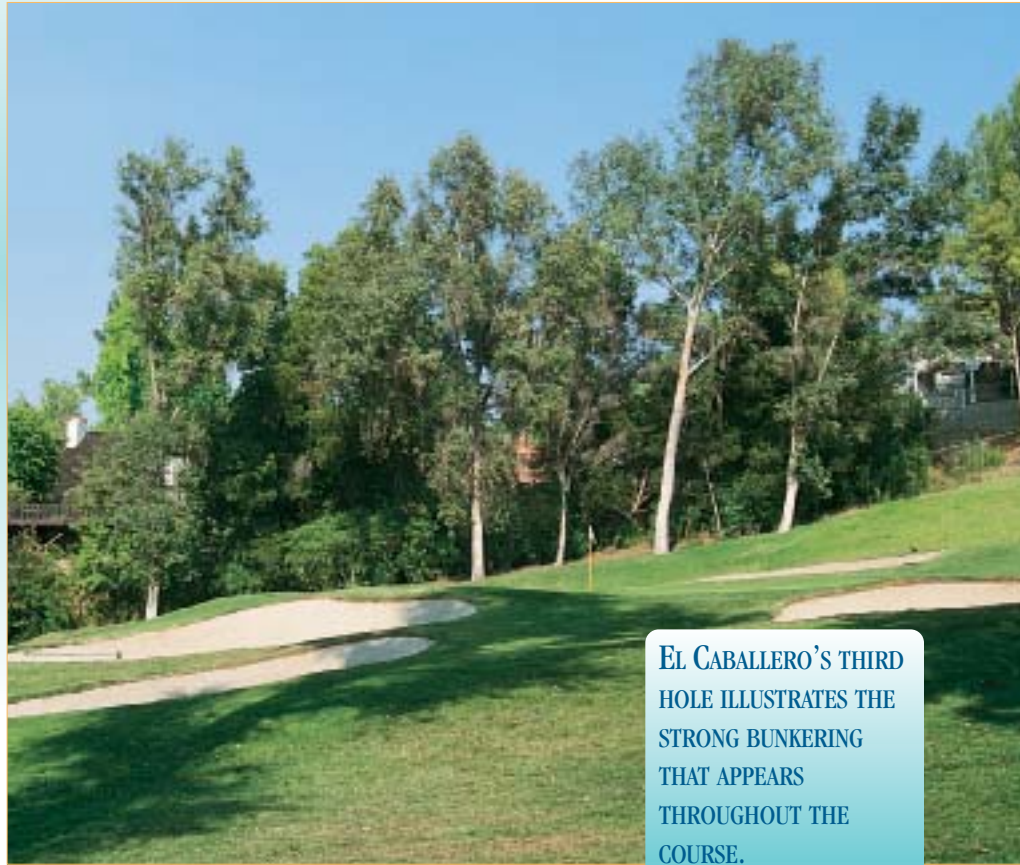


A Gentleman's Championship...

EL CABALLERO'S 15TH HOLE IS THE SECOND OF CONSECUTIVE HOLES ON THE FAR EASTERN CORNER OF THE PROPERTY THAT PRESENT GOLFERS WITH CHALLENGING TEE SHOTS.

The best amateur golfers in the southern half of the state will converge on El Caballero Country Club in the heart of the San Fernando Valley for the 103rd SCGA Amateur championship July 12-14. The weather is likely to be just as hot as the competition in Tarzana. No matter the mercury or the shotmaking, the venue has been universally regarded as first rate for years.

El Caballero Country Club dates back to 1924, but the “El Cab” of today had its roots in the 1950s. Founder



EL CABALLERO'S THIRD HOLE ILLUSTRATES THE STRONG BUNKERING THAT APPEARS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE.

