

# GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

March 2015, Vol. 19 No. 1



**Get a Grip**

**The Players Championship**

**Alabama's Robert  
Trent Jones Golf Trail**



**Dave Pelz: Short Game Advisor  
Destinations**

**GOLFChicagoMagazine.com**



DESERT MOUNTAIN TEMPERATURES

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low
January	62 F	41 F
February	65 F	43 F
March	70 F	46 F
April	79 F	52 F
May	88 F	60 F
June	97 F	70 F
July	98 F	76 F
August	97 F	74 F
September	94 F	70 F
October	83 F	59 F
November	70 F	47 F
December	62 F	40 F

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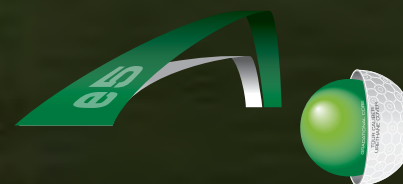
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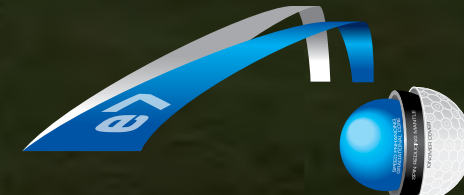
HIGH FLIGHT

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STRAIGHT FLIGHT

HIT TOO HIGH? PLAY THE E7  
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PIERCING FLIGHT

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Rory Hughes

## NOTES FROM GREG AND DAVE

Welcome to the 2015 Chicago Golf Show! We are proud to be the official program for the 19th year. The Chicago Golf Show is always a treat. This show is also Chicago's groundhog whose shadow signals that spring is just around the corner. We are still battling frigid temperatures, but hopefully another blizzard eludes our streets and driveways. One of the subconscious experiences of this show is how we fool ourselves into thinking that the club we are buying will be on the course in a few days. When you walk the aisles, it is easy to forget that we are in Chicago and the turf will be blanketed for at least a few more weeks.

Just like you, we escape to visions of golf trips to our favorite destinations without leaving Rosemont, Illinois. Whether it is Lake of the Ozarks or Lake Powell, the Chicago Golf Show transports us, if even for just a few hours, back to an afternoon on a beautiful course with the sun on our shoulders.

Special guest Lee Trevino will be joining the fun. Kudos to Tom Corcoran and his staff for bringing six-time major winner Trevino and fellow World Golf Hall



*"Welcome to heaven. By the way, here's your favorite club you lost on that course 28 years ago."*

of Famer David Graham to the show. Saturday's main stage will introduce a new generation to two of the game's greatest ambassadors. This issue is packed with destinations to warm your soul. We take you to bucket-list trips like Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Trail and to exotic settings like the Dominican Republic. And if a Tour experience is next on your list, THE PLAYERS Championship ensures all the drama a golf junkie can ingest. Start revving your search engine, because it is high time to begin planning your next trip.

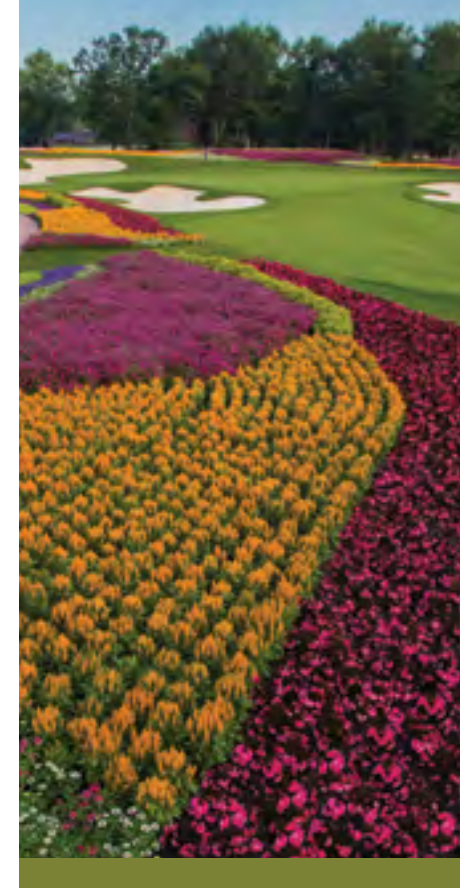
If you are reading this at the snack bar, come by booth #1319 and say hello. We'd love to hear about your favorite courses and check out that new golf club you just picked up. We can also point you in the direction of a few hidden gems that are exhibiting at the show. And that is what this golf show is all about. Find a club, checkout a new place to play, and talk golf with people who are as obsessed as you about this passion that renews itself each season.

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# Chicago Golf Show

presented by  
**Encompass**  
CHAMPIONSHIP

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, 2015

ROSEMONT, IL

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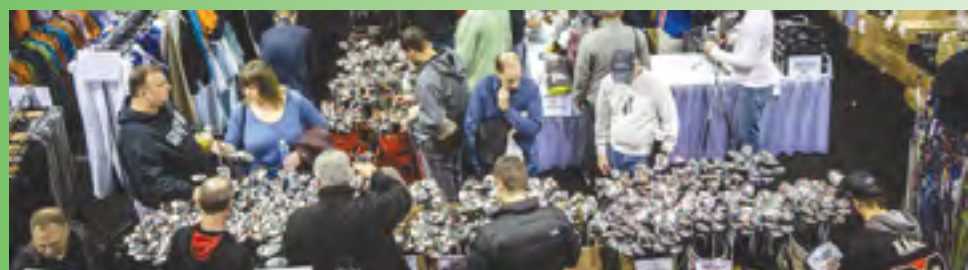


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## Main Stage

We are excited to welcome World Golf Hall of Fame member Lee Trevino as Saturday's Main Stage headliner.

Trevino won 29 times on the PGA Tour, including six major championships, and 29 times on the Champions Tour after the age of 50. While Trevino's on-course performance earned him universal respect and status, it's his rags-to-riches story and his dynamic personality that make him one of the game's most inspiring and beloved figures.

Because of his humor, insight and engaging personality, Trevino worked as a color analyst on NBC's golf coverage for several years.

Those unfamiliar with his incredible playing career might know Trevino instead for his cameo appearance in the

1996 film *Happy Gilmore*, starring Adam Sandler.

As a special treat for the fans, Trevino will be joined by his good friend and multiple major-championship winner David Graham, who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer at St. Andrews in Scotland. David Graham won the 1979 PGA Championship at Oakland Hills, and in 1981 became the first Australian to win the U.S. Open, at Merion.

Don't miss as these two legends reflect on the historic – and frequently hysterical – experiences they had playing the pro circuit during golf's Golden Age! Trevino and Graham will be on stage Saturday, February 28th at 11:00 AM and again at 2:00 PM.

View our full schedule below. And remember, all sessions of the Daily Herald Main Stage are free!

### Friday, February 27th

- 1:00 p.m. Ian Hughes, PGA Certified Teaching Professional, Director of Instruction, GolfTEC, Naperville
- 2:00 p.m. Grand March with the Shannon Rovers
- 2:15 p.m. Marty "Long Ball" Joyce's Trick Shot Show
- 3:30 p.m. Joe Bosco, Joe Bosco Golf, The Glen Club
- 4:30 p.m. Kevin Weeks, Director of Instruction, Cog Hill Country Club

### Saturday, February 28th

- 10:00 a.m. John McCartin, PGA Director of Instruction Chicagoland Golf Academy, Billy Casper Golf
- 11:00 a.m. Grand March with the Shannon Rovers
- 11:00 a.m. Lee Trevino and David Graham, World Golf Hall of Fame Members, talk golf  
Lee Trevino has won 29 times on the PGA TOUR, including six major championships, and 29 times on the Champions Tour after the age of 50.  
Trevino will be joined by his good friend and multiple major championship winner David Graham, who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer at St. Andrews in Scotland.



### Saturday, February 28th continued

- 12:00 p.m. IPGA Awards Presentation to 2014 High School Championship Teams with skills demonstration



- 1:00 p.m. Mark Pekarek, Green Grass Club Fitting  
Modern Putter Fitting in Four Easy Steps
- 2:00 p.m. Lee Trevino and David Graham, World Golf Hall of Fame Members, talk golf

### Sunday, March 1st

- 10:45 a.m. Grand March with the Shannon Rovers
- 11:00 a.m. John Platt, Director of Instruction, Mistwood County Club
- 12:00 p.m. Mike Carbray, PGA Director of Instruction, Butterfield Country Club, owner of the Mike Carbray Golf Performance Studio
- 1:00 p.m. Marty "Long Ball" Joyce's Trick Shot Show
- 2:30 p.m. Lloyd McWilliams, Rockford University Head Golf Coach, U.S. Kids Top 50 Teacher





# 2015 Exhibitors

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# Chicago Golf Show

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## 2015 Show Floor





### Less is More

The new Reflex™ golf push cart from Sun Mountain is an engineering masterpiece for golfers with limited trunk space. The Reflex is just 17 pounds and collapses to a mere 51 cubic inches—about the size of a box of paper at your office. The E-Z latch system ensures that folding, and unfolding, the cart is a breeze. Less work getting to the proshop means more time on the practice green. Less is more!

The Reflex includes a purposeful console with a scorecard holder, padded valuables trays, storage, and a beverage holder. The carts are available in four colors.

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### Performance Layering

The versatility of Antigua's lightweight outerwear styles adds to their popularity. Antigua's golf collection is designed with the intent to be worn as standalone garments, or worn over a tee shirt or performance polo, or under a heavier weight outerwear piece. The Crux jacket, for instance, is constructed using a mid-weight, double-knit neutral heather interlock and outlined with seams covered in bright color contrast cover stitching. It's appealing as a casual look and as a new-color classic. The Haze jacket demonstrates the subtle simplicity of a tonal irregular yarn, constructed into a lightweight, lightly brushed half-zip pullover guaranteed to be comfortable in cool climates without impeding movement.

[www.antigua.com](http://www.antigua.com)



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The H2 has been on Bob Bettinardi's design table since 1998. Although prototypes have been in his hands, it has taken nearly 17 years to finally deliver a wedge worthy of the Bettinardi stamp.

What separates H2 from the field is the high-helix milling process that produces distinctive groove pattern and feel at contact. A player's club, the C-Grind sole allows golfers to deliver the ball toward the pin stick from a variety of lies. The H2 is a forged wedge that enters the game with two durable finishes, satin nickel and cashmere bronze, and five bounce/loft options.

