Winter 2013

# Wonderful Winter Golf Geizzzas

## **Destination:**

## Great Golf in Mesquite, Nevada

Amazing Golf in Orlando, Hawaii and Myrtle Beach

**Holy Redeemer Takes State Crown** 

**Golf in Puerto Rico with The Traveling Golfer** 

**The Canyons at** Oasis Golf Course Hole 15 Mesquite, Nevada

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# Striking It Rich in Nevada Means Playing Golf in Mesquite





Oasis Palmer Golf Course - designed by Arnold Palmer Hole #7

By Tony Leodora

Play the word association game.

Nevada – Las Vegas

Golf in Las Vegas – great quality but very expensive

Great golf at a more affordable price in Nevada - Mesquite

That's right. Those who come across golf in the Mesquite area of Nevada will find it to be an emerging golf destination that makes an immediate impact. In fact, first-timers liken the golf experience to "striking it rich."

Located in the northeastern corner of Nevada, close to both the Arizona and Utah state lines, Mesquite is quickly becoming a favorite stop for visitors who are looking for a pure golf experience.

With a few casinos that are much smaller than the grandiose palaces found in abundance in Las Vegas, Mesquite is known to some as "Las Vegas Light". But there is absolutely nothing "light" about the quality of the golf courses to be found in the area. They range from very good to outstanding.

"Getting the word out about the golf we have in this area has been a major project in recent years," explains Cody Law, executive director of Golf Mesquite, a cooperative effort between golf courses and hotel/casinos to market the area. "We now feel we have a product that can compete on a national level with other golf destinations and we are trying to reach golfers across the United States and Canada."

Just over a one-hour drive north on I-15 from the Las Vegas airport, Mesquite is easily accessible from just about everywhere. Flights into Las Vegas are reasonable, as are costs for the rest of the trip. The golf courses, of equal quality to the courses in the immediate Las Vegas area, are available at about half the price. So are the hotels. And the restaurant prices in the Mesquite area are about as reasonable as can be found anywhere.



Coyote Springs Golf Course Hole #13

For those reasons, Mesquite was chosen as the site for the 17th

Challenge, an amateur competition that has visited sites across the United States and overseas. Not a single member of the experienced group of golf travelers was disappointed with the choice. In fact, to a man, they were greatly surprised with the quality to be found in all aspects of the trip.

The hotel was the Eureka Casino and Hotel, a medium-sized facility that offered extremely clean and fresh décor, large rooms, a nice outdoor pool and Jacuzzi area and a relaxing spa. Immediately next door to the hotel was the casino that offered great breakfasts every morning (either buffet or off the menu), a fabulous seafood buffet on Friday night, and the award-winning Gregory's Mesquite Grille – a steakhouse of the highest quality, but not at killer prices. The hotel and casino proved to be a nice extra but the Freedom Trail Challenge group, and most of the groups that come to Mesquite, are there for the golf.

One group, also staying in the Eureka Hotel, was from the Harrisburg,

Pennsylvania area. They have been coming to Mesquite annually for 10 years. When quizzed about their apparent golf addiction to Mesquite, one of the players said, "Shhhh. Don't tell anybody about this place. It is the best kept secret in America."

The Freedom Trail Challenge group played five rounds of golf on four golf courses. It proved to be a good mixture of variety and convenience. Two of the courses were part of the Oasis GC complex – 36 holes of championship golf and an excellent clubhouse/restaurant.

Oasis Palmer – Built in 1994 and designed by Arnold Palmer, the course hosted a PGA Tour event in the first year it opened. It also hosted "The Big Break Mesquite" television series on the Golf Channel. In the years since, it has matured into the consummate members' club ... as well as a friendly stop for visitors to the area.

Palmer made excellent

#### Nevada Golf continued on page 5



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### GOLF PENNSYLVANIA ~ GOLF NORTHEAST



The Canyons at Oasis Golf Club - Hole # 15

Sand Hollow Golf Club designed by Utah native John Fought Hole #13

#### Nevada Golf from page 3

use of the natural elevation changes in the area – using bluffs and rock outcroppings as tee sites that afford 100-foot drops to the fairways and greens below.

The course has five sets of tees – ranging from 4,226 yards to 6,468 yards – which affords enough flexibility for a comfortable round of golf for all levels of players. Highlight of the course is Hole 6, the short par 4 that doglegs slightly left and places a green in a magnificent setting that is surrounded by rock cliffs. The green complex is cathedral-like, and No. 6 is Palmer's favorite hole on the course.

**Oasis Canyons** – This course came about in stages, completed seven years after the first course opened. The first nine was built by the Palmer construction group. The second nine was built by a local company. Amazingly, it matches very well the style of the original course and provides a perfect complement.

True to its name, the Canyons Course also has plenty of elevation change ... and some of the most magnificent views to be found on any golf course. The most memorable hole was probably No. 9, a 175-yard par 3 from the back tee, with at least a 100-foot drop from tee to green. The views of the surrounding mesas, smaller mountains and the huge Virgin Mountains in the background can cause traffic jams with the golfers who find it hard to move on to the next hole.

**Coyote Springs GC** – This Jack Nicklaus signature course is the perfect course to play on the way to or from Mesquite. It sits in the middle of a very desolate area, about 45 minutes from the Las Vegas airport. The golf course is the only thing in sight for miles – unless you count the most abundant residents of the area, coyotes and roadrunners.

The course was part of a planned major community that has yet to be completed, due to the economic recession that hit in 2008. However, nothing has been spared on the golf course. Amazing water features – a series of connected ponds and waterfalls – bring beauty to a site that was originally desolate desert.

Nicklaus provided extremely generous landing areas off the tee throughout the course ... but don't think that makes it a pushover. Par is defended once golfers reach the extremely undulating greens – a trademark of many Nicklaus designs in recent years.

**Sand Hollow GC** -- The one day the group decided to make a trek out of the immediate Mesquite area proved to be the highlight of the entire trip. John Fought, a native of Utah, designed Sand Hollow GC in Hurricane, Utah – about a 50-minute drive from Mesquite.

The drive, north on I-15 through the Virgin River Gorge, proved to be the perfect preliminary to playing an outstanding golf course. Winding through canyons with seemingly artistic rock formations towering above the highway proved to be, as one player termed it, "a religious experience."

Once arriving at Sand Hollow, eyes popped at the beauty to be seen. Emerald fairways are accented by fiery red sand bunkers – with the mountains of Zion National Park looming in the background.

The front nine is more of a parkland layout, with a gentle roll to it. The back nine is a step into one of the most dramatic settings in golf. The holes wrap around the side of a mountain, with ledges looming above huge ravines.

The black tees are a hearty 7,315 yards, with a slope of 137 and a rating of 73.7. The blue tees play to 6,893 yards and the whites are 6,462. There are red tees at 5,306 yards. The elevation and thinner air allow the course to play a bit shorter and the generous tee shot landing areas allow the golfer to attack the course.

