



Lake Limerick turns 60 and offers
a unique nine-hole challenging treat

Lake Limerick Golf Course in Shelton, Wash. is turning 60 years old this year and continues to be a popular place for those looking for a quick and fun round of golf. The course is owned by the homeowners and features a round of golf through the trees with plenty of challenges. See inside this section for more.



WHAT'S NEW
IN NW GOLF

Professionals, amateurs are
set for the Hudson Cup battle

The 78th annual Hudson Cup pitting the top professionals against the top amateurs will take place Oct. 15-16 at Inglewood Golf Club in Kenmore, Wash. In addition, the annual Senior Hudson Cup will take place alongside the regular matches during the two days of competition. The first day of the Hudson Cup will feature foursomes and fourball matches with the second day featuring singles matches between the professionals and amateurs.



Rules Question of the month

On the 5th hole the fairway was closely mown all the way to the edge of a red penalty area on the right side. This penalty area ran the whole length of the hole. If a ball was not in the red penalty area you would see it in the fairway. A player's tee shot headed straight toward and down the penalty area. After the other two players played, he asked them if he should hit a provisional? They agreed he should. He played the provisional to the middle of the fairway. From the tee he was positive his first shot was in the penalty area. Down the fairway he saw no sign of his first tee shot and estimated where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area and completed the hole. At scoring his procedure was brought up. How should the Committee rule? See the answer on Page. 2.



Pinehurst Resort:
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best for a reason

There is a reason that Pinehurst Golf Resort in North Carolina is ranked as one of the world's top golf resorts. It is a place that seemingly has everything. From the 11 golf courses (soon to be 12) to the accommodations to the dining to the family friendly adventures Pinehurst has a little bit of something for everyone. For more see inside this section.



Fall Golf in the NW: The right time to play



With fall upon us in the Pacific Northwest, it is always a great time to tee it up. The colors are turning at places like The Home Course in DuPont, Wash. (top photo) and at other places like Glendoveer in Portland (right) where the fall conditions are always just right for a round - or even two since Glendoveer is the home of a pair of courses. Playing golf in the fall is made easier as the tee sheets are more open and the greens fees tend to lower. So go ahead, make a tee time and see how good fall golf can be.



PNW Professional
Championship sends
Northwest players
to national finals

PGA Professional Scott Erdmann of Oswego Lake CC won the PNW PGA Professional Championship presented at Astoria Golf and Country Club. In addition, Daniel Campbell of Bellingham G&CC, Blake Kukula of Arrowhead GC, Casey King of Loop-hole Golf, Conner Robbins of Meadow Park GC, David Patterson of Orchard Hills CC and Josh Schothorne of Interbay Golf Center will advance directly to the 2027 PGA Professional Championship to be held at Stream-song Golf Resort at Bowling Green, FL on April 25-28, 2027. Bryce Fisher, Austin Hurt and Derek Berg are already exempt based on their play this last spring at the National PNC. Additionally, the low 20 scores at the 2027 PGA Professional Championship will earn a place in the 109th PGA Championship in May, 2027.

Champions crowned
at Washington State
Par-3 Championship

Koen Solis of The Home Course and Avery Renglie won the men's and women's championships at the Washington State Par-3 Championships at Highlands Golf Course in Tacoma. Solis fired a two-round total of 112 with rounds of 54-58 while Reneggie had rounds of 58-56 to win the women's title.



Solis had to hang on to win the championship. He was tied for the lead after the first round and then had to survive rainy and windy conditions in the second round to hold off Dick Thompson by one shot to win the tournament. Thompson put together a final-round 56 to finish one shot back.

Another trip to the Myrtle Beach World Amateur and another year of some stories on the course

I've been lucky enough to head to the Myrtle Beach World Amateur for years. And the good thing about this tournament is that nothing ever stays the same. Yes, the tournament is four days. But you always run into a different cast of characters. You are almost always fortunate enough to play different golf courses. And you always find a way to play either better or worse golf. And in my case - usually worse golf- which was seriously the case this year.

The Myrtle Beach World Amateur is an event that has been around for 43 years. It started with a handful of players and has grown to over 3,000 players. In fact, one year over 5,000 players took part. This year there were 49 states represented along with 17 countries. The tournament is so large that 55 golf courses are in play for the four days and that includes courses in both South Carolina and North Carolina.

I have seen plenty through the years in this tournament. This year we had an alligator stop play at a course (bottom photo). He decided to take a break on a cart path and no one could get through. And this guy was pretty big. One brave golfer in a cart got close and tried to scare the gator back in the water. Bad idea.

In another round there were two guys who did not get along and argued a few times about rules situations. It was fairly comical. One guy obviously didn't know the rules and kept trying to give bad rules info. We finally told him to shut up because he had no idea what he was talking about. He didn't say a word the rest of the round.

Then there was the guy who was three under par for the first four holes, I gave him a bad time about being a sand bagger. I was just joking. Whoops. Must have got in his head, He shot 94.