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The e5 ball is a unique two-piece urethane construction designed for golfers needing higher ball flight, more distance, and greater control. The e6 is the softest multilayer golf ball on the market and is designed to help players eliminate slices and hooks. The e7, a gust-buster, reduces ballooning and produces a more penetrating ball flight to counter strong winds.

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Bridgestone's new J15 Cast irons may be the answer to breaking bad golf shots. The J15 includes design elements to give mid to high handicappers a better chance of breaking 90, 100, and definitely 110. The ultra-forgiving Flex Action Speed Technology maximizes solid contact with a full-face undercut channel, while the Sure Contact Sole encourages ideal contact at impact.

With three features specifically designed for golfers who pay for their green fees, the J15's far-reaching benefits should bring more golfers toward a happy number on their scorecard. The standard J15 Cast set will feature Nippon N.S. Pro 950GH shafts and custom Golf Pride® Tour Velvet grips.

**\$699 [5-AW]** [www.bridgestonegolf.com](http://www.bridgestonegolf.com)





In early May, the best players in the world will gather in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass for the 42nd edition of THE PLAYERS Championship, which will once again set the standard for excellence in professional golf through its breathtaking competition featuring the strongest field in golf and a fan experience that is second to none.

THE PLAYERS has set the precedent for the high watermark of excellence in professional golf since its inception more than 40 years ago, beginning with the construction of the now iconic Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. Designed by Pete Dye, the Stadium Course is the purest test in golf, favoring no particular style. Long hitters like Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods, and Sergio Garcia are all part of the exclusive club of champions, but short hitters can also fare well, with players like Fred Funk and Tim Clark claiming the title.

Dye designed the course so that every hole has elements of risk and reward, drama, and excitement—none more apparent than on the 16th hole, the iconic short par 5 that is reachable for most of the players in the field if they want to tempt the narrow green protected by water to the right. And of course the island-green 17th hole continues to be the most iconic in golf. Players must have complete control of their games to walk up to the 18th hole with a chance to win and join the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Greg Norman, and Fred Couples as THE



PLAYERS champion.

When the Stadium Course was designed, Dye made special considerations to make sure the venue would be a shrine to golf fans, offering the best views of golf in the world to the thousands of spectators that flock to Ponte Vedra Beach every year to watch

the most talented players in the world compete. All 18 holes at the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass offer clear views of golf, allowing fans the opportunity to watch any golfer hit any shot on any hole at any time. With an eye toward accessibility, Dye's masterpiece is imminently walkable and offers

plenty of opportunities for fans to take a brief respite in shaded areas and fan enhancements.

"THE PLAYERS continues to set the standard for fan experience at a golf tournament," said Matt Rapp, Executive Director of THE PLAYERS Championship. "From the unmatched views of golf to the

modern amenities and technology on-site that today's fans expect, THE PLAYERS allows fans to not only get to walk beside champions, they also get to feel like one."

Proving the commitment to making the fan experience unmatched, THE PLAYERS has offered a variety of new dining

options to fans on-site over the last few years. In 2014, the tournament debuted an open-air, centrally located area for fans to taste food from the Jacksonville area, made directly by the restaurants in food trucks, called Trucks on 10. The area is improved for 2015, featuring an upgraded restroom and more seating for fans to take a break from the action in comfort.

The dining experience on-site is further bolstered by venues that feature local Jacksonville restaurants, giving fans the chance to have a restaurant-quality experience on the golf course. The Taste of JAX, located between the 11th green and the 12th tee is a shaded dining area, featuring a mix of dining options, including 4 Rivers Smokehouse, a sophisticated Texas-style smokehouse, among others.

Aside from dining, fans also have the option of upgrading their tickets to one of the upgraded hospitality options, which provide spectacular views of golf, while providing comfortable seating and easily-accessible food and beverages. The Benefactor Pavilion is located directly behind the 17th tee and gives fans the opportunity to see golf from a different perspective, as there is seating available on the second deck. Fans can see all the action on the 16th and 17th holes from the Benefactor Pavilion, making it one of the most unique views in the sport.

The Turn is another upgraded venue where fans can watch THE PLAYERS in style. Centrally located between the 9th green and the 18th green, the Turn offers views of both of those

# THE PLAYERS Championship to Showcase Excellence in Professional Golf



holes and also features the GREY GOOSE® 19th Hole Lounge in its interior, including soft seating and the signature drink, the Sawgrass Splash, as well as a 12-screen video panel for golf enthusiasts to follow all the action around the course.

If you are looking for a nontraditional spectator experience, look no further than the Blue Room VIP Lounge presented by Michelob ULTRA, where fans can purchase a ticket for all-inclusive beverages and take part in a variety of activities, including Corn Hole-in-One, 3-Hole Mini Golf, and Oversized Connect 4. In 2015, the venue will also feature live music, signature dishes from top local restaurants, and T-shirt printing on-site.

THE PLAYERS is also the perfect place for a family to spend the day, as youth 18 and younger are admitted free of charge when accompanied by a ticketed adult, meaning that it is one of the most cost-effective ways for families to see a world-class sporting event in the world. In addition, the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Kid Zone near the main entrance is once again on-site to give kids and their parents a place to take a break from the tournament. The venue features restrooms and a variety of activities, such as a putt-putt course, arts and crafts, face-painting, and an inflatable obstacle course.

“There is truly something for everyone at THE PLAYERS,” Rapp said. “From families to golf enthusiasts to Millennials, the venues at the tournament provide countless ways



to experience the most fan-friendly tournament on the PGA Tour.”

In addition to the world-class golf, visitors can experience Northeast Florida by visiting one of Jacksonville’s beautiful beaches, taking a trip down golf’s memory lane at the World Golf Hall of Fame, or exploring the historic sites of St. Augustine. Visitors from around the world have taken notice and travel great distances to enjoy the ultimate fan experience and enjoy all that sunny northeast Florida has to offer. The Chicago area is among the top 10 cities of origin that travelled to THE PLAYERS in 2014. Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) has six non-stop flights serving Chicago-area airports making travel to THE PLAYERS quick and easy.

Once the action starts, all eyes will be on the Stadium Course and the outstanding field of players vying for the chance to become THE PLAYERS Champion. The tournament is designed to showcase the very best professional golf has to offer, with only the very best players in the world invited to play. Like Martin Kaymer in 2014, any player that lifts the trophy on Sunday knows that he has beaten the game’s very best.

Fans from all over the world are invited to the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, this May to once again witness history, as another player will join the legends in the game as THE PLAYERS champion.

Visit [www.theplayerstravel.com](http://www.theplayerstravel.com) to book your travel to THE PLAYERS Championship May 5 - 10, 2015.

There is truly something for everyone at THE PLAYERS. From families to golf enthusiasts to Millennials, the venues at the tournament provide countless ways to experience the most fan-friendly tournament on the PGA TOUR.



# Walk This Way

Spring is around the corner and Chicagoland's golf season will be here sooner than a ground rodent can predict. For those who have maintained an exercise program over the winter, please turn to page 28 and order new grips for your clubs. Because you did focus on your conditioning during the off season, remember to politely turn down the convenience of a golf cart and enjoy the walk. For the rest of you, it is time to get your body ready for golf. Whether it is time, availability, or motivation, a regular exercise routine just does not work for everyone. But there are inexpensive and uncomplicated ways to become more active.

10,000 steps a day has been a physical activity goal for about 15 years, and for the less active person it is a great way to add exercise to your life. An inexpensive pedometer and a good pair of shoes is all the equipment you will need. As the name suggests, the goal is to walk 10,000 steps a day. This may seem like an easy task, but if you have a sedentary job, then it will take some planning to get 10,000 steps. But once

you start integrating walking into your life, the steps will come with less effort.

For some trying to walk 10,000 steps right away may lead to overuse problems that would delay progress. Try wearing the pedometer for a week without adding a walking program just to see how many steps you take on a typical day. Then gradually add steps over the next two weeks to get to 10,000 steps. Once you build up your steps to 10,000 a day, then focus on addressing your cardiovascular fitness.

Effective cardiovascular fitness requires at least 30 minutes of walking to increase your heart rate to 60% and 80% of your maximum. This can be calculated by the formula  $220 - \text{age} \times 60$  to  $80\%$  of your heart rate. Ideally you would do all 30 minutes in one period, but if you cannot there is still benefit to several smaller sessions a day. If you are a bit more tech savvy and want more structure to your fitness routine there are several brands of activity trackers. The benefit of these devices, in addition to monitoring your heart rate, is you can monitor your progress and history.

## THE FITNESS EDGE

Brad Jourdan

As you see progress, motivation to continue your fitness routine will increase.

For more encouragement to increase your activity level, find a few friends to join your walks. If you golf with a regular group, then try to develop a little competition to see who can walk the most steps. It will prepare everyone for the friendly wagering on the course, along with getting ready to walk the course rather than riding in a cart. Walking a golf course is a great way to add physical activity to your life. An 18-hole course is around five to seven miles of walking, so if you are not used to walking, then start with walking a nine-hole round or follow cart path rules regardless of weather. Push carts will also be less stressful than carrying a bag.

Walking is still one of the best forms of physical activity for all age groups and can be performed year round. Start walking today to prepare yourself for the upcoming golf season and many seasons to follow. Get on your feet and take in the most beautiful playing fields in all of sports!.

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# Sharpen Your (Green) Reading Skills

**G**reen reading isn't magic. Yes, some people are better at judging break than others, but not because they have better eyes or see things the rest of us can't. It's what your mind "sees" that matters, and there are ways to train your brain to make better reads, especially on subtle slopes where you're not sure if the putt will break, or roll straight. Anyone can pick out severe breaks. Focusing on improving your reads on mildly breaking putts, though, takes you to a whole new level.

Here's one way to grow your green-reading brain: Find a gentle slope on the practice putting green. Place a coin or ball marker about nine feet from the hole, then stand behind the marker and give the putt your best read. Let's say you judge it as slightly right-to-left. That's a good start. But how much right to left? To find out for sure, and to improve your ability to summon the correct answer when you're on the course, follow these steps:

1. Get into your address position and aim your putter straight at the hole. I've placed a yellow ball to indicate my aiming point.

