

NWO GOLF LINKS

February 2017

**BUCKS RUN GOLF
CLUB IS EXCITED
TO ATTEND THE
TOLEDO GOLF
SHOW**



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE 2017 PGA
GOLF SHOW IN
ORLANDO**

**TOP 10 REASONS
TO ATTEND THE
TOLEDO GOLF
SHOW**

PLUS

- Gambling on the Golf Course?
- Add a Strategy to Your Golf Game
- Places to Play If You Are Heading to Florida
- Cape Fear National: A Classic Carolina Coastal Creation
- Evans Scholars Awards 29 College Scholarships to Caddies in Ohio

9th Annual

Toledo Golf Show

February 17th to 19th

presented by: **BWgolf**

• Sylvania Tam-O-Shanter



NO FAKE Golf News



FRED ALTVATER



**The difference
in golf and
government is
that in golf you
can't improve
your lie"**

~ GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN

Whether you like him or hate him, Donald Trump is now the 45th President of the United States. I hope Congress, as well as, the American people will give him a chance to succeed. It is for all our benefit.

With that being said, we want to assure our readers that you will **NEVER** read any **FAKE GOLF News** in NWO Golf Links.

We are Golf, and **Only REAL Golf, All the Time!**

Now is not the time to venture to Michigan for a golf getaway, but Bucks Run in Mt. Pleasant makes the perfect spot for a summer's golf vacation, whether you go with your buddies or take the entire family.

Stop by their booth at the Toledo Golf Show and sign up for your summer golf vacation now.

If you are traveling to Florida for a golf trip in February or March, we have three resorts that make an excellent stop along the way. Plus, we have another golf travel piece from our expert, Mike May as he gives us a view of Cape Fear in North Carolina.

The PGA Golf Show saw record crowds and the excitement for the 2017 golf season could be felt on the floor of the Orange County Convention Center from vendors and professionals alike.

The Evans Scholarship Selection Committees met around the country last month to pick the next caddies that would receive full-ride tuitions to college. This is a wonderful program. Caddies learn a work ethic and gain confidence to communicate with adults, which ultimately helps them in whatever career they choose. A college degree doesn't hurt either. Adam Reny talks about how Evans Scholars and learning the caddie trade has helped in all aspects of his life.

The days are finally becoming longer. The Super Bowl is over, Major League baseball players are reporting to training camp, the Masters is less than 50 days away and the Toledo Golf Show will be open to the public February 17-19.

Spring golf season can't be too far away.

I hope I see you on the Back 9 at the Toledo Golf Show.

You Know You are a Golfaholic if: You spent four days at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando and are sad it's over.

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06



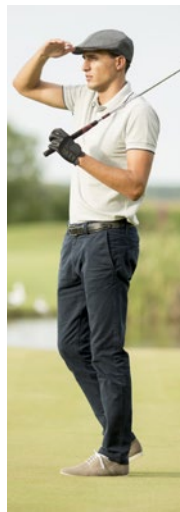
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9th Annual

Toledo Golf Show

February 17th - 19th

presented by: BWgolf

• Sylvania Tam-O-Shanter



2017 Show Details:

Hours:

Friday, February 17, 2017 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday, February 18, 2017 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday, February 19, 2017 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Admission (Public):

Adults \$7.00 at the Door, \$6.00 in advance

Children (12 & Under) FREE

Parking: FREE



Contact us for more information!

<http://www.toledogolfshow.com/>

Get Your Advance Tickets at:

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Fairways Pro-Monroe Street

Flicks Package Liquor-Lambertville

Blue Skies Fore Ever-Point Place

Fore Golfers Indoor Golf-Toledo

Golf TEC of Toledo-Monroe Street

Fallen Timbers Fairways-Waterville

McDivots-Angola Road



BUCKS RUN GOLF CLUB IS LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTENDING THE TOLEDO GOLF SHOW

Golfers in the Greater-Toledo area have multiple golf travel options to Michigan. Did you know one of the best kept secrets is just a short drive from northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan?

Bucks Run will be a new exhibitor in the Toledo Golf Show this year, located on the main isle at Booth #177. Be sure to visit their booth, Bucks

Run makes the perfect location for Toledo-area golfers to consider for their next trip.

The Head Professional at Bucks Run, Jon Conklin told us,

“We at Bucks Run are excited to be a part of the Toledo Golf Show this year. We are eager to show the golfers of northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan that we not only have a fantastic golf course,

but can provide a diversity of golf courses, lodging options and entertainment for golf travelers.”

Bucks Run Golf Club in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan is an easy drive up the I-75/US 23 corridor, or travel north from Lansing on US 127. With the Soaring Eagle Casino nearby, buddies golf trips can add the excitement of games of



chance to their off-course festivities. Plus, when you aren't on the golf course, or if you bring the whole family, the Mt. Pleasant area offers a wide variety of activities.

Bucks Run is just one of 10 area courses that offer 180 different holes for every golfer seeking a little variety in his life. In addition, the casino, water park and Central Michigan University offer a myriad of entertainment opportunities.

If you like your golf with a side order of baseball, nearby Midland has the Great Lakes Loons, a Single A minor league baseball franchise associated with the National League's Los Angeles Dodgers.

Bucks Run Golf Club sits on a reclaimed sand and stone quarry. The property once served as a gravel pit for the Fisher Family's construction business. Mining at the site concluded in the 1990's and the land laid unused for several years. In 1999, Michigan golf course designer, Jerry Matthews was contracted to lay out a course on the 290-acre retired mine. Matthews has designed several memorable courses in Michigan, but he outdid himself at Bucks Run. It is one of his best efforts and the course opened for play in late 2000, to rave reviews.

Golf Digest rated it 4 ½ stars out of 5 on its "Places to Play"



list and Bucks Run annually receives mention in the top-50 courses for service, condition, and pace of play.

Matthews used the Chippewa River and two small lakes to achieve a picturesque golf design, as well as, to challenge





even the best golfer. Every hole at Bucks Run offers a vista to please the eye, but beware disaster awaits at every turn for an errant golf ball.

Three of my favorite holes on the course include No. 9, the third most difficult hole at Bucks Run. The ninth is a 430-yard par-4 featuring a slight dog-leg to the right, with the lake running along the entire right side of the fairway. The green is surrounded on three sides by water, as it juts into the hazard.

The final two holes at Bucks Run are particularly



representative of the entire golf course. No. 17 is a 140-yard par-3, which plays from an elevated tee across water, and gives it the appearance of an island green. Any shot, too short or too far right will find a watery grave. Take an extra club (or two) here; it plays longer than it looks.

The final hole at Bucks Run is both a beauty and a beast. As you stand on the elevated tee, your vision is filled with the lake, a glimpse of the ninth hole as it meanders on the opposite side of the lake, plus a full view of the clubhouse



Jon Conklin, PGA
Head Professional

Golf Course: (989) 773-6830
Virtual Golf: (989) 400-4603

Website: www.BucksRun.com
Blog: www.BucksRunTurf.com

awaiting in the distance.