As for me? Not a good week of golf. Bad chipping. Bad putting. And it all led to bad



scoring. There was one round that has three digits in it- I won't say the score but it was not good. First time in triple figures in a long time - and drinking wasn't involved. Handicap on the way up.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf. He can be reached at sdturcotte@comcast.net.



The beach views at Myrtle Beach go for miles (top); this gator would not let players play through (bottom).



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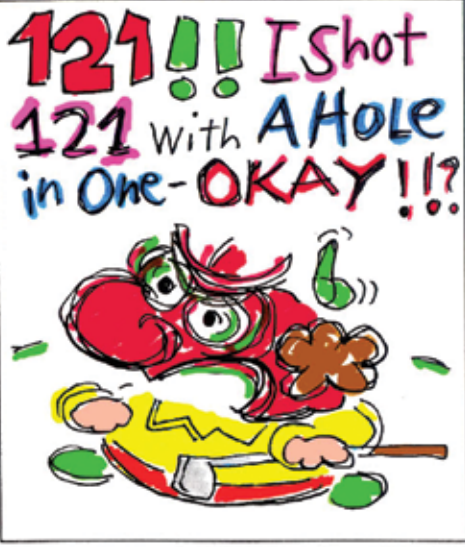
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Double Bogey





Harold Bluestein PGA



Rules Answer

Answer: Rule 18.3a does not provide the option to play a provisional ball when it is known or virtually certain their ball is in a penalty area. When the player played again from the teeing area he was playing under stroke and distance Rule 18.1, not a provisional. When he abandoned his second ball (what he thought was a provisional) and took penalty area relief under Rule 17.1d(3) lateral relief he was playing inapplicable Rule and from a wrong place, committing a serious breach because of the difference in distance involved. When he plays from the next teeing area without correcting the serious breach he is disqualified.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his for the rules questions and answers.



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Knowles outlasts Gove in a playoff to win Senior PGA Championship

PGA Professional Mark Knowles of McCormick Woods Golf Course won the Senior PGA Professional Championship after a one-hole playoff over PGA Professional Jeff Gove of The Idaho Club.

In addition to Knowles, Mitch Lowe of Glendoveer GC, Brian Thornton of Meridian Valley CC, Bob Rannow of Ocean Dunes, Birk Nelson of Orange Whip, and Tom Dyer of Whitefish, MT will advance to the 2026 Senior PGA Professional Championship scheduled to be played October 22-25, 2026, at Superstition Mountain Golf & Country Club in Gold Canyon, AZ. Jeff Gove, Ryan Malby and, Jeff Coston were exempt prior to this championship based on past play at the National level.

Additionally, top finishers at the 38th Senior PGA Professional Championship will earn a berth in the 2027 Senior PGA Championship.

NW Pro Jim Skaugstad passes away

Jim Skaugstad passed away on August 4, 2026. He was born in Bode, Iowa, on January 23, 1938, and moved to California as a child. He graduated from

Compton High School in 1955.

Jim became a golf professional in 1963 and was elected to PGA membership on June 20, 1968. He began his career with Verne Perry Jr. at Sunriver, Oregon, before accepting the position of Head Professional at Useless Bay Golf & Country Club on May 1, 1972. He later served as Head Professional at Mt. Hood Golf Course, Bear Creek Country Club, Sandpines Golf Links, and Running Y Ranch Resort, where he concluded his career in 2007, when we became a Life Member of the PGA.

Among his professional honors, Jim was named Oregon Chapter Golf Professional of the Year in 1988 and received the Pacific Northwest Section Horton Smith Award in 1989. His playing accomplishments included winning the Oregon PGA Senior Championship in 1989. He was also nationally noted as a trick-shot artist and competed in the 1991 Washington PGA Senior Championship.

Jim served the Oregon PGA Chapter as chairman of the Employment/Club Relations Committee through the 1980s and as chapter president from 1981 to 1983.

Did you know....

* Lauren Kim, from Surrey, B.C., is the most recent golfer to be named to two different PPGA Player of the Year categories in the same year, having earned Women's and Junior Girls' Player of the Year honors in 2023. The only other player to be named both in the same year is Erynne Lee, in 2008.



- In its 17-year history, the Washington Men's Mid-Amateur has seen 12 different champions, and none have ever repeated. Reid Hatley won the 2026 championship at Salish Cliffs Golf Club, his third overall, ending a seven-year streak of different winners.



