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1982 Masters champion Craig Stadler carries his
young son Kevin during a practice round at Augusta
National. Photograph courtesy of Craig Stadler.



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April 2014 Volume 13, Number 1

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Colorado AvidGolfer (ISSN 1548-4335) is published eight times a year by Baker-Colorado Publishing, LLC, and printed by American Web, Inc. Volume 12, Number Eight. 7200 S. Alton Way #B-180, Centennial, CO 80112. Colorado AvidGolfer is available at more than 250 locations, or you Winter order your personal subscription by calling 720-493-1729. Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$17.95 per year. Copyright © 2014 by Baker-Colorado Publishing, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Postmaster: Send address changes to Colorado AvidGolfer, 7200 S Alton Way #B-180 Centennial, CO 80112. The magazine welcomes editorial submissions but assumes no responsibility for the safekeeping or return of unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, artwork or other material.

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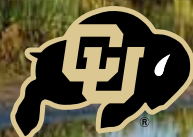





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Forethoughts

OF PATERS AND PUTTERS



FORETHOUGHTS PHOTO BY TED MCINTYRE

FATHER'S DAY ISN'T for two more months, but this issue's cover story has prompted reflection about the bond golf forges between generations.

I have very limited firsthand knowledge of that bond. My father, who turns 92 next month, and I have played exactly one round of golf together. It occurred some 35 years ago at James Baird State Park in Dutchess County, New York, and I remember marveling at how he, despite playing maybe three times in his life, soldiered through the round in 120 swings without losing one ball. A lesson in perseverance and thrift!

When I became a father, I tried getting my daughter and son to join me on the course. She never liked it. He did at first, but I think the attraction was more about driving the cart than the ball and in draining pops in the clubhouse rather than putts on the course. We soon found other ways of enjoying our time together.

One way is watching movies both old and new. Yeah, we both laugh at *Caddyshack* and *Happy Gilmore*, but those father-son classics like *Life Is Beautiful*, *Field of Dreams* and even *The Godfather* resonate more profoundly. The funny thing is, a love of movies is something *my* father and I have always shared. These days, he watches Turner Classic Movies 24/7, and last December my sister and I took him on a TCM Classic Cruise. For five days we savored wonderful films on enormous screens, learned the backstories, met some stars (Robert Wagner, Jane Powell) and truly had the time of our lives. Dad even got to pose with an Oscar. I said he won it for Best Performance in a Leading Role.

In truth, his role was both a leading and a supporting one. He urged and inspired my sister and me to pursue our passions. I've tried to do that with my kids. My daughter's following her muse in California. My son, now a computer science major in college, may have cycled out of golf but he rocked *Colorado AvidGolfer* last summer as our digital intern.

The pride I felt working alongside Henry probably doesn't compare with the joy Craig Stadler will feel playing alongside Kevin at this month's Masters, where no other father and son have previously appeared in the same field. Craig, as you'll read on page 76, never pushed Kevin to play golf. He encouraged and supported him, caddied for him and occasionally advised him. The results speak for themselves.

The relationship between fathers and sons is ostensibly different than the one between a golfer and his or her equipment (although I do know some folks who'd trade up for a dad with more forgiveness and a bigger sweet spot). But while you're perusing our Buyer's Guide (page 23) remember these clubs, balls, apparel and accessories are merely tools with which to apply your skills. And the skills and qualities that help you handle trickier breaks than you'll find on any putting green are those a parent need not ever step foot on a golf course to teach. —JON RIZZI

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Want to Play Famously?

Golf changed Jeremy Thee's life. Despite living with paralysis in his right leg as a result of polio contracted as an infant, the Lakewood resident plays as often as he can. Mizuno selected Thee and another player from a pool of more than 1,000 candidates for its 2014 Play Famously campaign designed to "showcase the life-changing, transformative power of the game." Outfitted with JPX irons and wedges, Thee will compete against 11 other "Team JPX" members in a September tournament. To follow his inspiring story and to find out how you (or a golfer you know) can become a Team JPX member, visit coloradoavidgolfer.com.



GREAT ESCAPES

In February's Accenture Match Play Championship, Victor Dubuisson made two incredible escapes from the cacti to extend his playoff with eventual winner Jason Day. We collected some other Houdini acts worth remembering. See all three videos, plus a few more, at coloradoavidgolfer.com.



SERGIO BACKHANDS ONE FROM A TREE >>>



JIMENEZ BANKS IT OFF A WALL AND ONTO THE GREEN >>>



What'd You Shoot?



Who has the honors—Bugs or Peter? With spring in the air, a pair of rascally rabbits face off on the teeing area at The Pinery, prompting the anonymous guest of a member to send this photo. **Do you have a cool golf-related photo to share—like from a beautiful course, or a Tour event, or of wildlife?** Email it to kate@coloradoavidgolfer.com, along with the story behind it. We'll post the photos online and publish our favorites in upcoming issues.

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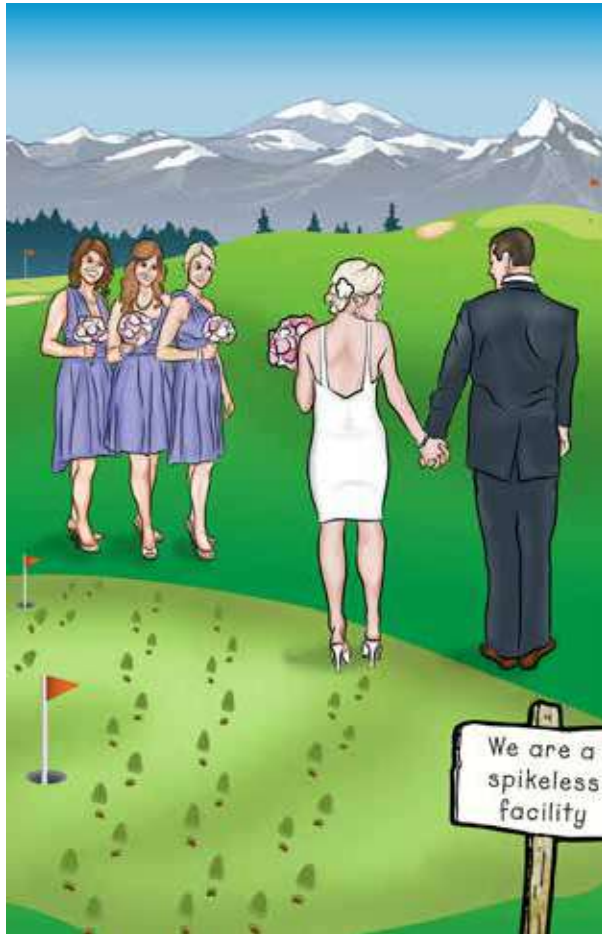
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Super Secrets: To Have and to Heel

The beauty of golf courses makes them the perfect setting for a wedding. However, as a golf course superintendent, I always take a big breath when I see the chairs and flowers being set up on the practice tee—which, unfortunately, at my club is on the other side of the putting green. We certainly aerify our greens as part of our maintenance schedule, but we get extra help during the wedding season. One would think that the first stiletto heel sunk three inches into a finely mowed putting surface would suggest taking an alternate route. Instead, many wedding guests seem to view this as a fun challenge; they all scatter as if trying to help us aerify the entire green. Nothing deters them, and after the ceremony they repeat the whole process! —*Dave Cahalane, Golf Course Superintendent, The Golf Club at Bear Dance*

WEAR TO PLAY by Jim Dandy

Brim Shot

Is there a difference here? I mean, they're both wearing flat-brimmed hats. There is the obvious: the man on the left, Stan Laurel, was one of the funniest people ever born; the man on the right, Rickie Fowler, is one of the funniest dressers ever born. And one of the items that makes the latter look funny is his flat-brimmed Puma cap. It's one of those fashion statements made from the mouth that should have been kept closed. Is your head flat? Are you a gangbanger? Are the tops of your ears cold? Do you really want to make people laugh? See, Rickie reminds me of a tube of wasabi, but he makes lots of green for playing golf—and for looking silly while doing it. None of us do. That flat-brim you think you're "rocking"? It's just slapstick, not manly, becoming, or even relevant to what you are doing on the course. It's hard to drive (or roll in a putt, for that matter) with anything flat.

Notable Potables

Red Rocks Country Club's On the Green

While the golf world eagerly awaits the winner of the green jacket at Augusta this month, members of Morrison's Red Rocks Country Club are also counting down the days to swim season and the poolside specialty, On the Green.

Most popular during the club's Friday Night Happy Hours between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the refreshing concoction represents the most memorable of the myriad creative food and drink specials that accompany the live musical entertainment and dazzling views of Red Rocks Amphitheatre. The weekly gathering draws members and guests by the hundreds.

"An On the Green goes perfectly with a hot day on the course or a fun night by the pool," says Red Rocks Membership Director Ali Canyon. "It's as quenching as it is colorful—like a tropical breeze in the scenic mountain landscape."



ILLUSTRATION (OPPOSITE) BY ZACHARY HECE | ON THE GREEN COURTESY OF RED ROCKS COUNTRY CLUB

On the Green Mix

- 2 oz. vodka
- 1/2 oz. blue curacao
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- 1 oz. pineapple juice

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the Gallery

NEWS | NOTES | NAMES

PERFECT FIT

AS OF THIS MONTH, the Colorado Women's Golf Association has its first new executive director in 22 years. Ann Guiberson is succeeding Robin Jervey, who has moved to Massachusetts to be with her fiancé, Scott Whitcomb, and to become director of event management for Boston-based JBC Golf, which runs the Legends Tour—the LPGA equivalent of the Champions Tour for players 45 and older.

Something of a legend herself, Jervey oversaw the CWGA's growth—in staff size, in junior golf and tournament participation, and in revenue. Above all, she stimulated the growth of Colorado's reputation in the national golf community. Her impeccable knowledge of the Rules of Golf earned her officiating positions at the Masters, U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Women's Open and other USGA championships. She also served on the USGA's Rules of Golf, Handicap Procedure, Joe Dey Award and Regional Associations committees; became the first woman to represent a women's golf association on the board of International Association of Golf Administrators; and in 2010 was elected the IAGA president.

And her skills as a player certainly served her well. A club champion at Meridian and Baltusrol (in New Jersey, where she made it to the finals of the 1985 state match play), she won three consecutive CWGA Brassie Championships with partner Kelly Schaub and competed in four USGA Championships.

If any résumé stacks up to Jervey's, it belongs to Guiberson, a highly decorated collegiate golfer at the University of Nebraska who worked for the CWGA from 1995 to 1999 before leaving to become the USGA's director of regional affairs for the East and Great Lakes Regions—"an enormous territory," she says—and director of the USGA Women's State Team Championship. As executive director, she says she'll be resolute in her desire to "make golf fun and welcoming" and will continue her predecessor's work in "increasing participation, improving affordability and growing and retaining membership."

"With me wanting to move east to be with Scott and my



BLAZER TAG: Robin Jervey turns over the CWGA to Ann Guiberson.

family and with Ann wanting to move closer to her family in Fort Collins, we used to joke that we should just switch jobs," Jervey said prior to leaving. "And it just about worked out that way. I couldn't leave the CWGA in better hands."



The Joy of Checks

In what has become a wonderful tradition during its March Golf-A-Rama, the PGA TOUR SuperStore in Greenwood Village presented \$5,000 grants to both **The First Tee of Denver** and **The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch**. In partnership with The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, PGA TOUR SuperStore associates support The First Tee chapters reaching young people in 13 cities across the country.

CHECKS, PLEASE: From left, Paula Purifoy, Executive Director, The First Tee of Denver; Scott O'Sullivan, Board President, The First Tee of Denver; Jerry Walters, Community Associate, PGA TOUR Superstore; Tony Antista, Board Chairman, The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch; and Kevin Laura, Executive Director, The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch and a half-dozen participants in The First Tee programs.

Open Season on Fox and Deer

Two Colorado courses went into foreclosure during the winter, leaving members and neighboring residents feeling uneasy.

On January 2 **The Golf Club at Fox Acres** in Red Feather Lakes announced on Facebook “that due to circumstances beyond our control,” it would be “suspending all operations effective immediately.” Situated between the toe-curling Medicine Bow and Rawah ranges 45 minutes northwest of Fort Collins, the 6,262-yard layout opened 30 years ago as part a 459-acre private community developed by Colorado Golf Hall of Famer Ray Stenzel. By 2012, however, it had changed its name from Fox Acres Country Club to The Golf Club at Fox Acres



and aggressively courted public play and lodging packages. By the end of the 2013 season, a sheriff’s sale was announced. According to a member of the Fox Acres Community Services Corporation, “The foreclosure is official. The bank owns it now, and there will be an attempt to open it for the season but that does not look likely.”

A similar fate befell Monument’s **King’s Deer Golf Club** February 17. Apparently without warning, the 6,717-yard public course shut its doors after the Nebraska-based Exchange Bank foreclosed on the ownership group, locked

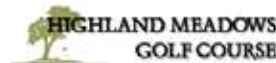
down the property and dismissed the staff. Residents in the 532-home development, many of whom had just paid their annual golf fee for 2014, worried about property values in a golf course community without a golf course—or a course with an uncertain future. “That was one of the reasons we bought here,” one resident said of the Redstone Golf layout that opened in 1999. “Almost everybody in the community is very worried about our property values.” King’s Deer is the second recent golf course casualty in northern El Paso County. Nearby Gleaneagle Golf Club closed November 1.



MISSING LINKS: Banks have foreclosed on Fox Acres (upper left) and King’s Deer.

The Lowdown on the Highlands

Denver has its trendy Highlands neighborhood, but no room for a golf course to go in it. No matter. Colorado has four similar-sounding “highland” golf properties, two of which are 15 miles apart in northern Colorado.



