

July 2009

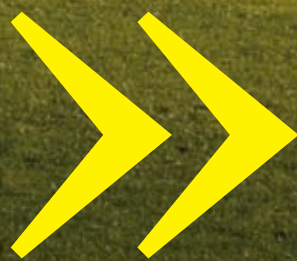


# Golf

O R E G O N

## **SOUTHERN EXPOSURE**

Centennial Golf Club – holding steady at  
No. 1 in the Rogue Valley



on the  
cover

# SOUTHERN OREGON SENSATION

## Centennial Golf Club stands and delivers



### ALL NEW

## Southern Oregon Unlimited Golf Package

Centennial Golf Club and the new Homewood Suites by Hilton-Medford recently unveiled a new stay and play package that provides traveling golfers with a one-stop opportunity to experience unlimited Southern Oregon golf.

These unique packages include accommodations at the new Homewood Suites by Hilton-Medford, daily Suite Start breakfast at the hotel and unlimited golf!

On the first day of golf, guests can play the neighboring Quail Point Golf Course, and on the second day are treated to unlimited golf at the John Fought-designed Centennial Golf Club, the "No. 1 Best Course in Southern Oregon."

"These new unlimited golf packages offer golfers a unique combination of accommodations at the newest hotel in the region and spectacular golf – all at a tremendous value," said Kris Strauss, Director of Sales and Marketing for OB Sports, management firm for both golf courses. "We anticipate this package being very popular with golfers traveling from Washington, Northern California and even Oregon golfers looking for a unique and quick getaway."

**STARTING AT JUST \$279, THE SOUTHERN OREGON UNLIMITED GOLF PACKAGE INCLUDES**

- Two nights in a spacious suite at Homewood Suites by Hilton-Medford
- Suite Start® breakfast at the hotel
- Welcome Home® Reception featuring dinner with beer and wine (Monday - Thursday only)
- Unlimited golf at two Southern Oregon courses (Unlimited golf is based on a booked tee time for the am round, with second and additional rounds based on a same course, standby, space available basis.)

\*Packages available now through 12/31/09

Previous page: the 193-yard par-3 14th hole at Centennial Golf Club

All photos of Centennial Golf Club by Tom Breazeale

GOLFERS "IN THE KNOW" ABOUT GOLF IN SOUTHERN OREGON ARE PRIVY TO THE FACT THAT CENTENNIAL GOLF CLUB IN MEDFORD IS A MUST-PLAY THAT DOESN'T DISAPPOINT.

Centennial burst onto the Rogue Valley golf scene in May of 2006, boasting a spectacular 7,309-yard, par-72 layout, designed by two-time PGA Tour winner and 1977 U.S. Amateur Champion, John Fought. The golf course at Centennial was designed in the classic Donald Ross-style and takes full advantage of the spectacular views of the Rogue Valley and the surrounding mountains.

At press time, Centennial Golf Club was ranked fifth in *GolfWorld's* as yet completed Readers Choice Awards in the "Public – overall value" category with a 9.15 score out of 10, ahead of such notables as Harding Park in San Francisco and Hiddenbrooke in Vallejo, Calif. and only slightly behind the 9.46 score posted by 2009 U.S. Open site, Bethpage Black in New York. And while it remains to be seen how the final results of *GolfWorld's* poll will turn out, golfers in the region have already come to their own conclusion, putting the Centennial golf experience on a pedestal when they voted the layout as the No. 1 Best Golf Course in the region in the *Medford Mail Tribune*.

Located on the former site of a historic pear orchard more than 100 years old, Centennial Golf Club is an affiliate of Medford-based Pacific Retirement Services, Inc. (PRS), and is located adjacent to another PRS affiliate, Rogue Valley Manor. The Rogue Valley Manor is the West Coast's premier Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) and has received national recognition for its programs and services to active seniors.

Other amenities at Centennial include an expansive practice facility and "The Pavilion" clubhouse that is home to the popular Centennial Grille. Centennial Golf Club is managed by industry leader, Scottsdale-based OB Sports (the same management group that runs Tetherow in Bend and Langdon Farms in Aurora).

