

GOLF PENNSYLVANIA GOLF NORTHEAST

Vol. XXVI No. 5

September 2014

Superb September Golf at the Shore

Destination:

Atlantic City and Shore Courses

Meet A Variety Of Tastes and Abilities

Tidewater Reopens September 25th

The Traveling Golfer Features Grand Cypress

Barefoot Dye Course Hosts

World Amateur Final

John Pillar Sr. Captures 98th Open

McCool Wins Historic Double at Senior Am

Coldwater Wins Philly PGA

Senior Championship

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Atlantic City & Shore Golf Courses Meet A Variety Of Tastes and Abilities



Vineyard at Renault Hole #2

By Mike Kern

Golf at the South Jersey shore is always a good idea. Particularly in the fall. And I've played more than enough down there to know. But over time there are some places that, for whatever reasons, you just haven't been to for awhile. I'm as guilty as anyone. So this year I was determined to visit a few courses that I really needed to reacquaint myself with, to see once again what I've been missing. We all have our go-tos. But it's never a bad thing to spread yourself around a little, too. That's why it's a destination. Because there's so much to choose from. So here goes, since a midget from Northeast Philly with a mid-teens handicap can't live by messing up the same holes repeatedly. It was about time I became more of an equal opportunity bogey man. Only seems fair.

First up on my journey was **The Vineyards at Renault Winery**, in Egg Harbor City just off the White Horse Pike. From where I live it's actually one of the closest courses in the Greater Atlantic City Association. So there is that. Like many of the courses in those parts, I'd been there for the opening. Which means I've seen it evolve. I was fortunate enough to originally tour the grounds with designer Ed Shearon, who also did the much-acclaimed Raven's Claw in the western Philly suburbs. And you know me, I'm not one to mince words. I told him that with a gun to my head I liked Renault better, even though there's probably more wow factor attached to (and rightfully so) Raven's Claw. Maybe it's just a personal preference, although I've heard from some who agree with that assessment. Renault might be more subtle in terms of the challenge, but for my money it's every bit if not more enjoyable. Again, that's my take. The interesting part is that the nines were switched after they were built, because the ownership wanted what became the 18th hole coming back to the clubhouse, which the present ninth doesn't do as much. Hey, whatever works. I think either way would have been acceptable. But the folks who are paying the bills get the final say, so live with it.

The opener is now a fairly long par 4 with a double fairway. Shearon is a big risk-reward kind of guy, who likes to deal with angles. So he usually gives you the opportunity to bite off as much as you dare. Nothing wrong with that. Here you can get into trouble off the tee because of a menacing fairway bunker, and there's more sand to grab you on both sides of the green. Par is a decent score, and as you probably know by now I'm a big believer in moving up to the tee that best suits your game. So I'm not playing from the backs, or sometimes even the middle. The idea is to have fun. I'm not breaking the course record. I'd rather have a good time from 5,800 yards than torture myself from 6,300. Just a thought.

The second is another two-shotter, out of a chute, with water on the right as you approach the green, which is big enough that the pin location can definitely mean a club difference. The third is a short par 3 with a carry over water, which somehow I managed to bungle. Don't ask. It had something to do with the dreaded shanks. Fortunately they didn't last. The fourth is a regulation par 5 for most, with a waste area on the left. Five is another short par 3, surrounded by sand, to a putting surface with some serious contours. A two-putt is hardly a given if you're not on the proper level. And really, who among us ever is? After another par 5 with wet stuff on the left is a dogleg



Harbor Pines Hole #8

par 4 left around the grape vines that can eat your lunch if you're not careful. You really need to hit a good drive to have a decent second shot. The eighth is one of my favorites, a neat par 4 with two fairways sandwiching a waste area, to a green with no bunkers. You should have a shot at birdie, but it's amazing how many times you don't. Story of my life. And nine, which was inspired by the works of the great Alister MacKenzie, swings right to left. The green is very narrow, and there's no true bailout area. There's also a mirage bunker about 40 yards short of the green that can play with your mind. If this had been the 18th, it would have been just as memorable.

The back nine begins with three par 4s, the middle of which being an uphill climb and maybe the most treacherous, although 12 is certainly in the classic mold to a tiered green adjacent to a pond. The 13th is the longest par 3 there, with a teeing area that keeps bending to the left to make it more and more playable for each skill level. Very well conceived, there's a bailout left if you don't want to flirt with the sand and water. This one you're remember. As is the case with 14, which the best player in our group called the best and toughest hole on the course. I would not argue his point. It's a par 4 that requires two good shots to have a reasonable chance. The green runs away from the fairway, so you have to take that into account when calculating your strategy. I like a course that makes you think. The 15th could be a reachable par 5 for the longer hitters. Since I'm not, I somehow found a way to make a double bogey. Totally my fault. Then there's a medium-length par 3 to a two-tiered green. The pin was up front for us, which didn't help. I think 17 is an example that you don't have to build 700-yarders to be effective. This par 4 looks easy, but beware. Even though you're hitting a short iron in, there's a steep falloff to the left, and if the pin's on the right you've got sand to contend with. But I could play it 18 times and go away happy. Finally, you close with a double dogleg par 5 with water on the right that will make you work. But bird is a possibility. Unfortunately, so is something else if you make even one bad swing. Isn't that the way it should be?

As good as the golf is, the food is worth going there for all by itself. And did we mention there's a hotel and a winery? Joseph's has won numerous awards, whether you're going for a quick bite after the round or a full dinner. Trust me, I've eaten there plenty. The seafood is great, as is the Italian (go with the veal). But if you're really lucky, they'll have blueberry cheesecake on the menu. Simply the best. And obviously the wine is right from the premises. My friend Kevin McCarty does a terrific job managing the facility, and it shows. Tell him I sent you.

I first went to **Greate Bay** back in the late 1980s, when what was then called the LPGA Atlantic City Classic moved to what was known as the Sands Country Club from what used to be the Marriott Seaview Resort. Got all that? Back then, what is now the driving range was a short par 4, I believe the 10th hole. So a lot has changed over the years, all of it for the better. It last hosted what became the Shop-Rite Classic in 1997, and later Pat Croce purchased the club. He put his friend Mark Benevento in charge of running it, and they've never looked back. Because the staff there is nothing short of first-rate in every respect. It's something you notice. And they wouldn't have it any other way. You never know if you'll bump into Bob Clarke

Shore Golf continued on page 9

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Tidewater Announces Greens Complex Conversion



Tidewater Golf Club Green Marsh Hole # 12

Story By Karen Lemon

Tidewater Golf Club is thrilled to announce that we have converted all our green complexes this summer. Our current TifEagle greens have been replaced with MiniVerde greens. An extensive amount of research went in to the selection of the best ultra-dwarf Bermuda putting surfaces for Tidewater. "We are converting to the same grass used at East Lake Golf Club, home of the prestigious TOUR Championship, when they converted in 2010 and most recently, Quail Hollow, host of the Wells Fargo Championship, when they converted immediately after the 2013 Tournament", comments Tidewater Head Golf Professional Chris Cooper

Tidewater has chosen to not use the much less expensive "no till" greens replacement method, but instead will be using Spence Golf Inc to assist in stripping and removing the existing turf plus 4 inches of organic buildup, as well as stripping and removing 3 to 4 rings of sod on the collars of the greens to restore surface drainage and the installation of new sod on the collars. The putting surfaces will receive a new 4 inch greens mix to allow optimal growth before they are sprigged with the new MiniVerde grass. Kris Spence, Golf Architect and Design-Builder, will provide architecture consulting and services and evaluate surface contours of existing greens and reclaim



Tidewater Golf Club Hole # 13 Ocean View

or expand hole locations, reduce excessive grade, and improve drainage. All adjustments will be done in accordance with the original design and character of the course. As with almost all courses, some of Tidewater's greens have become smaller over time. The new greens will be expanded back to the original size and contours of Tidewater's greens when it originally opened in 1990. With its recent expansive cart path renovations, tee renovations in 2009 and now Tidewater's new greens, one can see that Tidewater Golf Club is perfectly positioned for its 25th anniversary next year.



Tidewater Golf Club Hole 3

In addition to this major greens complex transformation, Tidewater will also be addressing some internal drainage upgrades as well as continued tree work to provide optimal conditions for its golfers. While this is a very costly process, both in time and money, General Manager Archie Lemon reports, "We are about providing the ultimate golf experience and these improvements will only strengthen and further solidify our position as one of best layouts in all of golf. The views and vistas are unrivaled in Myrtle Beach."

Tidewater closed on June 9th and will re-open on September 25th. We guarantee it will be worth the wait!