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Architect (built)	Henry Hughes (1963), Frank Hummel (1985), Greg Mastriona (1988)	Hale Irwin (1998)	Art Schaupeter (2004)	Frank Hummel (1960)
Fee Range	\$4-\$37 for non-district	\$52- \$78	\$40- \$69	\$27-\$40
Description	2 championship 18s; 2 nine-hole par-3 courses and a stunning new clubhouse	7,179 yards with elevation changes and great mountain views	Challenging 7,011-yard centerpiece of upscale golf community	6,723-yard gem with tree-lined fairways, rolling hills, and push-up greens
Claim to Fame	Hosted 1990 United States Women’s Public Links Championship	Became home of University of Denver golf teams in 2012	Ranked by <i>Golf Digest</i> as one of America’s Best New Affordable Courses in 2005	The older, by 32 years, of Greeley’s two municipal layouts (Boomerang is the other)

Golf by Numbers

14

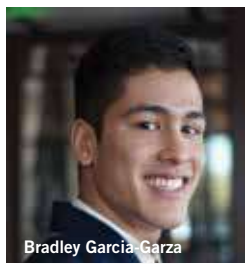
Colorado teenagers will move into the University of Colorado's Evans Scholarship House in Boulder this fall. Selected from a field of more than 40 applicants, they are the lucky recipients of the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship, which covers four years of housing and tuition (valued at approximately \$80,000) for high school students with a strong caddie record, excellent academics and who demonstrate financial need and outstanding character. The Illinois-based Western Golf Association, which partners with the Colorado Golf Association and Colorado Women's Golf Association in support of the program, awarded the scholarships after a January 29 selection meeting at Cherry Hills Country Club. The club will host this September's BMW Championship, and all proceeds from the event will be donated to the Evans Scholars Founda-



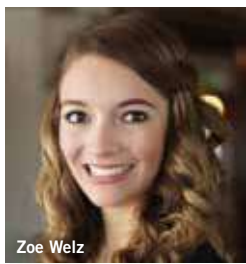
Dalton Anderson



Audrey Sichel



Bradley Garcia-Garza



Zoe Welz

tion. The students and the clubs at which they caddied are: **Bradley Garcia-Garza**, **Dalton Anderson** and **Arturo Mata-Martinez** (Cherry Hills); **Timothy Johnson**, **Kyle Bruna** and **Alexandra Revilla Serrano** (Roaring Fork); **Jordan Gillmore** and **Benjamin Garcia** (Lakewood), **Kobe Padilla** and **Soren Fuchs** (Denver); **Audrey Sichel** (Maroon Creek); **Perrin Swoveland-Bailey** and **Zoe Welz** (Broadmoor); **Blake Biskner** (Castle Pines Golf Club). wgaesf.org; 800-228-4675

2 women will now handle the duties previously carried out by longtime Colorado Open Golf Foundation Chief Operations Officer LindaSue Chenoweth, who resigned in February. **Kristen Hicks**, who most recently was a tournament coordi-

nator leading up to last year's Solheim Cup, will serve as tournament director for the three HealthONE Colorado Opens. **Katie Milstead**, previously the program director for The First Tee of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs, will have the same title with The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch. [CAG](#) [f](#) [t](#) [w](#) [i](#) [t](#)

GET IN THE GALLERY: Got an item to share? e-mail jon@coloradoavidgolfer.com



Arturo Mata-Martinez

MULLIGANS

The Spring 2014 issue featured two incorrect photo credits. Todd Langley shot the portrait of Aaron Kennedy (right). The photograph of Lake Valley GC's Per-simmon Grill was shot by Jamie Schwaberow/Clarkson Creative.



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- Installation Included
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920CAG

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BLADES
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WITH ALIGNMENT PURCHASE



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- Cart included in all prices

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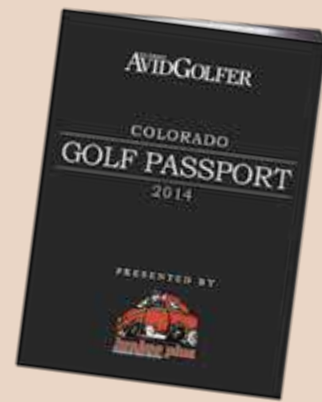
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ALL PRICES INCLUDE A CART

Golf Courses	1/1-5/31	6/1-8/31	9/1-12/31	Available Tee Times	Weekend Play	Total Rounds
Antler Creek, Falcon	\$28	\$35	\$28	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 11am	Yes	3
Broadlands, Broomfield	\$35	\$35	\$35	Mon-Thurs after 12pm	No	3
Broken Tee, Englewood	\$30	\$30	\$30	Mon-Thurs after 12pm	No	8
Buffalo Run, Commerce City	\$39	\$39	\$39	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	3
Colorado National, Erie EXCLUSIVE!	\$45	\$49	\$40	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	3
CommonGround, Aurora* EXCLUSIVE!	\$42	\$42	\$42	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	3
Eagle Trace, Broomfield	\$30	\$30	\$30	Mon-Thurs after 11am, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	3
Family Sports Center, Centennial*	\$19	\$21	\$19	Anytime, anytime	Yes	Unlimited
Fitzsimons, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	\$26/\$29	\$26/\$29	\$26/\$29	Mon-Fri after 11am, Sat-Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Foothills, Littleton	\$34/\$47	\$34/\$47	\$34/\$47	Mon-Thurs after 1pm, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	4
Four Mile Ranch, Canyon City NEW!	\$30	\$30	\$30	Mon-Fri anytime, Sat-Sun after 12pm	Yes	4
Fox Hollow, Lakewood	\$44	\$44	\$44	Mon-Thurs after 1pm, Fri-Sun after 1:30pm	Yes	Unlimited
Green Valley Ranch, Denver EXCLUSIVE!	\$35	\$40	\$35	SHOULDERS: Mon-Thurs before 9am, after 12pm, Fri-Sun after 2pm; PEAK: Mon-Thurs before 9am, after 1pm, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	3
Heritage at Westmoor, Westminster	\$40	\$40	\$40	Monday-Thursday Anytime, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Unlimited
Heritage Eagle Bend, Aurora	\$34/\$40	\$48/\$54	\$34/\$40	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	2
Highland Meadows, Windsor	\$34	\$44	\$34	Mon-Thurs after 12pm, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Highlands Ranch GC, Highlands Ranch	\$45/\$56	\$55/\$66	\$45/\$56	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	5
The Homestead Golf Course, Lakewood	\$34	\$34	\$34	Mon-Thurs after 1pm, Fri-Sun after 1:30 pm	Yes	Unlimited
The Greg Mastriona Golf Courses at Hyland Hills, Westminster	\$39	\$39	\$39	Mon-Thurs after 11am, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Unlimited
Indian Tree, Arvada	\$35	\$35	\$35	Seasons 1 & 2 any day after 11am, Season 3 any day, anytime	Yes	3
The Inverness, Englewood* EXCLUSIVE!	\$56	\$76	\$56	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	3
Kings Deer, Monument EXCLUSIVE!	\$32	\$32	\$32	Mon-Thurs after 11am, Fri-Sun after 2 pm	Yes	2
Legacy Ridge, Westminster	\$45	\$45	\$45	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Unlimited
The Links, Highlands Ranch	\$31/\$36	\$35/\$40	\$31/\$36	SHOULDER: Mon-Thurs anytime Fri-Sun after 12pm PEAK: Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Littleton Golf and Tennis Club, Littleton	\$29/\$31	\$29/\$31	\$29/\$31	Mon-Thurs after 11am, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Unlimited
Lone Tree Golf Club, Lone Tree	\$49	\$59	\$47	Mon-Thurs after 11am, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Shoulders: Unlimited Peak: 2
Meadows, Littleton	\$38/\$50	\$38/\$50	\$38/\$50	Mon-Thurs after 1pm, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	4
Meadow Hills, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	\$31/\$35	\$31/\$35	\$31/\$35	Mon-Fri after 11am, Sat-Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Murphy Creek, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	\$35/\$42	\$35/\$42	\$35/\$42	Mon-Fri after 11am, Sat-Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Omni Interlocken, Broomfield	\$55	\$65	\$60	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri before 12; Sat-Sun after 12	Yes	3
Pine Creek, Colorado Springs	\$39	\$39	\$39	Mon-Thurs after 12pm, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	9
Quail Dunes, Fort Morgan NEW!	\$20	\$23	\$20	Any day, Anytime	Yes	3
Raccoon Creek, Littleton NEW!	\$37/\$44	\$37/\$44	\$37/\$44	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	4

58

COURSES

215

TOTAL ROUNDS
OR MORE

55

COURSES WITH
WEEKEND PLAY

11

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Golf Courses	1/1-5/31	6/1-8/31	9/1-12/31	Available Tee Times	Weekend Play	Total Rounds
The Ridge at Castle Pines, Castle Rock* EXCLUSIVE!	\$50	\$65	\$50	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri- Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Saddle Rock, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	\$37/\$44	\$37/\$44	\$37/\$44	Mon-Fri after 11am, Sat-Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
South Suburban Par 3, Centennial*	\$9	\$9	\$9	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 11 am	Yes	Unlimited
Sumo Golf Village, Florence	\$22	\$27	\$22	Any day after 12pm	Yes	2
Thorncreek, Thornton	\$28	\$38	\$28	Mon-Thurs after 10 am	No	3
Todd Creek, Thornton	\$40	\$45	\$40	Mon-Fri after 10am, Sat- Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Walking Stick, Pueblo NEW!	\$32	\$32	\$32	Mon-Thurs after 11:30 am, Fri-Sun after 12:30 pm	Yes	Unlimited
Mountain Courses*						
Breckenridge Golf Club, Breckenridge*	\$99	\$99	\$99	Sun-Thurs anytime 27-holes; Peak season- Sundays only 18-holes	Yes	2
The Bridges, Montrose	\$53	\$53	\$53	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 11 am	Yes	2
Cederedge Golf Club, Cedaredge	\$35	\$40	\$35	Any day, anytime	Yes	Unlimited
Devil's Thumb, Delta	\$40	\$40	\$40	Mon-Thurs after 11 am, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	3
Eagle Ranch, Eagle EXCLUSIVE!	\$35	\$55	\$35	Any day after 11 am	Yes	2
Eagle Vail, Avon	\$55	\$70	\$55	Mon-Thurs after 11 am, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	2
Golf Granby Ranch, Granby	\$54	\$54	\$54	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 11 am	Yes	Unlimited
Grand Elk, Granby	\$32/\$39	\$45/\$54	\$39/\$45	Sun-Thurs after 11 am, Fri -Sat 12pm	Yes	3
Grand Lake, Grand Lake NEW!	\$39.50	\$49.50	\$39.50	Any day after 11 am	Yes	3
Haymaker, Steamboat NEW!	\$50	\$79	\$50	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	Unlimited
Keystone Ranch, Keystone	\$65	\$90	\$65	Any day, Anytime	Yes	Unlimited
Lakota Canyon, New Castle	\$49	\$70	\$49	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri -Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Pole Creek, Tabernash	\$45	\$45	\$45	Sunday-Thursday after 11 am	Yes	3
The Raven at Three Peaks, Silverthorne	\$55	\$89	\$55	Any day after 12pm	Yes	Unlimited
Redlands Mesa, Grand Junction	\$63	\$70	\$63	Any day, Anytime	Yes	4
The River Course at Keystone, Keystone	\$75	\$105	\$75	Any day after 11 am	Yes	Unlimited
Tiara Rado, Grand Junction NEW!	\$30	\$30	\$30	Mon-Thurs anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	3
Vail Golf Club, Vail	\$50	\$89	\$50	Mon- Thurs and Sun after 1pm	Yes	3

* CommonGround offer: Must be CGA, CWGA or Golf Passport Plus member to get rate

* Family Sports: 9 Hole Golf Course

* South Suburban: Par 3 - Cart not included

* Breckenridge offer: Open - 6/30 \$99 (27 Holes); 7/1-8/31 \$99 (18 Holes, Sundays Only); 9/1-Close \$99 (27 Holes)

* Shoulder and Peak seasons may vary

Go to coloradoavidgolfer.com for complete details.

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Monday, August 4

8:00am

2-person best ball

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at CASTLE PINES NORTH

Wednesday, September 10

1:30pm

4-person scramble

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player's **Corner**

2014

buyer's guide

Though Charles I and the Marquis of Montrose might not recognize it today, golf remains at its core what they described in the 1600s as “our game of clubs and balls.” The following pages spotlight the latest versions of those implements—the majority of which focus not on distance, but on adjustability, customization and control—and the most notable apparel and accessories. They’re all supposed to make golf more fun—a pursuit as concerned with good shots as it is with good experiences. In other words, *a game*.

By Ted Johnson

BUYER'S GUIDE drivers

Titleist 913 D2

- ✓ Separate loft & lie adjustments
 - ✓ Lighter for faster swing speed plus variable face more forgiving
 - ✗ Not forgiving enough for 15 hcp
- \$400**



Adams XTD

- ✓ 3 slots for lightness & face flex
 - ✓ Adams leads in slot technology & variable face thickness = distance
 - ✗ Not for slicers
- \$400**



TaylorMade SLDR TP

- ✓ First to move Cg closer to face
 - ✓ Front Cg promotes ball speed to go with loft-lie plus fade/draw adjusting
 - ✗ Don't hit it high on face
- \$500**



Callaway Big Bertha

- ✓ 8 separate fitting settings + sliding ring
 - ✓ Ultimate hosel adjustments for loft/lie and sliding ring for draw/fade
 - ✗ Doesn't allow Cg movement
- \$400**



Ping i25

- ✓ Titanium head and face
 - ✓ Tungsten weights lowers Cg, but more Tour players use G25
 - ✗ Only half-degree adjusting
- \$400**



Callaway Big Bertha Alpha

- ✓ 8 separate fitting settings + up-down Cg
 - ✓ Ultimate fitting capabilities for consistency; hot ball speed for distance
 - ✗ Takes a while to fit
- \$400**



Ping G25

- ✓ Most MOI + low Cg
 - ✓ Limited fitting but works for 18-handicap as well as Bubba Watson
 - ✗ Hyper-customizing is the fad
- \$300**



Ryoma D-1 V-SPEC

- ✓ Japan tech creates thinnest ti head
 - ✓ Interior frame and big tungsten rear weight = stability and distance
 - ✗ Very high tech & expensive
- \$1,200**



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fairway metals

Nike Covert Hybrid

- ✓ Larger heads in lower loft = forgiveness
 - ✓ Heads get smaller as lofts increase for more shot shaping at 17° & up
 - ✗ Large adjustable hosel
- \$180**



Tour Edge Exotics XCG7

- ✓ Four interior weight pads for stability
 - ✓ Lower trajectory, low spin, cupped face = great sound & performance
 - ✗ Loses out on new tech trend
- \$160**



Ping i25

- ✓ Change the loft, change Cg also
 - ✓ Compact look & shaft fitting process means no more 2-, 3-, 4-irons
 - ✗ Compact = for better golfers
- \$220**



Callaway X2 Hot Hybrid

- ✓ Thinner face for more flex & exit speed
 - ✓ Seemingly designed for boring, controlled tee shots
 - ✗ Pro-style look can be scary
- \$200**



TaylorMade JetSpeed

- ✓ Lightweight with slot technology
 - ✓ Takes over for Rocketballz line; boring ball flight, good off tight lies
 - ✗ Longer shafts can be tough
- \$230**



Ping G25

- ✓ Thinnest face ever for Ping fairway wood
 - ✓ "Racing" stripes on crown for alignment, variable face for hot, deep hits
 - ✗ Needs high swing speed
- \$250**