The tee shot at No. 18 must carry water to find the safety of the fairway. Be careful what tee box you choose and how much you try to bite off. A man must know his limitations and discretion is sometimes the better part of valor.

Your work is not complete once you find the fairway. The water continues to border the left side of the hole and still presents an obstacle to be mindful of on the approach shot to the green.

Every green at Bucks Run is well manicured and smooth, plus the undulations mask three (and four) putts lurking at every turn.

A respite in the cozy comfort of the Quarry Grill inside the massive, but inviting clubhouse will soothe the day's exasperations. Bucks Run is also known for their excellent dining. Every Friday and Saturday night they feature Prime Rib and Lobster

Tail, a repast that will satisfy any palate.

Visitors to Bucks Run can enjoy a variety of "Stay & Play" options at six hotels and can play up to 180 different holes of golf on ten local courses.

The Mt. Pleasant Inn & Suites, Comfort Inn, and The Green Suites provide suitable accommodations. Plus, the historic Doherty Hotel in nearby Clare adds a touch of Michigan history to your golf escape.

Bucks Run has also partnered with the Soaring Eagle Casino & Hotel, as well as, the Water Park Hotel to offer the finest in lodging, night-life activities and top-flight entertainment. The new Water Park is perfect for the kids to enjoy, while Dad is on the golf course.

Stay & Play packages at Bucks Run offer a unique opportunity to sample a variety of courses in the Mid-Michigan region. Packages can be designed to include discounted rounds

at, Eagle Glen, Pohlcat, The Emerald, Apple Mountain, Mt. Pleasant Country Club, Pine River, The Pines, as well as, Tullymore and St. Ives. All are just a short drive from Mt. Pleasant and offer a diverse collection of golf course designs.

If you are looking for something different this summer for your annual golf pilgrimage to Michigan, check out Bucks Run Golf Club at Mt. Pleasant. It's easy to find, offers a diverse range of entertainment for the whole family, or can provide the perfect location for your next Buddies Trip. You can leave home in the morning and be on the first tee by noon. On your last day at Bucks Run, play a round in the morning and be home for dinner that evening.

Don't forget to drop by the Bucks Run Booth at the **Toledo Golf Show**, February 17-19 and see for yourself why it is one of the hidden secrets for golf getaways to Mid-Michigan.



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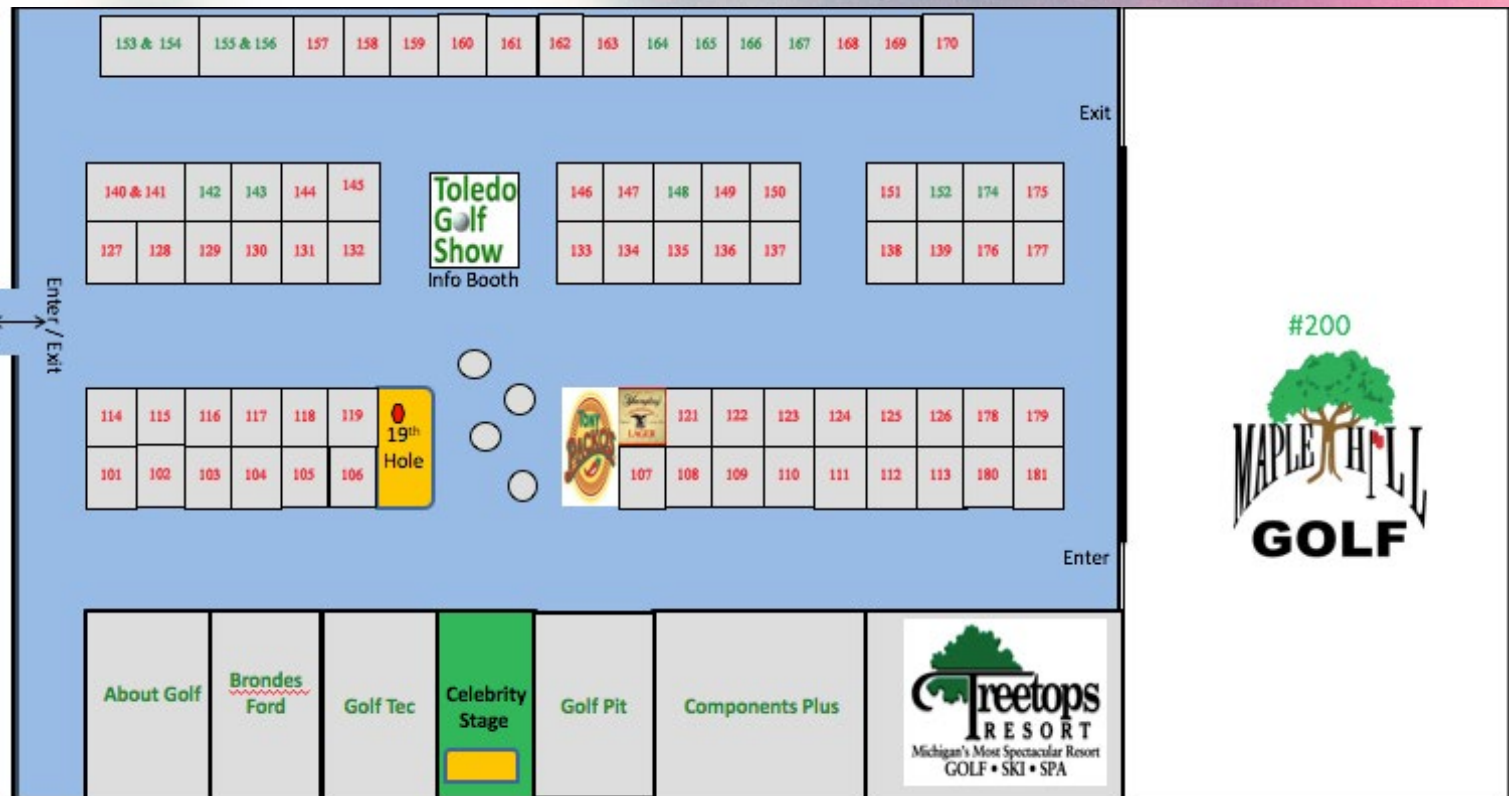
TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE TOLEDO GOLF SHOW

It's February; chances are you can't play golf outside, so do the next best thing and visit the Toledo Golf Show, Friday-Sunday, February 17-19 at Tam-O-Shanter in Sylvania.

Although there are many reasons to attend this year's show, here is a listing of the Top 10.