The emerald green fairways are offset by the red-colored powdery sand in the bunkers. It is a look no golfer will ever forget.

In fact, the entire trip was unforgettable. Jim McCalmont, a Golfweek Top 100 Course rater, may have put it best when he said, "I didn't know much about golf in the Mesquite area before this trip, but I guarantee that I will be back."

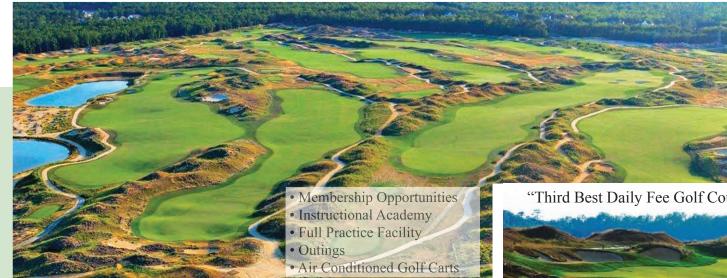
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# Amazing Golf, Food and More in Orlando, Hawaii and Myrtle Beach



The Grand Cypress Golf Course features the veranda overlooking Hole #18

#### By Mike Kern

This just in: Orlando isn't just for Mickey and Minny any more.

Hey, I've done the Disney World thing. Many times. With my kids, and without them. And it's always been a blast. Tiring, but still bunch of good times. But I, like many dads I'm assuming, never really took the time to play any golf. Once, way back when, I played one of the original layouts at Disney, although I'm not sure which one. Hey, it was a lifetime ago. I wasn't even married then. But recently I had a chance to go to Orlando for a different reason. Specifically, to hit those little white balls around. After all, what else are golf conferences for? And I got to experience a different side of the town. I'm not saying I won't go back to do Space Mountain again, but now at least I have a whole other thing to look forward to if I so opt. And that can never be bad.

For starters, I was able to sample one of the courses at Grand Cypress, which is actually not too far from Walt Disney's creation. That's one place I'd heard a lot about, so I was intrigued. And after spending some time there, I wasn't disappointed. It was really top shelf. Got to meet the Director of Golf, Joe Angelino, a super guy with who worked in New York for a few years but has been down there since 2006 for his second stint (he was once the head pro). So we got the tour. It's worth it just to go there for the pro shop/restaurant, which has one of the best verandas anywhere overlooking part of the course. And the golf shop has been rated among the best. So you won't leave without picking up a few things. Force of habit. But the course is the real star, as it should be. He's responsible for all 45 holes. And they're all live up to his name. Still, it's the 18 that are inspired by the Old Course at St. Andrew's that stand out as the bona fide taste treat.

I know, I know. You've heard that way too many times before. Somebody tries to do a replica of some famous place. Sometimes it works, often it comes up somewhat short. For any number of reasons. But if anyone knows the birthpace of golf, it's Jack. And the word is that he actually got a little misty looking out at the 18th one day. I've been to St. Andrew's many times to cover British Opens. No, it's not an exact duplicate. But I have to say that when you're standing on the opening tee, it does have that look. And feel. It truly does. And that's hardly an easy thing to pull off. And after you dump one into the burn fronting the first green, then you can seriously relate. Now I can say I've done that at both the real one and this one. Hey, there's only one



The Reunion Resort View from the Palmer Golf Course Hole #7

Road Hole. That's why it's the Road Hole. But Jack has done a commendable job of bringing what's over there to life in central Florida. If you've never been there, it's at least close to reality. And if you have, it'll sure stir some memories. Trust me on this. I highly recommend it. When the wind'd blowing and sun's going down, all you need is the Old Course Hotel to really make it authentic.

We also got the chance to play a classic, Bay Hill. The course that Arnold Palmer made famous. It's been a fixture on the PGA Tour forever. Tiger's won there a zillion times, which doesn't hurt either. So you know it from TV. Now I can say I've been there, done that. One less item to check off the list. One of my friends had played there once and told me that it was the best conditioned course he'd ever seen. Now that I've toured it, I can't say I disagree. It was immaculate. And a lot harder in some spots that I remember from watching it from the comfort of my lounge chair. Of course, the pros can do that. All I know is, Bay Hill was everything I thought/hoped it would be, and then some. Nice to have the proper connections. It helps here if you've got some shotmaking skills. I'll always remember the 9-iron from like 130 I hit over a lake to within about 10 feet of a nestled flagstick somewhere on the back nine. Of course I lipped the putt. What did you expect?

One of the best things about Bay Hill is that you never know when Arnie might be showing up. On the day we were there, we were told we just missed him. But he is pretty much a regular. Anyway, we had a great lunch at their bar, which as you might suspect offers some kind of view as well. And the burger was one of the best I've ever had. So what was there not to appreciate? The round as a whole has to rank right up there among the most indelible. An Arnie sighting/greeting might have put it over the top. Maybe next time.

Our main base of operations was about 15 minutes outside the city, as the highway flows. It's called Reunion Resort. It felt like you were hours away, since you never had to leave the grounds if you didn't want to. It's about as allinclusive as they come. You could stay in the hotel, which overlooks the three courses. But we chose a three-bedroom villa that a group of us shared. Couldn't have asked for anything much more accomodating, both from a roominess and convenience standpoint. It offered a lot of value, gave us some extra room to

#### Orlando, Hawaii & Myrtle Beach Golf continued on page 9

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### GOLF PENNSYLVANIA ~ GOLF NORTHEAST





Wailea Golf Club Gold Course Hole #10

Photo/Michael French

#### The Dye Course at Barefoot Hole #6

#### Orlando, Hawaii & Myrtle Beach Golf from page 7

stretch out and relax at the end of the day and was only a short drive or walk to the main facility. The hospitality was top notch, but it was the courses that would keep me coming back. We didn't get to play the Nicklaus design, which I was told might be the best of the lot. If that's true then it must be something, because the ones we did play — done by Tom Watson and Arnold Palmer — could certainly hold their own.

The Watson was named one of Golfweek's Best You Can Play, and No. 19 in the state. It had generous fairways and greens, lots of mounds and as many bunkers. So you'd better be accurate. The Palmer also had a bunch of elevation changes that kept you thinking all the way around, with a premium placed on risk-reward. The Nicklaus is described as a Parkland-style track that's deceptively treacherous. I've played enough of his courses to know what that usually means. As far as I'm concerned, there's more than enough here to keep you occupied. Absolutely worth a visit.

Oops, almost forgot. Reunion is also the home to Annika Academy. If you have to ask for a last name, you need to get out more. This is the only one there is. Not only will it help your swing, but there's an emphasis on fitness and nutrition as well. And Sorenstam is actually there. As is her sister Charlotta. Hard to beat that. And there's a Callaway Performance Center for any club-fitting needs. And right next to that is the Frank Thomas Frankly Putting PAD, an innovative way to help you save strokes on the green. Either way, it's hard to go wrong if you're even a little serious about the game.