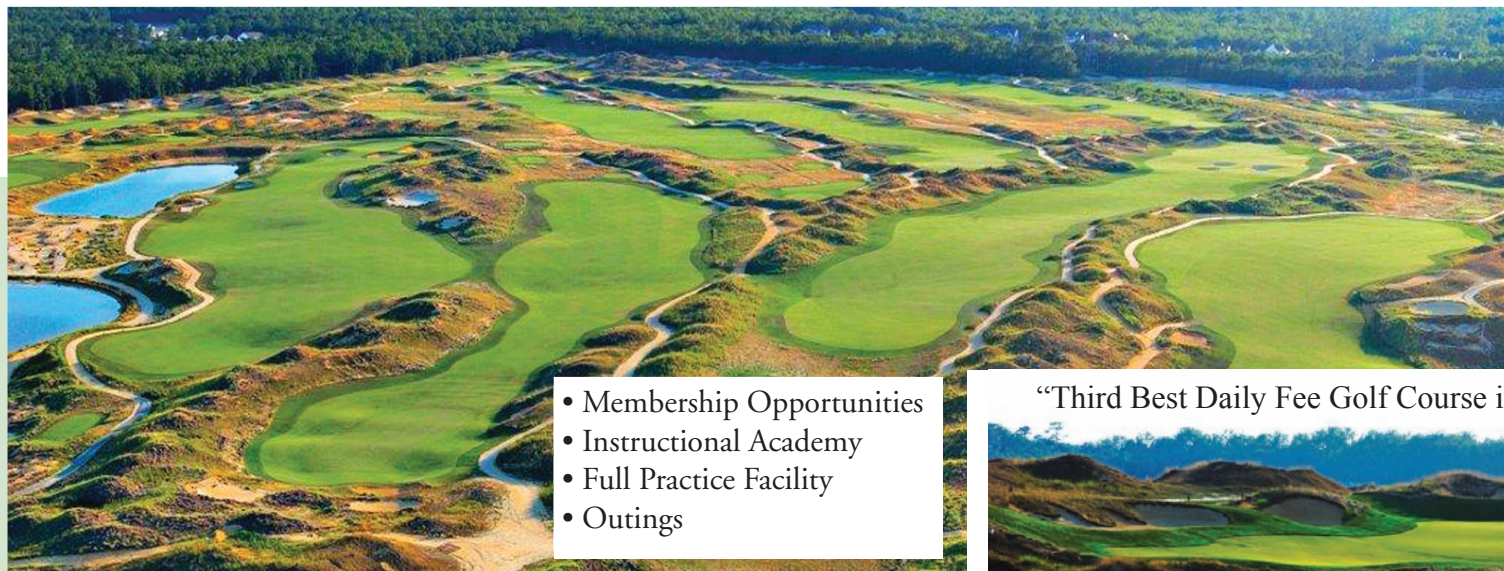
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Heart Attack Can't Stop Dennis Rasku From Winning World Am Championship

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Dennis Rasku, 2014 Myrtle Beach World Amateur Handicap Championship winner, proudly holds trophy

By Tony Leodora

Barefoot Resort Dye Course Hosts World Amateur Final In Myrtle Beach

A total of 3,405 golfers did battle in 76 flights on 60 different golf courses for four days – then 90 flight winners and ties faced off on the Dye Course at Barefoot Resort. And, even then it went down to a playoff. All of this to determine the Myrtle Beach World Amateur Handicap Championship.

When the dust settled, 68-year-old Dennis Rasku proudly stood in front of the giant scoreboard and held the trophy.

“I never thought I would be here,” said Rasku, who works in the air conditioning business in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Most people would hear that statement and assume he is usually too busy in the summer to leave Florida and take a week off to play golf in Myrtle Beach. That would be true but there is even a great reason Rasku was surprised to be playing, let alone winning.

In January he suffered a major heart attack and was not allowed to play any golf for three months during his rehab.

“After I was able to play I just decided that I was going to do all of the things I always wanted to do,” he explained. “And playing in this event was one of them.”

Not since the early years of the event has a first-year player won the championship. And Rasku had never played any of the courses he competed on this week.

“I just came up with an open mind and decided to enjoy every minute of it,” Rasku said. “The tournament was better



Barefoot Golf Resort Dye Course Hole # 6

organized than anything I expected and the courses were better too.”

And when he returns to Pompano Beach carrying the trophy, does he expect his usual golf partners to call him Champ? “No, they will be calling me sandbagger,” the 15-handicapper admitted.

The week also was a dream week for Mark Gardiner, who won the first-ever Scratch Division championship.

After retiring from a 27-year career in the Air Force, Gardiner spent the last three years doing nothing but playing golf. It paid off. He shot 73-78-76-74 during the week, then saved the best for last by posting a sparking 1-under-par 71.

“I have to thank my wife, who is still in the Air Force,” said Gardiner. “She made it possible for me to do this.”

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 on the home website, www.travelinggolfervideo.com.

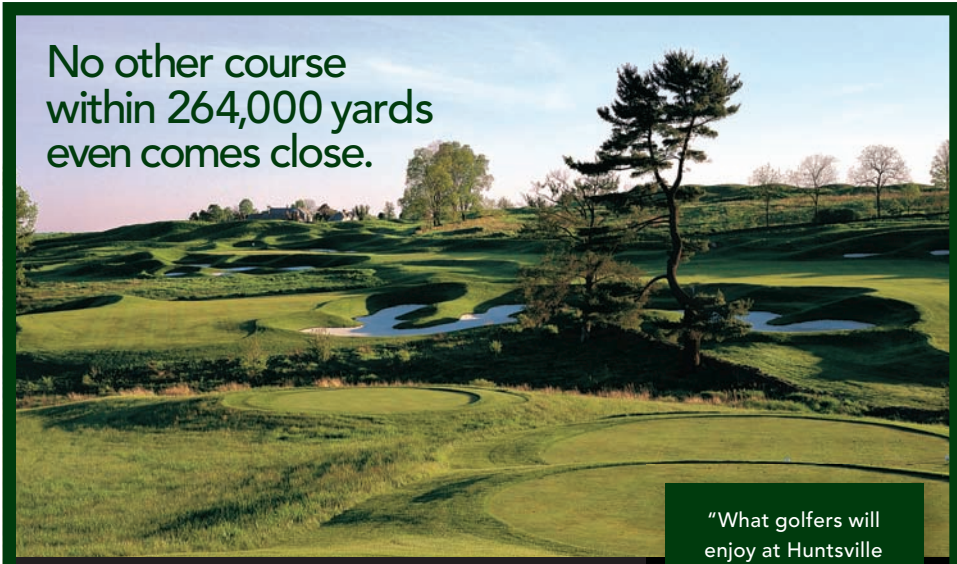
A network of golf websites, of all sizes, has been created to host the show. The show has its own website -- www.travelinggolfervideo.com. The network of additional websites includes www.golftalklive.net, the website of the award-winning GolfTalk Live radio show that also is hosted by Leodora. Affiliate websites that also air the show are www.thegolfdirector.com, www.myphillygolf.com, www.sportsnetwork.com, www.louguzzi.com, www.yetigolf.net, www.golfbuckscounty.com, www.phillygolffiles.com, www.playaroundgolf.net, www.awaywegogolf.com, www.mynegm.com, www.golfxpress72.com and www.americangolfer.blogspot.com.

For more information about the Traveling Golfer show, contact TL Golf Services at 610-279-9220 or go to the website at www.travelinggolfervideo.com.



Barefoot Golf Resort Clubhouse Dye Course Hole # 18

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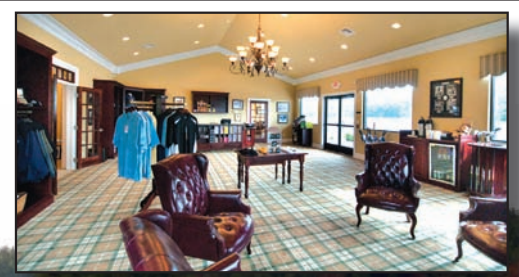
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Seaview Bay Course Hole #7



Cape May National Golf Club

Shore Golf from page 3

or Steve Coates on the first tee. They even have a mug shot of the Flyers' announcer on a billboard behind the 10th hole overlooking the Garden State Parkway. I'm going to have to talk to someone about that.

Greate Bay, to me, is almost like a step back in time, even though they've taken steps to enhance the layout, which is in Somers Point just across the Ninth Street Bridge from Ocean City. But it still has that classic feel to it, like it's been there forever. Which it almost has. And it's the kind of track I grew up on, so a certain comfort level exists. Peaceful is a word that comes to mind.

