds can have

a significant impact on shots. As Sir Michael Bonallack once said: "When the wind is blowing, it is the toughest course in Britain. And when it's not blowing, it's probably still the toughest."

Each of the last three Open's held at the Angus links have concluded with a playoff resulting in the Claret Jug being awarded, most recently, to Irishman Padraig Harrington in 2007 and Scotsman Paul Lawrie in 1999.



### Swedish star captures Symetra Classic at River Run

he LPGA Tour could be watching a new Swedish professional starting to make some giant strides in the golf world. Former Southern Methodist University (SMU) standout, and Karlstad, Sweden native, Jenny Haglund has captured two championships in the last three months.

Haglund, won her first Ladies European Tour title in the Lalla Meryem Cup in Morocco in April, and captured her most recent victory with the Symetra Classic at River Run Country Club in Huntersville.

In the Symetra Classic, she capped a final round 5-under par with a birdie on No. 18, to match her low-career round, and snagged the solo lead at 4-under par overall. That happened around 10 a.m. ET. The time is interesting, since a little over five hours later, she found herself on the tee box of No. 18 again, this time in the first hole of a sudden-death playoff against Dottie Ardina (Laguna, Philippines).

"I didn't really think it was going to be a play-off," said Haglund. "I was sitting, waiting around for my friend who was in the last group. Before [the playoff], I went into my bubble and did a warm-up, then out. It was a long day, but passed the time by doing some other things."

Haglund, who has idolized Sweden's World Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam, showed some of that champion's cool. On that first playoff hole Haglund stepped

up first to putt, and with ice in her veins, rolled it right down Broadway. That proved to be the deciding factor, as Ardina was not able to convert her birdie opportunity.

"It was just in the moment and then I saw it drop," said Haglund. "I don't really remember, honestly. It was really, really nice to see it go in."

Haglund made her first career Symetra Tour start in Beaumont, Calif., at the IOA Championship



presented by Morongo Casino Resort & Spa. In just her fourth event, she is a Symetra Tour champion. Overall, she has four top-20 finishes on the year, including three top-10s and two top-5 results, with a win as the cherry on top.

## Early-bird tickets available for 2019 U.S. Women's Open at Country Club of Charleston

ans can purchase tickets for the 2019 U.S. Women's Open Championship at the historic Country Club of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina with the official release of daily, weekly and premium ticket sales at uswomensopen.com/2019.

The 74th U.S. Women's Open Championship, scheduled for May 30-June 2, 2019, will be the second USGA championship at the notable venue designed by famed architect Seth Raynor. In 2013, Emma Talley defeated Cindy Yueer Feng in the final of the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.

Next year's championship promises to generate strong interest in the Southeast and purchasing tickets early is highly recommended.

"We are excited to bring the 2019 U.S. Women's Open to the Country Club of Charleston and the Palmetto State," said Matt Sawicki, championship director.

"The U.S. Women's Open is golf's ultimate test for females, and we are confident this classic venue will test the world's best players both physically and mentally over four days of competition." The Country Club of Charleston's current course was designed by Seth Raynor and opened in 1924. John LaFoy made revisions in 1990-1991 following Hurricane Hugo, and it was later restored by Brian Silva in 2006.



The Country Club of Charleston has a

storied tradition of hosting state and regional tournaments. It first hosted the Carolinas Amateur in 1911 and served as host site for the seventh time in 2016. The club has also hosted eight South Carolina Amateurs and four Women's South Carolina Amateurs.

Since 1946, the club has hosted the Azalea Invitational, which includes among its champions Dale Morey, Billy Joe Patton and Webb Simpson. Since the early 1950s, the club has hosted a junior event, now known as the Beth Daniel Junior Azalea Championship. Daniel, who grew up in Charleston, is a two-time U.S. Women's Amateur champion and a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Tickets can be purchased exclusively at uswomensopen.com/2019. Questions can be directed to ticketquestions@usga.org or by calling 1-800-698-0661.



## Bridgestone B330 golf balls fit every golfer's game

ooking for a new golf ball to improve your game? Greater Golf Express has the new family of Bridgestone B330 golf balls to fit every golfer's level of play, and as always at the best price you will find.

On a launch monitor with a driver, hybrid, and a long iron, the B330 was the lowest spinning and firmest. It's the ball that's designed for the big hitter who wants maximum distance. The B330-S spins just slightly more and is nearly equal to the B330-RX. The B330-RXS spins the most and had the softest feel off the long clubs.

In the short game, the "S" balls really separated themselves from the B330 and B330-RX - both spin measurably more on

full and partial wedge shots. Though the difference was clear on the launch monitor, it is less noticeable on the course. The B330-S definitely feels softer and checked up a little faster than the B330, but it was not as if one spun back and the other ran out.

Each ball in the Tour B330 family has a unique feel. The B330 is the firmest, with a nice "thock" off the putter. The softest is the B330-RXS which comes off with a mushier, buttery "thud."

The B330-S and B330-RX have distinct feels, but it's hard to definitively say which is softer. The B330-RX feels similar to the B330, but just marginally softer. The B330-S has more



of a "thud" like the B330-RXS, but is just a touch firmer.

Anyone who wants to play a Tour ball but doesn't want to compromise on distance has an option. There's a ball in this line up for every player, from the high speed, high spin bomber (B330) to the lower speed player who wants every last RPM (B330-RXS).



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## Big things ahead for South Carolina Open winner USC-Beaufort senior Jack Faraci dominates

ith a full year of college still to go, incoming senior Jack Faraci at the University of South Carolina Beaufort may certainly be setting his sight on higher goals than winning college golf tournaments.

Playing as an amateur, Faraci from Long Island, NY came out on top to win the 67th South Carolina Open at the Devil's Elbow South Course at Moss Creek Golf Club in Hilton Head, SC in the 54-hole event hosted by the PGA Carolinas Section.

Faraci posted three low rounds for the tournament, taking the lead in the second round, after posting a 3-under par round of 69. He finished 4-under par (212) for the tournament. Faraci won another event at Moss Creek earlier, so he was very familiar with this track, which was evident from this win in the 54-hole event.