And really, that's just scratching the surface. Orlando can do golf, even if it's more famous for something else. No reason you can't maybe do both.

But if central Florida isn't your thing, there's two other winter getaways that are attractive golf-wise and every which way. I've been to both, once several times and the other almost annually, and you cannot go wrong with either.

The first is Hawaii. Or, more specifically, Maui. I've never been to Hononulu, which is on Oahu. And I've been to the Big Island, which is like going to the moon. And there's certainly some good courses there, specifically at Mauna Lani on the northwest coast. But Maui is where we like to go, for any number of reasons. Most involve the fact that it's like 85 degrees every time you wake up. Pretty inviting, no? There's plenty of diversions, as you might suspect, but I've managed to sneak some tee times in nonetheless. Why do you think I've stayed married for three decades? I've played Kapalua, where the PGA pros head every January. Both courses there are spectacular. But I've also experienced everything that Wailea has to offer. And it's just as special. They have three courses, which play to varying degrees of difficulty, but I'm

partial to the Gold, former host of the Champions Skins Game. If nothing else, the views are so good you might not care what you shoot. But the layout can more than hold its own. I actually played with rental clubs and made a couple of birdies (and nearly a third), so maybe my opinion's biased. But it really is worth the effort, before you head to the sand or happy hour or whatever. And the pro shop is about as stocked as you'll find. Love the logo. Hey, the one at Kapalua's a keeper as well. There's also the two courses at Kapanpali, Kai and Royal, not far from Lahina town. And you can always eat at Roy Yamaghuchi's restaurant in between rounds if you pull a 36-holer. Go for any of the fish, which probably came off the boat that morning. Or, in my case, the meatloaf. Don't ask. But I will tell you it was the best I ever had, for whatever that's worth.

If you can't fly 6,000 miles into the middle of the Pacific, Myrtle Beach is perhaps my favorite consolation prize. You can fly down in less than two hours, and they've expanded their airport so getting there has become a whole lot more user-friendly. Or you can drive, especially if you've got a foursome in the car. Either way, you can get a big bang for your buck once you do arrive, particularly in the non-peak times. And even in the winter the weather can be more than cooperative. I've stayed in the southern part of the Grand Strand, I've stayed in Barefoot Landing in North Myrtle and I've stayed just across the border in North Carolina. It doesn't make a difference. They're all convenient, and they all have their own advantages. Some of it depends on where you want to play. But with 100 courses, that's usually not a problem wherever you end up. I've got my favorites, from years of experience: Tidewater Plantation, Caledonia, the Dunes Club, Grande Dunes, Oyster Bay, Rivers Edge, Pine Lakes, the Love and Dye courses in particular at Barefoot, the Witch and Heritage Club, to list just the tip. And as far as eating goes, there's no shortage of that, either. Here's a few, moving from south to north: Flo's Place (for New Orleans cuisine), Gordon Biersch (for everything), the Bar-B-Que House (several locations throughout, great value and huge portions), River City Cafe (best burgers), Greg Normans (right on the Intercoastal Waterway, wonderful ambiance), Umberto's (right next to Greg Norman's, family style, just get the porked chops and be prepared to be overwhelmed), Benito's (for pizza), Chianti South (try the stuffed hot peppers), Sam's Corner (for hot dogs 24 hours) and last but certainly not least, Capt. Juel's Hurricane Restaurant (right across from biker bar, on the waterfront, start with fish stew and go from there). Trust me, you won't be disappointed with any of those.

Hey, the winter's too long to stay cooped up for four months or so. So try Orlando, Myrtle Beach or even Paradise. And create your own memories. Tell them the balding midget with the unending appetite for golf and good and most things in between sent you.



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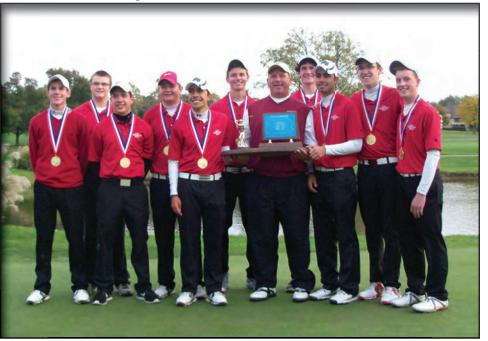
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# Holy Redeemer Takes State Crown



Holy Redeemer Team Photo left to right Andrew Crossin, Connor Murray, Alex Rowan, Ryan Crossin, Mariano Medico/Captain, Brian Banas, Coach Art Brunn Jr., Conlan McAndrew, Chase Makowski/Captain, Michael Boland, and Jake Martin

#### By John Zimich

#### "How do you guys want to be remembered?"

Those were the last words coach Art Brunn Jr. of the Holy Redeemer High School told his team prior to a sudden death playoff with Wyomissing High School for the 2013 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic (PIAA) Class AA team title at the Heritage Hills Golf Resort in York.

And for the first time in the history of high school golf in Northeastern Pennsylvania the Royals of Holy Redeemer delivered. Ironically, Wyomissing won the 2012 state team crown in a sudden death playoff over Holy Redeemer when one of the players holed out his second shot for an eagle two in a playoff.

"It was surreal being involved in another sudden death playoff with the same school," said coach Brunn Jr. "It was heartbreaking losing to them last year. I also told our kids we were the better team and to trust your swing."

Chase Makowski, Mariano Medico, Mike Borland and Andrew Crossin did just that for the winning Royals in that first hole of the playoff.

The Royals coach noted the first hole of the playoff (No. 18) is a par 4 uphill hole measuring 490 yards from the back tees. He said there was water all the way down on the left side of the fairway and a big pond surrounding the green.

Makowski and Medico, who have been lifelong friends and headed to play collegiate golf at Monmouth University, hit great second shots from some 200 yards out with the former just missing the green 60 feet away. Makowski chipped to within 10 feet, leaving a tricky downhill slider that he made for his par. Medico, a sixth-place finisher in this year's individual state tourney, was left with a six-foot putt of his own for a par and he calmly made it. Two pars for the Royals.

Still, Borland and Crossin had to finish and both laid up with their second shots before closing with 5s. Crossin almost chipped in for a par.

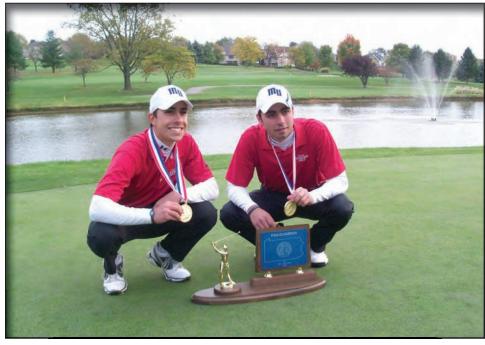
Redeemer's total for the four of five players (Ryan Crossin) in the playoff was 18 to 24 for Wyomissing.

