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LAUGHS AND MEMORIES

THE THEME OF THIS ISSUE is something that's near and dear to anyone who loves golf: Aces, Places & Faces. The game is so well represented by all three — photography aces who emphasize the beauty of golf with their craft; places that we visit with friends and loved ones to create cherished memories; and the faces of those past and present who leave their mark on the game for generations to come. It's a celebration of the preservation, adventure and history of the game we all love and enjoy. Golf photography finds itself in a new and exciting frontier in the social media age. In the pages to follow, you'll be enamored by the jaw-dropping imagery that's been captured by frequent FORE contributors. Their superb work is now easily shared and enjoyed by the masses like never before. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are jam-packed with professional photographers who post their life's work, allowing the whole world to enjoy access to many of golf's storied venues. If you haven't dug into the underground spectacle of social media imagery, I encourage you to enhance your social media feeds with some breathtaking golf course photography.

The places to which we travel alongside the faces we love is what golf is all about. Whether it's a friends trip filled with laughs or a family trip full of hugs and bogeys, it's those memories that will last forever, not what you shot on the back nine. The most rewarding aspects of golf are often the company you spend time with and the surroundings in which you find yourself.

Don't be afraid to be a photographer while you're out there! I'm sure all our phones are chock-full of photos on the 1st tee or the trademark "foursome photo" with friends, family, loved ones or even the nice couple you were paired with for the afternoon. Remember, you don't have to be a professional to capture a lasting memory.

Be sure to share your memories with the So Cal golf community by tagging @thescga in your social posts!



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Volume 52, Issue 3

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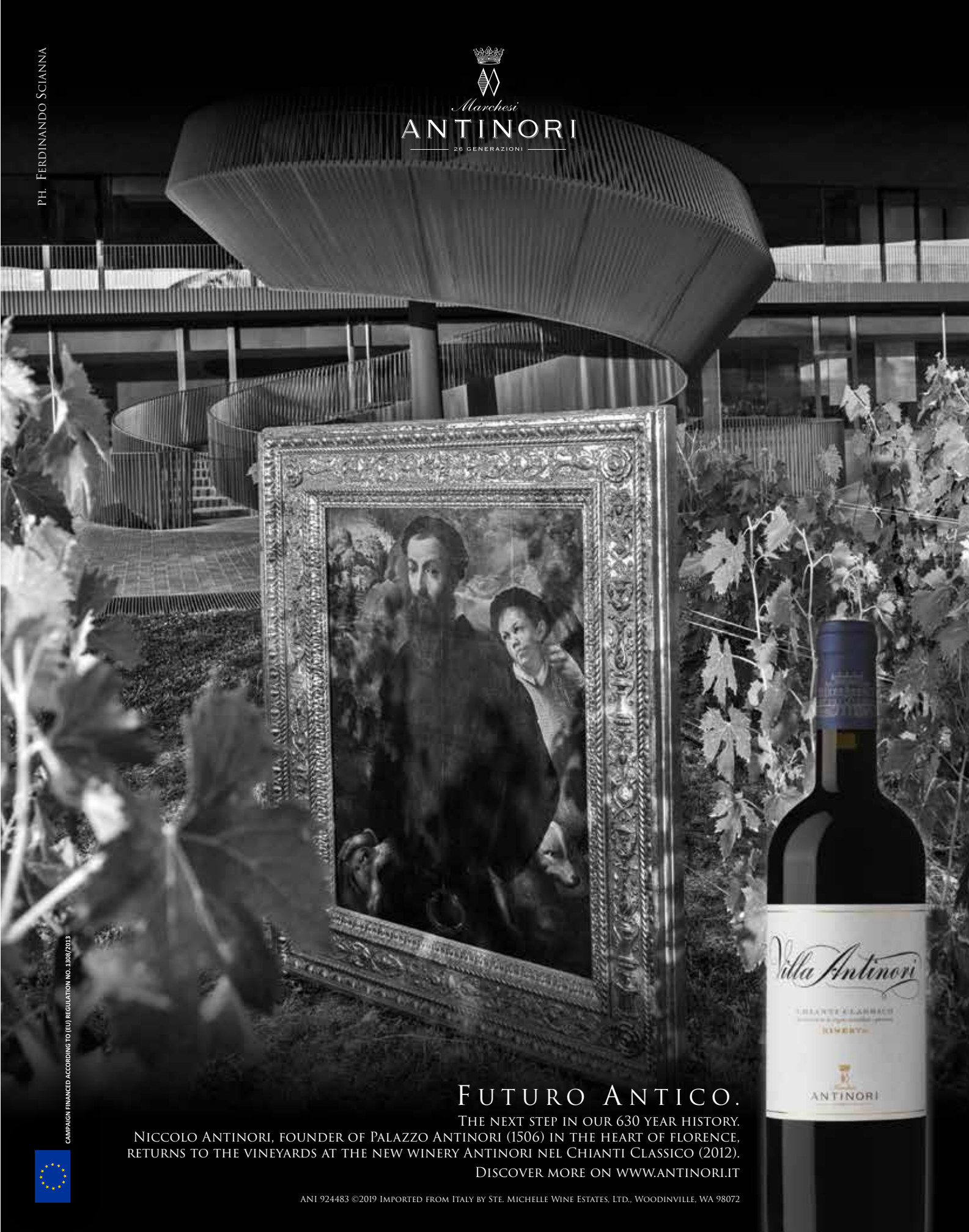
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An island green par-3 elevates The Coeur d'Alene Resort GC, but it's just one of many compelling reasons to visit this pristine area of the Idaho panhandle.



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ON THE TEE

The Read | State of the Game | First Cut | Whistle | Classic Course

RECOMMENDED READING

Speaking Their Language

AVENGERS:
GOLF GAME

IT'S ALL PART OF A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE USGA AND MARVEL TO ENGAGE JUNIOR GOLFERS — BOTH TO INTEREST THEM IN THE GAME, AND TO GENTLY PROFFER ITS ESSENTIAL RULES AND COURTESIES.

SQUIRREL GIRL is new to golf, and she's earnestly trying to process its intricacies. When her drive lands high on a tree branch, she naturally scurries up the trunk with an iron in hand. "I'm supposed to play the ball where it lies, right?" she explains. Thor, on the other hand, has been around the game, but the big guy is, well, a bit of a rebel. So when the god of thunder's shot lands behind said arboreal obstruction, his reaction is a tad more macho: "This tree is in my way. One moment while I move it."

The two superheroes are among a pair of Marvel Avengers foursomes who have gathered under the tutelage of Tony Stark (Iron Man) to play a friendly but eventful round of golf while learning the basic rules of the game. At the same time, as it always goes in golf, they pick up some valuable life lessons.

It's all part of a collaboration between the USGA and Marvel to engage junior golfers — both to interest them in the game, and to gently proffer its essential rules and courtesies. No offense to Charlie Brown and Snoopy, but it's also a timely update of characters chosen to carry the banner of golf to a new generation.

The educational product is in the form of a printed and digital comic book, natch, with a graphic story that depicts the superheroes' exploits in the course of a round of golf. Inside the print booklet is a suitable-for-posting centerfold that utilizes illustrated callouts to list basic but critical USGA rules. It's a gentle, entertaining way for juniors to learn about pace of play, putting protocols, penalties and drops, and even the intricacies of handicap indexing.



Thor, by the way, is advised of the illegality of moving the tree to better his lie. But he triumphs later when he helpfully lifts a giant boulder that would block a Hawkeye approach shot. Loose impediment. Perfectly legal.

The print version leaves readers hanging on the brink of a thrilling climax: "Don't miss the end!" we're advised. "Go to usga.org/marvel to see the epic conclusion." Which is exactly what you should do.

— **Robert Earle Howells**

To order print copies of *The Avengers Junior Golf Guide* (\$2.95), visit usgapublications.com.

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STATE OF THE GAME

NEW RULES CONTROVERSY?

WE'RE HALF A YEAR IN, AND THE WORLD IS STILL TURNING. SO LET'S MOVE ON.

By **Ken Van Vechten**

No good deed goes unpunished. At least that's how things might be viewed from Far Hills, NJ. On the heels of the most sweeping rules revision perhaps ever — and in the most player-friendly direction — the greatest golfer of all time holds that the new drop provision looks “silly.”

Hey, I'm not bagging on Jack Nicklaus. He's done far more for the game than thousands of us ever could. And at least he didn't take a Fowlerian don't-tread-on-me stand on the matter, getting into a crouch, with the ball falling under his backside, suggesting the United States Golf Association had, well, you know.

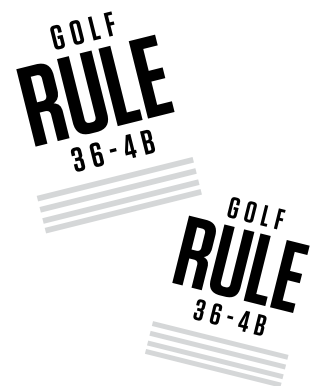
We're more than a half year now into golf's new era and I like it, and it sounds like I'm not alone.

“I think the rules changes have been well accepted,” says Jeff Ninnemann, director of rules and competitions for the Southern California Golf Association. “The USGA, in my opinion,

did a really good job with this rollout.”

The initial seed was planted in and by the USGA more than seven years ago, and by 2018 the proposal was largely leafed out, with that year spent, as Ninnemann points out, on information dissemination, education and feedback: “I think most folks knew what was coming and as a result the changes have been well accepted. I haven't heard of much pushback at the amateur or everyday player level.”

Doubtless there was some confusion in application and the PGA TOUR, being in full swing at the start of the launch period, was the beta test. Fair or not, Justin Thomas was the early season



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“IT’S STILL A PROCESS, AS WE’VE SEEN, BUT IT’S DEFINITELY POSITIVE AND THE CHANGES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED PRETTY POSITIVELY. LET’S REMEMBER, THIS IS FOR THE GENERAL GOLFING PUBLIC, TOO.”

—KEVIN STREELMAN

poster child for grouching over the flagstick, drop and caddie alignment changes. But he was not alone, and a few penalties were assessed. Per the rule of unintended consequences, this is to be expected. Did anyone really think there wouldn’t be some confusion?

“There were a few legitimate concerns,” Ninnemann reflects, “such as where the caddie could be positioned. The USGA to its credit clarified and fixed that. Now the drop, that’s where we’ve seen the biggest fuss. Some just like to grouse about change because it is change.”

As an inveterate watcher of tournaments, and an unabashed fan of the LPGA Tour, I was keenly interested in the caddie rule. The LPGA’s player president and former touring pro, Vicki Goetze-Ackerman, captures what I’m sure most of us thought about the practice of caddie-as-theodolite: “From the perspective of our players, if there was a rule seemingly directed toward our tour, that was the one.”

Yet where was it penalized?

Goetze-Ackerman and the announcer and former player Kay Cockerill both look to the (former) prevalence of the alignment practice on the LPGA Tour as an impetus for players to drill down into the new requirements to avoid any missteps.

“Everyone is taking it pretty well,” Cockerill says of the larger package and the caddie-specific rule. “I haven’t seen any negativity or big issues. I

thought, and I think most of us thought, there could be a big impact [from the alignment ban], and that’s just not been the case. Everyone seems to have been extra cautious because [alignment] was so routine.”

Both gave kudos to LPGA rules staff and the USGA for the interaction and education leading into the January 1, 2019, implementation.

KEEPING PERSPECTIVE

Not every player embraced every change, and that’s the case when opinions, long-standing habits and practices, and money are in the mix. The key is accepting and moving on.

On the men’s side, Kevin Streelman, a two-time winner and PGA TOUR policy board player director, like Nicklaus and others, think the drop level feels unnatural and looks awkward, and would like to see shoulder-to-knee allowed. He also said it took a bit of time for him to get comfortable with the relief area allowance. But as to the process and outcomes, he thinks it went and is going well.

“We were very privy to the rules updates and the decisions that were made,” Streelman said. “Our team at the TOUR was highly involved with the USGA. It’s still a process, as we’ve seen, but it’s definitely positive and the changes have been received pretty positively. Let’s remember, this is for the general golfing public, too.”

On a personal level, major props for



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ABOUT LIFE IN GENERAL."**

— JEFF NINNEMANN

the flagstick rule. Talk about something anachronistic and illogical, that I could chip from 10 feet away — or laser one from 215 yards — and bang it off the stick, but heaven forbid doing so on an 80-foot putt. I could not care less how it looks and don't feel the practice is some kind of unholy blasphemy; go back to stuffing feathers in a leather pouch if that's your beef. (This certainly can't hurt pace of play, but one hell of a lot more needs to be done to address this No. 1 problem afflicting our game.)

Lightening up on loose impediments and grounding the club is a no-brainer, too. Same with the drop. A visual unbecoming a golfer? Please. We've even heard "unfair," as in not all golfers' knees are at the same level but somehow their shoulders are? It's different, that's all. It might actually lead to fewer balls going to the bottom of the Bermuda Grass Triangle. Make it a range; move on.

I'm mixed on the local rule allowing a 2-stroke option for OB or a lost ball. That's codifying what a lot of us have long done — sorry, handicap committees — at twice the cost. I guess I'm cool with OB remaining stroke-and-distance or this new allowance, since in sport there is a designated area of play and you really can't play if you're not in, um, play. Norwood had his uprights,

baseball has its foul pole and we have white stakes. Now a lost ball versus one that goes into a penalty area? Things can get dicey here when trying to figure out with "virtual certain" that the ball was indeed in a watery grave as opposed to lost in the adjoining weeds, or whatever scenario of lostness is in play. I'd call for a mulligan on this and just treat both as a 1-shot penalty-area occurrence.

There's more, of course, but these are the items that most irritated my band of miscreants and for which we most often took personal liberties in (improper) execution. Golf is a complex game with a still-Byzantine code of law. In 2019, however, those tenets we most often brush up against are a lot clearer, and a whole lot better.

"As happened many times with these rules discussions over the years — look at the rangefinder matter — there is so much hype, there is so much concern over what might happen, how it might impact the nature of the game," Ninnemann shares. "Then when the changes are adopted it's just really no big deal. We go out and play golf. That's maybe a good lesson about life in general." ■

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RISK / REWARD

GOOSE CREEK GC NO. 10 — PAR 4 / BLUE TEES: 352 YARDS

Nestled in the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area and meandering along the Santa Ana River, this beautifully manicured layout is a hidden gem in the Jurupa Valley. Known for its phenomenal final hole, voted the “best finishing hole” by FORE Magazine readers, No. 18 is but one of many memorable holes. Another gem is No. 10. Players begin their inward nine with a seemingly harmless short par 4, at least according to the 352-yard measurement on the scorecard. But as Assistant Professional **Scott Martinez** explains, there isn’t just one option off the tee, and all vary in their potential risk.

1 SAFE INVESTMENT
OK, you’re in solid shape after that front nine. No need to bring a big number into play right off the bat on the back nine. With 225 yards to reach the big bunker in the center of the fairway, it’s best to take out a hybrid or 4-iron and poke it out there to the start of the fairway. That’ll leave you with a full swing from 120 yards. Par is likely, a birdie would be a bonus. Onward.

2 AGGRESSIVE PORTFOLIO
Let’s play smart. Pull out the driver or even a 3-wood, aim to the right side of the fairway and be sure to avoid the fairway bunker at all costs. With a 250-yard drive, you’re looking at about 100 yards in. While the angle isn’t ideal, and you’re staring down a super-penalizing collection area if you leave a second shot short, you’ll still have a green light to put one close for birdie.

3 BUYER BEWARE
If you’re über-confident with a driver or need something to spark your back nine, say no more. Take out the big stick and go hunting. There’s zero room for error with this option, so know that going in. Players headed this route will need to truly thread the needle and land a drive between the three fairway bunkers. If you’re able to pull the rabbit out of the hat, you’ll be rewarded with a flip wedge from the perfect angle.

 **We’d love to hear about your favorite Risk/Reward hole. Email us at info@scga.org**



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PARSINEN**, 1949–2019

By **George Fuller**



In 2009, my brother Dave and I flew to Scotland to explore the countryside, play too much golf, and sample the local spirits, all while The Open Championship was being staged on the Aryshire Coast at Turnberry. Our plan was to circle from Edinburgh to St Andrews, up to Aberdeen and Inverness, and down to Gleneagles before arriving at Turnberry on the Monday after the Open had concluded.

It was an amazing experience all around, and one that Dave and I still laugh about. ("I'll have a scotch and soda," Dave ordered at one fine bar. "Oh no you won't sir!" came the server's quick reply. "We don't ruin our scotch like that over here.") We played the Old Course, Royal Aberdeen, Royal Dornoch, Gleneagles, and more. But two memorable highlights were the rounds we played at Kingsbarns GL (near St Andrews) and Castle Stuart GL (near Inverness).

And strange as it may seem, we had a fellow American, Mark Parsinen, to thank. I only met him twice, but Parsinen, who passed away at age 70 in June, leaves behind a development legacy with those two courses that anyone who visits Scotland should more fully appreciate. As Geoff Shackelford wrote in his obituary of Parsinen in *Golfweek*, Kingsbarns and Castle Stuart "have become centerpieces of Scottish golf travel, beloved European Tour venues and important efforts in showing that a 'links' could be crafted out of an undesirable site."

Though he grew up playing and caddying, Parsinen's first effort as a co-designer and developer was at a residential community outside Sacramento, Calif., called Granite Bay. That's where I first had a chance to interview him on his golf design philosophy and saw firsthand how he and designer Kyle Phillips built a course that eschewed many of the overly penal aspects of golf architecture that became fashionable in the 1980s.