"The course set up really well for me all three days," says Faraci. When thinking forward for what he has planned in the next few months, this win is only a light at a beginning for him. "It's going to be a good summer."

There were many players chasing the lead during the third round. PGA Associates, Ben Lee of Statesboro, Georgia and Tommy Gibson of Mount Airy, North Carolina, tied for second place and took the title of the low professionals in the

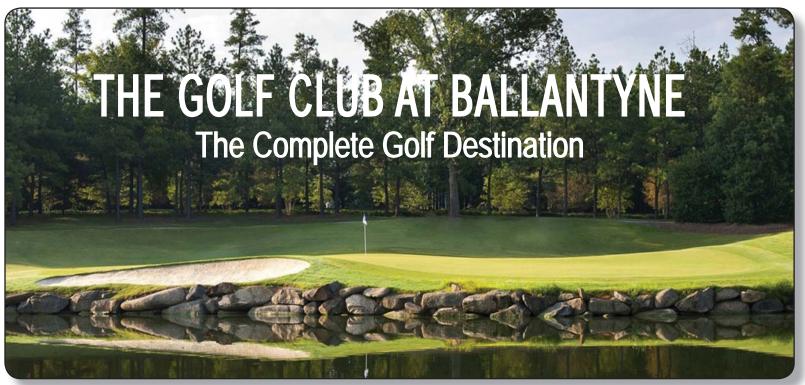
field. Both came to the clubhouse with a 54-hole total of 213 (-3). Close behind was Jeff Wells, PGA of Wilmington, NC, with a score of 214 (-2), not waver-



ing from the top of the leaderboard any of the three days.

Special recognition goes out to Springfield Golf Club Head Professional Aaron Black, PGA, who posted the lowest round of the tournament with a score of 67 (-5) and finished tied for fifth at 215 (-1).





hen The Golf Club at Ballantyne opened for play in 1997, the Ballantyne Corporate Park was starting its well-planned sprawl totally changing the landscape of south Charlotte.

As it stands, the centerpiece of the area is the 214-room Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, with The Golf Club at Ballantyne tightly tucked between office condos, homes and other buildings – which, like Ballantyne, had been developed by the Bissell Family of Companies.

In March of 2017, Northwood Investors, a New York-based investment firm, bought Ballantyne Corporate Park from the Bissell Companies in the largest single real estate transaction in Charlotte's history. Estimated price reported by the Charlotte Observer at around \$1.2 billion dollars.

With that kind of investment, you would expect a "first-class" experience to continue at the Golf Club at Ballantyne, (formerly Ballantyne Resort) and golfers are finding out that is exactly the case. The Golf Club has continued to receive numerous accolades since inception including 4.5 Stars by Golf Digest and named as a Top 50 Golf Resort by Golf World.

The Golf Club (GCB) offers a straight-forward day of golf, with no outrageous forced carries, blind shots are severe doglegs. At 6,740 yards from the championship tees and 4,760 yards from the front tees, there are generous landing areas from all tee boxes for any level of golfer, with a bonus of tilted fairways funneling effect helping to keep the ball in play.

Two holes as an example of the funneling motion are the par-5 5th and par-4 6th. The 5th hole is lined by office condos on the right and your ball tends to roll right to left so you need to keep right, a task made easier thanks to banking there. Head to the next hole and the reverse is true; the fairway slopes left to right with buildings on left.

If you play the correct tees to match your skill level, any of the par-5 holes are reachable in two with a solid tee shot, but in three for sure. With the drier weather

the par-4's offer some excellent roll off the undulating fairways creating shorter approach shots into the large Champion Ultra Dwarf Greens. Outside of the 195-yard par-3 16th hole, all of the other par-3's are comfortable. GCB is unique in that the front nine has two par-3's and one par-5, but the back has three of each for a par-71 layout.

The par-71 championship course (35-36) features multiple water features that come into play throughout the course that will allow the golfers to experience the "risk or reward" factor of an exciting round of golf. Well-placed bunkers protect the greens, however there are several greens that you can split the bunkers and run the ball onto the green. Fairway bunkers still leave plenty of room in the landing areas.

It is interesting to be in the middle of the business community, but the trees and shrubbery still impart a feeling of country solitude. The outer circle holes of the Golf Club layout are well protected by mature foliage and sparkling office buildings that mutes traffic motoring by in this bustling area.

The Golf Club at Ballantyne's 12th hole, a par-5, uphill climb (formerly a par-4) is a perfect example of this course's

sharp contrast to golf course beauty meeting economic growth. A pond, natural grasses, and flowering shrubs are positioned side-by-side against a parking garage and office buildings surrounding the green ahead.



The final hole, a dogleg left playing down from an elevated tee towards the resort, provides a fun finish, with a pond on the right protected by a long beach-like bunker and trees looming on the left.

In addition to the 18-hole course and practice facilities, The Golf Club includes a Golf Pro Shop with men's golf apparel and accessories and custom club fitting. The Golf Club features an impressive golf events pavilion located adjacent to the driving range which can accommodate up to 140 guests for tournament receptions.

The Golf Club is also home to the renowned Ballantyne Golf Academy, formerly Dana Rader Golf School, which can provide individual, group and team building programs under the direction of Woody Allen, Director of Golf.

"Our championship golf course and facilities together with The Ballantyne Hotel look forward to continuing to provide her team's award-winning golf instruction, while delivering the best golf experience in the Carolinas in a beautifully maintained setting."

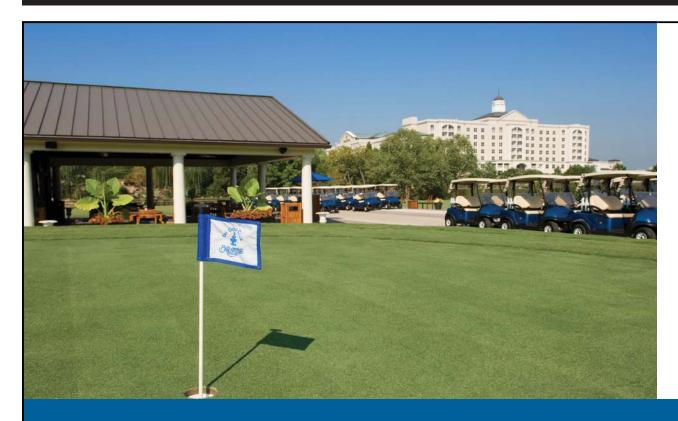
Before or after a round, golfers have the Gallery Restaurant serving contemporary American fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. For a quick starter, enjoy morning coffee and light bites along with afternoon and evening bar service at the Veranda.