Adams Tight Lies Tour

- ✓ Slot technology = thin faces for distance
 - ✓ Slots in sole and crown create more flex for booming distance
 - ✗ Intimidating low profile
- \$230**



Adams Pro Hybrid

- ✓ Compact head, slot tech for hot face
 - ✓ Most forgiving, longest high performance hybrid; pros love it
 - ✗ Not a lot of adjustability
- \$200**



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The Ridge at Castle Pines North offers golfers an idyllic passage to a high country experience at the foot of Colorado's infamous Front Range, the former stomping grounds of Calamity Jane and Buffalo Bill. Ample fairways marked by prominent rock outcroppings, sculpted bun-



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BUYER'S GUIDE irons

Callaway Apex Pro

- ✓ Tungsten weights in sole in 3-5 clubs
 - ✓ Long irons launch high, higher Cg in lower irons for control; feel galore
 - ✗ Make sure shaft is for you
- \$1,100**



Nike Covert Forged

- ✓ Strong 8655 steel welded to 1025 body
 - ✓ Classic look but more forgiving without losing feedback and feel
 - ✗ 3-iron to 5-iron virtually same
- \$1,100**



Adams XTD Forged

- ✓ More slot tech for hot face in forged club
 - ✓ Thin, high steel face welded to forged 1025 body + tungsten toe weights
 - ✗ No 3- or 4-iron in set
- \$1,100**



Titleist AP2 714

- ✓ Tungsten weighting, thinner face
 - ✓ Titleist's easiest-to-hit player's iron in dozens of tour bags
 - ✗ Shafts too strong for most
- \$1,100**



Mizuno MP-54

- ✓ Cavity-back design with classic look
 - ✓ Looks hard to hit, but very easy with tremendous feel
 - ✗ Not for the distance hungry
- \$1,000**



Mizuno JPX-EZ-Forged

- ✓ Slots in 4-7 + vibration control
 - ✓ Ultimate game improvement; forgiveness & traditional feel = awesome
 - ✗ M fans might not like look
- \$900**



Wilson D100 ES

- ✓ Five irons + three hybrids = easy to hit
 - ✓ Good set for beginners who want consistency in getting ball airborne
 - ✗ Can't pinch off tight lies
- \$600**



Ping Karsten

- ✓ Large head, ultimate cavity design
 - ✓ Large hitting area combined with weighting for high, straight shots
 - ✗ Clunky looking but effective
- \$900**





Shhh...



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WEDGES



Cobra Tour Trusty

- ✓ Venerable '90's design returns
 - ✓ Great grooves plus ultimate sole = versatile in hooding or flopping
 - ✗ Might offer too many options
- \$120**



Ping Tour S

- ✓ Gorge grooves right at USGA limits
 - ✓ Compact head, 17-4 stainless and heel-toe weighting = great design
 - ✗ Lacks modern surface tech
- \$130**



Cleveland 588 RTX CB

- ✓ High spin but with forgiving sole
 - ✓ Not as demanding as RTX but provides high spin for more control
 - ✗ Not as many loft choices
- \$120**

Callaway Mack Daddy 2

- ✓ Two groove patterns in soft 1025 steel
 - ✓ Great feel but also consistency; wide grooves on 56-up, thin on 54-down
 - ✗ Mickelson named the line
- \$120**



Nike VR X3X

- ✓ Unique groove and sole design
 - ✓ Grabby grooves; unique sole for low leading edge in all lies, even flops
 - ✗ Players saying, "What's that?"
- \$110**

Mizuno MP-T4

- ✓ Different groove designs; great feel
 - ✓ Thinner grooves on lower lofts for consistency; bigger on 56 on up
 - ✗ Only 3 lofts for lefthanders
- \$130**



Hopkins CJ-1

- ✓ Call in for ultimate personal grinds
 - ✓ Golf Channel ad offers customization to course, your swing
 - ✗ Traditional grooves and face
- \$100**



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putters/balls

Odyssey Versa No. 9

- ✓ Small mallet w/ white-black-stripes
 - ✓ Polymer face for great feel; alignment is square every time
 - ✗ Lacks high-tech grooves
- \$200**



Nike Method MOD 30

- ✓ Polymer backing of face = no-skid putts
 - ✓ There's a reason why Tiger and Rory use this model
 - ✗ Not good for shaggy greens
- \$300**



Ping Karsten TR

- ✓ CNC milled face with variable grooves
 - ✓ Classic Ping head with high-tech face = great feel, consistency
 - ✗ Colors are bright
- \$150**



Yes i4 Tech Callie

- ✓ C-groove insert still tops in good roll
 - ✓ Yes' proprietary face tech still works, i4 model has classic looks
 - ✗ Minimal alignment features
- \$180**



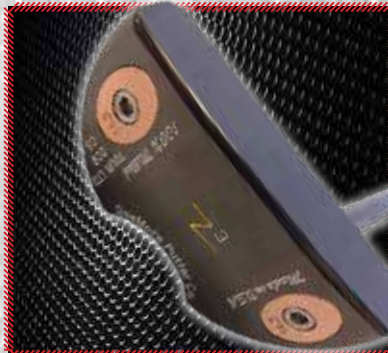
Odyssey Versa Tank

- ✓ 12 models in large mallet line
 - ✓ Alignment is easy; sweetspot huge, stable and counterweighted
 - ✗ Polymer face, not grooves
- \$170**



Seemore z3 Tour Limited Black

- ✓ Best new Seemore line in years
 - ✓ First, it teaches you to line up putts; milled face offers buttery feel
 - ✗ Takes getting used to
- \$450**



TaylorMade Project (a)

- ✓ New ball for serious mid-handicapper
 - ✓ New urethane cover enables more spin but still great distance
 - ✗ 86 compression a little soft
- \$31**



Maxfli U6

- ✓ 6-layer ball with soft core in 3 models
 - ✓ U6 & U6X for swing speeds of 90 mph and up; low spin for distance
 - ✗ Harder cover
- \$40**



Callaway HEX Chrome+

- ✓ 4-piece ball jumps off face
 - ✓ Great performance in mid-price range
 - ✗ Putts can feel a little clicky
- \$32**



Callaway SR3

- ✓ 5-piece ball with Hex dimple cover
 - ✓ Designed for swing speeds 105 mph & up; Callaway pros will play it
 - ✗ Slower swing speeds? SR1&2
- \$48**





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Mike B., Littleton



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"Gem of a course...
The staff is top rate, and the rates are top notch. Dollar for dollar, one of the best values going."

Peter M., Denver

ACCESSORIES

[BEFORE YOU LEAVE] ▶▶

Garmin Approach S4 GPS Watch

- ✓ Easier than phone app or laser finder
- ✓ Front, middle, back green yardages; doglegs, too—and it's a watch
- ✗ You feel like Dick Tracy

\$350



Nike Hyperadapt wind jacket

- ✓ Lightweight, nylon outercover that breathes
- ✓ Nylon for protection, stretch fabric in right places for fit; good in 50-80 degrees
- ✗ Versatility isn't cheap

\$100



Ecco World Class GTX shoe

- ✓ Full leather sole, supple leather uppers
- ✓ A throwback to your dad's best golf shoes for Cherry Hills invite
- ✗ Stiff, has to be broken in

\$450



Foot-Joy RainGrip Golf Gloves

- ✓ Suedemark microfiber for max grip
- ✓ So easy to put in bottom of bag; so needed in cold, wet conditions
- ✗ Do you ever use 2 at a time?

\$15



Foot-Joy DNA golf shoe

- ✓ Pittards Chromoskin upper, flex sole
- ✓ Waterproof, breathability, supple and super thin sole for max stability
- ✗ Rather mod for traditionalists

\$180



Adidas Adicross Spikeless Shoes

- ✓ Lightweight, stable, easy on the feet
- ✓ Jim Furyk wears them because they're comfortable, need more?
- ✗ Throwback to old adidas

\$80





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Sandy Rufenacht
CEO, Chief Investment Officer and
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ACCESSORIES

[the BAG & ALL] ▶▶



Ping Moonlight Carry Bag

- ✓ Polyester-nylon that weighs just 2.5lbs.
 - ✓ For the dedicated walker who desires easy-to-carry
 - ✗ Just three pockets
- \$90**



Ogio Aquatec cart bag

- ✓ Nylon with welded seams and zippers
 - ✓ 18-way top and enough pockets to store a closet and keeps it all dry
 - ✗ Cart only; no one will carry it
- \$280**



Sun Mountain Three 5 stand bag

- ✓ Re-designed and weighs less than 4 lbs
 - ✓ Easy on-off strap, plenty of room and stylish - best combo bag available
 - ✗ Legs lock when used on cart
- \$180**

Bushnell Tour Z6 JOLT

- ✓ Ultra-compact, fast, bright rangefinder
 - ✓ For those who like to shoot, bright screen, fast reads = No. 1 on Tour
 - ✗ Another thing for your hands
- \$400**



Flix divot repair tool

- ✓ Switchblade style means smaller
 - ✓ Easy to get out of pocket; thin tines mean better repairs
 - ✓ Makes green repair easy
- \$10**



[the RANGE] ▶▶

SwingWing Inflatable Swing Trainer

- ✓ Simple, effective warmup swing tool
 - ✓ Inflates to provide resistance for greater speed; easy to carry
 - ✓ Very simple, very good
- \$25**



Foresight GC2 Smart Camera

- ✓ Personal launch monitor
 - ✓ Portable, gives ball & swing speed, trajectory, spin rate and carry dist
 - ✗ For the very, very serious
- \$5,500**



Swingsmart Golf swing Analyzer

- ✓ Attaches to shaft, analyzes swing data
 - ✓ Tempo, attack angle, swing speed & face angle in 3D sent to phone
 - ✗ Gotta know what info means
- \$250**



The Stick Travel Stick

- ✓ 17-inch roller for post-round stretching
 - ✓ Roll over calf, thigh & hip muscles to relieve post-golf stiffness
 - ✗ You'll get laughed at; but it works
- \$15**



local knowledge

Colorado Proud

Groundbreaking gear starts right here. By Jon Rizzi

KBS GOLF SHAFTS

[Boulder]

Talk about an upward trajectory. Two months after KBS Tour Shafts hit the market, Kenny Perry used them to win the 2009 FBR Open. Top PGA Tour players and club manufacturers took notice, and five years later, this subsidiary of FEMCO Steel Technologies (FST) trails only True Temper as the world's leading steel-shaft manufacturer.

The company's rapid ascension owes to KBS's Director of R&D and Tour Operations Kim Braly (KBS stands for Kim Braly Signature), a pioneer of shaft Frequency Matching and the creator of the revolutionary Rifle and Project X stepless steel shaft designs. Charged by FST's founders

to create a premier, high-performance line of steel shafts, Braly created lively, lightweight and responsive products that promote minimal dispersion, maximal distance and great feel.

More than 150 Tour players—including Ernie Els, Jim Furyk, Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Adam Scott and Justin Rose—play KBS. They now come standard on Callaway's Apex Pro irons, and every major manufacturer carries them, as do fitters across Colorado and the globe.

The benefits of the satin-finished shafts aren't limited to Tour players and low-handicappers, according to GolfTEC Director of Club Fitting Doug Rikkers, "KBS's wide range of flex and weight options means they have the right shaft for players of all skill levels." Braly main-



tains you "should play as stiff a shaft as you can load," so players who know their flex preference should count on moving up "half a flex" with KBS. kbsgolfs shafts.com; 303-444-2226



TOM WISHON GOLF TECHNOLOGY

[Durango]

By the time he'd started his own company in 2003, Tom Wishon had designed hundreds of clubheads for major golf companies. His creations represent more than 50 different technology firsts (such as the first metal driver head larger than 350cc) and have "inspired" some of the best-selling models of all time.

His club-making prowess dovetails with his club-fitting expertise. He has authored nine books—including *The Search for the Perfect Golf Club*—and expects all of his designs to undergo intense personalization with a

TWGT fitter listed on his website.

TWGT's newest offerings take fitting to a previously unseen degree of precision. Using non-alloyed CP grade titanium (instead of the nonflexible industry-standard 6Al/4V alloy), Wishon's 919THI driver features the first-ever bendable titanium hosel, which allows fitters to offer golfers any lie angle and face angle within a +/-4° range.

Club-fitters can achieve the same degree of adjustability with Wishon's 771CSI irons. These sweet cavity-backs are made of 1020C carbon steel and feature a cambered sole and blunted leading edge for greater playability, as well a variable-thickness face made of high-strength HS300 steel for greater forgiveness. wishongolf.com; 800-470-0072.

BLACK MAGIC GOLF

[Westminster]

First, hybrid technology took the long irons out of our bags. Now the hybrids have come for our short irons and our wedges—yes, wedges. Black Magic Wedges are available in 37°, 48°, 52°, 56° and 60° models, but the most critical degree is

zero. That's the bounce angle at impact, which allows the club's leading edge to slide forward and under the ball—even if you hit an inch or two behind it. The wedge's wide sole and hosel-free face-forward design promote cleaner contact from tight lies, deep grass and sand, as well as greater forgiveness on chunked shots. The resulting consistency in spin, trajectory and distance leads to greater confidence around the greens. blackmagicgolf.com; 877-799-6099



"PLAY GOLF!"

Baseball season has begun, so it's time to swing for the fences. By Trent Wearer



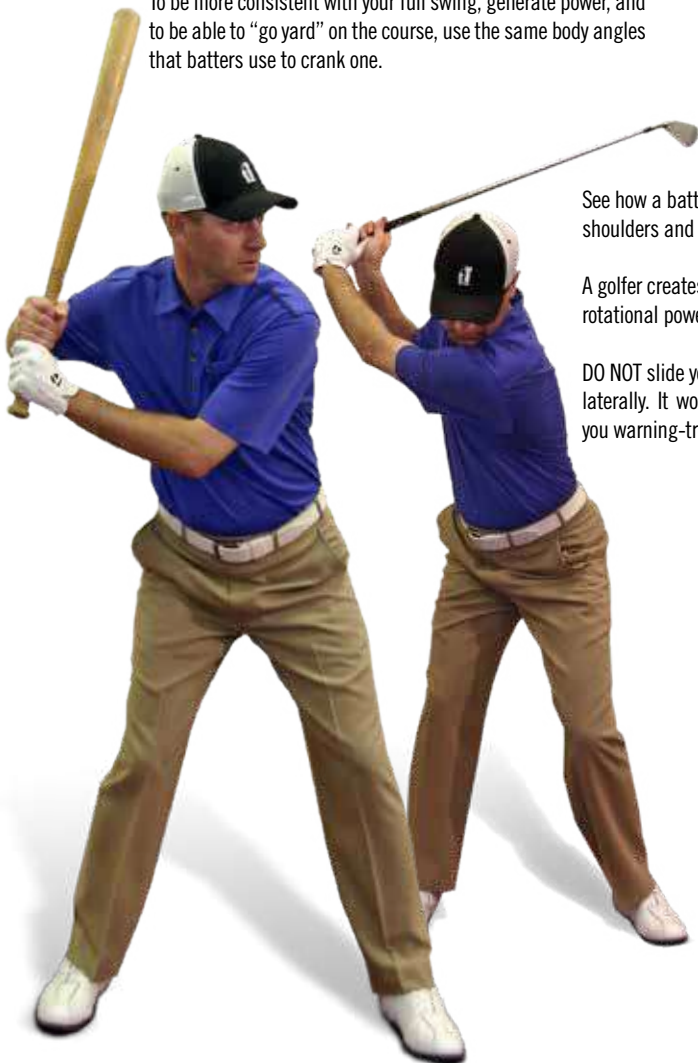
Trent Wearer is rated by his peers as the #1 Teacher in Colorado as published in Golf Digest. He and his staff coach players of all ages and abilities at Trent Wearer Golf. TrentWearerGolf.com 303-645-8000.