2. Make a stroke over the marker. As you finish your stroke, picture a ball starting on your line and try to imagine how much it's going to break.

3. Make some more strokes and imagine a few more rolls, then set a ball in front of the marker and putt it straight at the hole. Yep, I want you to miss it. This way, you'll see how much the putt really breaks.

4. Place another ball in front of the marker, but instead of aiming straight at the hole, aim your putter the same distance to the right as the putt missed to the left during your read practice in step 3. Once you're aimed correctly, stroke the putt—and imagine you need this one to win your club championship or shoot your best score ever. This makes your practice stroke feel "real."

Comparing the amount of break you see to what's real is an effective way to hone your green-reading skills. The next step? Learn to trust them. Keep putting from in front of the marker—adjusting your aim as needed—until you hole this nine-footer with perfect speed. Once you can make five in a row, you'll know exactly—and I mean exactly—how much this putt breaks from right to left.

Continue the drill on the other side of the hole to work on left-to-righters. Then try it from different distances. The more you practice reading putts—and practice confirming

reads with actual makes—the better you'll get at judging break on the course, where it counts. You won't just jar more putts—you'll make the ones that other golfers miss.



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Dave Pelz

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# Play Where the Professionals Compete: America's Original Golf Trail

Jason Dufner has played it. So have Michelle Wie, Graeme McDowell, Annika Sorenstam, and millions of other golfers. America's Original Golf Trail attracts golfers globally and continues to add professional golf events televised around the world. July 2015 brings a new chapter to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's history – the PGA TOUR and the Barbasol Championship in Auburn/Opelika.

"We are excited to announce the creation of the Barbasol Championship and to present an outstanding new playing opportunity for our members beginning next season," said PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem. "Barbasol has been a leader in the industry for more than 90 years and we are delighted to forge this new relationship with such an iconic brand. We are equally pleased to partner with the Robert Trent Jones Trail Foundation and to bring this tournament to the renowned Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and Grand National's exceptional Lake Course." Grand National is one of 11 facilities of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail that now includes 26 golf courses throughout Alabama.

## Making Golf History

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail not only made history as the largest golf course construction project, it continues to make the spotlight through hosting professional competitions. In 2011, 16-year-old Lexi Thompson made golf history when she sank her final putt on the 18th green to win the Navistar LPGA Classic, becoming the youngest ever in the LPGA at that time. The next morning, golfers from throughout the region were able to play the same Senator Course at Capitol Hill on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. While everyone certainly will not hit shots as far as Lexi or putt as well as Stacy Lewis, all are welcome to play the same tournament courses along America's Original Golf Trail.

In 2014, two LPGA tournaments were held along the RTJ Golf Trail. The Airbus LPGA Classic was played on the Crossings course in Mobile with American Jessica Korda winning. In September, the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic was held for

the first of its three-year commitment with MJ Hur setting a tournament record. In 2015 the PGA TOUR professionals will take on the Lake Course at RTJ Grand National.

## Public Golf with Professional Quality

Here is an overview of the three Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail locations and their tournaments which have been recently highlighted on the professional golf stage. Best of all, outside of the tournament dates, these three locations and the entire Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail are accessible to the general public for play.

## PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship

July 13 – 19, 2015

RTJ Grand National, Opelika

A new PGA TOUR tournament sponsored by Barbasol, the No. 1 shaving cream brand in the U.S., will debut in 2015 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National. A four-year agreement establishing the Barbasol Championship was announced by



The Crossings Course Magnolia Grove



Jessica Korda



Grand National



Governor Robert Bentley and representatives from the PGA TOUR and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Foundation, which will serve as the tournament host organization.

The Barbasol Championship will be held at the Grand National - Lake Course July 13-19, 2015, the same week as The British Open. “Alabamians pride themselves on the beauty, hospitality and charm of our state, and we are excited to showcase that to the world with the PGA TOUR’s Barbasol Championship in the Auburn-Opelika area,” Governor Robert Bentley said. “This event will bring tens of thousands of people, from all over the world, to see the beauty that Alabama and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has to offer.” The Barbasol Championship will become part of the FedExCup competition, awarding 300 points to the winner.

“We are extremely pleased to be partnering with the PGA TOUR and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail,” said Tom Murray, President and CEO of Perio Inc., the parent company

of Barbasol. “As we approach Barbasol’s 100th, bringing together two of America’s most respected, iconic brands is further proof of our long-term commitment to expanding our sports partnerships.”

In 1997, the Lake Course played host to what is now the Web.com Tour Championship, the season-ending championship for the PGA TOUR’s Web.com Tour. The tournament also was held at RTJ Golf Trail courses in Mobile (1998), Dothan (1999-2000) and Prattville (2001-2005). Grand National, which has two championship courses – the Lake and the Links – plus a short course, was among the original eight facilities. A golfing community and Marriott Hotel are adjacent to the courses at Grand National.

**Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic**

August 24 – 30, 2015

RTJ Capitol Hill, Prattville

Mi Jung Hur walked off the 7th green with a bogey Sunday —her only of the day—just as Stacy Lewis exited the 8th green just ahead with a birdie. The four-shot lead, which Hur shared at the start of the day with Paula Reto, had been quickly dwindled down to one, and the world No. 1 was on a roll at 4-under through eight holes. But from there, Hur reeled off her best golf in a week unlike any other in her career, pouring in birdies on five of the final 11 holes.

She saw Lewis was charging and began her response with a birdie on No. 9. Then, when Lewis again cut the lead to one shot on No. 10, Hur poured in a 35-foot putt on No. 11 to regain control. She followed with birdies on Nos. 13, 14 and 16 to hold off Lewis and her final-round 66 with a 66 of her own for a four-shot win and her second career victory at 21-under-par.

Hur wanted this so bad for three years. She first won in 2009 and finished 31st on the money list in 2010. But the three years that followed were trying – a frustrating swing

change that never seemed to click. Sunday was the fruits of all that labor, and the tears flowed before she had even left the 18th tee box. Tears of joy or tears of relief? “Three year relief,” Hur answered.

There was a comfort, too, that only a father can provide. She had it every time she looked over to her bag to pull a club. She had it every time she needed help reading a green. He was her first swing coach and he was there on the bag all four days of the win she’s waited on for five years. “If I had a missed shot or missed putt, he can pick right away what’s wrong, what’s going on in my swing,” Hur said, “so I can have a right feel right away after a missed shot, so it was really helpful for the week.”

Just behind Hur was Lewis in second at 17-under-par. Paula Reto finished in third at 14-under-par. Kris Tamulis posted the best finish of her career with a four-place

continued on page 50





# On a Mission

Children have always been one of the most difficult groups to introduce to the world of golf, especially in a small town. While the golf industry scurries to increase participation, the challenges of building a solid junior golf program is often blamed on maturity issues. However, it is not the short attention spans of little Ben and Anna that prevents them from playing golf. The real problem is the lack of opportunities. Spending time golfing with grandpa is very important, but children need a network of peers in their community who are interested and active in the same hobbies. That's why organizations like the Kids Golf Foundation are so crucial in these small communities: they bring kids together to explore the world of golf in a fun, safe environment that inspires them to continue playing together out on the courses as they get older.

The Kids Golf Foundation (KGF) partners with different organizations throughout Illinois, such as boys and girls clubs, park districts, and physical education classes

through their SNAG program. In each case, they create an individual program tailored to the organization's needs and provide schools with training, funding, and equipment, all at no cost. Through this program, the kids learn the fundamentals of golf, as well as other life skills such as good nutrition and healthy habits. As part of this program, the children are invited to participate in clinics throughout the year at the Foundation's indoor arena at Rich Harvest Farms. In this arena, the kids get the opportunity to further improve their skills, but the emphasis is on fun. The instructors keep the kids engaged and wanting to learn more, which has a huge impact on the children as they leave the clinic and return to their everyday lives. Michala Mika, the foundation manager of the KGF, has seen this first hand, and states that "One of my favorite parts of the program is seeing some of the kids who are a bit more shy begin to participate more; the SNAG [program] helps bring them out of their shell a lot." That's the kind of golf program we need to encourage;



## GROWING THE GAME

Hannah Nokes

one that is truly helping kids, forming bonds, and welcoming them into the golf family.

One of the biggest impacts the SNAG program has had in small communities is through KGF's association with local PE classes. Hinckley-Big Rock Elementary School, just one of the many schools involved in this program, now includes a golf unit in its PE classes thanks to the KGF. As an addition to their unit, the children get to visit the indoor arena twice a year; however, these students need to display good citizenship and earn good grades to get their names in the drawing for the clinic. Therefore, this program has become a reward for the students, encouraging them to be their best on and off the course, and everyone can see the lasting social impact this influence has on the kids. "The most rewarding part for me is that I can see the different levels of involvement for my students. Many of the golf team members were once my elementary students, and I really enjoy watching them take the leadership role and teach the younger students," beams Lynne Paver, the PE teacher at Hinckley-Big Rock Elementary School. Once kids age out of this program, they don't stop there. They grow up to be future golfers and leaders in their community with a desire to pour into the next generation as they were once poured into.

In this way, local programs like the Kids Golf Foundation are some of the most valuable assets the golfing industry has to offer. If they can produce a thriving, successful golf team in small towns such as Hinckley and Big Rock, there are no limits to what this organization can do, not only for the future of golf, but for the state of Illinois as well. By providing young children with the opportunity to be in valuable programs such as these, we are not only fostering a passion for golf but also giving them the chance to reach their full potential and to impact the world far outside of the driving range.

For more information about the Kids Golf Foundation visit [www.kidsgolffoundation.org](http://www.kidsgolffoundation.org).

*Hannah Nokes is a senior at Hinckley-Big Rock High School and will be attending Wheaton College in the fall. She was introduced to golf in high school and earned four varsity letters in golf.*



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# CABO INTRODUCES QUIVIRA'S MAJESTY

By Dave Weretka

**STICKING WITH THAT MANTRA, QUIVIRA IS SPICED WITH "JACK'S STAMPS" AS IT REDEFINES GOLF WITHIN THE CABO LIMITS.**



There are hundreds of words in the English dictionary that can be used to describe golf courses designed by the great Jack Nicklaus. Here are a few that you would never use: bland, predictable, boring, and cakewalk. After nearly 300 layouts in 36 countries, the Golden Bear has proven time and time again that he can change ground into golf courses with the best in the business.