The Golf Club provides the finest facilities and services for golf tournaments and outings in the region. PGA Golf Professionals and Golf Events Coordinators are dedicated to planning and executing effortless golf tournaments and outings.

Experience "firstclass country club" golf at a public daily-fee course, or enjoy custom-designed overnight golf packages at The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Call 704-248-4383 or









### PROFESSIONALLY EXECUTED OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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

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





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## A career blistering 60 skyrockets Michael Arnaud to BMW Charity Pro-Am Championship

ichael Arnaud played like a man-possessed in the BMW Charity Pro-Am in Greenville, SC, despite the fact that he was the last player to qualify for the Web.com annual event.

Striving to make the Top-25 money list and automatically earning playing status on the PGA TOUR for the 2018-2019 season, Arnaud finished with a 27-under par total after four consecutive rounds in the

SRIXON Mentions from Authority of the Control of th

60's (69, career low 60, 65, 63). His victory vaulted him to the number 13 spot on the money list.

The win is great, but the BMW fans are still talking about Arnaud career 60 in the second round at the toughest of the three courses used in the tournament – Thornblade Club in Greer, SC.

Arnaud's scorecards had to be seen to be

believed. The Beaumont, Texas native dropped a 27 on the front nine (with a bogey). A 27 with a bogey! Arnaud started birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie and shot 60 on the day.

"I don't think I've ever done that to start a round. I think I've had a few times back home where I've done it in the middle of the round but never to start the round off," Arnaud told PGATour.com. "I thought I put a cheat code in for a video game. It almost got laughable."

The vibes continued on Sunday as players returned to the Thornblade Club and Arnaud nearly matched his 27 with a bogey-free 28 on the front nine. That's 55 on the front nine at Thornblade the two times he played it on the week. He went on to shoot 63 in the final round and won by five over Kyoung-Hoon Lee and Robby Shelton.

Even more incredibly, Arnaud almost didn't get into the field and has only played six Web.com Tour events in the last two years to go with his one PGA Tour event in his entire career. Arnaud plays the APT Tour and has yet to crack \$8,500 this year. He's ranked No. 1,993 in the world, which is essentially the same as not being ranked.

Now he's probably going to be on the PGA Tour in 2019 as the top

25 money earners from the Web.com Tour get their cards. Arnaud, age 36, will likely be among them after taking home \$126,000 (which is \$4,000 shy of his career earnings total on the Web.com Tour and \$126,000 more than he's earned all year on the Web.com Tour).

"It was great," said Arnaud of closing the tournament with a huge lead at the final hole. "I have so many people telling me to keep grinding, keep grinding," he said. "They knew I had the talent to make it out there. My wife just tells me to keep working at it. And that's what I've done. And, finally the fruits of my labor have paid off."







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### 2018 Charity Golf Tournaments for the Greater Charlotte area

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

27th Annual Scholarship Tournament Winston Salem State - Charlotte Rams Alumni Chapter Saturday, July 28 The Tradition Golf Club Scratch Golf Event - Shotgun Start 8:00am

Cost: \$100 per player Contact: wssuqcramsalumni@yahoo.com

**Charlotte City Tour Golf Tournament** Sunday, August 5 Golf Club at Ballantyne Format: (Best ball or Scramble) - Shotgun Start Cost: \$98 per player

Annual Odell D. Clanton, III **Memorial Golf Yournament** Saturday, August 11 The Tradition Golf Course Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start 10:00am Cost: \$80 per player/\$300 per team Contact: Joe Majors 704-576-7905 majorsj@gmailcom

Contact: nextgengolf.org/charlotte

Mindsight NP Fundraiser Event Sunday, August 19 Top Golf - Charlotte Time: 4:00pm - 7:00pm **Cost: \$75** Contact: Cameo Crumby 800-443-9289

6th Annual "Putt for Pups" Benefits - Project 2 Heal Monday, September 17 Firethorne Country Club Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start 11:30am

Cost: \$150 per player

Contact: Sandy Petrizzo 704-577-3548

sandy@project2heal.org

subwaync.com

Harlan's Heroes 4th Annual Golf Tournament Monday, September 24 Tega Cay Golf Course Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start 9:30am Cost: \$80 per players / \$300 per team Contact: Harlan's Heroes 803-371-0922 info@harlansheroes.com

**Charlotte Regional Partnership Invitational Golf Tournament** Thursday, September 27 Golf Club at Ballantyne Captain's Choice - Shotgun Start 1:00pm Cost: \$500 per team **Contact: Charlotte Regional Partnership** 704-347-8942 / charlotteusa.com

Inaugural Harvick 4 Heroes PGA Reach **Charity Pro-Am** Monday, October 1 **Charlotte Country Club** Texas Scramble - Shotgun Start 10:00am Cost: \$5000 per Pro-Am team Contact: Kurt Battenberg 336-398-2672 kbattenberg@pgahq.com

Silver Cup Golf Tournament benefits **Garrett Thomas Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis** Monday, October 1 Cabarras Country Club Captain's Choice Cost: \$100 per player

Contact: Katy Thomas 704-599-1100 Katy@thegarrettthomasfoundation.org

Our Story – FOLDS OF HONOR a profound responsibility

eturning home from his second tour of duty in Iraq, Major Dan Rooney, an F-16 fighter pilot in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, became painfully aware of the reality families face when a loved one in uniform is fallen or disabled.

As his flight landed, the pilot announced they carried the remains of Corporal Brock Bucklin on board, asking all passengers to respectfully remain seated while his casket de-boarded.

Major Rooney watched as Corporal Bucklin's twin brother walked somberly alongside the flag-covered casket to meet his family. Among them was the deceased Corporal's young son, Jacob. Major Rooney ached as he thought of his own wife and little girls. Seeing the other side of war through the eyes of Jacob, was life-altering.