"I built it for people like me who loved golf, whose skills were suspect or were never honed in the first place, whose spare time was precious, and who wanted to find some pleasure in the time they spent playing

the game of golf," he said. "And rather than being humiliated by their inevitable errant shots, would appreciate opportunities to recover and to some extent have a chance to redeem themselves."

It was a philosophy that Parsinen and Phillips went on to employ at Kingsbarns, and is one of the primary reasons why that facility has become a "must-play" when visiting St Andrews.

Castle Stuart took the design approach even further, this time with architect Gil Hanse. A difficult site on which to build, but with outstanding views of Moray Firth, Hanse relates, "Rather than be deterred, (Parsinen) relished these problem-solving opportunities and somehow things always turned out better."

The course had only recently opened for play when Dave and I arrived in the summer of 2009. As we readied for our game, whom did we spy sitting in the clubhouse restaurant but Parsinen and Mike Keiser, the latter of Bandon Dunes, Sand Valley and Cabot Links fame. It was threatening to pour buckets outside and we were tempted to just sit and listen to these two great men converse. Maybe they were dreaming up some new masterpiece!

But Dave and I decided to brave it and headed out for 15 tremendous holes before the rain hit sideways and cold and we hoofed it back to the clubhouse soaked to the bone. Keiser and Parsinen were nowhere to be found when we got back, so we put our gear in the drying room, grabbed a quick bite and departed.

That was the last time I saw Mark Parsinen, but the courses he left us are shining gems that will live on, as will my memories of a man I wish I had known better. ■



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FIRST CUT

Challenge Worthy

EMBRACE YOUR COMPETITIVE NATURE AND FIND NEW WAYS TO ENJOY THE GAME

By **Tina Mickelson**
PGA, Santaluz Club and
Callaway Ambassador

I grew up in a very competitive household. We showed our love for each other by battling to the brink of death over any game we could come up with. The winner would inevitably rub it in, and that was its own sweet reward. So when I hear people try to explain that they are not competitive, are intimidated by or (gasp) don't enjoy competition, it takes a few minutes for my eyes to uncross.

Competition is a fact of life. It is life. So it would make sense that the more comfortable we get with it, the better. But the fear, the dread, the feelings of insecurity, self doubt, extreme discomfort and many other sparks of emotion make us quickly look away when we catch a glimpse of ourselves in the mirror. Clearly this is not something that one just "gets over." Just like anything else, it takes practice.

We practice our golf swing, right? We work tirelessly on our short game, don't we? (If you just rolled your eyes, you are not practicing your short game enough.) If we want to get better from the sand, we practice our sand shots instead of complaining about how many bunkers are on this golf course. You know who you are, John.

Getting comfortable with competitive golf (or at least to a place where we can



tolerate competition) is no different. Keep in mind that competitive golf includes amateur events, junior golf, league play, club championships, member-guests and any other event where, basically, it is no longer about just you and your quest to achieve your personal best. Now it's about performing better than your opponent(s). People are watching. Your score will be posted ... and people will actually see it. If you are sweating at this point, then this is for you.

If competitive golf can be so intimidating and sometimes just downright uncomfortable, then why do it? Oh my friend, because it is spectacular! The mere feeling of triumph when you play well and it actually counts. Coming back and redeeming yourself after a bad match or not playing your best. Learning how to tolerate competitors who you may fantasize about sinking slowly into quicksand. These are all parallels to life, but in the form of a game/sport that we can't get enough of. So what is giving us pause? Still the intimidation factor? Still don't feel "ready"? OK. Let's change that.

How can we get more comfortable with competition? How do we get to the point where we actually seek it out? The most logical answer would be, obviously, to practice. The more you can engage in some form of competitive play, the better. You can start out slowly, with a simple "play for pride" match with your favorite golf partner. Sign up for fun events at your club or local golf course. Seek out any opportunity to play in an environment where there are people you don't know, or with whom you don't normally play.

Another way to get more comfortable

in uncomfortable situations is to set up some rounds of golf with people you don't particularly enjoy playing with. One would argue that life is too short to willingly spend four hours on a golf course with someone you don't particularly care for or don't enjoy playing with. But it teaches you so much about the game, yourself, and gives you invaluable experience and insight into how to react when you are stretched out of your comfort zone.

I'm not suggesting you need to do this often ... but it's good to shake things up every once in a while. (Note: If after reading this article you start to get a surge of offers to play golf with new people, I'm sure it's because of your dazzling personality and not because you are the person who popped to mind for the majority of your club!)

The mere word "competition" can be a real turnoff for some golfers, but realize that competition doesn't solely refer to official SCGA events. It's not limited to the highly competitive club championships or amateur tournaments. As mentioned earlier, competition comes in many shapes and forms. Find the type that is most comfortable for you and then grow from there.

Not all of your golf needs to be competitive. I'm all for those rounds where you just want to spend quality time with friends or family and competition of any kind is a deal breaker. But keep an open mind when it comes to the possibility of competition. It can give a whole new perspective on the game of golf and new possibilities when it comes to ways to enjoy the game.

See you on the course! ■



SCGA 2019 CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

GROSS CHAMPIONSHIPS	LOCATION	DATES	ELIGIBILITY
Super Senior Championship	Ojai Valley Inn & Spa	Sept. 10 - 11	9.4 and below, Age 65 & above
Southern California Junior Amateur Golf Championship	Morongo GC at Tukwet Canyon	Oct. 19 - 20	5.4 (boys), 9.4 (girls), Age 18 & below
Four-Ball Championship*	Friendly Hills CC	Oct. 28 - 29	7.4 and below
California Senior Amateur Championship*	Wilshire CC	Nov. 11 - 13	7.4 and below, Age 55 & above
CIF/SCGA Southern California Girls High School Championship	Brookside GC (Course #1)	Nov. 14	Regional Qualifiers
CIF State Girls High School Championship	Poppy Hills GC	Nov. 19	Sectional Qualifiers
Tournament of Club Champions (Men's Champ. Division)	San Diego CC	Dec. 9	2.4 and below
Tournament of Club Champions (Senior Men's Champ. Division)	Coto de Caza GRC (North)	Dec. 9	5.4 and below, Age 55 & above
Tournament of Club Champions (Women's Champ. Division)	Rancho Bernardo Inn	Dec. 9	All skill levels
California Amateur Cup Matches	La Quinta CC	Dec. 12 - 13	Invitational
NET CHAMPIONSHIPS			
Four-Ball Net Championship*	Olivas Links	Sept. 30 - Oct. 1	All skill levels
Women's Amateur Net Championship	Tustin Ranch GC	Nov. 4 - 5	All skill levels
Tournament of Club Champions (Net Division)	Classic Club, Mission Hills CC (Palmer), Terra Lago GC (South)	Dec. 9	All skill levels
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS			
Scratch League So Cal Wild Card Playoff	Oak Valley GC	Nov. 7	Group Winners
Scratch League Southern California Championship	Soule Park GC	Nov. 15	Group Winners
California Scratch League Championship	Poppy Hills GC	Dec. 6	Regional Champions

*The SCGA conducts qualifiers for these championships. Register online at scga.org.

SPIRITS OF THE GAME

BIRDIES AND BREWS

GREEN FLASH BREWING COMPANY

By George Fuller

PORTLAND, ORE., may still be considered the craft beer capital of the U.S., but San Diego County has been hot on its heels for more than a decade, with dozens of breweries large and small having opened. One of the best is Green Flash Brewing Company, established in 2002, whose distinctive, highly-hoppy IPA-style brews go very nicely after a round of golf.

And where better to screw your peg in the turf than at Torrey Pines, mere minutes from Green Flash's tap room and beer garden. One of the country's premier municipal golf facilities with a long history of championship play, Torrey's renown often makes tee times challenging to procure. But with a modicum of patience, an amazing round of golf awaits. Both the North and South courses dish up postcard-

worthy ocean views along with challenging rough and the chance of fog, rain and wind.

The South Course is many golfers' preferred round, as it boasts such memorable cliff side holes, along with rich tournament history. Who can forget the 2008 U.S. Open when Tiger Woods — with a broken leg and a torn ACL — birdied the 18th hole to force a Monday playoff with Rocco Mediate; and then birdied the 18th

in the playoff to extend the match, finally winning over his gritty opponent on the 91st hole?

But don't overlook the North Course. Set higher on the bluff, the views on this 18 are also remarkable, and although it is shorter than the South Course, its tight fairways and mature trees demand accuracy matched with length to score.

After a round at Torrey Pines (particularly if weather-challenged), you will definitely want to head a few blocks east for a hop-heavy 19th hole experience at Green Flash. Here, brewmaster Erik Jensen and his talented brewing team have developed an impressive assortment of specialty craft ales over the years, including the game-changing West Coast IPA which helped establish a signature San Diego taste and put the region on craft beer enthusiasts' radars.

Today's 4,000-square-foot tasting room and beer garden offers some 30 beers on tap, including the company's front line beers, as well as seasonal, rare and special releases. Try an original West Coast IPA or the aptly named Palate Wrecker (a seasonal triple IPA) to see what the fuss is all about before experimenting with anything else.

Outside in the often-bustling beer garden, you can relax and enjoy a bite from the Green Flash Gastro food truck. There's also a gift shop with logo items (hats, shirts, glasses, etc.) and beer to go.

The legendary green flash that occurs as the sun sets into the Pacific might be elusive to the eye ... but after a round at Torrey and an IPA here, it's quite easy to see why Green Flash is one of San Diego's signature brewing companies. ■



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Never the Twain Shall Meet

A CONVERSATION FROM THE GREAT BEYOND

By David Weiss

Your more literary golf buddies may have passing knowledge of P.G. Wodehouse's Oldest Member, or may even have read bits and bobs from John Updike's *Golf Dreams*. But many more of them may have unwittingly misquoted Mark Twain, who was alleged to have called golf, "a good walk spoiled."

There are days, I'm sure, when we all couldn't agree more.

But without going into the scholarly minutiae, let it be said that Sam Clemens likely never uttered that phrase, though it does sound like his signature blend of cynicism and satire — which he usually reserved for shady civic officials or itinerant gamblers. Notwithstanding the quibble, we recently hired a noted trance medium, Cassandra of Hollywood, who for \$39.99 lit some incense and candles and helped us reach Twain's indomitable spirit to ask him directly about the apocryphal quote.

WEISS: *Mr. Twain, is that you? I can't tell if that's tobacco smoke coming from your meerschaum pipe or Cassandra's cheap patchouli incense.*

TWAIN: Who else would it be and why in tarnation did you summon me to this god-awful emporium? What are they cookin' next door, squirrel fricassee? I ain't smelled nothin' so foul since Aunt Polly stewed a week-old possum.

Sorry for the olfactory shock, sir. I believe there's a McDonald's next door. I'll see if we can't get Cassie to close the door and light another few sticks of incense.

Well, do it fast or those rumors about my death might turn out to be no exaggeration whatsoever!

Indeed, indeed. But if I may get right to the point, I've summoned you here to ask your opinion about the game of golf, which you reportedly dismissed with acidic wit as a "good walk spoiled" many years ago. Was that phrase your own coinage, or did someone falsely attribute it to you?

You awakened my spirit for this nonsense? That does sound like something I might have said if I'd considered the game worthy of one of my memorable gibes. Truth be told, I never took an interest in a game best-suited to bulbous bankers and thieving land barons. Like I once said about those rascals: "Their money is twice tainted — t'ain't yours and t'ain't mine!"

Very quotable indeed, sir, and true. But, begging your forgiveness, it has been reliably reported that you once indulged in a game of miniature golf with Woodrow Wilson in Bermuda circa 1910, at the estate of U.S. Vice Consul William H. Allen. Does that not ring a bell?

What the devil? What brand of ill-begotten spirits have you summoned to wake me from my peaceful slumbers? I reckon you

also hired a team of those nosy Pinkerton rascals to compile a dossier on me. Is that a term with which you are familiar?

Ahem, very much so, sir, and, uh, no we would never sic one of those disreputable shamuses on such an august personage as yourself! But back to the point. The clown's mouth, sir! Did you properly execute the last shot that fabled day in Bermuda? Did you win a free game off the President?

What a presuming wastrel you are! Trust me, the only time I wasted time putting a little white ball in motion took place in a billiard parlor — and to my everlasting chagrin. Again, if you were even passingly familiar with my bottomless barrel of bons mots, you'd remember this one: "The game of billiards has destroyed my sweet disposition." Put that in your incense burner and light it!

Speaking off fire and brimstone, that Black Cavendish tobacco of yours is about to set off the smoke detector! Have you never heard of the deleterious effects of secondhand smoke?

Boy, do I have to keep citing myself? When I turned 70, I said: "As an example to others — not that I care for moderation myself — it has always been my rule never to smoke when asleep and never to refrain when awake." How's that for a quotation, Bartlett?

Good stuff, sir. Your point well taken. OK, one last thing. Did you know there's a Mark Twain GC in Elmira, NY? It's designed by the great Donald Ross and named after you!

Who's that, Betsy's great-grandson? I'll have him tarred and feathered for associating my hallowed name with such a dastardly game. Cassandra, send me back to the netherworld — and I'll have two Big Macs and a sarsaparilla to go! ■

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GIVING BACK

Helping A Helper

IT'S TIME TO GIVE BACK TO ARTIST SCOTT MEDLOCK

By Jill Painter Lopez

Scott Medlock is always helping others. That's just what he does.

He's an artist by trade, but his real calling is philanthropy, and he uses his love of art, golf and music as the vehicle to raise funds and awareness for many causes.

He has the Scott Medlock—Robby Krieger Rock and Roll Golf Classic, which recently celebrated its 11th annual event, benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Medlock and Krieger, guitarist for The Doors, have been to Memphis to visit children battling cancer and have gained so much inspiration from the courageous, positive kids there.

What a cruel irony, then, after all he has done in raising funds for cancer research and awareness, that Medlock was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic adenocarcinoma in January.

He knew the one thing that would make him feel better while undergoing chemotherapy drips for 72 consecutive hours would be to continue to help others. So he's planning his 12th annual tournament, looking at courses to host and adding different charities this year to help

victims of the recent fires and Borderline Grill shootings.

Amazing, isn't he?

"I think I'm just wired that way," said Medlock, a longtime Moorpark resident. "I love helping others. I'm not good at receiving help. I don't know why. It's a little awkward. I have a lot of friends who are saying, 'Let us do this for you.' I'm not able to do as much work as I normally would."

He found out he had cancer after an episode of intense back pain sent him to the doctor and a tumor was found on his spine. When he was diagnosed, St. Jude CEO Richard C. Shadyac Jr. called and said he thought Medlock should consult Dr. Zev A. Wainberg at UCLA Medical Center. Medlock thought it was serendipitous that he had seen Wainberg just two days before. He knew he was on the right track.

"The treatment seems to be working," Medlock said. "We just got results and the doctors were really pleased. Everything shrank by 50 percent. They told me a while back that they probably wouldn't be able to get rid of the tumors, but it was a matter of managing them. That was shocking. Now they said it's possible. It could take a miracle. Why not?"

Medlock feels blessed that the lone symptom out of 20 possible ones doctors told him about is neuropathy in his hands, but that's not good for an artist or a golfer. He even makes chemotherapy sound not so nasty, calling it "chemosabe."

"I try to look at everything through a positive lens," Medlock said. "I don't work well with negativity. I figure out how to turn it into a positive, even chemo."

The 50-year-old Medlock is a cheerful, joyous man and a friend to all. He may not



ABOVE: SCOTT MEDLOCK ON LEFT

be good at receiving help, but his friends and family have rallied. They set up a GoFundMe account for him. He says his wife, Myrna, a nurse, has been his rock through this journey. They have three children: Dylan just graduated from UC Berkeley; Dawson is a freshman at UCLA; Their daughter, Kailana, is heading to dance school at SUNY Purchase, in New York in August. Medlock is looking forward to accompanying her to the East Coast and helping her get settled.

When the account raised \$30,000 in two weeks, Medlock was floored.

Krieger is one of Medlock's best friends. He shared a video message recently, saying: "He's been my friend for about 30 years and is the one that got me interested in giving back and doing fundraisers for our favorite charities ... now he needs some help ... all of his buddies are helping him but we need all of you to help, too."

A member of Augusta National GC called recently, and the next thing Medlock knew, he was playing Augusta for the first time. He had been to the Masters each of the past 25 years to make drawings of great moments, but it was his first time playing. He even birdied holes 13 and 15. He didn't keep score.

He's playing well right now and jokes that "it's the chemosabe swing. It's forced me to swing easy and smooth," Medlock said.

Medlock is the artist who has done all of the SCGA Hall of Fame inductee portraits since 2007 (a handful pictured left.)

Now it's time for us to help Medlock. He would never ask, of course, but it's the least we can do. ■

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FORESIGHT SPORTS



GOLF GROUPS

Tiny Putters

THE COUNTRY CLUB FOR EVERYONE ELSE

By **Scott Fluhler**

EGO-FREE GOLF FOR ALL. A simple but effective concept of cutting down golf's barriers by growing a like-minded community. It also happens to be the founding principle of the SCGA's fastest growing member club: Tiny Putters Golf (TPG).

"We started as a beer league," says Tiny Putters Golf co-founder Scott Fluhler. "It's crazy to think, only two years ago, it was 20 or so of our friends meeting up a few times a year for tournaments. And now we've got over 110 members, events every month, and fellow golf brands wanting to partner up. It's clear we've really tapped into something."

What Fluhler and co-founder Austin Keneshea created with Tiny Putters Golf is more than just a fresh-faced, millennial-leaning, LA-based SCGA club — it's a community.

"If you look at the SCGA clubfinder, there are a ton of options," says Keneshea. "Scott and I noticed, though, that no clubs catered specifically to younger golfers. So we stepped in and created the community that we wanted to join. We're the 'country club for everyone else.'"