10. Meet the Tilted Kilt Hostesses
9. Get Discounted Pricing for Your Next Golf Trip from: Treetops, Tullymore, Bucks Run and Garland.
8. Talk with Local Golf Courses and Get Discounted Membership Information
7. Discover Great Deals on Golf Equipment from Maple Hill Golf
6. Have a Tony Packo's Hot Dog (or Two)
5. Check out Treu House of Munch's Craft Beer Tasting
4. Let your Junior Golfer try out the interactive Golf Challenge at The First Tee of Lake Erie booth
3. Hit Balls in the Golf Simulators at the About Golf Booth
2. Hear Alecia Larsen, author of "The Missing Link, The Power of Self Talk in the Mind Game of Golf"
1. Win Golf Trips to Myrtle Beach or Mississippi

TOLEDO GOLF SHOW FEB 17 - 19TH



2017 VENDOR LISTING AND BOOTH NUMBERS

101	Blue Skies Fore Ever	131	<u>Bean Boy</u>	160	Wolf Creek Golf Club
102	<u>Glendarin Hills</u>	132	The Legacy	161	Monroe Golf and Country Club
103	Lake James/Zollner	133	Stonebridge Golf Club	162	<u>Bottomline Ink</u>
104	Forestview Lanes	134	Stonebridge Golf Club	163	Western Southern Life
105	Fore Golfers	135	Tilted Kilt	164	
106	9 Stars of Golf	136	Fallen Timbers	165	
107	Bedford Hills Golf Club	137	<u>Eagles Crest</u>	166	
108	Brandywine Golf Club	138	<u>Tullymore & St Ives</u>	167	
109	<u>Pro Fairways</u>	139	<u>Tullymore & St Ives</u>	168	<u>Everdry Waterproofing</u>
110	Leaf Filter	140	<u>Green Hills Golf Course</u>	169	Arnolds Home Improvement
111	Bath Fitter	141	<u>Green Hills Golf Course</u>	170	Arnolds Home Improvement
112	Marathon Classic LPGA	142		171	
113	Toledo Blade	143		172	
114	Tee Time Golf Pass	144	Golf Digest	173	
115	The Natural	145	<u>Klean Gutters</u>	174	
116	<u>Quarry Ridge</u>	146	Lakewood Shores	175	Heather Downs Country Club
117	Deme Acres	147	Costco	176	<u>Toledo Traditions</u>
118	Raisin Valley Golf Course	148		177	Bucks Run Golf Club
119	Stone Ridge Golf Course	149	Rodan + Fields	178	<u>Forest Creason</u>
120	<u>Trey House of Munch</u>	150	<u>Fairwood Chiropractic</u>	179	<u>Whiteford Valley Golf Club</u>
121	<u>Flicks Package Liquor</u>	151	Gaylord Golf Mecca	180	Bowling Green Country Club
122	<u>Oak Harbor Golf Club</u>	152		181	Ember Exotic Wood Putters
123	Walnut Creek / I69 Golf Trail	153		200	<u>Maple Hill Golf</u>
124	Hidden Hills Golf Course	154		201	<u>About Golf Simulators</u>
125	New York Life	155		202	<u>Brondes Ford Dealer</u>
126	<u>Tamaron Country Club</u>	156		203	GolfTEC of Toledo
127	<u>Sputen Duyval</u>	157	<u>Mudhens/Walleys/Hensville</u>	204	
128	Evergreen Resort	158	<u>Frickers</u>	205	<u>Golf Components Plus</u>
129	Garland	159	Diabetes Youth Services	206	<u>Golf Components Plus</u>
130	<u>Bright Leaf Resort</u>			207	Treetops Resort



64TH PGA MERCHANDISE SHOW WAS HELD IN ORLANDO



PGATM

2017 MERCHANDISE SHOW

Over 40,000 golf industry professionals gathered at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida January 24-27 to network and view the largest display of golf-related products and equipment from every imaginable manufacturer.

Vendors exhibited their wares of golf apparel, trophies and awards, bags, balls, carts, food, gifts, equipment, services, technology, training aids and travel. Golf destinations such as, Scotland, Ireland, China and the Dominican Republic showcased their country's best golf assets to entice golfers to visit and lose a few golf balls.

In addition, 1,000 editorial media professionals representing 25 countries sent reports to their various outlets. Major

print media concerns, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, the New York Times, Fox News, the Chicago Daily Herald, NBC Sports, and Sports Illustrated, all covered the PGA Merchandise Show.

The Golf Channel aired nearly 15 hours of live coverage and 35 hours of live radio programming was broadcast by SiriusXM PGA TOUR Radio Network from the convention floor. Daily live video reports, blogs and photo galleries are still available at PGA.com, GolfChannel.com, and national golf media outlets such as Global Golf Post, Golf Digest, Golf Magazine and Golfweek.

Our production team from NWO Golf Links, Back 9

Report Radio Show and Back 9 Report TV were on site all week to tape interviews and collect information on the next big thing that every golfer may be dreaming of or will need for the upcoming season.

The show began with the **"World's Largest Outdoor Demonstration Day"** on Tuesday at Orange County National Golf Center. Demo Day is open exclusively to PGA Professionals, invited retailers and media. Nearly 100 exhibitors with 200 hitting bays, plus practice greens were available to attendees on the 42-acre Orange County National Golf Center driving range. Show attendees could see, feel, touch, as well as, talk to the designers and technical representatives from each company.



This is the true version of Disney World for Golfaholics.

To spend a full day walking around Demo Day trying every brand of club, talking with product reps and even watching several clinics from big name golf superstars, such as, Bubba Watson, Lexi Thompson, or Camilo Villegas is simply magical. High profile golf instructors, David Pels, David Leadbetter and Hank Haney were available to discuss swing questions and do demonstrations and clinics throughout the day.

Wednesday the show moved onto the floor of the Orange County Convention Center with 10-miles-of-isles. Every golf product vendor was in attendance and the big companies, PING, Taylormade, Titleist, Bridgestone and Cobra/Puma had elaborate multi-booth displays with celebrities signing autographs and talking up the products during the day.

The excitement level was high among everyone on the floor. Even with music blaring, the background sounds of golf clubs connecting with golf

balls was ever-present. Hitting mats, which were placed at the extreme end of the show floor, allowed visitors to the PGA Show the ability to try every major brand of iron, driver and hybrid on the market today.

If you call yourself a golfer, you must place making an appearance at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando at the top of your golfing bucket list. It is something not to be missed and will leave a lasting impression on every Golfaholic's soul.

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INTERESTING PRODUCTS FROM THE 2017 PGA MERCHANDISE SHOW

One of the highlights of visiting the PGA Merchandise Show every January is walking the “10 Miles of Aisles” to check out the interesting products from the hundreds of vendors hawking their wares.

Here are a few that caught our eye this year.

Callaway Golf Shoes

Callaway has been in the golf shoe business for several years, but was not happy with their product and decided to start over with a new concept in mind.

Callaway relaunched a completely new collection of golf shoes infused with modern technology and innovation to create a stylish, yet highly functional golf shoe.

The new foot-wear collection

has been redesigned with new silhouettes to maintain a classic Callaway look, but they added the latest technology, which provides more comfort and better performance.

Although these shoes look good off the course, the new line from Callaway offers the structure, stability and performance demanded by professionals and low-



handicappers alike, when they are digging into the ground for those 300-yard drives.

In addition, the thick foam insole offers unmatched comfort, when walking 18 or 36 holes.

Check out Callaway's new improved shoe line at your local retail golf shop or visit: <http://cmp.callawaygolf.com/>.