In 2014, one of Nicklaus' newest tracks opened with well-deserved praise. Quivira Golf Club is located at the tip of the Baja Peninsula, just minutes from downtown Cabo San Lucas. Quivira is Nicklaus' sixth course in the Cabo area and it's open for

play to guests of one of the Pueblo Bonito Oceanfront Resort and Spas, or to those lucky enough to reside in the area.

If there's one constant with all Jack Nicklaus designs, it's that Nicklaus doesn't pay much attention to other courses in the area in which he builds. Sticking with that mantra, Quivira is spiced with "Jack's Stamps" as it redefines golf within the Cabo limits.

The \$40-million championship layout stretches 7,139 yards from the tips and has five sets of tees to ensure every level of player can take part in the experience that is Quivira Golf Club. The course boasts scenery

unlike anything you've experienced as it rises and falls through sand dunes and granite cliffs. Quivira's oceanfront exposure is the most of any course in Cabo, but it's the journey in your golf cart and the panoramic views on the tees and greens that are truly breathtaking.

"We tried to create some excitement on the mountain and in the dunes," said Nicklaus. "I believe we've created a golf course that plays as spectacular as it looks. It has some absolutely unbelievable vistas. The views from the course are really beautiful."

A round at Quivira begins at sea level as you wind through desert

landscape and low land areas on holes one through four. As you continue to climb in elevation, so can the numbers on your scorecard.

As you continue to the fifth hole you should prepare yourself for sensory overload as your cart ride crosses arroyos and scales a mountain. Your trek will also bring you to one of Quivira's comfort stations, which feature Bloody Marys, tequila (no surprise there), fish tacos, and shrimp quesadillas. When you arrive at the tee box you will now be nearly 28 stories above sea level for the par 4 playing at 310 yards. Long hitters can certainly go for it as the green is over 100 feet below the tee. A rock





wall and enormous hidden bunker on the left side of the green doesn't leave much room for error though.

Another camera-ready hole is the par 3, 13th, which maxes out at only 148 yards, but never judge a book by its cover. The green looks to be a carpet sample from the tee box as it sits atop a shelf of granite that rises 150 feet from the sand and waves. In true Nicklaus fashion, he does give you a bailout area, this one being on the left side of the green. Accuracy is your best friend on this hole.

**QUIVIRA'S OCEANFRONT EXPOSURE IS THE MOST OF ANY COURSE IN CABO, BUT IT'S THE JOURNEY IN YOUR GOLF CART AND THE PANORAMIC VIEWS ON THE TEES AND GREENS THAT ARE TRULY BREATHTAKING.**

If any professional golfer, past or current, has been a proponent for the golf ball flying too far these days it's been Jack Nicklaus. So there might be some reasoning behind Quivira's par 5s being absolute monsters. At 616, 554, 635, and 564 yards respectively, long and accurate drives set the tone on these holes. And if you're doing the math, that's just over 33% of the total yardage of the course.

All eighteen holes at Quivira Golf Club are memorable, and you'll be ready for your second go at it the moment you walk off of the course. But before you shuttle back to your resort, a visit to the 19th hole is a must. The open air, grass-thatched roof makes this clubhouse truly



unique. It sits just above the sandy beach between holes one and eighteen and is an incredible setting to say the least. If you're looking to cap off your day with one of the best dinners in Cabo, The Steakhouse offers food as good as the views.

Quivira Golf Club is just one of the many amenities available to guests staying at one of the four Pueblo Bonito Oceanfront Resort and Spas. Each resort offers an all-inclusive option no matter what you're looking for, there is a property that can meet your needs. Whether it's a golf-only trip or a romantic getaway, Pueblo Bonito offers it.

After your stay it will be easy to find why *Travel & Leisure* recognized the resorts with their 2014 World's Best Awards for Top Hotels & Resorts in Mexico. If you are ready for more golf in Cabo, visit [www.pueblobonito.com](http://www.pueblobonito.com) and [www.quiviragolfclub.com](http://www.quiviragolfclub.com).





# SWEET HOME CHICAGO

## Chicago Spotlight



### Golf, Food, and Fun Served Up at McQ's Sports, Brew & Barbeque

It wasn't too long ago that a driving range was pretty much defined as a pasture with some tees on the front side and a tall fence about 250 yards away on the back side. Times have changed, quite obviously. If you have the slightest doubt, head to McQ's Sports, Brew & Barbeque in Bolingbrook to tour the future of indoor golf domes in the present. "Exciting," says Dan Bradley, the dome's general manager. "That's what we want our guests to think when they enter and remember when they leave. Our goal is to provide the best golf experience possible side-by-side with great food and great beverages."

Formerly known as the Ditka Dome, McQ's has been entirely revamped since it was purchased by Jim McWethy, who also owns Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville. Improvements include all-new hitting mats, golf balls, and targets, along with renovations to the adjoining bar and restaurant area. Synergies between the sports dome and the golf club allow Mistwood's teaching staff to lend their expertise at both the sports dome and the all-season Mistwood Performance Center. Dan Phillips, Director of Golf and Instruction at Mistwood Golf Club, marvels at how the dome has evolved since it was purchased in 2012. "A great practice center complete with two practice greens combined with the greatest barbeque restaurant around and a sports bar *and* an off-track betting parlor complete with 58 HD televisions. How can you beat that?"

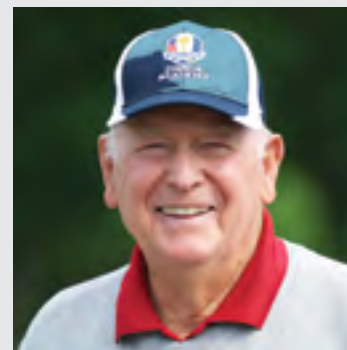
Golf remains the No. 1 priority at McQ's as the fully-heated, 60,000 square-foot facility includes 50 hitting stations, along with areas to work on one's short game. Dome hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday through Tuesday, with closing at 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

For more information on McQ's Sports, Brew & Barbeque, visit the facility's website: [www.mcqsbar.com](http://www.mcqsbar.com).

## Obituaries

### Billy Casper Remembered as Legendary Player, Businessman, Golf Ambassador

For most men, winning 51 times on the PGA Tour would serve as a life legacy. For Billy Casper, those successes, which place him as No. 7 on the all-time PGA Tour winners' list, were overshadowed by his amazing impact on military veterans and on the golf industry. Casper's death on February 7th followed months of health issues including pneumonia and heart surgery. He was 83.



His playing career highlights included three major championship titles: the 1959 U.S. Open at Winged Foot C.C., the 1970 Masters, and the 1966 U.S. Open at Olympic Club. He was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1978.

While Casper's skills on the golf course were matched only by the skills of contemporaries Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Gary Player, his interests in touching the lives of others were seemingly unparalleled. In 1968, Casper was playing golf tournaments in Japan when he visited a hospital ward filled with soldiers who had been wounded in Vietnam. He leaned over to a bed occupied by Clebe McClary and whispered: "Don't let go till you want to let go." Forty-six years later at the 2014 Masters tournament in Augusta, Georgia, Casper met up with McClary who credited Casper's words of encouragement for his survival despite losing his left eye and left arm. "I will never forget that day," said McCabe in an interview with *Golfweek* magazine. "I'd given up. I would have died right there if not for (Casper)."

Casper was father to 11 children, six of them adopted, and has 71 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In 1992, he founded the Billy Casper Youth Organization and for 20 years hosted a tournament in San Diego that raised over \$3 million for youth organizations.

His extended family includes more than 7,600 employees of Billy Casper Golf, founded more than 20 years ago. The company is the largest owner-operator of golf courses, country clubs, and resorts in the U.S. —Neal Kotlarek

### GOLFChicago Remembers Mike Spellman

Chicago sports lost a great writer and an even better person on January 20th with the passing of Mike Spellman; he would have been 51 the following day. A 23-year veteran at the *Daily Herald*, Spellman covered everything from hockey to prep sports to horse racing, to all of which he would give his own unique flavor that was beloved by his loyal readers. Golf, however, was Spellman's passion to both cover and to play. Mike was the only media member who would rather walk among the galleries at the BMW Championship instead of utilizing his "inside the ropes" access. A day on the course with Mike always started with a giant mug of coffee and finished with a ton of laughs. Our best to Mike's family ... he will be missed.



—Todd Mrowice



## Evans Scholars Foundation Surpasses 10,000 Alumni

December's Evans Scholars Foundation graduating class of 15 students put the total number of alumni to 10,009, a milestone for a program that began 85 years ago. Evans Scholars Foundation is among the nation's largest privately-funded scholarship programs and the largest for golf caddies. The foundation provides full tuition and housing at leading universities nationwide.

"Reaching 10,000 Evans Scholars alumni is a remarkable achievement and a milestone that demonstrates the incredible scope of our Program," said Western Golf Association Chairman Dennis O'Keefe. "From humble, local beginnings to a strong and growing national presence, the Evans Scholarship continues to be a life-changing opportunity for caddies who might otherwise never have been able to attend college."

The Evans Scholarship has produced alumni that reside in every U.S. state and in 22 countries. Approximately 40% of those that graduate with their bachelor's degrees go on to earn a graduate degree.

"The achievements of our alumni are an incredible testament to the power of a college degree," said WGA President and CEO John Kaczowski. "Their hard work—which begins on the golf course as a caddie—is proof that our unique scholarship provides a solid foundation for young men and women to go on to achieve lifelong success."

## Naperville Country Club Honors Veterans

A collaboration between the members of Naperville Country Club and a local organization called Naperville Responds For Our Veterans has resulted in some much-needed help for local men and women who have served our country.

An annual fundraiser at NCC takes place on the club's 7th hole where the normal flag is replaced with an American flag. As the 2014 season concluded, the club looked for a way to continue its support and offer attribute. A maple tree needed to be unearthed from the 7th tee box leaving a vacant space. It was decided that a flagpole would be erected in place of the tree and it would fly an American flag in dedication to armed service veteran members and their families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. A bronze plaque at the base of the flagpole reads, "This flag has been placed by the members of Naperville Country Club in honor of our family members and friends who have served our country. It stands as a constant reminder of the brave men and women who have sacrificed to guard our freedoms, and that those freedoms should never be taken for granted."



