

# GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Fall 2018, Vol. 22 No. 6

## THE LURE OF WE-KO-PA

## BANFF'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

## SUNSET VALLEY IS BACK!

Instruction by  
Andrew Ogata

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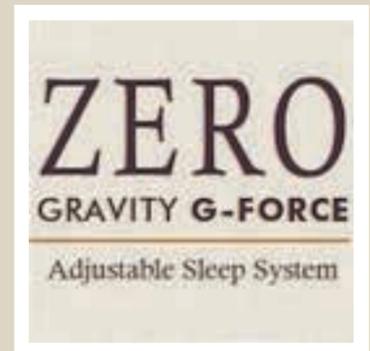
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OPENING SHOT

DAVE AND TIM

Where does the time go? Why does the sun set so much earlier? Why won't that pesky four-footer drop?

Scientists can answer the first two questions. You're on your own – or need help from a teaching professional – for the latter, but the calendar is correct. Golf season, for those not hightailing it far south or out west for at least a few days, is coming to an end.

Soon, we'll feel the cold shoulder whistling in from the northwest, accompanied by a cold rain or something worse. But the fall is considered by many the best time of the year to play golf – the colors of autumn turn trees into rainbows, courses are often less crowded, and the leaf rule is in effect.

One of the beauties of the game is the ability to play in almost all conditions. The Eskimo Open is not our cup of ice, but other than that, we're good to go.



"You didn't golf today, so the church sent someone over to witness the miracle."

How our game and the environment interact is the subject of a report by Neal Kotlarek in this issue.

We also feature reports on two revitalized courses near and far: Sunset Valley in Highland Park and We-Ko-Pa in Arizona. Traveling golfers will also be interested in a look at spectacular Banff and Jasper Springs in Canada. There's also a roundup of goings-on here, instruction from Arrowhead's Andrew Ogata, and our annual holiday gift guide. (Go ahead, treat yourself.)

Have a great fall, and thanks for reading GOLFChicago.

*The August issue featured a story on golf in the Lake Tahoe area. The current editor was unaware that several paragraphs of that story were taken from a similar feature by former editor Greg Jourdan that ran in our August 2015 issue. We should have given credit to him, and apologize to him for not doing so.*

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# THE GOOD STUFF

Compiled by Dave Lockhart

### Dress like Tiger and Phil

Here's a stylish way to cheer for the Red, White and Blue and look like one of the American star players: Ralph Lauren (RLX) is the official outfitter for the 2018 U.S. Ryder Cup team, combining a variety of stylish apparel with innovative performance fabrics. The collection features modern stripes and color blocking, accented with patriotic logos and graphics. "United We Stand" is printed in the interior waistband of all on-course pants. You can also find a very cool camo map print on selected outerwear (namely the high-performing windshirt), inspired by the Albatros Course at the host venue of Le Golf National just outside Paris. Perhaps this can even help elevate your game. Plus, it can also be an ideal fashion statement on the Fourth of July. So slip into these cool threads and get into the spirit of this epic event as the Americans gear up to win for the first time on foreign soil in 25 years. **MSRP \$97.50-\$225** [www.ralphlauren.com](http://www.ralphlauren.com)

### A Jacket with Zip

The techies at Johnnie-O have come up with a new version of their Coastal Jacket that was a hit. It's the Bates 2-Way Zip Sweater Jacket, a cozy soft fleece model with a stretch liner for an easy fit, zip front pockets, and a two-way zipper. Available in five sizes (up to XXL) and three colors (light gray, midnight and Red Rock). **MSRP \$145** [www.johnnie-o.com](http://www.johnnie-o.com)



### Golf in the Homeland

Author and highly-skilled player Tom Coyne puts his clubs and his pen together for another dynamic book *A Course Called Scotland*. Coyne emerged about a decade ago with his book on Ireland where he traversed most of the country in search of links golf. Now he takes us on a journey where you truly feel what it is like to be in the Home of Golf experiencing more seaside links layouts. He shares all of his experiences from the most well-known courses to lesser-known hidden gems. It's humorous storytelling filled with history and insight to the roots of the game and all of the interesting people he runs into along the way. What's truly amazing is his playing 107 courses over a period of just 56 days. Talk about a golf junkie! If you have ever been to or wanted to go where the game was born, *A Course Called Scotland*, is a tee time you must make. **MSRP \$12.99 (Kindle), \$27 (hardcover)** [www.simonandschuster.com/](http://www.simonandschuster.com/) books/*A-Course-Called-Scotland/Tom-Coyne*

**Wear Yellow for Jarrod**  
The passing of PGA professional Jarrod Lyle in August has been felt by countless members of the golf community. Nexbelt is aiming to help those hit the hardest: Lyle's wife and two children. That's why Nexbelt is donating 100 percent of proceeds from sales of the Jarrod Lyle signature belt to them. The bright yellow belt with signature buckle was one of the ways Lyle brought awareness to leukemia. Nexbelt is highly regarded for their ratchet design to adjust sizing, as opposed to traditional belt holes. [www.nexbelt.com](http://www.nexbelt.com)



### Great Balls of Fire

Volvik has made a bold colorful move in the golf ball world, expanding their line of Vivid balls with the introduction of four new colors: jade, blue, purple and black. These aerodynamic nuggets maintain the same top quality of all of their ball-types, providing golfers with superior performance, power and distance. The Volvik Vivid line is the world's first matte-finish three-piece golf ball, with a 75 compression and a larger core for more distance.

The unique SF matte coating provides aerodynamic consistency and higher trajectory. Golfers experience the ultimate in distance – with softer feel and greater energy transfer from the highly resilient power core – as well as higher greenside spin for accurate pin control. Anyone can play with white balls but why not bring a little pizzazz into your game? **MSRP \$32.99** [www.volvik.com](http://www.volvik.com)



### Puma Makes Tracks On and Off Course

It's hard to beat Puma at the golf shoe game these days. They produce trendy designs that are comfortable with superior traction. You know you're doing it right when you wear the shoes off the course. The new IGNITE PWRADAPT lineup has a foam cushioned platform that adapts to the way you move. With a performance mesh upper and Tornado cleats at the bottom, the PWRADAPT from Puma is ready to go wherever you want. Available in four different color combinations. **MSRP \$150** [www.cobragolf.com](http://www.cobragolf.com)



### Getting an Electronic Grip

Arccos is one of the most well-known golf tech companies out there. Their sensors have been in recent club models from Cobra, so it was only a matter of time until everyone could get their hands around their technology. Arccos Caddie Smart grips allow golfers to connect their entire bag to the Arccos AI-powered performance tracking system. These grips seamlessly record and analyze every shot you hit (for better or worse). Package includes 13 Lamkin Crossline 360 Smart Grips and 1 Arccos putter sensor. **MSRP \$149.99** [www.arccosgolf.com](http://www.arccosgolf.com)

### An Umbrella for a Cause

Finally an umbrella has come along that truly has it all, and could be classified as a smart umbrella. Designed by a meteorologist, no detail of the Folds of Honor Weatherman umbrella is overlooked: industrial-strength fiberglass defends against breaking and inverting, Teflon-coated fabric repels water, and vented canopies withstand winds up to 55 mph. The Weatherman app for Android and iOS notifies you of weather conditions, and even syncs with Bluetooth technology so you'll never leave it behind. This canopy, available in four sizes, is some serious protection for whatever weather pattern you will face on or off the golf course. The two golf models (62- and 68-inches) feature UPF 50+ sun protection, a mesh pocket for storage and a non-slip, silicone rib for hanging a towel. For every one of these limited edition umbrellas purchased, Weatherman will donate \$5 to the Folds of Honor Foundation, an organization that provides scholarships to families of America's fallen and disabled service members. **MSRP \$59-80** [www.weathermanumbrella.com](http://www.weathermanumbrella.com)





## The Dreaded “S” Word

**T**he shanks: I know we all try to avoid even talking about it but it’s a topic that needs to be addressed. Throughout the summer I get golfers coming up to me saying they are going to give up the game of golf because of the shanks. I know it’s frustrating and at times debilitating, but if you know what causes it out on the course, the shanks can easily be fixed and possibly prevented. In this article I’m going to talk about what causes the shanks and a few drills you can use and practice with to help alleviate the problem.

Let’s start out with what causes the shanks to happen. As one of the pro’s at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton, I provide short game lessons to anyone who is struggling with the shanks. I can see that they are standing too close to the golf ball and their weight and club are swinging more towards the ball. Picture the club path coming over the top and swinging across their body. When this happens, that path exposes the hosel of the club which leads to the dreaded shank. Hitting the ball on

the hosel is one of the worst feelings you can have as a golfer as it puts fear and second guessing in your head throughout the rest of the game. When this happens the first instinct you have is that you need to stand closer to the golf ball as this gives you more control over your club, but in fact this is like putting gas on the fire.

When you catch a case of the shanks on the course you can do a few things to help fix the problem. Start by taking your normal set up, but rather than aligning the golf ball up in the center of the club face, let’s address your ball on the hosel of your club and try to strike the golf ball on the toe of the club. This teaches our brain and body to start working away from the golf ball and working the club more towards our body. This is a quick fix during your round to help stop the dreaded shank.