LINKSOUL

John Ashworth has 30-years of experience in the apparel business. He created the

Ashworth brand in 1986 and guided that company to become one of the most successful in golf. He left four years ago, and subsequently founded a new brand, LINKSOUL.

LINKSOUL uses natural fibers like cotton as a base, combined with new technology, moisture-wicking materials, to create comfortable clothing that is stylish, as well as, highly functional on the golf course.

Ashworth is a California guy and designs his clothing to

look great off the course, as well as, on the Links. He offers a variety of colors, but combines more of a traditional under-stated look that works well for golf, the office or evening wear.

He is a golfer himself and understands that when golfers are disturbed by uncomfortable clothing, it affects their mental consciousness, which can destroy a scorecard.

Find out more and shop online at: <http://linksoul.com/Default.aspx>



BOB

BOB is an acronym for **'Best of Bikes.'** The manufacturer of this unique product has combined a low-profile two-wheeled vehicle with a long-life flat electric battery to create the perfect self-propelled bicycle for use on or off the golf course.

The bike has extra wide tires to allow it to easily traverse softer golf courses and not leave ruts or damage the course. With easy-to-use controls on the handle bars, it is safe and easy to ride.

Think of it as a Harley Davidson for the Golf Course.

A bracket attached behind the rider's seat allows it to carry a golf bag. With only one rider per bike, each golfer can drive directly to his own ball, saving time on the course, which speeds up play.

When you are done with your round, simply pop the golf bag bracket off, tool around your neighborhood, or head to the 19th hole.

The flat battery has a 40-hour capability between charges, so you won't be left flat on



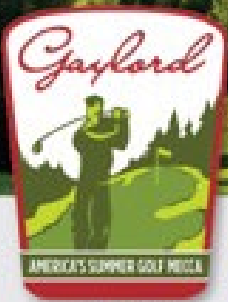
the course or at the pub. The full retail price comes in at under \$3,000, much less than a standard golf cart.

BOB's are currently available in Europe and the manufacturer is seeking United States distributors.

To find out more visit the website: <http://bestofbikes.nl/>

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PLACES TO PLAY IF YOU ARE HEADING TO FLORIDA

If you drive, rather than fly, to the Sunshine state and are looking for places to stay and play a few rounds before you get there, here are three that never fail to please.

There are three ways to travel south from NE Ohio or SE Michigan and we have identified great golf resorts for each route. Which way will you go? Find out the resort that will make the perfect pit stop on your road trip.



REYNOLDS PLANTATION

Reynolds Plantation sits one hour east of Atlanta and is easily accessible on I-20. The resort features six championship golf courses designed by familiar names, Bob Cupp, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Fazio and Rees Jones. They offer several different “stay & play” options, from the fabulous Ritz Carlton to a variety of condos that accommodate any size group.

Don't miss Jack Nicklaus' Great Waters Course, it is a beauty with several holes bordering the lake. Every course is a joy to play and all are meticulously maintained.

The Reynolds Kingdom of Golf Presented by Taylormade also sits on the property and offers the finest in golf instruction, club fitting and junior training programs.

PINE NEEDLES AND MID-PINES AT PINEHURST

Pine Needles and Mid-Pines at Pinehurst have been owned by the family of Hall of Fame golfer, Peggy Kirk-Bell for many years. The Mid-Pines Inn is a historic gem that will take you back to a previous era. Southern charm and gentility have not been forgotten; you'll find the service is impeccable.

If you like your golf with a side order of history, both Pine Needles and Mid-Pines were designed by Donald Ross and are two of his very best creations.

Whether you experience breakfast or a delicious dinner at either the Pine Needles Lodge or the Mid-Pines Inn, you will not be disappointed.



SANTEE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Santee sits in South Carolina's Low Country just a short drive south of Columbia, SC. The area offers over a dozen championship golf courses. Several different types of accommodations are available for your golf vacation, which can be customized to fit your specific needs.



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**CHOWDERS
'N MOOR**

EVANS SCHOLARS AWARDS 29

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO CADDIES IN OHIO

The Evans Scholarship program has been awarding full-ride college scholarships to caddies since Chick Evans started the foundation in 1916. Last month former caddies, Evans alumni and interested golf club members met in Cincinnati to select the young men and women that would receive Evans Scholarships for 2017.

Twenty-nine high school caddies from the state stood on shaky knees before the selection committee comprised of over 200 men and women. Each gave a short oral presentation that revealed their character and goals. In many cases, these college scholarships are the only way these young people can attend college.



Each had a unique story, which would bring the selection committee to both laughter and tears.

Five deserving caddies were awarded scholarships from the Toledo area this year.

Allison Bower	Sylvania	Inverness Club	Notre Dame Academy	Miami
Dylan Kwapich	Toledo	Inverness Club	St. Francis Desales	Miami
Vincent Lucarelli	Holland	Inverness Club	Southview	Ohio State
Abby Pennington	Wauseon	Inverness Club	Evergreen	Ohio State
Esther Heilman	Delta	Stone Oak	Evergreen	Ohio State



The scholarships are awarded based on four criteria, financial need, superior academic achievement, outstanding character and a solid caddie performance record. Each time a caddie lugs a heavy golf bag around a golf course he is graded by the members of the club. Only those caddies with the best personalities and strongest work ethic are chosen for the Evans Scholars program.

"Each of these deserving Evans Scholars epitomizes what our Program has been about since its creation in 1930," said WGA Chairman David Robinson. "Their dedication, hard work and sacrifice is humbling, and we are honored to be able to help them pursue their dreams."

The meeting in Ohio was one of 12 such selection committee meetings nationwide that

decided the scholarship recipients. In all, 270 caddies received college scholarships, each is valued at over \$100,000. In Ohio, candidates receive tuition, plus room and board to either, Miami University or the Ohio State University. There are currently 935 former caddies enrolled in colleges across the country and more than 10,400 have graduated and are now Evans Scholars alumni.

“Based on their excellence in the classroom and their service to their schools and communities, there is little doubt that these young men and women have earned this life-changing opportunity,” said John Kaczowski, WGA President and CEO. “We welcome them to the Evans Scholars family.”

It takes a community to raise a child and it takes thousands of golf club members, Evans alumni and interested individuals to make this worthwhile program successful. Evans generates over \$16 million each year to fund the current crop of students. They have a goal to grow to over 1,000 caddies in college by the year 2020.

Scholarship funds come primarily from contributions by 28,700 golfers across the country, who are members of the WGA Par Club program. Evans Scholars Alumni donate more than \$11 million annually, and all proceeds from the BMW Championship, a FedEx Cup Playoff event, are donated to the Evans Scholars Foundation.

If you would like to learn more or become involved with the Evans Scholars Program visit:
http://www.wgaesf.org/site/c.dwjTKiO0Jgl8G/b.6021361/k.8BED/WGAESF_Home.htm.

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GOLF IS MORE THAN JUST A GAME FOR CADDIES

By: Adam Reny, The First Tee of Lake Erie



Golf is more than a game, sounds a bit cliché, but when I consider my personal experience, it is 100% accurate.