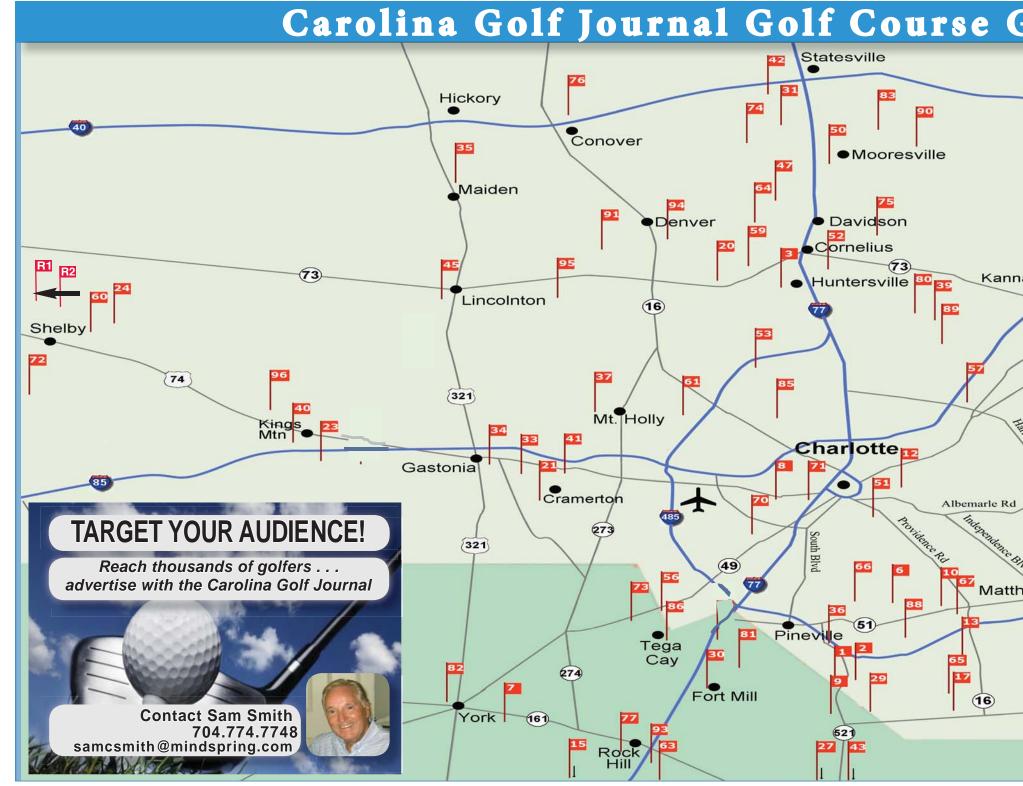
Sadly, over half the passengers had disregarded the pilot's request and de-boarded. Major Rooney decided he had to do something. Not only would

he pay tribute to American service-members and their families, he would live as a reminder among civilians that it is our duty to honor the sacrifices of those who preserve the freedoms we so easily take for granted.

Major Rooney committed to spend his life changing the future of America's grieving spouses and children. In 2007, he

formed the Folds of Honor Foundation; a 501C-3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational scholarships to the families of these heroic Americans.

Patriot's Golf Day lets local golfers help in the fundraising for the Folds of Honor. Contact your favorite golf course and encourage them to be a part of this outstanding effort in September. Logon to www.foldsofhonor.org for more information and to find out which courses have already committed to host the event.



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

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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** 

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8. Carolina Golf & Country Club - Charlotte

Private 18 ~ 704-392-6366

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

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

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

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

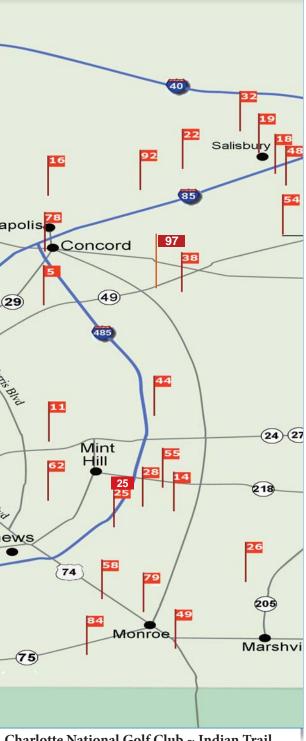
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### Guide for the Greater Charlotte Area



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36. Golf Village ~ Pineville Public Par-3 ~ 704-889-5086

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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

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- 72. Riverbend Golf Club ~ Shelby Public 18 ~ 704-482-4286
- 73. River Hills Country Club ~ Lake Wylie Private 18 ~ 803-831-2249
- 74. River Oaks Golf Club ~ Statesville Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-883-8724
- 75. River Run Golf & CC ~ Davidson Private 18 ~ 704-896-7355
- 76. Rock Barn CC & Spa ~ Conover Semi-Private 36 ~ 828-459-9279
- 77. Rock Hill Country Club ~ Rock Hill Private 18 ~ 803-327-7790
- 78. Rocky River Golf Club ~ Concord Public 18 ~ 704-455-1200
- 79. Rolling Hills Country Club ~ Monroe Private 18 ~ 704-283-8201
- 80. Skybrook Golf Club ~ Huntersville Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-948-6611

- 81. Springfield Golf Club ~ Ft. Mill Public 18 ~ 803-548-3318
- 82. Spring Lake Golf Club ~ York Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-684-4898
- 83. Statesville Country Club ~ Statesville Private 18 ~ 704-873-8376
- 84. Stonebridge Golf Club ~ Mineral Springs Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-283-8998
- 85. Sunset Hills Golf Course ~ Charlotte Public 18 ~ 704-399-0980
- 86. Tega Cay Golf Club ~ Tega Cay Public 18 ~ 803-548-2918
- 87. Tot Hill Farm Golf Club ~ Asheboro Semi-Private 18 ~ 336-857-4455
- 88. TPC at Piper Glen ~ Charlotte Private 18 ~ 704-846-1515
- 89. The Tradition ~ Charlotte Public 18 ~ 704-503-7529

- 90. Twin Oaks Golf Course ~ Statesville Public 18 ~ 704-872-3979
- 91. Verdict Ridge Golf & CC ~ Denver Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-489-1206
- 92. Warrior Golf Club ~ China Grove Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-856-0871
- 93. Waterford Golf Club ~ Rock Hill Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-324-0300
- 94. Westport Golf ~ Denver Public 18 ~ 704-489-8088 - Denver
- 95. White Oak ~ Alexis Public Par-3 18 ~ 704-263-9990
- 96. Woodbridge Golf Links ~ Kings Mountain Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-482-0353
- 97. Royster Memorial Golf Course ~ Shelby Public 9 ~ 704-484-6823

Greg Norman unveils in-cart 'Shark Experience' for golfers with music, video and GPS

n his 30-years of playing professional golf, Greg Norman didn't let a lot of outside distractions effect his approach to winning more than 90 career wins and create one of the better-known brands in sports.