Tiny Putters Golf offers its members something different; whether it's their cheeky presence on Instagram, their dedicated Slack channel aka Clubhouse where Tiny Putters can interact, talk smack and set up tee times with each other, or their unique tournament formats giving

any handicap a real chance at victory.

"We've got it all: Masters, Ryder Cup, team-based, partner-based ... we even have a Halloween spook-tational where you get an extra stroke bonus if you come in costume," Fluhler says. "We're like mad scientists with this stuff, always cookin' up something new."

Members of TPG never know where they are playing next — and that's the beauty of it. You might call them the traveling nomads of the Los Angeles (and beyond) golf scene. Rustic Canyon, Simi Hills, Rancho Park and Los Robles may be in the TPG tournament rotation, but impromptu trips to Ojai, Ventura, San Diego and even Palm Springs happen regularly as members grow friendships that quickly spill into their everyday lives.

The group attracts all types of people from all walks of life. On any given outing, you could be paired with a recent college grad living in Hermosa Beach, a 42-year-old father of two from Thousand Oaks, a 30-year-old surfer from Venice or a former college golfer from Pasadena grinning ear to ear as she collects all three closest-to-the-pin prizes from right under your nose.

They're a club that's taken the SCGA's campaign "Never Play Alone" and run with it, Forrest Gump style, and they're not turning back.

"Our members tell us that, before joining, they'd sign up for a random tee time or tournament but it was a crap shoot on whether they'd like the people they were matched with. TPG solves that problem," Keneshea says. "We're not just like-minded golfers, we're like-minded people who want to play, work, travel, eat and party together. And if that sounds like you, then come out and join us. We can't wait to meet you!"

Looking to the future, Tiny Putters will lean further into the idea of being a country club for everyone else, offering more opportunities for members to socialize and grow relationships with one another on the golf course and beyond.



Fluhler says, "Tiny Putters is more than just a golf group, it's a lifestyle. People see themselves in our members and so when they come out to play for the first time, they immediately feel at home. They're hooked." ■

✦ *Want to learn more about Tiny Putters Golf or find similar golf communities near you? Visit clubfinder.scga.org — and remember, never play alone!*



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CLASSIC COURSE

RECAPTURING GLORY

AT PAUMA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

By **Corey Ross**

■ ACCORDING TO LEGEND, when Robert Trent Jones Sr. arrived at the parcel of land situated between Wilderness Gardens Park and Palomar State Mountain Park to design Pauma Valley CC in 1959, he was confronted by a man on horseback.

Brandishing two pistols, the man asked Jones, "Who are you?"

A somewhat startled Jones replied, "Please lower your guns. I'm Robert Trent Jones Sr., and I'm here to build your golf course."

The iconic course designer tamed that piece of the then Wild West and turned it into a private club masterpiece in North San Diego County that deserves a tip of the cap — cowboy or otherwise.

Robert Trent Jones II Golf Course Architects President and Chief Design Officer Bruce Charlton said it's the Pauma Valley locale that sets it apart. "The setting is very much

TED GRACE (LEFT), RAY STENZEL, ARNOLD PALMER, JOHN DELOREAN



California and specifically Southern California," Charlton said. "The routing was done by Mr. Jones to take advantage of the natural characteristics of the land. The use of the mountains in particular makes the golf experience pretty cool there."

CHANGES FOR THE BETTER

The course opened on Nov. 1, 1960, and in its heyday became a posh destination for A-list celebrities who would fly into an adjacent private landing strip to play

18 and then fly home. It also hosted "Shell's Wonderful World of Golf" in 1963, featuring legends Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player, along with Mike Suchak.

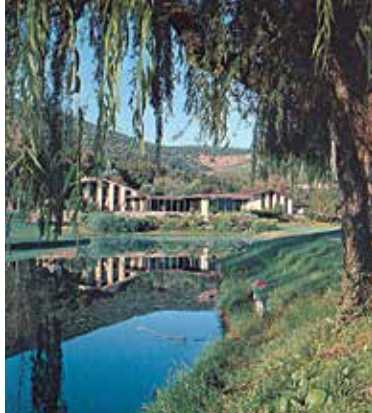
The course regularly appeared on Top 100 lists throughout the 1980s and '90s. Nowadays, the course's new ownership, SJS Tomorrow, is trying to recapture that lofty status with an ambitious, multimillion-dollar renovation project.

Course improvements include having drainage ditches removed, fairway bunkers reworked, the driving range renovated and

CALIFORNIA COOL:
A SERENE VALLEY
SETTING SURROUNDED
BY MOUNTAINS
ACCENTUATES A
STELLAR ROBERT TRENT
JONES, SR. DESIGN.



"THE SETTING IS VERY MUCH CALIFORNIA AND SPECIFICALLY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA," CHARLTON SAID. "THE ROUTING WAS DONE BY MR. JONES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAND. THE USE OF THE MOUNTAINS IN PARTICULAR MAKES THE GOLF EXPERIENCE PRETTY COOL THERE."



FUN IN THE SUN: MEMBERS AT PAUMA VALLEY CC GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO MAKE THE CLUB A FUN PLACE TO BE FOR ALL AGES.

a new irrigation system installed. New championship and forward tees are also being added, and the No. 10 green is being rebuilt.

The course itself, a par 71, remains largely true to its original design, which includes just one water hazard: a pond with a fountain in front of the clubhouse that comes into play on the par-3 third and the par-4 ninth holes. Tee boxes have been added to lengthen the course to 7,400 yards (from 7,100) from the back tees to challenge top players and to combat advances in equipment and ball technology.

Charlton said Jones liked to challenge golfers off the tee by bracketing fairways with bunkers, another common Pauma Valley design feature. "Mr. Jones likes to take advantage of player strengths and let the stronger players come to the forefront," he said.

Charlton is an adviser on course design tweaks that are part of the renovation project.

The project's other major upgrades will be to the property's 26 cottages, which will be gutted and updated, as well as the clubhouse, where a 16-seat indoor/outdoor bar will be constructed with all new

furniture and flooring. Additionally, a three-lane lap pool and hot tub will be built to complement the current resort pool. Other improvements include a new fitness center, bocce ball court and children's playground.

NEW AND IMPROVED

Pauma Valley's Assistant General Manager, Scott Shinner, said the improvements have been overdue and will optimally position the club to cater to current members and guests but also make sure it's attractive to future members and their lifestyle interests.

"We couldn't keep kicking the can down the road," Shinner said. "We had to make the improvements that not only our members deserve, but our guests. And it's a great motivation for the staff to know you have a club that's striving to be top-notch. It's the goal of our ownership to get us back in the Top 100, and we are going to have the facilities to do it."

While the club's core membership remains golfers, Shinner said it's necessary for the club to be attractive to non-golfers as well. "We want our amenities to cater to someone who doesn't necessarily play



golf," he said. "They can play tennis and pickleball, go to the pool or use the fitness center. Things like that."

Shinner said the renovation plan and ensuing purchase had the overwhelming support of the membership. When the club was being considered for sale, the bylaws required 80 percent approval from equity members. The vote was 98 percent in favor of the sale.

"Our members are ecstatic," Shinner said, noting that memberships have been put on a moratorium during the renovation and that a waiting list has been started. "We may be the only club in Southern California who has a waiting list. As a matter of fact, we have

added over 100 members since last summer. That speaks volumes about our success."

The upgrade to the bar and grill will expand on the clubhouse's California ranch-style feel, Shinner said. The current clubhouse was built in 1963 to replace the original temporary clubhouse, which was actor John Wayne's ranch. The home still exists adjacent to the course's 14th hole. Wayne is celebrated with memorabilia in the club's expansive trophy case, as are past champions and past PGA Tour stars who have visited.

Save for Wayne's house, Shinner said the original intent of the course was for there to be no homes bordering it. That vision stayed

true for 10 years before residences were allowed in the '70s, but they were placed strategically so as not to come into play.

The ownership change has the club staff dreaming big. "They were the perfect buyers," Shinner said of SJS, which also owns Dove Canyon GC in Rancho Santa Margarita, Steele Canyon GC in Jamul and Bear Creek GC in Murrieta.

There may not be many gunslingers left to confront on the fairways, but the locale is still serene and the surrounding mountains impressive. And with all the changes afoot, Shinner says, "Pauma Valley CC members are looking forward to a new and improved club." ■





CHANNING BENJAMIN
TRADITION GC
LA QUINTA

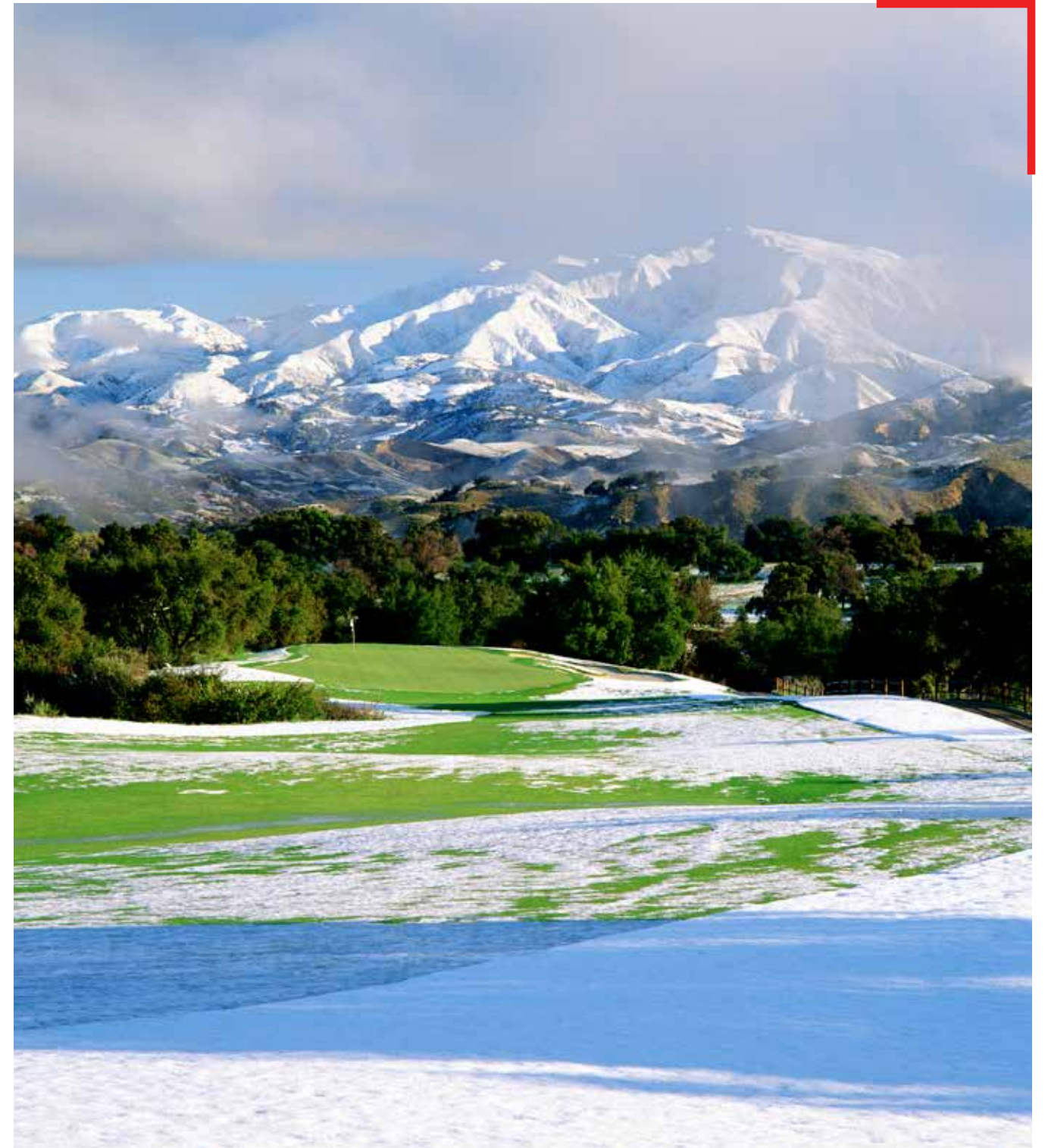
ACES

You're on the tee box ready to launch when you notice something different. Who is that person moving around in the weeds behind the green? What is that person doing standing on top of a golf cart with a black hood covering their head? What's up with that cherry picker hovering above the trees with a person peering down from the basket? Those, friends, are the aces who shoot the striking photos we salivate over in the glossy pages of golf magazines, looking for the exact best angle to take the shot. They're trying to stay out of the line of fire and not hold up your game, for sure. So please play through and if the spirit strikes, feel free to say hi. But don't tarry long ... it's "golden hour" and the window of light is closing fast.

- EVAN SCHILLER ●
- CHANNING BENJAMIN ●
- JOHN HENEBRY ● AIDAN BRADLEY ●
- JON ENCARNACION ●
- RUSSELL KIRK ●

BIGHORN GC, PALM DESERT

"WHEN I WAS ASKED TO PHOTOGRAPH BIGHORN GC, I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE THE CHANGES THAT WOULD TAKE PLACE OVER THE SIX-MONTH TIME FRAME I WAS GIVEN. THE ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND THE INCREDIBLE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE SPRING CREATE A MAGICAL PICTURE LIKE THE ONE SEEN HERE." — **CHANNING BENJAMIN**



RANCHO SAN MARCOS, SANTA BARBARA

"THIS SHOT OF RANCHO SAN MARCOS WAS FORTUNATE CREATION. RIGHT TIME AT THE RIGHT PLACE, I WAS LUCKY WITH A COUPLE MINUTES OF SUNLIGHT EVEN THOUGH I HAD PLANNED TO BE AT THAT PARTICULAR SPOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAINS." — **AIDAN BRADLEY**



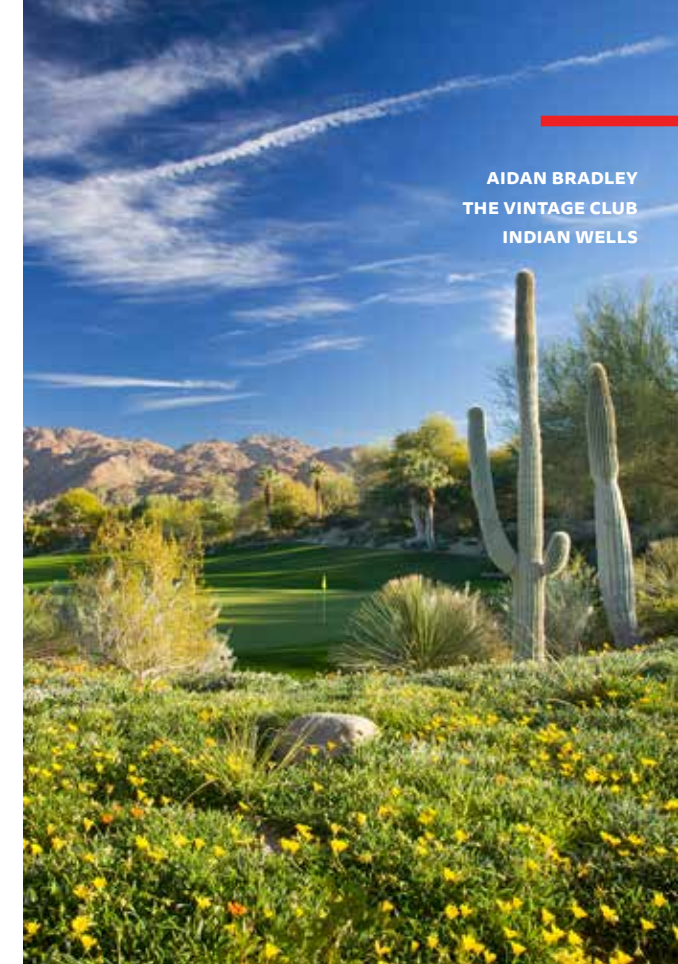
PELICAN HILL GC, NEWPORT COAST (TOP) "I LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS AERIAL IMAGE. THE RICH GREEN AND BLUE COLORS, THE WARM LIGHT AND LONG SHADOWS, AND THE HINT OF CATALINA ISLAND VISIBLE IN THE DISTANCE. IT SHOWS OFF PELICAN HILL IN ALL OF ITS BEAUTY." —**JON ENCARNACION**

ROYAL COUNTY DOWN GC, NORTHERN IRELAND (BOTTOM) "I WENT FOUR MORNINGS AT DAWN TO CAPTURE THIS SCENE, BUT EACH MORNING TURNED CLOUDY WITH THE SUNRISE. ON THE FIFTH DAY I WAS REWARDED WITH THIS SPECTACULAR SUNRISE OVER ROYAL COUNTY DOWN GC, TOWN OF NEWCASTLE AND THE MOUNTAINS OF MOURNE. IT WAS A SPECIAL MORNING AT A VERY SPECIAL GOLF COURSE." —**JOHN HENEGBRY**



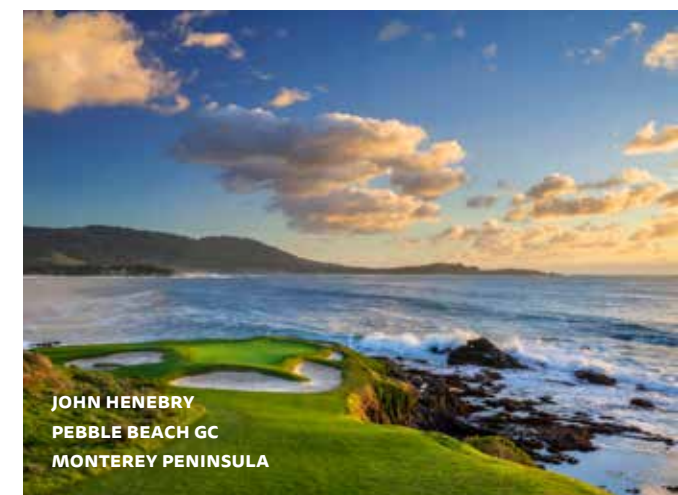
PGA WEST, NICKLAUS PRIVATE

"I HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO CAPTURE THIS PERSPECTIVE OF THE 14TH HOLE OF THE NICKLAUS PRIVATE COURSE AT PGA WEST, BUT THE LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES OF MANEUVERING A LIFT INTO PLACE WERE JUST TOO GREAT AND A HELICOPTER WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. IT WAS NOT UNTIL I STARTED SHOOTING WITH A DRONE THAT I WAS ABLE TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. THE AFTERNOON LIGHT AND SKY WERE PERFECT JUST AS A WINTER STORM WAS PASSING THROUGH THE DESERT." —**EVAN SCHILLER**



AIDAN BRADLEY
THE VINTAGE CLUB
INDIAN WELLS

WHISTLING STRAITS, SHEBOYGAN, WISC. (LEFT) “OVER THE YEARS, PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE, WATCHING THE LIGHT PLAY ACROSS THE COURSE AND SKY, I HAVE BEEN REWARDED WITH MANY INSPIRING IMAGES. I’M CAPTIVATED BY THE BEAUTY AND ALLURE OF COURSES THAT PROVOKE DIFFERENT EMOTIONS FROM TRANQUILITY TO TUMULTUOUS.”
—RUSSELL KIRK



JOHN HENEERY
PEBBLE BEACH GC
MONTEREY PENINSULA

LAKE EFFECT

SPECTACULAR GOLF, CASINO GAMING, AND WATER WOWS IN COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

By *Travelin' Joe Passov*

JUST OFF THE LOBBY of the Spa Tower at the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel sits a small but remarkable tent-like room called the Storytelling Lodge. Peek inside and you'll find a space that depicts a traditional tribal talk setting, complete with local flora and a stone-framed firepit stacked with sticks. As a nod to modern comfort, you'll also find a flat-screen TV, overstuffed leather chairs covered in colorful native fabrics and handsome polished wood coffee tables. Alongside is a gallery that features the rich history of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Make no mistake, the legends and lore are compelling. Yet what the display needs is a bit of golf. So many positive tales emerge from a single round at the resort's **Circling Raven Golf Club**, they deserve a gallery of their own. Toss in more happy reminiscences from a day at the nearby **Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course** on the lake and you have the ingredients for an unforgettable summer golf trip.