The first hole gets you into the round, a straightforward par 4. Then there's a dogleg left par 4 that I think is pretty darned demanding. But once, in a scramble decades ago, then-Director of Golf Willie Maples, put it on with his driver and our group made eagle. I think I've maybe parred it once by myself since. Next is a wedge of a par 3 that can still mess with your sanity if you don't hit it straight. The fourth is a par 4 that bends left with trouble on both sides and a green that's guarded by sand on each side. The fifth is the Clarke hole, where they raised money a few years back to have a tree that stuck out into the fairway cut down so the Flyers great wouldn't keep hitting it. This time I made a birdie. Just don't ask me to do it again. Six is a par 5 that moves to the left most of the way, to a huge green that can easily be three-putted. The seventh and eighth are pretty solid back-to-back par 4s, one straight and the other a dogleg left. You need to hit good tee balls on both to have a chance. A fairway bunker comes into play on 8, and there's stuff on both sides at 9. Where, unlike 8, the green is tiny. The ninth, one of the newer holes, is a really neat par 3 over water. From the back tees it's downright spectacular.

The back starts with three par 4s. The 10th is wide open off the tee, and then you're hitting into a big green with a lot of undulation to it. On 11 you'd better hit it straight or you could have issues. The 12th, another addition from the old days, might be the best hole on the course. It's a dogleg left, with water all down the left side. The second shot is a carry over hazards uphill to a two-tiered green. You really need your A game here. And if you're on the wrong tier, you can almost forget two-putting. Left and right of the green aren't conducive, either. The 13th is a medium-length par 3 with bunkers on either side. That's followed by a par 4 that moves slightly right, leaving a different kind of approach down to the putting surface. Which also has a lot of movement to it. The 15th is very much a three-shotter, with all kinds of sand hugging the fairway to keep you honest. After a short par 3 that really is the last good birdie op, 17 is a par 4 that plays longer than it looks. There's sand all the way around the green, so laying up isn't such a bad idea. Somehow, I semi-lined a 6-iron from like 150 yards that got a fortuitous roll and ended up some 15 feet away. And I made the putt, for what I think is the first 3 I ever carded there. Then I nearly birdied 18, which probably would have been another first. When the LPGA was there, it was rated as the best finishing hole on that tour. The drive, which has to move left to right with little room for error, is not for the squeamish. Then it's downhill to the green, and I hit a 7-iron pin high about 15 feet left. But I was admittedly playing from the semi-forward tees. And as I often do, I didn't even come close to rolling it in. Story of my life.

After you're done, you might want to treat yourself to the cuisine. We've been there for lunch and dinner. And whether you're grabbing a crab cake sandwich or going for a full-course feast, you won't be disappointed. I don't know who I like better, their superintendent or their chef. Nice problem to have. And if you run into Coates, please say hi.

I'd been to **Cape May National**, on Route 9 not far from Exit 4 (Wildwoods/Villas) of the Parkway, once. And it was when I still had some hair. So you know it's been awhile. But I'd

constantly been hearing good things about it, mostly from a colleague who plays there all the time. Then, another friend just told he the greens were in great shape. So I guess I finally had to check it out, again. Funny how that works.

Let me say right up front that my friend wasn't lying. The greens were borderline pristine, which for a public course can be difficult to pull off. I just wish more folks would find a way to take better care of them. Like fix your ballmarks. OK, that's it for my pet peeve. I'm always noticing that several holes at Cape May are finding their way onto various "Best of" lists. And now I realize why. I can tell you it won't be taking me so long to get back.

First off, if you're into nature you'll love this setting. There are no houses, and it's surrounded by one of the largest bird sanctuaries in the state. Which will help keep the old blood pressure under control when you hit one into one of the many places you don't want to be. It happens.

They start with a dogleg left par 4 that might not seem like much if it wasn't your opening shot of the day. And if you play in the morning, the sun glare won't be helping. Next is a long par 4, the No. 3 handicap, with bad stuff all down the right side. You'll gladly take a 4 there. The par-3 third really should be played from the back tees. Even if you're not all that and it'll likely cost you a ball. Just because. From the tips it's all carry from about 190 over a pond. So go ahead, just to say you did it. The fourth is a par 5 with a severe right-to-left bend, even though you almost have to hit your drive straight and then head the other way. And there's water down the right side from there. The wet stuff also comes into play on the par-4 fifth, both off the tee and on the approach. Well thought out. Six is a medium-length par 4 (I hit 3 wood), followed by a three-shotter that's mainly a matter of keeping it straight. Then there's a little bit longer par 3 (I used a 3 wood from 180) before the nine closes with an interesting short par 4. You really don't need a driver, but whatever you hit you need to keep it down the middle. Or else. I should know. I left two balls for the squirrels, one off the tee and another on the approach. Nevertheless, I liked it.

You can lose some on 10, too, but this time I kept it and play and the par 5 with water on the right and trees on the left became relatively manageable. Go figure. The 11th also has water, this time on the left, as the fairway, albeit generous, resembles an island landing zone. The approach is over wet stuff as well. The 12th is a short par 4, followed by a medium par 3 and a long par 5. They all place a premium on shot value. The 15th, which for some reason is only the No. 8 handicap hole, is a dogleg left that plays over 400 from the whites. And 16, which plays nearly as long and has water to the left of the green, checks in at No. 10. They sure seemed more challenging. The 17th is a 130-yarder over water to a green that has a serious ridge in it. Trust me, you don't want to have to putt anywhere near it. But chances are you probably will. So if you knock it on don't assume anything until you're picking the ball out of the cup. And 18, which is the 4 handicap, is a keeper. About 370, the second shot is over water. And the green slopes from right to left and back to front. The pin was way up, which made it almost impossible. I thought I hit a pretty good approach in but was left with a 40-footer. That nearly rolled off into the fringe, despite the fact that it nearly went in. Oh well. Hopefully I learned something for the next time. Can't wait.

Then there was **Harbor Pines**, which is about a 10-minute drive due east from Greate Bay in Egg Harbor Township. What I remember most about it was it was always in wonderful condition. And apparently I my memory was correct. I also know it's won awards from the National Audubon Society, which has to count for something.

We started on 10, which meant we were going to end on what might be the toughest hole, but we'll get to that. The 10th is a par 5 that winds right, around the treeline, with trouble to the left in the form of a big sand trap. And one thing you should know about designer Stephen Kay, at least here, is that his placement for fairway bunkers was

Shore Golf continued on page 29



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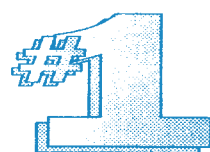
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John Pillar Sr. Captures 98th Open Championship



John Pillar Captures PA Open Championship

YORK, Pa. - John Pillar, Sr. was in contention all week at the Allegheny Health Network 98th Open Championship at the Country Club of York. But other than a brief lead on the opening morning, he was never alone atop the leaderboard. That remained true for the final round as well, as Pillar trailed Robert Rohanna most of the day. But Pillar played well enough to get into a three-way playoff with a pair of past champions of the event in Rohanna and Wexford's Mike Van Sickle, and on the 55th and deciding hole of the championship, he finally rose to the top, making birdie to win his first Open championship. Pillar won with a total of 2-under-par 208 for the championship.

"I'm thrilled. I'm over the moon right now," said Pillar, the Director of Golf at the Country Club of Woodloch Springs, who collected the \$8000 first place prize for winning the championship. "It's hard to explain, but I had a really good feeling coming into this event, and a belief that good things would come if I just stayed patient, and that's what happened."

Pillar and Rohanna were joined in the playoff by Van Sickle, the 2007 and 2008 champion of the event, who shot 65, the low round of the championship, to force his way into contention. Playing the 18th hole, all three players hit the fairway off the tee. From the right side of the fairway, Rohanna's approach hit to the right of the hole before spinning left across the green to just inside 10 feet of the pin. Pillar was up next, and from the middle of the fairway, his gap wedge hit pin high just right of the flag, released and ended up about two feet away. Van Sickle, playing from just ahead of Pillar in the fairway, hit his wedge a couple feet short of the hole, where it skipped ahead to just inches away but then spun off the green.

Playing from about 18 feet away off the fringe, Van Sickle knew by looking at the opposition that he'd have to try to make the shot. But he hit his chip past the hole and missed the par putt, effectively eliminating his chances of winning. Rohanna was up next, and his putt was just a bit short and leaked off the right side, setting the stage for Pillar. He calmly stepped up and knocked in the putt to win.

"I couldn't tell how close my approach was until I got up there," Pillar said of the playoff hole. "And then I walked up and realized it was almost gimme range."

Rohanna, meanwhile, was left to wonder what might have been. The only player to shoot par or better in each round, he made early birdies on holes 2 and 6, and that, combined with a slow start for second round leader Nelson Hargrove, vaulted Rohanna into the lead. After another birdie at the par-5 14th hole, he had a three-shot lead on Pillar and Van Sickle with four holes to go. But a bogey on 16 and a double-bogey on 17 brought him back to the field, forcing the playoff to decide the champion.

"I played really well today," said Rohanna, the 2010 champion of the event and a professional from Waynesburg. "I hit one bad shot today, but overall I played really steady all three days. I'm pretty happy other than the final result."

For Van Sickle, a third Open championship looked like a long shot at the beginning of the

day, as he trailed the lead by seven shots. But with five birdies in his first 14 holes, he had moved up the leaderboard and sensed an opportunity. On the 16th hole, the momentum was officially on his side. From 108 yards out, a pitching wedge lofted 20 feet past the hole.