But now, Norman is banking on distractions to revolutionize the on-course experience for golfers. The Greg Norman Company has announced the launch of "Shark Experience" - a teched-up golf cart.

Norman's company has partnered with Verizon, Club Car and GPSI, a leader in golf GPS technology, to produce golf carts equipped with an HD-touchscreen that streams music, live sports and highlights, premium videos and golf tips from the Shark himself.

The cart itself is just like any other, until you look up. The HD-screen is loaded with options. Fox News headlines, ESPN sports radio, even do-it-yourself programming is all at your fingertips, which might help keep the golfers mind off the tee shot he just hooked into a fairway bunker.

"Golfers have had little bits and pieces of this available to them with their iP-hone, earbuds and Bluetooth speakers. Now it's all integrated into one," Norman said. "They now have all of this technology brought into one place, in a golf cart."

The carts will be equipped with specially designed speakers that will allow golfers to hear music, news and sports without disturbing other golfers who may be nearby. The speakers, which took months to design, are angled so that the bulk of the sound is directed at the driver and passenger in the cart.

Norman cites what he calls the "Top Golf movement," the driving range company that has gained more than 11 million customers, as inspiration for his latest venture.

"We've taken
Top Golf from
the driving
range to the golf
cart. We have
everything they
have, but now
you're on green
grass," he says.

In a statement PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said, "It has the



potential to greatly introduce something new to the golf course experience and bring more and different players to the game."

Gaining new players is important for the game, however the big question must be raised, "Will this further slow-down a round of golf?"

Having players lingering in a golf cart to see if their favorite team scored or not can't help but dissipate the effect of playing "ready golf." This sounds like a fun experiment, but the verdict is still to determine its pros and cons.

Shark Experience is currently in a pilot testing phase and was previewed at the 2018 PGA Show in January. The company plans to roll out the technology to select golf courses in the U.S. throughout 2018. CGJ will keep you updated if any local courses make the move to the "Shark Experience".

### The Body-Swing Connection

Bruce Wilkins, PGA
Ballantyne Golf Academy

There is a direct correlation between our physical abilities and how we are able to move throughout our golf swing.

Think back to past lessons and how the instructor may have asked you to try to position yourself and the club in a certain manner, or swing in a certain style. Were you able to do it during the lesson, and did it "stick," allowing



you to play better golf - or did the instruction seem to fade, putting you right back where you were prior to the lesson?

Are you capable of making the motion being asked of you? Did the style of the instruction take away your dynamic ability to play good golf? If these questions resonate with you, I understand.

The quest for improving my knowledge and ability to help my students improve their game and efficiency, led me to the Titleist Performance Institute (TPI). The educational platform provided by TPI, provides valuable information on the human body and what is involved physically in producing an efficient motion in golf.

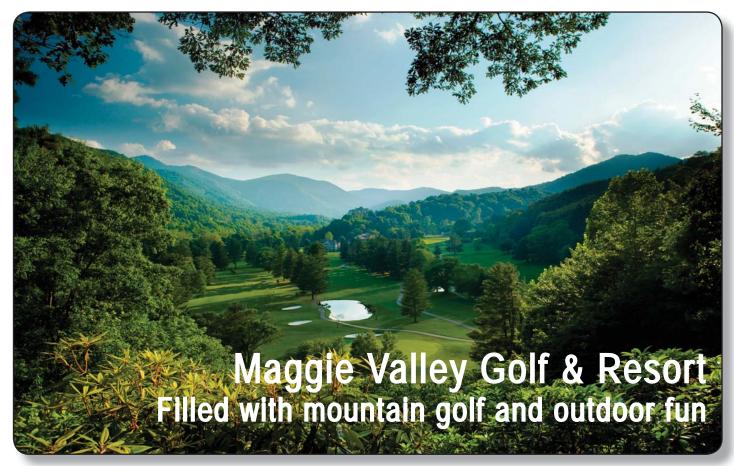
We all have different limitations and abilities. Understanding how these factors may affect our swing is paramount to building and improving our own personal motion. There are numerous patterns which produce quality golf shots, and one that may work most efficiently for the individual. This is primarily based on what he or she can do physically. If our mobility or stability is dysfunctional, the TPI



educational platform helps the instructor guide students towards corrective exercises and/or methods to improve the quality of motion.

Understanding the body-swing connection can be valuable for the player and should be understood by the teacher/coach as well. Seek out your local TPI certified professional, and begin to understand more about your own body-swing connection.





By Sam Smith, CGJ / Caitlin Noland, MVC Marketing Director

olfers are heading west again this summer, and they don't go far to find ideal golf courses and resort accommodations to suit their game and add to the fun available for the entire family.

One such find, setting between the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains in Western North Carolina, rests one of the most enjoyable golf courses in the state. Maggie Valley Golf and Resort has been welcoming guests with southern hospitality and the beauty of the mountains for decades.

The golf course highlights the Maggie Valley Club (MVC), a 300-acre resort and golf community conveniently located at 3000-feet above sea-level in the heart of Maggie Valley just two-and-half hours west of Charlotte, and a short 40-minute drive from Asheville.

Players will find the 6,500-yard mountain-style championship golf course is complimented by premium on-site amenities including a heated pool, hot tub, tennis courts, driving range, a short game practice area, walking trails, yoga and fitness room. Avid outdoorsmen appreciate the close proximity to numerous hiking and biking trails, fishing, rafting and zip-lining adventures.

