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Vol. XXVII No. 5

September 2015

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# Fall Golf at the South Jersey Shore



Shore Gate Golf Course Hole # 12

By *MIKE KERN*

I was there when Shore Gate, which is located just off Route 9 right outside Sea Isle City, opened in 2002. Then again, I've been fortunate enough to be at most golf courses at the South Jersey shore from the start. It comes with the job description. So I've seen them evolve over time. And Shore Gate is no different. You could tell it was something special from the moment you set eyes on it. And it's only gotten better, which isn't easy to say when you were already so good to begin with.

Every time I go back, I'm left with pretty much the same impression: it's probably the hardest public golf course down there. Especially if you play it from the wrong set of tees. And trust me, there's more than enough to choose from, which in this case is a very good thing. I used to be able to play it from the Regulars, which measure about 6,400 yards. And I could handle that reasonably well. But that was when I hit the ball considerably longer than I do now. So you adapt. I had a chance to play it recently during my annual summer vacation in Ocean City, for the first time in awhile. So I looked at the scorecard and figured the Seniors, which is more like 5,900, was much more conducive to my skill level. Truth be told, what I've found is really the best way for me to proceed is to go to each hole and see what might work best. On some there's not enough difference between the White or Yellows to warrant moving up, since there's five par 4s of 350 or less. I can still handle that. And there's a par 3 on the back nine, No. 14, which is really short so I can actually go back to the Championships and not feel the least bit intimidated. Same with No. 5, where they had the tees pretty far up on the day I was there. So my advice is use your best discretion, see how you're striking it and don't necessarily try to bite off too much. As I've discovered, it's a lot more fun using a 7-iron into greens rather than a steady diet of fairway woods. And that goes for any course. And it is, after all, supposed to be fun, right? If it's not, then why are you out there in the first place? Just saying. I've seen way too many guys playing from the Blues who had no business being back there. And they'll shoot in the 100s and complain about how unfair it was, when the real problem was with their vanity. Or whatever. I can't figure it out. I'd rather at least try to enjoy myself to some degree. You still have to make shots, whatever the distance. But it doesn't have to be pure torture.

Anyway ...If you don't like sand, then Shore Gate might not be the place for you. Because there is a decent amount of it, and much of that is in spots where players tend to put their balls. Funny how a well-thought-out design works like that. So just be careful, although it can be nearly unavoidable at times. Just try to go with the flow.

After a rather innocuous opening hole, No. 2 gets you right into the swing of



Twisted Dune Golf Course Hole # 16

things. It's a medium-length par 4, but you have to place your tee shot over water to a narrow fairway that has the wet stuff on the left and trees on the opposite side. So fire away. It's a matter of what you feel comfortable trying to carry. And even if you're in a good position, the approach is hardly a gimme. And there is a bunker to carry. At least the green is generous. You make a 4 there and you're doing well. Trust me.

The third is another solid 2-shooter, a dogleg left over water with bunkers on the right. And the closing three holes on that side are a wonderful stretch. The seventh is a dogleg right over a quarry, with woods on the left. And the green can be tricky, even if you get there relatively unscathed. The eighth is a fairly long par 3 with sand in the front and sand on the left. And No. 9, the signature hole, is their version of the 18th at Pebble Beach. It's a par 5 that keeps bending left, around a lake, to a green that's well-guarded and is a good two clubs in length. So pay attention to where the pin is. A big hitter might be able to get close in two. Most people figure to be left with a short to mid-iron approach. And once you get on the putting surface your work is just beginning.

The home nine, which offers a nice mix of short and long, starts with a really stout par 4 where you might have a semi-blind uphill second shot. Then there's a few holes that are a little more user-friendly before you end with a finishing kick that's just as challenging as that on the first nine. The 15th is a par 4 that demands two well-placed balls. Off the tee is fairly open, although water can come into play on the right and there's bunkers to contend with if you go too far left. The second is about a 150-yarder to another 2-club kind of green, with water still on the right and sand to the left. If you can block out all the danger it's probably not that tough at all. Yeah, right. The 16th is a par 5 that's manageable, though it does bend at the end to the left, which can cause issues if you're too far left on your second. Like who would ever do that? The 17th is another mid-range par 3 where players of my ability will be using hybrids or woods. So be it. A good shot will be rewarded, a not-so-good one might lead to a double bogey. And the line between the two is thin. And 18 is a bona fide keeper, particularly for an 18th. Just a longer par 4 that moves slightly left-to-right. But you can't go too far right because of the treeline. There's nothing guarding the front of the green, which helps. But there's sand left and right, so there is that. You make a 4 here, it gives you a reason to feel good about the rest of your day. If you don't, well, it's really more of a par 4 1/2 anyway. Just keep telling yourself that. Works for this balding midget.

While Shore Gate is certainly one of my favorites, I have no shortage. And many of them are within a short drive of my rental house in OC. Always a good thing. You

*Golf at the Shore continued on page 17*

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# Experience Unique Florida Golf Courses



The Resort at Longboat Key Club Harbourside Course



The Resort at Longboat Key Club Harbourside Red-9

*By Mike Kern*

Going on a golf trip to Florida can never be a bad idea. I should know, I've been there enough. And yes, it can get hot, especially if you maybe go at the wrong time or to the wrong destination. But I'm here to tell you that I just visited a place on the Gulf Coast, just west of Sarasota, that is to die for. And I wouldn't make that up.

The Resort at Longboat Key Club, located on a barrier island, is a AAA Four Diamond beachfront property that's not far from St. Armands Circle, which is to the West side of Florida what Palm Beach is to the Atlantic half. Seriously. But more on that later. The reason I was even there was to help my good friend Tony Leodora film an episode for his well-received "The Traveling Golfer" show. Which, if you haven't seen it, well then all I can say is you're missing out. Anyway, we ended up spending two days at the courses and the hotel on our way to the annual International Network of Golf. I could have stayed a week. I didn't want to leave. It was that enticing. And really, that word hardly begins to properly do it justice. Check out the website and you'll understand, even though that too can't really tell the whole story. But you have to start somewhere.

The hotel itself would be more than sufficient to lure me. And of course we were there for the golf. My room was simply stunning. Forget the fact that it overlooked the beach/pool area, which made for momentous sunsets. But you could have put a small family in it and still had ample room. It was listed as a junior suite. They also have 1- and 2-bedroom models. I can only imagine what they were like. Mine had a big-time balcony, sofa, full kitchen if you wanted to cook and a bath/shower with a separate vanity/closet area. Extremely comfortable, particularly the king-sized bed. I honestly don't know what more anyone could ask for in the way of accommodations/amenities. Just in case, they do have a spa. If only we'd had the time to check that out. I mean, who couldn't use some extra pampering now and again?

It should be noted that Longboat Key is known as much for its tennis, which includes 20 Hard-Tru courts. But I was there for the little white ball. And they've got plenty of that to offer as well. The course that's across the street from the hotel is The Links. It features some kind of water hazard on every hole, which nobody can make up. More than 5,000 palm trees and white blooming oleander line the fairways and canals, making for the kind of setting you'd expect in such a paradise. It's also in a protected bird sanctuary, which only adds to the overall experience if you're into that sort of stuff. This is a challenging layout that's in the process of being renovated by Ron Garl, one of the best in the business. The Lakeland-based designer is also doing his thing at the 27-hole Harbourside track, which is a mile or so away, near a marina. And that's where we happened to spend most of our time during the shoot.

Originally built by William Byrd, who's done a lot of work in Myrtle Beach, in the late 1980s, Garl has been overseeing changes on it for the past decade. He's put in a lot of native sand areas, which actually is mixed in with seashells, to help with the look and to make it more user-friendly ecologically and economically, two major considerations in this age. He's also put in new grasses and mowing plans on the fairways, first cut of rough and greens. The result? You almost can't get a bad lie, even if you're a little off line. For a mid-handicapper like myself, that's a huge plus. I have a hard time hitting off tight lies. That's not so much of a problem here. And the greens were beautiful. They rolled true and relatively quick. If you missed a putt, it was probably your fault. Again, the way it should be. In short, he's made what was a very good course to begin with even better, which is the whole point that often somehow gets lost in the transition. If nothing else it's highly playable, from any of the multiple tees. There's something to be said for that, even if it seems so simple as a concept.

As I told Ron, it's the kind of place I could play two or three times a week and never get tired of. Which is about the best compliment I can throw out there. The blue nine had a particularly stout finishing stretch. The seventh, a short par-3, could have been on a postcard. It looks out onto the Intercoastal Waterway. Didn't stop me from somehow making a double bogey. I must have been distracted. And the ninth is a par-5 that's reachable in two for better players. In the group behind us, I watched the 14-year-old son of head pro Terry O'Hara hit it to about 10 feet with a 3-iron and sink the putt for an eagle. Good thing his dad was giving him strokes. The ninth on the white nine might be the toughest hole we played. It's over 400 yards, and the approach has to go over a small lake to a two-tiered green. There's also some fairway bunkers and trees to the right to maybe deal with. Other than that, piece of cake. I was more than happy with my bogey.

In short, you can't go wrong on any of the nines. Or you could just play all 27. But the best part might be, it doesn't get that hot. Because you're on an island, the breezes coming in off the Gulf serve a purpose. And make it rather pleasant, actually. I know it sounds strange, but it's true. We were there in late May and it felt fine, even in the middle of the afternoon. It almost felt like it does at the South Jersey Shore in the shoulder seasons. So there is that. Is it all high end? Yes. But sometimes you have to indulge. And once you've sampled everything this place has to offer, I'm sure you'll agree it's absolutely worth it.

And as I said earlier, if you want to explore there's room for that, too. St. Armands

*Experience Florida continued on page 15*

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# USGA Senior Amateur Championship Sept. 26-Oct. 1



The U.S. Senior Amateur championship will be held Sept. 26-Oct. 1 at Hidden Creek. Admission will be free.

By **MIKE KERN**

Egg Harbor Township, NJ—

Roger Hansen has been through this once before. In 2003, when he still owned Blue Heron Pines on the way to the South Jersey shore, he hosted the U.S. Public Links Championship on the East Course, which no longer exists. And Brandt Snedeker went home with the trophy. Not a bad winner.

Anyway, fast forward a little over a decade and Hansen is again hosting a USGA championship. This time it's the Senior Amateur, and the venue is his much-acclaimed private facility, nearby Hidden Creek (Egg Harbor Township), which opened 13 years ago. And this one's going to be, well, not the same.

"The Public Links is kids," Hansen said. "You have to have transportation back and forth. They don't have cars. A lot of them don't drive cars. They don't have money, you know. So with this, we expect most of the guys will have rental cars. So you aren't doing shuttles from the airport. We did that kind of stuff for the kids. It's a whole different feeling, I think."

He'll get no arguments from 2008 champion Buddy Marucci. The Villanova resident has played in over 50 USGA championships going back to the early 1970s.

"Amateur golf has changed a lot," he said. "College golf has changed all of that. And the feelings of events has changed. But this one feels like the old days. It's really a business person's event."

"You won't have coaches and sports psychologists, and all this other stuff. They won't be doing that. They'll be looking for the best restaurants, the best craps tables, things of that nature. They're going to have a good time. That's so unique to this championship."

"It used to be like that at a number of championships. So it'll be back to the future, kind of. They're a little older, a little grayer, have a little less hair. But they're all very dedicated to the game. They care. But it will be a little lighter, until it gets down to the end. Then it'll get a little dicey."