"There was no reaction from anyone when that hit the green," Van Sickle said. "A few seconds, still no reaction, and then all hell broke loose and someone yelled that it went in."

The eagle moved Van Sickle to -5 for the day and -2 overall, and after pars at 17 and 18, he was in the clubhouse. But before the playoff was official, Pillar and Rohanna, playing in the same group, each had a chance to win in regulation. On the 18th hole, Pillar (10 feet) and Rohanna (20 feet) both had looks at birdie, but neither could convert, setting the stage for the playoff.

The honor of low amateur went to Milford's Cody Cox, who followed up his opening rounds of 70 and 73 with another even par 70 in the final round for a three-round total of 213 (+3).

"I came in to this week with the goal of being low amateur," Cox said. "I thought it was possible with the way I've been playing, and I played pretty solid all week."

The rising sophomore at Penn State was steady all day, with 16 pars, one bogey and one birdie in the round.

Hargrove, who held at least a share of the lead in each of the first two rounds, saw his chances slip away after a 39 on the front nine that dropped him to even par overall. He finished with a 75 to place fifth overall at +1. Pittsburgh's Kevin Shields made some noise early in the round with a few red numbers to get to -2 overall before dropping a pair of shots on the back nine. He finished in fourth at even par overall.

For Pillar, the sweet victory was made even more memorable as his youngest son, Alex, was on the bag for the week. "The whole week was interesting. I got off to a great start in the first round and then struggled through yesterday in tough conditions. Today I just thought if I played the golf course then everything else would take its place," Pillar said. "Robert played a spectacular round of golf until the 16th and 17th, which opened up the opportunity for Mike and I, and fortunately I was able to take advantage."

The Pennsylvania Golf Association would like to thank the staff and membership of the Country Club of York for a fantastic week at an outstanding golf club.

Also, thanks for Allegheny Health Network, Corporate Partner of the Pennsylvania Golf Association, for supporting the Open Championship.

Results

	R1	R2	R3	Total
Pillar, Sr., John E.	67	70	71	208
Van Sickle, Mike	73	70	65	208
Rohanna, Robert T.	69	69	70	208
Shields, Kevin	67	73	70	210
Hargrove, Nelson A.	66	70	75	211
McClellan, Robert	69	73	70	212
Cox, Cody M. (a)	70	73	70	213
Sikora, Ryan	70	72	71	213
Blickle, Alex (a)	72	72	71	215
Boros, Joe	71	70	74	215
Shattuck, Braden T. (a)	72	71	73	216
Steinmetz, Rich	72	71	73	216
Hertzog, Terry	73	74	70	217
Aber, John	70	76	71	217
Summerville, Mark	70	74	73	217
White, Oliver (a)	70	72	75	217
Boyle, Ben	74	72	72	218
Cutrell, Arnie (a)	72	73	73	218
Drescher, Zak	74	71	73	218
Martin, Kyle (a)	70	72	76	218

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McCool Wins 2nd Consecutive Senior Am



Sawin wins 101st Amateur at Oakmont



Saucon Valley's Robin McCool held off a challenge from Paul Schlachter to win the 55th Senior Amateur Championship, presented by the Allegheny Health Network

White Manor's Don Donatoni was the winner of the Super Senior division at the 55th Senior Amateur Championship, presented by the Allegheny Health Network

Merion GC's John Sawin (R) shot a 1-under par 70 in the final round to capture the 101st Amateur Championship, presented by the Allegheny Health Network.

PAOLI, Pa. - With one hole to go in the 55th Pennsylvania Senior Amateur Championship, presented by Allegheny Health Network, it was clear that history would be made at Waynesborough Country Club. Either Saucon Valley's Robin McCool would hold on to his one-stroke advantage and become the event's first back-to-back winner since John Guenther, Jr. in 1990-91, or the Club at Nevillewood's Paul Schlachter would win the event for a record fifth time in his career. With the title on the line, McCool made a par to clinch his second-consecutive Senior Amateur with rounds of 69-72 for a two-round total of 141 (-1).

"I'm not so sure I even believe it yet, because this was such a strong field," McCool said of winning for the second year in a row. "And playing head to head against a great champion like Paul Schlachter, I'm very, very pleased to win today."

McCool, who led after the first round with a 2-under-par 69 that included four birdies, did not have a single birdie in his second round until the 16th hole. McCool's card was clean with the exception of bogeys on holes 5 and 13 as he headed down the stretch.

"It was a bit of an up and down day," McCool said. "I played pretty steady overall, but I just hit some good putts that went in yesterday and didn't go in today."

He was very solid throughout the day, with 15 pars in a performance that forced Schlachter to have to try to make a few red numbers himself to mount a comeback, especially after the birdie on No. 4 before bouncing back with a birdie on the par-5 seventh hole. McCool lofted a soft 7-iron that stopped 15 feet short of the hole. From there, an uphill birdie putt dropped to restore his one-shot advantage heading into the final two holes over Schlachter.

But the Pennsylvania senior stalwart was up for the challenge. The winner the last time the event was played at Waynesborough CC in 2006, Schlachter dropped a shot early with a bogey on No. 4 before bouncing back with a birdie on the par-5 seventh hole. After another bogey at the ninth, he made the turn at +1 on the day. But a nice birdie on No. 11 got him back under par for the championship. That good feeling was quickly dashed as Schlachter double-bogeyed the next hole, the 341-yard par-4 12th. But Schlachter rallied to get a stroke back with a birdie at the par-5 15th hole, setting up the dramatic finish. Schlachter's second place finish was the latest in a string of dominant showings for him at this event, as he has finished in the top two in eight of the last 11 years, an amazing feat.

The best round of the day was from Lookaway GC's Roc Irej, who carded a 1-under-par 70, with five birdies. That showing vaulted Irej all the way up to a tie for third place at 145 (+3), along with Latrobe CC's James Bryan, who shot 73-72 in a pair of solid rounds at the championship.

Applebrook's Gary Daniels, who was one shot off the pace after the first round, fired a second round 76 to finish at +4 and in fifth place. The only other round of par or better on the day aside from Irej was shot by Overbrook GC's Raymond Thompson, who shot an even par 71 to tie for eighth place.

Senior Amateur Results:

	R1	R2	Total
Robin S. McCool (Saucon Valley Country Club)	69	72	141
Paul Schlachter (The Club at Nevillewood)	70	72	142
Roc D. Irej (Lookaway Golf Club)	75	70	145
James J. Bryan (Latrobe Country Club)	73	72	145
Gary E. Daniels (Applebrook Golf Club)	70	76	146
Don H. Erickson III (Indiana Country Club)	74	73	147
Joe P. Lefavor (Sunnehanna Country Club)	71	76	147
Raymond T. Thompson (Overbrook Golf Club)	77	71	148

Super Senior Results:

	R1	R2	Total
Don Donatoni (White Manor Country Club)	73	74	147
Joe Ruby (Nemacolin Woodlands Resort)	75	73	148
William P. Lawler (Fox Hill Country Club)	75	74	149
Jeffrey True (Lebanon Country Club)	78	73	151
Mike F. McGuire (Hannastown Golf Club)	76	75	151

OAKMONT, Pa. - By nearly any account, the two most storied golf clubs in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are Merion Golf Club and Oakmont Country Club. So it is appropriate that it took a member of the former to conquer the latter, as Merion's John Sawin shot a 1-under-par 70 to come from behind and capture the 101st edition of the Pennsylvania Amateur Championship, presented by Allegheny Health Network. Sawin shot 72-72-70 for a total of 214 (+1), winning by three shots over Yardley CC's Kyle Sterbinsky and Greensburg CC's Arnie Cutrell.

"It's an absolute thrill to win any championship at Oakmont, and the Pennsylvania Amateur is certainly a special treat," Sawin said.

Sawin trailed Cutrell by four shots coming in to the final round, but quickly moved up the leaderboard with birdies at the second and fifth holes. After a birdie at the par-5 9th hole, he then carded six consecutive pars and had a two-shot lead with just three holes remaining. After two steady rounds to start the championship, he wasn't about to change tactics.

"My gameplan was the same as it was in the first two rounds," Sawin said. "I was going to take every shot as it came and execute it to the best of my ability."

However, a bogey on 16 narrowed his lead to just one stroke. That's when his championship pedigree was earned, as Sawin birdied the par-4 17th hole to extend the lead back to a pair of strokes. Trouble arose on 18, though, as a wayward tee shot forced Sawin to scramble. Hitting hybrid from 235 yards, he landed in a greenside bunker.

"I had a tough bunker shot there. The last thing I wanted to do was run it over the green so I ended up coming up short," Sawin said.

Standing 25 feet away, with the trophy in his sites, Sawin's goal was a two-putt. But as the putt trickled over the ridge and turned right, Sawin watched his ball drop in the hole for a clutch bogey, and soon the championship.