ABOUT THE ONLY THING as exciting as hitting or watching a home run is hitting and watching a drive of your own soar deep into the fairway. And the only thing more thrilling than seeing your team win in the bottom of the ninth is draining a putt on the 18th to beat your buddies.

With baseball and golf seasons now in full swing, let's look at how some tips from America's Pastime can help with your Royal & Ancient Game.

CLEANUP HITTER

To be more consistent with your full swing, generate power, and to be able to "go yard" on the course, use the same body angles that batters use to crank one.



See how a batter coils his shoulders and hips?

A golfer creates the same rotational power.

DO NOT slide your hips laterally. It won't even give you warning-track power.

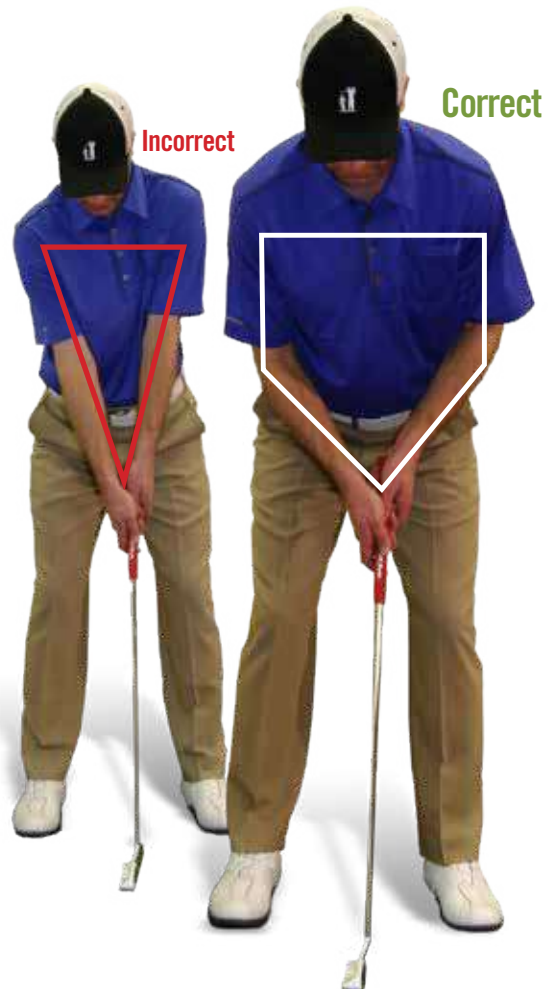
GETTING HOME

To make more putts, start with your composure and how relaxed you are by setting up as follows:

Tilt over from your hips to a position that allow your eyes to see the intended line/curve that the ball will take.

Drop/relax your shoulders taking the tension out of your shoulders, arms and wrists.

Allow your arms to bend so that your upper arms are lightly against the upper sides of your torso. This will create a home plate shape between your arms and shoulders.



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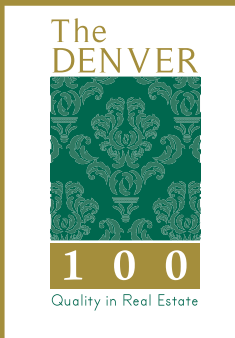


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side **Bets**

FOOD | CARS



TIED TO THE STEAK:
Three Tomatoes' Filet of Beef.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TASTED

Colorado's original brewtown has some good grub on tap.
By Gary James

THREE TOMATOES STEAKHOUSE & CLUB at Fossil Trace

The biggest stereotype of clubhouse restaurants is that they aspire to the trappings of fine dining without the resources—which usually translates to nice atmosphere, decent food and uneven service. But Three Tomatoes, open year round at Fossil Trace Golf Club, breaks down that idea—as

evidenced with its strong showing in this magazine's annual CAGGY award for Best Food.

With snow enhancing the stunning view from the dining area, I found myself craving soup. A rich Roasted Butternut Squash was sweet and warm, but I went ape crazy over the Clam Chowder, a creamy New England-style concoction boosted by tender bits of mushrooms and a boatload of clams. Quantity is quality—what a concept, huh? The Spinach

Salad brimmed with goodies—caramelized pears, shallots, dried cranberries and pecans, tossed in a maple-nutmeg vinaigrette. Get it with feta or goat cheese.

Savory burgers top the lunch menu. The Angus Burger can be supplemented with a wealth of add-ons, and the Fossil Burger comes with aioli, lettuce, tomato and onions on an egg bun; both come with homemade Fossil Chips, thick and crispy. Of the sandwiches, the Turkey Pesto with caramelized onions, Swiss

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side
Bets



GOLDEN OLDIE: The historic Old Capitol Grill's Buffalo Melt and Capital Punishment Chili.

cheese, a flavorful pesto spread and field greens satisfied, but it was trumped by the Southwest Chicken Poblano, the perfect sandwich—a fire-roasted chile on a chicken breast with pepper jack cheese, avocado and spicy mayo. An inexpensive way to visit Santa Fe!

Entrees include a grilled New York Strip, Rib Eye and Filet to justify the steakhouse appellation, and a Pan Seared Salmon, Rack of Lamb and Half Roasted Herb Chicken ably represent classic dinner fare. Sometimes nothing but pasta will do, and Three Tomatoes puts out two fine dishes. One is the Cavatappi Pasta, curly macaroni tubes with wild mushrooms, a rich cognac cream sauce and shaved Grana Padana cheese. The other, a dreamy Scallop and Lobster Mac & Cheese, adds some mollusky magic to the classic comfort food.

For dessert, I couldn't choose between White Russian Crème Brûlée (a little vodka and Kahlua mixed into the custard base and hard caramel top, honoring my inner Big Lebowski) or a rich, decadent Dark Chocolate Soup with Frangelico and white chocolate shavings. So I ordered both. I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure...

13050 Illinois Street, Golden; 303-277-8755; threetomatoessteakhouse.com

OLD CAPITOL GRILL

Here's a great way to experience historic downtown Golden. The brick Loveland building was the first capitol building of the Colorado Territory, when Golden and Denver were vying to be the capital city. By 1971 it had been turned into a restaurant (the Mercantile) and has been home of the Old Capitol Grill since 1997. Check out the Cowboy Room for memorabilia that chronicles the people who saved and restored the restaurant after a 2005 roof fire. You want trendy, look elsewhere—the Grill's menu hasn't changed since the doors opened 17 years ago.

In the Soups, Salads and Sandwiches category, the Capital Punishment Chili isn't cruel, but it is unusual—a bowl of red, with a seasoned three-meat blend (ground beef, pork

and chunks of sirloin) to give a nice depth to the taste and texture; get it served in sourdough bread bowl. The most popular sandwich is the Steer on a Roll, a Western take on a French dip, but I'm enamored of the Buffalo Melt, simply the best buffalo patty I've encountered—a 1/2-pound of meat (as are all of their burgers), with Texas toothpicks (breaded deep-fried pepper strips), grilled onions, American cheese and ranch dressing, served on a moist, chewy bun.

The meals are equally worthy, with a twist. The Miners Pot Roast is served over an enormous baked potato; the Pioneer Fried Steak gets plated with scalloped potatoes, not mashers (both are served with melt-in-your-mouth Texas toast—that's not funny, that's thick). Steaks are USDA choice beef, and there's a selection of fresh fish daily; all can be ordered charbroiled or blackened. But here's an insider tip courtesy of tourists from the East Coast who make the Grill a destination—the Fish and Chips is better than anything back home in cod's country.

1122 Washington Avenue, Golden; 303-279-6390; www.oldcapitolgrill.com

TELLER'S TAPROOM & KITCHEN

Teller's self-described goal is to be your "third place"—that is, where you want to go when you're not at the other two places (where you live and where you work). It's the type of spot that you'd expect in, say, Highlands instead of Applewood, and it gives the area a heretofore unseen level of hipness. The space, a converted 7-Eleven, could find Guy Fieri showing up any day now. The open kitchen makes for a nice and noisy environment as the fantastic bar food comes out, all sourced from local food and beverage vendors.

The menu ranges from sizable burgers—the fabulous Whiskey Burger, topped with a tasty steak sauce made with Leopold Bros. Small Batch Whiskey—to dinners like Bacon-Wrapped Meatloaf. Of the Taproom Favorites, you have to experience the Melted Monk—imported Chimay cheese (washed with Trappist



WHEN MEATS MEET: Teller's Bacon-Wrapped Meatloaf

beer), Granny Smith apples and onions caramelized in Colorado honey, oozing out of grilled cranberry raisin walnut bread with a cup of tomato basil bisque on the side.

There's a wondrous list of craft beer options on tap—among them Alaskan Brewing's Hopothermia Double IPA—and the Starters are sublime. I recommend the Fried Brussels Sprouts (with a bacon aioli; I may never eat them any other way) and the Oysters on the half shell, sided with a zesty jalapeño "wash."

Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with fare ranging from the comforting Fried Chicken & Waffle to some inventive Benedicts such as the smoked Pulled Pork served on cornbread. The Bananas Foster Waffle—a



SIDEDISH OR STARTER: Teller's Fried Brussels Sprouts

Belgian waffle topped with whipped cream and bananas caramelized in butter, brown sugar, cinnamon...and dark rum—would be better known as the "Bananas Foster Brooks," especially after a few trips to the \$3 Bloody Mary Bar, which features every conceivable garnish, mix and spice-infused vodka.

Your "third place"? Teller's to win, not show.
1990 Youngfield Street, Lakewood; 303-237-1002;
tellerstaproom.com



Gary James is a Boulder-based food and music writer. Read more from him at coloradoavidgolfer.com

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A Word of Thanks...



To all of the amazing volunteers I've worked with over the years...

To all of the golf professionals, host clubs, vendors, and allied association partners who support and promote women's golf programs...

To the incredibly talented and dedicated CGA and CWGA staff and all of my golf administrator colleagues around the country...

It is all of YOU who have made the past 22 years as CWGA Executive Director so enjoyable and one of the most rewarding experiences of my life...

THANK YOU!!!

Robin Jervey



Keeping the game you love the game you love.

NAVIGATING THE SUV TERRAIN

Your guide to the '14ers. By Isaac Bouchard

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PINNACLE PEAK

MT. ECONOMY



Infiniti QX80



Toyota Highlander Hybrid



Subaru XV Crosstrek Hybrid



Dodge Durango



Lexus LX570



Jeep Grand Cherokee EcoDiesel

2014 INFINITI QX80

The upstart to the Lexus, and a masterclass in how to turn a tough, Third World-proven platform into a luxurious, beautiful driving SUV. Boasts a stunningly built and finished interior as well.

SIZE: Large
PRICE: \$79,095
EPA: 14/20/16
POWER: 400hp/413lb-ft
SEATS: 7

2014 LEXUS LX570

The Elder Statesman in body-on-frame luxury utes, starting to feel its years in dynamics and fuel economy. But it's still lovely to sit (high up) in and will probably run until the end of time.

SIZE: Large
PRICE: \$89,555
EPA: 12/17/14
POWER: 383hp/403lb-ft
SEATS: 7

2014 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER/HYBRID

A bullseye right to the heart of the market, with fresh, masculine styling, a more posh interior, new tech and better steering feel and dynamics.

SIZE: Midsize
PRICE: \$38,755; Hybrid \$51,045
EPA: 18/24/20; Hybrid 27/28/28
POWER: 270hp/248lb-ft; Hybrid 280hp
SEATS: 7 or 8

2014 DODGE DURANGO

Often overlooked but brilliant platform-mate to Grand Cherokee with 3rd row seating and even better on road dynamics that shame most everything in the class.

SIZE: Midsize-plus
PRICE: \$45,765
EPA: (V8) 17/24/19
POWER: (V8) 360hp/390lb-ft
SEATS: 7

2014 SUBARU XV CROSSTREK HYBRID

Funky fresh Suby with macho styling, nice interior and good handling/ride, now quieter and with a tad more torque. Fun and frugal—but still slow.

SIZE: Small
PRICE: \$30,120
EPA: 29/33/31
POWER: 160hp/163lb-ft
SEATS: 5

2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ECODIESEL

Huge hit for Jeep that earns its accolades with terrific quality, solid dynamics and runway-ready couture. Has cachet at an affordable price—now available in diesel.

SIZE: Midsize
PRICE: \$53,685
EPA: 21/28/24
POWER: 240hp/420lb-ft
SEATS: 5

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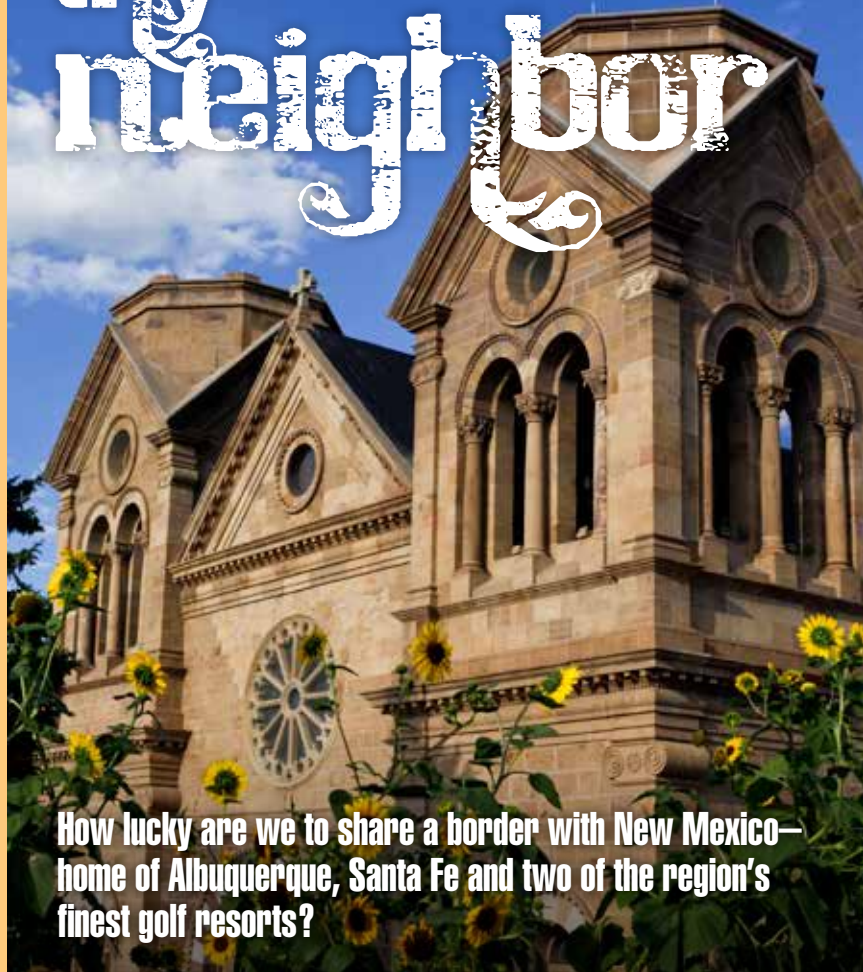
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Love thy neighbor



How lucky are we to share a border with New Mexico—home of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and two of the region's finest golf resorts?