"I played in an awful lot of championships before I was able to win one. I can tell you that was as memorable as any (moment) I've ever had."

This, from a guy who took Tiger Woods to the limit in the 1995 U.S. Amateur final and captained the American Walker Cup team to back-to-back victories in 2007 and '09.

"I think some of these fellows are more casual about it than they might have been



Hidden Creek 10th Hole — Roger Hansen first envisioned building Hidden Creek Golf Club 25 years ago.

25 or 30 years ago. You're more diversified. But there are trade-offs to that. It gives you the ability to put things in perspective. I've always loved business. Business has helped my golf. And golf has helped my business. Being one-dimensional is nothing I could ever do. I think the players you'll see that have stayed amateurs made that choice a long time ago."

The dates are Sept. 26-Oct. 1.

Marucci, who's worked as an analyst for Fox Sports in its inaugural year of covering USGA Championships, is exempt from qualifying for the 156-man field. He hasn't played Hidden Creek yet, but figures to get many opportunities in the upcoming month. Defending champ Patrick Tallent (Maytown, Ky.), who's 61, just won the British Senior Amateur.

In all, seven past champs are scheduled to compete, along with two U.S. Amateur champs and four Mid-Amateur winners. To be eligible, a player must be 55 and have a handicap not exceeding 7.4. There will be two rounds of stroke play, with the low 64 advancing to match play.

Events of this scope depend on volunteer help. And if you're intersted, they could probably use you. For more information go to [HiddenCreekClub.com](http://HiddenCreekClub.com). Or just call them at (609) 909-2990. Any support is certainly appreciated. And necessary.

"I didn't play so well last year, so I got a little disappointed," Marucci said. "I'm really going to practice, work on my body a little bit, make sure I'm healthy. I think it'll be fun."

If nothing else, he figures to have the largest galleries.

"I don't know," he smiled. "We'll see. I think they're tired as well."

Hidden Creek has already hosted three USGA qualifiers, including one for the 2014 U.S. Open.

"I felt that if I'm in the business, I should do a national championship," Hansen said. "We starting talking (to the USGA) about five years ago. I think the golf course sets up perfectly for this. We don't have to change a thing. It's a shame not to share it with the rest of the country."

"(Co-designer) Ben Crenshaw said the defense of the golf course is in the greens. I'm anxious to see how it's defended, against the best senior players. It's a really good test. It should be fun to watch them."

Admission, by the way, is free. So there's no reason not to be there to find out for yourself.

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# Enjoying Golf at Scotland's Crail & Ireland's Carne Golf Courses



Crail Golfing Society – fife, Scotland  
Balcomie Course 5th Green



Crail Golfing Society Clubhouse – fife, Scotland  
Balcomie Course 18th Green

By MIKE KERN

The first time I went to Scotland to cover the Open Championship was two decades ago. And the first thing longtime Philadelphia-area head pro and PGA of America president Dick Smith told me was I had to play Crail, which of course I'd never heard of. But he said it was the Pebble Beach of that part of the world, and one of his favorite places anywhere.

That was enough for me. And he wasn't wrong.

Officially, it's the Crail Golfing Society. And it's located about a 15-minute ride from the Old Course, a stretch that includes some other wonderful courses. There's St. Andrews Bay, particularly the Torrance layout, and Kingsbarns. And the newest member of the St. Andrews family, the Castle Course. But for me it's always been Crail, from the first time I played. And I'm hardly alone.

Founded in 1786, it's the seventh-oldest course on the planet. There's two courses there now, the original Balcomie and Craighead, which was designed by Gil Hanse and opened in 1998. Balcomie was laid out by Tom Morris himself 103 years earlier. Many consider it to be one of the best kept secrets in golf. All I know is every time I've been there they're booked solid, so maybe it's only a secret outside of the county of Fife. I do know this much: as 1-2 punches go, it's awful hard to beat.

This summer I had the privilege of making my fourth trip back to the game's home to watch Jordan Spieth nearly keep his grand-slam hopes going. And as I've done on each of my previous journeys, my first stop was Balcomie. It's a tradition unlike many others.

Over the years I've been fortunate enough to develop a relationship with head pro Graeme Lennie, who is one of the absolute good guys. And that has nothing to do with the fact that he makes regular visits to Philly in his spare time. Simply put, he's the perfect host, and has for whatever reason always welcomed us back with an open invitation. As I've told him, be careful what you wish for. And his staff treats us just as kindly. He's obviously taught them well. Anyway, I've probably played Balcomie close



to 10 times and Craighead about half that many, since we've also been over there for Opens at Muirfield and Carnoustie and somehow managed to make an appropriate detour in Crail's direction. I never needed an excuse, trust me. Balcomie is undoubtedly on my top five favorite list all-time, which is saying something. But it really is that indelible. And it's certainly made for a lasting impression.

Balcomie is nothing if not quirky. But that's all part of the beauty, and the attraction. It's like nothing you'll ever play in these parts. Now you can say that about a lot of Scottish courses. Yet in this case it's also unlike most anything you'll encounter over there as well. And unique can never be a bad character trait, right?

Speaking of which, character it does have. In bundles. I mean, you can stand on the first tee and see just about the entire front nine spread out below you. Score one for views. Of course the best view is from the dining room, but more on that later. They have several flags flying next to the intimate pro shop. I've been there on days when they were still, which is rare. And I've been there on others when they were stiff, which means a 3-club wind. At least. But that's why you want to be there in the first place, to experience something else.

About half the holes are on the water, including the stretch from the second through fifth. The par-3 third is tremendous. It's kind of a blind shot of 170 yards with out of bounds on the right and little bailout room on the opposite side. And No. 5 might be the best par-4 not named the Road Hole. Because, like the 17th at St. Andrews, it's really a par 5. Or a 4 1/2. Maybe that's why it's called Hell's Hole. It's a dogleg right, around the beach. And it measures every bit of 400-plus. In calm conditions, maybe you have a chance. Otherwise, tread carefully and accept whatever it dishes out.

Balcomie has an interesting mix of holes, with all the elevation changes you'd anticipate. And the finishing gauntlet is more than enough to keep your memory

*Enjoying Golf continued on page 11*



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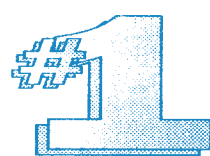


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Craighead Links at Crail Golfing Society Fife-Scotland



Carne Golf Course, Belmullet, Ireland was the last links golf course to be designed by the late Eddie Hackett and is now believed by many who have played there to be his greatest challenge.

## Enjoying Golf *from page 9*

banks packed. The 13th is an uphill par-3 of 200 that plays longer going back to the pro shop. That's followed by a downhill par-3 of about 150 with a massive sand trap in front and one of those nasty pot bunkers hidden in the back left. Somehow, I rolled in a 30-footer for birdie in which I misread the break. Don't ask. Then you have a short par-4 that's drivable. But there's another pot bunker short and right to maybe mess with you. The 16th is a par-3 uphill over a cavern to hidden green with gorse to the left and back. What more do you really need to digest? Hey, I parred it. My friend pured one that must have went over because we never found his ball. The next-to-last hole is a long par-4 with little trouble around the green, thankfully. They call it their Road Hole. And you close with another par-3 of about 200 that sits right in front of the clubhouse so people can watch you while they eat lunch. I could sit there for hours with a drink in my hand and never get bored. It's that cool of a setting.

I should mention that once we even did Balcomie and Craighead in the same day, sandwiched around some mighty tasty fish and chips. It can't possibly get much more perfect.

And by the way, if you've noticed that Balcomie seems to have an abundance of par-3s, you would be correct. The par is 69, with three 5s. Embrace the difference.

Craighead can more than stand on its own. What Hansie created is the fitting complement to Balcomie. He took advantage of what nature had to offer, on a cliff top. There's a World War I pill box behind the seventh green, and some serious views up and down the coastline. There's also a defensive wall built by Viking marauders called "Danes Dyke" that's only been there for 1,200 years and comes into play on four holes. No two holes face in a consecutive direction, which ensures that the wind will indeed be a factor at some point, whether it's with you, against you or blowing sideways. And it does blow. We played nine holes on the day when play had to be suspended for 10 hours because of high winds. And I've played in Hurricane-force winds of 90-plus miles per hour in Bermuda, so I have a point of reference. And these conditions were way more fierce. So much so that at times all you could mostly do was laugh. Good thing we had also played earlier in the week, when by comparison it was relatively balmy.

On the first hole, which was No. 10, a short par 4, we had wedge shots in and I

actually hit a really good one that rolled on to about 20 feet below the hole. If I had hit it on the green it would have gone long. That's just the way it was. Still, my putt, with a fairly large right-to-left break, had no chance. The wind and the undulation got it and I had at least a 20-footer coming back. My third stopped just short and started coming back toward me as well. It was semi-comical. But what could we do except trudge on?

At some point I gave up hitting tee shots if they were into the gale, because it simply wasn't happening. But I would at least play from the fairway in and try to make the best of it. A good man's got to understand his limitations, as Dirty Harry once put it. The 13th is a par 3 that played some 120 from the front, which is where I hit from. There's OB on the left, so I used a 5-iron and lined up over the sand trap and off the wall onto the back fringe. From there I got up and down, which is the one thing I can usually do. Hey, you've got to improvise when necessity dictates. All I know is, on our last hole (I had to get back to the clubhouse so I could get a cell-phone signal to do a radio show back in the states) I had roughly a 40-foot putt, again with the wind blowing right-to-left and the grain running in the same direction, with about 10 feet of break. And after rolling for what seemed like a good 30 seconds, it finally plopped in. I just don't know how. But I'll take it.

Overall it's extremely playable, provided you don't have to play in something filthy, as the natives say. I could think of a lot worse ways to spend an afternoon. Just try not to get too caught up in the surroundings. Because it is mesmerizing. And please make sure you say hi to Mr. Lennie.

From there it was onward to Ireland. Specifically the northwest corner of the country, which for me means Carne course in the town of Belmullet. It's about 4 1/2 hours from Dublin, so you have to want to get there. But if you're so inclined, you won't be disappointed. My good friend John Garrity, the longtime writer for Sports Illustrated, wrote a book about the place a few years ago called "Ancestral Links" that helped tell the world about it. It seems his family was from there before coming to America, and he traced his heritage and how it related to his relationship with the game.

Carne was the last links course designed by the late Eddie Hackett. Construction started in 1985 and the first nine holes opened seven years later. The project was completed in 1995. Still another nine (The Kilmore) was added two years ago. It's all

*Enjoying Golf continued on page 13*



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Carne Golf Links Hole-3 Bellmullet\_Ireland



Carne Golf Links Hole-1 Bellmullet\_Ireland

## Enjoying Golf *from page 11*

about as wild and natural and ancient as you can imagine. I mean, you haven't seen dunes until you've seen theirs, some of which are hundreds of feet high. I can't make that up. There's a little bit of everything. Uphill, doglegs, blind shots, heavy rough, vistas, wind, you name it. I'd been there once before, but seeing it again sure brought back a lot of snapshots. I find it hard to believe I've actually been there twice. Somebody must like me.

This summer has been one of the worst they've ever had over there, in terms of rain and cold. But my three-day stay was about as good as you can get, considering where you are. The winds gave us fits, but that's expected. More to the point, we stayed dry. And once I left, I was told it came down hard. Score one for timing. And setting. Hey, there's many reasons why this remote treasure has been so critically acclaimed. I've learned to appreciate all of them.