All funds that exceeded the flagpole costs, which totaled about \$7,000, were donated to the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno. The home serves nearly 200 veterans and the funds will be used towards purchasing a transporter to assist residents in getting around the grounds of the facility.

"The money just kept coming," said Club President Michael Rowan. "I think it's a great thing. These people have fought for us and we sometimes take that for granted. This is a constant reminder every time you step onto the course that there are people who have sacrificed so much for our freedom."

## Golf Fitness Workshops at Cantigny

The Cantigny Golf Academy is partnering with Callaway Golf Fitness to offer golfers an affordable series of workshops. Each session will focus on golf-specific fitness and injury prevention, in addition to how to stay healthy, play better, and enjoy the game. Cantigny Golf Academy Director of Golf Fitness, Dr. Paul Callaway, will be the presenter at each workshop, which occur on Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 p.m. Several workshops are available in March and April including: Simple Steps for Greater Distance and Accuracy, Golf Fitness Training Essentials for "Avid" Golfers, Five Top-Secret Power Moves to Gain 20 yards Off the Tee, and How to Achieve Proper Spine Angle for Great accuracy and Consistency. Each workshop is \$10 for adults, \$15 for couples, and junior golfers (under 18) are \$5 when accompanied by an adult. For more information call 630-567-7572.

## Quinn Named Executive Director of The First Tee of Greater Chicago

Lisa Quinn has been appointed executive director of The First Tee of Greater Chicago, an international youth development initiative of the World Golf Foundation. Previously serving as the chapter's development director, Quinn will oversee the chapter's administration, fundraising and junior golf and life skills programs while continuing to seek new partnership opportunities. "We are proud to be promoting Lisa to executive director," said Bruce Patterson, president of The First Tee of Greater Chicago's Board of Governors. "Lisa's passion and commitment to The First Tee program in addition to her experience with the organization is unparalleled."

Quinn is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University and competed professionally on the LPGA Futures Tour.

## Senior Amateur Tour to Kick Off in Chicagoland

The same management team that runs the popular Golfweek Amateur Tour across Chicagoland has announced the creation of the Senior Amateur Golf Tour for golfers aged 50 and over. "Our goal was to provide another series of great tournaments for senior golfers," says tournament director Rob Maguire. The 2015 includes events held at some of the metro area's premier private clubs, including Flossmoor Country Club on the south side and Bull Valley Golf Club in the northwest suburbs, along with premier public courses including Cantigny Golf Course and Cog Hill. All tournaments are flighted gross play with USGA

and local rules in effect. The tour will consist of four handicapped flights. Players are placed in flights based up their handicap index. Membership fees are \$90 and include a welcome goodie bag with hat, shirt and bag tag.

For more information, visit the Golfweek Amateur Tour website: [www.amateurgolftour.net/chicago](http://www.amateurgolftour.net/chicago).

## Chicago Area Professional in New Role at SentryWorld G.C.

Following 18 years as head professional at SentryWorld Golf Course in Seven's Point, Wisconsin, Brian Dumler has transitioned into a new role as player development and teaching professional at the same property. A Hoffman Estates native and Harper Junior College alum, Dumler has taken the new position just as SentryWorld is about to be reintroduced to the golf world following extensive renovations to the property by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. Considered by most golf critics to be one of the Midwest's premier golf properties, the renovated course is celebrated for its picturesque "flower hole" which boasts 36,000 blooms on a single par 3, including begonias, celosias, salvias and petunias. For more information on SentryWorld, visit [www.sentryworld.com](http://www.sentryworld.com).

## Medinah to Restore Original Design on Course 2

Medinah Country Club has approved a \$3.6 million project to restore the club's Course No. 2 to its original character, while upgrading its infrastructure to 21st Century standards.

Members voted overwhelmingly to undertake the project, which is aimed at restoring the course—opened in 1927—to the aesthetic character imparted by architect Tom Bendelow, while building state-of-the-art USGA greens, new tees, new bunkers, bentgrass fairways, and extensive storm drainage improvements. Curtis Tyrrell, Medinah's Director of Golf Course Operations, will lead the project.

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# Dominican Republic: Golf Paradise of the Caribbean

## DESTINATIONS

Dave Weretka with Neal Kotlerek

Way back in 1969—at just about the same time when man was about ready to step out onto the moon’s surface—golf architect Pete Dye took on a challenge that was nearly as daunting as the one facing Neil Armstrong and his colleagues.

According to legend, Dye was rumbling down a dirt road alongside the pristine shoreline of the Dominican Republic some 36 years ago in search of inspiration. He found it after passing through the town of La Romana on the southeast side of the island. The designer got out of his vehicle and beheld “the most beautiful seaside location for a golf course” he’d ever come across. Dye had no idea at the time that his discovery would evolve into a lifelong commitment to this Caribbean country and its people.

In his autobiography *Bury Me in a Pot Bunker*, Dye recalls how sugar magnate Alvaro Carta offered to bankroll the designer’s vision of a course winding along the coastline as the centerpiece of a lavish resort. The parcel of land chosen for the layout extended down from the sea upwards along coral cliffs. After plotting the layout hole by hole by hole, Dye became convinced that “something extraordinary was possible.”

And indeed, just about everything about this project was at least a couple notches above ordinary. While the location was spectacular, it was covered with thick underbrush, stubby tropical trees, and cacti. In 18 months, Dye and his construction crew oversaw a staff of 300 Dominicans who molded the course essentially by hand. They cleared the underbrush with machetes and then used sledgehammers, pickaxes, and chisels to crack the bare coral rock and limestone that covered the area. Noting how sharp the coral became when shattered, the workers referred to the remnants as “dientes del perro.” The phrase was embraced and became the name of the finished product: the “Teeth of the Dog.”

Finished in the fall of 1971, the 6,888-yard golf course has remained a fixture on the world’s top 50 golf courses to this day. Over the years, the course was complemented by 45 other holes all designed by Dye to create a golfer’s paradise known as Casa de Campo resort. The sprawling 7,000-acre property features a luxury hotel, a beach, indoor and



outdoor restaurants, an equestrian center, a spa, a shooting range and many other amenities. But the centerpiece of the complex remains golf. And the centerpiece of the centerpiece remains Pete Dye’s original masterpiece.

“The Teeth of the Dog is a course you can play day after day and never tire of it,” says Gilles Gagnon, Director of Golf Operations at the property. “Seven holes play along the Caribbean Sea and supports Doak’s contention about the quality of the par 3s. “You won’t find a better grouping of one-shooters anywhere. They range from a pitching wedge on one hole to perhaps a driver on No. 16, depending upon the wind direction.”

As one of the designer’s earlier creations, it is interesting to note that his signature “Dye-abolical” contoured putting surfaces are missing in action. While well-guarded and frequently elevated, the greens are relatively flat and set in an angular fashion. The third hole is a mid-range par 5 that tempts long hitters to attempt to reach the green in two strokes. We found the hard way that it is better to lay up on the second shot to set up a short-iron approach shot to this birthday-cake green.

The course’s signature hole is the par-3 No. 5. From a tee box parallel to the coastline, the golfer is asked to weave a short-iron over to a

green protected by bunkers and the deep blue sea. One can’t help but marvel at the technical elements involved in constructing this hole, as the putting surface rises above the waves by only a few feet. Once you’ve putted out on the hole, take a minute to enjoy the view.

Highlighting the back nine are Nos. 15 through 17 which are all located on the sea. The par-4 15th is a dogleg right that ends at a green perched precariously above the sea. The 194-yard No. 16 is just as treacherous, as its kidney-shaped green looks downright tiny next to the blue waters protecting its right flank.

While one might be tempted to play Teeth of the Dog over and over again, the resort’s





other Dye courses serve us memorable challenges and scenery in the own right. The Dye Fore Course is perched 300 feet atop the cliffs overlooking the Chavon River. The course previously known as the Dye Fore North Nine has been melded together with the new Dye Fore Lakes to create a dynamic 18-hole layout. Although 7,630 yards from the championship tees, the course plays a bit shorter as expansive fairways and greens allow for aggressive attacks off the tees and to the greens.

The Marina Nine is windswept and cascades down toward the Casa de Campo port. Rolling fairways and sea breezes challenge shot selection on every hole.

An outstanding view of the Altos de Chavon—the resort’s authentic 16th century Mediterranean village—is served up on several holes across the course.

The 6,461-yard Links Course is a full 18-hole layout that runs through the interior of the property. Even so, great views of the sea can be found across the course’s rolling terrain. Sand bunkers abound across the course and

tall bahia and guinea grass make the rough an additional hazard.

Away from Dye’s handiwork, guests at Casa de Campo can enjoy world-class dining, shopping, entertainment, and both hotel and villa accommodations. Additional sport offerings include 13 tennis courts, a 245-acre shooting facility, three polo fields, a yacht club, a sailing school, deep-sea and fresh-water fishing, kayaking, and snorkeling at the resort’s private beach. Spa services include massages, reflexology, body treatments, aromatherapy, steam baths, and plunge pools.

Thirteen restaurants across the complex serve up everything from local cuisine to steaks, chops, pizza, and fine dining.

**Barcelo Bavaro Beach Resort**

While the Dominican Republic has always been an outstanding vacation destination, the popularity of Teeth of the Dog has inevitably lured other golf developers to the island. Indeed, Pete Dye’s son P.B. Dye enjoys his own legacy on the island, starting with his 18-hole

course at this luxury property situated on one of the world’s most spectacular beaches. Some guests are lured to the sprawling Punta Cana property for the boating, others for the casino, others for the luxurious U-Spa, and still others for the 11 world-class restaurants. Golfers on the elegant Lakes Course are treated to a refreshing journey through lush mangroves and around (and sometimes across) 25 inland lakes. Designer Dye pays just homage to his father by lacing the routing with railroad ties in unexpected places. Barcelo Bavaro Beach Resort is a member of a large family of well-regarded Barcelo Resorts. Stay and play packages for golfers include one free green fee per person every other night. View the resort’s website for more details: [www.barcelo.com](http://www.barcelo.com).

**Puntacana Resort & Club**

Reviewers of the two golf courses at this spectacular 15,000-acre development next to Punta Cana’s airport fumble over each other extolling the virtues of the property.