THE FAMOUS ISLAND GREEN OF THE PAR-3 14TH HOLE ON THE COEUR D'ALENE RESORT GC.



CIRCLING RAVEN MAY NOT HAVE LAKE FRONTAGE, BUT IT'LL RANK VERY HIGH ON YOUR LIST OF COURSES PLAYED.

Located in northern Idaho's panhandle, in the heart of the Pacific Northwest some 100 miles south of the Canadian border, Coeur d'Alene has long been a favored regional and national getaway thanks to its incomparable, 25-mile-long namesake lake, once called one of the five most beautiful lakes in the world by *National Geographic*. Its waters and beaches remain a haven for boaters, sunbathers, jetskiers and other recreationists — fun-seekers of every age.

It wasn't until 1991, however, that Coeur d'Alene established itself as a bona fide golf attraction, when the Coeur d'Alene Resort opened its stunning golf course and its one-of-a-kind talking point, the world's only floating island green.

As many wise folk have said, however, "one course is a curiosity, two courses are a destination." Thus, when tribally owned Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel opened its Circling Raven course in 2003, golf had a new must-play destination. Summer vacationers warm to the delightful daytime high temperatures that range from 76 to 86 degrees and golfers cherish the added daylight from Coeur d'Alene being situated so far north. Indeed, the golf is so good, you want to play all day.

CIRCLING RAVEN: A RARE BIRD

Our first stop brings us to Worley, Idaho, 25 miles south of Coeur d'Alene proper and the most complete resort in the region, the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel and its Circling Raven GC. More about the resort momentarily — because the golf descriptions can't wait.

The golf course gets its name from

a legendary chief and medicine man of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in the 1700s, who accurately foretold the future. I can't say he saw golf as part of the prosperity to come, but he would certainly be proud of the creation that pays homage to his legacy.

Let's establish first that there's no world-famous lake at Circling Raven, nor any islands to navigate. This is inland core golf in its purest form, free from homes and roads, where a stray elk is more likely to affect your game than any man-made distraction.

Architect Gene Bates draped the layout across 620 acres — roughly three times

the space allotted to most golf courses. What resulted is a sprawling, 7,189-yard, par-72 spread that weaves through gently rolling terrain on a vast canvas of forests, meadows and wetlands. Most prominent of the design features are the massive white sand traps, each artistically sculpted and most with noses or tongues of turf that compartmentalize the bunker. As big and bold as the bunkers are, they fit the enormous scale of the property perfectly.

Circling Raven's Director of Golf, Dave Christenson, states that the key to success on the course, which checks in with a formidable 144 slope rating from the gold

**LET'S ESTABLISH FIRST
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tees, is striking-quality iron shots into the greens. "There's plenty of room off the tee," says Christenson. "Bunkers protect many hole locations, so it's important to find the proper spot in the fairway so as to approach the large greens from the best angle."

Variety is a hallmark at Circling Raven. There's an enticing mix of uphill and downhill holes, wide-open tests bracketed by prairie grasses and others hemmed in by pines. More uniform is the first cut of rough, which is short but lush, and the green contours, which are mostly benign, with soft, broad slopes the norm.

What elevates Circling Raven is that

there are no weak links. Every hole is a solid, attractive challenge. Still, aside from the blissful peace and quiet and occasional wildlife sighting, there are a fistful of individual standouts. The 386-yard, par-4 eighth, pine-framed, with a left-to-right sloping fairway and backed by mountains, is one. The 581-yard, par-5 12th is another, thanks to an elevated tee and a drive over wetlands that must avoid a cluster of pines in the middle of your aiming zone. The par-4 closers on each nine are terrific tests. Still, what stands out most is the quartet of par-3s, all camera-worthy, all featuring a healthy forced carry and all memorable.





POST-ROUND COMFORTS

Once golf concludes, the 300-room hotel beckons with all the bells and whistles you'd expect from a modern resort, plus notable extras. Start with the Spa Ssakwa'q'n, much easier to experience than to spell. A full menu of massages, skin care, body treatments and a nail salon service are available for those who want to feel really, really good.

Come hungry and thirsty. **Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel** excels at dining. It's all casual, but the fare and presentation at Chinook Steak, Pasta & Spirits is so good, you can't help but want to don a freshly pressed shirt. Both local and comfort foods are done superbly by Executive Chef Steven Walk and his team. I started with a Northwest Salad of mixed greens topped with fresh huckleberries and Oregon cheddar, followed by a melt-in-your-mouth venison stew. A nightcap



(try the draft No-Li ["No Lie"] IPA) at the Nighthawk Lounge sports bar didn't disappoint, and neither did breakfast at Circling Raven's Twisted Earth Grill (if you're famished, try the football-size Sunrise Burrito).

Shopping, cultural events and concerts are part of the offerings as well. Vince Neil of Mötley Crüe fame and Winona Judd and her band were the upcoming attractions, if only I had been able to stay on an extra

week. Among the explore-the-culture side adventures I sampled were getting up close and personal with buffalo at the H2H Bison Ranch. The ranch offers an education with wild animals first, then an afternoon snack.

Naturally, as you're staying at a casino hotel, there's gaming on tap. It's slots, mostly, colorfully presented, and there are plenty of non-smoking areas. There's no guarantee you'll win, but you sure can't lose with a stay at this hotel.



GOLF IS BUT ONE OF MANY ACTIVITIES AT THE COEUR D'ALENE RESORT. DINING, NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE, FESTIVALS, AND MORE DISTINGUISH THIS PANHANDLE IDAHO TOWN.

ISLAND IN THE LAKE

One hole brought the golf world to northern Idaho in 1991 — the par-3 14th at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. No one had ever seen anything like it. True, island greens had been around for decades, but invariably they were connected to terra firma by some strip of land. Not here. I first played the hole in 1992. Twenty-seven years later, the thrill remains the same.

Golfers hit to a genuine floating island, one that the golf staff can move closer or farther away on any given day, thanks to a system of cables and winches affixed to the bottom of Lake Coeur d'Alene. A six-passenger mahogany boat called *Putter* transports you to the green, where you dock, then putt out.

Scores of red geraniums, a pair of gleaming white traps and a smattering of evergreens add beauty to the green, but most beautiful of all is the certificate they create for you, with luck inked with a score of par or better. The scorecard yardage ranges from 95 to 218 yards, though the actual distance on any given day is marked at the tee. Completely refurbished in

autumn 2018, the 14th boasts new turf, environmentally friendly vegetable oils used for the mechanical parts, and rebuilt bunkers. It's now also handicap accessible. Yes, it's a gimmick, but as gimmicks go, it's one of the best ever.

To be fair, the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course is far from a one-hole wonder. The small but significant touches boost the entire golf experience into elite status. A masseuse awaits at the range, ready to work out the knots before you hit the first tee. Premium golf carts feature custom-style seats and steering wheel. Tee boxes are simple and uncluttered — ball-washers and trash receptacles are built into the cart. Much of the course maintenance is performed at night. Forecaddies help with green reads and bunker raking, and the rakes themselves are hidden from view, in a special underground slot next to the bunker.

Big bombers might pout about one-too-many short holes on the championship, 6,803-yard, par-71 layout, but for everybody else, it's a gorgeous, flawlessly maintained treat, with a fistful of holes that look out at or play next to the lake. In particular, holes

11 through 13 yield all of the challenge and scenery anyone could hope for.

Of equal quality is the seven-story hotel's signature restaurant, Beverly's. With 14,000 bottles of wine — the largest collection in the Pacific Northwest — plus tastings and wine cellar tours, along with acclaimed regional entrées, Beverly's provides big-city refinement in a relaxed ambiance and ultimate eye candy vistas of the lake. Try a regional favorite as I did, the pan-seared Columbia River wild salmon, and you'll have no regrets about the one that got away.

Back at the Casino, the folks who manage Circling Raven have ambitious plans for the near future. Gene Bates will soon embark on a master-planned renovation that will see the course regressed, bunkers eliminated or added, the practice facility reoriented and expanded and nine new championship holes.

The goal? Better playability for all classes of golfers, improved conditions and exciting flexibility with more golf. I didn't need much arm-twisting to plan a return trip, but this cements the deal. Call me Ida-Joe. ■



Travels By Judd Spicer WITH Archie

PAWS AND PARS ON THE CENTRAL COAST

Ladies, gentlemen ... and dogs: Welcome to the Rock. While both man and hound hold a separate, though equal, adoration for chasing around a ball, the shared pursuit rarely finds much coalescence, especially on the road. It would seem that the question, 'What to do with my dog while I go on a golf trip?' is as aged as the gentleman's game itself.

The answer to that query is found in Morro Bay, Calif.

With its 23-million-year-old, 576-foot-tall Morro Rock standing sentry over the eponymous seaside city along Highway 1, a mere 200-mile drive up the coast from L.A. proves a casual, homey welcome for bipeds and quadrupeds alike.

TREATS FOR ALL

Upon turning a year old, we decided that our dog Archie's graduation from puppydom was deserving of an escape from the Coachella Valley's summer sizzle.

Considering that domestic pet owners

spent an estimated \$72 billion on their animals in 2018, the choice to take a dog on a golf trip didn't seem all that aberrant. And, sure, while more than a few travel adjustments need be made for such a scenario, in pet-friendly Morro Bay, the concessions are mitigated.

Strolling along the main strip of bay-adjacent Embarcadero Avenue, pups are seemingly on par with people. Like those holding the respective leashes, the main drag's scent of salted air, sugary confections and the day's fresh catch from the active commercial fishing fleets seem to grab the senses of all snouts.

On and off the water, from boat cruises





FEAST FOR THE SENSES: MAN AND BEAST
ALIKE ENJOY THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SCENTS
OF MORRO BAY.

nual Papa Hemingway lookalike contest). Down at the waterfront, canines curl up at **Bayside Café** while diners enjoy an awesome California Chowder (mixing home-made clam chowder and green chile soup).

A wind-down of a day strolling the main drag finds perfect purchase for man and beast at the **Inn at Morro Bay**, coastally perched within the 4,000-acre Morro Bay State Park. As the sun eventually melts past the Rock from the vantage of the Inn's cottage lodgings (highly suggested for a special occasion), the day's olfactory sensations give way to an auditory concert played by herons, egrets and shorebirds, as the bay's moored boats tuck into their evening slips.

OFF-COURSE, UNLEASHED

Directly across the street from the Inn, **Morro Bay GC** nears its centennial celebration, and plays as the most popular of San Luis Obispo's trio of value-driven county courses.

As a dog sitter takes Archie for the morning (a service readily available in the area), leashes are traded for clubs. Known as the "Poor Man's Pebble Beach" (a title shared with several other courses in California), Morro Bay GC's 6,360 yards make for a gettable round across an idyllic setting.

"It's a relaxing and fun environment," said Michael Samaniego, head golf professional. "From practically every hole on the course you have a view or a glimpse of the ocean, the sand dunes, Morro Rock and just the overall beauty of the estuary and the Back Bay."



A dearth of distance is measured with a course defense of sticky fairways and deceptive putting surfaces.

"The course is unique," Samaniego said. Everything is pretty much in front of you. We have just three bunkers and they really don't play into the course all that much."

Located within the State Park, a woefully errant strike on Morro's par-5 14th may find a buoyant campground. "It's very popular, and we have lots of golfers who camp, so we offer them a discounted rate," Samaniego said. "We have guys who sleep in their tents or their RVs, roll out of bed, and then just stroll up here to play."

At nearby **Dairy Creek GC** in San Luis Obispo, campers from El Chorro Regional Park also fill up the tee sheet. "We'll get a lot of people who camp and play golf," said Charles Buckley, golf assistant at Dairy Creek. "Camping is everywhere out here."

Recently reduced to nine holes because of regional water issues, Dairy Creek is nonetheless a rustic, fast-rolling layout.

"At first, rounds went down a bit, but now it's picking up again, and we're seeing a demographic that likes to play nine," Buckley said. "And you can't beat the affordability, with just \$15 to walk out here."

And, true to the region's affinity for animals, the property enjoys the unique staffing of on-site sheep. "We have a guy that grazes them out here, just to keep the

weeds down; he moves the sheep around every week or so," Buckley added.

In neighboring Atascadero (which has a dog park adjacent), rugged **Chalk Mountain** proves the most earnest test of the county's three facilities.

"Our course is the most challenging in the county," said Jack Bishop, pro shop employee at Chalk Mountain.

Deer abound across the Robert Muir Graves design, where a reappearing creek winds through taut landing areas, and a burly latter nine evens the scoring chances.

"There's more trouble here than the other courses," added Bishop, "and with our smaller landing areas, it's easy to lose

your ball in the rough. If you can keep it in the fairway, you'll do really well."

THE TAIL END

While I was enjoying three rounds in successive days, Archie had his own separate Central Coast adventure. With his brown Lab, Gracie, in tow, the dog sitter had taken the pair on a fresh journey each day, introducing our little man to the area's bounty of hiking trails and dog parks.

Following the Chalk Mountain round, we reconvene for a parting lunch at Street Side Ale House in downtown Atascadero. It's a bit warmer inland, and Archie and Gracie share the shade beneath our table.

I finish my Dead Oak Pilsner and bacon-crust burger (passing a few scraps beneath the table), and we perform our handshakes as the dogs, in their innocence, probably don't realize they'll never see one another again.

The car is readied for the return to Palm Springs, and we begin our trek south. Archie likes to be in the action, and he wiggles his way to the center console. One hand on the wheel, I scratch his ears as he watches the mile markers click by.

And I swear, for a moment, I see him tilt his little head upward, as if he were fondly recalling the adventure that was now in the rearview. ■



and kayaks to docks and dining, few locales are off-limits to man's best bud.

"People certainly love their dogs here," said James Springfield of the Chateau Margene tasting room on Morro's main strip. Pouring a healthy offering of the stellar 2013 Reserve Cab, Springfield lauds Morro Bay for sporting all the draws of Cali's coastal lifestyle, but without any of the big city hassle.

"Here, you've got the best of all worlds, with our beaches, water activities and then all the dining and great wines from around the region," he said. "Morro Bay is starting to grow up; lots of change in the works, even though things move nice and slow around here."

A casual pace indeed, and one paired with some great platings.

At pet-friendly **Thai Bounty**, Havana-born Jorge Milanes has opted to match his popular Southeast Asian flavors with a Cuban menu befitting his homeland (and his recent finalist finish at Key West's an-

"HERE, YOU'VE GOT THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS, WITH OUR BEACHES, WATER ACTIVITIES AND THEN ALL THE DINING AND GREAT WINES FROM AROUND THE REGION."





The Road

Not Taken

TRY 395 FOR SOMETHING
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT

By Matt McKay

"That long, lonesome highway keeps on calling me to roam."

—Lou Reid & Carolina

SO, YOU'RE HITTING THE ROAD northbound out of Southern California, and the clubs are coming with. You've sampled the wine country of Santa Ynez and Paso Robles; you've breathed deeply of the oceanside beauty in Santa Barbara and the Monterey Peninsula. Highway 5 is a snoozer. What about Highway 395?

Bingo.