The first time you play it, you might feel like you need a guide. I had Garrity, who's kind of like the mayor. So at least he could tell me where to try and hit the ball. But once you've done 18 or 27, I promise you'll want to do more. There are some holes that are almost indescribable. If you see an aerial shot of the course, you might think you're looking at the moon. But it's so cool, because it's so different. Even for a links layout. Check out the website photos. All I know is, I parred three of the toughest holes there before I left, which I'm not sure I even came close to doing on my first trip.

The seventh is an uphill par-3 that plays close to 200, with sheep on the left and bunkers in front. And I do mean uphill, as in straight and all. It's not the only hole there you can say that about, although it is the only par-3. So I hit the best 3 wood I can to within 20 feet. Unfortunately the putt wouldn't fall. But it was still a keeper. Big-time. The first of several, as it turned out. The ninth is a medium-length two-shotter going back to the clubhouse to a two-tiered green. You'd better be on the right half. If, of course, you actually have an approach that can get you there. Mother Nature could have something to say about that. I had about 150 left and hit a 6-iron pin-high (on the lower tier) just off on the left fringe. The one thing I can do is chip, and that's what I did, nearly holing it out for birdie. I gladly settled for the gimme par. And No. 17, which happens to be Garrity's favorite challenge, is a par-4 where 5 can be a good



score. You have to hit a drive that avoids a cliff on the left and heavy stuff on the right. Then you still have a sizable shot left to a long green protected by a nasty bunker to the front-left and another cliff to the opposite side. When the pin is back-right it's almost impossible to get anything close. Fortunately it was in the middle, and my killed 5-wood rolled on to about 25 feet short (I should have used the 3). I took the 2-putt and ran. No sense getting too greedy. Of course I wouldn't have said that if I'd made it, but that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

If nothing else, it's an eye-opener. And a lot of fun, even when you're sometimes getting an unfriendly bounce or a stiff cross-breeze. It happens. Accept it and savor the abundance of good stuff that makes

the effort so worthwhile.

Maybe the biggest obstacle (or even the only one) that Carne faces is lack of exposure. Even though people in the know have recognized it for the absolute gem it is, it's not easy getting travelers there. A lot of folks who head to Ireland are obviously looking to play the courses they've heard about for so many years. And Carne is a newcomer, trying to crack into the market. Being there once is all the convincing anyone should ever need. And there's other courses up that way to make it work as well, such as Sligo (which we also played and I would highly recommend), Enniscrone and Donegal, to name but a few. And the exchange rate on the Euro is much better than what the pound gets you in the UK, if that's a consideration. The Tourism Board in northwest Ireland is really making a push to generate interest, and I can understand why. If you're somebody who goes to the British Isles on a regular basis, you really need to add this to your wish list at some point. Tell them I sent you. Or John Garrity. That's bound to get you some bonus points at McDonnell's Pub, which I have to admit is an attraction all by itself.

The addition of the golf course has prompted the building of two new hotels. And there's talk of even more rooms on the way. Plus they have a couple of restaurants in town, which to be honest isn't all that bustling, that will make you forget about Haggis. The one that might be the best is Fun Bobby's, which is run by a former Irish Chef of the Year (he used to have his own TV show) who used to work at Carne, where the Sunday buffet brought diners in from hours away. Now he does a seafood chowder that's as good as it gets. And a sticky toffee pudding that'll spike your sugar count. So really, what are you waiting for? Just make sure you pack your Gore-Tex. The weather might not be as forgiving. Consider it part of the adventure.

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Mission Inn, Clubhouse Las Colinas Course (Spanish for “the hills”)



Mission Inn The sister El Campeon Course

## *Experience Florida from page 5*

Circle, which is a short drive away, has shopping and restaurants for every taste. It's one of those excursions we should all do once, just because. One night we dined at Columbia, a Spanish/Cuban restaurant that dates back to 1905. It came highly recommended, and didn't disappoint. As an added treat, we got to sit at a sidewalk table so we could watch the world go by as we ate. It was my first time doing that kind of cuisine, but I don't think it'll be my last. I could have made a meal out of the house salad, and the tapas dishes were a perfect introduction to that world. Then I had to force down a slice of key lime pie that again was right on point. More tart than sweet. Even took home a souvenir from the gift shop. Some habits are hard to break.

But you know what was just as impressive? Waking up early in the morning so I could take a walk on the sand collecting conch shells and soaking up the rays and gentle waves. There's a lot to be said for 80-degree water that's a color we're not accustomed to back home. Hey, I could see the bottom. Who knew? Or how about the night when three of us sat by the pool sipping some cold refreshments and just looking up at the stars above? Now that's living the good life. And that pretty much sums up Longboat Key. I can't wait to get back. I've already warned the folks who showed us so much hospitality to begin with. Figured it was the least I could do.

As for the second part of our journey, you have a lot of options if you're going to the Orlando area, which is about three hours due northeast. And many of them include Mickey and Minnie, which isn't always so bad. But they're not for everyone. So you look elsewhere. And one of the choices you can make is Mission Inn, a self-contained property about 30 minutes from the Magic Kingdom. But it might as well be in another time zone. And for some, or even many, that's exactly what they're seeking. A place to get away, relax, be spoiled, eat some good food and play some great golf. As if there's really much of anything beyond those basics?

**Mission Inn** hosted the ING, which means it has to be doing something right. And those who attended the three-day gathering of some of the best and brightest in the golf industry left impressed. And they can sometimes be tough critics.

Officially situated in Howey-in-the-Hills, it has two courses, a spa, four restaurants and an array of on-site activities to keep you busy. The place has a very Spanish feel to it. Like Longboat Key, it will bring your blood pressure down, just in a different kind of environment. It's why they make vanilla and rum raisin ice cream. Just depends on what you're looking for. Or you can do what we did and just do both back-to-back. Whatever works. They're both diversions. And diversions are what makes the planet spin. And at Mission Inn that could include hiking, bass fishing or trap and skeet shooting.

My diversion, obviously, is trying to make those elusive birdies. It's what keeps me going. Or takes years off my life. I'm still trying to figure that part out. Anyway, I got to play both layouts at **Mission Inn. Las Colinas** (Spanish for “the hills”) is

the easier of the two, but that of course is a relative term. It was designed by PGA Tour player and native Floridian Gary Koch in 1992. Since then the aforementioned Ron Garl has done a “remodel,” which even involved taking out some holes and adding new ones. The fairways are tree-lined, so accuracy doesn't hurt. But the greens are fairly generous, never a bad characteristic. There's a lot of elevation movement throughout, and many of holes have some bend in them one way or the other. So it can get your attention in a hurry. We started our scramble on No. 17, a semi-long par-4 with a multi-level green, and I'm sad to report that we made a bogey. I know it happens, but it hurt nonetheless. A pride thing. Hard to believe they nicknamed this hole “Welcome.” At least we got better from there.

The course has received “Top Fairways” recognition from Golf for Women. So feel free to bring your better half with you. But regardless of gender, it will test you. Risk-reward definitely comes into play. There's enough subtle nuances to keep you guessing. There's some nice short two-shot holes, but the par-3s offer few gimmes. The par-5s do offer some birdie ops, but there's also some three-putts waiting to strike.

The sister **El Campeon** design, which will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2017, is championship in every way. But be warned that you probably won't get any level lies along the way. Most of the time you're hitting up or down. But that's part of what makes it fun. No two holes are alike. So you're always facing something new. In other words, it's not boring. Not even close. On a lot of approach shots you have to add a club or two to make up for the rise. For whatever reason it never seems like you're going downhill enough. Funny how that works out.

For the Philly in all of us, you'll be happy to know that the first hole is called “Pine Valley.” It's a short par-5 over a creek to a narrow fairway divided by trees. And then there's water on both sides of the green. And that's just the opener. This course has a ton of character. There's forced carries, island greens, severe slopes, cavernous bunkers and lots of the old wet stuff. There's even some bailout areas, just in case. But it's certainly interesting, in every respect. Take No. 17, where we finished. You have to strategically place your second shot on this par-5 in a spot that doesn't get blocked by the historic oak positioned in the middle of the short grass. Then it's a wedge over water to a green that moves big-time from back to front. Which means when the pin is cut in the front, you're almost surely going to face a tricky if not impossible putt. Good luck. But it was absolutely a course I would never get tired of. It's too good. And so unlike most of the places we play in the Northeast. Which is part of why you head to the Sunshine State.

So there you have it. Two stops you might not have been familiar with that are now on your radar screen for future reference. I just hope that if you make it to one or both, you enjoy them as much as I did. Although it's hard to see how you wouldn't. And they're totally unlike. But what they have in common is an ability to make you feel like you've been transported to another world. That's why they call it a getaway. In this case for me it was times two. Makes you appreciate perks.

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McCullough's Emerald Links Course Hole # 7



Greate Bay Country Club View from Tee

## *Golf at the Shore* from page 3

can tee off early and be back in time to do the family stuff on the beach. Win-win.

Twisted Dune, on Ocean Heights Avenue in Egg Harbor Township, could be the second-hardest course in those parts. Like Shore Gate, a lot depends on where you choose to play from. Twisted Dune is unlike mostly anything you're going to play this side of Scotland. And I love Scottish golf. So I can't get enough of this place. It's simply that unique.

If you can manage to keep your ball out of the nasty stuff, you can navigate it. And they've cut some of the nasty stuff out through the years, which has given it better definition. But it can still bite you if you're not careful, just because. Sort of like Scotland.

The fairways and greens for the most part of accessible. It's one of those deals where what you see all around you can play tricks with your mind. That's what architects do. It's a between-the-ears battle. But if you really look at it, Twisted Dune doesn't have too many forced carries. The trouble tends to be to the sides. And it can be penal. So by all means try not to go there. If only it were that simple.

From the Whites it plays like 6,300. It's about 500 less from the Yellows. So guess where I went. The fun really starts on No. 2, a mid-length par 4 that seems to play longer. The third is a long par 3 that'll test your nerves more than a little. But for all its many teeth, it gives you chances to get back at it, too. Like No. 5, a short par 4 that bends left into an inviting putting surface. Even I was somehow going for birdie there. Maybe they need to do something about that, like stick a moat in front. Only kidding. I have to take them where I can get them, because these days there's not as many. Yet the next three holes are each doable in their own right, although for some reason everything appears to play longer than it says. Go figure. The eighth is a short par 4 with a bailout area right. But even there they can put the pin in certain spots that can cause headaches. And 9 is a par 5 with water all down the left and no bailout right. The green slopes severely from right to left, so a right pin is downright nasty. Still, I saw a guy I was playing with make an up and down from some serious cabbage that was as good as it gets. It happens, I guess.

The 10th is another three-shotter that bends right around a hill, which means the second shot is blind. Enjoy. The 13th is a par 3 that's not too long but contains trouble every which direction. I hit a 7-wood pin high left, which of course meant I short-sided myself and was left with a downhill bunker shot to a green that rolled away from me toward the water. I made 4 and ran to the next tee. The 15th is a par 4 where the second shot is all downhill to the green, very interesting and different. What follows is a really good par 3 over a ravine to a green that runs away from you and uphill. There's sand all over. But the green is at least large. Then you get a par 4 that's every bit as memorable. The second shot is uphill to a smaller green, and you have to carry a bunker. Nice. The last is just real long. I hit what I thought were two

decent shots, but my 3-wood still came up just short. It's a good thing I can chip, and I ran one up to about 3 feet for a rare par there. Felt good. Might even make me want to go back. As if I needed to have my arm pulled.