OB Sports also manages the Manor's public 9-hole Quail Point Golf Course. Commonly referred to as "The Best-Conditioned 9-Hole Course in Medford," Quail Point is known for its fun-filled layout, mountain vistas, picturesque ponds, rolling tree-lined fairways and family-oriented setting, all at an exceptional value. Coming this September will be a new family-friendly putting course as well – which may also be a good place to settle any final bets.

Both Centennial and Quail Point are located just minutes off I-5, in the heart of Medford, and in the heart of your next golf trip.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### CENTENNIAL GOLF CLUB

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# No excuse for not posting your scores



## From the OGA

KELLY NEELY  
OGA Sr. Director of  
Handicapping  
& Course Rating

Whether it's the Rules of Golf or the Rules of the USGA Handicap System, the spirit of the game is based upon the idea of equity and fairness. It relies on the integrity of each person to show consideration for other players.

The Handicap System works on the simple assumption that each player will try to make the best score

at every hole in every round and will post every acceptable round for peer review. If you aren't trying to play your best and then post your score, you'll likely end up labeled a "sandbagger" because your handicap does not reflect your ability.

What is acceptable? What about the occasional "mulligan" or illustrious "foot wedge" employed during a casual round of golf? It's here where the rules of the Handicap System trump the Rules of Golf.

In competitions, taking a "mulligan" is a breach of Rule 7-2 which covers taking practice strokes. A "foot wedge" violates rule 20-7 by playing from a Wrong Place. In both instances, you're subject to penalties – loss of hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play. If the Committee deemed

you gained a significant advantage playing from a wrong place, you'd be disqualified.

In the spirit of fairness, however, *you're still required to post your score* for handicapping purposes. In fact, Section 4 of the Handicap System provides rules for recording a hole score whether a hole was not played, *not finished or not played under the Rules of Golf*.

If a hole is not completed, you must record your *most likely score* (not to exceed the ESC limit). When you pick up because your ball is "inside the leather," you still record a stroke. If you're on the green but far away and you'd most likely two-putt, add two strokes.

If you skipped holes, as long as you've played at least seven, you must record a 9-hole score, and you're required to post an 18-hole score if you played 13 using par as your starting point plus the number of strokes allotted by your Course Handicap. This is called *Par Plus!* Use the same procedure when you play a hole where you breached a Rule of Golf.

Finally, let's face it. Most of us have an occasional "blow up" hole. Section 4 handles that too! Because this type of score does not reflect your potential ability, you must reduce it based on rules called Equitable Stroke Control (ESC). If your Course Handicap is between 10 and 19, adjust your hole score to a 7, Course Handicaps of 20 to 29 take an 8,

30 to 39 is a 9 and more than a 40, limit your score to 10. Single digit handicaps record no more than a double bogey.

When you fail to post your scores under the Rules of Golf or following the Rules of the USGA Handicap System, you are cheating. In some instances you may be cheating the people you play with, and in other instances you're only cheating yourself. Don't be surprised if your Club's Handicap Committee attaches penalty scores or modifies your Handicap Index – they have that authority!

Just remember, the spirit of the game relies on your honesty and integrity.

## SWENSON ON BOARD

**Stein Swenson has rejoined the staff of Golf Oregon and Pacific Northwest Golfer. He was the first advertising salesperson for the magazine, beginning in 1994. He operates the Maverix Golf Tour in Central Oregon, and plays to a 4.3 Index. Stein lives in Bend with his beautiful wife, Laura.**

**For advertising inquiries, contact Stein at 541.318.5155 or [sswenson@pacificnorthwestgolfer.com](mailto:sswenson@pacificnorthwestgolfer.com).**



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# Seventeen and under not admitted without guts

*The knee-knocking penultimate hole at Pumpkin Ridge's Ghost Creek course may decide the outcome of the upcoming Safeway Classic*

by Bob Robinson

Gay Davis grinned as he recalled golf architect Bob Cupp's comment in 1992, shortly before construction was completed on Pumpkin Ridge's Ghost Creek course.

"He said, 'I want to see Greg Norman three behind coming to the 17th tee in the final round of a major, and then try to drive the green,'" said Davis, a

co-founder of the 36-hole complex west of Portland.