Once the round is complete it wouldn’t be a bad idea to hit the range and get in some practice to make sure the shanks are few and far between during your next round of golf. A drill I like to use to teach

my hands to work away from the ball and more towards my body requires two golf balls and full swings. Take two golf balls about a club head’s width apart and address the golf ball that is the farthest away. In the down swing, you are going to hit the golf ball that is closest to you. This drill helps you bring your hands in at impact and keeping your weight from moving closer to the golf ball. Practice this drill with a bucket of balls or two and your shanks should go back into hiding.

The shanks are like a common cold, they show up out of nowhere but with a little TLC on the range you shouldn’t have to worry about those dreaded shanks any longer. Give these few drills a try and remember it’s best to see your local PGA professional with any questions you might have rather than trying to fix the issue yourself. Looking forward to seeing you all on the course!

*Andrew Ogata is the first assistant golf professional at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton.*



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# Rancho Mañana Golf Club & Spa

Rancho Mañana Golf Club, located in the high Sonoran Desert in historic Cave Creek, Arizona, boasts some of the state's most breathtaking views and challenging holes of golf. Situated along an original Pony Express stop and U.S. Cavalry watering hole, Rancho Mañana Golf Club has continually ranked among *Golf Digest's* "Places To Play" and is regarded as "One of Arizona's Most Scenic Golf Courses." Convenient to most Scottsdale and Phoenix resorts and hotels, the course has become a valley favorite of visitors from around the country due to its unique beauty and native surroundings.

From the first hole, the front nine takes golfers through the Town of Cave Creek's name sake, Cave Creek Wash, one of the last remaining riparian areas in the state. Each subsequent hole ventures upward to higher elevations, where one can witness some of the state's most breathtaking views. Nowhere else in the Valley of the Sun can a golfer simultaneously view picturesque images of Camelback Mountain, Mummy Mountain, Squaw

Peak, Black Mountain, South Mountain, and the dramatic Tonto National Forest, with its distinctive Elephant Butte.

Golfers then begin to meander back towards the site of a once-thriving western dude ranch — now the clubhouse and restaurant facilities, with their original, rustic structures. From there, Rancho Mañana's back nine allows one to encounter a slightly different experience, as golfers work their way around a lush oasis of water-guarded holes with 360 degrees of unobstructed mountain views, where Mother Nature's vast array of wildlife can be found, including the likes of bobcats, roadrunners, rabbits, and mule deer.

Although the par-70 layout features dramatic elevation changes and acres of unspoiled desert terrain, Rancho Mañana is well known for its fairness and playability for golfers of all abilities. Built in the late 1980s, the course has had time to mature, and a few key renovations throughout its history have improved it with age. The recently renovated bunkers provide just the right amount of challenge without creating undue stress caused by shoul-

der-deep traps sometimes encountered in the game.

It's easy to see why the course has won so many accolades, including making the list of "America's Top 50 Courses for Women" by *Golf Digest* in 2010. Most holes don't have extensively long forced carries from the tees, and the same is true for nearly all the greens that are accepting of low-bouncing shots hit short of the green. The course was also selected as being in the top 10 courses in Arizona by *Ranking Arizona* magazine during the same year.

The 19th hole is usually of equal importance to the golf course itself for any golf experience, and the Tonto Bar and Grill is only a few short steps away and captures the rustic desert ambiance of years gone by with hand-carved beams of the historic ranch ceiling still in place. With two dining areas inside and a covered patio overlooking the 11th green, the facility certainly provides a cozy spot to relax after an enjoyable day on the links.

In addition to offering cold beverages, great care is taken to ensure the menu is second to none and that it fully embraces the local flavors of the southwest. Chef Eric Flatt and his staff also aim to preserve Arizona's heritage through cuisine and by sharing the stories of the property's past. They fuse Southwestern and Native American ingredients and present them in a warm, welcoming atmosphere rich in Arizona lore. Many areas of the restaurant feature historic photos of the property from the years as one of Arizona's most successful dude ranches in the 1940s.

The restaurant has also received numerous awards and accolades, including being honored by *PHOENIX* magazine in their list of the valley's Top 100 Restaurants, and a continuous honor from *Wine Spectator* magazine due to the extensive wine selections that are available.

Rancho Mañana is an experience that truly represents the uniqueness of golf in the Arizona desert. For tee times, call Rancho Mañana Golf Club at 480-488-0398 or visit [www.ranchomanana.com](http://www.ranchomanana.com). For restaurant reservations/information, call Tonto Bar & Grill at 480-488-0698.



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# 2018 HOLIDAYS GIFT GUIDE



### Kid Stuff from Tour Edge

No matter the age of your junior golfer, Tour Edge has you covered this holiday season. A newly revamped line of youth clubs come to us in the Hot Launch HL-J Junior Sets. A strategically designed series of complete sets that will get them from the 3-6 year old range to the 11-14 age range. All have the familiar Tour Edge quality and lifetime guarantee, and provide youth golfers with an easy to hit set, no matter what level of skill. All sets available in right and left hand.  
MSRP \$99.99- \$169.99  
[www.touredge.com](http://www.touredge.com)

### New Irons from Mizuno

On the heels of the immensely popular JPX 900s, Mizuno brings us the brand new JPX 919 series of irons. Sticking with what works, the 919 irons come in three models to lend themselves to all levels of golfers. The Hot Metal model provides forgiveness without sacrificing that familiar Mizuno feel. The JPX 919 Forged is the ideal middle ground for spin, forgiveness, feel, and playability. The Tour model is available for elite shot makers, carved from a single billet of 1025E Pure Select mild carbon steel (aka they're silly soft).  
MSRP \$1,000- \$1,300 set  
[mizunousa.com](http://mizunousa.com)



### Galvin Green

It's important to remember not all golf rain gear is created equal. If you cheap out, the rain and wind will find its way in. Galvin Green is a company on a mission to keep you dry, comfortable, and on the course. Among the many styles is the Lennox half-zip jacket. INTERFACE-1 fabric is designed to keep windchill out and sustain a core body temperature. The jacket is also extremely breathable and versatile, making for a comfortable swing.  
MSRP \$320  
[www.galvingreen.com](http://www.galvingreen.com)

### A Rangefinder for St. Nick

There's laser rangefinders, and then there's the SL1 Active Hybrid rangefinder from Voice Caddie. This sleek unit looks like a mini Cadillac. The LCD screen integrates the best of both worlds; laser accuracy and an easy to read layout with green undulation. A continuous scan mode eliminates having to hit the button multiple times to find distance. The unit vibrates when the target has been located and is also water resistant. Pretty sure Santa owns this rangefinder.  
MSRP \$499.99  
[voicecaddie.com](http://voicecaddie.com)



### Just Add a Gift Card

Loudmouth Golf really does have designs for all occasions, the holidays being no exception. New for 2018 is their Gift Wrapped pattern which will be available in November. Versatile enough that you can break them out on Black Friday and wear them all the way into 2019. Available in Loudmouth's new StretchTech polyester fabric, these perfectly wrapped pants are wrinkle free, fade free, and shrink free. Tell the people gawking at you that pictures, however, are not free.  
MSRP \$99.50  
[us.loudmouthgolf.com](http://us.loudmouthgolf.com)

### Music for Your Foursome

Bluetooth speakers on the golf course are becoming more common every year. If it's you and your buds, nothing beats some tunes while you hack it up. The Turtle Shell 3.0 from Outdoor Technology easily fits in several areas of your golf cart, or set it down on the range for a groovy practice session. With any Bluetooth speaker, battery life is the issue. The Turtle Shell 3.0 runs for a full 20 hours before ending the party. Its rugged exterior stands up to water, sand, Bloody Mary splashes, and aggressive golf cart drivers.  
MSRP \$99.95  
[www.outdoortechnology.com](http://www.outdoortechnology.com)



Compiled by Todd Mrowice



### Sunfish Masters Covers

Leather headcovers are one of the classiest ways to dress up your golf bag these days. So take it a step further and dress it up with a "tradition unlike any other." After all, you may as well do it right. These Masters Series headcovers from Sunfish look like they came right off Arnie's bag. The iconic colors added to newspaper clippings from the *Augusta Chronicle* in the 1930s make these covers truly unique. A set of 100-percent stitched covers includes driver, fairway, and hybrid models.  
MSRP \$279.99  
[www.sunfishsales.com](http://www.sunfishsales.com)

### Cleveland Comes Fourth with New Wedges

Leave it to Cleveland Golf to find new ways to improve our short games. The wedge leader debuts its new RTX 4 line, the "4" standing for the fourth generation of wedges to have Rotex Face Technology. The lower lofted RTX 4 models are compact with a straight leading edge to allow a smooth transition from your short irons. Higher lofts have a more traditional wedge shape for peak performance close to the green. Available in four sole grinds (full, mid, low, xlow) and in three finishes.  
MSRP \$139.99 each  
[www.clevelandgolf.com](http://www.clevelandgolf.com)



### See the Ecco

There's a big difference between gifting someone golf shoes and gifting them Ecco golf shoes. The difference? Comfort, materials, reliability, looks, etc. Ecco just knows how to do grass grabbers. The new Biom Hybrid 3 GTX model continues a long line of premium shoes by showcasing an innovative outsole called Tri-Fi-Grip. Three different zones (stability, durability, and rotation) assists your entire golf swing. These kicks perform on the course as well as on the town as it is 100 percent waterproof with GORE-TEX construction.  
MSRP \$200  
[Us.shop.ecco.com](http://Us.shop.ecco.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