The golf experience begins on the flatter Valley nine that lets the golfers start their day with two comfortable holes that will challenge, but lets you get off to a good start to the day. The 458 yard par-4 3rd hole is where you start to concentrate on your game, with the 229 yd. par-3 #7 hole, along with the Mountain back-nine 400 yd. par-4 10th hole and the par-4 330 yd. 17th called by Head Golf Professional Chris Stinson the "make or break" holes at Maggie Valley.

"Our golfers not only enjoy the quality of golf here at Maggie Valley, but also talk about the peaceful atmosphere of the course," said Stinson. "Most players consider Maggie Valley a shot-makers course; however the wide fairways still let the big hitters take their best shots."

I had the pleasure of playing under near perfect conditions; partly cloudy skies, 70 degrees, no rain, and mild wind conditions with two of the Club's members, Greg Hill and Larry Flahardy. Their knowl-

edge of the course and pleasant conversation about Maggie Valley and why they spend half-the-year there and the other half in Florida added to the enjoyment of the round.

The fairways at Maggie Valley are Kentucky Blue Grass and remain green all year long, and were in near perfect summer-rule condition. The large bent grass greens are some of the finest you will find in the mountains. They keep them a bit soft so good approach shots are rewarded.



"Our greens are in the best condition they have been in several years," stated Stinson. "Superintendent Jonathan Collins has made a big difference in the 3 years he has been here, and Honours Golf Management along with Troon Golf are great in making sure Maggie Valley gets what it needs to continue to be one of the best in Western North Carolina."



Mountain back 9 at Maggie Valley features eye-catching elevation changes

To verify that claim, the golf course at Maggie Valley Club has been rated "One of America's Best" by Golfweek and a Top 50 Southern Resort Course by the Southern Living Travel Guide, one of only six courses so rated in North Carolina.

Able to avoid the "devilish" little creek that runs through the course and feeds several ponds and lakes along the way; I appreciated Maggie Valley for its mission of putting golf strategy over total length and difficulty. The quiet calm and memorable challenges on this natural, visually stunning course, verses an intimidating, brutal, beast of a course where your grip feels like a continuously tight fiddle-string makes Maggie Valley a golfing winner every time.

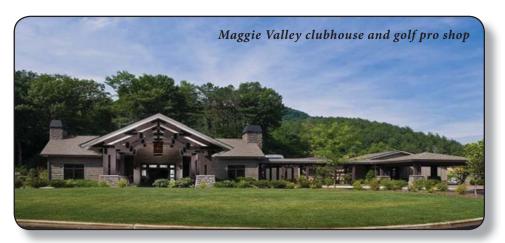
Take advantage of Maggie Valley's "Stay & Play" packages all year long, including the fall-colors surrounding the Club or the

ski-season with the Cataloochee Ski area in the mountains above the golf course. They have luxurious, spacious onsite accommodations and vacation rentals that offer the ultimate in deluxe comfort - certain to make your stay a comfortable one.

Golfers and their families or golfing buddies can really stay in style with the Maggie Valley Lodging Suites Adorned with designer furnishings

and featuring a fully equipped kitchen, a dining room and an inviting living room with gas fireplaces, a sleeper sofa and cable television, two or three bedroom, 2-bath condos offer private balconies and golf course views.





The Lodging Suites are complete with a king-size bed in the master bedroom and a queen-size bed or two twin beds in the second and third bedrooms. Eat in, with the fully-equipped kitchen, or take advantage of the Pin High Bar & Grille, just walking distance away.

Maggie Valley Club has daily, weekly and monthly rentals. Residents have access to the 18,000 square foot clubhouse embellished with the rustic mountain decor of Western North Carolina. Two restaurants, a bar, fitness center, outdoor swimming pool and tennis courts keep residents busy and active.

Maggie Valley Club's golf course membership offers one of the most flexible memberships in the Western Carolina region providing attractive plans for everyone from avid golfer who is a full-time resident, the occasional golfer who lives at Maggie Valley Club on a seasonal basis, to the local area resident who appreciates having a quality golf course in their home town.

If west is the direction you are headed this summer to beat the heat, Maggie Valley Golf & Resort is the ideal place to "pull up a chair and stay awhile". Contact MVC reservations at (800) 438-3861 to learn more about their Stay & Play packages or to create your own custom package.

Maggie Valley's golf rates range from \$45 to \$79
depending upon the season.
Golf rates include 18-holes of golf with a cart.
Group rates are available.
All rates listed are per person, plus tax.
Contact the Pro-shop at 828-926-6013
for tee times or more information.



hen golfers first look at the score card for Tega Cay Golf Course, comprised of three nine hole layouts each with a different personality, they might assume at only 6500 yards from the back tees this round might be a pushover. But, with a slope rating of 132, area golfers have found that no matter what challenge they can "bite-off" from the four sets of tees, Tega Cay is certainly all the golf experience

27-holes of target golf on steroids

Designed in the 1970's by W.B. Lew-

their game can handle.

is, Tega Cay feels like a mountain course with its changes in elevation, dramatic valleys and picturesque views of Lake Wylie. The Carolina Pines and Grandview nines make up the majority of the 18 hole routings, although there is another nine-holes, called the Cove that is sometimes used as an alternate nine, but can be played by itself and features some of the higher handicap holes on the course.

The 27 holes of golf sit on over 200 acres surrounding Lake Wylie and has been voted the #1 golf course in the Fort Mill, South Carolina area.

Tega Cay could be called "target golf on steroids" where the choice between the driver, fairway metal or an iron often makes the difference between a par and



double bogey. This course is a true test of your mental game particularly if you can hit the ball long off the tee. Narrow fairways and subtle doglegs make proper club selection important. Water only comes into play on three holes, all on the Grandview nine.

Under the watchful eye of Director of Golf Josh Brownell, Superintendent Chuck Smith and Pinnacle Golf Management, Tega Cay enjoys excellent conditions year round. The tees and fairways are bermuda grass and are all in fantastic shape. Bunkers were well maintained and full of soft, white sand. The mini-verde bermuda greens, converted nearly a decade ago, are receptive and large, with the exception of the 10th, and have subtle breaks instead of large undulations. A little extra time on the putting green before a round would be good advice to test the speed.