After an introductory 30-mile stretch of red Mojave Desert, the first real sniff of what 395 is all about comes at Ridgecrest, one of the five biggest towns on the highway with a population of 30,000. It's the home of the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake ... the place where they make the bombs. However, the gates of the base will open for those with passes to play the on-base

China Lake GC. Designed by Billy Bell and opened in 1957, it's a surprisingly challenging 6,912-yard layout that does about 4,500 rounds a year, most recorded by Department of Defense affiliates.

Seen the movie *Chinatown*? Owens Valley is ground zero, with a dry lakebed to prove it. After rolling past the spooky hotels and sketchy trailer parks in the tiny burgs of Little Lake, Coso, Grant and Olancha, the expansive valley and lake bed encourage imaginations to consider what once was, before the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power snatched up all the land and began shipping the water south in the early 1900s.

Little Lake is notable because it marks the beginning of the Eastern

Sierra Scenic Byway, the part of 395 slicing through the Owens Valley and extending to the Nevada border. For the entire distance, travelers are sandwiched between sections of the Sierra Nevada range, which runs 400 miles from Central California into southern Nevada.

SCRUFFY TOUGHY PLACES

The next stop is Lone Pine, a town with roots in the film industry and the L.A. water plot; the Lone Pine Film Museum documents its ties with John Wayne, among others, and the LADWP still maintains an office here. There are several small hotels, with the Dow Villa being among the oldest and most popular. The Lone Pine Smokehouse, across the street from the Dow Villa, offers the best barbecue brisket west of the Pecos, and the Frosty Chalet will satisfy any independent burger stand aficionado (bring cash).

If you enter town from the south, the first establishment you'll encounter is Mt. Whitney GC, with 395 frontage on the west side. If you've ever wanted to play golf in the 1900s, Mt. Whitney may be as close as you can get. Opened in 1959 and designed by a group of Lone Pine businessmen, it's a nine-hole affair



on a gentle slope. During the long ride up the hill to the clubhouse, players immediately see what's up: Mt. Whitney appears to be hanging on, scruffy to the point of being overgrown.

Geno Callahan, vice president of the Mt. Whitney GC board of directors, said the club hasn't turned an annual profit for over 20 years, and exists on financial input from its 60 members and other donors.

But it's possible to be seduced. Mt. Whitney is endearing. The routing is classic, the greens tiny and spongy, the bunkers well-placed, however unplayable. Many thoughts pass through the golf lover's mind: What if it was nice? What if it went away? Who will revive it? What about these views? When can it get a new mower? Have I ever played smaller greens?

If the club's dogged determination to hold on should somehow be overwhelmed by economic forces, it would leave a giant hole where one of 395's most colorful entries once existed.

Halfway between Lone Pine and Independence, travelers will notice what looks like an internment camp on their left. It looks like an internment camp because that's what it was. The Manzanar facility housed as many as 120,000 "relocated" Japanese-Americans during World War II, and is now a national reminder operated by the U.S. National Park Service.

The grounds remain intact, with wooden signs marking former residential blocks. Surviving structures include a gatehouse, hangar, a handful of examples of housing units, a single guard tower, and the facility's cemetery, where fresh flowers and shrine contributions appear almost daily. It's a must-stop for all Americans.

BISHOP AND NORTH

After passing through Independence and Big Pine shortly after, Bishop appears. With a population of around 4,000, and a primary jumping-off point

for adventurers bound for nearby outdoor offerings, Bishop is best known for its Mule Days celebration every August.

Entering Bishop from the south, golfers can't avoid noticing Bishop CC on their left, primarily because of the road sign reminding golfers, "Next time, bring your clubs." Designed by Joe Williams, Bishop CC has been in operation since 1963, and despite its name, is a public course. While stretching to an old-school total of only 6,595 yards, the course offers a legitimate championship-caliber challenge, with magnificent views of the White Mountains to the east, and several prominent peaks in the Sierra Nevada to the west. Conditions peak during the Bishop Open in early June, when the surrounding mountains are still covered in snow.

Heading north from Bishop, drivers begin a steady ascent to the Mammoth area, which lies between the small, pleasant towns of Tom's Place and Lee Vining. The town of Mammoth Lakes is about two miles west of the highway, with the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area a mile or so further on. If looking to trade the snowy slopes for banked greens, Sierra Star GC offers pristine lakes, emerald fairways and stunning mountain views. Oh, and it's the highest golf course in California. When in doubt, you'll want to club down.

Lee Vining is just north of the Route 120 junction, which leads to Yosemite National Park to the west and is perched on a hill overlooking Mono Lake, an ancient soda lake with as many stories as California itself, including some involving the LADWP.

With its jagged limestone outcroppings and towers (known as "tufa"), barren shorelines and saline atmosphere, Mono Lake may be the best representation of the harsh beauty that is the 395: It's just eerie and otherworldly enough to be the



perfect setting for the 1973 western, "High Plains Drifter," starring Clint Eastwood, and the inside cover art for Pink Floyd's 1975 LP *Wish You Were Here*.

END OF THE LINE

The lack of civilization is what makes the final California stretch of the 395 one of the most interesting and stunning. As the highway makes a horseshoe turn near Route 108 at the Sonora Junction, it's engaged by Junction Creek, which promptly flows into the West Walker River. The highway and the river meander along together through spectacular canyons, with the river seemingly moving faster than cars during the right time of year.

Just beyond Walker and Coleville, Topaz Lake comes into view, with Nevada beyond. It's not the end of the Three Flags Highway that runs right to the Canadian border, where it becomes British Columbia 395. But it is the end of Southern California's substantial offering, and the end of the Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway.

Taking on fuel for a dollar less per gallon just across the state line, there's a decision to make: continue heading north, or turn around and do it all again southbound. ■



A STORY OF HOPE

PRATIMA SHERPA'S UNIQUE JOURNEY

By Judd Spicer

Befitting her surname — a Sherpa is a member of an ethnic group native to the mountainous regions of Nepal and the Himalayas, with Sherpa traditionally acting as sturdy guides on ascents of Mt. Everest — Pratima Sherpa has been on an incredible golf journey.

Just 19 years old, Sherpa's odyssey has made the Nepal native something of an international sensation as she climbs to achieve a dream of becoming her country's first female professional golfer.

Raised in a maintenance shed on the Royal Nepal Golf Club, a nine-hole facility where both her parents work, her first golf club was fashioned from a tree branch by her father. Her inspirational story — the subject of an award-winning ESPN short documentary — was seen by Ventura-based Mike and Tanya Montano, as the latter was researching for her own daughter's trip to Nepal via a college program.

In 2017, the Montanos would host Sherpa at their home for six weeks, where she'd play events across SoCal and have the opportunity to work with instructor Don Parsons, their



PHOTO BY BRIAN VAN DER BRUG / LOS ANGELES TIMES



daughter's coach at Twin Lakes GC in Santa Barbara. Following her whirlwind introduction to the States, Sherpa would return to her native Kathmandu where, yes, she'd again live in the maintenance shed with her family. In January, the Montanos were able to bring Sherpa back to the U.S., where her on-course hopes and subsequent enrollment at Santa Barbara City College saw the seeds of golf dreams come to fruition.

THOSE ARE HILLS

It's the waning days of March, and the pro-am of the Symetra Tour's fourth annual IOA Championship Presented by Morongo Casino & Spa is soon to begin. On the practice green at Morongo Golf Club at Tukwet Canyon, Pratima Sherpa rolls putts alongside women who are soon to be her playing competitors. Ten feet from her, the dual red pennants of the Nepali flag debut on a women's pro golf tour, standing sturdy amid an ardent Beaumont breeze. Granted a sponsor's exemption to appear as an amateur on the third tour stop of the season schedule, Sherpa is approached by a pro-am partner and asked if the snowcapped San Jacinto Mountains remind her of home. Stepping back

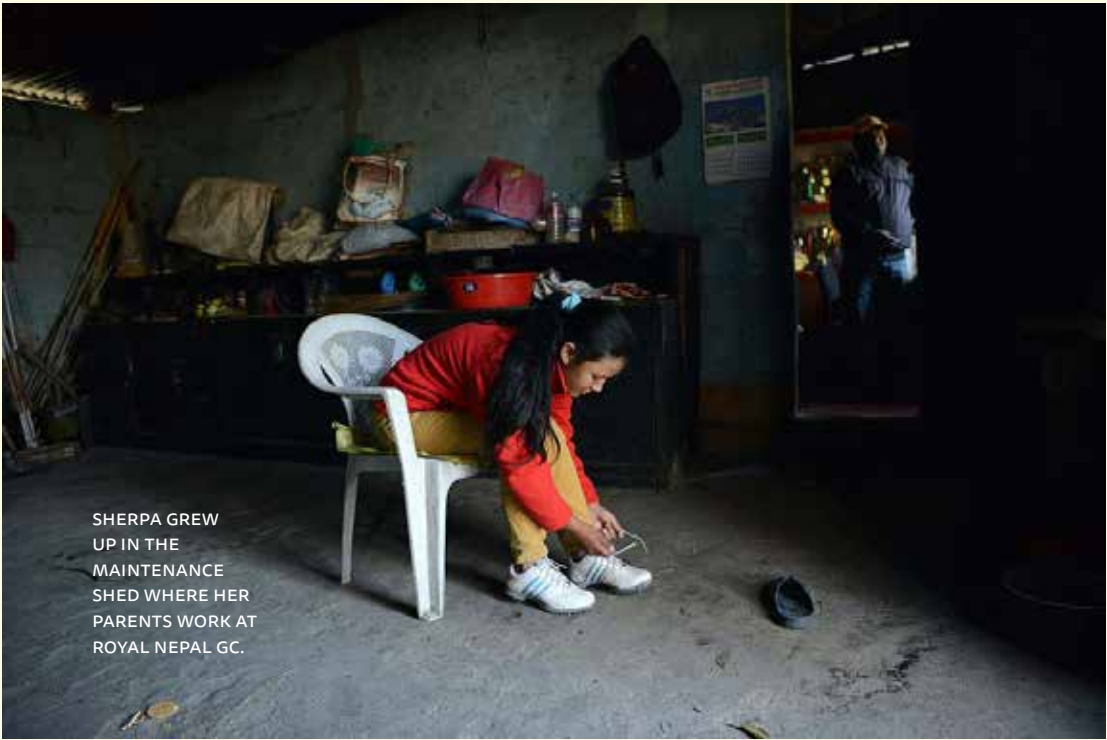
from her line, Pratima comically eyes the nearly 11,000-foot sentry and, in reference to Mount Everest, quipped: "You mean those hills?" While the San Jacintos may be but a third the size of the world's tallest mountain, the Tukwet Canyon turf below makes for an earnest test. Though the top-ranked female player in her country, she shares the same LPGA dreams with the field's 143 other players, the vast wealth of whom are far more tested golfers. "This is a very big tournament for me," she said. "And not only for me, but for Nepal. I'm excited, but there's also some pressure; everybody is watching me, so I have to do better. So I'm also a little nervous." The pro-am is a scramble, and Sherpa is paired with veteran Csicsi Rozsa, herself a golf groundbreaker as the first card-carrying tour member (man or woman) from Hungary. Throughout the course of the day, it's apparent that while Sherpa's natural skills are legit, her long game will eventually require increased pop to keep up with players of Rozsa's muscle. "It's a new experience, being around the professionals and seeing how far they hit the ball," Sherpa said. "At home, we just have short courses, so I know I need to improve my

distance. The funny thing is that, at my home course, we cannot hit driver from our range. So, you cannot practice driver." Distance aside, the day's true power comes from watching the two women interact. "I wanted to see it with my own eyes, and I thought she was impressive," Rozsa said. "Coming from a country where many people may not know a lot about golf — and my country may even be a little ahead of hers — it can be difficult. It's pretty crazy how far she's gotten with her own skills and feel. At this level, it's really not about how you hit the ball — it's about what you've got in your head, and if you truly believe you can do it. And all the will in her, yes, I think she can make it." Come tournament time, Sherpa would ultimately author a 79-83 line, which tied or beat eight pros; as evidence of her will, she'd battle for four birdies in her first round and conclude Saturday play with an eagle and tourney-closing birdie on her final three holes.

PART OF A LARGER PATH

Come summer, Sherpa will return to Nepal. Next autumn, she'll return to SoCal to stay with the Montanos and continue her studies at Santa Barbara City College, where she'll play for the Vaqueros.

grows wide when talking about Six Flags and Disneyland) and she's working toward a golf scholarship opportunity at a four-year school in the Southland, it's clear that the flag of her homeland waves above all else. "It's not so much about me, but about Nepal," she said. "By hearing about me, people will learn about golf in Nepal, which is what I really want, for other golfers in Nepal to have more opportunities. Women or men; it doesn't matter. In Nepal, there's a belief that golf is just for rich people and that there's no professional future in golf." Growing the game for an entire country would seem to be a task too massive for a five-foot-tall 19-year-old. And yet, Sherpa's growing influence appears ready to shoulder the weight. "I think it's inspiring a lot of people back in Nepal, particularly young women," Tanya Montano said. "There



SHERPA GREW UP IN THE MAINTENANCE SHED WHERE HER PARENTS WORK AT ROYAL NEPAL GC.

GETTY IMAGES

"I KNOW THAT I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, THIS IS STILL THE STARTING POINT, AND I KNOW MY GAME AND I KNOW MY WEAKNESSES. BUT I NEVER IMAGINED I'D BE INVITED HERE. I'M JUST 19 YEARS OLD, BUT I THINK MY STORY IS ABOUT HOPE. THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, BUT I THINK PEOPLE LIKE THE STORY OF HOPE."

"I'm hoping she's going to be one of my best, if not the best," said Chuck Melendez, head golf coach at Santa Barbara City College. "I've been fortunate in that I've had some great players over the years, and I think she's right up there with 'em." Soon to enter his 20th year leading the Vaqueros, Melendez, an eight-time Western State Conference Coach of the Year, believes Sherpa can outplay the pressures upon her. "The number one thing is just outworking everybody," he said. "There's talent — and she has it — but it takes a tremendous amount of work, and I believe Sherpa will put in that work. It's a great story; an inspirational story." Though Sherpa's affinity for SoCal is undeniable (her smile

has been a surge of younger girls in Nepal now playing golf, and Sherpa sends text messages, encourages them. It's not just about her. From the day I met Pratima, it's always been about her going back and developing a program where she could bring up other kids to play golf. That's why she's studying business; she understands that to eventually do that, she needs to understand the business side of it too." "I know that I have a long way to go," Sherpa said, smiling. "This is still the starting point, and I know my game and I know my weaknesses. But I never imagined I'd be invited here. I'm just 19 years old, but I think my story is about hope. There's been a lot of hard work and dedication, but I think people like the story of hope." ■





FROM GRIDIRON TO GREENS

JOEL KLATT MAKES THE CUT FOR FOX SPORTS

By Jonathan Coe

✕ This past summer, Fox Sports' lead college football game analyst, Joel Klatt, traded the gridiron for the greens, debuting as a reporter for the network's USGA championship coverage. Klatt served as a reporter for the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open championships, conducting post-round interviews with players and special guests. An SCGA member playing out of Shady Canyon GC with a crisp 0.2 handicap, Klatt is also a record-setting quarterback at the University of Colorado and a high school baseball standout drafted by the San Diego Padres. We caught up with the athletic-phenom-turned-broadcaster to talk on all things Fox and SoCal golf.

FORE: Joel, you have an incredible athletic background. If you had to rank your three standout sports as far as passion and enjoyment, how would they fall?

KLATT: Well, number one would be football. My dad was a high school football coach and I grew up around the game. I just love it. However, that's followed very, very closely by golf. To say I'm a golf enthusiast is putting it lightly. It's where my competitive energy flows these days. As for baseball, I think the passion left as I drove away from the Padres spring training complex in a Toyota Tacoma about 20 years ago.

After your first U.S. Open in your new role with Fox, what were your takeaways? How about some challenges you didn't expect?

One of the challenges I quickly realized was about preparation. I didn't know exactly what to prepare for, so I ended up over-preparing. It became very apparent almost immediately that this role is virtually a 100 percent reactionary role. While the preparation helps, it's only about one to two percent of what you'll use during a post-round sit-down. The biggest eye-opener was realizing how perfect the role felt because you're required to just pay very close attention to what's happening — which is what I have done anyways as a fan. I watched every minute of our broadcast and that helped me more than anything.

How about just being at Pebble Beach? I'm sure it wasn't your first time on the property but how about for a U.S. Open? Ever able to pinch yourself?

It was only my second time on property. I was there last year as part of the U.S. Amateur coverage. Once you're on property, you pinch yourself regardless of it being a normal Tuesday, or Saturday of the U.S. Open. It's such a magical piece of property. I'm sitting there watching a monitor and I look behind

me and there's Stillwater Cove, Carmel Bay and waves are crashing against the 18th. I'm just a kid from Colorado with two schoolteachers for parents, so I don't really understand how I got in this position. I'm very thankful.

Many believe that Fox set the golf broadcast bar at an all-time high with this year's U.S. Open coverage. There were certainly some skeptics when the contract was signed, but there's no question Fox has grown into a major player. What should we continue to expect from your team?

From the beginning, we understood that the broadcast was going to be better year over year. I think this year was our best broadcast to date and I think you'd find a lot of people who agree with that sentiment. If you take that trajectory, you can continue to expect improved broadcasts for years to come. Golf fans can bank on Fox always being aggressive with technology. In fact, I think Fox changed the way golf is televised. I watch golf every weekend of my life and I can tell you since five years ago (when we secured the USGA contract), the amount of shot tracers, shot trackers and microphones on the course has drastically increased across

all broadcasts. It's incredibly exciting for your regular golf fan, and a very proud realization for all of us at Fox.