"It was a nice way to finish that round," Sawin said. "It was a great bonus to make that putt."

Cutrell, the leader after 36 holes, had just one birdie on the day en route to a final round 77. He trailed Sawin by just one shot, though, headed into the 54th and last hole of the event. However, a double-bogey on that hole dropped him into a tie for second with Sterbinsky.

The next two spots on the leaderboard were claimed by the two best rounds of the day other than that of Sawin. Meadia Heights GC's J.D. Dornes fired a 1-over-par 72 to finish in fourth place at +7, while William Betts of Longue Vue Club carded an even-par 71 to vault into a tie for fifth at +8. Also finishing at that number were Huntsville GC's Tyler Brewington and first round leader Nelson Hargrove of Gulph Mills GC. This is the first time the Amateur Championship has been held at Oakmont since 2002, when Pinecrest CC's Nathan Smith won with a 54-hole total of 215. Sawin is the first person to win the event while representing Merion since J.M. Robbins (representing the then-Merion Cricket Club) won in 1926 and Max Marston won in three consecutive years 1921-1923.

Senior Amateur Results:

	R1	R2	R3	Total
John G. Sawin (Merion Golf Club)	72	72	70	214
Kyle S. Sterbinsky (Yardley Country Club)	70	72	75	217
Arnie Cutrell (Greensburg Country Club)	69	71	77	217
J.D. Dornes (Meadia Heights Golf Club)	75	73	72	220
William A. Betts (Longue Vue Club)	77	73	71	221
Tyler Brewington (Huntsville Golf Club)	72	76	73	221
Nelson A. Hargrove (Merion Golf Club)	68	76	77	221
Christopher Crawford (Spring Mill Country Club)	78	71	73	222
Kyle Martin (Commonwealth National Golf Club)	73	74	76	223
Andy Latowski (Philadelphia Cricket Club)	71	76	76	223
Joseph T. Fabrizio Jr. (Aronimink Golf Club)	69	77	77	223
Matthew E. Mattare (Saucon Valley Country Club)	70	73	80	223
Cole B. Berman (Philadelphia Cricket Club)	75	75	75	225

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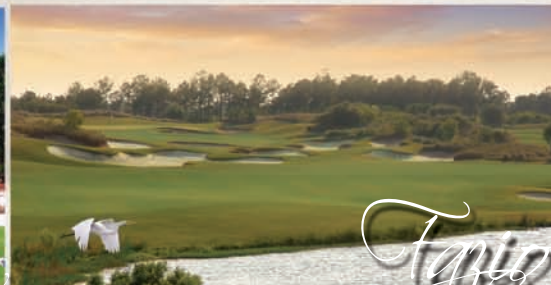
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By Tony Leodora

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. - (September 1, 2014) – Where can golfers find 45 holes of Jack Nicklaus-designed golf, the largest standard room in Central Florida and restaurant choices that rival the best in the area? They all can be found within the confines of the Grand Cypress Resort – just outside the gates of Orlando's DisneyWorld.

And golfers can discover all that Grand Cypress has to offer in the September edition of the Traveling Golfer. This month's show highlights a dream combination – five-star golf and five-star accommodations.

While the golf course constantly has been improved throughout the last few decades, the Villas at Grand Cypress went through a dramatically stunning renovation in 2013 that elevated the accommodations to the top of the country's golf lists.

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Traveling Golfer host Tony Leodora takes viewers on a non-stop tour of the entire resort. Even though he has made a number of visits to Grand Cypress over the years, he finds his

latest visit to be the best. "The golf courses have matured into quality, enjoyable layouts," stresses Leodora. "And the accommodations are second to none. There are a lot of places that provide comfortable resort golf. Grand Cypress provides an unforgettable golf experience."

The Grand Cypress episode begins airing September 1 and runs throughout the month on The Traveling Golfer Network ... including the new Golf Director Network (see full list of sites on www.travelinggolfervideo.com). It also will air on Monday, September 8 as part of the Press Box television show in Myrtle Beach, 5 to 7 p.m. on HTC Ch. 4, and as part of the Inside Golf television show on Comcast SportsNet Philadelphia and Comcast SportsNet in Baltimore/Washington at the end of September.

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 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 on the home website, www.travelinggolfervideo.com.

A network of golf websites, of all sizes, has been created to host the show. The show has its own website -- www.travelinggolfervideo.com. The network of additional websites includes www.golftalklive.net, the website of the award-winning GolfTalk Live radio show that also is hosted by Leodora. Affiliate websites that also air the show are www.thegolfdirector.com, www.myphillygolf.com, www.sportsnetwork.com, www.louguzzi.com, www.yetigolf.net, www.golfbuckscounty.com, www.phillygolffiles.com, www.playaroundgolf.net, www.awaywegogolf.com, www.mynegm.com, www.golfxpress72.com and americangolfer.blogspot.com.

For more information about the Traveling Golfer show, contact TL Golf Services at 610-279-9220 or go to the website at www.travelinggolfervideo.com.



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Coldwater Captures Phila Sr PGA Pro Title



(Westampton, N.J.) – Cleve Coldwater of (Clarks Summit, Pa.), winner of the Philadelphia Senior PGA Professional Championship August 7-8, 2014 at Burlington Country Club will lead seven Philadelphia PGA Professionals to compete Nov. 13-16, in the 26th Senior PGA Professional National Championship.

The national Championship, presented by Mercedes-Benz USA, will return for a second consecutive time to PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla. The 2013 national Championship, rescheduled from last October, was conducted last April at PGA Golf Club.

Coldwater turned in a winning total of 2-under-par (138) to capture the Philadelphia Senior PGA Professional Championship supported by Mercedes-Benz. Brian Kelly of (Lewisburg, Pa.) and Stu Ingraham of (Broomall, Pa.) finished one stroke back at 1-under-par (139). They are joined by John DiMarco of (Cherry Hill, N.J.), Terry Hertzog of (Lititz,

Pa.), Don Allan of (Westampton, N.J.), and George Forster of (Blue Bell, Pa.).

The Senior PGA Professional National Championship brings together a field of 264 contestants representing The PGA of America's 41 nationwide Sections, and features a total purse of \$285,000 on both courses over the first two rounds: PGA Golf Club's Ryder and Wanamaker Courses. The Wanamaker Course will host the final 36 holes.

Mercedes-Benz USA is returning as a presenting sponsor.

The Wanamaker Course, designed by Tom Fazio, is named in honor of Rodman Wanamaker, who in 1916, inspired the birth of the PGA of America. A classic Florida layout, the Wanamaker Course plays to a par-72. It is set against a backdrop of wetlands, palm trees and palmettos, and is considered one of Florida's most beautiful courses.

The Ryder Course is named in honor of Samuel Ryder, the namesake and founder of the Ryder Cup, the pre-eminent event in golf. The par-72 layout with rolling hills, majestic pine trees and challenging water hazards has a distinctive Carolina-feel.

Begun in 1989, the Senior PGA Professional National Championship is modeled after the PGA Professional National Championship, with a field of 50-and-older senior PGA Professionals who advanced through 41 Section Championships conducted from July through September this year.

The top 35 finishers in the national Championship earn a berth in the 76th Senior PGA Championship presented by KitchenAid, which will be conducted May 21-24, 2015, at the French Lick (Ind.) Resort. The top five finishers earn an exemption into the final stage of the 2014 Champions Tour National Finals. Since its debut, many participants in the Senior PGA Professional National Championship have used their success in the event as a springboard to a Champions Tour career.

Phila. Senior PGA Professional Championship

Cleve Coldwater (Glenmaura National GC)	72	66	138
Brian Kelly (Bucknell GC)	71	68	139
Stu Ingraham (M Golf Range)	70	69	139
John DiMarco (Laurel Creek CC)	75	65	140
Terry Hertzog (CC of York)	72	68	140
George Forster (Radnor Valley CC)	70	71	141
Don Allan (Burlington CC)	69	72	141
Bill Sautter (Phila. Cricket Club)	69	72	141
John Allen (TaylorMade Golf Ex.)	72	71	143
Mike Moses (Concord CC)	70	74	144



Philadelphia PGA Section

SCOREBOARD

National Car Rental Phila PGA Assistant Championship Concord C.C. - Chadds Ford, PA Par 71

Individual Stroke - 36 Holes Media Results

QUALIFIERS: 5

Billy Stewart - ACE Club	67	67	134
Rusty Harbold - Lancaster CC	72	66	138
Josh Rackley - Gulph Mills GC	68	71	139
Kevin Nicholson - Makefield Highlands GC	69	70	139
Tony Perla - Radnor Valley CC	71	69	140

ALTERNATES: 3 - IN ORDER

Bill Walker - Riverton CC	69	71	140
Carson Solien - Aronimink GC	71	70	141
Colin Corrigan - Saucon Valley CC	71	71	142