McCullough's Emerald Links, which is just down the road from Twisted, is a course that's grown on me. It was built on a landfill, and to be candid the first couple of times I played it I wasn't what you'd call overwhelmed. But my perspective has changed. I'm not going to tell you it's the top course in the greater Atlantic City region, but it can sure be a lot of fun. Lot to be said for that.

Each of the holes is inspired by something famous that exists elsewhere, predominantly in the British Isles. The first, for instance, is supposed to resemble No. 1 at Royal Portrush. Not an exact replica, but in the vicinity. The biggest difference is a grass bunker in front of the green instead of sand, to cut down on the difficulty starting out. And you're off. It's not an easy assignment to pull off, and I've seen examples where it's failed miserably, but Stephen Kay pulled it off rather well. He even dedicated No. 7 to Alister MacKenzie (Augusta National, Cypress Point), who won an award for the design but never saw it get built. Not shockingly, it's the signature hole. And so it proceeds along. There's a rendition of the Biarritz hole that's been redone many times by C.B. Macdonald and Charles Banks. There are elevation changes here that you rarely find in South Jersey, and some of the holes are downright hard. Usually there's a ton of wind going on, which only adds to the difficulty factor.

Some of the stretches that stand out are 8 and 9. The first is a par 4, where you're driving off an elevated tee to a wide fairway that has water on the left and garbage on the right. It's a dogleg right, to an open green with some decent undulation. Well done, and based on the 10th at Turnberry. Next is a medium-length par 3 that's all carry, with wet stuff on the left. So there's not much margin for error. And there's four bunkers in front. Like the 10th at Royal Dornoch.

The 10th is another Royal Dornoch (No. 14), it plays like a 41/2. The green is treacherous, especially if they put the pin in the wrong spot. The 11th is a neat short par 4, with a blind uphill tee shot. The 12th is a long par 4 with all kinds of sand issues. Then comes a cool par 3, downhill kind of over water, to a two-tiered green. You can't go long, nor can you be short. And there's a trap on the left.

I could play the 15th 18 times and call it a round. It's a dogleg right par 4 of about 285. A good player can try to drive the green. But there's risk. The short or even smart player hits it down the middle and wedges it up and might still have a great shot at birdie. The green can give you fits, but hey, it's only 285. Deal with it. And 18 is a nice way to finish, a manageable par 4 as long as you don't push your tee ball right into the water. It all depends how much of the dogleg you want to chew off. Shades of the fourth at Prestwick, which I've played. I'm a lucky guy.

Greate Bay Country Club, in Somers Point just across the Ninth Street Bridge from OC, is private. But they have a bunch of associate membership plans available

*Golf at the Shore continued on page 29*

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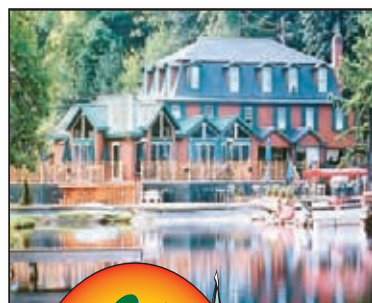
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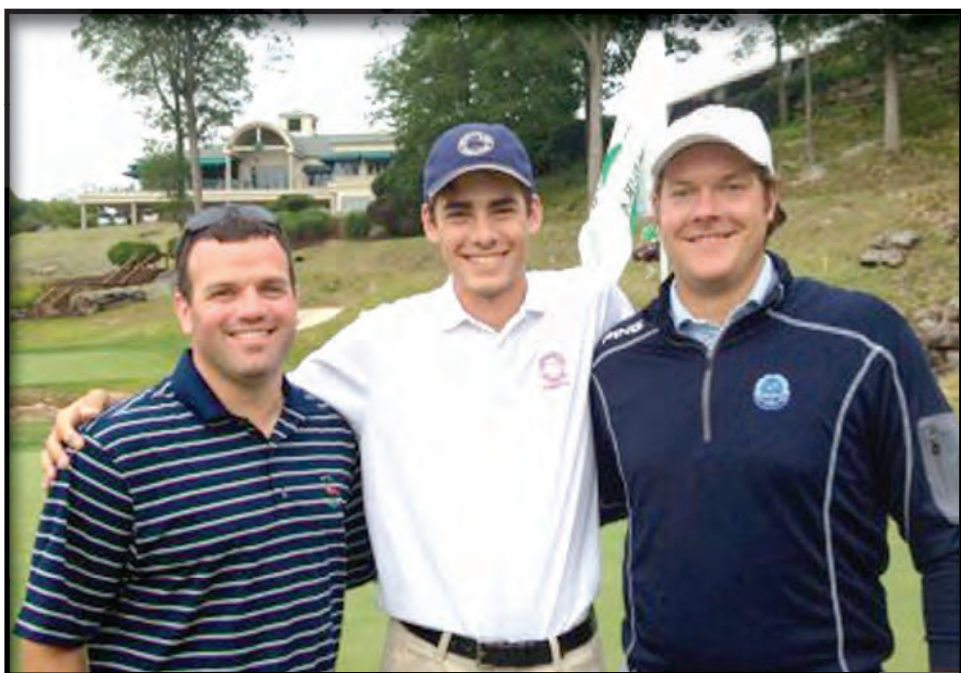
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# Hudacek & Mitchell Capture AGA Founders Fourball Title



Glenmaura National Golf Club's Stephen Hudacek and Pat Mitchell capture 2015 AGA Founders Fourball Title.

Moosic, PA - Glenmaura National Golf Club was the host site for the 2015 AGA Founders Fourball Tournament, and members Stephen Hudacek and Patrick Mitchell used their home course advantage to take the team title in dramatic fashion. Playing in the final group of the day, the team carded a 31 on the "mountain nine", and with two teams in at 7-under par 64, needing a birdie on 18th and final hole Stephen Hudacek hit a wedge shot that found the bottom of the cup for an eagle 2, for a 31-31-62 and a two-shot victory.

Finishing in a tie for second place were Art Brunn Jr. of Wyoming Valley Country Club and Glenmaura National's Chas Dennis (64), as well as the team of Glenmaura National Golf Club's Justin Masters and Scranton Muni. Golf Club's Kevin Rossi (64)

In the senior division Paupack Hills Country Club's Bob Andrejko and Mark Bartkowski teamed up to card a 5-under par 66 to win the senior title by three shots over Glenmaura National Golf Club's Ed Cimoch and Scranton Muni. Golf Club's Chris Mathewson (69).

Stephen Hudacek holed his wedge for an eagle 2 on #18, but the shot of the day belonged to Jack Frost National Golf Club's Mike Deininger who had a hole-in-one on the par 3 #2.

## OPEN DIVISION

### Results

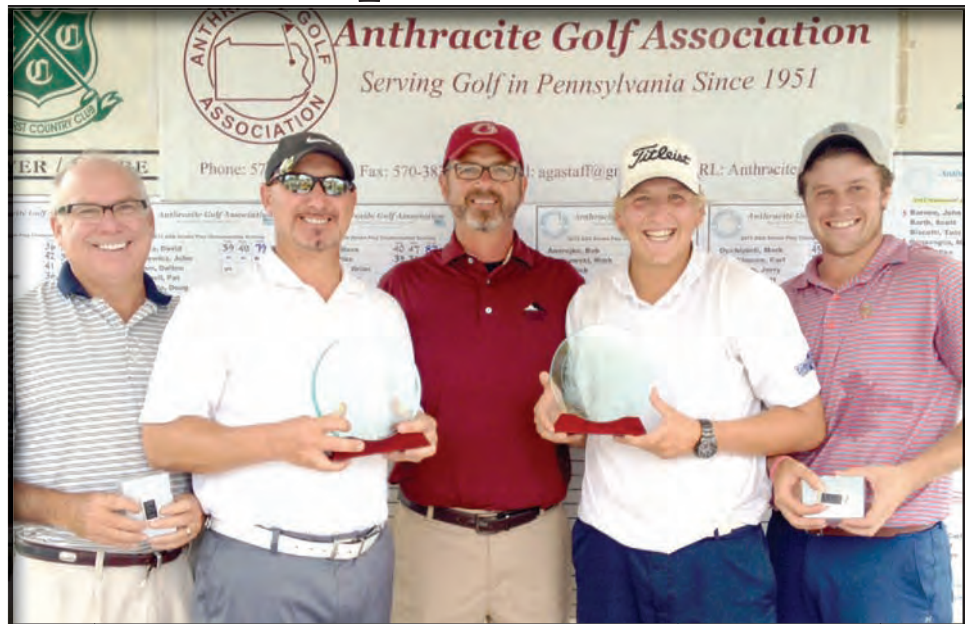
			Total
<b>Hudacek, S. / Mitchell, P.--</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>62</b>
Brunn Jr., A. / Dennis, C.	32	32	64
Masters, J. / Rossi, K.	32	32	64
Osborne, F. / Osborne, D.	32	33	65
Mikiewicz, J. / Biscotti, T.	32	33	65
Coldwater, D. / Coldwater, C.	32	35	67
Cerminaro, C. / Johnson, N.	37	31	68
Lucarelli, C. / Archer, J.	36	34	70



## SENIOR DIVISION

<b>Andrejko, B. / Bartkowski, M.</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>66</b>
Mathewson, C. / Cimoch, E.	37	32	69
Zavada, J. / Vladika, G.	34	36	70
Rostock, T. / Deininger, M.	32	38	70
Swanson, M. / Cook, B.	36	35	71

# Sebastianelli Claims AGA Stroke Play Championship, LaFoca Captures Senior Title



Anthony Sebastianelli and Santo LaFoca captured AGA Stroke Play Championship titles

Moscow, PA - Anthony Sebastianelli and Santo LaFoca captured AGA Stroke Play Championship titles on Wednesday, August 19th, at Elmhurst Country Club

Glen Oak Country Club's Anthony Sebastianelli captured the 2015 AGA Stroke Play Championship in a playoff. Anthony carded a round of 3-under-par 69 which was matched by Elmhurst Country Club's Pat Ross, a playoff ensued.

Players went back down to the par 4 18th, after the first extra hole was tied with pars, the two golfers repeated #18, and on the second playoff hole Sebastianelli made par and captured the title in the open division title. For his outstanding golf Sebastianelli received the Brunn Trophy, a coveted prize named in memory of one of Northeastern Pennsylvania's greatest golfers. For the second consecutive year Pat Ross was the winner of the 2015 aggregate title for the player who had the lowest combined score in both individual stroke play events conducted by the Anthracite Golf Association (73-69-142).

Huntsville Golf Club's Santo LaFoca captured the AGA Senior Stroke Play Championship title with a round of 2-under-par round of 70. LaFoca's 70 was good enough for a 1 stroke victory over three players who all carded 71, Scranton Muni. Golf Club's Mark Bartkowski, Irem Country Club's Jim Blinn, and Fox Hill Country Club's Bob Gill.

With his solid play Fox Hill Country Club's Bob Gill earned the senior aggregate title with a score of 73-71-144.

The Anthracite Golf Association would like to thank all participants, volunteers, and the staff at Elmhurst Country Club for a wonderful tournament.