Regulation scores for the winning Royals were Makowski, 77; Medico, 79; Borland, 83, and Andrew Crossin, 85.

"Believe me those scores aren't bad," noted Brunn Jr. "It was a cold and windy day and the course was played from the back tees on the 7200-yard layout.

"Besides being long the golf course had fast greens with four and a half inch rough. And there's plenty of trouble on the entire layout with 14 of 18 holes having water hazards and out of bounds coming into play. The par 3s all measured more than 200 yards. It almost bordered on unplayable and unfair for the kids."

There probably was more pressure on the Royals going into the 2013 playoff with Wyomissing since Holy Redeemer players had been 0-5 in that department.



Holy Redeemer Team Captains L Mariano Medico and Chase Makowski

Brunn Jr., 46 years of age and one of all-time great amateur players in Northeastern Pennsylvania with still more wins to come, said this was by far his most satisfying achievement.

"I'm so proud of these young men and their school," he offered. "They have worked so hard to get to this point. It really is a team that comes along once in a generation and I'm just proud to be a part of it."

The Royals coach also was a member of a great Hanover Area High School golf team of coach Al Weston that included PGA Tour player Ted Tryba, Pete Korba, head golf pro at Wyoming Valley Country Club; Kevin Kaminski, a Division 1 golfer, and Bill Sailus.

As a junior, Brunn finished fifth in the individual PIAA championship in which Tryba won. Korba, Kaminski and Sailus also played in that state championship. No other school in Northeastern Pennsylvania has ever had five players in the finals.

There were no team titles in those days and coach Brunn Jr. was asked by his players if the state champion Royals measured up to his great team. He chidingly responded that the Holy Redeemer team had a better coach.

The Royals of Brunn Jr. over the past nine years have never lost a Wyoming Valley Conference match.

"I've been fortunate to have great young men and players," stated this year's winning state title team coach. "Players like Mike Napkori, Matt Milewski, Jeff Clemente, Marco Ciavarella and Don DeRemer just to name a few along with my current guys.

"They have all worked hard in laying the groundwork. We work awfully hard and practice in all kinds of weather. One thing I learned from my dad (Art Brunn Sr. and one of the area's all-time great golfers) is that is so important to work on one's short game. And we do just that.

"I try to make it fun when practicing the short game. We have our seniors select teams and spend countless hours on that part of the game. The guys who lose have to pick up the balls. It has certainly paid off. Just look at Andrew's (Crossin) chip in that sudden death playoff."

Ironically, Brunn Jr.'s next door Hanover Green neighbor, the late Tom Tryba Sr., was a strong proponent of having a team state title. The all-time great coach Tryba Sr., who coached the Coughlin High School golfers for many years, lobbied and badgered retired PIAA director Brad Cashman for such. But it fell on deaf ears until just several years ago. It was sadly implemented the year he passed away.

"Mr. Tryba must have been looking down on us and smiling," said coach Brunn Jr. "He was a mentor of mine and we butted heads in a friendly manner when I was just starting in the coaching ranks and he was in the twilight of his great career. My late father also would have been so proud."

It truly was a "royal finish" in capping off two great years of golf for Holy Redeemer. There were tears of joy on that 18th hole following the playoff. The memories of winning the state crown will be etched in the Royal golfing family forever.

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# Puerto Rico Makes It Easy to Enjoy Golf at Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Resort



Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live

#### By Tony Leodora

In 1493, on his second voyage to the New World, Christopher Columbus discovered the island of Puerto Rico. It quickly became a favorite possession of the Spanish Empire.

In the 1960s and '70s, when jet travel opened the Caribbean to tourism, Americans re-discovered Puerto Rico. The island had been a commonwealth under the protection of the United States ever since the early 1900s but it was not until the latter part of the century that it became a popular tourist destination.

Resorts -- with magnificent hotels, casinos and golf courses popped up all over the island. Cruise ships frequented the port in Old San Juan.

Then, as Americans became more adventurous and other Caribbean countries became developed, Puerto Rico slipped slightly in popularity.

Now, amidst the travel challenges of the post-9/11 world, Americans are re-discovering Puerto Rico. And the main reason is because it is the easy tropical destination.

Make that EASY, with all capital letters.

Puerto Rico still has the same natural beauty that first attracted visitors to this mountain and beach paradise. It still has the tropical rain forests and the blue water.

The hotels have increased in number and the older ones have been renovated. So have the golf courses.

But, what is driving people back



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.



Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Golf Resort River Course

to Puerto Rico is that they find it is easier get there ... and safer once they are there.

It is part of the United States – so no passport is needed for travel. Cell phones work normally, without use of expensive additional coverage. The American dollar is the only currency.

And almost everyone speaks English. Fluently.

"There has been a tremendous Americanization of Puerto Rico in recent years," explains Devin Rivera, one of the first Puerto Ricans visitors meet when they arrive at San Juan airport.

He is an extremely well-spoken and well-versed tour guide and driver for Dragon Fly Adventures, the major transportation company on the island. He

has lived in Puerto Rico and New York and is a wealth of knowledge on the mixing of the two cultures.

"With the dramatic improvement in education in Puerto Rico in recent years, we are now able to compete for jobs on the American mainland," he explains. "As a result a record number of 60,000 Puerto Ricans moved off the island last year."

Conversely, more Americans are re-discovering Puerto Rico as a vacation spot.

"We are seeing more and more people coming here for vacations, especially quick vacations," Rivera explains. "There are so many non-stop flights from so many American cities.

> Puerto Rico Golf continued on page 17



Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Golf Resort Ocean Course



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Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Golf Resort River Course Hole #7

#### Puerto Rico Golf from page 15

They can come here without a lot of preparation."

Welcoming guests when they come to Puerto Rico is the main job of Danny Williams. He is the general manager of the Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Resort and Spa, which sits on the north coast of the island ... about 40 minutes east of the airport.

After spending a number of years as general manager of the Sheraton Atlantic City Hotel, Williams made his way south – way south – to a much bigger challenge in Puerto Rico.

"People are looking for easier and faster vacations these days," says Williams. "With all the difficulty and problems associated with overseas travel in today's world, Puerto Rico has re-surfaced as a prime vacation destination. Our challenge is to be ready for Americans when they get here."

"Being ready" means providing all of the modern conveniences and amenities Americans desire when they spend their ever-shrinking amount of time on vacation.

The beach needs no renovation. The Wyndham Grand Rio Mar sits on one of the most pristine stretches of beach in Puerto Rico. The adjoining pools (one for adults only and one for families) and gardens are also spectacularly landscaped and appointed.

The hotel, already a beautiful four-star property, is undergoing a \$20 million renovation. It will be complete in late 2014. It features three outstanding restaurants – authentic Italian, another that features Asian fusion and sushi, and a third that has a Puerto Rican/Caribbean flair.

But the main attraction for many at Wyndham Grand Rio Mar is the two championship golf courses.