2014 Pro-Am for Wishes

Penn Oaks G.C. - West Chester, PA Par 72

Individual Pro Media Results

			Total
Billy Stewart - ACE Club	70	67	137
Stu Ingraham - M Golf Range	67	71	138
Patrick Clark - Aronimink GC	70	69	139
Mark Parson - Stone Harbor GC	70	70	140
Mike Moses - Concord CC	71	70	141
Brian Kelly - Bucknell GC	70	71	141
Mark Sheftic - Merion GC	70	71	141
Dave Quinn - Links GC	70	72	142
Eric McNamee - Golf Galaxy	70	72	142
Josh Rackley - Gulph Mills GC	74	69	143
Steve Swartz - Conestoga CC	69	74	143
Bertus Wessels - Green Valley CC	71	73	144
Alex Knoll - Bethlehem GC	71	73	144
Michael Meisenzah - Shore Gate CC	75	69	144
Don Allan - Burlington CC	74	71	145
Tony Perla - Radnor Valley CC	75	70	145
Don DeAngelis - Center Square GC	71	74	145
George Forster - Radnor Valley CC	70	75	145
John Cooper - Green Valley CC	69	76	145
Rich Steinmetz - Spring Ford CC	71	75	146

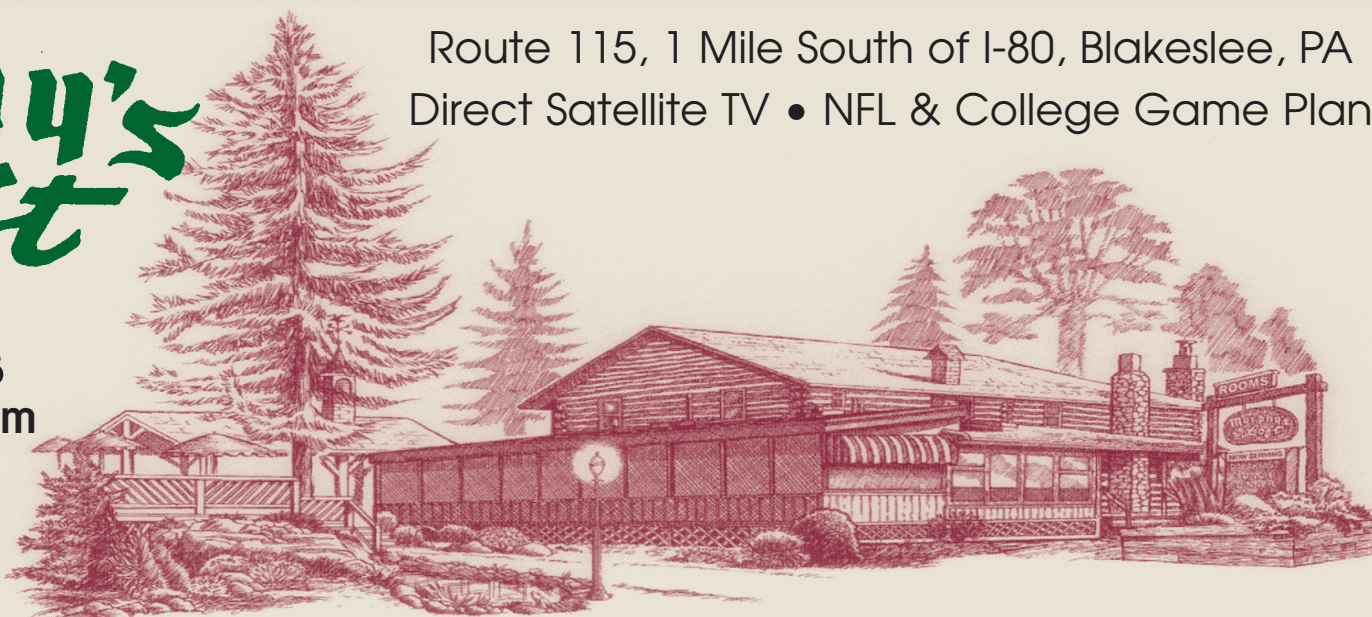
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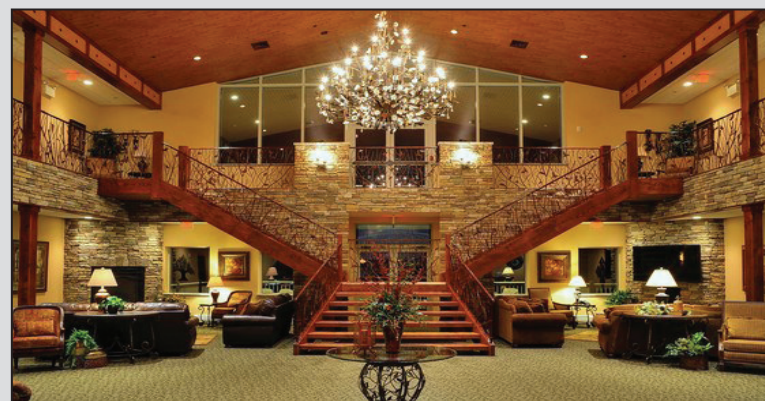
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Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort Pro-Am Shawnee on Delaware, PA Par 72

LOW PRO

Brian Bergstol (Shawnee)	67
Dustin McCormick (Wolf Hollow))	69
Alex Knoll (Bethlehem Muni)	69
John Pillar (Woodloch C.C.)	69
Jeff Fick (Gasser Driving Range)	71

LOW SENIOR PRO

Bob Fritz (Manufacturers)	73
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	74
Joe Ambrose (Paupack Hills)	76

LOW AMATEUR

Bryan Ott	69
Mike Thomas	70
Frank Betz (Woodloch)	71

TEAM LOW GROSS

Jared Cottel (Woodloch)	62
Brian Bergstol (Shawnee)	63
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	67
Max Frey (Shawnee)	67

TEAM LOW NET

Alex Knoll (Bethlehem Muni)	58
Chris Matthews (Wilkes-Barre)	58
Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	58

Woodstone Pro-Am Woodstone C.C. Par 72

LOW PRO

Kevin Edwards (Woodstone)	72
Andrew Albert (a) (Woodstone)	73
Gregg Meyer (Woodstone)	77
Spencer Lungner (Scranton Canoe)	78
Dustin McCormick (Glen Brook)	78

LOW SENIOR PRO

Roger Stern (Wedgewood)	73
Jim Muschlitz (Southmoore)	78

LOW AMATEUR

Randy Kurzinsky (Thru the Green)	74
Tom Barlok (Woodstone)	75
Patrick Rosenbauer (Southmoore)	77

LOW SENIOR AMATEUR

David Zerby (Woodstone)	74
-------------------------	----

TEAM LOW GROSS

Gregg Meyer (Woodstone)	66
Andrew Albert (Woodstone)	66
George Petrole (Thru the Green)	68

TEAM LOW NET

Kevin Edwards (Woodstone)	60
Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	63
Spencer Lungner (Scranton Canoe)	63

Pocono Manor Pro-Am Pocono Manor C.C. Par 72

LOW PRO

Wayne Phillips (Lehigh)	67
Scott Murphy	68
Rico Riciputi (Glenmaura Nat'l)	71
Spencer Lungner (Scranton Canoe)	72

LOW SENIOR PRO

Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	73
Harvey Williams (Philly PGA)	74
John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	74
Joe Ambrose (Skytop)	74

LOW AMATEUR

Jeff Codrea	71
Craig Scott	73
Rob Causton	73

TEAM LOW GROSS

Jim Booros (Philadelphia PGA)	63
Wayne Phillips (Lehigh)	63
Howard Balbach	64

TEAM LOW NET

Harvey Williams (Philly PGA)	56
John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	57
Howie Van Buskirk (Pocono Manor)	58

Green Pond Pro-Am Green Pond G.C. Par 71

LOW PRO

J.R. Delich (PGA)	71
John Pillar (Woodloch)	72
Alex Knoll (Bethlehem GC)	72
Jared Cottell (Woodloch)	73
Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	74

LOW SENIOR PRO

John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	72
Bob Fritz (Manufacturers)	72
Ray Silnik (Blue Shamrock)	75

LOW AMATEUR


J. Wilson	69
T. White	69
C. Leon	72

TEAM LOW GROSS

J.R. Delich (PGA)	133
Alex Knoll (Bethlehem GC)	134
John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	138

TEAM LOW NET

John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	127
Tom O'Malley (Buck Hill)	128
Dustin McCormick (Glenbrook)	129



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Chris Cerminaro & Evan Joyce Capture AGA Founders Fourball



L-R Chris Cerminaro and Evan Joyce Capture 2014 AGA Founders Fourball

Moosic, PA - On Thursday, August 7th at Glenmaura National Golf Club, fresh off of a win in the member-guest, Evan Joyce combined with Chris Cerminaro to capture the 2014 AGA Founders Fourball.