Tour Players With Northwest ties

PGA Tour

- Wyndham Clark • Ex-Oregon • 4th on the list with \$14,644,936
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 65th on the list with \$2,444,110
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 69th on the list with \$1,959,004
- A.J. Ewart • B.C. Canada • 111th on the list with \$1,036,911
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 119th on the list with \$845,600
- Joe Highsmith • Tacoma • 143rd on the list with \$516,150
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • 157th on the list with \$337,520
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • 166th on the list with \$301,703
- Adam Svensson • British Columbia • 181st on the list with \$224,654
- Cameron Davis • Australia (Member at Sahalee) • 188th on the list with \$144,506

Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistair Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 4th on the list with \$446,786
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • 86th on the list with \$115,809
- R.J. Manke • Tacoma • 125th on the list with \$57,610

Champions Tour

- Ben Crane • Portland • 12th on the list with \$1,150,812
- Fred Couples • Seattle • 65th on the list with \$201,599
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 76th on the list with \$166,851

LPGA Tour

- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • 56th on the list with \$506,845
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • 171st on the list with \$21,718
- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • No events

LPGA Epson Tour

- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • 150th on the list with 2,647
- Kathleen Scavo • Eugene • 170th on the list with \$672
- Sarah Rhee • Ex-UW • No events



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UW player uses final hole ace to win Sahalee Players; PPGA crowns champions in a variety of tournaments

A walk off hole-in-one on the 54th hole secured the first collegiate tournament title for Finn Koelle of the Washington Huskies at the Sahalee Players Championship at Sahalee Country Club.

Koelle is the first Huskies individual medalist since Taehoon Song at the Husky Invitational at Bremerton’s Gold Mountain Golf Club in 2024.

As a team, Washington climbed up the leaderboard to finish third at 26-over-par 890.

The Huskies shot even par during the final round after entering the day in eighth place. No. 3 Oklahoma State won the tournament by 28 strokes at 4-under 860.

Koelle entered his final hole — the 214-yard par-3 ninth — two shots off the lead before his ace moved him to the top.

Koelle matched the low round of the tournament with a 6-under 66 to finish at 7-under 209 overall to win the tournament by two strokes.

PPGA Mid-Amateur winners

Zach Foushee (Lake Oswego, Ore.) came from six shots back in the final round to win the 41st PPGA Men’s Mid-Amateur, with rounds of 69-73-68. It is Foushee’s first PPGA title. In the 24th PPGA Women’s Mid-Amateur, Hannah Swanson (Portland) shot rounds of 76-69-76 (+5) to win her first PPGA title as well.

Both championships were contested over 54 holes of stroke play, and were held concurrently this week at Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Wash.

This marks the first time Royal Oaks has hosted a PPGA Mid-Amateur, and the first time since the 2003 Men’s Amateur it has hosted any PPGA championship.

In the Men’s Mid-Amateur, Foushee began the final round six shots back of leader Paul Mitzel (Quincy, Wash.). Playing in the second-to-last group, Foushee bogeyed the third hole but then reeled off four birdies on the front nine, and with Mitzel shooting 3-over the front side, Foushee had caught him, and a birdie on the short par-4 10th put him in the lead for good.

Foushee is no stranger to the winner’s circle, having won the Oregon Amateur three times. In September, he competed in the U.S. Men’s Mid-Amateur, his first time qualifying for that national championship. He had turned professional after college, and regained his amateur status in 2020. Earlier this year he was selected for Team OGA to compete in the PPGA Lamey Cup.

In the Women’s Mid-Amateur, Swanson’s 3-under 69 in the second that round had put her at the top of the leaderboard heading into the final round. Teeing off in the last group of the day, she played steadily in the 90-degree heat, holding the lead and challenging other players to catch her, but they could not. The greens at Royal Oaks were rolling 13.6 on the Stimpmeter, and her 4-over 76 was enough to clinch the title.

Finishing second, three shots back of Swanson, was Jessica Mangrobang (Portland), who was attempting to defend her title, having won this championship last year.

PPGA crowns Senior champions

Tina Papatolis (Issaquah, Wash.) shot rounds of 76-75-82 and won the 37th PPGA Senior Women’s Amateur at 20-over par, while Karen Darrington (Boise, Idaho) shot rounds of 78-77-81 to win 14th PPGA Super Senior Women’s Amateur at 23-over.

Both championships were held on Sept. 8-10, at Fairwood Golf & Country Club in Renton, Wash, over 54 holes of stroke play.

Papatolis entered the final round needing only to maintain a five-shot 36-hole lead to claim the title, and she delivered, though not without a bit of tight-rope walking. Papatolis, newly eligible for senior competition this year, has an established track record in mid-amateur competition. She won the PPGA Women’s Mid-Amateur in 2019 and 2023 and won the Washington Women’s Mid-Am in 2019, 2025 and 2026. Earlier this year, Papatolis placed in a tie for second at the 2026 Washington Senior Women’s Amateur.

Behind Papatolis and Gallagher in third finished Kimberly Hulst (Sammamish, Wash., +25). Kim Titus (Fox Island, Wash.) and Rosie Cook (Redmond, Ore.) tied for fourth at 28-over.

In the Super Senior division, Darrington started and finished her final round 12 shots clear of the field. With what she credited to be solid driver play, Darrington went out in 37 and, despite two double bogeys on the back nine, had leeway to spare. Coming home in 44, her round of 81 still placed her 12 clear of second place Kathryn Wright (Camas, Wash., +35).