Unlimited Golf

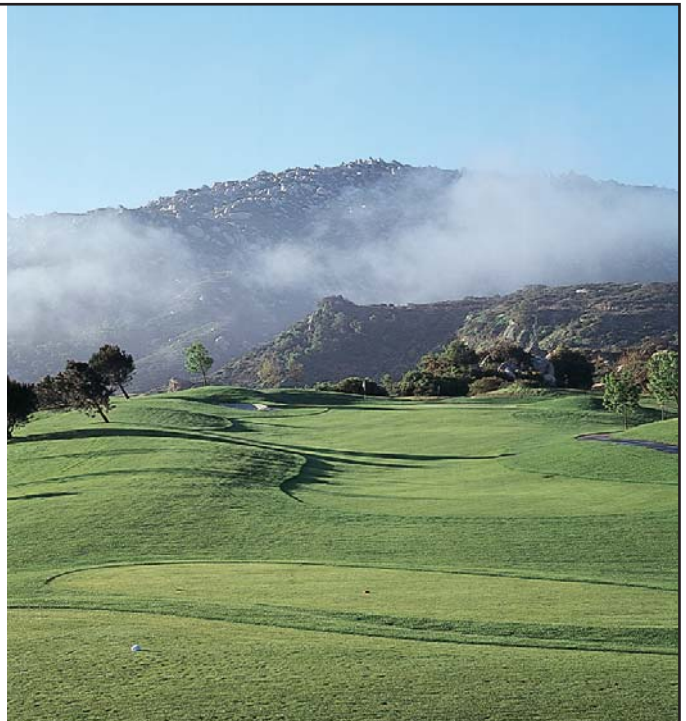
Golf doesn't get any better than when it's unlimited on our 27-hole championship course.

Available select periods, packages include unlimited golf, with cart, per person and deluxe accommodations.

\$109

Per person, per room, based on double occupancy. Some restrictions apply.

You can be here within the hour.



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THE FINISHING HOLE OFFERS SCULPTURED BUNKERING ALL THE WAY TO THE CLUBHOUSE BACKDROP.

Bernie Shapiro's philosophies and perseverance are well known to the club's membership and to much of Southern California's golfing fraternity.

"Our original and existing by-laws open with 'No person shall be denied the privileges of the Club or employment by it because of race color, creed or religious belief'. That concept wasn't fashionable prior to 1956. We were in the vanguard," Shapiro recalled in a history published for the club's silver anniversary.

The original club, located not far from the present property, was created by a group led by "Tarzan" author Edgar Rice Burroughs and the club hosted the Los Angeles Open in 1927. It went the way of many clubs during the 30s, but the land itself holds a lot of local history, from the time Gaspar de Portola "discovered" it in 1769.

Andres Pico (brother of California's first governor, Pio Pico) had an early lease. The land was purchased by an association headed by Isaac Lankershim and Isaac Van Nuys in 1869 and it became a wheat farm. Water came to the Valley and development began. Harrison Gray Otis, founder of the L.A. Times, owned the El Caballero land for a

decade in the early 1900s and Burroughs bought it from the Otis estate.

Meanwhile, through the 40s, Shapiro made his living in the vending machine business and when he was able to retire, he caught the golf bug.

Shapiro and 14 others put up sufficient funds to lease property in the Mecca Valley from relatives of Burroughs, then they saw the club through incorporation and began to find members — quite spontaneously as it turned out, as the original offering sold out in five months. To create the golf course, 250,000 cubic yards of earth were moved and some 20,000 trees planted.

Designed in 1956 by Bill Johnson, who was chief golf course superintendent for the Los Angeles City golf courses, El Caballero came into its own in 1963 when Robert Trent Jones, Sr., redesigned the course into the premier layout that exists today.

The membership's pride in the product is reflected by the club's hosting three (and counting) U.S. Open Sectional qualifiers and, just this year, the LPGA's City of Hope/office Depot event.

In the SCGA Amateur, Friday's double round separates the field with a cut to 42 and ties. At La Jolla last year, 1999 champion John Pate of Santa Barbara gunned out of the gate with a 66, but surrendered the lead to Long Beach State graduate Steve Mena's two 69s. Mena, in turn, surrendered his lead with a 78 on Saturday morning when UCLA student John Merrick put it in passing gear. The



SOME 20,000 TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED OVER THE PERIOD OF EL CAB'S EXISTENCE AND NOW THE HILLS AND RAVINES COMBINE WITH THEM TO GIVE THE COURSE ITS MATURE AND SECLUDED FEEL.

AT RIGHT, SOME OF THE OLIVE TREES REPLANTED TO CREATE A BORDER ALONG SOME HOLES.



champion actually opened the tournament with a triple bogey and wound up with a 74, but he roared back with a 67, then tacked on a 70 for a three-stroke pad that served him well at the end, when he had to hold off UCLA teammate Travis Johnson.