The duo combined for a 6-under par 65 to edge out Elkview Country Clubs Curtis Haley & Ken Bolcavage (66). Fox Hill Country Club's Mark Answini & Matt Hoover finished in third on a math of cards (67) followed by Glenmaura's Jim Gardas & John Emiliani who blistered the front nine with a score of 30, with a 30-37-67 total.

In the Senior Division Mark Bartkowski & Bob Andrejko of the Scranton Muni. captured the title on a USGA match of cards over fellow member Tom Miller & Bob McCloskey of Elmhurst Country Club after each team shot 68 on the day.

Mill Race Golf Club's Carl Stackhouse & Matt Swanson finished in third with a round of 71.

OPEN DIVISION

Joyce, E. / Cerminaro, C.	33	32	65
Bolcavage, K. / Haley, C.	33	33	66
Answini, M. / Hoover, M.	35	32	67
Gardas, J. / Emiliani, J.	30	37	67
Pergrim, M. / Nardella, D.	35	32	67
Brunn, A. / Lewis, J.	34	34	68
Carroll, J. / Biscotti, T.	34	34	68
Kachurak, M. / Dombroski, B.	35	34	69
Kacvinski, F. / Rinaldi, A.	33	37	70
Zaleski, B. / Mikiewicz, J.	35	36	71
Solfanelli, M. / Dougherty, M.	35	37	72
Bebila, B. / Tolerico, J.	37	36	73



SENIOR DIVISION:

Bartkowski, M. / Andrejko, B.	33	35	68
Miller, T. / McCloskey, B.	32	36	68
Swanson, M. / Stackhouse, C.	37	34	71
Elias, G. / Breck, J.	36	36	72
Froncek, M. / Zavada, J.	36	36	72
White, T. / Sheratt, J.	35	37	72
Heck, M. / Pisarcik, P.	34	38	72
Tonkin, J. / Bonda, R.	36	36	72
Petrosky, J. / Lampman, B.	38	35	73

Elkview Country Club wins 2014 AGA Senior Coal Scuttle



Elkview Country Club Team, Mike Heck, Ken Bolcavage, Matt Froncek, Joe Klickus and John Tolerico takes AGA Senior Coal Scuttle Championship

Exeter, PA - On Wednesday, August 27th at Fox Hill Country Club, the team from Elkview Country Club captured the 2014 Anthracite Golf Association Senior Coal Scuttle Championship. Tied after regulation with the Scranton Muni. Golf Club at 299, the teams went down #1 for sudden death. Elkview Country Club combined team score of 1-under par on the first playoff hole to win the title.

Leading the way for the team champions, Elkview Country Club, was Mike Heck who finished with a tournament low round of 70. Ken Bolcavage carded a round of 73, followed by Matt Froncek (77) who was the only player to make a birdie in the team playoff. Rounding out the team for the champions were Joe Klickus (79) and John Tolerico (81).

Elkview Country Club's Mike Heck (70) who had the shot of the day with a chip-in on the par 5 #12 for eagle captured the individual title for the second consecutive year by one shot over Bob Andrejko (71) of the Scranton Muni. Golf Club and George Elias (71) of Irem Country Club.

TOP TEAMS:

Elkview CC--299 won in Playoff
 Mike Heck 36-34--70
 Ken Bolcavage 35-38--73
 Matt Froncek 39-38--77
 Joe Klickus 38-41--79
 John Tolerico 39-42--81



Scranton Munil. GC--299
 Bob Andrejko 35-36--71
 Robin Bonda 37-37--74
 Mark Bartkowski 36-39--75
 Steve Mazur 39-40--79
 Chris Kearney 42-41--83

Fox Hill CC--302
 Jim Hoover 37-36--73
 Bill Lawler 37-36--73
 Don Crossin 38-39--77
 Ed Hennigan 42-37--79
 Bill Gill 43-42--85

Irem CC--304
 George Elias 35-36--71
 Jim Breck 40-34--74
 Jim Blinn 38-39--77
 Bob Lipski 39-43--82
 Chuck Brand 38-47--85

Emanon CC--308
 Len Coleman 37-36--73
 John Engleman 39-38--77
 Guy Fasciana 40-38--78
 Len Benfante 41-39--80
 Rick Evans 41-44--85

Elmhurst CC--310
 Jerry Stanvitch 37-38--75
 Ed Knight 37-40--77
 Bob McCloskey 40-38--78
 Tom McCormack 40-40--80
 Don Manley 40-40--80

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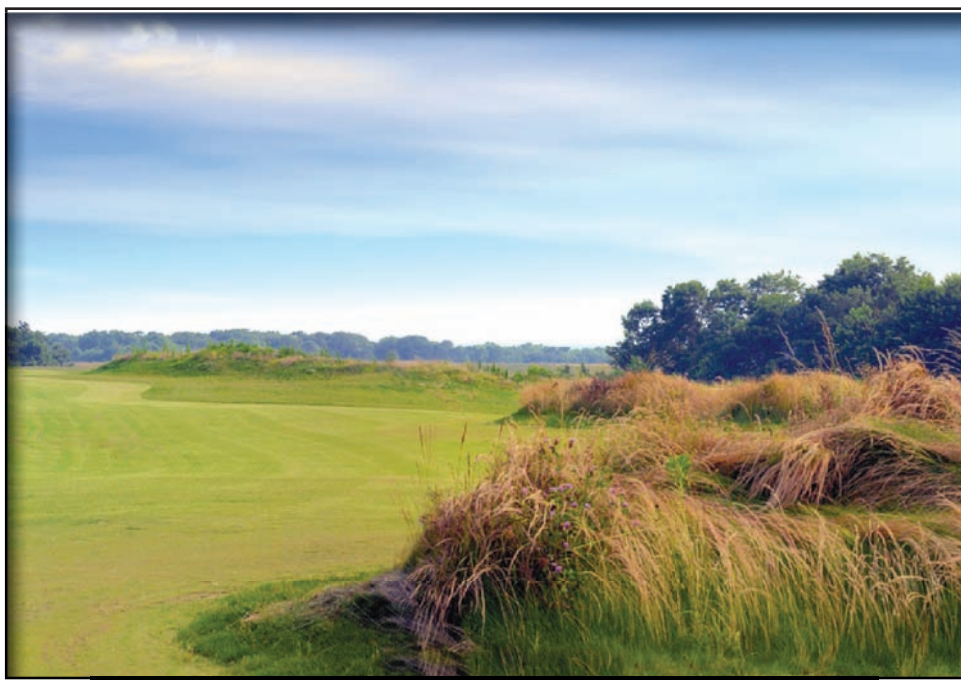
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McCulloughs Emerald Golf Links Hole # 7



Twisted Dune Course Hole # 16

Shore Golf *from page 9*

right on. Because he puts most of them where they come into play. And that's supposed to be the point. The approach shot here is also over some more menacing sand. The 11th is a medium-length par 3 with additional sand to deal with. The 12th is a great short par 4, which I think are the hardest holes to create. You drive over water, then hit to a green with water on the right and behind. Very cool, unless of course you put one where you shouldn't. Then you have a 350-yarder through woods, another neat short one (again with timber as the chief deterrent) and a 150-yard par 3. Now that you've maybe had some fun, the 16th and 17th bring more length into the equation. And 18 is a three-shotter that could offer birdie ops. The key word there being, as always, could.

The first goes back the other way, another par 5 with water on the left where you should have a relatively short iron in for your third. Again, should. Two and three, a par 4 followed by a 3, are relatively benign. The same cannot necessarily be said for what comes after. The fourth is a dogleg right with bunkers flanking the part of the fairway where it turns, and it's 370 from the whites. The fifth might be the best hole. It's a 400-yarder that curves delicately right, with water guarding the right. At least there's no sand by the green, but that doesn't mean you won't make at least a 5. And by that point you might need a break. Six has more water to the right, but at least it's about 50 yards shorter. I guess the advice is you'd better not be a slicer going through this stretch. The seventh is a 475-yard par 5 that almost dares you to go for it in two. If you can avoid the water — you guessed it — to the right off the tee. It's a theme. Anyway, the problem is there's a sliver of sand that runs all the way across in front of the green. So you might be better off laying up in front of that, and maybe still have a makeable putt for bird. The eighth is a par 3 of some 170, to a green guarded by no less than five sand traps. There's also water on the — yep — right, but it shouldn't really come into play. And what can I say about the ninth? It's an absolute brute. Over 400, with water on the left for a change and woods on the other side. There's two fairway bunkers, and two more by the putting surface, which at least is fairly large. Of course that probably means you'll end up three-jacking. If I make 4 here, a rarity, it feels like 3. I play it as a 4 1/2.

Afterward, we took the advice on the cart and went in for what they call Burgers and Beer. For \$10 a person, and you have to have at least two, they give you a really tasty cheeseburger, chips, wings to share and a pitcher of suds. I dare you to beat that deal. And the wings were done the right way, fried crisp, with a sauce that had just the right kick. I'd go back just for that.