The original Ocean Course dates back to 1972 and was designed by George and Tom Fazio. Additional renovation was done by Puerto Rico's iconic golfer, Chi Chi Rodriguez, who also served as the first golf professional at the resort.

In 1997 the River Course was added, designed by Greg Norman. It is the perfect complement to the Ocean Course – completely different in style and look, but even more challenging.

"We are very fortunate to have two championship courses, like the Ocean



Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Golf Resort Lifestyles Ocean Course

and the River courses," says Jeff Willenberg, the director of golf and tennis at Rio Mar. "They have two distinctly different looks and different levels of challenge. The variety keeps our guests and members from every getting tired of playing the two courses."

The Ocean Course has ample tee shot landing area and has an airy, open feel to it. Par is defended on the second shot, which is usually an attempt to land softly on the elevated table-top greens.

The River Course is tighter off the tee, but not too tight. There is a premium placed on strategic placement of the tee shot, allowing the best angle to approach the low-profile greens.

If anyone needs additional validation to the pedigree of the courses at Rio Mar, it comes from the most famous name associated with golf in Puerto Rico – Chi Chi Rodriguez. Owner of 38 professional tournament victories – including eight on the PGA Tour and 22 on the Champions Tour – Rodriquez has had a long relationship with Rio Mar.

He was the first golf professional at the Ocean Course and assisted with the renovation of the course in recent years.

"I planted 4,000 trees on that golf course," claims Rodriguez, although don't spend a lot of time looking for a photo of him wielding a shovel. Instead, he sculpted a worldwide reputation using his golf clubs ... and his gift of gab.

"I took out 14 bunkers and worked on the drainage," explains Rodriquez. "Even though it was built more than 40 years ago, it is a great golf course. The 16th hole (a 240-yard oceanfront par 3 from the back tees) is one of the most beautiful holes in the entire world. And difficult, too."

Norman's River Course is equally beautiful. It is bisected by the Mameyes River and a number of large bridges had to be constructed to navigate the golf course. Lush tropical wetlands add to the difficulty of this course.

There is an excellent clubhouse that sits atop the highest point on the course, serving the needs of golfers at Rio Mar. A highlight is the Iguanas Pub, providing excellent views of the course from the second floor.

The bottom line is that the needs of all golfers and vacationers can be met within one property – the Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Resort and Spa. And what those golfers and vacationers will re-discover is that Puerto Rico makes it easy to enjoy all that this special part of America has to offer.



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# Tee It Forward...A Good Idea



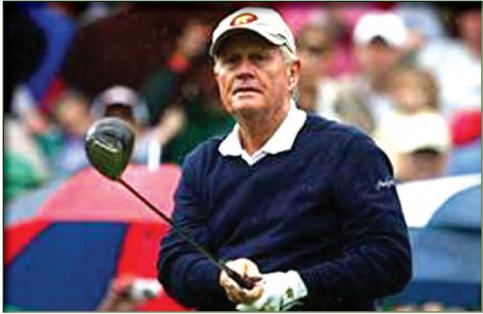
Paula Creamer Encourages Women to give Tee it Forward a shot By MIKE KERN,

I've never necessarily been accused of being the brightest whatever. But for years, one thing I've thought was an absolute no-brainer was the idea of people playing from the right set of tees. I mean, how many times have you played behind a group of 20-some handicappers who insisted on playing from the blues yet continually hit their drives all the way to the reds? Or spent half their day looking for balls in the woods, while you waited 5 minutes between every shot? From my experience it happens way too often. And they wonder why people are giving up the game, or not giving it a try in the first place. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that they don't want to spend at least five hours on the course through no fault of their own. You think?

Anyway, since I'm only 5-foot nothing, the older I get the shorter I've become. And I'm not talking about shrinkage. But I've noticed that the 7-iron I used to routinely hit 150 yards is now lucky to go 140. And it seems like every time I hit a really good drive, it maybe travels 200 at best. That can put a lot of pressure on your game, even for a someone like me who can usually get it around in the low to mid 80s if we're not always adhering to those dreaded Marquis of Queensberry rules.

My point is, golf is supposed to be fun. Yes, it's always supposed to be a challenge, both mentally and otherwise. But if it's no fun any more, why even put up with all the inherent aggravation? We've all been there. And these days, nobody's making golf courses any shorter. So my solution, a few years ago, was to start moving up a tee box or so. I've always liked courses that had five sets to choose from anyway, and told you what handicaps should be playing from which. At least that's a starting point. I'm tired, with my length, of playing 6,400 yard layouts. It's much more enjoyable if I can play from somewhere around 6,000. So that's what I look for. I used to feel funny about it, but now I don't care what anybody thinks. I'm doing what's best for me. I'm not breaking the course record, so what's the difference? If I'm playing 400-yard par 4s, it's more like a 4 and a half. The chances of me getting on in regulatation are slim, and if I do it's with a wood. So what's the harm of turning it into a 360-yarder that gives me a fighting chance?

Apparently, Barney Adams feels the same way. Only he has a bigger voice than me. You might remember him as the guy who gave us the Tight Lie fairway woods, which I still use. Now, with support from the USGA, PGA of America and the Golf Course Superintendents of America, he's proposing that the great majority of us should play from a shorter distance. About time somebody tried to convince us to use common sense.



Jack Nicklaus endorses the concept of Teeing it Forward

As Jack Nicklaus has said, "Unfortunately, golfers are masochists." Hey, it's what keeps Pete Dye in business. And there's a place for that, too. Just not 24/7. And especially not for most hackers.

Remember, many of us don't really hit it nearly as far as we think we do. Be realistic. But we see what the pros do, on all of those ever-lengthening championship tracks, and that's what America wants to. That's why they invented vanilla and moose tracks.

But when does being reasonable enter the equation?

"We really think it could be a very good thing for the game," USGA excutive director Mike Davis acknowleged.

Priceless. After years of analyzing the problem, Adams came up with a system he calls Tour Length. It's based on the premise that the average golfer should try to play a course where he's hitting the same clubs for approach shots as the pros. For instance, if an amateur is hitting 230-yard drives on a 6,700 yard layout, the equivalent test for how far a pro hits it would have to be 8,100 yards. Think about that disparity. To make it more equitable, the amateur would have to play a course of about 6,200 yards. That's 500 yards. But how many times do you see people in that boat realizing that and actually moving up? No, because it's a manly thing. So instead of hitting mid-irons in, they're hitting clubs that gives them less chance for success.

It really is that simple. I was pleased to find out that Adams thinks my 200-yard drives should be seeking out 6,000-yard courses. So my premise, based solely on what made me feel comfortable, had merit. And let's face it, it is depressing to hit your best drive and have your playing partners just blow it by you.

Adams says women, by the way, whose average drive is about 140 should be playing from 4,600. Instead, many tee it up from around 5,600. And we wonder why pace of play is an issue.