The Corales Course was built by Tom Fazio and opened in 2010. The layout’s setting is “surreal,” according to the World Golf website. “Sparkling waters with waves crashing against the rocks at such force that ocean spray rises high into the air,” it continues. In truth, the course’s oceanfront cliffs, alone, make any 18-hole round here a lifetime memory. At least seven holes feature the ocean in play with the final three, known collectively as “The Devil’s Elbow” (El Codo Del Diablo) highlighted by elevation changes and finicky Caribbean winds.

La Cana is a 27-hole hole course designed by the aforementioned P.B. Dye and features 14 holes with amazing ocean views.

Puntacana Resort & Club has received AAA’s Five Star Diamond Award and is widely recognized among the top 25 luxury resorts in the Caribbean. Elegant accommodations are complemented by the Six Senses Spa, the Oscar de la Renta Tennis Center, and a wide range of other amenities including an aquatic center and an interactive museum.

**Punta Espada**

Considered by some to rival Casa De Campo’s Teeth of the Dog as the best course in the Caribbean, Punta Espada Golf Club was designed by Jack Nicklaus and features eight holes along and over the sea. The course hosted the inaugural Cap Cana Championship Champions Tour event in 2008. Located on a dazzling 30,000-acre resort and residential development called Cap Cana, the 7,396-yard course features elevated tees to shorten holes along with multiple tee positions to accommodate all handicap levels. The 611-yard second hole heads toward the ocean off the tee and winds up on a green hovering above an inlet pool. A par here is reason for celebration 16 holes later.

The unique No. 10 plays to an island green surrounded not by water but by sand. While you won’t lose a penalty stroke immediately if your approach shot finds the hazard, don’t be surprised if it takes you two to extract yourself from this devious sand bunker.

Accommodations at the resort vary from private luxury villas to junior and family suites at the boutique hotel Eden Roc. Spa services, dining experiences and boating on the Caribbean are available on the property.

**Dominican Republic Fact Sheet**

**Airports:** Three international airports service the island, including Casa de Campo/La Romana International (LRM) just minutes from the resort. Santo Domingo Airport is located 70 minutes from La Romana.

**Entry:** A passport is required to enter the country.

**Weather:** Daytime temperatures are in the 80s year round. Night time temperatures vary from the mid-60s during the winter months to the low 70s in summertime.

**Language:** Spanish is the island’s official language but English is spoken widely at most tourist areas and on all resort properties.

**For more information:** [puntacana.com](http://puntacana.com) and [puntaespadagolf.com](http://puntaespadagolf.com).





# Crack! Bang! Kaboom! Chicago to Host World's Greatest Golfers in 2015

Chicago area golfers should be forgiven if their minds drifted elsewhere at the end of Katy Perry's halftime performance at the 2015 Super Bowl. The fireworks that exploded above the University of Phoenix stadium most assuredly reminded them of the spectacular display of outstanding golf tournaments that will be celebrated across the community this spring, summer, and fall. The schedule is all encompassing as it includes the world's best men and senior professionals, as well as most of the world's top collegiate and amateur players.

**Boom!** The pyrotechnics begin with a bang on June 12 with the tee-off of the Palmer Cup matches at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove. The event features the best collegiate men's players against the best European collegiate players in a competition styled after the Ryder Cup matches. Played over one of the country's premier private golf courses, the Palmer Cup will be open to the public

free of charge and will offer free parking as well. The European team is coached by former Ryder Cup participant and French Amateur Champion Jean Van de Velde. The U.S. team will be coached by Georgia Tech head coach Bruce Heppler. For the full event schedule, visit the Palmer Cup website: [www.palmercup.org](http://www.palmercup.org)

**Kapow!** Galleries will again line the fairways of Glenview's prestigious North Shore Country Club July 6 – 12 when the Encompass Championship returns for the third straight year. Tom Lehman is expected to defend his Champions Tour title at the event which is expected to attract other tour luminaries Fred Couples, Rocco Mediate, Corey Pavin, and Bernhard Langer. "The players are virtually unanimous in their praise of the golf course as well as Chicago's avid fans," says Mike Galeski, Tournament Director. Youth-oriented organizations are beneficiaries of the tournament proceeds and this year will include

JDRF Illinois Chapter, Junior Achievement of Chicago, The First Tee of Greater Chicago and the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund.

**Bang!** Beau Hossler is expected to tee off at the aforementioned Rich Harvest Farms August 3 – 8 to defend the Western Amateur title he earned by defeating fellow Californian Xander Schauffele last year at Beverly Country Club. The tournament annually pits the best amateur players in the world against each other in match competition following stroke-play qualifying rounds. Past Western Amateur champions include Jordan Niebrugge, Ryan Moore, Tiger Woods, and Phil Mickelson.

**Kaboom!** Many of the same faces from the Western Amateur will return to Chicago August 17 – 23 to compete in the U.S. Amateur Championship at Olympia Fields Country Club on the city's south side. 312 of the top amateurs from around the world will qualify on the two nationally-ranked

Olympia Fields courses: the North Course designed by Willie Park Jr. and the South Course designed by Tom Bendelow. Those making the cut will compete in match play rounds leading to a 36-hole match play championship final. Past winners include Bobby Jones, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Lanny Wadkins, and Tiger Woods.

**Bam! Boom! Bang!** The grand finale of Chicago's "Golf Season For the Ages" arrives September 14 – 20 when the PGA Tour's premier players visit Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest for the 2015 BMW Championship. Named the PGA Tour's "tournament of the year" three years in a row, the BMW Championship donates all proceeds to the Chick Evans Scholarship Foundation which awards full tuition and housing scholarships for caddies from modest means. For event and ticket information, visit [www.bmwchampionshipusa.com](http://www.bmwchampionshipusa.com)

Let the fireworks begin!



2014 Western Amateur

## TOUR STOPS

Neal Kotlarek



Rich Harvest Farms

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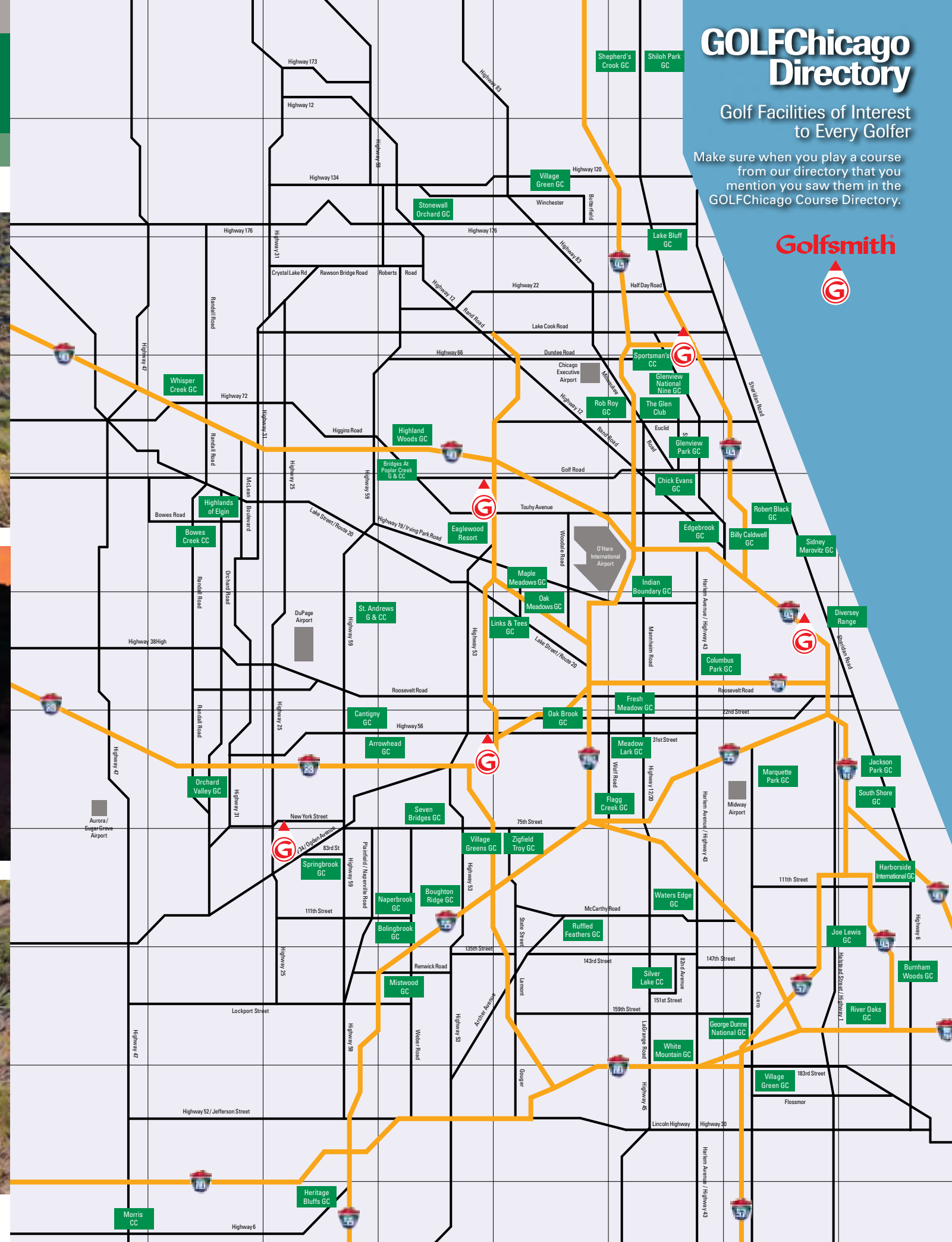
The Ranch, which opened in late 2014, is a western outdoor amenity located on a 3,000-acre desert preserve within the gates of this private golf and recreational community. The 33-acre site offers a variety of outdoor activities for a true taste of the west including hiking and mountain biking on an award-winning, 15-mile trails system, horseback riding and horsemanship lessons, luxury camping, and facilities for presentations, stargazing, interpretive nature talks, and more.

“While club members and their guests will always enjoy an unparalleled golf experience, we now offer family lifestyle amenities that can be utilized throughout the year and that contribute to the quality of life for our residents, explains Desert Mountain general manager Robert Jones. “Research indicates that outdoor recreation is a growing priority for more than 140 million Americans. It’s not just a ‘nice to have’ amenity. For 2015 and beyond it is a ‘must-have’ amenity.”