PPGA Men’s Senior Amateur

Chris Boquette (Boise, Idaho) shot rounds of 73-72-77 to win the 61st PPGA Senior Men’s Amateur at a 3-over par total, while Norm Bradley (Kelowna, B.C.) shot rounds of 73-75-73 to win the 16th PPGA Super Senior Men’s Amateur at 1-over.

Both championships were held concurrently at Osprey Meadows Golf Course at Tamarack (Idaho) Resort, marking the first time the course had hosted any PPGA Championship.

In the Super Senior, Bradley’s day had its ups and downs, but having entered with a five-shot lead after 36 holes, he had some leeway.

NW players at Senior Open

Lara Tennant of Portland and Kim Shek of Bellevue both took part in the United State Senior Women’s Open which was held at Barton Hills Country Club in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Both players took part in the championship as amateurs.

Maris McBride of Sweden won the championship. Tennant made the cut and finished tied for 44th in the championship shooting rounds of 78-75-80-79 for a 312 total. Shek shot rounds of 84 and 82 and missed the weekend cut.

If you plan to play tournament golf you should get a GHIN handicap

If you are looking to get a golf handicap for the 2027 season it is nice and easy with any of your local golf organizations..

1) Sign up for a Handicap ID.

Your unique Handicap ID number gives you the ability to post scores from which your Handicap Index is calculated. Get your Handicap ID number when you join a WA Golf member club such as the men’s or women’s club at a local golf course, or one at your workplace or community. Or join the Oregon Golf Association (OGA).

Join a WA Golf Associate Club or OGA club. Associate members receive all the benefits of a WA Golf membership with no strings attached or obligations to their host club.

2) Start posting your scores.

With your Handicap ID number you can post your scores: Through the USGA GHIN app on your mobile device. The app lets you post your scores, calculate course handicap, view score history and more. The app features touch-point GPS for thousands of golf courses worldwide. Download the free app from the App Store or Google Play.

Here are a couple of ways to get it going: Through ghin.com or Online at wagolf.org/post. Scores should be posted as soon as possible after your round on the day it was played.

3) Post three 18-hole rounds.

A minimum of three 18-hole or six 9-hole scores posted are all that’s needed to calculate and establish your Handicap Index! The more often you post your score, the more accurate your handicap.

For more see the local web sites.



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Highlands Golf Course



The 2026 Washington State Par-3 Championship brought together 76 competitors for two days of championship golf at Highlands Golf Course.

After an even-par opening round on Saturday, Koen Solis entered a rain-soaked Championship Sunday ready for the challenge. Battling through difficult conditions, Solis posted a 4-over-par 58 to finish with a two-day total of 112, capturing the championship by a single stroke.



Koen Solis

Close behind was Highlands legend Dirk Thompson at 113, while Avery Renggli finished at 114 and also claimed the title of 2026 Women's Champion. With his victory, Koen Solis etches his name into championship history, claiming the coveted Tartan Vest and Angus Cup and forever earning his place as the 2026 Washington State Par-3 Champion.

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Rules of the Game: What happens now when your ball gets in a spot with an obstruction on course that can't be moved

Last article we looked at how to take relief from movable obstructions. When a player has interference from a movable obstruction, the player will get free relief by moving the obstruction away from their ball. But what happens if the obstruction cannot be moved?

The Rules of Golf define an Immovable Obstruction as any obstruction that cannot be moved without unreasonable effort without damaging the obstruction or the golf course. Immovable Obstructions are things like maintenance sheds, signposts, cart paths, and sprinkler heads. When a player has interference from an Immovable Obstruction (IO), the ball gets moved away from the object. Interference includes the player's lie of ball, intended stance, and intended swing path. What area of the course the ball has come to rest matters if and how a player will get relief. (You don't get relief if you create a weird stance or funky swing to try to get relief. Your stance and swing must be clearly reasonable!)

Here are a couple of scenarios about immovable obstructions: Bella's tee shot comes to rest in the fairway. In taking her regular stance for her approach shot, her right foot is on a sprinkler head. Bella is entitled to free relief. For a ball in the general area, Bella would find her nearest point of complete relief (where she no longer has interference from that sprinkler head). The nearest point of complete relief becomes her reference point. Remember that the nearest point of complete relief can be right, left, or even behind the sprinkler head, but never closer to the hole. Bella gets one club length from her reference point, which must be in the general area. Bella



will drop the ball, which must remain in the relief area. Her relief is free relief.

Ed has hit his ball into the penalty area. There is a permanent signpost in the penalty area that interferes with his swing. Unfortunately for Ed there is no IO relief for a ball in a penalty area. Ed may play the ball as it lies, or he may take penalty area relief.