The best thing about the shore? As good as those four are, there's even way more to choose from. I mean, you could be down there for two weeks and play a different course every day and not run out of options. Lot to be said for that. So here's a sampling of my faves:

Atlantic City, which just switched ownership to the folks who operate **Scotland Run** and **Ballamor** (two others on my list), has always got me excited just thinking about it. Seriously, it's that good. Even before they changed some of the holes, which only made it better. This is where Ron Jaworski holds his annual tournament. It's always in wonderful shape. And the holes along the bay are especially appealing. If you've never been, you really owe it to yourself.

Shore Gate, just outside of Sea Isle City, might be the toughest course down there, particularly if you play it from the wrong set of tees. Trust me. This place has a certain amount of wow factor to it, with forced carries and a wonderful set of par 3s. The ninth, a par 5 that winds around water, will make you sweat. As will the 18th, a par 4 that has danger lurking the entire way. And Harry Bittner is one of the top head pros you're going to come across.

McCullough's Emerald Golf Links, which isn't far from Harbor Pines, has grown on me. A lot.

Maybe it had something to do with the fact that I played with James "Sonny" McCullough, the Mayor of Egg Harbor Township and the guy responsible for this course being there (on the site of a former landfill). He's a blast, and so are many of the holes. The eighth and ninth, a dogleg par 4 and a par 3 over water, are about as good a 1-2 stretch as you'll find. I love the 15th, a short par 4 that doglegs right. A long hitter can try to drive it. I just settle for hitting a wedge in and hope I leave myself a decent birdie op. Sometimes it's the little things.

Just up the road from McCullough's is **Twisted Dune**, which is a Scottish experience not to be topped. If I could pick one course to play other than AC, this might be it. And I don't mean that as a slight to any of the others. I just really like this style of golf. You will lose some balls, and you won't break the course record. But it'll be something you won't forget. Especially if the wind's blowing. It's just unlike anything else you'll come across down there, or a lot of other places for that matter. The 16th and 17th, a par 3 over a ravine and a par 4 with another forced carry to the green, are awesome. As are many of the ones that come before that. Make sure you take some doughnuts from Chesters in Somers Point (to die for) to head pro Scott Dunn. Inside joke. He'll understand, and appreciate the gesture.

Blue Heron Pines, in Egg Harbor City, has only become even more playable since Ron Jaworski took it over a few years back. The first thing he did was have his grounds crew remove a whole lot of unnecessary junk that was slowing the pace of rounds and marring the scenery. It's amazing what a difference that's made. The last thing you want to be doing at any course is spending too much time looking for balls that really aren't that far off line. Now, that's no longer any issue there. It might not seem like that big of a deal, but the response has been overwhelmingly favorable. The course, yet another Stephen Kay design, is fair but challenging. There are some holes that will make you look good, and others that can have you for breakfast. Makes for a nice mix. I don't think I've ever had a bad time there, and I've certainly had enough opportunities. And if you run into Jaws, please remind him that he still owes me for hitting the closest shot to the pin at a night outing that was part of last spring's ING Conference. He should remember, since he bet me in front of a rather large crowd that I wouldn't even get my ball up in the air. I can't wait to actually collect.

Seaview Resort, which is now run by the folks at nearby **Stocketon College**, sits on Route 9 in Galloway, across the bay from Atlantic City. It's a 36-hole facility, and of course the **Bay Course** is the annual host for the **LPGA's Shop-Rite Classic** in early June. I had the chance to play both that and the **Pines Course** this year. You can't go wrong with either. I prefer the Bay, probably because it's shorter and more wide open. But if the wind's up, which it often is, look out. The second hole, a par 4, can play harder than the par 5 third that goes back in the opposite direction depending on which way it's blowing. The greens are smaller, so it's a shotmaker's layout. But in many ways so is the Pines, which has many, many trees taken out in the past few years. Always a good thing. There's more doglegs, through woods, so there's more of a premium placed on driving it where you want or need to. The back-to-back par 3s coming in are pretty stout. My best advice is to play both, maybe even in the same day sandwiched around lunch in the hotel. Which, if you've never stayed there, is like a step back in time as well.

And if nine holes is your idea of a good time, there's always **Heritage Links**, on Route 9 between Ocean City and Sea Isle. My friend Rob Kleckner does a good job keeping it up, and it's the perfect place to sneak in a quick warm-up and get back to the beach. It has six par 3s and three par 4s, and costs like \$25. And you can go around twice if you really want to. It's a good idea for families, or maybe just for people who are still learning the game, as you're working your way up to the regulation stuff. So by all means enjoy.

Hey, hope to see you down there. You never know. Keep in mind that their season lasts longer. Might as well take advantage and make the most of it before we have to shovel snow again.



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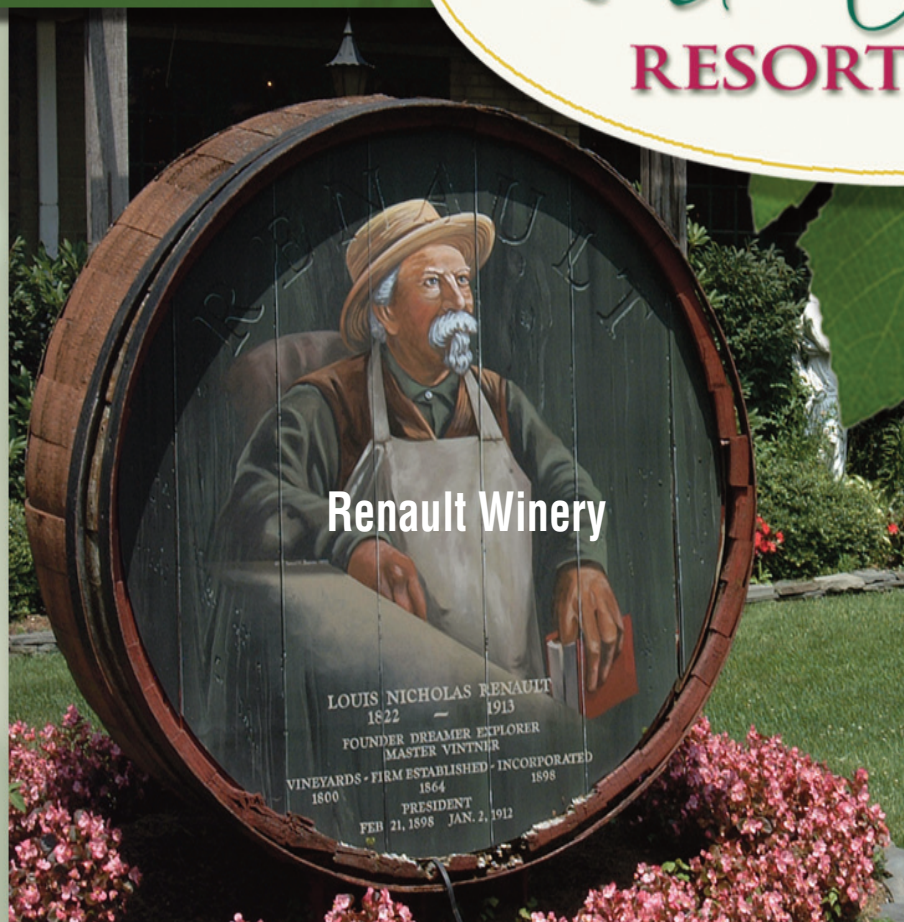


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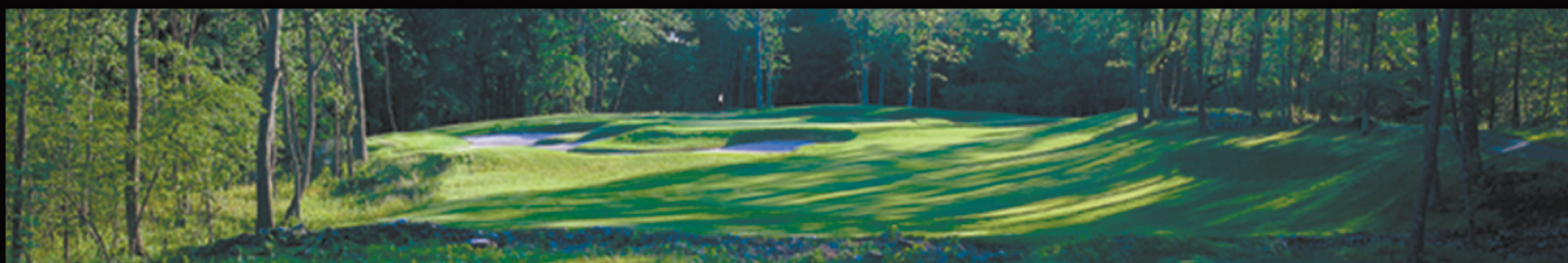
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