What are the differences between calling college football and golf?

Well, there are virtually zero similarities. The pacing and structure of the broadcast is a polar opposite, for starters. The timing you need to get comments in and then get out is totally different. During a college football game, trying to keep pace with up-tempo offenses can prove a challenge when attempting to voice cohesive points. In relation to football, golf is unfolding at a snail's pace, so you have ample time to sit and think about the implications of each shot and each moment.

You're an SCGA member. We love seeing that you post all those scores. Do you enjoy tracking your handicap?

I do, I really do. I wish I could throw a couple of higher scores into the file. I have to tell you, it's not easy on my wallet giving all these strokes away. I believe in posting every round, regardless of the number, so my handicap is legit. Unfortunately, I don't always believe that's the case. If one



GOLF FANS CAN BANK ON FOX ALWAYS BEING AGGRESSIVE WITH TECHNOLOGY. IN FACT, I THINK FOX CHANGED THE WAY GOLF IS TELEVISED."

more 15-handicap fires a 78 on me, I'm going to really lose it!

What are some of your favorite tracks to spin around on?

I'm a member at Shady Canyon GC in Irvine, so that's the home course. It's a great place and it's lowered my handicap immensely due to their all-around practice facilities. Other than that, I've had the chance to play Riviera CC a couple times and, in my opinion, nothing compares. It's one of my favorite tracks that I've ever set foot on. May be crazy to say ... but I actually think it's underrated.

What's the best part about being an avid golfer in Southern California? You can't say weather because that's a given. It's the quantity and diversity of the type of golf you get to play. You go to other parts of the country and all the courses look and feel the same because only one or two types of grass grow in those regions. Whereas here in SoCal, we have all sorts of base grasses and different types of greens, chipping areas, rough patterns and even desert. The diversity of the golf here is something that I love so much. ■



KLATT INTERVIEWS BROOKS KOEPKA DURING THE RECENT U.S. OPEN.



**ALANA
URIELL'S**
STEADFAST
RISE TO THE
LPGA TOUR

By Matt McKay

THE NATURAL

ALANA URIELL IS A NATURAL. She has a natural swing and a natural love of the game. Her coach believes she's a natural student, and she's certainly a natural competitor.

And she's a natural California girl.

"I live in Southern California, so of course you're going to find me on the beach some days," she said. "I love to surf, I love beach volleyball, and overall being outside. I'm a very active person. I also love painting and drawing, which is kind of a weird thing. I think it's partially because I'm a California girl, and part because my mom was an artist. So I got that artistic flair from her."

And she adds, "I like to read, which is like, so weird in today's day and age," relating that the last book she read was an autobiography of John Adams. "I know, I sound like an old lady."

Of course, most of that happens when she's not playing, practicing or traveling, caught up in her first year of full-time status on the LPGA Tour. At 22 years old, she is fresh off three straight top-20 finishes in the SCGA Women's Amateur Championship. A recent graduate of the University of Arkansas (earning a business marketing degree with a minor in logistics), Uriell is adjusting on the fly to life as a touring pro, learning to compete on the biggest stages in women's golf while polishing skills ranging from streamlining travel to efficiently executing a laundry cycle.

WORK IN PROGRESS

It's a work in progress. As of press time, Uriell had missed the cut in six of nine LPGA Tour starts before finishing T-9 at Thornberry Creek LPGA

Classic over July 4 weekend.

However, she started the season with a bang, serving notice that she would be a force in the ladies' pro game. Having qualified through the 2018 LPGA Qualifying Tournament, Uriell was fully exempt, but was concerned she didn't have any real-life, under-pressure, playing-for-dough experience heading into the 2019 LPGA season. She decided the best way to prepare was a dress rehearsal at the Symetra Tour's season-opening SKYiGolf Championship in Florida. She won the tournament with an eagle on the first playoff hole after posting a 12-under total for the four rounds, pocketing \$37,500.

All the changes in Uriell's life over the last six months are, in a way, par for her ever-evolving course. She admits she's still adjusting to her biggest life-changing moment to date — the loss of her mother, Barbara, to breast cancer in 2010. For all the good things, and all the momentum in Uriell's life, her mother's passing not only knocked her sideways, it sent the entire family reeling.

Barbara was the impetus for activity in the Uriell home, stoking her daughter's competitive flames while encouraging her artistically, academically and athletically. As a tot, Uriell loved to visit her local big box golf retailer and putt relentlessly on the artificial putting green, surrounded by every putter imaginable. Then, for her eighth birthday, she received a coupon for a free golf lesson, and that was that. Barbara fell right in behind her, giving her the pushes



**NATURAL
SWING:**
URIELL IS KNOWN
AS A CRISP BALL
STRIKER WITH
A SWEET SWING
AND A DRIVE TO
WIN.

she needed when pushing was necessary, which wasn't often, and from the first time she had access to a driving range, she was often the last one to leave.

"I just loved making contact with the ball, and making it go where I wanted it to go," Uriell said. "I also loved putting contests. They were fun because if you won, you got a quarter to put in the candy machine. So there was incentive. And I thought, 'I could get used to this.' That's how I got started."

When Barbara passed, the entire family endured a period of mourning and self-reflection. Uriell, who also excelled in cross country as a member of the San Diego Roadrunners track club, found herself questioning her future, and whether athletics would be a part of it. After much soul searching, she decided not only to continue playing golf, but to throw everything she had into being the best she could be.

"(Barbara) was the motivation, the glue that kept our family together, and really was a huge instigator in starting me in golf," Uriell said. "And to have her pass away ... my whole family was just devastated. It took a toll on all of us. But we

worked together, and eventually came together, and got through it."

PATH TO THE PROS

When she was 13, the family moved from Ramona to Carlsbad, primarily to give her and her brother, Connor, access to more opportunities, from schools to sports. It also put her father, Patrick, a career San Diego County firefighter, closer to his home station. Alana and Connor graduated from Carlsbad High, and both went on to the University of Arkansas.

The union proved fruitful for both Uriell and the Lady Razorbacks. Uriell was named second-team All-American and first-team All-SEC selection her senior year, leading Arkansas to their first SEC title, with 33 of her 34 competitive rounds contributing to Arkansas' team score.

After graduating in 2018, she promptly navigated Q-school, and set to work in the off-season with teacher Jason Puterbaugh at Carlsbad's Park Hyatt Aviara Resort GC & Spa. Uriell doesn't hesitate to point out how

PUTERBAUGH SAID HER BALL STRIKING WAS ALREADY SO CRISP, HER SWING SO NATURAL, THAT THEY SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME ON HER SHORT GAME.

Puterbaugh's contribution and techniques have helped mold her into the player she is today, and Puterbaugh is equally quick to credit Uriell's natural swing, ability to take instruction, and burning desire to win.

"They've [the Puterbaugh family] kind of adopted me," Uriell said. "And they're just the sweetest family ever. Jason has helped me since I was 11 years old. They helped me to recover after my mom passed away, helped me get my golf game in line, and helped to make me into the person I am."

"I have a very intense work ethic, and I think Jason caught on to that. He gave me the tools I needed to take what I had and put it into my tournaments. He knows exactly how to



tune me up. When I mess up and I tell him what it is, he says 'Oh you're just doing this.' It's that easy, that I can just fix it and move on."

BEST JOB EVER!

When he first began working with Uriell, Puterbaugh said her ball striking was already so crisp, her swing so natural, that they spent most of their time on her short game. Anything Puterbaugh advised, Uriell seemed to take it on instantly, effecting whatever changes he suggested. "I'll tell her to do something, and she does it," he said. "Most of the time when she's off, it's something I've seen her do before, and we can fix it pretty quick."

Puterbaugh expects Uriell to endure an adjustment period as she traverses the leap from college golf to the LPGA lifestyle. But when she finds her comfort zone, her natural swing and natural competitive nature should serve her well.

"The sky's the limit for her," he said. "The biggest thing she's going to run into is just getting used to it. It's a big life adjustment, just trying to organize your life. You've got flights to book, flights to make, hotels to book, and when are you going to practice? Just getting everything together, it's a big step. But she's a fighter. She has a really strong drive to beat you. That's probably the biggest thing ... she really has high expectations for herself, and she really wants to beat you."

Uriell has actually taken up residence with the Puterbaughs, who offered her a home base from which to launch her LPGA career. And so far, the arrangement and the experience has Uriell on cloud nine.

"So far, I love it," she said. "I'm taking it week by week, and it's always a really cool adventure. I'm seeing all these new places that I've never seen before, and the people are so super nice and supportive. I meet interesting new people everywhere I go. It's honestly the best job ever." ■

HER WIN AT THE SYMETRA TOUR'S SEASON-OPENING SKYIGOLF CHAMPIONSHIP IN FLORIDA MAY PORTEND GREAT THINGS AHEAD FOR ALANA URIELL.

EQUIPMENT

WHEELS DOWN

By **Scott Kramer**

SURE, you can carry your bag and walk the next round. But why waste the energy? Or the opportunity to have a blast, for that matter. There are more ways than ever to cruise around the golf course this year. Think electric skateboards and scooters. Or you can use remote-controlled caddies. Not only can these all make your round faster — especially if there's no group playing ahead of you — but they will definitely add a new level of enjoyment.

Here's a primer on what's generally available. You can also call ahead to any course you're going to play and see what it's offering along these lines.



↑ **Sun Mountain's FinnCycle** is an electric cycle that rests the golf bag in the middle for easy club access and more riding stability. Front and rear suspension create a comfortable ride, while hand-operated hydraulic disc brakes make stopping smooth. They make a tight turning radius and have great pickup. (finnscooters.com)



↑ **Alphard Golf's Club Booster eWheel** weighs 32 pounds and assembles easily to transform almost any regular old push cart model into a remote-control caddy. Each charge of the lithium ion battery lasts 27 holes. It features dual powerful brushless hub motors. (alphardgolfusa.com)



↑ **Phat Golf Scooters** are pedal-free, throttle-powered, 200-pound electric sit-down scooters. They're quiet, with oversize tires for stability and smoothness, and turn easily through curves. Three speed modes top off at eight, 12 and 20 miles per hour. They require almost no learning curve, so you can quickly get comfortable. Only offered for rent locally at Monarch Beach and La Costa. (phatgolfscooters.com)



← **Bag Boy's Nitron push cart** is billed as the fastest-opening and -closing golf push cart, thanks to its nitrogen-powered piston opening system. It collapses to a fraction of its footprint so it can easily fit into a car trunk, and is offered in eight colors. Also from Bag Boy is the four-wheel Quad Junior push cart that's made for kids 51" and taller. With all the features of the adult version, it also has adjustable handle height for junior golfers to grow with. It stops with a simple foot-controlled parking brake, and easily folds for small hands. (bagboycompany.com)

→ **Club Car's Tempo Walk** is a hands-free, autonomous caddy that follows you around the course via remote control, offering GPS yardage while carrying bags, coolers and accessories. It weighs 95 pounds, has three wheels, and props up your golf bag. It's offered at several Southland courses, including Torrey Pines and La Costa. (clubcar.com)



VIEW TO A THRILL

ROOSEVELT GC IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

By **David Weiss**

As devoted denizens of the eminently affordable golf courses in the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks system, many of us have been continually surprised and delighted by the ongoing improvements and nonpareil conditioning standards of late. Chipping and putting practice areas have expanded, driving ranges are revamped and even the greens are rolling smoother and truer than ever.

What's wrong with this picture? No complaints! The ambition and scope of the city's golf operations are especially evident nowadays at Griffith Park, where the venerable names of George C. Thomas and Willie Watson grace the roster of architects responsible for those nearly century-old pair of 18-hole tracks. The Harding and Wilson courses can only be faulted for their popularity — don't expect a fast round there — but both are well worth a day away from the office.

Almost forgotten in the praise lavished upon those two layouts is Roosevelt GC, a humble, nine-hole executive course which may have the best topographical bones of them all. The original course by that name was located where the stables of the Los Angeles Zoo now reside, a makeshift routing using nine holes left over from the original Griffith Park GC. Billy Bell completed a redesign in 1937 (re-dubbed Roosevelt Memorial) grassing over the oil and sand greens. And then in 1964, the whole kit and caboodle was moved to its present location below the Griffith Park Observatory.



ROOSEVELT GC
IS A NINE-HOLER
BEST ENJOYED
WHEN WALKING.



Recently, the golf division received a golden opportunity from the city's Department of Water & Power: an offer to update Roosevelt's antiquated irrigation system (a \$2 million-plus undertaking overseen by Evergreen Environment Inc.), exchanging its freshwater system with one using recycled water — a cost-saving and eco-friendly move that will save 39 million gallons of water every year.

While they were tearing the course down to its literal roots, LA City Golf offered additional funds to do some critical updates on the course. Enter golf architect Forrest Richardson, whose consultancy helped usher in some welcome changes. The newer and improved Roosevelt opened for play in mid-June.

♥ FUN FOR ALL

"I believe they had been talking about changing the irrigation for over a decade," Richardson says. "The city finally got approval for that and I was asked to come in and address the features of the course, not re-designing so much as adding some flexibility to the yardage, resurfacing some tees, reconfiguring the bunkering and doing a little work on and around the greens."

As part of that overall effort, Richardson said, "we gave them a shopping list of suggestions, beginning with the major category of tree work. The golf division head, Laura Bauernfeind, is an arborist and forester by training and was wonderful to work with in terms of the balancing act between the value of trees and the value of good turf health, views and also the strategy of the game."

NOW GOLFERS ARE BETTER ABLE TO SEE THE DISTANT DOWNTOWN SKYLINE AND THE ICONIC GRIFFITH PARK OBSERVATORY.



PHOTOS BY CHANNING BENJAMIN

The tree removal work opened views, allowed more light and air circulation and eliminated certain invasive species. Now golfers are better able to see the distant downtown skyline (on a clear day) and the iconic Griffith Park Observatory.

Another primary concern the city had during the restoration project was making Roosevelt friendlier to a wider range of golfers than had previously called it home. A grow-the-game mantra is responsible for adding "family" tees that will amount to a total length 800 yards shorter than its current 2,496 from the tips. (Par will remain 33 for the nine holes, with six par 4s and three par 3s. Youth golfers from the park's Tregnan Golf Academy are happy beneficiaries of said changes.

"I think that the city has its heart in the right place," said Richardson. "They realize that golf is a customer service business and they need to provide the amenities and the quality, but also the opportunity to bring new players into the game. And that's a big part of the Roosevelt effort — here you have this nine hole course, centrally located in the city and yet somewhat difficult for people who don't hit the ball very far ... and also for people who are brand-new to the game."

"Now beginning golfers — or kids playing with their parents — can play the appropriate tees and have fun. Similarly, a bunch of scratch players can still have a

challenging experience. We felt compelled to preserve the original routing while making the new tees, which we tucked over to the side near the tree-line. It's a trick having a 380-yard par-4 and a 180-yard par-4 on the same course, but I think they came out well."

All eleven bunkers were removed during the process, and five new bunkers were built, including a cigar-shaped cross-bunker on the right side of No. 4. "We were thinking more about what the routing wanted by way of strategy and how it could be safer in some instances," Richardson says. "But the original design and its green locations were well thought out and didn't need to be tampered with."

Asked if he could impart any local knowledge when it came to strategy (as in: Do all putts break away from the observatory?), Richardson chuckled. "I don't much go in for those kinds of analyses, but I guess that if you studied the land, it might actually be true. Roosevelt is downhill from the observatory, so that might not be a bad way to go."

In addition to a new golf experience, players will enjoy the new food and beverage program at Franklin's Café and Market. From stem to stern, at Roosevelt GC, the legacy lives on! ■



Access more Roosevelt photos at foremagazine.com/roosevelt

SCGA JUNIOR GOLF FOUNDATION

An Unbreakable Bond

THE GONZALEZ FAMILY IS STRONGER THROUGH GOLF

By Hailey Tucker

About 15 years ago, Marco Gonzalez bought his two little girls — Stephanie and Natalie — sets of plastic golf clubs. That humble beginning stoked a fire and passion for the game matched by their father. Though the bond they share through golf has been tested, including when Marco was diagnosed with a brain tumor, it hasn't faltered. It's unbreakable.

The Gonzalez family first joined SCGA Junior when Stephanie — now entering her final year at Texas A&M International University — was just 11 years old. Initially, the programming became a way for the girls to try out new courses and play locally and affordably. But quickly the family realized that their experience was going to be so much more than that.

"They were able to play private courses through Mentor Play Days, and

even though playing private courses was so special, what helped them a lot was getting to play with a professional mentor," Marco said. "The mentors became role models. It encouraged them to continue their education so that they can also be in that spot."

And continue their education they did. Both girls are SCGA Junior Scholars and are playing golf at their respective universities. Stephanie is a multidisciplinary major with

concentrations in education and kinesiology and Natalie, who is three years younger, is a studio art major at Whittier College.

Both girls also work as coaches in the Player and Youth Development program, and as much as they help the younger generation, they both credit coaching with helping them as well.

"SCGA Junior has helped me so much financially and professionally," Stephanie said. "I became a scholar and it helped not only myself, but my whole family. I also got my first 'big girl job' with SCGA Junior."

And if you're wondering what the qualification for a "big girl job" is, it's filing taxes.

For Natalie, the impact has been less tangible, but no less significant.

"SCGA Junior has helped me so much socially," Natalie said. "I was so shy and quiet when I was younger. I would keep to myself and hide behind Steph whenever we were golfing. This program has helped me come out of my comfort zone. Especially when I'm teaching little kids, where I have to talk a lot and talk with their parents."

Natalie's confidence has soared so much that she now plays alongside Marco in his weekly work league. Marco says that Natalie comes along to practice for her next college season, but after asking him not to cry, Natalie shared her real reasons.