Albuquerque

Made famous as the setting for television's *Breaking Bad*, New Mexico's largest city revolves around much more than visiting the real-life location of the fictional Los Pollos Hermanos—or sipping a real-life Breaking Blue cocktail at **O'Niell's Irish Pub** (oniells.com) or inhaling a blue rock-candy sprinkled **Rebel Donut** (rebelndonut.com).

The show spawned a rise in tourism, but New Mexico's most populous and ethnically diverse city bustles with beauty, energy, authenticity—and celebrities. It's become a moviemaking mecca, thanks to incentives, studios and locations.

Popular also for the **International Balloon Fiesta** (balloonfiesta.com), **Sandia Peak Tramway** (sandiapeak.com) and the inimitable salsas of **El Pinto** (elpinto.com), Albuquerque enjoys a strong golf pedigree. It produced PGA Tour player Notah Begay, and Phil Mickelson captured the 1992 NCAA title at the **University of New Mexico's Championship Golf Course** (unmgolf.com). **Paa-Ko Ridge** (paakoridge.com) rates 5 stars from *Golf Digest*, and the **Twin Warriors** and **Santa Ana** (mynewmexicogolf.com) clubs hosted the

coloradoavidgolfer.com

2009 PGA Professional National Championship.

For the Duke City's foremost golf resort, however, head to the **Sandia Resort & Casino**. Owned and operated by the Sandia Pueblo—one of New Mexico's 19 Native Sovereign Nations—the spectacular Southwestern haven showcases views of the sacred Sandia Mountains or the city's skyline from all 228 of its lavishly decorated rooms and suites. The mountain views also take in the picturesque Scott Miller layout, which stretches 7,755 yards from the tips, making it the state's longest course. But distances from the "Club" and "Resort" tees (6,841 and 6,402 yards, respectively) bring the game closer. Friendly, expansive fairways make tee shots less of a concern than approaches, where 48 strategically placed bunkers and challenging green complexes come into play. Impeccable conditioning and a solicitous staff complete the Sandia golf experience.

People also come to experience Sandia's plush, 140,000-square-foot casino, which features everything from slots, craps and blackjack to pai-gow poker. The Resort's Ba Shie Sports Bar and Tlur Pa Lounge regularly welcome live entertainment, as does Sandia's 4,000-seat outdoor Amphitheater, where this summer you can catch

Reba McIntyre, James Taylor, Boston and Cheap Trick.

Other outdoor pleasures await at the resort pool and nine stories above it at the newly expanded rooftop lounge. The perfect spot to savor the watermelon-colored Sandias at sunset, the lounge serves up such delectable as Wings with Watermelon BBQ sauce and Currasco skirt steak with chimichurri. The wine list offers 20 different bottles for \$20.

The lounge spills from Sandia's signature restaurant, Bien Shur. Award-winning chef Marc Quinones' sous-vide preparations of Kurobuta pork chop and elk tenderloin highlight a varied, indigenously inspired menu. Bien Shur closes Sundays and Mondays, but you'll find Sandia's less upscale dining options (Council Room Restaurant, Thur Shan Buffet) no less delectable.

Also delectable are the treatments at Sandia's Green Reed Spa. Occupying 12,000 square feet of tranquility, this full-service oasis pampers and rejuvenates with myriad types of massages, scrubs, wraps, facials, waxing, nail and scalp treatments, and manscaping. Guests can de-stress in the men's and women's steam rooms, saunas and exhilarating cold and hot plunges.

About the only thing Sandia doesn't offer is a *Breaking Bad* connection. But all those fans need to stay and play somewhere. **Sandia Resort & Casino, 30 Rainbow Rd. NE, Albuquerque; 800-526-9366; sandiacasino.com**



Sandia Resort & Casino



International Balloon Fiesta



Paa-Ko Ridge



Buffalo Thunder Resort



Towa Golf Club



Buffalo Dancer



Santa Fe

Known as the City Different, New Mexico's capital regularly rates among the top travel destinations in the United States. Its delightful stew of Hispanic, Anglo and Native American cultures expresses itself architecturally, gastronomically, artistically and commercially. A kind of adobe theme park for adults, Santa Fe is the inspired vision displayed in the **Georgia O'Keeffe Museum** (okeeffemuseum.org) and the welcoming galleries along **Canyon Road** (canyonroadarts.com; visitscanyonroad.com). It's also the authentic pueblo jewelry and pottery sold around the historic plaza. It's Nambé. It's posole at **The Shed** (sfshed.com), Huevos Rancheros at **Tia Sophia's** and Huevos Divorciados at **The Famous Plaza Cafe** (thefamousplazacafe.com). It's **La Casa Sena's** Red Chile Braised Pork Shoulder (lacasasena.com) and **Lotaburger's** green-chile cheeseburger (lotaburger.com). It's Small Batch Saturday at **Santa Fe Brewery** (santafebrewing.com).

It's also a round at the municipal **Marty Sanchez Links de Santa Fe** (linksdesantafe.com), or, if you're well-connected, on the two Nicklaus layouts at the private **Las Campanas** (theclubatlascampanas.com). But by all means, head north 30 minutes on US 285 to take on **Black Mesa Golf Club** (blackmesagolfclub.com), a highly decorated, 10-year-old Baxter Spann

masterpiece that climbs, dives and winds through the sandstone formations outside Española.

Midway between downtown Santa Fe and Black Mesa spread the 27 holes of **Towa Golf Club**. Two of Towa's three nines—Piñon and Valley—claim Hale Irwin as the architect. William Phillips designed the Boulder nine. Framed by the majestic Sangre de Cristo and Jemez mountains, each of the three rollercoasters through surreal rock formations and deep red-dirt arroyos. Most holes sport wide fairways and generous greens often tucked into dramatic rock formations. Each of the nines opens with par-five birdie opportunities, with the Boulder finishing on a par-3 dropping 100 feet from tee to green.

Towa belongs to the magnificent **Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino**, a six year-old 700,000-square-foot Hilton property owned by the Pojoaque pueblo. The combination casino, museum, luxury spa and golf resort astounds with an intimacy and attention to detail that belies its enormity.

It even tempers the bling and glitz of the vast, 1.5-acre gaming area with décor featuring the swirling curvilinear forms prevalent in pueblo culture.

Expressions of that culture manifest themselves throughout the resort. A swirling stairway carries you to Buffalo Thunder's Wo' P'in Spa, where each treatment employs natural, indigenous healing ele-

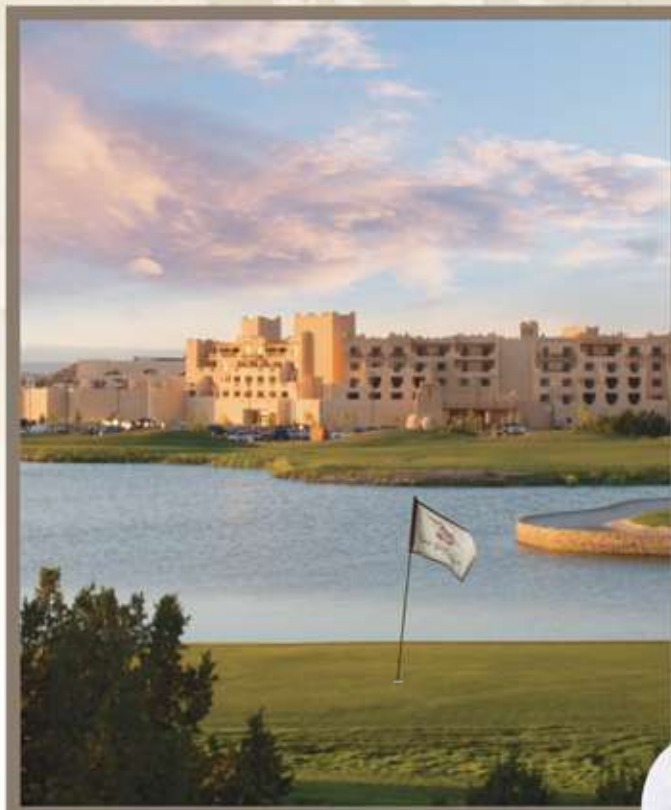
ments and embodies the essences of the Pojoaque philosophy of serenity, health and balance. The detailed, handmade valences and headboards in the 398 rooms and suites all differ from each other, as does the artwork from room to room.

And speaking of artwork, the public spaces of the resort showcase hundreds of original works by internationally renowned native artists such as Dan Namingha, Roxanne Swentzell and George Rivera. The governor of the Pueblo of Pojoaque, Rivera also sculpted the 12-foot bronze *Buffalo Dancer* that greets visitors to the resort.

Buffalo Thunder houses a half-dozen casual places to eat, ranging from the Painted Parrot Buffet to the grill by the sprawling outdoor pool. Its fine-dining showpiece, Red Sage, has earned acclaim for chef Ka'ai Ravey's inspired takes on Native, European and Latin cuisines. Start with his slow-roasted Pork Belly with Miso Caramel Sauce, then move onto the Green Chile Steak Frites or Buffalo Tenderloin sauced with Red Chile Foyot or Chimayo Béarnaise. Finish with an artisan Goat Cheese Cheesecake with a piñon crust.

Goat cheese cheesecake? In the City Different, you'd expect nothing less.

Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino, 30 Buffalo Thunder Trail, Santa Fe. buffalothunderresort.com; 877-455-7775



SERVICE THAT DESERVES A ROUND OF GOLF CLAPS.

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Wednesday, September 10
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2014 GUIDE TO
COLORADO'S
PRIVATE CLUBS

Canongate's multiclub model redefines the members-only experience



IS IT THE RIGHT TIME TO JOIN A PRIVATE CLUB?

The recent turnaround in the economy is bringing optimism to Colorado's private clubs. After years of dwindling memberships, reduced initiations, foreclosures and closures, many of the state's members-only institutions have regained some of their swagger and appeal.

The average initiation for a fully refundable or equity membership, which between 2005 and 2011 had dropped from \$49,000 to \$23,000, rebounded to nearly \$40,000 in 2013 and rose 9 percent to \$43,600 in 2014. Monthly dues have risen at more than twice that rate, now averaging \$531. A number of clubs have hit their member caps or are hovering near them. Expect the number of clubs with waiting lists to increase as golf season begins.

All this may worry prospective members, but fear not. The Colorado private-club landscape still abounds with enticing programs—even at the high end. Last year, for example, both Colorado Golf Club and The Club at Ravenna offered

attractively priced one-year trial memberships that could be converted to full ones at the end of the season.

If converted, those memberships consisted mainly of the non-equity variety. A growing trend, non-equity memberships run far less than equity ones. A non-equity membership gets you a better price when joining but no vote on club issues and no money back if you resign. The club accounts for that money as an asset and can therefore apply it to whatever capital improvements it deems necessary. Clubs consider equity initiations liabilities because they need to refund them if the member resigns. Whenever the chart on pages 56-57 lists a range of prices, equity usually accounts for the difference.

Although there's a range of prices listed for Canongate's two Colorado clubs—Black Bear Golf Club in Parker and Blackstone Country Club in Aurora—no equity membership option exists. The initiation price range encompasses five different types of golf membership—depending on your frequency of play and how you and your family

plan to use the clubs. Nominal food, cart and green fees apply. "It's scalable and customizable," says Membership Director Tifanie Trenck. "There are a lot of options."

Those options don't include assessments. "Canongate works on an assessment-free platform," says John Scappatura, the Denver-based regional director of Canongate's parent company, Sequoia Golf. "Our business model mandates a certain amount of capital gets reinvested into every one of our clubs. It's a model that works very well."

What also works is Canongate's multiple-club membership model—something the Georgia-based company has mastered over nearly five decades. Membership at Blackstone or Black Bear—a country club and golf club, respectively, within eight miles of each other—affords all privileges both clubs, as well as the 27 others in the Canongate canon. Sequoia also has established the Play Away network of more than 450 private clubs in the U.S. and Canada, where members can book tee times.

Play Away is one of the ben-

efits of belonging at Canongate. So is the full slate of events, activities, programs and amenities that turn a membership into "a yearlong vacation—a fun and relaxed hangout the whole family can enjoy," says Trenck.

"Our main focus is on being a lifestyle club," she explains, referring to Blackstone (pictured above), which features a pool, tennis courts and all the trappings of a resort—including an in-house Starbucks.

As entry into the private club world becomes pricier, Canongate represents a relative bargain. But money clearly shouldn't be the only determinant in deciding which club to join. There's location and reputation, and the character of both the members and the golf course. And will you and your family use it enough to justify the expense?

Those expenses are rising. Whether this trend represents more than a positive blip for the private-club industry remains to be seen, as Millennials and members of Generations X and Y—many of whom are the beneficiaries of junior golf programs—consider whether joining a club makes sense.