### Push in Style

It's always reassuring when you purchase a car that's won awards, right? So why not hold your golf carts to the same standard? The Bag Boy Triswivel II has been awarded No. 1 Push Cart in 2017 and 2018 by MyGolfSpy. What sets this cart apart is the front wheel having the ability to rotate 360 degrees, making it the most maneuverable cart on the market. The cart has an easy three step folding process and breaks down to fit in just about any vehicle. The lightweight aluminum frame stands up to the elements.  
MSRP \$249.95  
[bagboycompany.com](http://bagboycompany.com)



### Titleist Aims for Speed

Quite possibly the most anticipated metals in 2018 have been the Titleist TS models, and now they've arrived. The main goal of this new line from Titleist is speed - they want you to gain some at all costs. The TS2 driver is designed to permit an aggressive swing with maximum forgiveness having your back. This higher-launch model differs from the TS3, a mid-launch driver catering to speed-tuned performance. Both models are 460cc and have premium stock shafts available.  
MSRP \$499.99  
[www.titleist.com](http://www.titleist.com)



Lists of the top golf courses in the world are top heavy with seaside experiences. Monterey's Pebble Beach Golf Links rests along the Pacific Ocean as does Bandon Dunes in Oregon. Royal County Down is on the Irish Sea. Scotland's Royal Dornoch is on the North Sea.

While oceans and seas obviously help make for great golf and breathtaking scenery, I personally can't imagine a more spectacular setting for golf than the Canadian Rocky Mountains near Alberta. A combination of crystal blue skies with mountain peaks soaring some 3,000 feet above tees and greens provide an exhilarating golf high unique to this part of the world.

A good portion of the fun in making the trip to Banff Springs is the sheer anticipation of one's arrival in the mountains. Calgary International Airport is three hours north of the U.S.-Canadian border and only a 90-minute drive east of Banff National Park. A short jaunt through the city gets one out into the country and eventually onto Highway 1, also known as the Trans-Canada Highway. The ride past Heart Mountain leads toward Pigeon Mountain before you head northwest at Dead Man's Flats. Just short of Mount Rundle, you reach the entrance gates of Banff National Park.

From its humble beginnings as a 26-square mile hot springs preserve, Banff National Park has expanded a hundredfold into 2,564 square miles (6,641 square kilometers) of stunning mountain scenery located in the heart of the Canadian Rockies. The park is literally a celebration of nature, featuring snow-capped peaks, glistening glaciers and awe-inspiring landscapes. Millions of tourists visit annually to gawk at the emerald waters of Lake Louise, to stroll through the flower-filled fields at Sunshine Meadows, and to cruise beneath the jagged peaks lining the Icefields Parkway.

Readers of this magazine, of course, know the most enjoyable way to commune with nature involves a bag of clubs and a cooler of refreshing beverages. To accommodate that yearning, the national park offers no less than 11 golf courses across the area, including a number of spectacular championship layouts reviewed here.

#### Fairmont Banff Springs

Way back in 1932, a budding young architect named Robert Trent Jones became design partners with the remarkable Stanley Thompson, a highly skilled and ambitious designer who, among other accomplishments, would go on to become co-founder and president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects with Jones and Donald Ross. Considered by many to be the Father of Canadian Golf Architecture, Thompson designed more than 145 courses over his illustrious career, including many of Canada's premier layouts.

Ranked among the top ten courses in Canada by *Golf Digest*, the course is lined by stately pine trees that serve as a foreground for the incredible mountain panorama on every hole. Opened as a 9-hole course built by Old Tom Morris apprentice Bill Thomson, the layout was expanded to 18 holes by Donald Ross in 1923. Only three years later, Stanley Thompson was provided an unlimited budget by the Canadian Pacific Railway to reconfigure the property into a championship course. While a few of the Ross holes were kept when the new track formally opened in 1929, others took proper advantage of the mountain-scape to create the existing course, promoted at the time as "the most expensive course in the world."

The course meanders under the snow-capped peaks of Mount Rundle and Sulphur Mountain and meanders along the scenic waters of the Bow River. Large greens are guarded by sprawling, sometimes deep-faced, bunkers—a Thompson trademark.

Banff Springs director of golf Steve Young effusively praised the course's design and the designer.

# Rocky Mountain High!

## Scenery, Nature and Golf Soar at Banff Springs and Jasper Park in Canada

By Neal Kotlarek with Dave Weretka

"Thompson was one of Canada's top architects," he said. "Not only was he an architect, he was also an artist. The holes he created are pleasing and appealing to the eye."

Young stated his belief that the scenery the course is set in is "second to none. This is mountain golf," he said. "The layout is located in a very narrow river valley. It follows along the river and the cliffs of the mountain. You are not just visiting a special place – you get to golf in that special place. What more can you ask for?"

The headliner of the Stanley Thompson Course is the iconic par-3 No. 4. Known as the Devil's Cauldron, the hole begins from an elevated tee and traverses over a glacial lake toward a green tucked below towering pines and the majestic shadows cast by Mount Rundle. Make sure to have the battery of your smart phone fully charged before teeing off on this hole as you will undoubtedly want multiple angles and selfies even before you step away from the tee.

Golf historians will appreciate the history of the 380-yard No. 6 as Thompson built a wide landing area here seemingly as an open invitation to fire away at the only original Donald Ross green site left on the course. At 3,200 square feet, this is the smallest green on the course and features subtle swales that are a primary characteristic of Ross's work.

Following a few fine holes that wander away from the mountainside, the 480-yard No. 15 packs an amazing one-two punch of beauty and challenge. The hole is nicknamed Spray due to its demanding tee shot over the Spray River to a large landing area which is tightened by pines the closer one approaches the putting surface. This hole was previously known as "golf's greatest opening tee shot," as it was the 1st hole until a new clubhouse was built in 1989 and the course was rerouted. In some ways, the positioning is fitting as the player was previously forced to experience a letdown following the exhilaration of launching a first drive into the sky – a mile above sea level! – and toward magnificent Mount Rundle.

Before or after your round at the Thompson Course, consider playing the property's Tunnel Course, the property's third nine. Though it was added in 1989 and thus is not a Thompson design (Geoffrey Cornish and Bill Robinson did the honors), the layout is stunning in its own right and features fabulous views of both the Rockies and the amazing, castle-like Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel.

While the natural beauty of the resort's golf course holds few parallels, the host hotel has no equals anywhere in the world. Known as the "Castle in the Rockies," the hotel was built in the 1880s by railroad baron William Cornelius Van Horne. A flagship property of the Fairmont chain, the hotel serves up first-rate accommodations, cuisine, recreation options and spa services. Time away from the golf course can be spent hiking on paths through the national forest, white water rafting, kayaking, biking, fishing and horseback riding. The town of Banff is an easy stroll downhill from the Fairmont Banff Springs.

#### Fairmont Jasper Park

The route between Banff Springs and Jasper Park has been rightly called one of the world's most stunning roadways. As a bonus with the mountain scenery of the two national parks, one gets to enjoy forests, icefields, glaciers, crags and an excellent chance at encountering any number of elk, bears, mountain goat, moose and even bighorn sheep. One important note of caution when making this drive: wildlife always enjoy the right of way on the highway; thus, make liberal plans when trying to schedule your tee time during the drive up from Banff Springs.

Indeed, no drive between these two great hotels is complete without a stop at the Fairmont Lake Louise to enjoy a cold beverage while viewing the stunning blue waters of the lake and its mountain backdrop. Just north of the hotel rests the Columbia Icefield and the squadron of glaciers visible always along the Icefields Parkway. Farther along the same road, a stop at Bow Lake yields a view of Crowfoot Glacier hugging the cliffs of Crowfoot Mountain.

While 320 miles seems like a long way to drive for a round or two of golf, take comfort in the knowledge that this will be the shortest four-hour drive of your life. Personally, I was even slightly disappointed that the ride ended so soon!

Situated in Alberta's vast Jasper National Park, Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge is a 700-acre luxury mountain resort that wraps around the pristine waters of Lac Beauvert. The hotel is also vastly different in style and personality from Banff Springs. Elegant cedar chalets and luxury cabins give the property a rustic look that suits the surroundings of forests and mountains.