Tyrone hit his tee shot and it barely dribbled into a fairway bunker. There is a drainage grate that he would have to stand on to hit his ball. Tyrone is entitled to IO free relief within the bunker. He would use the same procedure that Bella used to find her nearest point of complete relief. However, Tyrone is concerned about where he would get to take relief and wisely leaves his ball where it came to rest while he determines where his relief area would be. Unfortunately for Tyrone, once he found his reference point and relief area, he realizes he has no backswing because of the bunker edge. Tyrone can either play the ball as it lies, or Tyrone can take relief outside the bunker for one penalty stroke. Tyrone's relief procedure is different in this case.



What are your options now if you run up against an obstruction on the course that can't be moved at all.

He would go back on a line from the ball's position in the bunker in line with the hole. Tyrone can go back as far as he would like (He cannot go closer to the hole than the ball's original location). He can drop the ball in any area of the course (except for the bunker he took relief from). When he drops the ball it must stay in the same area of the course where it first touched the ground— and the ball can roll IN ANY DIRECTION up to one club length away from where it struck the ground—(Again cannot be closer to the hole than the ball's original location). Taking IO relief outside the bunker costs one penalty

stroke. And lastly, in a case I have never come across, but I'm sure on a golf course somewhere exists: an immovable obstruction on a putting green. If you have interference from an immovable obstruction IO on a putting green, interference also includes your line of play. In this case you determine your nearest point of complete relief, which can be either on or off the putting green and no closer to the hole. Even if your nearest point of complete relief is off the green, you place the ball on that spot. And always remember, relief from Immovable obstructions is an option. If you choose, you can play the ball as it lies.

Lake Limerick Golf Club

Celebrating our 60-year anniversary is a remarkable milestone for us that honors decades of history, community gatherings, environmental stewardship, and the countless rounds of golf shared by generations of players.

The Lake Limerick Golf Course in Shelton, WA, is a charming and scenic nine-hole course that plays to 18 holes using dual tees, offering a full par-72 experience. It is open to the public.

Lake Limerick was ranked among the nation's best short courses, earning the #19 spot on the GolfPass Golfers' Choice list of top U.S. public short courses in 2024.



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Mark Olson: Long-time Pacific NW golf fixture retires

By Steve Turcotte, Inside Golf Editor

When I found out that Mark Olson was retiring from the golf business from his son Luke I started to rack my brain about all times I dealt with Mark through the years. From his time at Tyee Golf Course near the SeaTac Airport. To his playing days where he qualified for a couple of Canadian Tour event and Nike Tour events. To his more recent days of running Druids Glen Golf Course in Covington, Wash.

As I racked my brain even more, I uncovered an old issue of Inside Golf Newspaper dating back to March of 2001 where I did a front page story on Mark where he held two scoring records at the same time at Riverbend Golf Course in Kent, Wash. and at Druids Glen. During a one-week period back in 2001 Olson shot 64 at Riverbend to break a course record and then also shot a 64 at Druids Glen for another course record. Two records in three days. Not bad. At age 41 Mark had plenty of game.

Now at age 66, Olson’s game might have slowed down but he still has a solid career to look back on being a solid player and being a terrific manager at golf courses in the Pacific Northwest.

Mark’s most recent gig at Druids Glen started in 2020 and be brought along his son Luke as the head professional. Mark feels it’s time to hang it up and perhaps head to Arizona. And he will hand the reins at Druids Glen to Luke who will run the show.

“I’ve had a good run in golf in the Northwest,” said Mark. “I’ve done just about everything there is to do.”

Mark went to Chief Sealth High School and then to the University of Arizona where he made the golf team as a walk on as a sophomore. He lasted just the one year but the golf bug got him. He stayed in Arizona working at the Arizona Biltmore Resort becoming good enough to turn professional and play in events around the West Coast, driving his Toyota around to tournament and picking up checks here and there. In 1983 he moved to Seattle and worked on the grounds crew at Sahalee. He got a job as an assistant at Seattle Golf Club after that before joining Doug Campbell at Auburn Golf Course in 1987. After that he became the head professional at Tyee



Running Druids Glen Golf Course in Covington, Wash. was Olson’s last job. He will turn the reins over to his son Luke who will handle the operations at Druids Glen.

Golf Course and found out he still had game qualifying for a couple of Canadian Tour events and Nike and Ben Hogan tournaments as well. At one Canadian Tour event he made the cut and got paired with Steve Stricker in the third round. He wound up cashing a check of \$3,600. He eventually took over running Tyee Golf Course in 1995 and stayed at the course even as the Port of Seattle chopped up the land. Tyee eventually was reduced to 12 holes and then to nine holes in 2005. The course eventually saw its final day in 2014 and Mark was figuring out what to do. It was then that Alan Mishkin who owned Druids Glen and Pete Robboth came calling. Mark knew Mishkin from his days at the Biltmore because Mishkin owned the Biltmore. Mark liked Mishkin and Druids Glen and took the job.

And now, the rest is history.



Mark Olson has been in the golf business running courses and playing since the 1980s and now is retiring.