The Ranch features a 15-mile trail system offering seven trails that originate from and return to a single trailhead. Each trail offers a different experience for all skill levels. The facility also provides a 12-stall stable and two corrals for staging horseback rides through dramatic desert terrain that offers panoramic views of the Valley of the Sun. Still another amenity is overnight luxury camping in a lovely and secluded area of the property featuring canvas tents with redwood floors, bath/shower with hot and cold running water, plush towels, soaps and lotions, and full-size beds with mattresses. Chef-prepared meals are also offered.

For Desert Mountain Club membership information, please contact Nicole Forbes at 480-595-4318, or [nforbes@desertmt.com](mailto:nforbes@desertmt.com), or visit [www.desertmountain.com](http://www.desertmountain.com).

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Bolingbrook, IL 60490  
[bolingbrookgolfclub.com](http://bolingbrookgolfclub.com)

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Bolingbrook Golf Club was named #28 in the 2010 *Golf World* Readers' Choice Awards for best public course in the country, named to the 2009 *Golfweek* Best Courses You Can Play list, and received 4½ stars from *Golf Digest*



### Bowes Creek Country Club

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[bowescreekcc.com](http://bowescreekcc.com)  
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Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, Lake Bluff Golf Club offers a beautiful and challenging layout in a traditional parkland setting. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bent grass fairways and greens. The club anxiously awaits hosting the 42nd Annual Lake County Amateur this Fall 27 and 28.



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### Mistwood Golf Club

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Romeoville, IL 60446  
[www.mistwoodgc.com](http://www.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"



### Oak Brook Golf Club

630-368-6400  
[oak-brook.org/recreation](http://oak-brook.org/recreation)  
18 Holes – Par 72  
Yardage: 5341 - 6541

The Oak Brook Golf Club is a classic playing experience with a superb blend of challenges where every hole requires solid shot-making from tee to green. The par 4s will utilize every club in the bag – the par 3s are a devilish balance of risk and reward – and the par 5s offer multiple playing strategies from conservative to bold...and all on manicured greens and fairways. The course features a well-stocked pro shop, delightful grill and outdoor patio, men's and women's locker rooms, expansive all-grass driving range with three chipping and putting greens, and six PGA teaching professionals.



### Orchard Valley Golf Course

2411 West Illinois Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60506  
630-907-0500  
[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, waterfalls 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

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



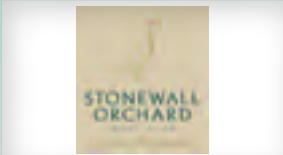


**St. Andrews Golf & Country Club**

630.231.3100  
[standrewsgc.com](http://standrewsgc.com)

36 Holes:  
Course #1: par 71,  
5116-6920 yards  
Course #2: par 72,  
5341-6818 yards

Located 30 miles west of Chicago in West Chicago. Since 1926, Chicago-area golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses and top-ranked Practice Center. With its vast rolling terrain, mature trees, and historic setting, St. Andrews offers quality facilities not only for discerning golfers but for golf outings, leagues, and permanent tee times. Guests will also enjoy premium range balls, motor carts with tablet GPS, and selections from J.J.'s Bar & Grill.



**Stonewall Orchard**

25675 W Highway 60  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
847-740-4890

[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 on rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every Fall.

To learn more, visit [stonewallorchard.com](http://stonewallorchard.com) or call 847-740-4890.



**Water's Edge Golf Course**

7205 West 115th Street  
Worth, IL 60482  
708-671-1032

[watersedgegolf.com](http://watersedgegolf.com)

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



**Whisper Creek Golf Course**

12840 Del Webb  
Boulevard  
Huntley, IL 60142  
847-515-7680

[whispercreekgolf.com](http://whispercreekgolf.com)

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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.

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- Annual Memberships and MORE!

**Hamilton County Golf**

Indiana's Premier Golf Destination!  
[indianaspremiergolf.com](http://indianaspremiergolf.com)

**Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois**

Golf Changes Kids' Lives  
630-466-0913  
P.O. Box 610  
Sugar Grove, IL 60554  
[kidsgolffoundation.org](http://kidsgolffoundation.org)

**Links & Tees Golf Facility**

630-458-2660  
Addison, IL 60101  
Recognized in 2011 by *Golf Range* magazine as one of the top 100 learning facilities in North America.  
[addisonparks.org](http://addisonparks.org)

**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)

**Maple Meadows Golf Club**

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

West 18 - Par 70  
Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds.  
Weekday: \$32 walk  
\$49 ride  
Weekend: \$41 walk  
\$58 ride

\*Frequent specials on course website

East 9 - Par 34  
Yardage: 2,815 - 2,427 yds.  
Rate: \$16 walk / \$25 ride  
Discount Program: Yes  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes

**Naperbrook Golf Course**

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

Par 72  
Yardage: 6677  
Weekday: \$39.50  
Weekend: \$49.50  
Mid-day Rates: Yes  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Super Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes

**Oak Meadows Golf Club**

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

Par 71  
Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds.  
Weekday: \$32 walk  
\$49 ride  
Weekend: \$41 walk  
\$58 ride

\*Frequent specials on course website  
Discount Program: Yes  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: No

**Sentry World**

866-479-6753  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
18 holes  
Par 72  
6,951 yards  
[sentryworld.com](http://sentryworld.com)

**Shepherd's Crook**

847-872-2080  
351 N. Green Bay Rd.  
Zion, IL 60099  
[shepherdscrook.org](http://shepherdscrook.org)

**Shiloh Park**

847-746-5500  
23rd and Bethesda Blvd.  
Zion, IL 60099  
[shilohparkgolf.com](http://shilohparkgolf.com)

**Springbrook Golf Course**

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

Par 72  
Yardage: 6,896  
Weekday: \$41.50  
Weekend: \$51.50  
Mid-day Rates: Yes  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Super Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes

**Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation**

[westerngolfassociation.com](http://westerngolfassociation.com)

**Zigfield Troy Par 3**

630-985-9860  
1535 W. 75th Street  
Woodridge, IL 60517w

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**White Mountain Golf Park**

9901 179th Street  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
708-478-4653

[whitemountaingolfpark.com](http://whitemountaingolfpark.com)

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**White Pines Golf Club & Banquets**

630-766-0304 500 W  
Jefferson Ave  
Bensenville, IL 60106

[whitepinesgolf.com](http://whitepinesgolf.com)

36-hole championship course situated on over 240 acres, has been a favorite among Chicago area golfers since 1928. Ten minutes from O'Hare International Airport, White Pines in Bensenville is a perfect choice for anyone looking for a challenging game of golf any time of the year.

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**Arlington Lakes Golf Club**

847-577-3030  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

**Blackberry Oaks**

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

**Bonnie Brook GC**

847-360-4735  
2800 N. Lewis Ave.  
Waukegan, IL 60087  
[waukegangolf.org](http://waukegangolf.org)

**Boughton Ridge**

630-739-4100  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

**Eaglewood Resort and Spa**

630-773-3510  
1401 Nordic Rd.  
Itasca, IL 60143  
[eaglewoodresort.com](http://eaglewoodresort.com)

Par 72  
Yardage 6,015 - 5,410 yds.  
Weekday: \$39.00 w/cart (Spring Rate)  
Weekend: \$45.00 w/cart (Spring Rate)  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes

**Fox Bend Golf Course**

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

Par 72  
Yardage: 6,890 – 5,325  
Weekday: \$38 walk  
\$54 ride  
Weekend: \$43 walk  
\$59 ride

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes  
Resident rates available

**Green Meadows Golf Club**

630-810-5330  
18 W 201 West 63rd Street  
Westmont, IL 60559  
[DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com)

Par 30  
Yardage: 1,888 - 1,545 yds.  
Weekday: \$14 walk  
\$22 ride  
Weekend: \$16 walk  
\$24 ride

\*Frequent specials on course website  
Discount Program: Yes  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Twilight Rates: No  
Banquets/Outings: No

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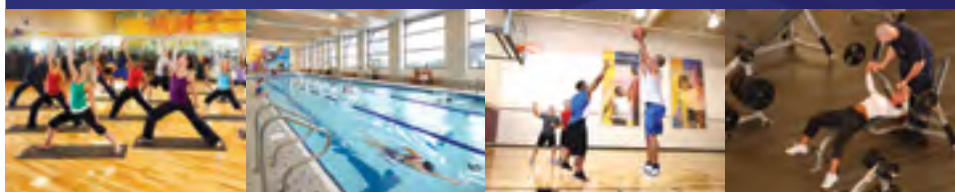


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## America's Original Golf Trail

continued from page 25

finish, and Jody Ewart Shadoff and Moriya Jutanugarn tied for fifth.

Local favorite and Auburn University alum Cydney Clanton took away a lot of positives from her performance at the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic. Clanton had a few of her best rounds in Prattville, shooting a first round 66 and final round 67 to finish tied for seventh.

### Airbus LPGA Classic

May 18 – 24, 2015

RTJ Magnolia Grove, Mobile (Tentative) Jessica Korda became the third two-time winner on the LPGA Tour last year when she won the 2014 Airbus LPGA Classic by a stroke (-20) over Anna Nordqvist (-19). It was once again a stacked leaderboard at an LPGA event with an exciting fight to the finish, with eight players within four shots of Korda at the end.

Korda joins Nordqvist and Webb with two wins in 2014, and said this win was a sweet one because she felt she hasn't been playing up to her standards after Bahamas. "I have not been playing well since I basically won in the Bahamas, and still trying to work on the same swing thoughts that Grant and I have been working on, so for it to finally pay off here is really nice," Korda said. In 2013, Korda came up one stroke short of eventual champion Jennifer Johnson (-21) but this year the 20-under was enough for a victory.

"My confidence just was rising every single day," Korda said. I just love it here. I love Alabama, I love this golf course, and hopefully we'll have this tournament for a very, very long time."

Her putts started dropping on the back nine with six birdies after she made the turn. It was just enough to hold off Nordqvist and Michelle Wie, Charley Hull, and Catriona Matthew, all at 18-under, after what she deemed was a frustrating day.

Lexi Thompson had a number in mind that she had to shoot in order to win the Airbus LPGA Classic and she ended up coming up short in the long run despite shooting a 6-under, including four birdies on the back nine. Thompson has many supporters across Alabama, a fact that was not lost on her. She fed off their energy and felt the love as she and her group played that day. "My group had pretty good crowds the whole week, so it was very nice to see," Thompson said. "I love my fans here."