"I just see it as another way to spend time with my dad," she said. "I also like to beat his coworkers and see them get mad when I play way better than them. But really it's just a nice getaway for us to have fun together."

Though they were playing together long before Marco's tumor was diagnosed, every chance to get on the course together nowadays is a special one, because there was a time when no more rounds were guaranteed.

"There's nobody I'd rather play with than my two daughters," Marco said.

"Not only do we golf, we also talk about what's going on in our lives. My rule has always been not only am I their father, but I'm also their friend, so they can come and talk to me about anything. It's an open door when we go golfing."

Looking back, Natalie, who was in just fifth grade when they found out about the diagnosis, remembers how concerned their dad was about how this would change their golf routine.

"The only thing he was worried about was not being able to play golf with us anymore," she said. "After the surgery, he got healthy again and he was so happy that he could come out and play with us. Every time we go play now, he says, 'This is why God kept me here, so we could keep doing this every week.'"

Back and better than ever, Marco recently celebrated his first hole-in-one 33 years after he first picked up a club. "Golf has always been very special, especially when I get to play with the girls," he said, fighting back tears. "The biggest thing I want to give back through golf is to share the love and passion that I have for the sport with my daughters and the kids I volunteer with, and I hope that they feel the same way."

The Gonzalez clan, including mom, Rosie, have dedicated many hours giving back to the game and organization that have so clearly shaped their lives.

"THEY WERE ABLE TO PLAY PRIVATE COURSES THROUGH MENTOR PLAY DAYS, AND EVEN THOUGH PLAYING PRIVATE COURSES WAS SO SPECIAL, WHAT HELPED THEM A LOT WAS GETTING TO PLAY WITH A PROFESSIONAL MENTOR."

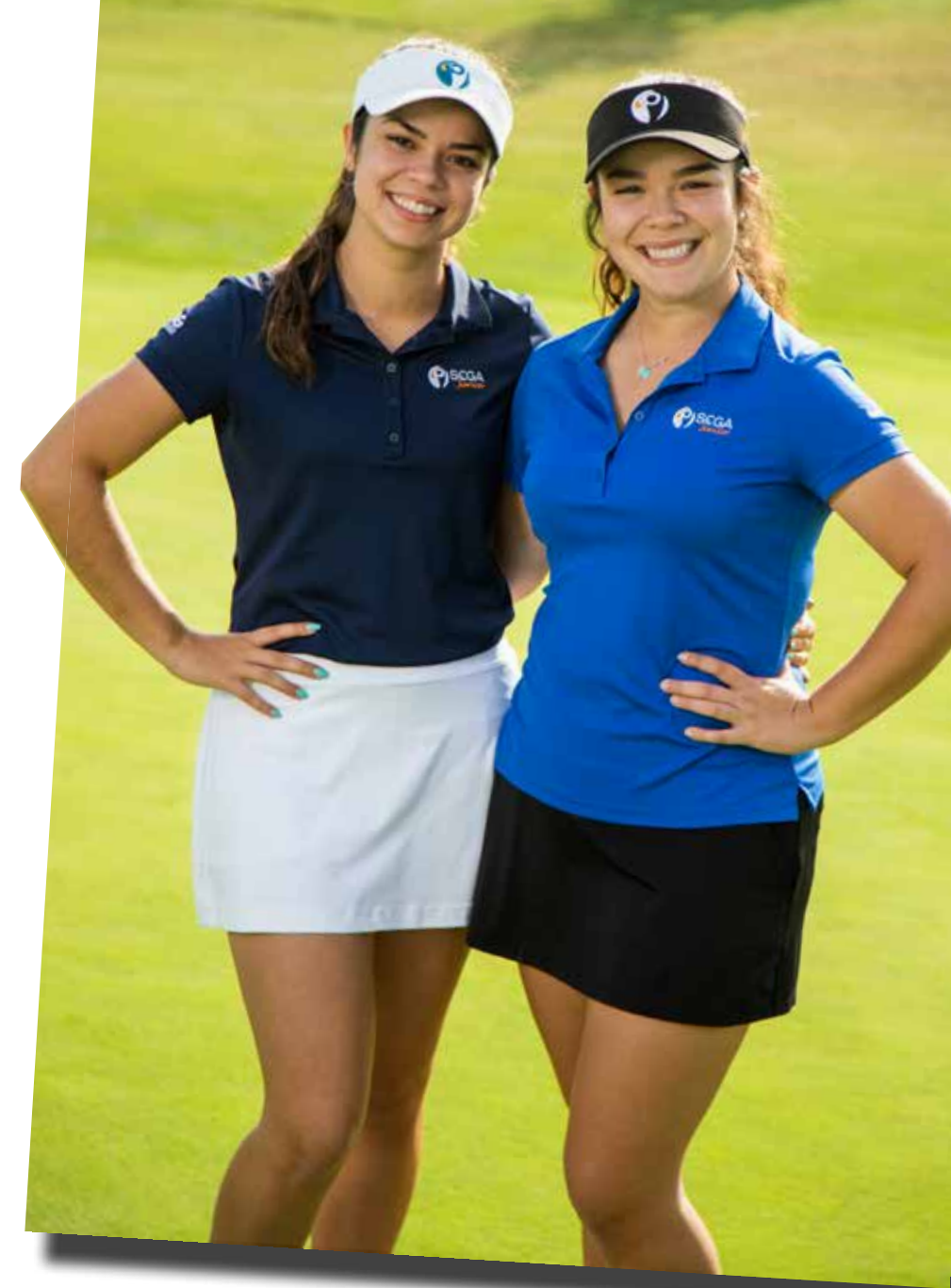
"Oh my gosh, golf and SCGA Junior have meant just about everything to us," Rosie said. "We're so grateful for this sport."

Now, as their time as participants in the program begins to wane, they say that volunteering and giving back is how they can pay it forward for the next generation of junior golfers.

"I love to give back because I want other families to get the benefits and experience that we have had and continue to have," Marco said. "Even after my kids are done being scholars, and even if they aren't working here anymore, as long as I am able, I'll continue to volunteer at as many events as I can."

Even though the trio doesn't get

out on the course as frequently as they used to, the girls call their dad the hub of their golfing wheel. They still have the chipping green set up in their backyard like they did when they were kids, back when they used those plastic clubs. Marco was their first teacher. It was the beginning of their unbreakable bond. ■



THE GONZALEZ CLAN: THE FAMILY THAT GOLFS TOGETHER CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING.

HANDICAP HINTS

THE CLUB

By **Kevin O'Connor**
Managing Director,
Member Services

One of the key benefits of SCGA membership is receiving a Handicap Index. While this comes as a member benefit, it is being a member of what is called a "club" that allows for the ability to receive a Handicap Index. All SCGA members are part of a club and need to join such a group in order to become an SCGA member.

There are several reasons for this philosophy, with a key one being that this provides structure and oversight regarding the issuance and validity of the handicap and provides some social golf opportunities. The USGA's definition of a "golf club" includes the following phrase: "... provide peer review, and maintain the integrity of the USGA Handicap System." Maintaining the integrity of something so widely used in our golf lives is an important responsibility.

It is anticipated that players have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with "fellow members" and these people can help support or dispute a player's demonstrated ability. The USGA calls this peer review. This phrase even has a formal definition in the USGA Handicap System: "Peer review" is the ability of golfers to gain an understanding of a player's potential ability and to form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a score that has been posted."

While peer review is not limited to "fellow members," it is believed that these peers within the same club are the people most likely to play golf with one another and have the best chance of learning and knowing how their peers play.

A peer group within a club is well positioned to interact regarding a member. If there are concerns about something related to the Handicap, that peer group can work within its club structure to determine if there

is an issue. Having a formalized outlet for questions, concerns and, as importantly, education, is a real key of success to the system. The USGA and SCGA require that each club has a Handicap Committee for this purpose. This committee, within the club, is going to be positioned to have the best understanding about a player, that player's scores, history, etc. There is more to the system than just letting a computer spit out a number.

THE SCGA LOOKS for the club to play a key role in education. We try our best to supplement the education effort of clubs through many of our communication tools, yet at the end of the day the club's officials and members are face-to-face with each other, participating in golf functions together, etc. This proximity is a natural mechanism for education to take place.

Periodically, errors are made regarding a score that gets posted, which ultimately can cause inaccuracies in the Handicap Index that is calculated and issued.

For the member, the place to go to get this corrected is through the club and its Handicap Committee. In a not so subtle repeat, a member should contact the club to have an error in their scoring record corrected. The same Handicap Committee is also the contact to learn more about the system AND to express concerns about fellow club members' handicaps. The Handicap Committee is empowered to act in relation to both scoring records and Handicap Indexes of its members.

Like the earth revolves around the sun, the Handicap System revolves around the club, with the club keeping things in order. The club will remain essential in the World Handicap System that begins in 2020. ■



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PEBBLE BEACH
RESORTS

IN THE CLUBHOUSE

Rules | Fitness Tip | 19th Hole | Swing Tip | Around the Southland | Podium

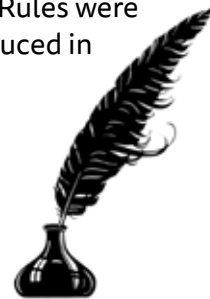
KNOW THE RULES DID YOU KNOW?

By **The Rules Crew**

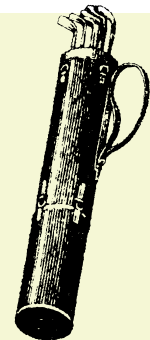
Now that we are six months into the new Rules of Golf, it is safe to say that, for the most part, the changes have been successful, and that the transition has been fairly smooth. Of course, there were a few small hiccups on the professional tours, but the sky did not fall! For this edition of FORE, we thought it would be interesting to discuss some fun facts about the Rules of Golf and how the Rules have evolved over time.

1744

■ The first written set of Rules were introduced in 1744.



■ Since 1744, there have been five major instances in which the Rules underwent significant changes (1899, 1934, 1952, 1984 and 2019).



1812

■ In 1812, the terms "putting green," "bunker," and "hazard" were introduced into the Rules.

1895

■ The first USGA Rules Code was introduced in 1895.



1899

■ The year 1899 saw a universal Code of Rules as set forth by the R&A and the concepts of "out of bounds" and "water hazards" were introduced. Water hazards used to be known as "wattery filth."

1908

■ In 1908, the method of dropping the golf ball was introduced (which underwent significant changes in 1984 and 2019 also) and golf clubs started to be regulated.

1934

■ 1934 marked the first time a global Rules revision occurred with the R&A.

1938

■ The 14-club limit was introduced in 1938 and has remained constant ever since.

1947

■ The concept of stroke and distance was introduced in 1947.

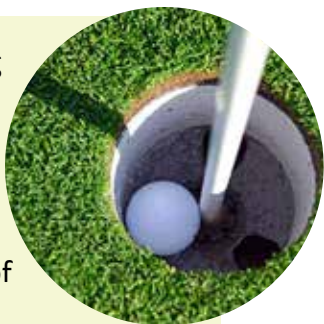


1952

■ Before 1952, the USGA and R&A had different Rules that governed golf in their respective regions. The first joint rules code was introduced in 1952.

1960

■ The flagstick being left in the hole when putting is not new for 2019 ... this was also permitted from 1960 to 1968!
■ The first educational processes of the Rules of Golf took place in 1962.



1970

■ The concept of Nearest Point of Relief was introduced in 1970 and allowed for two club-lengths to be used. This was revised in 1980 down to one club-length.



1984

■ 1984 saw a major Rules revision and was the first year a joint Decisions book between the R&A and USGA was introduced.

1990

■ Standards for uniformity of the golf ball were introduced in 1990.



2000

■ In 2000 the USGA and R&A standardized all Local Rules so that Rules books were identical around the world.
■ The standard length for clubs and size of driver heads were introduced in 2004.

2010

■ The first Rules of Golf mobile app was created in 2010 (yes, almost 10 years of a Rules app!). Download in the app store today!

2019

■ The Rules of Golf were modernized in 2019.



FITNESS TIP

GET CONNECTED

1:



2:



3:



THIS EXERCISE IS GREAT for working your core in multiple planes of motion. The abdominal area is a key part of the body that holds your swing together and keeps everything feeling “connected.” Working on your core can also help eliminate back pain.

1: Start by lying on your back with your knees bent and your feet flat on the floor. Find a weight that’s comfortable for you, hold at 9-3 (as if you’re driving a car) and lift your back off the ground. NOTE: This exercise can be done with or without a weight!

2: Engage your abdominal muscles and roll back in a seated position, one vertebrae at a time, with the weight above your head. Stay slightly leaning back with your core still engaged.

3: In a controlled motion, bring the weight down closer to your back. Then take the weight (or just your hands) in a rotary movement to each side of your body.

For added difficulty, try lifting your feet in the air as you take the weight side to side. When you have gone to each side, bring the weight back above your head and lower yourself into the lying start position one vertebrae at a time.



Access more Fitness Tips at scga.org/fit-tips

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PELICAN HILL

19TH HOLE LIVELY LUXURY

PELICAN GRILL
DELIVERS
EVERY TIME

By **Scott Kramer**

The vibe is extra lively at Pelican Grill this particular Friday midafternoon in Newport Coast. The bar is packed with golfers, hotel guests and locals. The second round of the PGA Championship is gracing both of the nine-foot, high-def TVs in the lounge. Every table inside is occupied, and there's only one open on the balcony that overlooks the Resort at Pelican Hill's two golf courses, expansive resort pool and the majestic Pacific Ocean.

There's plenty to look at from every seat in the house. But one thing every diner is eyeing: the food. The lunch menu includes salads, wood-fired pizzas, healthy wraps, burgers, short ribs and roasted chicken. At our table, the spicy tortilla soup is a big hit. It's a puree of chicken, cotija cheese and avocado, and makes an ideal appetizer for the cioppino that includes mussels, fish, jumbo shrimp and calamari.

Afterward, a warm, oozing chocolate lava cake flanks vanilla gelato. It's hard to imagine a more hitting-the-bull's-eye lunch experience.

The atmosphere is conducive to comfort, with its rich wood paneling, high ceilings and stone fireplace. The horseshoe-shaped area inside offers views of the big screens from every seat, while the integrated sound system helps complete the experience. The lavish lounge chairs will seriously rival anything in your living room — in fact, they're likely nicer — and they are one of the first things you notice as you sit down.

The entire lounge has a plush atmosphere that's great for kicking back and watching a game. That's no

coincidence, according to Paul Jimenez, general manager of Pelican Grill. "We strive for the highest level of comfort and a seamless, memorable guest experience," Jimenez says. "Guided by the highest standards of hospitality, our passionate team genuinely engages with each guest and personalizes each experience. Paired with our service delivery, breathtaking ocean views and upscale setting, we like to make a lasting impression on our guests."

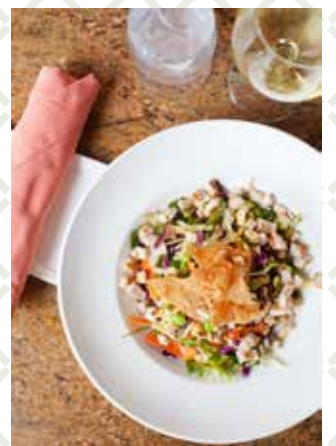
It's no surprise that the space attracts nice crowds for football, basketball, golf and baseball. And on college football Saturdays, it thrives with throngs of USC and UCLA fans and alumni, which makes for a great game-day atmosphere. During NFL season, Rams fans proudly wear their blue and gold.

But of course, the food is the star of the show. Chef Marc Johnson believes that people eat with their eyes first, then

with the rest of their senses. A graduate of California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, he's cooked at restaurants and hotels throughout Southern California, having previously headed up kitchens at Haven Gastropub in Pasadena and Wood & Vine in Hollywood before joining Pelican Grill two and a half years ago, where he specializes in creating timeless dishes with contemporary twists while sourcing fresh local ingredients.

Around the corner from the bar, the dining room features an open-display kitchen that seems to be perpetually buzzing with cooks in action. One premier meal you can have here stands out above all others. "Our Tasting Table experience invites epicureans to dine at a special table for up to 10 guests right next to the kitchen," Jimenez says. "This interactive, chef-led experience includes a multicourse prix fixe menu, featuring the freshest seasonal ingredients with creative presentations and paired with selected wines. The chef comes to the table to personally introduce each dish and describe how it's being prepared right behind him in the open kitchen."

But even if you're just ordering from the menu at a standard table, you will likely find the food and energy hit the right spot. ■



GREAT FOOD, GREAT VIEWS
AND A SPORTY VIBE DISTINGUISH
NEWPORT COAST'S PELICAN GRILL.



GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Strange Case of Glyphosate (Roundup)

OR HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE IRRATIONALITY THAT PERVADES THE MAKING OF LAWS

By **Craig Kessler**
Director, Governmental Affairs

IF YOU ARE NOT yet aware of the stampede to remove the world's most popular and longest-running invasive species controller — Roundup — from our farms, parks, medians and golf courses, you soon will be.

Ads soliciting participation in class action lawsuits are running continuously on television, in newspapers, in magazines and over the internet. Billion-dollar judgments have been awarded by juries to those who used Glyphosate-based products and later contracted non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Cities and counties have begun to ban their departments from using it on parks, medians, and municipally operated golf courses. A bill in this session of the California legislature that would have banned glyphosate-based products on the state's schools died in committee, but only because it's hard to ban something that the California Environmental Protection Agency just re-certified as 100 percent safe to apply as prescribed.