Cupp's wish didn't come true and Tiger Woods long ago surpassed Norman and everybody else as the game's No. 1 attraction. But, with this year's move of the LPGA's Safeway Classic from Columbia Edgewater Country Club to Ghost Creek, the excitement that Cupp anticipated could become reality.

Ghost Creek's 17th is a scenic par-4 with a devilish risk-reward personality. Cupp and John Fought, his associate at the time, took delight in fulfilling the founders' desire for a short par-4 hole that could be reached from the tee under certain conditions.

The 17th ended up as a gambler's delight, playing to 329 yards from the back tee but between 280 and 300 yards from the blue-tee area expected to be used for the Safeway (Aug. 28-30). The creek runs along the left side, then angles across the fairway and into a pond in front of the right portion of a two-level green.

No. 1-ranked Lorena Ochoa, Safeway defending champion Cristie Kerr and most of the top LPGA players will find the carry of 205 to 215 yards to clear the creek down the left side workable. There's lots of water out there to swallow up an errant shot and significant rough on the left side and around the green.

Pumpkin Ridge teaching pro Jerry Mowlds said he has made 2s on 17 but also "several 6s."

Loree McKay, the 2007 Oregon Senior Women's Amateur champion and a Pumpkin Ridge member, said the club's top women players "almost always" go for it in their club competitions from the white-tee setting of about 270 yards.

"You can't resist," she said. "It is such a fun hole to play."

It remains to be seen if the LPGA players will feel the same way.

*Bob Robinson covered golf for The Oregonian for more than 30 years before his retirement in 1999. He was selected as Oregon Sports Writer of the Year by his peers in 1977 and for the Distinguished Service Award of the Northwest Golf Media Association in 2004.*



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Planning a trip to Bandon Dunes this year? Want some of the comforts of home away from home? O'BrienHouse at Bandon offers what you're looking for. The 3.5 acre executive compound is literally next door to the resort, sharing a property line with the Bandon Trails course, and just three minutes from the main lodge.

Explaining his rationale for building the project, Kevin O'Brien said, "My brothers and I had visited Bandon Dunes and other resorts over the years as venues for our annual family golf tournament. We always preferred the flexibility and informality of a private residence, and we wanted the space to stretch out. When the opportunity to buy this property next to the resort presented itself, we didn't hesitate."

The property is designed to accommodate up to eight golfers comfortably. It has four master suites, full kitchen, billiard room with flat screen TV, large outdoor patio with fire pit, hot tub, barbecue grill and horseshoe pit.

And there's that 3.5 acres. Peace on a beautiful shore.

Visit [www.Obrienhouse.com](http://www.Obrienhouse.com) to book your visit.

## HELICOPTER BALL DROP RAISES FUNDS AT LANGDON FARMS

Usually the men and women associated with charity golf tournaments are asking others to donate to a charitable cause. That role was reversed recently at Langdon Farms' annual Event Coordinators Day when the tournament coordinators themselves reached into their own pockets to give to the Oregon Food Bank.

Over \$1,500 was raised for the Oregon Food Bank utilizing Langdon Farms Golf Club's new Helicopter Ball Drop program.

Using a helicopter, numbered golf balls are placed in a container and dropped from the helicopter onto a golf green creating a new version of a closest to the pin contest.

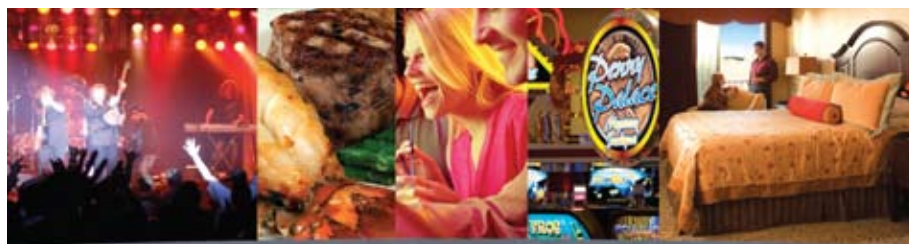
Langdon Farms Golf Club is locally owned by Tom and Chris Maletis, well-known for their charitable fundraisers.

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# Every day is a winding road

At play on the surface of the earth



TOM CADE, Editor  
Pacific Northwest Golfer

So, why don't I just get out of the way?