For more on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, its Resort Collection, and professional golf tournaments, visit [www.rtjgolf.com](http://www.rtjgolf.com).

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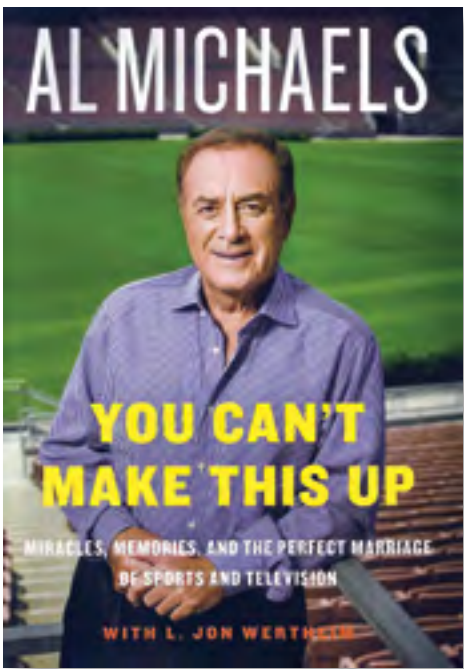


Behind the Mic

You Can't Make This Up  
By Al Michaels with Jon Wertheim  
304 pages  
\$28.99  
ISBN: 97-800-62314987  
www.harpercollins.com

A broadcast announcer can become an icon with a single utterance. "Do you believe in miracles? Yes?" Those six words need no explanation—they may be our generation's greatest call of the biggest upset in athletics. Al Michaels did not script those words. Much like his broadcast career, Michaels provided the play-by-play from his head and heart. Unlike the syrupy, scripted commentary of Jim Nance, Al Michaels understands that his voice is not the reason viewers are tuned into a game. From his humble beginnings in minor league baseball, Michaels has followed the

methodology that less is more when it comes to calling a big game. He presents a clean, affable tone and lets the game and its players provide the drama. But, just like during that 1980 hockey game, sometimes the magnitude of the game fosters a string of nouns and verbs that become a part of history. *You Can't Make This Up* is the biography of a sports junkie. Michaels career, and this book, touches all the bases. From Wide World of Sports to Monday Night Baseball to Monday Night Football to this year's Super Bowl, Michaels shares the behind the scenes drama that happens before the footballs are deflated and the first pitch is delivered. *You Can't Make This Up* doesn't miss a beat with Michaels discussing his relationship with OJ Simpson, Howard Cosell, and Pete Rose. Oh yeah, there are a few great golf stories in *You Can't Make This Up*, too.



ON THE SHELF

Between the Covers

Tiny Bubbles in the Wine

Make me happy (make me happy); make me feel fine (make me feel fine); tiny bubbles (tiny bubbles); make me warm all over. Don Ho certainly appreciated sparkling wine, and I'm here to encourage you to do the same. There are plenty of reasonably priced bubbliies available, so there is no need to save them for a special occasion (although that works too). First, some clarification. Legally, only those sparkling wines produced in France's Champagne region, a viticultural area 90 miles northeast of Paris, can be called Champagne. All other sparkling wines, i.e. spumante, prosecco, crémant, sparklers from California, are well...sparkling wine. And that's what Nino Franco makes in Valdobbiadene in Italy's Veneto region. Vines are grown only on the most sunny parts of the hills, at altitudes varying between 150 and 1500 feet above sea level, while the north-facing slopes are covered mainly in woodland.

The climate throughout the area is mild, with not excessively cold winters and warm summers, which is when the nobility of Venice likes to visit. The Franco winery was founded here in 1919 by Antonio Franco. Under his son Nino the winery expanded its operations and markets. Primo, the third generation proprietor, currently oversees operations with his daughter Silvia. Primo Franco took his diploma of oenology at the Scuola di Enologia in Conegliano (Veneto). He then decided to develop his own approach to the growth of the vines and the production of Prosecco at this modern winery. Since October 1990 Primo has utilized non-traditional cultivation techniques combined with the use of old varietal clones. He also invested in the production process in order to eliminate all those wines that were atypical for the area. NV Rustico Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore D.O.C.G. \$20 This is a brut, or quite dry, prosecco. It is very pale yellow in the flute, with rather coarse bubbles that quickly dissipate. It features flavors of traditional green apple and a hint of ginger ale. With a medium body and a clean finish, this would be excellent as an aperitivo. Drink this young and lively prosecco soon after purchase. Double Bogey ■ Bogey ■■ Par ■■■ Birdie ■■■■ Eagle ■■■■■ All prices are estimated.

This wine wants to be served with appetizers, such as a classic Bruschetta, Tomatoes Stuffed with Shrimp, or Grilled Mussels and Clams on the Half Shell. ■■■■ NV Faive Rosè Brut Spumante \$22 Faive [fieEEve] is Italian for those sparks and tongues whipping about at the top of a fire, which gives this copper-hued wine its name. Another product of Primo Franco's restlessness, Faive is an untraditional blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, both cold soaked on the skins. The nose appropriately recalls dried red rose petals, with a bit of vanilla and honey. The taste is nicely balanced: dry, with lively acidity, black cherry fruit, a hint of tannic bitterness, and plenty of bubbles, of course. Despite its color, this is a wine for savory dishes, like Risotto with Clams, Fricasseed Chicken with Egg and Lemon, or Frittata with Tomato, Onion, and Basil. ■■■■

ON THE CORKSCREWS

Stephen Hawk



leo849@comcast.net

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# Cabin Fever North of the Inferno

For months you’ve longed for respite from the stifling, omni-gray winter drudgery. Whether it’s Derrick Rose’s knee, Jay Cutler’s pouty-face, your boss’s snicker while you scan the Fantasy waiver-wire (no, Odell Beckham is not available), in the winter you’re a bit more agitated and depressed, hopeless and dark. And cold. Damned cold.

But the Midwest ethic is hardy—it’s hearty. You wake neighbors at 5 a.m. with guttural, scraped-windshield sounds, then drive to work in darkness, then drive home in darkness, then try to avoid an ankle sprain as you scale the icy steps into your high-energy-bill home. Chicago winter means ten extra pounds, three more inches on the beard, two shots of whiskey neat instead of vodka on the rocks. You quickly transition from basking in leaf-crunching, pumpkin-patching, autumn glow to wondering what it feels like to open your front door without swearing.

What kept you going? Maybe your screensaver is the 12th at Augusta, the 7th at Pebble, or some nondescript “hidden gem” resort course in St. Lucia (it’s actually a goat track but your colleagues will never know). Maybe it’s the R15 waiting on a rack at the golf show, like a frightened puppy at the humane society, eager to join a loyal and loving master.

And the transition from not golfing to golfing for a Midwesterner is more dramatic than that of our southern and western counterparts. My uncle in Tennessee and my brother in Colorado often gloat, “Yeah, it’s crazy. Sometimes we’ll just get a 70 degree day out of nowhere.” Hell hath no fury like a dormant golfer scorned.

But in the final analysis, we might just have it better. During premarital counseling my wife and I read a book based on the central question, “What if there is no such thing as heaven or hell?” In other words, what if here, on earth, some of us are actually living in heaven and some are living in hell? That there is nothing “after” this; it’s all happening here and now.

The Chicago golfer experiences both, every year, at their extremes. So we’re the Yin and the Yang, the “it’s always darkest before the dawn” and “no joy without pain” clichés. We embody the death and rebirth archetype.

Frozen, barren, dead ground is replaced by lush, vibrant, green blankets of rolling hills and fertile plains, dotted with 4¼ inch holes, in which our climactic winter dreams are realized: a steaming nature-pool of pars and birdies and eagles, of won skins and dragged in five-footers, of rounds with your dad and a cool drink in the sun afterward.

In the winter, we turn to Guinness or Italian beef sandwiches or Breaking Bad reruns, but as the sun stays out a little longer, and the snow-covered ground turns to green-mud slop, our souls swell with excitement. We sneak a quick nine at the muni-down-the-street with our daughter, skip the beef sandwich, and fire up the grill for chicken or a salad. Hope replaces cynicism. Activity supplants sloth. And now, instead of every decision begging the question, “will this help me endure the winter?” it becomes “will this help my golf game?” which can be directly translated to “will this help my soul?”

And besides, we “figured something out” in our swings last year. That statement is in quotations because it’s not my original thought; it’s plagiarized from everyone who has ever gripped a club. The inevitable statement to follow in May: “What happened? I thought I figured something out in my swing.”

I really did figure something out. I saw it in an insomniatic Golf Channel blur with Michael Breed and Paul Azinger. It was something so simple that I hadn’t internalized in 25 years of playing: release the club at impact. I wrote it on my hand, then on my scorecard, then typed it in my iPhone, where it now looks exactly like this: “Swing thoughts loose grip release club finish forward posted August 30th at 3:21 PM.” Those three simple thoughts changed my ball flight from weakish old-man push slice to pro-style draw. It got me to a 5.9 index. And yet, I want to go lower.

In philosophy, the Hedonic Treadmill refers to our human nature to always want more, no matter how much we have. Think John Daly with chicken wings and Budweiser or Tiger Woods with Perkins waitresses. We’re like this with cutting strokes. Golf equipment sales are predicated on this idea, and though we know rationally that a ball or iron or driver will only mask a weakness, we keep buying. You, my friend, are hereby permitted to jump on that “treadmill”—goodness knows it’s better for your soul than a real treadmill. It is time for rebirth.

So as the chill subsides, Derrick Rose plays two games in a row, Cubs hope replaces Bears hate, and your boss lets you out early for a quick nine, appreciate the privilege of the yearly winter of discontent. I read a newspaper headline in January, “Kitten freezes to death, stuck to the front porch.” I mean really, how much less would I appreciate a round at Cog Hill without that image seared into my brain? I doubt some guy in L.A. or Phoenix would. For us, that first round will be sweeter, the first dig into turf more precious. So as soon as a flag goes up within 30 miles, head out and play. Buy the new driver. Pay for a lesson. Re-up at your club. You lived through hell. You deserve it.

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\*Offer valid March 17 – May 25, 2015. 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. Ross Bridge specials are available Monday - Thursday from \$199. Some restrictions may apply. Offers subject to change.