## OPEN DIVISION

### Results

	Total
<b>Anthony Sebastianelli</b>	<b>69</b>
Pat Ross	69
Ryan Brown	70
Mike Bonavoglia	71
John Barone	74
Bob Zaleski	75
Doug Nardella	75



## SENIOR DIVISION

<b>Santo LaFoca</b>	<b>70</b>
Mark Bartkowski	71
Jim Blinn	71
Bob Gill	71
Bob McCloskey - 72	76

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### GALV Lehigh Valley Open

Northampton CC – Easton, PA Par 72

	R1	R2	Total
Joe Kogelman GolfTEC-KoP	67	67	134
John DiMarco Laurel Creek CC	68	67	135
Billy Stewart ACE Club	65	70	135
Greg Farrow Deerwood CC	65	71	136
Anthony Napoletano GolfTEC-KoP	69	69	138
Josh Rackley Gulph Mills GC	69	69	138
Jakob Gerney Trump National GC- Philly	67	71	138
Terry Hertzog CC of York	68	71	139
Andrew Turner Whitford CC	73	67	140
John Lynch Wild Quail G & CC	72	68	140
Michael Wheeler Berkshire CC	71	69	140
Bertus Wessels Green Valley CC	70	70	140
Dave Quinn Links GC	70	70	140
Eddie Perrino Eagle Rock Resort	70	70	140
Rich Steinmetz Spring Ford CC	70	70	140
Mark Parson Twisted Dune	68	72	140
Don DeAngelis Center Square GC	68	72	140
Steve Swartz Conestoga CC	72	69	141
Brian Kelly Bucknell GC	72	69	141
Jason Panter Sand Barrens GC	72	69	141
Dustin McCormick Glen Brook GC	71	70	141
Mike Meisenzahl Shore Gate CC	68	73	141
John Spina Philadelphia Cricket Club	67	74	141
Don Allan Burlington CC	71	71	142

### Doylestown Open

Doylestown C.C. - Doylestown, PA Par 72

	R1	R2	Total
Dave Quinn Links GC	36	32	68
Rich Steinmetz Spring Ford CC	34	35	69
Dave McNabb Applebrook GC	34	36	70
Bertus Wessels Green Valley CC	34	36	70
Bob Lennon Wilmington CC	34	36	70
Tony Perla Radnor Valley CC	34	36	70
John Lynch Wild Quail G & CC	35	35	70
Billy Stewart ACE Club	35	36	71
Bill Sautter Philadelphia Cricket Club	36	35	71
Don Allan Burlington CC	35	36	71
Eddie Perrino Eagle Rock Resort	38	33	71
Mike Furey Mahoning Valley CC	36	35	71

#### SENIORS

Bob Lennon Wilmington CC	34	36	70
Bill Sautter Philadelphia Cricket Club	36	35	71
Don Allan Burlington CC	35	36	71
Mike Moses Concord CC	37	36	73
Brian Kelly Bucknell GC	38	35	73
Rick Flesher Applebrook GC	37	37	74
George Forster Radnor Valley CC	35	39	74
Gary Hardin Northampton CC	34	40	74
J R Delich Applebrook GC	38	36	74

### Phila. PGA Assist. Championship

Golf Mills GC - King of Prussia, PA Par 71

	R1	R2	Total
QUALIFIERS 6			
Billy Stewart Devon, PA	72	66	138
Mike Meisenzahl Medford, NJ	69	70	139
Tanner Dobmeier Norristown, PA	70	71	141
Greg Matthias Haddonfield, NJ	74	67	141
Rusty Harbold Lancaster, PA	71	71	142
Andrew Turner Elverson, PA	73	69	142
ALTERNATES - IN ORDER 3			
Jeff Herb Prospect Park, PA	71	74	145
Michael Little Lansdale, PA	71	74	145
Bertus Wessels Philadelphia, PA	72	73	145
DNQ			
Colin Corrigan Bethlehem, PA	74	71	145
John Allen Media, PA	75	71	146
Jeff Sikina Horsham, PA	74	72	146
Jason Panter Medford, NJ	76	70	146
Josh Rackley King of Prussia, PA	78	68	146
Carson Solien Berwyn, PA	77	70	147
Bryan Kienke West Chester, PA	71	77	148

### Phila. Senior PGA Pro Championship

Green Valley CC - Lafayette Hill, PA Par 71

	R1	R2	Total
PGA Senior Championship Qualifiers: 9 Alternates: 3			
Stu Ingraham M Golf Range	68	72	140
Terry Hertzog CC of York	69	72	141
John Allen Huntingdon Valley CC	72	70	142
Greg Farrow Deerwood CC	75	68	143
John Appleget Wildwood Golf & CC	74	70	144
Don Allan Burlington CC	69	75	144
Rob Shuey Colonial GC	72	73	145
Brian Kelly Bucknell GC	70	75	145
George Forster Radnor Valley CC	72	74	146
Brian Leib Hanover CC (a)	72	74	146
Wayne Phillips Lehigh CC (a)	74	72	146
Ken Peyre-Ferry Philly PGA (a)	72	75	147

Mike Mack Burlington CC	75	73	148
Don DeAngelis Center Square GC	75	73	148
Bill Sautter Philadelphia Cricket Club	73	75	148
John DiMarco Laurel Creek CC	74	75	149
Cleve Coldwater Glenmaura National GC	73	77	150
Dave Seeman Patriots Glen National GC	73	77	150
Gary Hardin Northampton CC	76	75	151
Ed Dougherty Philly PGA	73	78	151

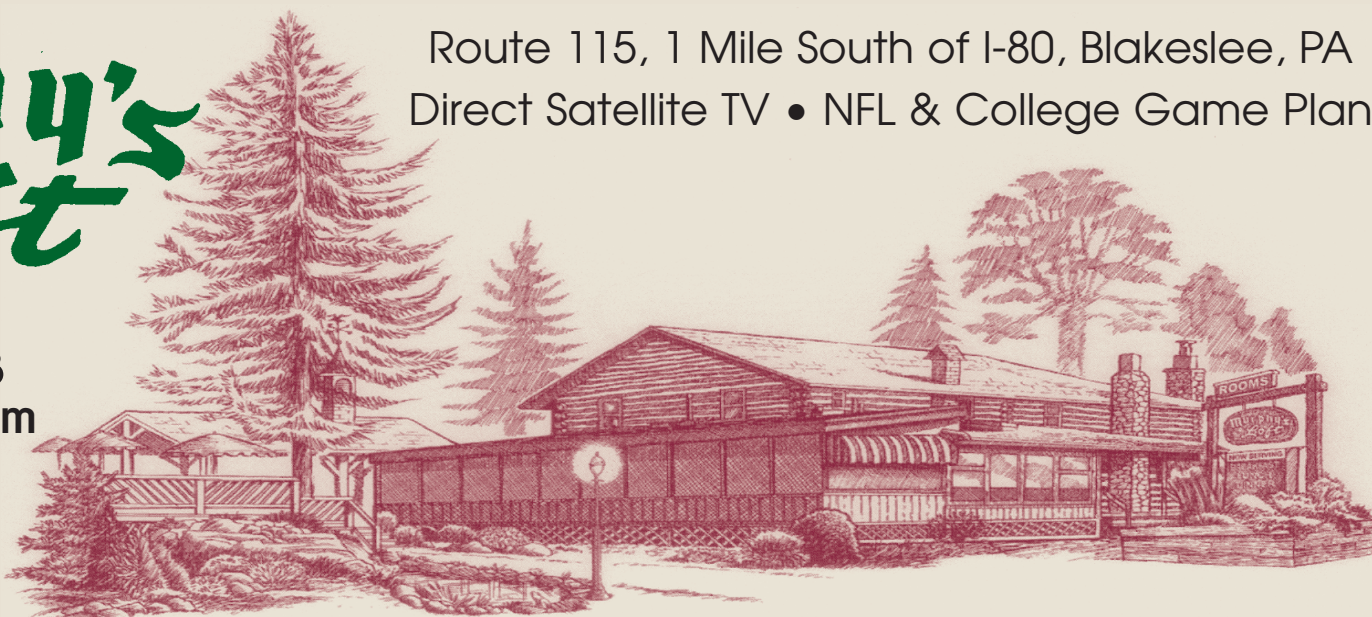
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# Jonathan Wilson and Julia Santo Capture 2015 AGA Junior Tournament of Champions



Jonathan Wilson of Dallas captured the 2015 Association Junior Tournament of Champions. Julia Santo, Hawley, captured the Founder Cup by 9 shots.

Moscow, PA - Jonathan Wilson of Dallas captured the 2015 Association Junior Tournament of Champions. Wilson shot an opening round 75 at Emanon Country Club finding himself two shots back of Pittston's Tyler McGarry (73).

Wilson kept calm and battled back to close out the second round with a 78 at Elmhurst Country Club. Wilson's 75-78-153 was good enough to edge out McGarry and Clarks Summits Thomas Keegan by 1 shot earning the title and etching his name on the Art Wall Jr. Trophy.

Ryan Krechel (82-74-156) of Saylorsburg finished T4 with Archbald's Ronnie Yanoski (80-76-156).

In the girl's division Julia Santo, Hawley, captured the Founder Cup by 9 shots to successfully defend her title. Santo opened up with a round of 78 at Emanon Country Club to lead by 3 shots heading into the second and final round at Emanon Country Club. Santo then carded a round of 76 in the that final round to win the title by 9 shots 78-76-154. Krista Kissell of Cresco finished second (81-82-163), and Harding's Madeline Wharton (87-84-171) finished in third.

The Anthracite Golf Association would like to thank all of the host courses at our 17 events in 2015, as well as our title sponsor Ashley Machine & Tool.

## BOYS RESULTS

	R1	R2	Total
<b>Jonathan Wilson, Dallas</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>153</b>
Thomas Keegan, Clarks Summit	78	76	154
Tyler McGarry, Pittston	73	81	154
Ronnie Yanoski, Archbald	80	76	156
Ryan Krechel, Saylorsburg	82	74	156
Sebastian Cimoch, Forest City	77	81	158
Andrew Jalowiec, Clarks Summit	83	77	160



Kyle Bowen, Roaring Brook Twp.	79	81	160
Adam Kowaleski, Vandling	83	79	162
Brian Whelan, Cresco	81	81	162
Sahas Chandragari, Clarks Summit	85	77	162
Matthew Mecca, Clarks Summit	84	79	163
Dylan O'Dell, Forest City	83	81	164
Joseph Weber, Dunmore	83	81	164
Jack Hauber, Moscow	84	82	166
Ryan O'Malley, Cresco	90	76	166
Eric Mahoney, Clarks Summit	91	77	168
Logan Paczewski, Dallas	81	87	168
Shane Angle, Mountain Top	83	86	169
Jack Habeeb, Scranton	91	84	175
Jack Cerminaro, Archbald	91	91	182



## GIRLS RESULTS

<b>Julia Santo, Hawley</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>154</b>
Krista Kissell, Cresco	81	82	163
Madeline Wharton, Harding	87	84	171
Alexandra Craig, Pittston	84	93	177
Alexis Wyandt, Dallas	98	87	185

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## Mount Airy Pro-Am

Mount Airy G.C., Mt. Pocono, PA Par 72

### LOW PRO

John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	70
Terry Hatch (Hidden Valley)	70
Alex Knoll (Bethlehem Muni)	71
Jeff Fick (Gassers Driving Range)	72

### LOW SENIOR PRO

Lee Schmidhuber (Hershey's Mills GC)	73
Brian Boyle (Skytop GC)	75
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	77