Is it destined to quickly become part of the culture? I doubt it, because golfers are traditionalists by nature if nothing else. But I know what I'm doing. And if some folks don't want to accept that, I really don't know what to tell them. As long as we're not playing for anything, it shouldn't concern them. I'm trying to make the experience as pleasurable as possible, without turning it into pitch and putt. I still have to get the ball in the hole like everyone else. Other than that, there's no ulterior motives at work. Just have fun. It's why they invented multiple tees in the first place. You got a problem with that, take it up with Barney.

It is, after all, only a game. And a great one at that. I intend to keep it that way. Sounds like I'm not the only one.

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#### Club Car, LLC./Golf Cars Inc. Pro-President McQuiston Sr Pro ~ Jr Pro Championship Chester Valley GC - Malvern, PA **Par 70**

Rick Osberg Philly PGA	
Duke Scott	62
Ryan Lagergren Stonewall	
John May	63
Bob Fritz Manufacturers G & CC	
Dennis Oneill	64
John DiMarco Laurel Creek CC	
Albert Fox	66
Joey Pohle Indian Valley CC	
Dino DiCamillo	66
Eric Schultz Sunnybrook GC	
Bill Smilow	66
Andy Watters Inniscrone GC	
Ed Ŵasno	66
Jonathan Doctor Chester Valley GC	
Harry Didonato	68

#### **PAO Tour Championship** Aronimink GC - Newtown Square, PA - Par 70

	Total	Points
Patrick Clark (p)	70	450.00
Billy Hoerr	70	337.50
Mark Summerville	70	337.50
Jordan Gibbs	71	287.50
Billy Stewart	71	287.50
Kevin Nicholson	72	215.00
Rusty Harbold	72	215.00
Bill Walker	72	215.00
Carson Solien	72	215.00
Michael Little	72	215.00
Bryan Kienke	73	155.00
Nick Iacono	73	155.00
Shawn Hall	74	123.40
Josh Rackley	74	123.40

#### PAO Fall Mtg & Pro-Pro Lehigh CC - Allentown, PA **Par 70** 2 - Man Scramble

	Total
Paukovits/Nicholson	61
Matthews/Maack	62
Morano/Szerencsits	63
Debski/Williamson	64
Little/Heller	65
Frederick/Kienke	66
Keefe/Sikina	66
Butkus/Spigarelli	67

Bala GC - Philadelphia, PA **Par** 71

	J R Delich Applebrook GC	
	Mark Sheftic Merion GC	58
	Bill Walker Riverton CC	
	Mike Mack Burlington CC	61
	George Forster Radnor Valley CC	
	George Forster Merion GC	63
	John Appleget Wildwood Golf & CC	
	Don DeAngelis Center Square GC	64
	Greg Farrow Deerwood CC	
	Curtis Kirkpatrick Deerwood CC	64
	Rick Flesher Applebrook GC	
	William Ciccotti Merion GC	64
	Mike Molino Dicks Sporting Goods	
	John Kulhamer Green Pond CC	64
	Joey Pohle Indian Valley CC	
	Rick Pohle Indian Valley CC	64
	Mike Moses Concord CC	
	Darren Moses Tavistock CC	65
	John Allen GolfTEC Mainline	
)	Jeff Herb Edgmont CC	66
	-	

#### Fall Meeting & Foursomes Par 72

Overbrook GC - Villanova, PA

	TEAM	Total
J	ohn Rudolph Fieldstone GC	
J	im Larkin <sup>®</sup> Fieldstone GC	67
E	Bryant Shuford Chester Valley GC	
S	Shawn Matthews Squires GC	67
F	Rick Gibney Colonial GC	
S	teve Swartz Colonial GC	68
ŀ	Kevin Edwards Woodstone GC	
0	Gregg Meyer Woodstone GC	69
E	Bill Walker Riverton CC	
Ι	Dan Bolstein Riverton CC	70
J	ohn Appleget Wildwood Golf & CC	
F	Rich Steinmetz Spring Ford CC	70
0	Carson Solien Aronimink GC	
J	ustin Riegel Gulph Mills GC	71
J	ohn Allen GolfTEC Mainline	
J	R Delich Applebrook GC	71
	Rick Gibson Lancaster CC	
F	Rusty Harbold Lancaster CC	71
	Charlie Schuyler Rehoboth Beach CC	
P	Patrick Mastrian Rehoboth Beach CC	71
Т	Fom Gilbert Gulph Mills GC	
E	Eric Schultz Sunnybrook GC	72
	-	







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# **POCONO PRO GOLF SERIES**

Valley CC Pro-Am Hemlock Farms Lords Valley, PA Par 72

#### LOW PRO

Harvey Williams – (Glen Oak)	71
Terry Hatch – (Hidden Valley)	74
Frank Radice – (Valley CC)	75
Matt Cross –	77
LOW SENIOR PRO	
Ray Silnik – (Silver Creek)	74
Wayne Phillips – (Lehigh)	77
Brian Boyle - (Skytop)	77
LOW AMATEUR	
Tom Davis – (Lehigh)	72
Eamon Marone – (Northampton)	75
Clyde Shuman – (Lehigh)	76
A McCormick – (Wolf Hollow)	78
<b>TEAM LOW GROSS</b>	
Lehigh –	63
Northampton –	64
Pocono Manor –	69
Philly PGA (Monahan) –	69

#### **TEAM LOW NET**

Valley CC –	58
Glen Oak –	61
Skytop –	62

#### PPGS Fall Pro-Pro Manufacturers Golf & Country Club Par 72

#### **Better Ball of Partners**

Bob Fritz & Jeff Sikina	66
Kevin Edwards & Gregg Meyer	68
Ray Silnik & Dave Fields	70
Matt McKeon & Greg Kelly	73
Brian Boyle & Dustin McCormick	73
6th Jim Muschlitz & Bob Hibschman	74*
Harvey Williams & Jared Cottell	74
John Kulhamer & Mike Molino	74
* Won throw off for 6th place	

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## NEPWGA Pro Lady Tournament



L to R: Kathi Flack, James Bannack - Pro, Sis Ertley, Not In photo: Kasey Corbett

#### Fox Hill C.C. Exeter, PA Par 71 1ST LOW NET

Pro James Bannack (Huntsville GC)	58
Sis Ertley	
Kasey Corbett	
Kathi Flack	

#### 2ND LOW NET

Pro Pete Korba (Wyoming Valley CC) match of cards	62
Natalie Sokoloski	
Sally Price	
Karen Kempinsky Grimm	
<b>3RD LOW NET</b>	
Pro Cleve Coldwater (Glenmaura CC) match of cards	62
Mary Yablonski	

Suzanne Steindel

Peg Torbik

#### **4TH LOW NET**

Pro Brian Fruehon (Fox Hill CC) match of cards	63
Donna Boone	
Kelli Stevens	
Kathy Evans	

#### **INDIVIDUAL PRO SCORES**

James Bannack (Huntsville Golf Club)	70
Corey Herne (Elmhurst CC)	74
Cleve Coldwater (Glenmaura National Golf Club)	75
Brian Fruehan (Fox Hill CC)	75
Christe Dorece (Huntsville GC)	76
Joe Acla (Pocono Farms CC)	77
Pete Korba (Wyoming ValleyCC)	78
Justin Alunni (Glen Oak CC)	78





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# W.C. Fownes, Jr. Amateur Player Of The Year



Brandon Matthews enjoys being the Amateur Player of the Year

#### Open Championships Secures Player of the Year Title for Matthews

PAOLI, Pa.–Brandon Matthews' summer to remember tour stopped at Waynesborough Country Club and the 109th Open Championship. It rolled out of town with a pair of crystal trophies and an exclusive position amongst Golf Association of Philadelphia icons.