Banff Springs Hole 5



Jasper Park Hole 9

Jasper Park Hole 10

Jasper Park Hole 14

# We-Ko-Pa Offers Golf and More

By Doug Slice

Photos by Lonna Tucker

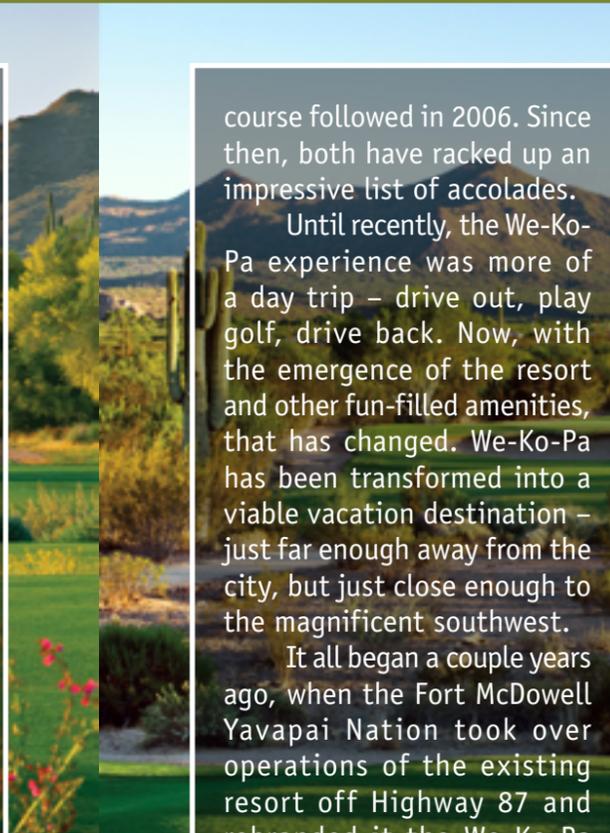


Cholla Hole 11

In the decades immediately following World War I, the Phoenix area was a little more than a pass-through town on the way to California. The summers were scorching and air conditioning was a luxury that would not be fully integrated in homes and businesses for another 20 years. The loop freeways synonymous with Phoenix and Scottsdale travel weren't even a glimmer in the eyes of taxpayers or governors. The television boom that captivated the nuclear family was three decades away.

So what did Phoenix residents do for fun before all the hustle and bustle? In short, listen to Roosevelt's fireside chats and play golf. Generations later, people from all over the world flock to the Valley of the Sun for luxury shopping, world-class sporting events, exquisite dining and – above all else – to play absolutely incredible golf. At the very top of the 200 courses in the Phoenix metro area is We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, boasting the No. 1 and No. 10 ranked courses in the entire state.

The Cholla course at We-Ko-Pa Golf Club burst on to the Scottsdale scene in December 2001 as an early Christmas gift wrapped in some of the most scenic Sonoran Desert on the planet. The Saguaro



course followed in 2006. Since then, both have racked up an impressive list of accolades.

Until recently, the We-Ko-Pa experience was more of a day trip – drive out, play golf, drive back. Now, with the emergence of the resort and other fun-filled amenities, that has changed. We-Ko-Pa has been transformed into a viable vacation destination – just far enough away from the city, but just close enough to the magnificent southwest.

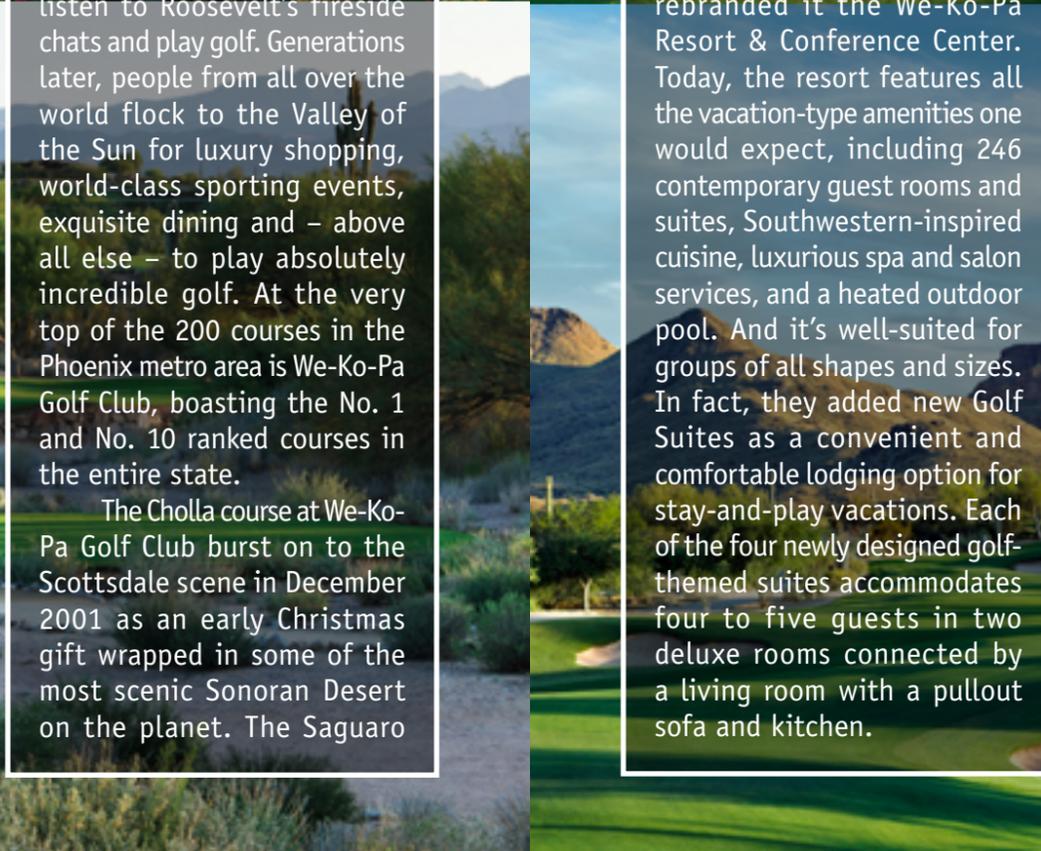
It all began a couple years ago, when the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation took over operations of the existing resort off Highway 87 and rebranded it the We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center. Today, the resort features all the vacation-type amenities one would expect, including 246 contemporary guest rooms and suites, Southwestern-inspired cuisine, luxurious spa and salon services, and a heated outdoor pool. And it's well-suited for groups of all shapes and sizes. In fact, they added new Golf Suites as a convenient and comfortable lodging option for stay-and-play vacations. Each of the four newly designed golf-themed suites accommodates four to five guests in two deluxe rooms connected by a living room with a pullout sofa and kitchen.



Saguaro Hole 5



Cholla Hole 3



continued on page 21

Saguaro Hole 8

# Sweet Home Chicago

## A New Dawn for Sunset Valley

Four years ago, the city of Highland Park faced a dilemma. Due to economic conditions, it was apparent that the community could ill-afford to maintain both of the park district's popular golf courses – Highland Woods Country Club and Sunset Valley Golf Club. While the former had an edge because it was turning a small profit annually, the latter was a sentimental favorite due to its location just a few blocks from the city center.

Illinois Golf Hall of Fame member Joel Hirsch had a say in the final decision as he lobbied the park district for the

retention and renovation of the golf course that launched his interest in the game.

"I started as a caddie at Sunset Valley," Hirsch, who spent his teen years in Highland Park and lives there now, said in an August press conference. "It's always had a fond place in my heart."

The city set aside \$7 million to rehabilitate the golf course, improve drainage and storm water management and remodel the clubhouse. Libertyville architect Rick Jacobson oversaw the renovation of the now 6,726-yard layout which was opened in 1922 and designed by Stewart Gardner. Jacobson's team built 18 new contoured green complexes; lengthened holes No. 5 and 13; added strategic fairway and greenside bunkering, and placed five sets of tees to enhance playability for players of all skill levels. Rather than detract from the original course, the removal of trees from various parts of the layout serve to enhance the beauty of this heathland-style course and provide better sightlines to the greens.

The results of the renovation work are apparent from a single glance from the clubhouse. The wildly contoured practice putting green now serves as a lengthy extension of the 18th green. The once basic greenside and bunkers across the property are now sprawling and deep-faced. And the fescue areas that divide many fairways give the holes increased definition while serving as an added challenge to wayward players.

Last year's winner of the Illinois State Amateur Championship Patrick Flavin grew up playing Sunset Valley and raved about the renovation work. "These greens used to be flat as a pancake," he commented after firing a 5-under-par 67 on media day. "The contours added by Rick truly add

a strategic element that the course was previously missing." Flavin, 22, turned pro in August and is seeking to qualify for the Web.com pro circuit.

Highlighting the course's front nine is the signature No. 4, a 162-yard par-3 protected by native grasses on the left and a stone-lined pond on the right. Take dead aim at the pin on this large putting surface and let 'er rip! Before leaving the tee, take a quick snapshot of this terrific hole.

The course finishes with a pair of opposites. The par-5 502-yard 17th is made difficult due to multiple hazards off the tee. Avoid water on the left knowing that a large fairway bunker lurks in the landing area on the right. While a pair of bunkers protect the flagstick, a deftly struck 3-wood can reach this green in two.

The 354-yard 18th is a relatively short par-4 that allows players to recover from previous disasters with a possible birdie. Beware of a pin position in the middle of this green, however, as a swale just past the flag can funnel the ball back onto the aforementioned practice putting surface. While you undoubtedly won't make birdie from this point, you can take consolation that you are only a few steps away from a cold beverage in the clubhouse, which was gutted to remove decades of drab decor and reimagined with great views from the inside, the 13ninety Grill, a restaurant with a lively menu, and a patio to dine outside while watching golf.