PGA Hope finds a home at Federal Way’s Twin Lakes

For four local veterans, six weeks at Twin Lakes Golf & Country Club in Federal Way offered more than an opportunity to learn a golf swing. It provided a place to learn the game, challenge themselves, enjoy some friendly competition and, perhaps most importantly, become comfortable enough to call themselves golfers.

This year, Twin Lakes hosted PGA HOPE for the first time, welcoming four veterans - three who served in the Army and one in the Air Force - for a six-week introduction to the game.

PGA HOPE, which stands for Helping Our Patriots Everywhere, is the flagship military program of the PGA of America REACH Foundation. Led by PGA of America Golf Professionals, the program introduces golf to Veterans and Active Duty Service Members with the goal of enhancing their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. PGA HOPE programs are offered at no cost to participating veterans and are designed not simply to teach golf, but to create community, confidence and a lasting connection to the game. At Twin Lakes, the program followed a “Get Golf Ready” style progression intended to give the participants the skills and knowledge necessary to eventually step onto the course on their own.

Over six weeks, the group worked through virtually every part of the game: driving, iron play, wedges and less-than-full shots, bunker play, chipping, pitching and putting. But learning how to make golf shots was only part of the curriculum.

The veterans also learned about the mental side of golf—how to manage expectations, make better decisions, respond to imperfect shots and think more effectively while navigating the golf course. That last piece matters because learning to play golf involves much more than learning to hit a ball.

For a new golfer, the practice range can quickly become a comfortable environment. The golf course can be something entirely different.

There are rules and etiquette to understand. Other groups are playing behind you. Decisions need to be made after nearly every shot. And perhaps one of the most difficult challenges for a beginner is learning how to maintain an appropriate pace of play while still developing the skills needed to play the game. That can be intimidating. The six-week series culminated by taking the veterans away from the practice facilities and onto the golf course. Two participants played nine holes, while the other two completed a full 18-hole round alongside Twin Lakes member Dan McNeil, who volunteered his time to help show them around the course and make the transition to on-course golf more comfortable.

The results provided one of the clearest examples of the progress made during the program.

The two veterans who played with McNeil completed all 18 holes in approximately three hours - an impressive accomplishment for developing golfers and evidence that they had learned not only how to hit golf shots, but how to move comfortably and confidently around a golf course.

Fellow PGA Associate Leslie Guzman volunteered her time throughout the program, helping mentor the players and creating another source of instruction.

Twin Lakes Golf & Country Club has been part of the Federal Way community for nearly six decades. The front nine opened in 1967, with the second nine completed in 1969.

For PGA Professionals or veterans considering becoming involved with PGA HOPE, the message from the inaugural Twin Lakes program is straightforward: the experience can be tremendously fun and rewarding when people are willing to put a little time and energy into it. At the end of the day, golf can provide a safe place to be yourself while also challenging yourself—a rewarding and enjoyable pursuit that, in many ways, parallels the real world.



This group of veterans were part of the PGA Hope getting an introduction to golf at Twin Lakes.



Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club in Federal Way played host to the first-ever PGA Hope golf group.

Lake Limerick Golf Course celebrates its 60th anniversary

Lake Limerick Golf Club is located on the Olympic Peninsula in Shelton, Washington and to fully appreciate the course you need to know its history.

In the mid ‘60s a community development was created by carving up approximately 880 acres of forest land. Included in that master plan was a man-made lake and a 9-hole golf course. Initially lots were purchased for weekend retreats functioning primarily as a recreational getaway. Over time the community expanded to encompass over 1,100 homes and most of the lot owners evolved into permanent residents and formed a tight-knit community who enjoyed the amenities like the lake and fishing, golf, numerous parks and common buildings and social activities.

The golf course terrain and layout of Lake Limerick Golf Course are characterized by the natural topography of the region, featuring native, tree-lined fairways enveloped by towering cedars, pines, and evergreens.

Unlike many smaller courses where playing 18 holes simply means walking the exact same 9 holes twice under identical conditions, Lake Limerick is specifically engineered with multiple sets of tees for each hole. It utilizes dual and alternate tees to provide a full 18-hole, par-72 experience spanning approximately 6,178 yards, right in the sweet spot for most golfers, which is between 6,000 and 6,500 yards.

Because the second loop utilizes alternate tee boxes, angles, yardages, and hazard strategies completely change on the back nine. An example would be the #8 hole that plays as a par 5 on the first nine and a tough par 4 on the second time around. Hole #7 is similar, going from a par-3 to a par-4.

At 6,178 yards it might imply that it is an easy course to breeze through. However, the course has some teeth. It is what we would call an old-school course, one where big hitters are not always rewarded and strategic shot-making wins over raw power. The course has been called a “thinkers course”, where shots must be in the right spot, especially off the tee in order to have a clear look at the green.

Lake Limerick has reached a milestone this year and is celebrating their 60-year anniversary. It is a testament to the quality of the course and the thousands of rounds and golfers that have enjoyed the course over the years.

Lake Limerick has also reached national recognition when it was ranked among the nation’s best short courses, earning the #19 spot on the GolfPass Golfers’ Choice list of top U.S. public short courses in 2024.