### LOW AMATEUR

Al McCormick (Glen Brook)	71
Ed Mesko (Pocono Manor)	75
Chris Ortman (Woodstone Gregg Meyer)	75

### TEAM LOW GROSS

Stephen Fredrick (Riverview CC)	64
Chris Brocious (PGA)	64
Greg Meyer (Woodstone CC)	66

### TEAM LOW NET

Greg wall (Pocono Manor)	58
Jim Muschlitz (Southmoore)	59
Alex knoll (Bethlehem Muni)	59

## Whitetail Pro-Am

Whitetail GC, Bath, PA Par 72

### LOW PRO

Alex Knoll (Bethlehem)	68
Craig Paukovitch (Whitetail)	71
Mike Paukovits (St. Davids)	73
Gregg Myer (Woodstone)	73
Dan Richie (Willow Brook)	74

### LOW SENIOR PRO

Jim Booros (Philly PGA)	74
Jim Muschlitz (Southmoore)	78
Joe Ambrose (Paupack Hills)	79
Bill Lee (Wolf Hollow)	79

### LOW AMATEUR

Justin Hilgert (Whitetail)	64
Tom Tyler (Elkview)	72
Mike Buschta (Willow Brook)	74

### TEAM LOW GROSS

Brad Paukovits (Whitetail)	62
Dan Richie (Willow Brook)	63
Alex Knoll (Bethlehem)	63

### TEAM LOW NET

Mike Paukovits (St. Davids)	60
Jim Muschlitz (Southmoore)	60
Joe Ambrose (Paupack Hills)	60

## Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort Pro-Am

Shawnee on Delaware, PA Par 72

### LOW PRO

John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	66
Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	70
Jeff Fick (Gassers Driving Range)	71
Scott Murphy (Schuylkill)	71
Alex Knoll (Bethlehem)	72

### LOW SENIOR PRO

Gary Clark (Buck Hill)	72
Harvey Williams (Philly PGA)	74
John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	74

### LOW AMATEUR

Gordon Bennet	66
Bob Andrejko (Paupack Hills CC)	70
Justin Tressler (Buck Hill)	71

### TEAM LOW GROSS

Alex Knoll (Bethlehem)	63
Joe Anthony (Buck Hill)	63
John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	64
Scott Murphy (Schuylkill)	64

### TEAM LOW NET

Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	59
Jim Booros (Philly PGA)	61
Brandon Hendershot (Shawnee)	61

## Pocono Manor Pro-Am

Pocono Manor GR, Pocono Manor, PA Par 72

### LOW PRO

Terry Hurst (Hidden Valley)	65
Gary Clarke (Buck Hill)	68
Joe Acla (Hideout)	71
Howie VanBuskirk (Mt.Laurel)	72
John Pillar (Woodloch)	73

### LOW SENIOR PRO

John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	71
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	72
Joe Ambrose (Paupack Hills)	75
Dennis Coutts (Pocono Manor)	75

### LOW AMATEUR

Chad Hess (Woodstone)	70
Jim Maru (Woodstone)	71
Evan Joyce (Glenmaura)	72

### TEAM LOW GROSS

Kevin Edwards (Woodstone)	62
Rico Riciputi (Glenmaura)	63
John Pillar (Woodloch)	64

### TEAM LOW NET

Dustin McCormick (Glen Brook)	57
Gary Clarke (Buck Hill)	57
Howie VanBuskirk (Mt.Laurel)	58

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Blue Heron Pines Hole # 10



Stockton Seaview Bay Course Hole # 2

## *Golf at the Shore* from page 17

for people who folks who might want to play there but aren't full-time residents, etc. If that sounds like you, it's worth it. Greate Bay hosted the LPGA's Shop-Rite Classic for many years, and it's way improved since those days. So by all means check it out. When I played there the greens were in absolute pristine condition, as had been promised. I mean, they rolled as well as anything I've played in some time. I wouldn't make that up. But the layout itself can stand on its own as well.

The 18th, a par 4 that bends slightly right and then downhill through treelines, was also rated as the hardest finishing hole on the LPGA Tour. That's a fact. I've only made a few 4s there. And I've had plenty of opportunities. Some of my other faves are No. 2, which I have trouble getting on in two anymore but where I once saw the club's head pro, who was playing in our scramble, drive the green (we made eagle). The fifth is another tough two-shotter, which was made famous when Bob Clarke won a bet with Steve Coates to have a tree guarding the right side of the fairway cut down a few years back. Good thing, since Annika Sorenstam later told Mark Benavento, who runs the place for Pat Croce, that it was the proper move. See, I can name drop with the best of them. The 7th, which runs in the same direction, is equally imposing. And 9, one of the holes that have been added over time, is a picturesque par 3 over water.

The 12th, another addition to what was there when the women played, is a wonderful par 4 that bends left around water. The second shot is uphill to a large, well-protected green. And 14, which plays longer, offers a tricky approach into a green that slopes from front to back. Even two good shots can leave you with a potential 3-putt. Don't say you weren't warned.

Those, of course, are merely a sampling of what's available. They were just the ones I happened to play on my latest week away from home. If I had more time, I would've have played till my arms fell off. Atlantic City, which is under new ownership, has always been one of the places that literally get my heart pounding when I know I have a tee time. It's that indelible. And it's always been in impeccable shape. I'm sure that's still the case, which is why I can't wait for my next photo op. The holes along the bay are particularly memorable. But there might not be a bad one on the premises. If you've never been, it really should be on the old wish list.

I get to play the Bay Course at Seaview each spring as part of the annual media day they hold for the new home of the Shop-Rite. It remains a taste treat, and not because our group has won the scramble two years running. The setting across the bay from AC is sublime, and so is the layout. The greens are small, the wind usually blows, and you have to make shots. You can't ask for much more. There are birdie chances, but then there's holes like the second, where you can be hitting 4-iron into the green one day and maybe an 8 the next, thanks to Mother Nature. And the third, a par 5, can become an eagle waiting to happen. Nothing wrong with that. And the

best lady golfers on the planet seem to enjoy it. The sister Pines course, which is inland just across Route 9 in back of the resort's timeless hotel, is quite a contrast. I think it's harder, even though they've taken out a bunch of trees to make it more playable. You still have to hit a lot of shots through woods, and there's an endless supply of doglegs. There's quite a few holes that'll definitely test your skill level, particularly toward the finish line. It's the perfect place to do a 36-holer, sandwiched around lunch. I suggest the crab cakes. But you could go almost any way and not be disappointed. Heck, staying the night might be an unbeatable topper.

There's two others I would heartily suggest, both of which are situated a little further away from the beaches: Blue Heron Pines and the Vineyards at Renault Winery. But please don't let the proximity factor deter you. I'm merely pointing it out. I've gladly made the drive to both, without thinking twice. Blue Heron was the course that was responsible for starting the higher-end public boom a little over two decades ago, and since Ron Jaworski took over in 2013 it's dramatically benefitted. He came in and removed most of the excess/unnecessary growth that had begun to make it a little too unplayable. Not only does it have a much cleaner look these days, but the pace of play has noticeably improved. The routing has never been a problem. The back nine especially has some dramatic holes, such as 10 and 14. Me being me, I've always thought the short 7th was one of those holes you don't see enough of but need more of. And No. 4 is a stellar par 3, followed by what might be the best par 4 there except for 14.

I've always had a fondness for Renault, which is subtle rather than overpowering. Ed Shearon has done some real good stuff, such as Raven's Claw. This is right up there. He doesn't knock you over the head nearly as much at the Vineyards, but the experience is just as unique. There's a lot of spots where the difference between a great shot and semi-disaster is a few feet. And you have choices. There's a lot of risk-reward. There's a hole with a dual fairway. There's a par 3 where the teeing area keeps bending around to the left to make it easier the more you move up. Why can't more holes be like that? I mean, there's no reason for the 18-handicapper to be hitting over water like the big hitter, even if it's from 50 yards closer. Right? One of the best holes might be 17th, which looks like a gimme. But looks can be deceiving. There's a big falloff on the green, and if you're on the wrong side you'll mostly be trying to avoid bogey instead of going for bird. The 18th is a par 5 with a double dogleg and water to the right of the green. There's another hole on the front side that actually winds around the vineyards. The fifth is another goodie, a short par 3 surrounded by bunkers with perhaps the most difficult green on the course. But if you find the right slope off the tee you'll probably have a real good look at 2.

There you have it, some of my thoughts on heading down to the South Jersey Shore. The fall is one of the best times to be there, since the weather tends to cooperate and the tourists have departed. So what's keeping you? Tell them where you heard about it first.

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# Callaway Golf – Reincarnation of Great Big Bertha



Great Big Bertha Driver  
Sole A



Big Bertha Alpha 816  
Sole B



Big Bertha Alpha 816  
Sole C

By Reid Nelson

At Callaway Golf, it's a case of history repeating itself. And the company, no doubt, is hoping the 2015 reincarnation of Great Big Bertha will spark a success story as big as the original.

In 1997, nearly 20 years ago and six years after the introduction of its incredibly successful Big Bertha driver, Callaway launched the even "bigger" Great Big Bertha. Seemingly overnight, it became one of the most popular drivers in history as golfers of all abilities embraced the distance and forgiveness advantages of the huge, hosel-less titanium head.

At least it seemed huge by 1990s' standards. The 290-cc Great Big Bertha head of old would look like a fairway wood in today's world.

But now, the Great Big Bertha name is back, this time on a high-tech, 460-cc driver that makes its original namesake – as technologically advanced as it was in its day – look like a Model T. The new Great Big Bertha driver, as well as matching fairway woods, hit retail shops on August 28.

Before going farther, we should note that Golf Pennsylvania has not field tested the new Great Big Bertha, as we prefer to do before reviewing any equipment. But the 'GBB' name, no doubt, is going to attract a lot of early attention in the marketplace, so we wanted to report the features of the new driver, as Callaway made them available via media announcements.

Like it did when it reprised the Big Bertha name recently, Callaway has designed the new Great Big Bertha with a sliding weight at the back of clubhead, which is offered in 9-, 10.5- and 12-degree lofts. By sliding the weight left or right, players can "dial in" shot bias, from a fade to a draw or anything in between. The Optifit hosel provides eight different settings for tuning loft, lie, and face angle.

But maybe the most appealing aspect of Callaway's Great Big Bertha launch is the fact that the clubs - \$450 for the driver and \$250 for fairway woods at most retail outlets – can be ordered with any one of 19 premium shafts without any up-charges.

We're talking "real deal" premium shafts from Aldila, Fujikura, Matrix Ozik, Mitsubishi Rayon and True Temper – not proprietary versions of popular Tour-proven shafts. The 19 options allow players to select a flex pattern and weight, from sub-50-gram ultralight shafts to shafts weighing more than 70 grams, that best fit their swing ... again, without any up-charge.

Also, Callaway has announced it will soon launch updated versions of its Big Bertha Alpha Double Black Diamond driver and fairway woods.

Designed for better players, the Big Bertha Alpha 816 Double Black Diamond Driver features a deeper face and two weight chambers where Callaway's "gravity core" can be placed. (The 815 model had only one location for the gravity core.) Placing the gravity core in either the left or right chamber allows shot-shaping control, side to side, while setting the gravity core up or down raises or lowers the center of gravity of the club, thus affecting launch angle.

While the company began accepting pre-release orders for the Alpha 816 Double Black Diamond driver (\$500) and fairway woods (\$300) on August 14, the clubs will not be available until September 18.