"I'm really proud of the work we performed here at Sunset Valley," said Jacobson. "Ever since it was built back in the 1920s, the course had experienced serious issues with storm water management. We not only fixed that issue, we improved playability, made the course more challenging and pretty, and also upgraded the playing surface. It has been wonderful to hear good things about the renovation from players like Joel and Patrick who were obviously fond of the original course."

– Neal Kotlarek

## Wheaton Touts its Place in Golf

Golf came to Wheaton when Charles Blair McDonald and his pals moved Chicago Golf Club there from Belmont in 1895. To commemorate that, the DuPage County Historical Museum has opened an exhibit at Arrowhead Golf Club, a

## Down Memory Lane

### Jack on the Attack

Beware the Golden Bear when his putter is hot.

This was true for about 40 years, from the time Jack Nicklaus was a junior until he essentially retired from senior golf. If you needed someone to sink a 10-footer to pay the mortgage, you called Jack. As he said once, deprecating his average short game, "I made everything I looked at."

Among his hottest putting rounds came 50 years ago, when he beat a formidable field to score his second straight victory in the Western Open.

Nicklaus would win the 1968 Western, played on Olympia Fields Country Club's North Course, with his putter, scoring 11-under-par 273 across 72 holes, and twice tying the course's formidable course record of 65, set 28 years earlier by Lawson Little in U.S. Open sectional qualifying.

It started right away.

"On the first hole I dropped a 30-footer for a birdie, and as I went down the second fairway I tried to think when I'd ever dropped a 30-footer and I couldn't," Jack said, exaggerating only slightly.

What he hadn't done was drop a 30-footer recently. He credited switching back to the blade putter with which he'd won the 1966 British Open, putting in the closet "White Fang," which he used to win the 1967 U.S. Open.

Nicklaus one-putted six greens and took 30 putts in the first round, soared to a 1-over 72 in the second round, and posted another 65 in the third round – which featured a 28-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole and followed a 60-foot two-putt for birdie on the first, where his eagle putt stopped six inches from the cup. His eagle finally flew on the par-5 18th after a 215-yard 1-iron to six feet.

He finished with an even-par 71 to beat Miller Barber by three strokes and Australian Bob Stanton by four. It was Nicklaus' first victory of the year, coming when he putted his best.

– Tim Cronin



The par-3 fourth hole at Sunset Valley, as reimagined by Rick Jacobson, features a new pond in front of the large but challenging green. (Tim Cronin)





short distance from Chicago Golf, with a display of old clubs and memorabilia from the start to the present day.

A committee has also put together a catalog of the exhibit and other items the museum has acquired, focusing on the key individuals who have come through Chicago Golf and Wheaton in general through the years. The catalog is for sale at Arrowhead.

### Major Doings in French Lick

Women's golf has come a long way in 60 years. That's when the still-young LPGA came to French Lick, Ind., and Louise Suggs won the French Lick Open, and the \$1,247 winner's share of the \$7,000 purse. Last year, the ladies returned for the inaugural senior

major championship for women, the Senior LPGA Championship. Trish Johnson won it, and a place in golf history.

From October 15-17, Johnson will be back trying to repeat as the Senior LPGA is played again on the French Lick Resort's Pete Dye Course. She'll actually be trying for her third straight title at French Lick, as Johnson also won the 2016 Legends Tour tournament on the layout. U.S. Senior Women's Open winner Laura Davies and runner-up Juli Inkster are also expected to compete.

"People ask me what is my favorite course, and I always said St. Andrews, but I have to say, this place has certainly taken over," Johnson said after last year's triumph.

Golf Channel will televise all three days and fans are welcome. For more information, see [www.frenchlick.com](http://www.frenchlick.com).

### Illini Double Their Hosting Pleasure

Illinois' men's golf team has hosted a top tournament at Olympia Fields Country Club since 2006 – Rickie Fowler is among the individual winners – and now the women's team is getting into the act at the Chicago area's other multiple-course private club, Medinah. The inaugural Illini Women's Invitational is set for Medinah's No. 2 course on October 8-9, with 36 holes the first day and a final round for the 15 teams, including Big Ten rivals Indiana, Purdue and Wisconsin, on the second.

"We are extremely excited to be hosting this premier event at one of the most renowned private clubs in the country," Illinois coach Renee Slone said. "The elite field is sure to provide an exciting competition and a strong test of skill on the newly designed Course 2."

The Tom Bendelow layout was refurbished two years ago and reopened in June 2017. It features seven sets of tees, more than Medinah's other two courses.

### Stonebridge Saves Birdies for Charity

On Labor Day evening, as Birdies for Charity event co-chair and pro Chris Gumbach watched the skies open and the rain-soaked River Forest Country Club go from playable to unplayable in a matter of minutes, he wasn't sure if the eighth Birdies for Charity fundraising event could be played the next day as scheduled.

Enter Andrew Stevens, the professional at Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora, and the club's Board, who offered their course as an alternate site in the nick of time.

Illinois PGA Professionals made 1,014 birdies to raise a record \$378,000 to benefit children's charities including Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, JDRF Illinois Chapter, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, Illinois PGA Foundation and bonus charities Cal's Angels and Folds of Honor. The eight-year event total now stands at nearly \$1.4 million.

### We-Ko-Pa

continued from page 17

"The Golf Suites are ideal for anything from casual buddy trips to corporate outings," said Matt Barr, general manager of We-Ko-Pa Golf Club. "They allow groups to gather together after the round and continue the fun in a spacious, comfortable setting where they can play cards, or watch the game of the day."

This certainly satisfies the where-to-stay question, but how about the what-to-do factor? Quick answer: golf and other fun stuff.

Cholla and Saguaro have much in common. Both are meticulously maintained, receive high praise from golf media and guests alike, and offer quality experiences punctuated by the sights and sounds of the desert and nothing else. But they're not without distinction. Cholla features desert golf-style challenges, while Saguaro was designed with more of a traditional look and feel.

"We couldn't be happier with the way the golf courses turned out," said Barr. "They each have a unique personality, and the surrounding desert is teeming with wildlife and mountain views."

Designed by Scott Miller, the Cholla course emerged this fall after a \$1.8 million renovation that included replacing tidwarf bermuda grass on the greens with a faster-rolling MiniVerde variety, new bunkers, irrigation infrastructure, replacing six acres of turf with native plants, and changes to No. 8.

The fairway on this 605-yard, par 5 narrows as it plunges toward a deep, dry desert arroyo that runs across the front of the green, which left limited space to place a second-shot layout. The landing area was widened and part of the arroyo was grassed to create a more realistic risk/reward scenario.

"After 15 years, it was time to reinvigorate Cholla to maintain the type of conditions consistent with the high level of playability our guests have come to expect," said Matt Barr.

Saguaro – designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw – incorporates desert golf with traditional golf course design. It's built for walking, with greens situated near the next tee. It follows the natural movement of the land, and the playing corridors are wider – some much wider – compared to Cholla. When the particular patch of ground is flat and open, the hole is, too. Likewise, when the landscape pitches and rolls, so does

the layout. And just like Cholla, Saguaro recently underwent its own preventative maintenance project which consisted of replacing all the sand and inspecting the drain lines of each bunker.

If you can't decide which to play or how often to play each award-winning golf course, don't worry. We-Ko-Pa offers incredible stay-and-play packages as well as 36-hole packages so you can take your time exploring the similarities and differences of each course.

"They're both amazing, but they're both very different," said Eric Dettman, We-Ko-Pa's head professional. "Saguaro,

for example, is perfect for winter walking with wide fairways guarded by iconic Coore-Crenshaw bunkers. And Cholla will test your strategic thinking and shot selection. You really have to play them both to get a feel of the desert, but you haven't really played desert golf until you've played We-Ko-Pa."

These two courses have enough twists and turns to keep even the most discriminating golfer as interested in their 50th round as their first, but Fort McDowell Adventures opens up an entire desert full of other recreational activities.

continued on page 22

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## We-Ko-Pa

continued from page 21

This Old West-themed attraction allows you to get out and enjoy the desert in a number of ways. Blazing through desert trails in Green Zebra Adventure's Tomcar – a fast, nearly indestructible sandrail-type vehicle – is so exciting you won't want to give up the wheel. If seeing the incredible Sonoran Desert at a leisurely pace is more your speed, Fort McDowell Adventures offers guided river tours by kayak – single or tandem – stand-up paddle boards and rafts, guided biking tours and hiking trails perfect for photo opportunities. But eventually the ride comes to an end, and it's time to chow down at a cowboy cookout and watch the fiery sunset fade to a starlit night.

For those who'd like to test their luck at a game of chance, Fort McDowell Casino is next door. It's a full-service gaming facility offering slots, keno, bingo, a card room and blackjack. It also offers a half-dozen eating and drinking outlets, along with live entertainment at the Lucky 7 Saloon. The casino has been so successful, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation doubled down on the entertainment venue, and broke ground on a brand-new casino scheduled to open in 2020 where those who care to can try their luck at all the casino games they've come to expect from Arizona gaming facilities, all with a new casino floor, modern contemporary décor and upscale amenities.

"This exciting project will set a new standard for quality entertainment in the Northeast Valley while providing economic security to our tribal government," said Tribal Council president Bernadine Burnette. "We're thankful that our past success enables us to make this investment in the future of our tribe and our region." Owen Doka, assistant general manager and a member of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, said he likes what he sees.