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PRIVATE CLUB DIRECTORY

CLUB	ADDRESS	PHONE	INITIATION	DUES	WAITING LIST	MEMBER CAP
Adam's Mountain Country Club	1094 Frost Creek Dr., Eagle	866-490-2622	\$60,000-\$150,000	\$750/mo.	No	300
Aspen Glen Club	0545 Bald Eagle Way, Carbondale	970-704-1905	\$100,000	\$875/mo.	No	535
Ballyneal	1 Ballyneal Lane, Holyoke	970-854-5900	\$15,000	\$4,000/yr.	Invitation only	250
Bear Creek Golf Club	12201 Morrison Rd., Denver	303-980-8700	\$40,000	\$792/mo.	No	350
Bookcliff Country Club	2730 G Rd., Grand Junction	970-243-3323	\$2500-\$3500	\$295-\$350	No	520
Boulder Country Club	350 Clubhouse Rd., Boulder	303-530-4600	\$22,500	\$497/mo.	No	485
Broadmoor Golf Club	One Lake Circle, Colorado Springs	719-577-5833	\$70,000	\$575/mo.	Yes	N/A
Canongate at Black Bear	11300 Canterbury Pkwy., Parker	720-346-2367	\$1500-5,000	starting at \$145/mo.	No	N/A
Canongate at Blackstone	7777 Country Club Dr., Aurora	720-346-2367	\$1500-\$5,000	starting at \$145/mo.	No	N/A
Castle Pines Golf Club	1000 Hummingbird Dr., Castle Rock	303-688-6000	\$135,000	\$17,000/yr.	Invitation only	350
Castle Pines, The Country Club at	6400 Country Club Dr., Castle Rock	303-660-6807	Market-based	\$705/mo.	No	395
Catamount Ranch & Club	33400 B Catamount Dr., Steamboat Springs	970-871-9300	\$55,000	\$9000/yr.	No	395
Cherry Creek Country Club	2405 South Yosemite St., Denver	303-597-0300	\$60,000	\$650/mo.	No	450
Cherry Hills Country Club	4125 S. University Blvd., Englewood	303-350-5200	\$120,000	\$785/mo.	Invitation only	500
Colorado Golf Club	7803 E. Stroh Rd., Parker	303-840-0090	\$50,000/\$65,000	\$750/mo.	Invitation only	375
Colorado Springs Country Club	3333 Templeton Gap Rd., Colorado Springs	719-634-8851	\$10,000	\$445/mo.	No	425
Columbine Country Club	17 Fairway Ln, Littleton	303-794-2674	\$30,000	\$545/mo.	No	420
Cordillera, The Club at	655 Clubhouse Dr., Edwards	970-569-6480	\$35,000-\$45,000	\$12,500/yr.	Reservation List/no	1,085
Country Club of Colorado	125 E. Clubhouse Dr., Colorado Springs	719-538-4084	\$27,500	\$425/mo.	No	450
Country Club of the Rockies	676 Sawatch Dr, Edwards	970-926-3080	\$125,000	\$9,000/yr.	Yes	350
Denver Country Club	1700 E. First Ave., Denver	303-733-2441	\$105,000	\$650/mo.	Invitation only	585
Eagle Springs Golf Club	28521 U.S. Highway 6 & 24, Wolcott	970-926-4400	\$60,000	\$13,450/yr.	Invitation only	250
Eaton Country Club	37661 Weld Country Rd. 39, Eaton	970-454-2106	\$1,000	\$185/mo.	No	485
The Club at Flying Horse	1880 Weiskopf Point., Colorado Springs	719-487-2601	\$39,000	\$505/mo.	No	450
Fort Collins Country Club	1920 Country Club Rd., Fort Collins	970-482-1336	\$5,000/\$9,000	\$440/mo.	No (Yes for \$9,000 member)	489
The Fox Hill Club	12389 E. Highway 119, Longmont	303-651-3777	\$3,000	\$290-\$390/mo.	No	450
Garden of the Gods Club	3320 Mesa Rd, Colorado Springs	719-632-5541	\$15,000	\$340-\$475/mo.	No	N/A
Glacier Club	40290 Highway 550 North, Durango	970-382-7809	\$30,000/\$70,000	\$680/mo.	No	675
Glenmoor Country Club	110 Glenmoor Dr., Englewood	303-257-1313	\$70,000	\$515/mo.	Yes	475
Greeley Country Club	4500 W. 10th St., Greeley	970-353-0528	\$500/\$4,500	\$195-\$449/mo.	No	500
Harmony Club	4176 Club Dr., Timnath	970-224-4622	\$6,500/\$12,500	\$320/mo	No	350
Hiwan Golf Club	30671 Clubhouse Ln., Evergreen	303-674-3366	\$25,000	\$500/mo.	No	N/A
Inverness Hotel & Golf Club	200 Inverness Dr., Englewood	303-397-7878	\$4,370	\$3,870/yr. renewal	No	400
Ironbridge Golf Club	430 Ironbridge Dr., Glenwood Springs	970-384-0630	\$0	\$298/mo.	No	N/A
Lake Valley Golf Club	4400 Lake Valley Dr., Longmont	303-444-2114	\$5,000	\$315-\$367/mo.	No	478
Lakewood Country Club	6800 W. 10th Ave., Lakewood	303-233-4614	\$30,000	\$540/mo.	Yes	450
Maroon Creek Club	10 Club Circle Rd., Aspen	970-920-1533	\$200,000	\$22,000/yr.	Invitation only	350
Meridian Golf Club	9742 S. Meridian Blvd., Englewood	303-799-8412	\$6,000	\$390/mo.	No	475
Monument Hill Country Club	18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument	719-481-2272	\$500	\$229/mo. (family)	No	1,300
Perry Park Country Club	7047 Perry Park Blvd., Larkspur	303-681-3305	\$8,000	\$423/mo.	No	300
Pinehurst Country Club	6255 W. Quincy Ave., Denver	303-985-1551	\$32,000	\$535/mo.	No	450
Pinery Country Club, The	6900 E Pinery Pkwy., Parker	303-841-5157	\$15,000	\$426/mo.	No	650
Pradera, The Club at	5225 Pradera Pkwy., Parker	303-607-5672	\$31,000	\$435/mo.	No	450
Parmigan Country Club	5416 Vardon Way, Fort Collins	970-226-8555	\$5,000-\$7,500	\$350/mo.	No	500
Pueblo Country Club	3200 8th Ave., Pueblo	719-543-4844	\$1,000	\$335/mo.	No	850
Ranch Country Club, The	11887 Tejon St., Westminster	303-460-9700	\$7,000	\$472/mo.	No	425
Ravenna, The Golf Club at	11118 Caretaker Road, Littleton	720-956-1600	\$40,000	\$550/mo.	No	395
Red Rocks Country Club	16235 W. Belleview Ave., Morrison	303-352-2030	\$7,500-\$15,000	\$465/mo.	No	425
Red Sky Golf Club	1099 Red Sky Rd., Wolcott	970-754-8400	\$140,000	\$9,255/yr.	No	425
Roaring Fork Club	100 Arbaney Ranch Rd., Basalt	970-927-9000	\$80,000-\$175,000	\$7800-15600/yr.	Invitation only	500
Rolling Hills, The Club at	15707 W. 26th Ave., Golden	303-279-3334	\$45,000	\$561/mo	No	425
Snowmass Club	0239 Snowmass Club Cir., Snowmass Village	970-923-5600	\$10,000	\$650/mo.	No	375
Valley Country Club	14601 Country Club Dr., Aurora	720-630-2463	\$21,500	\$600/mo.	No	425

Editor's Note: This information is accurate to the best of our knowledge. Contact the clubs for details and information regarding membership levels (family, individual, corporate, etc.), promotions, refundability and incentives.

coloradoavidgolfer.com is your gateway to Colorado private and public golf.

Our website offers listings, directions, user reviews and details for all public, resort and private facilities.

EQUITY	FACILITIES	COURSE ARCHITECT	CONTACT
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, fishing, spa, equestrian center	Tom Weiskopf (2007)	Joe Cranston
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness center, spa	Nicklaus Design (1997)	Jess Westley
No	Outsourced upland bird hunting, bocce ball, practice facilities	Tom Doak (2006)	Matt Payne
Yes	None	Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay (1985)	Kirk Rider
No	Swimming, tennis, golf, exercise center, spa & massage, dining	Dick Phelps (1958)	Kari Canaday
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, dining	Press Maxwell (1965)	Kate Kippenberger
No	All resort privileges	East: D. Ross (1918); West: R. T. Jones (1964); Mountain: J. Nicklaus (2006)	Sherry Clark
No	Privileges at all Canongate facilities	Jeff Brauer (1996)	Tiffanie Trenck
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, privileges at all Canongate facilities	Jay Morrish (2006)	Tiffanie Trenck
Yes	Fitness center; dining	Jack Nicklaus (1981)	Keith Schneider
Yes	None	Jack Nicklaus (1985)	Brian Nishi
No	Swimming, tennis, private lake, water sports, fitness, skiing	Tom Weiskopf (2000)	Nicole Piret
No	Swimming, tennis, Full Fitness Facility, spa	Jack Nicklaus/Jack Nicklaus II (2002)	Karen Hart
No	Swimming, tennis	William Flynn (1922); Renaissance Golf (2009)	B.J. Johnson
Yes	Par-3 course, hiking and biking trails, fitness, indoor practice facilities	Ben Crenshaw/Bill Coore (2006)	Tom Ferrell
Yes	Swimming, tennis	Dick Phelps (1957)	Cathy Matthews-Kane
No	Swimming, tennis, Par 3	Henry Hughes (1956)	Darin Dickson
No	Swimming, tennis, Nordic center	Valley: T.Fazio (1997); Mountain: H. Irwin (1994); Summit: J. Nicklaus (2001)	Suzanne Morgan/ Matt Matthews
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, fishing, sailing	Pete Dye (1973)	Jessica Emerson
Yes	Facilities through Arrowhead development	Jack Nicklaus (1984)	Pentii Tofferi
No	Swimming, tennis, ice rink	James Foulis/Bill Coore (1902)	Ryan Granthru
No	None	Jay Morrish/Tom Weiskopf (1995)	Mike Steiner
50%	None	Frank Baumgarner (1968)	Shelly Bowden
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, spa, indoor golf facility	Tom Weiskopf (2005)	Wendy McHenry
No	Swimming, tennis, spa, golf school	Henry Hughes (1960); Pete Dye (2001)	Scott Szymoniak
Yes	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Frank Hummel (1972)	Kari Wyrick
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, dining, spa, salon, lodging	Press Maxwell (1961)/ Mark Rathert (1997)	Tracey Kalata
No/Yes	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Arthur Hills (1974), Todd Schoeder (2004)	Jim Goodman
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Pete Dye (1985)	Teri Ramirez
Yes	Swimming, tennis, racquetball	Perry Maxwell/Tom Bendelow (1932)	Amy Fiedler
No	Indoor, heated golf facility, pool, tennis, rec facility, pavillion	Jim Engh (2007)	Renee Vacek
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness center, fishing, yoga and Pilates	Press Maxwell (1962)	Daniel Sherman
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Press Maxwell (1974)	Dave Steinmetz
No	Swimming, tennis	Arthur Hills (2003)	Doug Rohrbaugh
No	Dining, practice facilities, private swim and fishing lake	Press Maxwell (1964)	Rob Mount
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Tom Bendelow/Donald Ross (1908)	Carol Kaiser
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, spa	Tom Fazio (1995)	David Chadbourne
No	none	Jack Nicklaus (1984)	Jim Shoemaker
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Press Maxwell (1969)	Ashley Olsen
Yes	none	Dick Phelps (1969)	Herb Miller
No	Swimming, tennis	Press Maxwell (1960)	Jason Murphy
No	Swimming, indoor/outdoor tennis, fitness	David Bingham (1972)	Lorryn Langton
No	Tennis, fitness	Jim Engh (2005)	Brittney Freyschleg
Yes	Swimming, tennis	Jack Nicklaus (1988)	Ryan Flack
Yes	Swimming, tennis	Henry Hughes (1902)	Buck Streich
No	Swimming, tennis	Dick Phelps (1974)	Courtney Wolfe
No	TBD	Jay Morrish (2006)	Amy Rome
Optional	Swimming	Stanley Harwood (1976)	Ali Canyon
No	Amenities through Vail Resorts	Tom Fazio (2002); Greg Norman (2003)	Todd James
No	Swimming, tennis, fly-fishing	Jack Nicklaus (1999)	Stephanie Williams
No	Swimming, indoor/outdoor tennis, fitness, dinning, banquet facility	Press Maxwell/Dick Phelps (1967)	Marta Kostelny
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, cross-country skiing	Jim Engh (2003)	Geoff Gilliland
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	William Bell (1960)	Kate Karnik

It Rhymes with “Unique”

Cherry Creek’s singular approach towards all-around excellence elevates the Denver club into a class by itself.



CHERRY CREEK
COUNTRY CLUB



Photo courtesy of Sara Lynn Photographic, saralynnphoto.com



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Bonner Photography, rebeccabonnerphotography.com

CCCC’s 18th green backs up to its 34,000-square foot clubhouse (top), as the adjacent tent readies for an elegant member wedding.

SINCE SWINGING open its gates 12 years ago, Cherry Creek Country Club has earned a deserved reputation as the place to belong in Denver. The impeccably manicured grounds suggest a European Eden distinguished by magnificent architecture, statuary and water features worthy of the English or Tuscan countryside. And this Old World elegance comes with a decidedly New World flavor. Club owner Karen Hart and her staff pull out all the stops to provide, as she says, “every service, facility and amenity to fit the lifestyles of the modern family.”

GOLF

CCCC’s most conspicuous amenity is its golf course—a superb Jack and Jackie Nicklaus design known for its impeccable conditioning, abundant water and devilish risk-reward opportunities. Playable between 4,981 and 7,450 yards (with an officially rated short course between 3,123 to 4,036 yards), the layout welcomes players of all ages and skill levels, making it ideal for family fun and spirited competition. Members enjoy maximum accessibility to tee times, state-of-the-art instruction, a dedicated club-fitter and a robust junior golf program.

SPA

Great golf only begins to tell the story of what sets Cherry Creek apart. How many other private Denver-area country clubs boast a full-service day spa? None. Housed in a charming stone replica of a European carriage house, the spa features a cossetting changing area and six luxury treatment rooms, where members can indulge in all manner of pampering: massages such as Deep Tissue Sports Therapy, Swedish, Hot Stone, Reflexology and Aromatherapy; skin-enhancing facials using gel peels, masks, microdermabrasion and other

advanced techniques; and innovative nail treatments and designs. The spa's two steam rooms and hot tub help melt away stress, as does its private meditation deck appointed with chaises, soothing water, soft music and tropical decor. And to sustain the après-spa serenity, the on-site boutique carries many of the same soothing and advanced products used by CCCC's highly trained spa staff.

FITNESS

The spa adjoins the club's beautiful, highly-

functional fitness center, outfitted with the latest in cardio and strength equipment, as well as free weights, Olympic lifting stations—and floor-to-ceiling windows to take in the views. Members take complimentary group exercise classes like spin, yoga/sculpt and boot camp and avail themselves of one of the club's personal trainers—including a TPI (Titleist Performance Institute)-certified one—who can customize specific workouts.