The driver is offered in 9- and 10.5-degree lofts, with fairway woods offered in 14-, 16- and 18-degree lofts. Stock shaft options include the Aldila Rogue 60 and Mitsubishi Diamama D+ 70, but as with the Great Big Bertha clubs, the Alpha 816 models offer numerous premium, typically aftermarket shaft options without any up-charge. In all, 17 shaft options from the same five manufacturers are available for the Alpha 816 clubs at the same "stock" prices.



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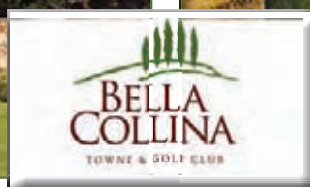
## Bella Collina GC Shines on The Traveling Golfer



Bella Collina Golf Club Clubhouse



Bella Collina Golf Club View of a Green



By Tony Leodora

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. – (September 1, 2015) – Blindfold some unsuspecting travelers ... take them on a long airplane flight ... then drive them by car to Bella Collina Golf Club. Take off the blindfold and tell them you have transported them to the Tuscan countryside in Italy. Nobody will doubt it.

The sights, sounds and – in the restaurants – the smells of Bella Collina are unmistakably Italian. But the actual location is the hill country in Florida, about 45 minutes northwest of Orlando.

The modern and visually stunning 18-hole golf course is accentuated by an authentic Tuscan clubhouse, perched high on one of the hills in Montverde, Florida. And it is featured on the award-winning Traveling Golfer television show across a large network of outlets throughout the month of September.

Just how authentic is Bella Collina? So authentic that all of the stones used to build the structures and walls surrounding the clubhouse were imported from Italy. And a large force of Italian stone masons also was imported to lend their artistic touches to this masterpiece.

“Everything about this property was done with the intention of maintaining the Tuscan theme,” explains Bella Collina general manager Jerry Thompson. “When people come here we want them to leave their real lives behind and immerse themselves in the atmosphere we have created.

The Traveling Golfer takes viewers on a trip across the hills and elevation changes of a unique golf course that is open to daily fee play. It takes them inside the mammoth homes that are available for rent by golf groups. And it escorts them through the courtyards and rooms of the expansive clubhouse.

“There is no other way to describe the total Bella Collina experience other than ‘jaw dropping,’ “ said Traveling Golfer host Tony Leodora. “I kept



Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live



blinking my eyes, doubting that I was really in Florida. I kept expecting to hear the staff chattering away in Italian.”

The episode from Bella Collina begins airing September 1 and runs throughout the month on The Traveling Golfer Network of websites ... including The Golf Director Network (see full list of sites on [www.travelinggolfervideo.com](http://www.travelinggolfervideo.com)). It also will air on Monday, September 14 as part of the Press Box television show in Myrtle Beach, 5 to 7 p.m. on HTC Ch. 4. As of April, the Traveling Golfer began airing in its entirety as a scheduled weekly feature show on Comcast SportsNet and The Comcast Network throughout the Philadelphia, Mid-Atlantic, North Jersey and Pittsburgh markets.

Responding to golfers' never-ending demands to learn more about interesting golf courses and golf resorts across the country and around the world, well-traveled host Tony Leodora created the Traveling Golfer so he could take viewers on video golf trips to some of the most exciting golf locations. The show won a

first place award for golf television broadcasts in the prestigious International Network of Golf Media Awards, presented at the PGA Merchandise Show in January.

The Traveling Golfer appears as a series of monthly shows hosted by Leodora, who has 15 years of experience in televised golf shows. The featured destination stays on the website for one month, before being replaced by a new show. The old shows are archived for continued viewing on the home website, [www.travelinggolfervideo.com](http://www.travelinggolfervideo.com). Past episodes also can be found on Xfinity On-Demand from Comcast.

For more information about the Traveling Golfer, call TL Golf Services at (610) 279-9220.

# World Amateur Handicap Championship



Tae Kim of Richmond, Va., Wins 32nd annual Myrtle Beach Amateur Championship

By Tony Leodora

## Proves Diverse Nature with Latest Winner.

MYRTLE BEACH, SC -- To say there has been an assortment of very different champions in the Myrtle Beach World Amateur Handicap Championship is an understatement.

Over the years the championship trophy has been hoisted by a left-hander, a woman, two years in a row by a marvel in his early 70s who regularly shoots his age, high handicappers and low handicappers. Now add a 28-year-old first-time participant, who speaks very little English and was living in Korea 10 years ago.

Tae Kim, who now lives in Richmond, Virginia and works as a cook, brought his 26 handicap to the tournament and wiped out the field in his flight. His handicap was adjusted down to a 20 for the championship round at the Dye Course at Barefoot Resort. It didn't matter.

Kim showed a steady all-around game, recorded two net-eagles and posted a net round of 65 to edged Steve Locke, a 3-handicap, by two shots. It was a storybook week for Kim ... but hardly a storybook week for tournament organizers. They had a bit of a battle with Mother Nature. Torrential rains throughout the morning cancelled the first round of play at all but a few of the many golf courses hosting the first day of this week-long event. The ones who did play, played in the worst imaginable conditions. The pent-up energy of the rainout was evident on the first night, when huge crowds showed up at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center for the first night of the world's biggest 19th hole. Many probably wished they didn't party so hearty at night, when they showed up for play on Day Two.

The courses opened, but were so water-logged that traffic was limited to cart paths only. In addition, the courses played extremely long and the course setup – which is left in the hands of the individual courses – was not adjusted to the conditions. Yardages that were established days in advance, remained the same. As a result the courses played too long and the length of most rounds exceeded 5 hours and 30 minutes. “That is an issue the board needs to discuss,” said Jeff Diehl, head professional at the Dye Course and one of the integral parties involved with the World Am.

By Day 3 courses started drying out. In the case of the age 50-to-59 group of 8-handicappers, the host course was the Norman Course at Barefoot Resort. Players



Dye Course at Barefoot Resort 6th Hole



Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live



were allowed to drive on only half of the holes. But the course was still set up at almost 6,400 yards and played more like 6,800 – too long for senior players. One consolation was the condition of the recently converted Champion UltraDwarf Grass greens. They were excellent and that put smiles on the faces of the players. “We finally felt like we were putting on real greens,” said Randy Minchew, owner of the Missouri Golf Post, an online golf magazine, and a first-time participant.

Day 4 arrived – hot, steamy and dry. The same group of senior players were treated to an excellent experience at The Tradition – a Ron Garl design at the southern end of the grand strand. Excellent service by the staff, a hot breakfast, fine course conditions and Tif Dwarf greens that topped anything seen throughout the area made for a superb closing day.

But, just when the organizers saw the bulk of the tournament complete, they had to handle one last blow from Mother Nature. At 6 p.m. on Thursday evening, as participants were arriving for the final night of the 19th hole, a violent thunderstorm hit Myrtle Beach. Power was knocked out for much of the downtown portion of the city – including the huge convention center. Operating under minimal lighting for more than an hour, the participants walked around in relative silence – no music, no entertainment, no speeches, no electric scoreboard.

When power was restored, a huge roar went up from the crowd. The celebration continued in fine fashion. And the flight winners prepared to do battle in Friday's championship round. That round belonged to Tae Kim ... but the rest of the participants took home many good memories from the week of competition.

Golf Holiday provides non-biased information about accommodations and golf courses to assist golfers in making the most informed decisions when planning for their next vacation.

Golf Holiday also hosts seven events and tournaments annually to help to foster continued growth of the game. In addition to hosting the Hootie & the Blowfish Monday After The Masters Celebrity Pro-Am Golf Tournament each spring, Golf Holiday also runs the Myrtle Beach World Amateur Handicap Championship – the world's largest single-site amateur golf tournament, the Summer Family Golf Tournaments, the Palmetto High School Golf Championships, the Veterans Golf Classic, the Preseason Classic, the March Championship and the Myrtle Beach Fall Classic.

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# Stewart Wins 99<sup>th</sup> Open at Rolling Green



Billy Stewart, ACE Club, poses with the Arnold Palmer trophy



Kyle Sterbinsky rolls in a birdie on #12 en route to a round of 7-under, 64 to earn runner-up and low amateur honors

## Story Courtesy of [www.pagolf.org](http://www.pagolf.org)

SPRINGFIELD, Pa. - Billy Stewart, a professional from the nearby ACE Club, withstood a barrage of pressure from an amateur and a pair of professionals alike to win the 99th edition of the Allegheny Health Network **Pennsylvania Open Championship** at Rolling Green Golf Club.

Stewart made par on the 18th and final hole of the afternoon just after playing partner Stu Ingraham missed an eagle putt that would have put him at 8-under par and into a tie with Stewart. He then calmly sunk a short par putt to finish the 54-hole event at 205 (-8), including a final round 68.

"It's so nice to win this championship, especially at this venue," said Stewart, a native of nearby Devon, Pa. "I love this place and it's really sweet to win here."

For Stewart, it's his first statewide championship. It did not come easy, however. He began the day two shots behind Ingraham. Stewart made his move with a trio of birdies on holes 6-8, and combined with a couple of bogeys from Ingraham on that part of the course, that pushed Stewart ahead with what seemed like a comfortable margin headed to the stretch.

However, amateur Kyle Sterbinsky from Yardley, Pa., had moved quickly up the leaderboard with five birdies on the front nine en route to a 31 on that side. He made three more birdies against just one bogey on the back side to card a 64 for the day.

"I finally putted the ball well today," Sterbinsky said. "In the first two rounds, I did not putt it well, but today the putts were going in for me."

Sterbinsky also credited his strong iron play as one of his reasons for success at the venerable William Flynn and Howard Toomey design.

"My iron play was pretty solid all day long," Sterbinsky said. "That was a big part of me shooting that score out there."

Also charging up the leaderboard was Waynesburg professional Robert Rohanna, the 2010 winner of the event. Rohanna was just 1-under par after 13 holes when he caught fire. He hit 5-iron to six feet for birdie on No. 14. He then hit a wedge to four feet for birdie on No. 15. On the 16th hole, he lipped out a 30-foot birdie putt. On the par-5 17th hole, he drained an eagle putt to get to 5-under for the tournament. He followed that up with a great approach on No. 18, another par-5, which left him with 15 feet for another eagle. He just missed that putt but tapped in the birdie putt to card a 65 on the day and a 6-under par finish for the championship.

"I hit a lot of good shots today," Rohanna said. "I really could have been lower than 1-under after 13, but I just had a lot of tough putts that didn't fall."

Rohanna remarked that the 16th hole would be his downfall, as he shot three-over par during the three rounds on that one hole. And after finishing two shots out, it would be hard to argue that. However, that validated what Stewart, the winner, said of Rolling Green.

"On this course you want to survive the par 3s and birdie the par 5s," Stewart said. "If you can do that, you'll be pretty successful."

One of those par 5s was the 17th hole, where Stewart made the birdie putt that decided the championship on Wednesday afternoon. After hitting what he described as a "lousy" tee shot to the left, he got a nice lie in the rough. Faced with 205 yards to the pin, he knew he wanted to cut

his hybrid around a tree to the hole. He did just that, ending up about 30 feet away for eagle. A two-putt from there gave him the birdie to put him ahead of Sterbinsky by a shot, and by two over Ingraham.

"That was such a big putt to make," Stewart said, acknowledging that he'd seen the leaderboard and knew where he stood.