"Thanks to the people of Arizona and the foresight of the Tribal Council, we were able to allocate the resources needed to build something that attracts visitors worldwide to The Valley of the Sun," Doka noted. "The entire Arizona community can be proud of what We-Ko-Pa has become." While the name We-Ko-Pa, which means Four Peaks in Yavapai, is rightfully recognized for its award-winning duo of dramatic golf courses, it's obviously grown into much more. It's now a place to stay and play – golf or otherwise.



Cholla Hole 5

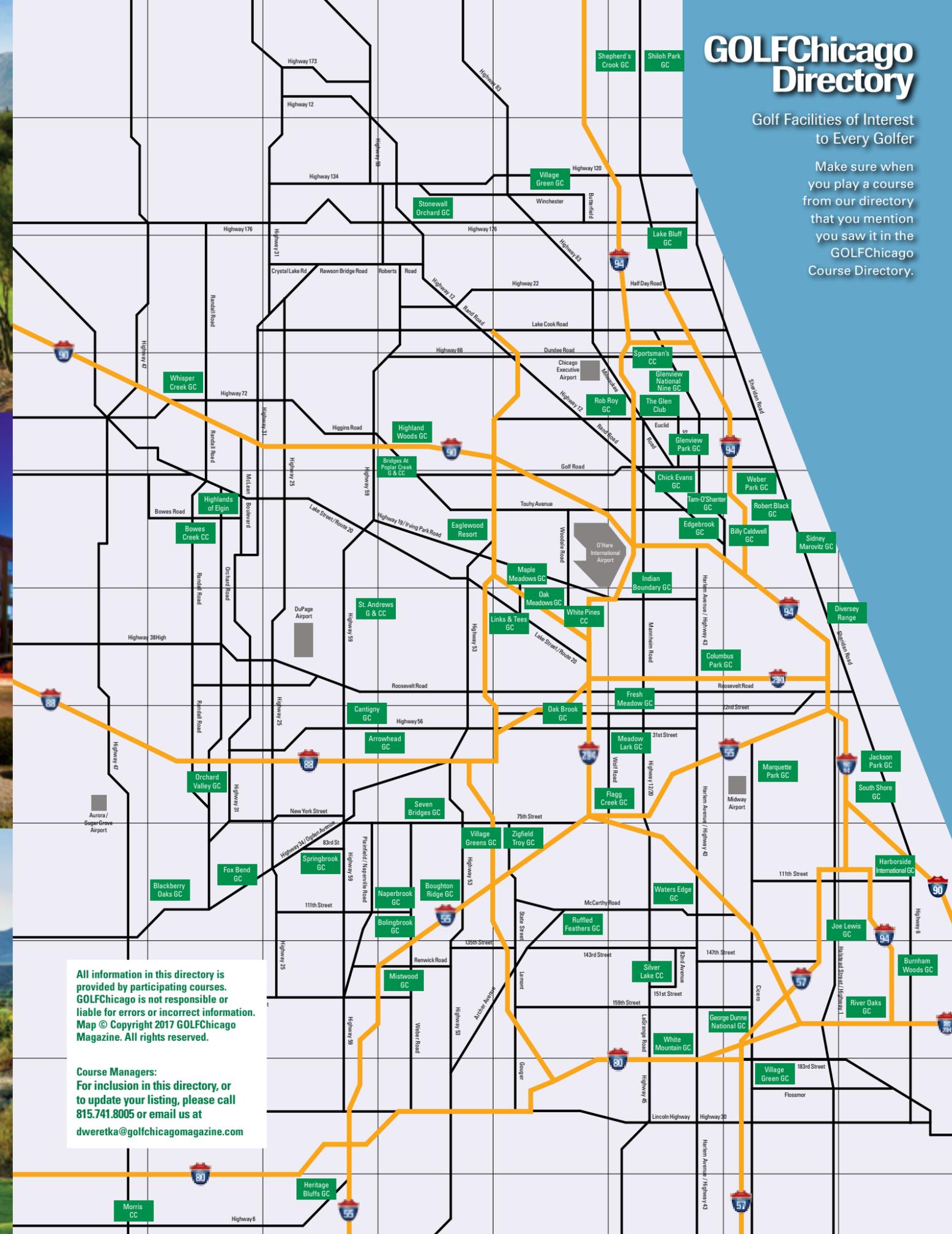


Saguaro Hole 15

# GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

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Course Managers: For inclusion in this directory, or to update your listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at [dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com](mailto:dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com)



### Arrowhead

630-653-5800  
26W151 Butterfield Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
[arrowheadgolfclub.org](http://arrowheadgolfclub.org)

Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere. Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par 72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. The West, East, and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green, and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



### Blackberry Oaks Golf Course

630-553-7170  
2245 Kennedy Rd.  
Bristol, IL 60512  
[www.blackberryoaks.com](http://www.blackberryoaks.com)

Located just forty minutes west of Chicago, Blackberry Oaks Golf Course was built to blend and enhance the natural assets of the property, such as Blackberry Creek, the wetlands, the prairie lands, and mature oak groves. Blackberry Oaks is a true "Link with Nature." Blackberry Oaks Golf Course features 18 holes of golf, a practice range, an exceptional junior golf academy, and a fantastic restaurant. Please visit [www.blackberryoaks.com](http://www.blackberryoaks.com) to learn more and to reserve a tee time.

Home of the Blackberry Amateur, the premier Midwest amateur golf event. [www.blackberryamateur.com](http://www.blackberryamateur.com)



### Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880  
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.  
Elgin, Illinois 60124  
[bowescreekcc.com](http://bowescreekcc.com)

Ranked as *Golfweek's* Best Courses You Can Play, Bowes Creek Country Club gives you every option to play your ideal round of golf. Along with annual memberships, we offer a "member-for-a-day" pass, allowing you the privilege to play unlimited golf with cart as well as full use of the practice facility. If playing a quick round of nine or eighteen holes suits your game better, we offer that as well. Bowes Creek allows the public golfer to experience the private club, without an annual membership.



### Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463  
27w270 Mack Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
[cantignygolf.com](http://cantignygolf.com)

Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny is both challenging and breathtakingly scenic. Cantigny Golf's Red Oak Club loyalty program rewards customers with free golf and other benefits. The Young Executive Program offers reduced green fees for golfers 39 and under. The Red Oak Club and Young Executive Program are each free to join. Cantigny's 27 holes are ideal for outings ranging from 16 to 220 golfers. The course employs a full-time golf-event coordinator to ensure an exceptional experience for planners and guests. NEW for 2018: The Woodside Pavilion for weddings and golf outings!



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- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
- River Oaks: 18 Holes



### Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939  
3516 Route 34  
Oswego, IL 60543  
[www.foxbendgolfcourse.com](http://www.foxbendgolfcourse.com)

Fox Bend is Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course. This 18-hole, par-72 course boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. With 34 well-positioned bunkers and water coming into play on 11 holes, the course tests skills of all levels. USFGA FootGolf is also available on select days. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the deck overlooking the scenic course at Pearce's restaurant, or book the Pavilion for your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials and book online.



### The Glen Club

847-724-7272  
2901 W. Lake Ave.  
Glenview, IL 60026  
[theglenclub.com](http://theglenclub.com)

Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience. The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located on the former site of the historic Glenview Naval Air Station. In the heart of a 195-acre refuge, The Glen Club features rolling terrain, dramatic elevation changes, tranquil lakes, and striking vistas. Enjoy the grand 48,000 square-foot clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and membership.



### Glenview Park Golf Club

847-724-0250  
Shermer Rd.  
Glenview, IL 60025  
[golfglenview.com](http://golfglenview.com)

Experience pure golfing enjoyment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. After a complete renovation in 2014-2015, the course has re-opened to rave reviews. Bent grass from tee to green, rolling fairways, and meticulous landscapes await you on this 18-hole, 6,133 yard par-70 course. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club, but is open to the public and close to home. *Golf Inc* magazine voted the Glenview Park Golf Club the Best Renovation of the Year in 2016. Come out to see what everyone is talking about. Host of the USGA - 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier.



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### Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424  
272 Addison Rd.  
Wood Dale, IL 60191  
[DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com)

Maple Meadow's Championship "West 18" features a modern prairie design, and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open and the host course for the DuPage Junior Classic. Choose from four sets of tees and enjoy immaculate bent grass fairways and greens. Maple Meadows' convenient location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83. Find our best specials and promotions only on [www.DuPageGolf.com](http://www.DuPageGolf.com).



### The Preserve at Oak Meadows

630-595-0071  
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.  
Addison, IL 60101  
[DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com)

After two years of extensive renovation, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows is NOW OPEN as a new world-class 18-hole course and practice facility.

- 2017 *Golf Digest* Award Winner
- 2018 US Amateur Qualifying Site

This transformation, designed by golf architect Greg Martin, produced an award winning environmental haven that is best described as a "golf preserve." The Preserve's location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83. For news and tee-times visit [DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com)



### Glenview Prairie Club

847-657-1637  
2800 W. Lake Ave.  
Glenview, IL 60026  
[golfglenview.com](http://golfglenview.com)

After your round stop in our beautiful clubhouse setting overlooking the 9th green. Craft Beers, Fine Wines sport and soft drinks available. Make Glenview Prairie Club your home club for a premier 9-hole experience!