Roundup is the most popular version of the product; there are others. It is the world's most popular herbicide. It

is integral to golf course maintenance. It has been used for more than 40 years seemingly without incident or consequence, which is much more than can be said for most of the herbicides that are not under withering attack.

Precisely because it has been used so widely without seeming consequence, and has been certified so often as completely safe to use as prescribed, and is so inexpensive to purchase and apply, there has never been any incentive to research and then develop an alternative weed controller. This has left us with no viable alternatives except to return to the products that predated glyphosate/Roundup, all of which are more problematic, more expensive and less effective.

But before you throw out that can of Roundup in your garage, consider the following: Virtually all of the studies that have been performed by federal, state and international agencies have determined there is no connection between glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, and cancer in human beings. The United States EPA has made that finding. California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA — CAL EPA) has recently posted a Rule under Title 27 Section 25705(b) of the state's Code of Regulations to that same effect (1,100 micrograms of exposure equaling zero risk). And virtually every peer-reviewed scientific study has come to the same conclusion re: causality/connection, including the regulatory equivalents to the U.S. EPA in France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Brazil and Switzerland.

One — and only one — peer-reviewed study has come to anything amounting to a different conclusion; not a different conclusion about any causal link between glyphosate and cancer, but rather a separate finding about a correlative link. That study is one

published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a unit of the World Health Organization (WHO) and, contrary to some of the unfounded attacks upon it by the Monsanto Corporation, it is a sound scientific study.

Yes, the IARC study designated glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans." However, according to IARC classifications, "probably carcinogenic to humans" means that the evidence that it causes cancer in humans is "limited" and that explanations including "chance, bias or confounding [meaning an unrelated factor] cannot not be ruled out."

That is a "Category 2(a)" risk in IARC's classifications, and while it is indicative of some evidence of tangential correlation, it falls well short of the

AS FOR GOLF, WHILE HYSTERIA'S TRIUMPH OVER EVIDENCE WILL CAUSE HARDSHIP IN THE SHORT RUN, IN THE LONGER RUN THE MOTHER OF INVENTION KNOWN AS NECESSITY WILL SURELY BRING US A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE.

evidence IARC requires to indicate anything close to the causal connection the American federal government, the State of California, and virtually all European Union agencies require to proscribe glyphosate's use.

The World Health Organization (WHO) wrote of its subsidiary IARC finding the following: "IARC placed glyphosate in its hazard category "Group 2A: probably carcinogenic to humans" along with red meat, hot beverages, and working as a barber. The evidence on carcinogenicity was less robust than for agents such as bacon, salted fish, oral contraceptives and wine."

The IARC 2(a) standard is indeed sufficient to trigger California's Proposition 65 warning protocols. But labeling protocols and proscription

protocols are vastly different. One measures hazard, and the other measures risk. The same California government that requires Proposition 65 warnings on products containing glyphosate has also categorically rejected glyphosate as a carcinogen, and when challenged to proscribe its use, has issued declarative findings regarding its safety.

Does this mean that we can expect to see the stampede recede and our world once again become a safe place in which to eat red meat and salted fish, drink hot beverages and wine, and allow our farmers, public works departments and municipal golf courses to control invasive species with the glyphosate-based products that have

proven effective and safe for multiple generations? Don't bet on it — the glyphosate part that is; the red meat, salted fish, hot beverages and wine are safe for now.

Axioms once planted spread faster than weeds. Big damage awards frighten insurance companies into withdrawing coverage. Lawyers winning those awards are not deterred. Environmental warriors bent on adding notches to their political belts are not dissuaded. Elected leaders follow crowds. Anti-empiricism rules our day.

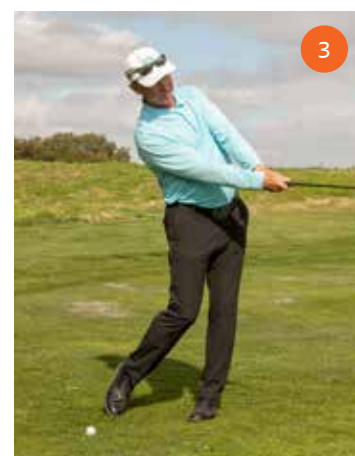
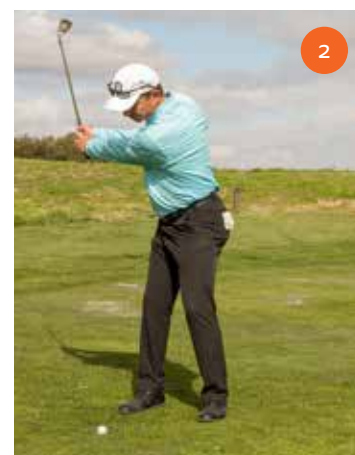
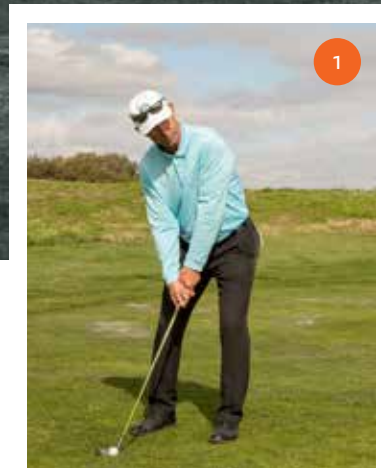
As for golf, while hysteria's triumph over evidence will cause hardship in the short run, in the longer run the mother of invention known as necessity will surely bring us a credible alternative. Let's just hope it's not too long in coming. ■

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PHOTOS BY BRAD KADOW

SWING TIP

FLOP SHOT MADE EASY

WHEN FACED WITH A tricky flop shot, most amateurs use far too much wrist in the motion. The dreaded 30-yard wedge shot over a bunker to a downhill green may sound like a nightmare, but **John Mason**, PGA, shares a few simple swing tips that can make this shot seem like a walk in the park.

1. Take a lob wedge and open the blade slightly. Upon setup, be conscious of maintaining a “Y” shape with your arms throughout the entire swing.

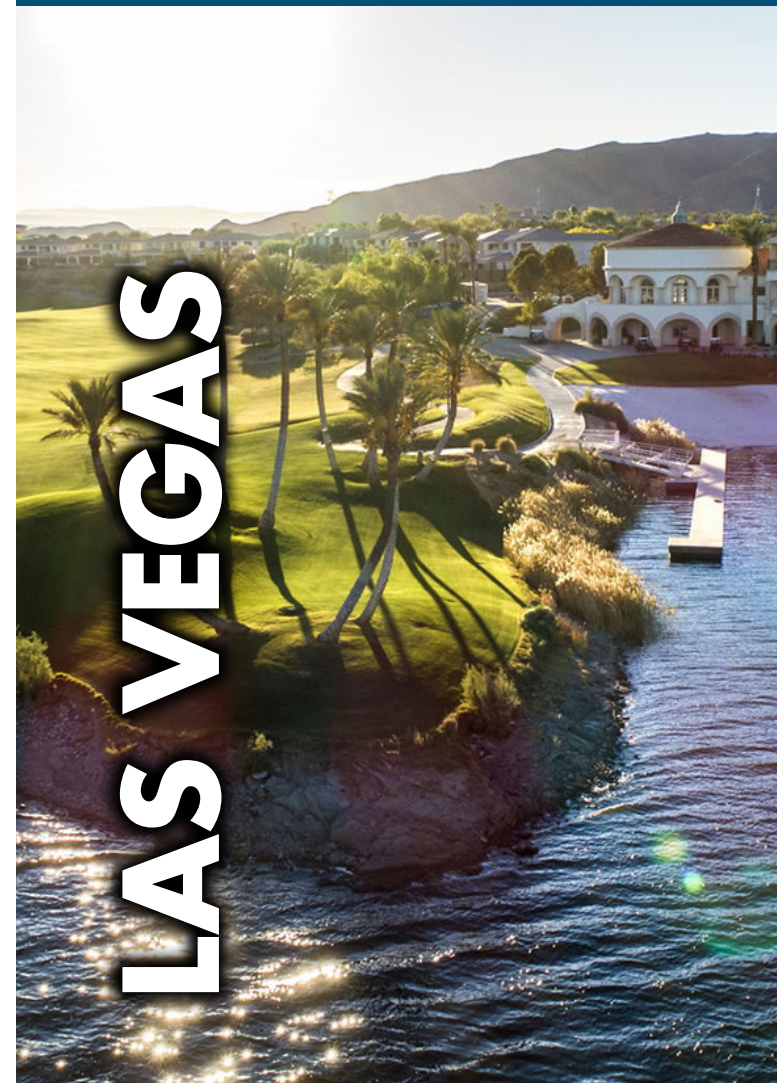
2. Keeping your weight on the front foot, aim left of the target line and take the club back wide and slow, before swinging to the left upon impact like you’re hitting an intentional slice.

3. The entire swing should be halfway back and halfway through, making sure to maintain acceleration through the finish to promote loft and spin.



Access more Swing Tips at scga.org/swing-tips

SCGA DESTINATIONS



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Two meals provided

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Golf at Royal Portrush GC, Portmarnock GC, Portstewart GC,
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LEARN MORE: [SCGA.ORG/DESTINATIONS](https://scga.org/destinations)

SCGA

AROUND THE SOUTHLAND

Juniors Join Special Clinic with Brooks Koepka



Friends of Golf (FOG) hosted their 40th annual charity tournament, which included a junior clinic and dinner featuring PGA TOUR professional **Brooks Koepka**. The event was hosted at Bel-Air CC and attended by a handful of SCGA Junior members. **Jesse Palazuelos** and **Sophia Sandoval** were selected by SCGA Junior staff to represent the organization based on their deep involvement in programming, dedication to the game and continual improvement on the course.

Following the clinic and dinner, scholar **Samantha Rocha** spoke as a distinguished guest on behalf of the SCGA. Rocha graduated debt-free from Occidental College in May after spending four years playing on the golf team thanks to the SCGA Junior Scholar program.

"It was amazing to have my parents in the audience to see me speak at an event like this for the first time," Rocha said.

FOG supports student athlete golfers by instilling the values of honesty, ethics, fellowship with a true appreciation for the game. SCGA Junior Golf Foundation is a proud beneficiary of FOG and continues to work closely with the organization to support our shared mission.

A Night Out With Gary McCord

■ Join us for a dinner and fireside chat on Nov. 18 with legendary broadcaster **Gary McCord**. Hear stories from his days on TOUR and in the booth with all proceeds benefiting the SCGA Junior Golf Foundation. The event will kickoff with a cocktail reception at 4 p.m. followed by a sit-down dinner at 5:15 p.m..



For tickets and more information, please visit scgajunior.org/mccord

Invesco QQQ Championship First Responder Pavilion



■ The **2019 Invesco QQQ Championship** (a PGA Tour Champions event held Oct. 30 – Nov. 3 at Sherwood CC) will conclude four days before the 1st anniversary of the Borderline shooting and Woolsey/Hill wildfires. To show appreciation to the dedicated first responders in our community, this year the QQQ will introduce the First Responders Pavilion, a private hospitality venue exclusively for first responders and their families. Located on the practice range with views overlooking the 18th green, this oasis will offer complimentary food and beverage to more than 100 invited guests per day. **The QQQ is looking for local companies to help sponsor the Official First Responder Pavilion** and show support and appreciation to these heroic folks with a memorable day of truly first class golf and hospitality.

For more information please email jaelballard@pgatourhq.com

2019 SCGA AMATEUR

CREAM OF THE CROP

The cream rose to the top in the 120th SCGA Amateur Championship at Lakeside GC as Pepperdine senior **Sahith Theegala** ran away from a stacked field of the region's best to earn his first SCGA title with a blemish-free final round of 5-under 65.

"It feels unbelievable," said an elated Theegala. "I've played this event for quite a while now, so to have my name etched on that trophy is pretty special. It really hasn't even set in yet."

In what was one of the most anticipated final groups in recent memory, Theegala headed into the final day with a 1-shot lead over Lakeside GC member and course record holder **Trip Morris**, with USC's **Charlie Reiter** lurking close behind.

But Theegala mashed the gas pedal early on Sunday and never let up. He turned on the jets with a front-nine 3-under 32, which included superb ball-striking and flawless lag putting on the speedy Lakeside green surfaces. Theegala had a tap-in birdie on No. 2 after reaching the par-5 in 2, and backed that up with an improbable birdie on No. 4 after spraying a drive left into the trees. His remarkable recovery shot left him a few yards off the green. Then, on the 225 yard, par-3 ninth, Theegala lasered an iron to the tucked flagstick before rolling in a 25-footer for another birdie. Morris fell back and found himself 1-over at the turn, with disappointing bogeys on No. 3 and No. 9, while Reiter could never jumpstart his round, making the turn at even par.



2019 SCGA AMATEUR CHAMPION SAHITH THEEGALA

LEADERBOARD

1st	Sahith Theegala.....	(-15)
2nd	Trip Morris	(-7)
3rd	Sam Kim.....	(-6)
4th	Devon Bling.....	(-5)
T-5	Charlie Reiter.....	(-3)
T-5	Caden Fioroni.....	(-3)

himself by 8 strokes ahead of second place.

Further down the leaderboard, USC's **Sam Kim** used a strong weekend of 64-68 to climb into third place. Reigning U.S. Amateur runner-up and UCLA Bruin **Devon Bling** went 69-66-68 after a disappointing opening-round 72 to snag fourth place. Reiter finished T-5 with incoming Pepperdine commit **Caden Fioroni** at 3-under.



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VERSATILITY
FEEL



THE NEW
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Get more spin with the sharpest Tour Zip Grooves we've ever made. Get more versatility with more grinds and less bounce. Get more feel with a compact shape, built for tour. Get more from your short game with the all-new RTX 4 wedge. From Cleveland Golf.

THE PODIUM

THE PUTTING GURU

INSIDE THE MAN CAVE OF DAVE STOCKTON

By **Bill Dwyre**

I have played golf seriously for about a quarter century, and the game remains a complete mystery. I told my wife the other day to have my ashes scattered over the 18th green at Goose Creek, because that's the only way I'll ever hit it.

I recently decided to break down the game into pieces, to see if I could figure out at least one part of it. Since they say you drive for show and putt for dough, my first investment was a visit to the game's putting guru.

SCGA Hall of Famer Dave Stockton has a beautiful home and a perfect man cave in Redlands. He has improved the putting fortunes of the likes of Annika Sorenstam, Phil Mickelson, Rory McIlroy and Francesco Molinari, to name just a few. He certainly couldn't hurt mine.

I began amid hunting trophies and golfing memorabilia that are museumworthy. At first look, you might conclude that golf, for Stockton, was merely a little sideline to his hunting trips, both national and international. He and his wife, Catherine, have climbed six mountains higher than 14,000 feet, in quest of recreation, physical fitness and big-game targets.

"She's a better shot than I am," Stockton says.

Stockton calls himself a conservationist, and currently serves on the board of directors of the Big Horn Institute, a group that tracks the animals in the hills of the Palm Springs area and tends to their health and well-being. Stockton does not hunt what he advocates protecting. The sheep he hunts — some of which have ended up as trophies on his walls — are from distant places and not in jeopardy of extinction.

The hunting trophies, while spectacular, do not dominate. This is a man who won two majors, the 1970 and '76 PGA Championships, and turned in second-place finishes in the 1974 Masters and the 1978 U.S. Open. He won 25 professional titles, 14 of them on the Champions Tour, where he led money winnings twice, was rookie of the year in his inaugural year on that circuit, and player of the year once thereafter. He also was a U.S. Ryder Cup team member twice and was the nonplaying captain in the famous "War on the Shore" 1991 U.S. victory at Kiawah Island. The latter is commemorated in a vertical trophy case with a replica of the cup on a tall pyramid of golf books.

Oddly, much of this golf success might be traced to a surfing accident when he was 15, off the Trestles near San Onofre.

"A girl lost her board," says Stockton, "and it hit me right in the back. I went back in, and didn't know it had affected me

until years later, when I learned about bone spurs in my back."

Which meant he was never going to be a long hitter and would only be competitive among the game's big bombers by being better than almost everyone else with his short game. Which he was.

Some of his rules of putting, condensed and simplified here, are:

✓ Don't stand over the ball forever. (When he won the PGA Championship in '76, he needed a 15-foot putt on No. 18 to avoid a three-man playoff. From the time he stepped away from his caddie, addressed his ball and it hit the bottom of the cup, a total of 14 seconds elapsed.)

✓ Stop all the practice swings. (When he taught Sorenstam, she could not give up her practice swings. So he made her make them behind the ball, as many as she wanted, and then go into a quicker, more fluid routine. Prior to seeking Stockton's help, she had won twice in recent years. In the next 18 months, she won 17 tournaments.)

✓ Don't say you will "try." Just do it.

✓ Don't "hit" a putt. Roll it. ("You hear these announcers say a player didn't 'release' his putter," Stockton says. "Do you release your paintbrush when you are done with a stroke?")

✓ Look at the line of your putt and pretend there is a dot one inch away, on that line. Then roll the ball over the dot.

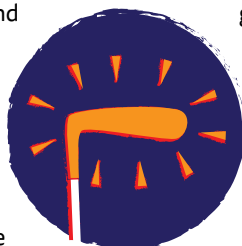
✓ Hold the putter in your left hand only, until you are about to roll the ball. (Vice versa if you are left-handed.)

✓ Don't accelerate or decelerate. Just roll it.

From this, and much more, came a remarkable career for a man who is, at 77, still hunting, still playing golf at a high level and still carrying a nice sense of humor. America's putting guru once set a tour record by going more than 800 holes without a three-putt.

The streak ended in the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach when, he says, he had 10 three-putts and "four-putted the 10th green, the only flat green at Pebble Beach."

Oh, well. After that, he probably went hunting. ■



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