Lake Limerick Cafe is a popular spot for breakfast and lunch especially before or after golf. The staff in the pro shop and cafe are friendly and produce a welcoming atmosphere to everyone.

For more information about Lake Limerick Golf Club, please visit <https://lakelimerickgolf.com>.



Lake Limerick in Shelton turns 60-years-old this year and features a nine-hole trip through the NW trees.



LakeLand Village

Playing at two LakeLand Village Golf Courses offers golfers numerous ponds, gaping bunkers and majestic views of the Olympics and Mount Rainier. Ardent golfers will appreciate the scenic driving ranges, practice chipping and bunker areas, and the well-groomed putting greens. In addition to a gourmet restaurant, cafe and espresso bar, the clubhouse also provides banquet facilities.



Two Golf Courses: Executive Nine and The 18-hole Championship Ranch Course

Lifestyle

LakeLand Village Community

The community at LakeLand Village is like no other. The vibrant housing community is the only Washington residential community that offers 27 holes of golf.

The residents at LakeLand enjoy a variety of niceties like a lake-front bistro restaurant, a stocked spring-fed 50-acre lake for year round fishing, several miles of quiet streets for walking or bike riding and of course some of the best golf found in the state.

Located between Hood Canal and Puget Sound’s Case Inlet, overlooking the town of Allyn, LakeLand Village offers a relaxed lifestyle for a unique living experience.

“With the same great owners, the golf course is under new management that has brought so many great changes to the course and an abundance of hospitality.”

Clubhouse and The Bistro



50-acre Lake Anderson



Real Estate

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If you would like to make a tee time over the phone or if you have any questions please call the Pro Shop at 360-275-6100.
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Destination: Pinehurst Resort is one of the world’s best golf resorts for plenty of reasons

By Steve Turcotte, Inside Golf Editor

As the rental car pulled into the parking lot at Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina the surroundings just did not seem real. There were cars everywhere. Golf carts roamed the parking areas. Large buildings sat near the parking lots. Golf courses dominated the landscape. As we grabbed our golf bags and made our way to the clubhouse the place just seemed to get bigger. And bigger.

Welcome to Pinehurst. Listed as the world’s largest golf resort. A place with 11 golf courses (and soon to be 12 courses). A place that has hosted multiple United States Opens for both men and women. A place with three hotels, a variety of restaurants and a place with a history that dates back to 1893.

As we looked for a place to check in for our round at Pinehurst No. 3, the surroundings were vast. Just in this one area of Pinehurst alone there were six golf courses and for those non-golfers a swimming complex just outside the clubhouse. And don’t forget about the putting course too. I knew Pinehurst was big - but this was only a sampler.

Pinehurst Resort is home to 11 golf courses and just in this area alone are six courses. You need to jump back into the car to fine the other courses.

But this is the part of the resort that most people know. This is home to Pinehurst No. 2. The course which has hosted several U.S. Opens. In fact in 2029 No. 2 will host the U.S. Open for both men and women - just like it did in 2014 - a first for the USGA. Pinehurst is a place which names its courses by numbers - except for the Cradle, its short 9-hole course which has become a favorite for families. In fact on the day we visited there were several families with babies in strollers enjoying their time around Pinehurst.

Going back to the U.S. Open at Pinehurst ... there have been four U.S. Open championships for men held on No. 2 and one for women. In fact they shared the course the same year in 2014. In 1999 Payne Stewart beat Phil Mickelson on the final hole and his winning pose is remembered in a statue just outside the clubhouse at Pinehurst. And in 2029 the U.S. Open returns with both men and women playing in back to back weeks on No. 2.

Pinehurst Resort is a place that does like the status quo. New courses are always opening.

Pinehurst No.. 8 opened in 1993 to celebrate the resort’s Centennial celebration. And No.9 came along a little while later. No. 10 opened two years ago designed by Tom Doak and was named the best new course in America. And Pinehurst No. 11 will open in the next year with a design from Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore.

But one of the biggest designer names at Pinehurst is Donald Ross - whose name is attached to two courses - No. 2 and No. 3. In fact No. 3 is the shortest course at Pinehurst at 5,155 yards but is still a Ross treat with all of his design work in full view.

Other big name designers have done their work at Pinehurst too Gil Hanse created Pinehurst No. 4,

George and Tom Fazio created No. 6, Rees Jones created No. 7, Tom Fazio created No. 8 and Jack Nicklaus created No. 9.

And these courses are all different and all a special treat. Most of the courses are carved through the tall Carolina pines and most of the courses feature plenty of sand traps and water hazards.

On this trip our group played five of the Pinehurst courses. We started with a round on Pinehurst No. 8 - and we got a kick when the started showed us the tee that said 8 on the tee but when we turned it sideways it said 100 - too commemorate the 100 years of the resort when the Pinehurst opened. Pretty tricky we thought.