Tega Cay also offers a practice facility that is unmatched in the public golf course ranks, offering a 30 yard chipping green, massive putting green, immaculate driving range. Overlooking the practice putting green facility is Tega Cays' beautiful event pavilion designed specifically for large groups. This facility comes complete with a scoreboard, tables and chairs, corner serving area for beverages and restrooms.

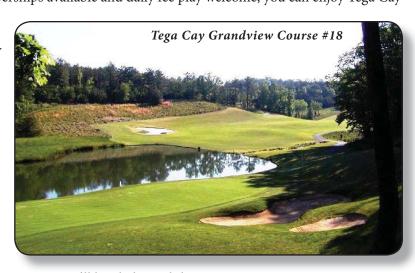
Adjacent to the 15,000 square foot Tega Cay Clubhouse is a 23,000 square foot Glennon Community and Conference Center; the perfect setting for a any event. The Shore Club restaurant located in the main clubhouse features a formal dining room, full-service bar and breathtaking views on the wrap around veranda.

Along with a covered outdoor pavilion to accommodate parties of all sizes, it's the perfect venue for weddings, rehearsal dinners,

corporate events, graduation parties, family reunions, charity events and much more.

With memberships available and daily fee play welcome, you can enjoy Tega Cay

for a day or for a lifetime. Enjoy the beauty and experience the challenge of the Tega Cay Golf Club, their spectacular restaurant, and full service Glennon



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## Warrior Golf Club's exciting renovation project

arrior Golf Club located on Hwy 152 between China Grove and Mooresville has been known for "Country Club Conditions on a Daily Basis". For two decades, it has been a market leader because of the superb conditions, a friendly staff and moderate pricing.

Since opening in July of 1999, Warrior Golf Club has grown to be the state's premier semi-private golf facility. Receiving a 5-Star rating from Golf Digest for layout, conditions, amenities, pricing and customer service. Plus, being honored for receiving the Green Dozier Award from NC for the environmentally safe construction around a watershed.



Warrior Golf Club winds around 52 acre Lake Wright. Conveniently located between interstates 85 and 77 and centrally located between Charlotte and Greensboro makes Warrior Golf Club easily accessible.

Designed by Stan Gentry, Warrior Golf Club offers 5 sets of tees to accommodate every age, gender and handicap. The par 71 Championship layout stretches from 6609 on the black tees to 4423 from the red tees with 7 miles of concrete cart paths and rolling terrain.

Like every other business, the golf course industry is not immune to fast paced change. Constant improvements have to be made or you move down the list of favorite courses to play, but Warrior Golf Club is primed to make major improvements to maintain their popularity with area golfers.

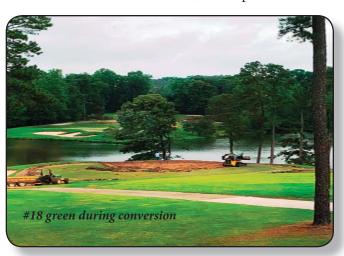
The most recent improvement was the addition of flat screen GPS units to a new fleet of 72 Club Car Tempo model golf carts. The GPS units speed up play by allowing the pro shop staff to track each cart in real time, eliminating the need for a ranger with the ability to text message the slow play groups, speeding up the turn time by allowing players to

order on the 9th tee and improving course conditions by keeping carts away from greens, tees and problem areas.

Now in progress is a well-designed renovation plan centered on a greens conversion project to Ultra Dwarf Bermuda that will raise Warrior Golf Club to the next level. After months of consideration, Champion G12 was

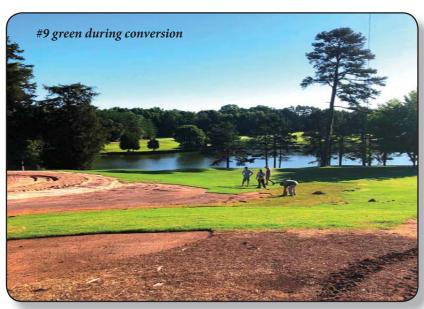
chosen as the new turf for the greens.

Champion Ultra
Dwarf Bermuda
does not require
aeration in the
spring and fall, thus
adding 45 more
days of golf for
our members and
guests. Ball marks
are not as prevalent
and Ultra Dwarf
Bermuda thrives in



the warmer weather during the peak season for golf. The renovation project began on May 29th and reopening is scheduled for August 1st.

Starting with the infrastructure, a new irrigation system was installed, complete from a state of the art pump station to the sprinkler loops around each green and the satellite clocks that control them. A new maintenance fleet was put in operation including walk mowers that will be used on a daily basis. A tree removal project to maximize the sunlight and airflow around each green complex is complete. Hiring the best course construction company to do the greens renovation was accomplished by signing a contract with Southeastern Golf of Tifton, Ga. They did the original course construction in 1997.



Warrior Golf Club is striving to offer the best conditions and the excitement over the many changes is building for their August 1st reopening. They have designed a plan, hired the leadership and made the investment to achieve this goal.

The superintendent is the key to success and Warrior Golf Club is very lucky to find Mike Cagiano to lead the renovation. He has made a huge difference in his short time on the job. Working as the 1st Assistant



at River Run in Davidson for 6 years, the Rutgers graduate brings a new sense of organization to the maintenance department. He has worked with bent grass and helped oversee the greens conversion at River Run. His experi-

ence and contacts throughout the industry are invaluable.



Covered cypress deck off of Champion's Grill overlooks #18 green and Lake Wright

Maximize your savings by taking advantage of the pre-conversion 2018 membership packages. Drop by or call the pro shop at 704-856-0871 for more information. The pro shop and range will stay open during renovation. You can also visit the website at www.warriorgolf.com. Make plans to play in August and judge for yourself. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## Golf tip from Jordan Spieth: "a great round starts with a great warm-up"

see a lot of amateurs warm up on Wednesdays, which is pro-am day on the PGA Tour. The thing about warming up properly is that it doesn't require any extra skill, only the discipline to commit to it. When you start playing better more often, you'll be glad you did.