On 18, Stewart's tee shot was in the right rough. Ingraham, needing eagle to make it interesting, hit a great approach shot to about 15 feet. Stewart then hit his approach into the greenside bunker on the left. His bunker shot ended up 17 feet away.

"The sand was really firm there and I caught it a bit heavy," Stewart said.

Putting first, with a chance to win the championship, Stewart left his birdie try about three feet short. Ingraham then stepped up for his eagle chance. After he missed, Stewart knocked in his par putt to claim the title and the accompanying \$8000 winner's check.

While it was Stewart's first victory in a **Pennsylvania Golf Association** event, he's no stranger to the top of the leaderboard in a big event. He won the 2002 Philadelphia Amateur Championship, and then, after turning professional, he captured the 2013 Drexel Morgan & Co. Classic, the biggest event on the Philadelphia PGA Section's annual calendar. Still, he said, the Pennsylvania Open ranks right up there. "This is one of the biggest wins of my career," he said. "To finally win something statewide, and to do it here at Rolling Green, is such a great feeling."


Stu Ingraham, 1998 champion, played solid all week to earn runner-up honors. Ingraham fell just short in his attempt to set a record by winning the championship 17 years apart. Instead, he had to settle for a runner-up finish for the second time.

Tying Rohanna for fourth place was first round leader Kevin Kraft, a professional from Newport, Pa., who shot a final round 68 to finish at 6-under par.

The Pennsylvania Golf Association would like to thank the staff and membership of Rolling Green Golf Club for their hospitality during the championship.

### RESULTS:

	R1	R2	R3	Total
<b>Billy Stewart, Devon</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>205</b>
Kyle S. Sterbinsky, Yardley	75	67	64	206
Stuart Ingraham, Broomall	67	68	71	206
Robert T. Rohanna, Waynesburg	71	71	65	207
Kevin L. Kraft, Newport	66	73	68	207
Andrew J. Mason, Huntingdon Valley	69	73	66	208
Robert McClellan, Butler	71	71	66	208
Daniel L. Obremski, Irwin	69	69	71	209
Michael R. Brown, Jr., Maple Shade	69	68	72	209
Joshua B. Rackley, King of Prussia	73	69	68	210
Aaron A. Fricke, Denver	71	70	69	210
Braden T. Shattuck, Aston	71	70	69	210
Kyle Martin, Lansdale	72	66	72	210
Spencer R. Mellon, Oakmont	76	66	70	212
David McNabb, Newark	71	71	70	212



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# Logue Captures 102nd PA Amateur Championship at C.C. of Scranton



Isaiah Logue won 102<sup>nd</sup> PA Amateur Championship at C.C. of Scranton



Isaiah Logue salutes the gallery behind the 18th green at CC of Scranton

Story Courtesy of [www.pagolf.org](http://www.pagolf.org)

## Logue Goes Wire to Wire for Amateur Victory

CLARKS SUMMIT, Pa. - Isaiah Logue started the third and final round of the 102nd Pennsylvania Amateur Championship today with a two-shot lead over PJ Acierno and a three-shot lead over Chad Warmbein. Fast forward to about an hour into the round. Warmbein posted two birdies and an eagle in the first four holes to vault into a share of the lead. But Logue was able to bear down and wait out the competition, posting a pair of clutch birdies down the stretch to claim the championship, presented by Allegheny Health Network, with a 54-hole total of 207 (-6) at the Country Club of Scranton. Logue's wire to wire victory represented his first Pennsylvania Golf Association major championship.

"Chad's start definitely made me a little nervous," said Logue, a PAGA Individual Member. "PJ played great all day as well. I was able to wait for them to make a couple of mistakes and just let the lead come to me."

Logue, of Fairfield, Pa., played a very steady final round. A birdie on the par-5 fourth hole allowed him to keep pace with Warmbein's hot start. He then made nine straight pars while Warmbein made four bogeys over the same stretch. But after Logue carded back to back bogeys on the 14th and 15th holes, his lead was a mere two shots over both Acierno and Warmbein. That set up the par-4 16th. Logue hit a hybrid club down the fairway, then his approach to about five feet before dropping the birdie putt to extend his lead. After a par on 17, he headed to the 18th and final hole with a three-shot edge on Acierno. That's when the eventual champ closed it out in style, rolling in a birdie putt on the 18th to finish at 6-under. Acierno also birdied 18 to complete a stretch that, combined with an eagle on No. 14, saw him go three-under on the last five holes. Acierno and Logue were the only two golfers to play all three rounds at par or better on the historic par-71 layout.

"I came in not expecting a lot, to be honest with you," Logue said. "I hadn't played very well up to this point thus far this year. I'd been working hard and waiting for a breakthrough and fortunately it came at this tournament."

Acierno, who competes for the LaSalle University golf team and plays out of Sandy Run Country Club, was strong all week. He carded 15 birdies and one eagle over the 54 holes en route to his highest finish in a PAGA event. Warmbein, meanwhile, vaulted up the leaderboard with a second round 68, and after the early red numbers in his third round, it looked like he might make a run at the title. The Hickory Heights Golf Club member still held his own with a final round 71 to finish in third place.

Coming in fourth was St. Clair Country Club's Luke Miller, who sandwiched rounds

out 73 and 72 around yesterday's score of 68 to come in at even par. Finishing in a three-way tie for fifth place with a score of 215 (+2) were the trio of Alex Blickle (LedgeRock Golf Club), Matthew Hardman (The Links at Gettysburg) and J.D. Dornes (Meadia Heights Golf Club).

At a tie for 8th place was the duo of Scott McLaughlin (Commonwealth National Golf Club) and Oliver White (Manufacturers Golf and Country Club), both with a score of 216 (+3). Rounding out the top ten was a group of five golfers at +4, including Nathan Smith (Pincrest Country Club), Gregor Orlando (Philadelphia Cricket Club), Derek Evans (South Hills Country Club), Michael Brown (Philadelphia Publinks) and Anthony Sebastianelli (Glen Oak Country Club).

Among the group at +5 were the two winners of the other biggest amateur championships in the state this year. West Penn Amateur champion Easton Renwick and Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur champion Cole Berman each had a round in the 60s but fell victim to the course's many pitfalls on occasion en route to the score of 218 (+5).

The championship course was very well received amongst the competitors, with champion Logue remarking that it "was incredibly beautiful, and a true championship test". The Pennsylvania Golf Association would like to thank the staff and membership of The Country Club of Scranton for their kind hospitality in hosting the event, and to Allegheny Health Network for its loyal sponsorship of the Association.

### RESULTS:

	R1	R2	R3	Total
<b>Isaiah D. Logue, - PAGA Individual Member</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>207</b>
P.J. Acierno, - Sandy Run Country Club	70	69	71	210
Chad N. Warmbein, - Hickory Heights Golf Club	72	68	71	211
Luke M. Miller, - St. Clair Country Club	73	68	72	213
Alex Blickle, - LedgeRock Golf Club	70	77	68	215
Matthew Hardman, - The Links At Gettysburg	72	70	73	215
J.D. Dornes, - Meadia Heights Golf Club	73	72	70	215
Scott McLaughlin, - Commonwealth National GC	69	76	71	216
Oliver White, - Manufacturers Golf & Country Club	72	73	71	216
Gregor A. Orlando, - Philadelphia Cricket Club	72	70	75	217
Derek Evans, - South Hills Country Club	73	73	71	217
Michael R. Brown, - Philadelphia Publinks GA	73	71	73	217
Anthony D. Sebastianelli, - Glen Oak CC	75	70	72	217
Nathan Smith, - Pincrest Country Club	75	72	70	217
Easton P. Renwick, - Punxsutawney Country Club	68	77	73	218

# Orischak Takes 2nd in U.S. Junior Amateur



Andrew Orischak finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S. Junior Amateur at Colleton Plantation.

Photo: The Associated Press

By John Zimich

Andrew Orischak, who finished a disappointing runner-up in the recently-played U.S. Junior Amateur at the par-72 Colleton Plantation Club's Pete Dye Course in South Carolina, has family roots in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The 16-year-old Orischak, who attends and plays his high school golf for Hilton Head High School, had a five-up lead with eight holes to go in the final 36-hole match with eventual winner Phillip Barbaree, 17, of Shreveport, La.

Barbaree won the national junior crown by matching the largest comeback in the tournament's 68-year history and joined the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Johnny Miller, David Duval, Hunter Mahan and current PGA sensation Jordan Speith as winners of this prestigious event. And the victory came after Barbaree, who has the same golf instructor (Cameron McCormick) as Speith, won the 36th hole to square the final match before collecting the crown in a sudden death playoff on the first extra hole.

Barbaree's epic comeback was similar to the great Tiger Woods, who rallied from two down with two to play to claim the last of his three consecutive titles in 1993. In Orischak's interview with United States Golf Association's senior writer David Shefter, the Hilton Head High junior said he might have thought too much about having his name engraved on the trophy before completing the task.

"The whole week I just said I was going to hit one shot at a time and I thought that the mentally toughest person was going to win," said Orischak. "And it wasn't me because I got ahead of myself. I was thinking about winning before the match was over and I still had golf to be played."

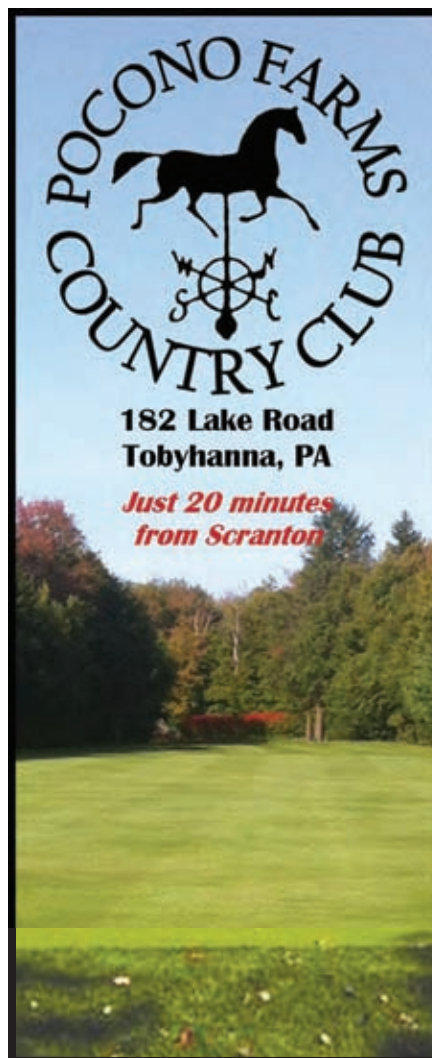
With the win, Barbaree, also a high school junior, receives exemptions into the next two U.S. Amateurs—next month's championship at Olympia Fields Country Club in Illinois and at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. in 2016. He's also exempt from U.S. Open local qualifying for the next three years.

Orischak will be exempt for the 2015 U.S. Amateur and from U.S. Open local qualifying next year.

His father, David, is a Wilkes University graduate who resided in the Miners Mills section of Wilkes-Barre, with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Adam Orischak. The upcoming golf standout has given verbal acceptance to a golf scholarship from the University of Virginia with two years of high school remaining.

One of his cousins, Mrs. Nancy Manusky, resides in the Back Mountain as does her brother, John (Jack) Cherup. Mrs. Audrey Coslett, another cousin, lives in Kingston.

Cousin Greg Manusky is defensive coordinator for the Indianapolis Colts.



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