Matthews, an 18-year-old amateur from Glenmaura National Golf Club, defeated professional Billy Stewart of Golf Galaxy (Devon, Pa.), in a four-hole aggregate score playoff, 15-17. Matthews, a rising Temple University sophomore, and Stewart finished the 36 holes of regulation at 2-under-par 140 on the year's hottest day.

Matthews joined R. Jay Sigel, William Hyndman, III and two-time reigning tournament champion Andrew Mason as the only players to win an Open the year after capturing the Patterson Cup. He also became a record fourth straight amateur to win the Open. (His two trophies were for the overall champion and low amateur.)

"It means a ton, especially with Andrew winning the last two years. [We are] keeping it in the Temple [University] family," said Matthews of Dupont, Pa. "It means a lot to win this tournament. There are professionals and amateurs in it. It's nice to know I can compete on this level. It's really, really a fun thing to go out here, play well and know I can do it."

Matthews has now won Golf Association of Philadelphia titles in each of the last three seasons. Last year he won the aforementioned Patterson Cup at Philadelphia Country Club. In 2011, Matthews secured the Junior Boys' Championship.

Stewart received the \$7,000 low professional prize.

The field consisted of 46 amateurs and 32 professionals.

Mason, an amateur when he won his two titles, did not compete this year. He turned professional in April and relocated to Florida.

Matthews drew national attention at the U.S. Open. He chipped in on the final hole of the Sectional Qualifier in Purchase, N.Y. to, at the time, secure an apparent spot at Merion Golf Club. He wound up an alternate. That alternate status secured him time on the U.S. Open practice range and his improbable chip-in regular replays on Golf Channel.

#### 2013 W.C. FOWNES, JR., PLAYER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

		TOTAL
Brandon Matthews	Dupont	745.0
Nathan Smith	Pittsburgh	600.0
Sean Knapp	Oakmont	542.5
Chris Ault	Yardley	410.0
Arnie Cutrell	Greensburg	356.3
Ronald DeNunzio	Jeannette	347.5
Greg Jarmas	Wynnewood	317.5
David Brown	Pittsburgh	300.0
David DeNunzio	Jeannette	290.0
David Denlinger	Lancaster	275.0
Zach Herr	New Hope	275.0
Frank Fairman	Punxsutawney	266.3
Greg Podufal	Erie	263.8
Adam Hofmann	Pittsburgh	260.0
Brandon Dalinka	Newtown	252.5
Matt Mattare	Bethlehem	252.5
Oliver White	Lower Gwynedd	232.5
Chris Crawford	Bensalem	232.5
Michael Kania	Haverford	225.0
Eric Williams	Honesdale	211.3
Kyle Martin	Ambler	205.0

#### 9th Art Wall, Jr. Memorial Allegheny Country Club

Knapp, Sean R. Pittsburgh National Golf Club	65	65	130
DeNezza, Dave Hannastown Golf Club	69	70	139
Fairman, Frank Punxsutawney Country Club	70	71	141
Fedoryshyn, Doug Concord Country Club	69	72	141
McGuire, Mike F. Hannastown Golf Club	69	74	143
Fink Jr., Artie Sinking Valley Country Club	73	71	144
DelBaggio III, Ben Sinking Valley Country Club	70	74	144
Lykens, Lee Clearfield-Curwensville Country Club	70	74	144
Érickson III, Don H. Indiana Country Club	74	71	145
Benson, John Punxsutawney Country Club	73	72	145
Everett, Carl B. Merion Golf Club	72	73	145
Himler, Robert E. Latrobe Elks Golf Club	75	71	146
Gambacurta, Chris L. Down River Golf Course	76	71	147
Meyer, Gregor F. Pittsburgh Field Club	74	73	147
Cutrell, Arnie Greensburg Country Club	72	75	147
Grejtak, Bryan Latrobe Elks Golf Club	71	76	147
Antus, Brandon Latrobe Elks Golf Club	76	72	148
Antill, Dave C. Hannastown Golf Club	75	73	148
Ferentino, Maurice Sewickley Heights Golf Club	74	74	148
Lawler, William P. Fox Hill Country Club	74	74	148