The Fitness Center leads to a wondrously landscaped outdoor pool area suitable for lap-

swimmers, families and small children. Its spacious, party-friendly deck and full-service juice bar provide healthy options (from grilled fish and chicken to salads and wraps to protein shakes and fruit smoothies). Tennis players can serve, volley and take lessons on the club's two lighted courts.

DINING, CATERING AND EVENTS

Cherry Creek's commitment to exceeding its members' every expectation manifests itself



Photo courtesy of Mandalay Images Photography, mandalayimages.com

Clockwise from bottom: state-of-the-art fitness center; the well-stocked luxury spa boutique; a circus-themed baby shower in the main dining room.



most expressively in its dining options and event catering. Executive Chef Clark Church runs a scratch kitchen, and members partake of his inspired fare in the Main Dining Room, Covered Patio, Men's Grill, and Ladies Lounge—as well as have it delivered to a golf hole or their home. CCCC also schedules a jam-packed social and dining calendar, and the comprehensive banquet menus span a wide variety of cuisines. Better still, the club's and the catering amenities exist exclusively as a service to members and their guests. This exclusivity allows award-winning Catering & Events Director Shannon Carlson to develop personal relationships with members and custom-plan and execute every detail of their event—from the menu and decorations to the entertainment, set-up and timetable.

Charity dinners, holiday feasts, weddings, graduations, baby and bridal showers—whether the member's celebration is large or small, formal or informal, seated or buffet, the club's expansive, exquisite clubhouse, patio and lawn areas can transform to accommodate any vision or design. "The possibilities here for our membership are endless," says Carlson, who adds that the club's mountain backdrop is ideal for wedding receptions and unforgettable evenings under the stars.

And of course, CCCC's well-trained staff possesses the knowledge and experience to deliver the kind of consistently first-class service that makes the occasion memorable, elegant and stress-free.

The readers and staff of Colorado AvidGolfer have recognized CCCC for best food, best clubhouse and best overall experience—all of which is reflected in the unique and custom events hosted at the club.

Cherry Creek Country Club (cherrycreekcountryclub.com) is located 2405 South Yosemite Street, Denver. For membership information, contact Karen Hart at 303-908-8822 or karenhart@cherrycreekcountryclub.com.

T H E C L U B A T
FLYING HORSE



CLUB FACTS

Address

1880 Weiskopf Point, Colorado Springs

Initiation/Annual Dues

\$39,000 Full Golf Membership Deposit, payment options available. Monthly dues are \$448 Single/\$505 Family. Social Fitness Memberships also available.

Course Yardage/Architect

7,300 yards/Tom Weiskopf

Amenities

18-hole Signature Tom Weiskopf golf course, world-class dining, luxurious spa, juice and latté bar, 25-yard lap pool, activities pool, splash pools, full-size gymnasium, weight training and cardio equipment, group fitness classes, 5 outdoor tennis courts and 4 indoor red clay tennis courts, Kids' Cabin.

THE CLUB

- Fosters a true sense of community among its members.
- Members enjoy an impressive selection of recreational amenities, leisure activities and youth programs in an exciting and distinctive atmosphere.
- Euro-style Athletic Club and an award-winning Clubhouse surrounded by pristine views of the Front Range of the Rockies.
- Voted Best Southern Club, Best Overall Experience and Best for Families by *Colorado AvidGolfer*.

THE COURSE

- 18-hole Signature Tom Weiskopf golf course
- Indoor golf learning center for year-round practice and lessons.
- Recognized as one of the top 10 private golf courses in the state of Colorado.

Contact | Wendy McHenry and Jennifer Bruegge 719-494-1222; flyinghorseclub.com

PINEHURST COUNTRY CLUB



A full club experience.

The Best Membership in the State.
Since 1958.

*P*inehurst Country Club is a private family-oriented Club that boasts 27 holes of golf suitable for all skill levels, 12 outdoor and 4 indoor tennis courts, an Olympic-sized swimming pool and ample space for dining, socializing and entertaining. Our Members enjoy competitive and social play in both golf and tennis, and children enjoy summer camps and junior athletic programs. Our luxurious Clubhouse is over 40,000 square feet and offers the perfect space for a wedding, corporate event or any other private function.

PINEHURST IS THE ULTIMATE PLACE FOR FAMILY FUN THIS SUMMER!

PinehurstCountryClub.com



INVERNESS
GOLF CLUB



CLUB FACTS

Address

200 Inverness Drive West, Englewood

Initiation/Annual Dues

Individual memberships are \$4,370 and family memberships are \$6,320, per year.

Course Yardage/Architect

7,057 yards/J. Press Maxwell

Amenities

18-hole championship course, five fine and casual dining options, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, fitness center, two outdoor tennis courts, spa, and overnight accommodations.

THE CLUB

- Our club has beautifully appointed locker rooms with full-length lockers, showers and complete amenities.
- The Inverness Golf Club provides discounts to the hotel's five restaurants and bars, as well as our luxurious spa.
- Access to the fitness center, swimming pools, and tennis courts.

THE COURSE

- Our championship golf course has become known for its tight, sloping fairways, rolling hills and fast, undulating greens.
- A par-70, 7,057 yard PGA championship golf course that challenges everyone from beginners to seasoned golfers.
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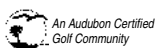
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HEIRING IT OUT at Augusta

CRAIG STADLER'S FINAL MASTERS MARKS SON KEVIN'S FIRST. IT'S THE ONLY TIME IN THE EVENT'S HISTORY A FATHER AND SON HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME FIELD—BUT IS THIS TWOSOME CURRENTLY ON THE SAME PAGE? BY JON RIZZI



Similar in build, temperament and swing tempo, Craig and Kevin Stadler have something else in common. Neither can remember the last time they played golf together.

Craig: "It's been years."

Kevin: "I don't have a clue."

That will change at Augusta National this month when they become the first father and son to compete in the same Masters. Kevin, who was two years old when Craig

won the green jacket in 1982, earned his berth by winning February's Waste Management Phoenix Open, his first PGA Tour victory in 239 starts. A 13-time winner on the PGA Tour, Craig turns 61 in June. He last made the cut at Augusta in 2007 and says this will be his final appearance in the event.

"He probably would have liked it better if I had gotten there five years ago or so," Kevin said after his win. "He's been telling me for a couple of years I need to hurry up and get there before he calls it quits."

Augusta's secretive Competition Com-

mittee "isn't likely" to pair them in the first two rounds, according to one insider, but they'll play at least a practice round together. An exciting, historic moment, right?

Craig: "It'll be great. It doesn't get any better."

Kevin: "I really don't know what to expect. It'll probably be a zoo."

To some degree, understanding the contrast between the father's enthusiasm and the son's deflective indifference requires grasping the complicated emotions associated with divorce. Craig and Sue, Kevin's

FAMILY AFFAIR: Kevin's first-ever PGA Tour win, in the 2014 Waste Management Phoenix Open, came eight months after his dad's first Champions Tour win in nine years.



CADDIE AND DADDY: This year at Augusta, they'll both play for the green jacket.

mother, split up six years ago, and Craig remarried in 2010. Craig and Jan Stadler live in the shadow of Mount Evans in a stunning home to which he moved from Cherry Hills. Kevin rarely visits.

Amid a richly furnished room brimming with trophy game hunted mainly in Argentina and artwork featuring the tusked arctic mammal that inspired his nickname, the man known as "The Walrus" has nothing but praise for his son. "I'm his biggest fan," he says. "He's a wonderful iron player and he is now playing with more confidence. Watching Kevin the last 10 months, I see his course management improving. He is rapidly reaching his capability. The thing I am so happy about is at Phoenix he made a double-bogey on 11 and hit into the water on 15—and in both cases he came right back. That'll help him more than anything."

"I don't want to get into it," Kevin says respectfully via telephone

of their current relationship. "It's not what it used to be."

Photographic evidence of how it once was lines the main hallway of Craig's home. There's Craig with little Kevin on his shoulders at the Masters; teenaged Kevin caddying for Dad during the Wednesday Par-Three; and the two of them at The International at Castle Pines. There are shots of Craig caddying for Kevin, who won the Colorado 3-A high school championship and Doug Sanders Junior World Championship while a student at Kent Denver; and two Colorado Golf Association match-play titles and second team All-America honors during his four years at Craig's alma mater, the University of Southern California.

Working Kevin's bag often meant risking injury from a thrown club—"something he'd seen me do 100 times," Craig says—but it also came with great rewards.

At the 2002 Colorado Open at Sonnenalp Golf Club, Craig agreed to loop for Kevin shortly after he'd graduated from USC. "He calls me at 4 p.m. Tuesday afternoon and says, 'You gotta caddy really well because I want to make some money,' Craig remembers, laughing. "Seems he'd turned pro an hour earlier. He won the event—beat Gary Hallberg and Brian Kortan in a playoff. He got \$25,000 and I didn't get squat."

"Having him as a caddy, the only thing I remember is him screwing up the yardage," Kevin jokes.

The pair teamed up a few months later as players in Paradise Island to win the Office Depot Father/Son Challenge. "I played horrible and he was just awesome all week long," Craig admitted at the time. "We won \$200,000 and realistically he should have gotten \$175,000 of it."

Of late, Craig's competed in the event with his younger son, Chris, a former college football player now working as a sommelier.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CRAIG STADLER

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“They changed the eligibility rules so Kevin and I can’t be a team,” Craig says. “So I played with Chris. It was the most awesome event. There’s nothing better than playing with your kids.”

Another explanation for the distance between Craig and Kevin comes from Raymond Floyd’s son, Robert. He and his dad won the Father-Son event each of the two years before the Stadlers did. Robert’s grinded it out on the PGA Tour and mini-tours for almost 20 years. “Nobody out here has surpassed a famous father,” he says. “Doesn’t happen.”

“In eight years on the Tour, Kevin’s won one time and has already blown by what I earned in 27 years,” counters Craig. Earnings are one thing; wins are another. And the perpetual comparisons to his famous father put no shortage of pressure on Kevin, who initially struggled to keep his card but has averaged 27 PGA TOUR starts per year since 2007.

Did Craig ever give him advice? “I encouraged, never pushed, golf,” Craig says, allowing that Kevin loved the game from the age of two. Craig never even corrected his son’s reverse baseball grip—cross-handed with all ten fingers on the club—until seven-year-old Kevin wanted one of the new metal woods that had just come out. “I told him he couldn’t have it until he fixed his grip,” Craig says. “He was so mad. So I sent him to see the club pro who fixed his grip—and he got his club.”

“That was about the only thing I remember in terms of advice he gave me,” Kevin says. “I wrack my brain but there’s really absolutely nothing. He was pretty hands-off.”

Kevin now consults with Dan Campbell, the PGA director of instruction at Tatum Ranch, about 20 minutes northwest of Kevin’s home in Scottsdale. “It’s the first time I’ve really worked with anyone,” he says. “I am so far on the feel side of golf than the technical



STADS’ LAD: Within years, Kevin would become one of Colorado’s top junior golfers.

side. The main work we’ve done is through the impact area.”

The area in which his game stands to be impacted—negatively—is putting. The long putter he’s used for more than half his life will be banned from competition in 2016. “I’ve got no interest whatsoever in moving back to the shorter putter,” he says. “We haven’t attacked it yet. I have another full year.”

A full year ago, Craig’s game was in tatters. But he has had a renaissance, thanks to Billy Harmon, the PGA Director of Instruction at Toscana Country Club in Indian Wells. “I was ready to hang it up,” Craig explains. “I decided to give it one more go. I called Billy and told him he had two days to fix it or I was through. We worked on alignment, ball position and grip. He flattened my swing. In

(continued on page 87)






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THE WONDERMENT WORLD OF DISMAL

A NEW TOM DOAK COURSE DOUBLES THE ALLURE OF NEBRASKA'S MAGICAL DISMAL RIVER CLUB.

BY JON RIZZI

NEVER regret anything that made you smile. So said Mark Twain—and one of the prominent signs at Nebraska's Dismal River Club.

You haven't even slid a tee into the sandy soil and you're already smiling because there's no way you'd regret the five-hour drive here from Denver—especially the final 20 miles that meander along a cow path, the eyes of Bessies upon you.

Wonderment. Chris "CJ" Johnston, Dismal's co-owner, CEO and occasional bartender, repeats the word often when describing the club. "Everywhere you look, you'll see sparks of wonderment," he says over steak-and-lobster and a chalice of Trappistes Rochefort beer. The dining room buzzes with members from across the country—pilgrims to this surreal shrine deep in the American heartland.

Johnston is Dismal's third owner. The club's founders—six CU alums inspired by nearby Sand Hills Golf Club—opened it in 2006 with a demanding Jack Nicklaus layout and magnificent clubhouse. They sold it to a group of charter members who softened the course but

fell victim to a soft economy. Enter Johnston in 2009, at the time a member of Sand Hills.

"He's doubled the value of the membership," says Lincoln-based member David McEwen. His empirical evidence unfurls across the rugged river valley beyond the clubhouse porch: Dismal's new Tom Doak-designed "Red" course.

Johnston initially considered Tiger Woods to design the complement to the Nicklaus course, but McEwen says, "CJ hit a home run with Doak." After playing the course, you might call it a grand slam.

Having achieved notoriety across the state line two hours away with Ballyneal, Doak



GOLF'S KINGDOM COME: From left, plush furnishings appoint Dismal's clubhouse; a white Angus shows the way; Doak's epic par-4 finisher, with its promontory green, plays towards the mighty dunes above the river.

seized another opportunity to draw a line in the sandhills. He started drawing it a mile from the clubhouse and ran it 7,000 serpentine yards along the vast land's natural heaves, ripples and hollows, jumping the dirt road that runs through the property and traversing a lush meadow before dropping towards the river and the brawny dunes towering above it.

The seamless flow supports the cliché about architects uncovering golf holes rather than building them. "On holes 2,3,5,6 and 8, Tom moved less dirt than you could fit in our bar area," Johnston says. Some those holes will rate as your favorites on the front—especially the 472-yard par-4 second, the par-3s


on Nos. 3 and 5 and the drivable par-4 sixth.

Back nine challenges include blind tee shots on the par-4 13th and 17th, where an ancient bison run and a cattle skull on a stake respectively serve as aiming points. Doak has called the 420-yard closer, with its multiple teeing options and riparian orientation, "one of the best finishing holes I'll ever get to build."

While the tee shots on 18 and a number of other holes require carries, you'll find yourself hitting stingers and bump-and-runs to stay beneath the wind—or just for the joy of seeing the random rolls and bounces produced by the firm fescue fairways and bent greens.

Pin flags with red and white roses distin-

guish the Doak and Nicklaus courses, but even Gertrude Stein ("A rose is a rose is a rose") could tell the two apart. As PGA Director of Golf Patrick Kilbride puts it, "one requires a ground attack; the other an aerial assault."