The photo submissions for this issue were so good and so varied, that the few we selected from the batch need space and air and open sky – and room on this page.

I could fumble around with a few words, mumbling about the search for Golf Americana (and Golf Canadiana) and the same small town in each of us, and of our very first first tee.

But I won't. It seems you get the idea.

Besides, a picture is worth a thousand – no, a million – words.

## Perfect Blue Skies

Is there a better photo anywhere that looks you square in the face and says, "This, my friend, is what summer is all about."

In this issue's photo submissions, first place goes to Alex Neun, of Portland, Ore. He receives a foursome at Pumpkin Ridge's Ghost Creek course.

"We call it 'Beach Golf,'" he said.

"I mostly bring a cup-sized yogurt container and practice my putts, but this time my friends brought their drivers..."

Propping up driftwood every 400 yards, they played nine on the beach near Oceanside, Ore.

Alex took this photo of his friend, Elaine Hodge of Bend, Ore.

Ain't no cure for the summertime blues? Alex has found the answer for it, and for that he has honors on the tee.

## Bring the hammer – or Whammer – down

Second place goes to Mack McDougall of Tacoma, Wash. who is the current co-chairman of The Whammer, an annual tournament (i.e. an excuse to get together) for a bunch of guys from all over the country who have been friends since college, fellow co-workers, and a couple brothers and cousins. The trophy for the winner of the Whammer is an eight-foot Callaway driver, donated by Mike Eslick of Moses Lake G&CC.

This past Whammer was held at Bandon Dunes, with the photo taken on their "Vintage Clothing" day of the event.

Their intention for the next Whammer, to be held this fall at Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash., is to have a "Caddyshack" theme on one of the days

A "Caddyshack" theme with an eight-foot driver for a trophy? The possibilities make your head spin. For that, and for the comic camaraderie, Mack's photo was chosen. He receives a foursome at The Home Course in DuPont, Wash.

## Honorable Mentions – oh so far away

Golf in Iran? And why not. Henry Stevens (far left, in middle right photo), a 13-handicapper from Beaverton, Ore. played the Enghelab Sports Complex Golf Section in Tehran. The layout is only 13 holes (with five serving double-duty to make 18), and Stevens advises to bring your own set of clubs (woods from the rental set are made of plywood) and "be sure to haggle with the guy trying to sell your ball back to you after he's stolen it when you've hit it down the fairway."

How about golf in Ecuador? Jim Carroll of Seattle, who carries a 9.2 handicap, was at the Golf Course de Salinas, and sent us a view of the first fairway. His job as a buyer for a seafood company takes him places where tourists don't go. We believe him.



## HAVE A PHOTO TO SEND?

**Seen something out there? Something that caught your eye? Do you have a photo from your golf trip? Send it in. We'll post it for you in the next issue of this magazine. We'll also be holding a photo contest, with prizes for the top photos. Bring it on. Let's see what you got. Email your submissions to [editor@thepnga.org](mailto:editor@thepnga.org).**



## *The Best of Both Worlds*

### **GHOST CREEK**

Hailed as one of the nation's premier golf courses, Ghost Creek has tested some of the game's best. A Robert Cupp-designed layout, it emulates traditional golf course architecture with gently rolling terrain and a creek that reappears throughout the 18 holes. Ghost Creek will host the LPGA Tour's Safeway Classic in August and is consistently rated in Golf Magazine's Top 100 Places You Can Play.

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### **WITCH HOLLOW**

Designed by Robert Cupp, this members-only course is nestled in the shadows of the Tualatin Mountains surrounded by dense stands of fir, maple, oak, and ash. Its challenging and scenic layout was the site of Tiger Woods' historic three-peat win of the U.S. Amateur Championship in 1996 and was rated in 2008 in Golf Digest's America's 100 Best Modern Courses.

Witch Hollow at Pumpkin Ridge offers a pure golf experience for golfers who are passionate about the game. Fun, yet challenging golf is the focus at Pumpkin Ridge, where members enjoy the privileges and benefits of a private club.

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For information on how you can become a part of the Pumpkin Ridge membership family, please contact the Director of Sales Dylan Campy at **503.647.2515** for current membership opportunities.

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