It wouldn't be surprising to see the Bruin teammates in the thick of things again; although Johnson is recovering from an emergency appendectomy that kept him out of the California Amateur. Before that, he'd won the 2002 Southern California Public Links and Camarillo and Pasadena City titles. But repeating is tough in any major event (unless your name is Woods).

It's been a decade since optometrist-cum-attorney Craig Steinberg outdueled Bob Clark over two vastly different golf courses to win two SCGA Amateur championships in a row. Steinberg, who recently moved to Oak Park and is a member at Woodland Hills CC, captured a fourth title five years ago at Lakeside GC and now the tournament returns to his backyard, the San Fernando Valley. Perennial challengers will again be former U.S. Public Links and California Amateur champion Tim Hogarth, 2000 SCGA Amateur winner Scott McGihon, 1999 winner John Pate, reigning U.S. and British Senior Amateur champion Kemp Richardson and the

2001 U.S. Mid-Amateur winner, Greg Puga.

Among those exempt to play before the California Amateur were Scott Almquist of Santa Ana, SCGA Mid-Amateur runner-up Don Baker of Winnetka, Don DuBois of Montecito, Brett Foulds of Escondido, Nico Bollini of Yorba Linda and USC, John Lieber of El Cajon, Mark Warman of San Clemente, and Mena. DuBois, of course, earned medalist honors at the "state" and was joined by 12 other Southerners in the match play bracket, including eventual champion Eddie Heinen of Las Vegas. Others gaining exemptions were Peter Booth of Carlsbad, John McClure of Los Angeles,

Jeffrey Brumfield of Bakersfield and Bill Coleman of Huntington Beach. The others had previous exemptions.

Championship exempt newcomers include 2001 U.S. Amateur match play qualifiers Mike Plate of Bakersfield, Sandy Horacek of Los Angeles and Steve Christophel of Bakersfield and U.S. Mid-Amateur match play qualifier Dan Anderson of San Diego; plus CIF-SCGA championship winner Brian van Heel of Westlake.

Whether the names near the top on Sunday afternoon are new or familiar, things will heat up in Tarzana that weekend, no matter what.

SCGA on the Internet

■ Daily stories and results from the SCGA Amateur at El Caballero CC, July 12-14.

■ **Live hole-by-hole scoring on the final day of the SCGA Amateur.**

■ Pacific Coast Amateur, August 6-9 at San Diego CC.

■ SCGA Mid-Amateur Championship, August 26-27 at Big Canyon CC.





CREATIVE MAINTENANCE BY COURSE SUPERINTENDENT DOUG MEADOWS AND HIS STAFF LIKE A TRI-LEVEL FRINGE CUT BETWEEN THIS GREEN AND BUNKER AND THE SIGNATURE HILLSIDE HEDGE AT No. 6 ADD TO EL CAB'S PERSONALITY.

THE SMALL CANNON WAS A GIFT FROM FOUNDER BERNIE SHAPIRO AND HIS LATE WIFE IRIS. NEARBY IS THE HOLE-IN-ONE BELL. 38-YEAR (!) WOMEN'S CLUB CHAMPION HELEN KNIGHT OWNS THE CLUB'S FIRST ACE (IN 1957), A TOTAL OF EIGHT AND AT LEAST ONE AT EVERY PAR-THREE.

GREENSIDE WATER IS EVIDENT AT No. 9 (ABOVE RIGHT) AND 17 (RIGHT).



Hole-by-hole

**AT THE SITE OF THE
SCGA AMATEUR,**

El Caballero Country Club

Gene Cofsky, who is editor-in-chief of Tee Times, El Caballero's membership newsletter, and head golf professional Mark Taylor created this hole-by-hole description of the site of the 103rd SCGA Amateur.



No. 1.

PAR 5, 510 YARDS

— Uphill all the way to a severely sloped green, back to front. Out-of-bounds to the left.

No. 2

PAR 4, 434 YARDS

— Sharp dogleg left, bunkers surround the green; No. 1 handicap hole.

No. 3.

PAR 4, 383 YARDS

— Straightaway fairway to another back-to-front sloped green with bunkers left, right and back.