It's that kind of variety that makes Dismal River more than twice the experience it previously was. Johnston justifiably believes members and guests will now stay twice as long in the well-appointed cabins, savor twice as much of chef Eric Thompson's gourmet cuisine, and smile twice as wide, regretting absolutely nothing. 

The private Dismal River Club welcomes prospective members. dismalriver.com; 308-546-2900.




A PLACE BEYOND THE PINES

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GRAND LAKE GOLF COURSE

Thanks to a beetle kill-necessitated redesign, scenic
GRAND LAKE GOLF COURSE
enters its Golden Anniversary year an intriguing but much
different test than it once was.

..... By Denny Dressman



Windows across the back of the pro shop at Grand Lake Golf Course look out on an unobstructed expanse of course that begins with the curving par five opener and stretches to parts of the back nine. The panorama includes the driving range, once bordered on three sides by walls of giant pines but now open space, as well.

It is the landscape of “after.”

“It used to be that you could see only one pin—Number 9—from here,” director of golf Ted Roberts says, nodding toward the small green just behind the clubhouse. “But that was seven years ago. Now you can see eight pins from the pro shop.”

Venerable Grand Lake Golf Course marks its 50th anniversary with the beginning of the 2014 golf season, which comes in May at 8,000 feet. Because of the cursed mountain pine beetle, the course is vastly different than it was when it opened in 1964 as a nine-hole layout; or in 1976 when the back nine was added; or as most golfers who played it before 2003 came to know it.

Hailed for decades as a one-of-a-kind gem carved out of a Rocky Mountain lodgepole forest, it’s now, oddly, a links-like circuit—the rough bordered by stretches of native grasses that provide character of another kind.

To be sure, it presents a totally different look. But one that’s surprisingly attractive, and a genuine miracle compared to the depressing scene in 2007 when the course was marred and scarred by dead trees awaiting removal and excavation to replace an outdated irrigation system.

“It’s different now,” says Roberts, who came to Grand County from California just after the devastation peaked. “But the vistas and views haven’t changed; they’re still spectacular. And it’s still a challenge. In fact, in some ways it may be a more difficult course now than when we had all of the pines.”

Indeed, players can try to cut the corner with their tee shots on No. 6, the No. 1 handicap hole, without fear of winding up in pine straw jail. Likewise on several other holes. But errant shots—into the tall “native”—mean those balls may never be seen again. If found, they’re usually unplayable.

The Colorado Golf Association seemed to agree with Roberts’ assessment when it re-rated Grand Lake in 2011. The slope rating for men increased by one from the Blue tees (to 130)

and by five from the Whites (to 128). The slope for ladies playing the Red also rose by one to 131.

“Balls going off-line go farther off-line,” says the man who was in charge of reinventing Grand Lake Golf Course, the current Hyland Hills Director of Golf Allen Brown. “It was like playing golf in a hallway before. If you knocked your ball in the trees, you could find it and hit it out.”

PINING FOR THE PAST

Of course, pure aesthetics are another matter. For those who long admired the towering trees, the sense of loss is real and lasting.

Eight years after the infestation, Janice Peck, for example, still says, “I miss the old course. It was...*unique*.”

Peck began mowing those tight fairways in the summers of her teen years. She served as course superintendent for a time years later, and still helps out during golf season, though not in an official capacity. In addition, she just completed her 32nd year as director of the Grand Lake Nordic Center, which takes over the Grand Lake Golf Course pro shop from October to the end of March. Five of the total 35 kilometers of Nordic trails are located on the golf course.

Now in her early 50s, Peck sounds a lot like an Olympian who graciously raves about a silver medal but can’t escape the feeling in her heart that it doesn’t begin to compare with a gold.

“It’s an awesome course,” she insists, as if trying to convince herself. Then she adds: “It’s just a different course.” It’s also a much quieter course. The plunking of balls bouncing off the pines no longer provides the soundtrack to every round.

Indicative of just how much she misses the trees that lined the fairways and ringed the greens—and how much they meant to her, Peck keeps a set of digital photos on her computer, showing the way it was. She’s thinking about shooting the course today, from all the same angles, just to record the contrast.

“It’s still working on getting its character back,” she says. “Over the years the little trees will spring up. I’ve seen it already on the ski trails. Some are my height now.”

MEET THE BEETLES

Back in 1999, while everyone was preoccupied with the cataclysmic effect that Y2K might have on our computer-driven world, few saw the onslaught of the mountain pine beetle,

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which was approaching as fast as the turn of the century.

"The fire department and the Forest Service saw the beetles coming," Peck notes. The concern was not tree loss itself, but the threat a resulting wildfire would pose.

Explains Brown: "If there was a fire, it would come from Columbine Lake (a community of almost 500 homes), through the golf course, and into town, because of the prevailing winds. Once a tree is dead or dying, you look at it as fuel. That's all it is."

Teepee-like piles of timber began popping up along Golf Course Road, a sign of early efforts to clean out the dead wood, especially along the Nordic trails. Some folks actually thought that would avert disaster. Peck, who was then golf course superintendent, even tried spraying the trees that ringed most greens, hoping to save them.

"Originally," she recalls, "they said, 'do this, and this, and this, and you won't have a problem.' But it turned out to be a bigger epidemic than anyone could imagine."

The burrowing little insects—no bigger than a grain of rice—emerged in huge numbers in 2003 because of mild winters and dry summers, and killed literally millions of high country pines

over the next three years. "We needed 40-below for two weeks during the winter," Peck says, "but we didn't get it. They wound up breeding two or three times a year instead of once."

Grand was one of the Colorado counties hardest hit; scenic Grand Lake Golf Course was impacted to the point of despair. Rust-red mountainsides, as far as the eye could see, replaced the endless green that had stretched to tree line.

"It was tragic," says Scott Redder, a local boy who, like Peck, began working at the course while in high school. In 15 seasons—"eight with trees, seven without"—Redder became assistant superintendent, then Brown's successor. "What happened to the course was a symbol of what happened to our world."

CHARTING THE COURSE

Allen Brown had worked at Plum Creek Country Club from 1984 to through 2006, advancing from the summer course maintenance crew as he finished high school to course superintendent. He even had a working relationship with the PGA Tour for a while. He accepted the job as course superintendent at Grand Lake Golf Course in

A GRAND HARVEST

The tree-laden hillside down the left side of No. 9 is now cleared, but its legacy endures. "When we were clearing the trees there," former Course Superintendent Scott Redder recalls, "it was like a golf ball farm. There were thousands in there. I kept only logo balls—thought that would be cool. I quit when I had three large garbage bags full." Even without the trees, it's still no place to hit a tee shot.

March 2007 because of the opportunity he felt it offered.

Brown arrived a few months after voters in the Grand Lake Metropolitan Recreation District overwhelmingly approved a \$4.2 million general obligation bond issue. The beetles didn't cause the ballot issue, but they certainly helped garner support for it.



SLASH PILES: The golf course lost somewhere between 100,000 and 400,000 trees.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GRAND LAKE GOLF COURSE



BEFORE AND AFTER: The the conifer corridors that once defined strategy on Grand Lake's No.1 handicap sixth hole have yielded to less intimidating native areas.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GRAND LAKE GOLF COURSE

“The irrigation system was shot, and we needed a new maintenance building,” says Peck, who championed the bond campaign in the community. “There were a lot of things—bridges on the Nordic trails, dog-friendly biking and hiking trails, clubhouse renovation, new maintenance equipment.

“Without the beetle kill, we may have waited a couple more years to put a bond issue to a vote, but we were going to have to do it. After the beetles hit, we had to do it right away. Without that, we wouldn’t have been

able to do anything to fix the course.”

The bond issue was the main reason Brown decided to leave Plum Creek. “I knew we had an opportunity to create something,” he says. “The funding was in place. Without that, I never would have taken the job.”

It sounds like a lot of money, but the \$4.2 million actually went fast. In round figures, Brown says \$1.2 million went for logging, and \$700,000 for cleanup. The new irrigation system came in at \$1.3 million, and a new maintenance building

about a half-million.

That left \$500,000 for ski trail bridges over the Colorado River, the new biking and hiking trails, some replacement maintenance equipment, and something to replace all those dead trees. How many trees? Estimates range from 100,000 to 400,000—in a total area of 500 acres (100 comprising the golf course footprint).

“The supply and demand got totally turned around,” explains Peck. “Before the beetle kill, loggers would pay us to log trees. After, we had to pay them, three-thousand an acre,

to get it cleaned up. Pretty quickly, sawmills wouldn’t take the timber. They had more than they could use.”

Brown and Redder spent at least half of nearly every day for three years working on the cleanup, assisted by other course maintenance workers when available.

“Clean to a logger is different than clean to a course superintendent,” Redder notes with a grin. “They left behind tree stumps, rocks, and slash piles—branches, pine cones and smaller trees—sometimes thirty feet high. And smaller

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trees; they wouldn't take anything they couldn't market."

LINKS TO THE FUTURE

An area on the course property—previously a large hole—is testament to all that had to be removed. Now, a normal-looking surface belies the huge pile of debris hauled there from all over the golf course. The only clue comes when one walks across it and experiences its unusual, springy feel underfoot.

In addition to that mess, Redder reminds that they "replaced the entire old center row irrigation system—every sprinkler head, and the pump house. And we built the new maintenance building."

Yet, Brown declares proudly, "We opened on time—May 15, 2007—and never missed a day of golf that year."

Play declined, as some golfers avoided what in many respects was a construction site. But sustaining play that summer was critically important. "We couldn't close," Brown says. "It would have buried the district."



TREE-FREE: Director of Golf Roberts says less shade has produced fewer frost delays, better turf and better shots.

Janice Peck's love for the course as it existed for decades was shared by most of the locals. That presented Brown with a delicate challenge as he worked on a plan for transforming the revered but devastated course into the intriguing but different test it has become as it marks its golden anniversary.

"There was a lot of emotion," he recalls. "I had to rally the troops, so to speak. There was no choice: Either clean up these trees, or we don't have a golf course."

What followed, of course, was a debate about what to do.

"There was a lot of talk about replanting," Brown says, "but that would take a generation, and you'd never have the forest that we lost. A lot of people said we should leave the pine straw: 'That way golfers will be able to find their balls.' But it would always look barren. There needed to be an aesthetic component to the golf course."

Brown consulted with the agriculture

experts at Colorado State University, and found his answer: native grasses that would do well in the harsh conditions common at elevations above 8,000 feet. He planted eight species.

"Native seed is cheap, which was a factor," he explains. "Two thousand pounds of seed goes a long way because you're not trying for a turf environment. And we could do that in-house. Seed in the fall; 300 inches of snow during the winter; and it comes up beautiful the next spring."

How's It Play?

Waves of grain aren't clusters of majestic pines, but the native grasses do give Grand Lake Golf Course a distinct appearance once again.

"It's a beautiful course," says Redder, who succeeded Brown at the end of the 2011 season. "We have challenges we didn't have before. We get a lot more people who appreciate it for those new challenges."

There are other benefits for golfers, as well, unexpected by all but those closest to the course. They include fewer frost delays and better turf—"a case study in what happens to turf health when you reduce the shade," Brown says. Adds Roberts: "Players say they hit better shots now, because the grass is better."

And the wildlife—one of Grand Lake Golf Course's special charms—is "better than ever," Redder assures, "fox, moose, elk—and more predator birds because they can see more without the trees hiding their prey."

Some golfers, of course, grumbled about losing balls in the tall grass and the resulting slower pace of play. In response, Redder altered the conditions in a few key spots, usually by mowing some native areas to create a wider, more forgiving rough.

Redder moved on to become Main Campus Grounds Supervisor at the University of Colorado at the conclusion of Grand Lake's 2013 golf season. Larry Burks, former General Manager of Pole Creek Golf Club in Tabernash, replaced him.

During Brown's tenure as course superintendent, outdated greens on four holes—4, 5, 11 and 16—also were rebuilt and, most importantly, sodded with modern turf.


"Those greens sloped back to front, for drainage," Roberts explains. "It was necessary when the course was built and expanded, because of the amount of snow we get. They used different grass then, too. When we cut the old grass on those greens, eight-and-a-half or nine on the Stimpmeter was like 11 or 12.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GRAND LAKE GOLF COURSE

You couldn't stop a putt from above the hole. Now, eight-and-a-half or nine is eight-and-a-half or nine."

The result of all the efforts by Brown, Peck, Redder, Roberts and many other course workers is a remarkable reincarnated course—born again at age 50.

"A lot of courses built in the '60s have been redesigned more than once," Roberts muses, "holes made longer, trees added to create new hazards—all to make courses more challenging, more modern or more interesting."

Implied as his voice trailed off: The pine beetles inspired a similar makeover at Grand Lake Golf Course. 

Denny Dressman is the author and editor of numerous books (comservbooks.com).



STADLERS

(Continued from page 79)


three hours we did a major overhaul."

The changes reaped immediate benefits.

Last June he won the Champions Tour's Encompass Championship—his first victory since 2004. He went to see Harmon before this January's Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and shot a 69-66, but hitting out of the the lava rock during the final round, he tore cartilage in his wrist and finished with a 79.

Craig says the wrist should be healed in time for the Masters. "I can still easily make the cut," he says, "but is just making the cut really a goal?" It is—if he and Kevin both make it and somehow wind up playing together on Saturday or Sunday.

Kevin's excited about competing at a course on which he frolicked as a kid and played once in college. A good showing at the Masters will earn FedEx Cup points (as of March 9, he's 10th in the standings) and only the top 70 qualify for September's BMW Championship at Cherry Hills Country Club. "I'm really, really hoping to play in it," he says.

You know Craig, his biggest fan, hopes his son will play in it, too. 

Jon Rizzi is the editor of CAG.



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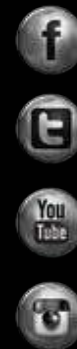
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LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Do you know these links legacies?

CRAIG AND KEVIN STADLER may be the first father and son to play in the same Masters, but the game has connected fathers and sons forever. As proof, consider the number of golf jokes featuring God and Jesus. The following clues refer to notable golf legacies through history, starting with the Old and Young Toms and ending with a pair of Colorado champions.

1. They won seven British Opens between them.
2. They won six British Opens between them, including the inaugural one.
3. The Golden Bear and his now-amateur cub.
4. Demon Deacon dynasty from two generations.
5. First father and son to play in same PGA Championship.
6. World Golf Hall of Fame dad won three majors; son won the '96 Vancouver Open.
7. Two Buffs: One a three-time U.S. Open winner; the other a CGA Mid-Am Player of the Year.
8. Dad won a Masters; son has taught multiple major winners.
9. 2013 Senior British Open winner and 2010 CGA Player of Year.

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