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- 4 sets of tees to meet all skill levels
- 90 minute pace of play for a quick 9
- Challenging, fun, and enjoyable for all.



### Golf Center Des Plaines

847-803-GOLF  
353 N River Rd.  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
[GolfCenterDesPlaines.com](http://GolfCenterDesPlaines.com)

9 Holes: Par 27  
Yardage: 80 - 210  
Chicago's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round, and until midnight May-Fall. The 80-bay lighted and heated Driving Range is one of the Top 50 Ranges in the country: automatic ball tee-up, 300-yard outdoor landing area, plus 11 grass tees. The 1-1/2 acre Short Game Area features three sand bunkers and multiple putting greens; you can practice chip shots from up to 60 yards out. Unlimited Memberships are available for the Course and Short Game, and the Driving Range. Restaurant, Sports Bar, Pro Shop, and GolfTec Lessons.



### Harborside International G.C.

312-782-7837  
11001 S. Doty Ave. East  
Chicago, IL 60628  
[harborsidegolf.com](http://harborsidegolf.com)

Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent. Harborside is home to Chicago's largest practice facility, a prairie-style clubhouse, and The Pier at Harborside restaurant. Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



### Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club

815-467-7888  
24355 W. Bluff Rd.  
Channahon, IL 60410  
[heritagebluffs.com](http://heritagebluffs.com)

18 Holes: Par 72  
Yardage: 5,035- 7,171  
Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing. Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.





### The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950  
875 Sports Way  
Elgin, IL 60123  
[highlandsofelgin.com](http://highlandsofelgin.com)

The Highlands of Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Nine new holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind, including a twelve-acre quarry lake. Four holes hug the top of the bluff thirty to forty feet above the water, providing golfers with incredible views and numerous shot options on each hole. The prairie-style clubhouse features an expanded golf shop, locker rooms, event rooms, and a full-scale food and beverage operation.



### Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771  
355 W Washington Ave.  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044  
[lakebluffgolfclub.com](http://lakebluffgolfclub.com)

Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, Lake Bluff Golf Club offers a beautiful and challenging layout in a traditional parkland setting. The course measures 6,589 yards from the back tees and offers three additional sets of tees to accommodate all skill levels. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bentgrass fairways and greens. Other amenities include a full-service golf shop, private and group instruction, and an exceptional dining experience at the new Hell's Kitchen.

The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



### Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333  
1700 W. Renwick Rd.  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
[mistwoodgc.com](http://mistwoodgc.com)

Mistwood Golf Club, with its recent multi-million dollar renovations and new state of the art golf-learning center, has become one of the premier golf experiences in the Chicagoland area

Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish-style stacked sod-wall bunkers, which are not something seen in traditional American golf. Other amenities include a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and wonderful dining.

- *Golf Magazine's* "2013 Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play"
- Golf Range Association of America "2013 Top 50 Golf Ranges."



### Mt. Prospect Golf Club

847-259-4200  
600 See Gwun Ave.  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056  
[golfmtprospect.com](http://golfmtprospect.com)

The newly restored Mt. Prospect GC will take you back to a style of architecture made famous by names like Raynor, MacDonald, and Ross, with low square tee boxes, strategic cross bunkers, and challenging plateau greens, all in our quiet parkland setting. The redesign features most of the original routing, plus five new holes and historic "template holes" with names like Redan, Eden, and Punchbowl.

Mt. Prospect is the closest thing to the conditions and feel of an old private club, with a daily fee rate. Come back to a new 90-year-old classic.



### Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060  
2220 W. 83rd St.  
Naperville, IL 60564  
[golfnaperville.org](http://golfnaperville.org)

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. The facility features a challenging, parkland-style championship course, a recently renovated practice facility with a one-acre turf practice tee, a large practice putting green, and two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



### Stonewall Orchard

847-740-4890  
25675 West Highway 60  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
[stonewallorchard.com](http://stonewallorchard.com)

Cutting through hundred-year old oak and pine trees, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club has quickly become one of Chicago's most prolific public golf courses.

Since opening in 1999, the Arthur Hills-designed gem located in northwest suburban Grayslake has served as Final Stage Qualifying site for the U.S. Open, and currently sits in rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every Fall.



### Tam-O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

847-965-2344  
6700 West Howard Street  
Niles, IL 60714  
[golftam.com](http://golftam.com)

One of the most important courses in popularizing the game of golf in America is located right here in Niles, Illinois. In 1953, Tam O'Shanter Country Club hosted the first-ever nationally televised golf tournament.

Today, a public 9-hole par-33 course remains, maintained with the goal of providing playing conditions reminiscent of those Hogan, Palmer, and Nicklaus enjoyed years ago. Swing out for a scenic round and walk in the footsteps of legends at Tam O'Shanter! Renovation project now complete!



### Water's Edge Golf Course

708-671-1032  
7205 West 115th St.  
Worth, IL 60482  
[watersedgegolf.com](http://watersedgegolf.com)

Rated Best Places To Play by *Golf Digest*.

Water's Edge is Chicago's south side destination course. This championship 18-hole golf course offers bent grass greens and fairways, and a complete day/night practice and range facility, along with The Edge Bar & Grill for great meals and daily specials.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club



### Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215  
22204 W. 111th St. / Hassert Blvd.  
Plainfield, IL 60585  
[golfnaperville.org](http://golfnaperville.org)

Located in Plainfield, scenic Naperbrook Golf Course is a "links style" course that features rolling hills and wide fairways. Challenges in the way of ponds, a double green, and hidden bunkers await golfers of all levels. Additional amenities include a ten-acre driving range, separate lesson tee, and practice putting greens. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio; Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and much more.



### Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500  
2411 W. Illinois Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506  
[orchardvalleygolf.com](http://orchardvalleygolf.com)

6th Best Public Course in Illinois by *GOLF* magazine.

One of Chicagoland's best public courses, *Golf Digest* ranks Orchard Valley 4½ Stars! A true championship layout featuring wetlands, lakes, roughs, water hazards, marshes, and more.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the OV Rewards PLUS program.
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PPP card.
- Annual Memberships and MORE!



### Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544  
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070  
[robroygc.com](http://robroygc.com)

Winding through 51 acres, the beautiful 9-hole Rob Roy Golf Course will challenge golfers at any skill level. The 3,022-yard course is narrow and tree-lined, requiring accuracy with water, sand traps, and other strategically-placed obstacles around the course. Rob Roy also includes a lighted driving range with 52 hitting stations. Bring the whole family for mini golf, and grab lunch overlooking the course at the 10th Hole Bar & Grille. There is something for everyone at Rob Roy!



### St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

630-231-3100  
2241 Route 59  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
[standrewsgc.com](http://standrewsgc.com)

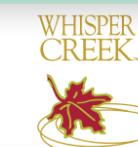
36 Holes:  
Course #1: par 71, 5116 - 6920 yards  
Course #2: par 72, 5341 - 6818 yards  
Since 1926, golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses. With its vast rolling terrain and mature trees, St. Andrews offers a high-quality golf experience for players, golf outings, leagues, and permanent tee-times. Guests will also enjoy the award-winning 32-acre Practice Center with premium range balls and 10 heated, sheltered hitting bays. Other amenities: golf carts with GPS, J.J.'s Bar & Grill, exquisite lakeside ceremony site, and live entertainment.



### Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600  
[skokieparks.org](http://skokieparks.org)  
9 Holes: Par 27  
Yardage: 1,095

Located just twenty minutes north of Chicago on I-94, all ages will enjoy Skokie's Weber Park Golf Course. This 9-hole, par-3 golf course features bent grass greens, beautiful landscaping, and is ideal for learning to play golf, working on your short game, or gathering a few friends for a fun round of FootGolf.



### Whisper Creek Golf Course

847-515-7680  
12840 Del Webb Blvd.  
Huntley, IL 60142  
[whispercreekgolf.com](http://whispercreekgolf.com)

Luxury Golf at a Whisper of a Price!

Whisper Creek Golf Club is a fair test for a gamut of golfers. From beginners to scratch golfers, anyone who appreciates a day on the course will come away feeling rewarded by a round at Whisper Creek.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Whisper Rewards PLUS program
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PDP card
- Annual Memberships and MORE!



### White Mountain Golf Park

708-478-4653  
9901 179th St.  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
[whitemountaingolfpark.com](http://whitemountaingolfpark.com)

Learn. Practice. Play.

- Executive course offering 9 holes of competitive golf
- Practice Range with artificial and grass hitting stations, and heated, covered stalls
- Mini Golf park offering 18 holes
- Professional instruction for all levels and abilities
- Fully stocked golf shop
- Party room perfect for events, fundraisers and more!

PLUS...earn FREE stuff with the Playback Rewards program – join TODAY!



### White Pines Golf Club

630-766-0304  
500 W. Jefferson St.  
Bensenville, IL 60106  
[whitepinesgolf.com](http://whitepinesgolf.com)

East Course 18 Holes  
Par 70  
Yardage: 5,150 - 6,371  
West Course 18 Holes  
Par 72  
Yardage: 5,751 - 6,624  
Located within minutes of O'Hare, White Pines feels like you are getting "away from it all."