My relationship with golf is not so much about playing the game, but is more about growth as an individual. After seeing an ad in the Toledo Blade for caddie positions at Inverness Club, when I was 13 years old, my father suggested I apply. Even though I had never stepped on a golf course and knew almost nothing about the game, Inverness took a chance and I was selected as a caddie.

Who could have known that single job application as a teenager would become the greatest thing that could have happened to me.

Most caddies simply think about the spending cash and the flexible work schedule being a caddie affords. It didn't take me long, however, to realize, there was much more to gain.

In 10 years of looping at Inverness Club, I met celebrities, made relationships with professional golfers, received an Evans Scholarship and earned a degree from Ohio State. Getting the opportunity to play the historic Inverness Club every week was a nice perk too.

My fondest memories revolve around the people I met as a caddie.



Evans Scholars Foundation



After graduation from OSU, I returned to Inverness as the Caddie Master and my education continued. Working with over 300 caddies, carrying the bag for a different person every day, and interacting with other Inverness staff, provided the opportunity to improve my people skills and meet individuals that would help me progress.

One of the biggest assets a caddie learns is the ability to communicate with successful business leaders of the community.

It is an experience not available from most teenage jobs.

Working for The First Tee of Lake Erie keeps me heavily involved with the game and has given me the opportunity to travel and meet

interesting people from different parts of the country.

Lessons learned from carrying a golf bag, make me passionate about my current work with The First Tee of Lake Erie. Every child deserves these same opportunities to grow and become successful. The respect, honesty, work ethic and social skills learned as a caddie are some of the best gifts anyone can provide a young person.

I will always consider my time at Inverness Club as the greatest learning experience of my life. I encourage every parent and young person to explore becoming a caddie and learning the lessons of a life time.

If you have any questions send me an email to: Adam.Reny@TheFirstTeeLakeErie.org.



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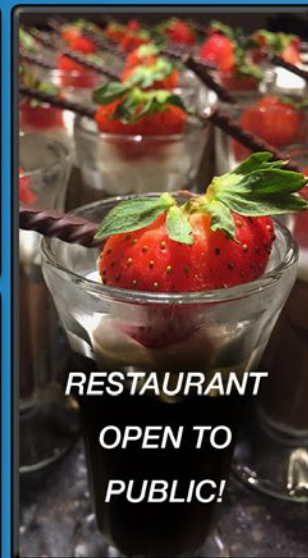
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SHAFT WEIGHT: A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



By: Matt Saternus, PluggedinGolf.com



How Important is Shaft Weight?

Everyone knows what weight is, but how does shaft weight affect a golf swing?

“If a golfer can’t feel a shaft that’s properly weighted, the other factors (flex, torque, bend profile) are moot.”

An interesting note is that understanding the weight that a player feels is not always straightforward. According to Nick Sherburne, Club Champion founder,

“Flex, torque, and bend profile can play into the perceived weight of the shaft.”

Weight Distribution and Counter Balanced Shafts

Though counter balanced shafts have become very popular, most agree that **total weight is more important than weight distribution**. That is not to infer that the correct

weight distribution or balance point is not important.

Why are there so many counter balanced shafts these days? The main reason for this is the club head.

“High balance point shafts can be matched with heavier heads or longer club lengths to facilitate club builds with [“normal”] swing weights without having to change mass properties of the head. They can be used with standard heads at standard lengths to simply reduce swing weight.”

Shaft Weight in Woods vs. Irons
Is shaft weight more important in the driver, irons or wedges? **Shaft weight is equally important in all clubs.**

The importance of the driver shaft can appear to be of greater value, because of the greater distance and the



dispersion factor with the driver, but the fact is that all shafts are equally important.

Fitting Shaft Weight – Rules of Thumb

One bit of common wisdom, that can be wrong, is that slower swingers should play lighter shafts and faster swingers should use heavier shafts.

It is also a fact that a golfer with a slow swing speed can do much better with a heavier shaft, if that causes them to have more centered strikes. **True Temper** suggested that lighter shafts can produce more distance and heavier shafts offer more control.

Here are a few fitting cues Club Champion uses:

- Over-the-top swingers should try lighter shafts.
- Players releasing too early can benefit from heavier shafts.





-Players struggling to load the shaft should try something lighter.

-Steep swings should try lighter shafts.

These are just starting points, and the opposite can also be true. Swings vary with each individual.

How Much Weight Can You Lose (or Gain)?

True Temper set a limit of 20 grams. Other equipment makers said it's difficult to know exactly.

Mitsubishi said that they noted, it may be more difficult to change shaft weight for better golfers, who are more committed to their current shaft weight. The occasional player or higher handicapper has less sensitivity to weight and can often make a larger change.

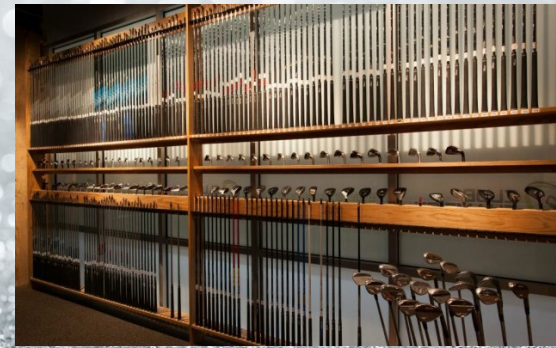
How Do You Know When You Have the Right Shaft Weight?

It's important to work with a qualified fitter to find the correct shaft weight. How can a golfer know if their shafts are the correct weight, without a fitting?

A player should be able to tell largely by feel. A shaft that's too heavy will cause a "labored golf swing." A shaft that's too light will limit your

ability to make solid contact. When you find the right shaft weight, you'll experience a "high energy swing" with uniform contact.

Club Champion emphasized looking at, ball speed, launch angle, spin rate, angle of attack, club path, and dynamic loft. Ultimately Trackman or Flightscope launch monitors will produce the best and most consistent numbers.



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Niblicks

By Dean Harris



GAMBLING ON THE GOLF COURSE?

By Richard Todd



Some say golf isn't fun unless you have something riding on the outcome, while others wouldn't even consider a small wager during their round. Regardless of your school of thought, the United States Golf Association (USGA) does have rules on the topic that may guide your actions or provide you with a mulligan, should the topic arise on the first tee.

Whether you're playing Skins, Wolf, Bingo-Bango-Bongo, or any of the other various betting games, the USGA does permit golfers to informally gamble, when certain actions are followed.

The USGA's Policy on Gambling states:

- » the players, in general, know each other (remember to always introduce yourself on the first tee-box if playing with strangers),
- » participation is optional (regardless of how much peer-pressure is exerted),
- » participation is limited to the players (that means no side bets on the outcome of your game by others),
- » the money comes from the players (no outside sources are allowed to contribute to the pot),
- » the amount of money is not considered to be excessive (to each their own! I've reluctantly shucked out one dollar after a round),
- » the gambling does not interfere or conflict with the rules of golf (don't turn the match into a free-for-all, chaotic scrimmage),
- » The primary purpose of is still the playing of the game for enjoyment, not simply to win the bet.