TOTAL



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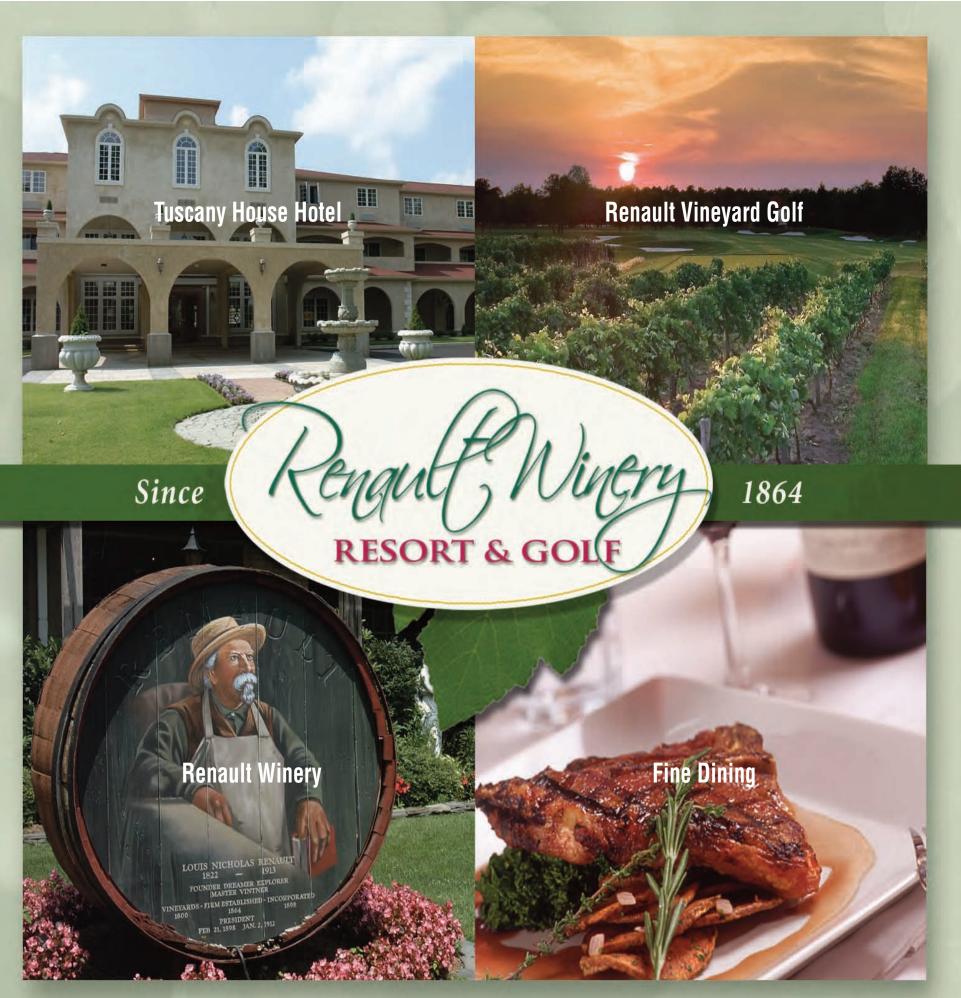
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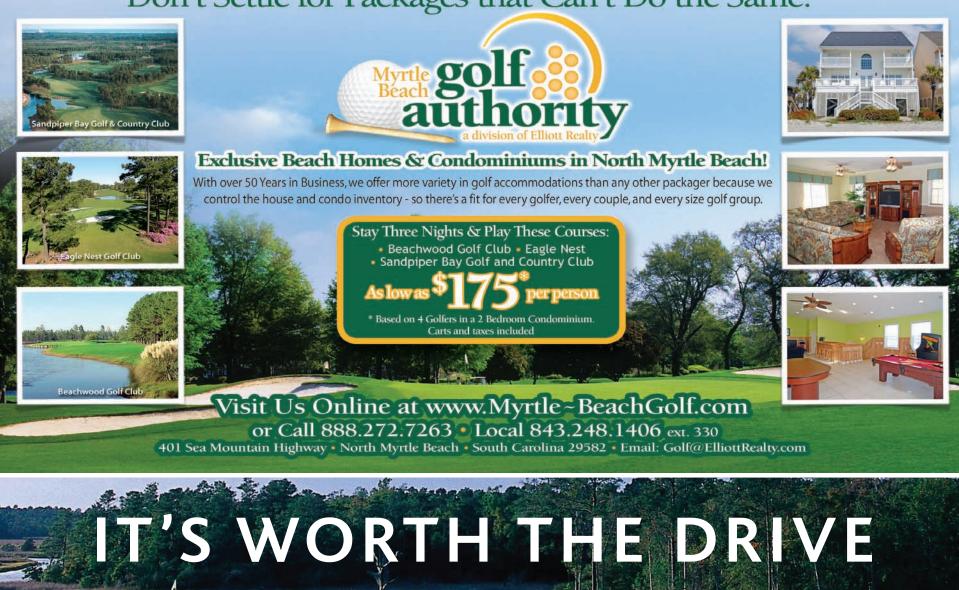
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## Men's Amateur Team Captures 2013 AGA Challenge Cup



Host Fox Hill Country Club Difficult Hole #17

Exeter, Pa - The final event of the 2013 season took place on Saturday, October 26, 2013 with the Men's Amateur team defending its title in the AGA Challenge Cup for third consecutive year..

The Anthracite Golf Association annual Challenge Cup, ia a match comprised of two teams, a Men's Amateur squad and a Senior Amateur squad. Teams were chosen based on the final standings of the Player of the Year and Senior Player of the Year point charts. Player of the Year points are awarded based upon top finishes for all AGA events as well as state and national events.

The day began with a round of golf at Fox Hill Country Club followed by dinner and discussion on the Player of the year point structure.. Honesdale Golf Club's Eric Williams captured the AGA Player of the Year title while The Country Club of Scranton's Mike Vassil claimed the AGA Senior Player of the Year.

This year's Challenge Cup Tournament was secured by the men's amateur team for the second consecutive year. The score of this ryder cup format challenge ended at 161/2 points for the amateurs and 13 1/2 points for the senior squad.

The Anthracite Golf Association would like to thank all those who competed and Fox Hill Country Club for hosting the final event of our 2013 season. The Anthracite Golf Association would also like to thank Tournament Chair Dennis Corvo, and Bill Lawler who provided the player of the year point's chase.

#### Complete Match Results with (points)

Match 1 Bobin Bonda-Ryan Manley (1) vs. Bob Gill-Brian Corbett (4 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>)
Match 2 John Pash-Kevin Rossi (1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>) vs. Carl Stackhouse-Len Coleman (3)
Match 3 Christian Davis-Nick Parise(4) vs. Bob Andrejko-Chris Mathewson (<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>)
Match 4 Mike Peregrim-Bob Zaleski (4 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>) vs. George Elias-Matt Froncek (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>)
Match 5 Matt Hoover-Mark Bartkowski (3 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>) vs. Barry Westington-P.J.Farrell (1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>)

Match 5 Matt Hoover-Mark Bartkowski (3 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>) vs. Barry Westington-P.J.Farrell (1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>) Match 6 Doug Nardella-Ken Bolcavage (1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>) vs. Bill Lawler-Joe Weiscarger (3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>)

## Bolcavage & Haley Capture AGA Robinson Fall Fourball



Ken Bolcavage (right) watches as his playing partner Curtis Haley tees off on the par 4 #1 at Stonehedge Golf Club

Factoryville, PA – On Thursday, October 10th at Stonehedge Golf Club, Elkview Country Club's Ken Bolcavage and Curtis Haley teamed up to capture the 2013 AGA Robinson Fall Fourball Tournament. Bolcavage and Haley carded a round of 67 highlighted by a spectacular 6-under-par 30 on the back to win on a match-of-cards over Damian LaRue (Stonehedge Golf Club) and Kevin Rossi (Scranton Muni. Golf Club) who also shot 67.

In the Senior Division Wyoming Valley Country Club's Joe Weiscarger and Chad Rado carded a round of 68 to capture the title over Mill Race Golf Club's Carl Stackhouse and Stonehedge Golf Club member Matt Swanson who ended the day with a solid round of 69 to finish second.

The even was named in honor of Carlyle Robinson for his many contributions to the game of golf and his dedication and support of the AGA. His service was recognized by the golf association with the inaugural event in 2011. Robinson was not only an outstanding local amateur golfer, but served for over 35 years on the Anthracite Golf Association executive committee.

In total 60 golfers representing 20 clubs competed in two divisions, with top finishers receiving points toward the 2013 Player & Senior Player of the Year awards and to qualify for the year-end Challenge Cup. This year's Senior Player of the Year will receive an invitation to the 2014 Senior North South Amateur in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

#### **OPEN DIVISION RESULTS:**

	67
	67
	70
ACITE	72
AND DO	75
3	76
	77
P	
SOCIAT	68
	69
	71
	72
	72
	72
	73
	73
	73
	RESPOCIATION