Then we got a look at No. 5, the short Ross course. Just because it was 5,155 yards didn’t mean it was a chip and putt. It was still tough.

The last day we teed it on No., 7 that played tough then played the new No. 10 - which turned out to be as good as advertised.

There is plenty to see and do at Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina. Let’s take a look. At the top, families are welcome at the Cradle, a short course which sits near the main clubhouse (top left); a stature of Payne Stewart celebrating his U.S. Open win can be seen just outside the clubhouse (top right); Pinehurst No. 7 offers a watery challenge on this par-3 hole (right); Pinehurst’s newest course No. 10 offers up a watery par-3 17th hole as you finish your round (bottom).



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Founders Group offers some great places to play when making the Myrtle Beach trip

If it’s winter time in the Pacific Northwest, it might be time to make that annual winter golf trip. And there might not be a better place to take that trip than the place they call the Grand Strand - Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Myrtle Beach is an area that is golf, golf and more golf. And for good reason. There are courses up and down for miles and this is truly golf at its finest. In fact the PGA Tour now calls Myrtle Beach home to one of its tour stops.

And there is one company that knows exactly what golfers want when they head to South Carolina for a golf trip. The Founders Group features a collection of 21 courses in and around Myrtle Beach and offers some terrific variety with no two courses alike.

For those who are looking at making a Myrtle Beach trip for some golf - Founders Group has a way of setting you up with the lodging and golf with its Myrtle Beach Golf Trips. There is no shortage of courses to play in the Founder’s Group and the accommodations are first rate. For more on taking a trip to Myrtle Beach and where to stay and play - see the web site www.myrtlebeachgolftrips.com.

The Founders Group is a company that can take care of all of your golf needs with one visit to the web site or one phone call. With its variety of courses and choices of places to stay, Myrtle Beach is the kind of place you will want to visit time and again. Call 1.866.694.2448 for more information on the golf trips.

The Lesson Tee: If you want to become a better putter then focus on speed as well as distance

Everyone wants to make more putts. Putting should be easy, honestly. The lower body does not move and the putter grip rarely moves more than 12 inches during a stroke.

Most golfers do not practice putting enough and certainly not as effective as they could.

"Well Coston, what should I do?" I'm so glad you asked.

- Focus on speed first. When I was on the PGA Tour, my locker was next to Ben Crenshaw. Crenshaw is known for being one of the greatest putters, ever. I putted with Ben many times and asked him questions for years. Ben would say, I focus mainly on speed for EVERY putt.

People three-putt because of poor speed, but their focus is on read. Golfers will knock the putt five feet by or short of the hole constantly. Roll putts from 30-40 feet and develop your touch and speed. Do this first and not even to a hole. Watch, feel, listen and observe the roll and what the ball does. Build images and feels that you can draw from for the course.

Bob Rotella says: "Human beings are wired in such a way that golfers would putt their best if they simply saw the target and reacted, rather than gave themselves much conscious thought.

Putting in my mind is 80% art and 20% technique. It has been my experience most golfers are the opposite. I focus on putting like Steph Curry shoots a basketball. Target focus, React, Shoot it.

- Spend time on putts from three to five feet. Pick a hole on the practice green and put a tee at four feet uphill, downhill, left to right and right to left. These tees would be each putt you practice from. Before you move to the next spot, you need to make at least four of five putts. Place a dime where you desire to roll the ball into the hole. This will train you to focus on a small target in front of the hole.

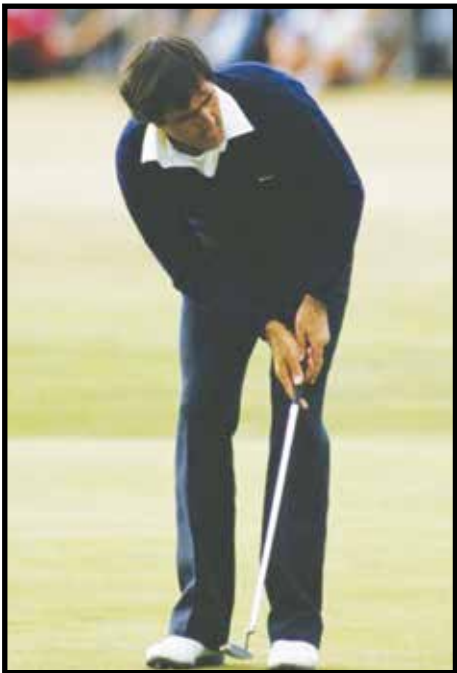
Aim your blade, then body. Develop a reactive, rhythmic routine. No conscious directions. Less is more. Create a mindset with no outcome orientation to take to the golf course with you!



Jeff Coston is the Pacific Northwest PGA Teacher of the Year. He is a member of the PGA Hall of Fame. Jeff can be reached for appointment by calling Semiahmoo at 360 201.4590.



Coston practicing with a putting training aid.



Seve Ballesteros demonstrating his putting stroke



Jack Nicklaus was one of the all-time great putters.

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