Additionally, some state or local laws may vary and can

get you into trouble if broken, even in a friendly game. Organized events, designed or promoted to create cash prizes are not always acceptable. It is wise to make sure your league or outing doesn't get carried away with excessive prizes.

A public course once found itself in court, when it was determined their leagues had frequent cash prizes. Remember, Al Capone was indicted under Federal Taxation statutes.

If you are one of the elite amateurs that play competitively, make sure you know and follow the Rules of Amateur Status at the events you play.

For the rest of us weekend warriors, do what feels right for you, promptly discharge all just debts, and enjoy the game.



ADD A STRATEGY TO YOUR GOLF GAME

By: Greg Liberto

In the 2012 Ryder Cup at Medinah Country Club in Chicago, the American team was leading by six points at the start of the final singles matches on Sunday. Something felt amiss, however, they seemed tense and were not engaging the crowds, as they did the first two days.

The Europeans on the other hand, looked poised, confident and determined. They had a higher purpose. They were playing for the great European golfer and Ryder Cup champion, Seve Ballesteros, who had died earlier that year. This Ryder Cup held extra meaning to each member of the European Team and their play exemplified it.

Europe rallied that day and retained the Ryder Cup. It was one of the worst losses ever for the U.S. Team. It was clear, the Europeans played with a **Strategy**, while Team USA was playing **not to lose**, which, of course, they did.

Play Golf with a Strategy

For several years, I have been teaching students the importance of playing golf with a **Strategy**. This thought process is designed to allow you to remain calm, confident and focused throughout the entire round.

If you practice with a **Strategy**, it will give each



session more purpose. Playing with a **Strategy** helps professionals earn checks, casual players improve, junior golfers win tournaments and amateur golfers win club championships.

To determine your own personal Strategy, ask yourself three questions.

– **How Do I Feel?** We are all emotional creatures and understanding your current emotional state before a round is imperative in determining your **Strategy**.

– **How Can I Be My Best Today?** If you identified that you are feeling overwhelmed, you know that is not conducive to playing your best golf. To right the ship, breathe, calm down and become laser focused.

– **What Is My Strategy?** Decide your key phrase for the day. For example, say the phrase, “I am

Laser Focused,” before each shot and multiple times throughout the round. Saying it allows it to resonate, become fixed in your mind and will help block distractions from the first shot to the last.

Practice with a Strategy

A **Strategy** is also highly effective when practicing. If your tendency is to simply beat balls and hit the same club repeatedly, then a great **Strategy** would be to Change It Up. Every shot should have a purpose. Change clubs, choose a particular shot shape, target or lie. By constantly changing you will make each practice much more enjoyable and take your “A” game from the range to the course.

If you want to improve and play better, start playing with a **Strategy**.



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STAND PROUD YOU NOBLE SWINGERS OF CLUBS AND LOSERS OF GOLF BALLS!

By Robert Lee

Golf Balls Facts

Here are a few little-known facts about golf balls. Per Golf World magazine, the average golfer loses two golf balls per round for a worldwide total of nearly 2.5 million daily.

You don't need to worry about running out, however. Titleist, as well as, several other golf ball manufacturers from around the world churn out a constant supply of new ones every day. In fact, Titleist alone turns out 1.2 million new golf balls every day.

A recent study also found the average golfer walks approximately 900 miles every year. Another study found golfers must hydrate and drink an average of 22 gallons of alcohol per year.

Which means, golfers as a group are quite economical, averaging, 41 miles to the gallon.

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Ode to Golf

By Alan Berman

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The Awesome Strength It Does Possess.
But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell,
I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.
My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same,
Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game.
It Rules My Mind For Hours On End,
A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.
It Has Made Me Yell, Curse And Cry,
I loathe it, And Want To Die.
It Promises A Thing Called Par,
If I Can Hit It Straight And Far.
To Master Such A Tiny Ball,
Should Not Be Very Hard At All.
But My Desires The Ball Refuses,
And Does Exactly As It Chooses.
It Hooks And Slices, Dribbles And Dies,
And Even Disappears Before My Eyes.
Often It Will Have A Whim,
To Hit A Tree Or ! Take A Swim.
With Miles Of Grass On Which To Land,
It Finds A Tiny Patch Of Sand.
Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul,
If Only It Would Find The Hole.
It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup,
And Swear That I Will Give It Up.
And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow,
But The Ball Knows ... I'll Be Back Tomorrow.

CAPE FEAR NATIONAL: A CLASSIC CAROLINA COASTAL CREATION

By Mike May

For a golf course that has been opened for less than 10 years, it has not taken long for Cape Fear National at Brunswick Forest to mature and become one of North Carolina's top-ten golf courses. For a state that prides itself on being one of America's leading golf destinations, featuring popular and well known courses like Pinehurst, Pine Needles, Mid Pines, Tobacco Road, and the Grove Park Inn, Cape Fear National has elbowed its way onto the 'leaderboard' of North Carolina's finest and most sought after golf destinations. Cape Fear National which didn't open until November, 2009, has experienced an

impressive rise in popularity, but expectations were high when construction of the course first began.

Regionally renowned golf course architect Tim Cate remembers his marching orders,

"Build us the best golf course in the coastal North Carolina market."

The lucky ones are the residents of southeastern North Carolina, which is often referred to as the Brunswick Islands area. Since Cape Fear National opened, golfers in this part of the Tar Heel state have been blessed and spoiled

to have year-round access to the course. GOLF Magazine, Golfweek Magazine, and Business NC Magazine rate it as one of North Carolina's finest golf venues.

In many respects, Cape Fear National is a blend of the old and the new. While the actual golf course is less than 10 years old, it has more of a traditional parkland feel to the layout as mature North Carolina pine trees are the most dominant tree species on site. One of the positives of the Par-72 Cape Fear National layout is its closeness to the Atlantic Ocean. Ocean breezes are often felt on the course and add to the overall



"Build us the best golf course in the coastal North Carolina market."

aesthetic of the course.

For golfers traveling from the North down to nearby Myrtle Beach, many make a point of playing Cape Fear National along the way. It's a great way to begin and/or end your golfing journey through the coastal regions of North and South Carolina.

The brochure on Cape

Fear states that it features "premium course conditions" and "unmatched aesthetics." Frankly, the conditions at Cape Fear National are perfect and very player friendly. The overall atmosphere is best described with one word, nirvana.

The appeal of Cape Fear National is so alluring that you can't wait to reach the first tee and regret the sight of the 18th

green. It's an experience that should continue for hole after hole until the sun disappears in the western sky. It's one of those courses, where your initial high expectations will be exceeded. When you play one of North Carolina's top golf courses, you have every reason to expect a premium experience, Cape Fear National will not disappoint you.



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The First Tee of Lake Erie is a non-profit youth development organization with the vision to provide the vehicle through which kids can:

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For information on **The First Tee of Lake Erie** organization or programs, contact
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TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR GOLF GAME

By David Graf

392 yards was the distance Rory McIlroy hit his first competitive tee shot of 2017 in the BMW South African Open with his new Callaway Great Big Bertha Epic Driver.