Situated on over 240 acres, the club has been a favorite among Chicago golfers since 1928. The Clubhouse offers a fully-stocked golf shop, an elegant banquet facility, and 37 Bar & Grill which offers patio dining. Call for senior and youth rates and specials.



## Rocky Mountain High

continued from page 14

Jasper Park Lodge Golf Club is rated by many national golf magazines as Canada's premier course. A Stanley Thompson design, the layout was the end result of an epic project that took 50 teams of horses and 200 men working together for a year to clear the boulders and debris prior to construction. The 18 holes feature elevated tee boxes and dramatic bunkering carved through thick forests and over rugged terrain.

The signature hole on the front nine is No. 9, aptly named Cleopatra for its awesome beauty. The 231-yard par 3 plays at least two clubs shorter as the fairway slopes downhill toward a green surrounded by Thompson's signature bunkers.

The back nine is highlighted by No. 14, a 361-yard par 4 that features the aforementioned Lac Beauvert along its entire left side. Optimal precision is required both off the tee to avoid the lake and toward the green, divided into two parts by a ridge that either pulls the approach shot toward the flagstick or – as in my case – detours the shot away from the flagstick to set up a long, uncomfortable putt.

Jasper Park Lodge features 442 superbly appointed guest rooms, suites and cabins. Outdoor amenities include kayaking on the lake and hiking on one of the many mountain trails. Dining options are highlighted by Rocky Mountain cuisine in any of the resort's eight restaurants which showcase local and organic foods.

When extolling nature in his epic song "Rocky Mountain High," folk singer John Denver referenced the elements of nature that make a stay in the mountains so special, including the walks in quiet solitude, the forests, the streams and seeing everything "as far as you can see." A golf trip to Banff Springs and Jasper Park in the Canadian Rockies offers all of those attributes along with luxurious accommodations. What more, as Steve Young referenced, can you ask for?

For more information:  
Fairmont Banff Springs  
[www.fairmont.com/banff-springs](http://www.fairmont.com/banff-springs)  
(403) 762-2211 or (800) 257-7544  
Fairmont Jasper Park  
[www.fairmont.com/jasper](http://www.fairmont.com/jasper)  
(780) 852-3301 or (800) 257-7544



Jasper Park Hole 11



Jasper Park Hole 18



Banff Springs

## ON THE CORKSCREWS

STEPHEN HAWK

In 1973, newlyweds Mike and Mary Benziger drove west and permanently settled in Northern California. Seven years later, Mike and his brother Bruno Benziger purchased the historic Wegener Ranch on Sonoma Mountain in Glen Ellen, Calif. Hearing the Sirens call of the Golden State, over the next six years the four remaining siblings — Bob, Joe, Jerry, and Patsy, with their spouses — made their way to California.

In 1986, winemaker Joe Benziger first partnered with artist Bob Nugent to launch the Imagery Series of wines. This pairing of wine and art continues to this day, and permeates every aspect of Imagery Winery, including unique artwork replicated on every label. The dedicated on-site art gallery features label artwork commissioned from some of the world's most notable contemporary artists, and includes over 500 works by over 300 artists. Currently, around 60 pieces are on view in the gallery.

At any given time, as many as 35 artists are working on pieces that will appear on future Imagery wine labels. The artists are not limited by size, medium, or content — the only exception is that the work must include a likeness of the Parthenon replica on the Benziger Estate, which serves as the winery's signature image.

Joe Benziger has dedicated his career to crafting rare wines from uncommon varietals such as Malbec, Tempranillo, and Lagrein. These limited-production wines are available to wine club members only.

However, that doesn't mean Imagery is inaccessible. Following in her father Joe's footsteps, middle-daughter Jamie Benziger is the winemaker in charge of Imagery's new and more popularly-priced collection of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir. The label is characterized with a "drip" motif, suggestive of both wine and paint.

**2016 Chardonnay** \$14  
This offering presents initial subtle aromas of ripe apple, pear, and lime. It is pale-straw colored in the glass. It greets the palate with flavors of further apple and lemon, plus a touch of steeliness from the cold fermentation and minimal oak. The wine is

## Evocative Imagery

enlivened with the addition of 5% Chenin Blanc, and the finish is bright and fresh.

This wine would work well with Vietnamese turkey and glass noodle salad, sea bass with golden mash, or kedgeree risotto.

**2016 Cabernet Sauvignon** \$17  
This Cab starts out with a nose of dark fruit, vanilla, and toasted oak. Then come the flavors of blackberries, plum, and cherries. The blend is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petite Syrah, the latter lending unusual spice and pepper notes. The wine is fruit forward and velvety soft, with moderate tannins and medium acidity. The winery is targeting this wine at the hotel trade, so it might take a bit of effort to locate.

Serve this easy-going red with pancetta-wrapped sausages, finger-lickin' ribs, or saffron roast lamb with sticky garlic potatoes.



smhawk@ayainc.com

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2014 US Amateur Local Qualifying Site  
2013 US Amateur Public Links Qualifying Site



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Channahon, Illinois



## Let's Really Grow the Game

I've been hearing the phrase "growing the game" for so long now, I'm not sure it has any more meaning for me than "through the green."

Year in and year out, new initiatives are launched to reach more women, millennials and kids. Yet each year, participation in the game decreases and golf gets older, whiter and more male.

Which is why I've been on the lookout for people and golf courses doing new and innovative things to get new players into the game, lest all those classic courses that have been lovingly restored find themselves converted into green spaces.

Nationally, the First Tee program is a cornerstone that brings in money, kids, and publicity, but I keep asking, what else is going on out there? While these examples are from the American west, where I've lived for years, they apply to anywhere, including Chicago, where I was born and bred.

While reporting for a piece on Rockwind Community Links, a 2015 Andy Staples redesign of a tired track in the New Mexico oil-patch town of Hobbs I learned that a nine-hole par-3 course with holes 35 to 85 yards was included – not as an adjunct but as a centerpiece of the \$12 million project.

Any number of kids accompanying a paying adult can play the "L'il Rock" course for free – and golf shop staffers confess that if a kid came out without an adult, they'd likely play for free, too.

On any given day year-round, there are between 20 and 40 kids at Rockwind participating in some kind of junior golf program. But the clincher came from Kristie Hughes, program manager for the First Tee of Southeastern New Mexico: They take kids as young as three years old in "parent-assisted programs" – meaning the parents stay and participate instead of just dropping off their kids.

"We like to market the First Tee in many different ways, especially to parents who don't play golf," Hughes said. "They're very intimidated. Golf is known as a rich man's sport. We want to turn that around and let people know that golf is accessible."

Ka-boom. The genius shines through. Get the parents in the door when the little ones are three to five years old and you've broken through

the intimidation barrier non-golfing moms and dads experience walking into a pro shop a few years later wondering how much this kids' golf thing is going to cost them.

The early start gives Rockwind more years to expose a kid to the game, and parents grow comfortable dropping off their kids at the course for the day, safe in the knowledge they'll have a day of wholesome athletic play in a park-like setting.

In Utah, at Red Ledges, a private community with a Jack Nicklaus golf course near Park City, (profiled in this magazine this summer) the developers took Nicklaus' advice and did two things. First, they scrapped the nine-hole course they had planned in favor of Nicklaus's suggestion of a 12-hole par 3 course with holes 107 to 183 yards long. Second, they created a fifth set of tees, the "Golden Bear" tees, well down the fairway of the championship course, turning a 7,569-yard monster into a 3,700-yard walk in the park for new players graduating to the big course.

But the real Red Ledges magic happens on the wide-open golf park, whose concave elevated green complexes funnel balls to the hole – to either a regulation-size hole or an 8-inch cup. A kid or a family can play a couple of holes, six holes, 12 holes, or even 18 in a stress-free setting. Or maybe they just walk the dog while whacking a ball now and then.

At my home course, Santa Ana Golf Club in Albuquerque, Santa Ana Pueblo member and PGA Professional Jason Montoya runs a program for juniors, many of them Native Americans, that teaches golf but also plants the seed that golf can be an entry to an outdoor occupation – not just as a player, but as a maintenance crew member.

Instructor Sandy Lemon organizes golf and wine parties and fashion shows for new and novice women players – keying on the social aspect of the game.

Golf is a business and any business needs to market itself innovatively. Bottom line: It's time for some fresh thinking out there.

*Dan Vukelich, a former Chicago newspaper and wire service reporter, runs New Mexico Golf News, a local golf news site in Albuquerque, N.M.*

Golf is a business

and any business

needs to market

itself innovatively.

Bottom line: It's

time for some fresh

thinking out there.

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St. George, Utah is the new hot spot for destination golf trips and it's easy to see why. With 10 courses within a 10 mile radius, the Red Rock Golf Trail has everything you're looking for. Daily flights into SGU on American, Delta & United Airlines make getting there a cinch. Going home.... well, that may take some convincing.



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\*Offer valid September 1 – November 6, 2018. Specials cannot be combined with other discounts and must be paid in full and booked with Reservations at least 48 hours prior to play. Specials do not include play at Lakewood Golf Club. Specials do not include tax or lodging. Not valid with previously booked packages. There is a \$10 surcharge for each round on the Judge at Capitol Hill. Some restrictions may apply. Offers subject to change.