No. 4.

PAR 4, 407 YARDS

— Slight dogleg right and fairway slopes right to left. Bunkers all around the green perimeter.

No. 5.

PAR 4, 361 YARDS

— Lake to the left-front of the green and bunkers right and back. Green slopes back to front.

No. 6.

PAR 3, 216 YARDS

— Bunkers enclose the green; two to the right, one left and one in front.

No. 7.

PAR 5, 514 YARDS

— Strong dogleg right and out-of-bounds on the right. Fairway slopes right to left. Green is heavily bunkered.



No. 8.

PAR 3, 212 YARDS

— Bunkers are right and left and the trees on the right can cause further contemplation from the tee.

No. 9.

PAR 4, 456 YARDS

— Water comes into play along the left side of the green. Fairway bunkering to the right and more guarding the green.

No. 10.

PAR 3, 167 YARDS

— Water guards the entire right side of the long, oblique green. Bunkers behind catch mis-clubbed shots; shortest of the par-3s.

No. 11.

PAR 4, 402 YARDS

— Trees in the fairway can block second shots on the dogleg right.

No. 12.

PAR 5, 528 YARDS

— Longest hole on the course, with the fairway tilting right. Two-tiered green slopes severely back to front.

No. 13.

PAR 4, 381 YARDS

— Downhill tee shot toward kidney-shaped green guarded by deep bunker in front. There's also a bunker behind the green and another in the right fairway.

No. 14.

PAR 4, 386 YARDS

— Keep drive left of center for the best shot at the green on this dogleg right.

No. 15.

PAR 4, 419 YARDS

— Dogleg left features an oak tree in the center of the fairway. Green slopes front to back.

No. 16.

PAR 3, 178 YARDS

— Bunkers surround green.

No. 17.

PAR 4, 458 YARDS

— Out-of-bounds left. Water guards left side of green and bunker does likewise to the right. Green severely sloped.

No. 18.

PAR 4, 423 YARDS

— Bunkers all the way to the green on the finishing hole.



Teaching El Cab new tricks

The year was 1986. It was a Sunday in July at Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles. Dave Sheff was about to win the SCGA Amateur championship in his first try but he almost blew his chances away with a double bogey on the 70th hole of the tournament.

Among the challengers that day was future SCGA Amateur winner Pat Duncan, who bogeyed the final hole to lose a chance at a playoff. Still Duncan had a 68, the final round's best score — shared with 22-year-old Markel Taylor, a bag room worker at Mesa Verde CC.

A 76 in the third round proved to be too much ground to make up, though, and Taylor finished in a tie for sixth, just short of plate-winning status.

It illustrates the decision Mark Taylor made that has led him 16 years later to a position as hosting head golf professional at that same venerable championship. "I was a decent golfer," he says with a smile, "but I realized maybe not at a touring pro level."

What he also discovered after working for Art Schilling in the Mesa Verde bag room during his student days at Edison High in Huntington Beach and later at Cal State Long Beach (where he and touring pro Paul Goydos were teammates) was that he loved the game, nonetheless.

After landing a job as a teaching pro at Hillcrest, he further confirmed during those seven years that teaching the game was his first love. It continues to be after four and a half years as El Caballero's head man.

"My parents were both golfers at Mesa Verde," he recounted, "so I got started at the game fairly young. I didn't take it seriously

though till I was about 14."

Competitive golf remains part of Taylor's life 24 years later. He gained a spot to play in a U.S. Open sectional qualifying during a couple of the years El Cab has hosted that event and still has realistic hopes of making the final. In the meantime, he remains very competitive in the SCPGA's section tournaments.

PGA members Keith Thykeson, Paul Duarte, Tim Caldwell and Alex Galvan and apprentice John Baltzersen assist Taylor in the shop.

Mark and his wife Susan live in Thousand Oaks with sons Steven, 4, and Kevin, 2. Yes, Steven's already been out on the course. "But just recently I showed him how to keep his clubs clean," Taylor related, "so for right now, he's a lot more interested in keeping those grooves shiny than he is in hitting the ball."

You get a feeling, though, that Steven will find his niche, just like dad did.

MARK TAYLOR FINDS HIS NICHE AS HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL AND AN INSTRUCTOR OF THE GAME.