That is an outrageous distance due to talent, fitness and breakthrough technology. Tour professionals are constantly checking their spin rate, launch angle, clubhead speed, and ball speed. They are perfectly fitted for their equipment and use the correct golf ball for their game.

We can't all hit the ball 300 yards, but the good news is that every golfer can play his or her best with a Trackman fitting and the correct clubs.

Are you getting the most out of your golf swing?

Two of the three golfers pictured below, swing quite aggressively, but struggle to find the hitting zone, which results in drives that are several yards shorter than their swing speed would indicate. The third player with a slower swing speed more frequently finds the sweet spot on the club face, thus creating a higher **Smash Factor**.

What is **Smash Factor**?

Smash Factor is ball speed divided by club speed. It relates to the amount of energy transferred from the club head to the **golf ball**. The higher the **smash factor** the

better the energy transfer. A golfer would hope to achieve a **smash factor** near 1.50 on driver shots

There are at least four ways you can improve your '**Smash Factor**':

- 1.) Improve technique;
- 2.) Shorten the length of your shaft (it's easier with a shorter shaft);
- 3.) Make sure the club weight allows you to control the head;
- 4.) Use a clubhead with a larger hitting area.



Contact The Golf PIT at McDivots to find your **Smash Factor**, hit the ball farther and lower your scores.



LE GOLF NATIONAL
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JIM FURYK VS. THOMAS BJORN IN 2018 RYDER CUP



By Ed Travis

Last month the PGA of America chose, Jim Furyk as Captain for the 2018 U.S. Ryder Cup Team. The next Ryder Cup will be played versus a European Team captained by Thomas Bjorn at Le Golf National, just outside of Paris, France.

Trying to compare the two captains is an interesting exercise, although it probably doesn't offer any significant

insight as to who may win the 42nd playing for Samuel Ryder's trophy.

Bjorn, from Denmark, has been a stalwart of the European Tour, counting 15 wins in his career, but he has never won in the U.S. despite 116 PGA Tour starts. His best finishes in a major were runners-up at The Open Championship twice and once in the PGA Championship.

Now at the age of 45, he has played on three winning Ryder Cup teams, 1997, 2002 and 2014. He has the reputation of being very vocal with his opinions, sometimes to his detriment. In addition, Bjorn has been a vice-captain for the European team on four occasions, including their loss last year at Hazeltine.

The Dane's overall record 3-4-2 in Ryder Cup play is less

than eye-popping, but then neither is Furyk's at 10-20-4.

Furyk has a ton of Ryder Cup experience having been a member of nine squads, but has only played on two winning teams, 1999 and 2008. Although, he did get to enjoy the 2016 win at Hazeltine as a vice-captain for Davis Love.

Furyk's best Ryder Cup moment was undoubtedly his singles match victory versus Sergio Garcia in 1999. The American Captain, Ben Crenshaw had a feeling and his team overcame a four-point deficit on the final day to achieve an unlikely victory. Furyk's 4-3 win over

the Spaniard that day was an important highlight.

Furyk, at the age of 46, is still an active member of the PGA Tour allowing him current knowledge of the younger players. He is still ranked inside the Top 50 in the world and just last year fired a brilliant 58 at the Travelers Championship, the lowest score ever recorded on the PGA Tour.

In addition, he carded a 59 in 2013, owns 17 career PGA Tour wins, including a major title at the 2003 U.S. Open. One of the all-time most consistent players, he also won the \$10 million FedEx Cup in 2010.

The last time an American team mounted a successful defense of the Ryder Cup was in 1993, which coincidentally was the last time they won outside of the U.S.

If you are looking for an early prediction 20 months ahead of the 2018 Ryder Cup, there aren't any overwhelming nor outstanding factors, except for perhaps one thing. The decisive 17-11 2016 win by Team USA, probably saved the Ryder Cup from a loss of interest by fans here in America, as well as, a potential loss of player enthusiasm. Let's hope that Jim Furyk can keep the enthusiasm alive!



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A GOLF COURSE WAS SAVED IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

By Jay Flemma

Thomas Wolfe was wrong, you can go home again.

Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Crestwood Golf Club in Marcy, New York was a flagship facility for golfers between Rochester and Albany. It was a thriving, bustling semi-private club of ardent golfers, which provided a stern test before the days of titanium-alloy drivers, U-grooves, and solid-core golf balls. Crestwood was the place to play.

But in the early 1990s golf's version of a vampire landlord sank his greedy, slaving

fangs into Crestwood and ruthlessly ran it into the ground. Alfred Park was his name, and he was a Korean-born Canadian citizen who thought he could maintain a golf course with a one-man crew.

One member fumed,

"We got a taste of what living under communism must be like. He didn't put any money into the club. He just took your greens fee and let the golf course fester and decay. We complained all the time. He just didn't care and kept the money for himself."



Under Park's cheap jack boot, Crestwood began a long, slow lingering death. Stories of his mismanagement became the stuff of legend. Multiple members confirmed he committed the following atrocities:

His one-man maintenance crew, his son, had zero experience, and no idea how to deal with turf grasses or drainage issues. He never watered the course, aerated the greens, wouldn't offer reduced rates until after 6:00 PM, plus he spied on people from afar with binoculars to make sure they didn't play two balls. If they did, he'd threaten to make them pay another greens fee.

He also tried to buy seed for the greens at Lowe's Home Improvement.

As the years progressed, the course became as overgrown as a lost city. Its fairways and greens were choked with weeds. The bunkers had vanished and the tee boxes were swallowed by brush.

During the two decades that Park owned Crestwood, all but seven of the original 200 members left the club. Crestwood seemed destined for the dreaded "NLE" distinction: **"No Longer Exists."**

Finally in 2012, a White Knight appeared.

Steve Naczewicz was the PGA Head Professional at nearby Teugega and a former club champion at Crestwood. He won consecutive titles in 1990 and 1991. He remembered the heady days of Crestwood's prime. Steve's wife, Barb Presky, was in the corporate side of the golf business. When the unpopular Park finally decided to sell Crestwood, Steve and Barb were ready.

"I had many wonderful years at Teugega, but Crestwood was always my home course," explained Naczewicz. "It's where I learned the game, and the sale of the club gave Barb and me and our families the chance to bring it back to its glory days."

A tremendous task indeed.

The Parks had trashed the clubhouse and flayed the golf course to within an inch of its life.

"Water runoff was one of the biggest problems," Naczewicz explained. "The turf was unhealthy because he never kept the streams and ditches that shed the water clear of grass, leaves, and dirt. We had to re-excavate everywhere to get the proper runoff."



The new owners adopted an aggressive three-pronged approach using solid agronomy practices to restore the course to its original condition.

-First, with double aerification, heavy topdressing, and over seeding, they rejuvenated the turf.

-Second, they initiated a strong herbicide plan to control weeds, coupled with a fertilization plan to promote healthy growth.

-Third, they worked to upgrade and expand the irrigation system to provide proper coverage.