Even for my quicker warm-up for a tournament or just a fun round at my home club, I'll work down the bag from my shortest irons to my longest, using the even numbers one day and the odds the next. I'm moving quickly, but if you watch, you'll notice that I never hit a careless ball—every shot has a purpose.

On the range, most amateurs spend way too much time hitting driver. I get it - it's the club that's the most fun to hit. But whaling away and bending over to re-tee 50 times is no way to prepare for a round. Not only is it physically taxing, it can wash away the good feel and tempo you've presumably just established with your wedges and irons.

I'll often hit only four or five balls with my driver to close a warm-up session. But you might notice I start to become more deliberate. I step behind the ball and walk into the shot as I would on the course. I'm visualizing the tee shots on the opening holes, imagining the borders of the fairway and the trouble.

I stretch the time between shots to better simulate the pace when I'm on the course. Hitting only a handful of drivers - but like each one really counts gives me the confidence that I'll bring my range game to the first tee.

> Born July 27, 1993 Dallas, Texas

Twice won the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship before starring at the University of Texas.



After turning pro in 2012, he became the youngest man in 82 years to win a PGA Tour event. Three-time major winner and the 2015 FedEx Cup champion.

Professional wins: 14 / PGA Championship 2 wins / Masters Tournament win: 2015 PGA Tour Player of the Year 2015



### Local, Pro and Amateur Golf Schedules - 2018

#### National Junior Golf Tour - Charlotte Area

July 31 Qualifying for NJGT

National Championship

Northstone CC Huntersville, NC

August 14 Bermuda Run West Bermuda Run, NC

August 16 Qualifying for NJGT

National Championship

Warrior GC China Grove, NC

Sept. 1 18th Annual Adult Jr. Championship

@ Hackler Course-Coastal Carolina Conway, SC

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

#### Swing Thought Tour - Carolina's Events

August 1-3 Belmont Lake GC Rocky Mount, NC
August 6-7 Bryan Park Golf Club Greensboro, NC
August 21-24 Columbia CC Blythwood, SC

Tournaments scheduled from Sept. 19-Dec 22 - TBA

#### Contact information for local tours:

Charlotte Senior Amateur Tour: 704-844-8264 senioramateurgolftour.net/charlotte

Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour: 704-844-8264

amateurgolftour.net/charlotte

Swing Thought Tour: 800-992-8748 ~ swingthought.com

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

#### **Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour**

July 28	Firethorne CC	Marvin, NC
August 11	Northstone CC	Huntersville, NC
August 25	Cabarrus CC	Concord, NC
Sept 15	River Hills CC	Lake Wylie, SC
Sept 29	Local Finals - Cowans Ford CC	Stanley, NC
Sept 30	Club at Irish Creek	Kannapolis, NC

#### Senior Amateur Tour - Charlotte Area

July 9	Firethorne CC	Marvin, NC
Aug 6	The Sr. Open -Peninsula CC	Cornelius, NC
Aug 7	The Palisades	Charlotte, NC
Aug 20	River Run CC	Davidson, NC
Sept 4	The Players – Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
Sept 5	Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
Sept 19	River Hills CC	Lake Wylie, SC

#### **Pro Tour Highlights**

July 19-22 British Open ~ Carnoustie Golf Links

August 9-12 PGA Championship ~ Bellerive CC ~ St. Louis, MO

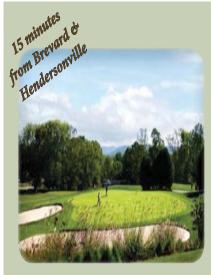
August 16-19 Wyndham Championship ~ Sedgefield CC

Greensboro, NC

Sept. 20-23 Tour Championship ~ East Lake Golf Club

Atlanta, GA

Sept 28-30 Ryder Cup ~ Le Golf National ~ France



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Golfers are finding the BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY GOLF TRAIL

is truly "up in the clouds"

here are more than 200 golf courses within the mountains of North Carolina and the Virginias, but only a few have earned the right to become charter members of the Blue Ridge Parkway Golf Trail.

The 469-mile scenic Parkway follows closely the highest ridges between the Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, attaining an altitude of more than 6000 feet.

Location near the Parkway is only one criterion for these selected courses. They have earned exceptional rankings with national golf publications, high marks with the best Carolina rating services, and a top level standing with an independent advisory board.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Golf Trail features courses with beautiful waterfalls, fishing streams winding through lush fairways, hiking trails, and boulders imbedded by Mother Nature much larger than your golf cart.

Golfers from all over the country are expected to savor playing public and semi-private courses in higher elevations and in picture-perfect valleys. Places like Balsam Mountain Preserve, Etowah Valley, Grove Park Resort, Maggie



Valley, Mount Mitchell, Rumbling Bald and Sequoyah National will certainly be golf at a much higher level.

While there are at least 35 courses that qualify to be charter mem-

bers on the Blue Ridge Parkway Golf Trail, no fewer than 14 of them have been designed by famous course architects, one of them going back as far as 1927. That would be the late and legendary Donald Ross, who created the Asheville Municipal Course (now the Grove Park Resort) 91 years ago.

Also on that list of 14 are several names most golfers would recognize - George Cobb, who did wonders at Augusta National, and the Robert Trent Jones Team which created a scenic gem two years ago at Sequoyah National near the very beginning of the emerging Blue Ridge Parkway Golf Trail.

Another masterpiece by the Arnold Palmer Design team was unveiled at Balsam Mountain Preserve. Add to that admirable list Pete Dye, Robert Cupp, Ellis and Dan Maples, Rees Jones, and Bobby Weed, all members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).



A design team from England, Hawtree & Sons, established the remarkable Mt. Mitchell Golf Club not far from 6,000 feet above sea level at Mount Mitchell, the highest peak in the Eastern United States.

America's newest golf trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway Golf Trail, features golf packages including lodging of your choice of upscale log homes, golf villas or luxury hotels along with what Golf Digest calls "a selection of truly spectacular championship mountain golf courses."

Call any of the courses listed above, many featured in the Carolina Golf Journal, and find out why millions of travelers have visited the Blue Ridge Parkway, and return home from playing the Blue Ridge Parkway Golf Trail, telling their friends they played golf truly "up in the clouds!"





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