They also restored the greens to their original shape and size, as well as, cleared brush that had encroached not only on the edges of the course, but affected the bunkers and tees.

Word began to spread throughout the community of the work being done at Crestwood and the local golfers responded by coming back to swell the ranks of the membership to over 300. But they also provided volunteer sweat equity, equipment,

and anything else the club needed.

One previous member, Scott Garbooshian, started out by donating a wood chipper, and after working three days clearing the course, signed on as an assistant superintendent. He's still here today.

"The membership grew instantly because of the confidence they had in the course's reputation. They gave us enormous support, lending a hand however and whenever they could. It was heartwarming," said Naczewicz. "Also, the PGA of America brand was integral to our success. It bodes confidence in the world of golf."

With the current news of golf course foreclosures and closures, this is a homespun feel-good story, a lesson about the miracle a love of golf can achieve. Between Naczewicz's dedication and Presky's business acumen, as well as, a membership that put the club above all else, Crestwood is now thriving.

Never underestimate golfers, because their love of the game is a fulcrum with which they can move the world.

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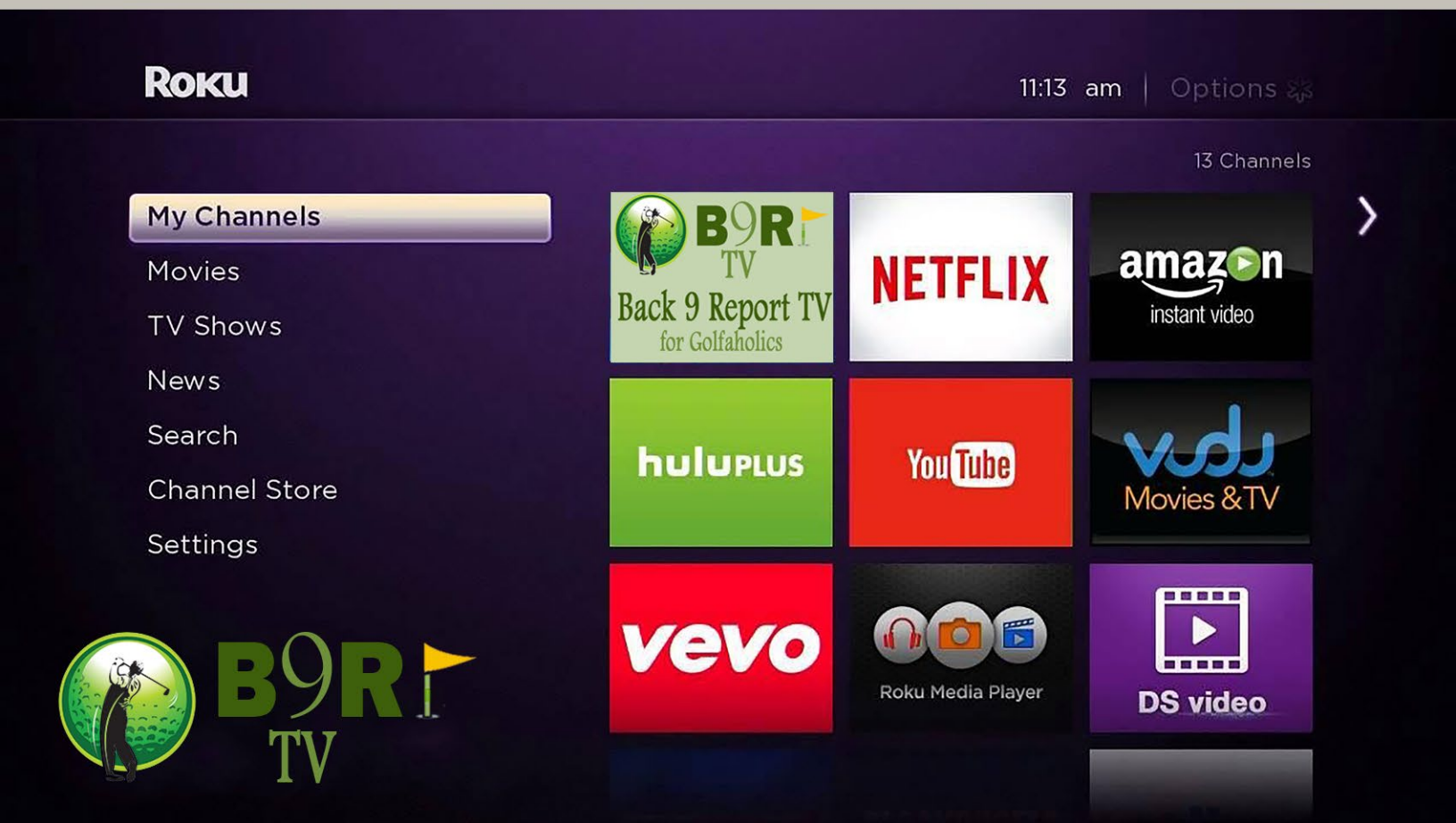
Bio:

Jay is a full-time attorney and award-winning sports writer. His radio show "Jay's Plays" can be heard on GNN Radio: <https://thegolfnewsnet.com/jays-plays/>.

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CONTRIBUTORS



ED TRAVIS

Ed Travis is a national award winning golf journalist and has had a lifelong love affair with the game. He has competed in tournament golf both as an amateur and as a senior professional and though his competitive days are behind him, he still plays regularly and carries a handicap of 2.
<https://www.facebook.com/ed.travis.98>



MATT SATERNUS

Matt Saternus is a co-founder of PluggedInGolf.com, a golf instructor, club fitter, and writer living in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.



ADAM RENY

Adam Reny is an Ohio State University and Evans Scholars alumna. He previously worked with the Inverness Club for 13 years and is now the Executive Director of The First Tee of Lake Erie. www.thefirstteelakeerie.org or email him at adam.reny@thefirstteelakeerie.org



DAVID GRAF

David Graf was the Head Professional at the Inverness Club for 19 years and now owns and manages The Golf PIT in Toledo, Ohio.
<http://www.thegolfpit.com/>



RICHARD E. TODD

Richard E Todd, author of The Golf Rules series and Short Stories from the Long Links, has been heard on the PGA Tour radio station and seen in On The Green magazine. www.TheGolfRules.com
Richard@TheGolfRules.com



GREG LIBERTO

Greg Liberto developed various mental game training options and has been featured in several publications and on radio and television. He authored "18 Holes," a book with mental game tips. <http://mymentalgamecoach.com/>



MIKE MAY

Mike May is a freelance golf travel writer based in Wellington, Florida. As you would expect, he is a "Golfaholic" focused on beating 'Old Man Par' each time he steps on a golf course. mmaymarketing@gmail.com

VIDEOS

Mickelson Backflip



Next time you are fooling around on the golf course try this tip from Phil Mickelson, from a few years ago.

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A Place Called Pinehurst



Pinehurst has been a haven for golfers since the early 1900's. If you have not made the trip to the Holy Church of Golf in the United States, here is a video that will make you decide to visit the area on your next trip south.

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