

[A brief summary of Juniper Golf Club's history]

Juniper Golf Club was organized on October 1, 1951 and incorporated October 11, 1951.

Incorporators were T. J. Wells, Jack Elliott, John Copenhaver, Charles Martini and Fred Sparks.

The first Board of Directors was Fred Sparks, T. J. Wells, Joe Brown, Harold Hansen, Ray Rogers, Fred Baer, P. M. Houk, Jim Short and C. P. Mahoney.

On Memorial Day, 1952, Fred Sparks had the undisputed honor of driving the first ball "on one of the most beautiful spots carved from the Central Oregon desert." With this official opening, we had a 6,002 yard, 72 par, nine hole golf course and a club house built from three barracks.

Fire ripped through the club house December 26, 1963, gutting the pro shop, club storage room and bar. There was heavy smoke and water damage to the rest of the building -- a new club house would have to be built.

The new building was started March 11, 1964 with John Hanson, building committee chairman, Dick Mann, builder, and Don Johnson, AIA, architect. It was first occupied June 11, 1964 and Dedication Ceremonies were opened by Bob Coyner, President, on August 15, 1964.

The club house dawned a new look with many improvements and additions in 1973. A new pro shop was added which made room for a recreational room and enlarged the lounge facilities. An addition of a dance floor was made in the dining area and changes made in the kitchen facilities.

In the late 1970's the golf club looked to expand the original nine holes into an 18-hole golf course. It wasn't until 1984 that Bob McWilliams, the Redmond City Manager, came up with the idea to use the newly formed City of Redmond Public Building Corporation (PBC) to sell bonds totaling approximately \$800,000 to fund development of the additional holes.

Tim Berg, the golf professional at Sunriver, was commissioned to layout the new 18-hole design which played to a yardage of 6,533 yards and a par of 72. Robinson & Sons began construction on October 3, 1985, and opening ceremonies were held on May 2, 1987.

In 1995 the club learned of plans for a Redmond east-side highway bypass coming through the golf course. Additionally, the club faced the prospect of the Federal Aviation Administration enforcing fair-market lease rates for the golf-course property, resulting in a significant increase in the lease (from \$1 per year to more than \$300,000). The club was also anticipating a significant investment to upgrade the aging irrigation system.

The Mayor of Redmond, Ed Fitch, and PBC President, Ron Bryant, began exploring options. Ultimately, the Federal Recreation Act provided a way to acquire land for a new golf course from the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) located approximately two miles south of the existing golf course.

The PBC hired golf course architect John Harbottle, III to design the new golf course. Oliphant Golf began construction in July of 2003, and opening ceremonies were held on July 2, 2005.

The PBC hired local architect, Bill Shertzsinger, to design the new clubhouse, which was constructed by Sunwest Builders. The clubhouse opened in October of 2005.

### **Golf Course Opens New Nine**

[Reprinted from the Redmond Spokesman, Redmond, OR -- Wednesday, May 20, 1987]

Juniper Golf Club has joined the big boys.

The public course run by the private club this spring inaugurated a new front nine, bringing the Redmond layout to a full 18 holes.

Although the course is shorter than playing the old nine twice, Juniper's tree-lined fairways and porcupine rough is making golfers groan with masochistic glee already.

"This really puts Redmond on the map for golf," said Phil Mitchell, club president when the project started three years ago.

Golfers who play during their vacations or weekend getaways prefer to play an 18-hole course rather than a nine twice, Mitchell said.

Juniper is one of only six 18-hole courses open to the public in Central Oregon. Bend golf and Country Club's 18-hole course is private, Mountain High in Bend will open its second nine next year. Eagle Crest resort, west of Redmond, is working on its second nine.

The other courses in Bend, Crooked River Ranch, Prineville and Madras are nine holes. Prineville's is not open to the public.

"Golf is on the upswing," Mitchell said. "Sunriver's and Black Butte Ranch's courses are crowded."

Sunriver pro Tim Berg, who designed the Juniper expansion, said the resort could fill a third course with golfers if it had room to build one, according to Mitchell. Snow closes Sunriver's two courses in the winter.

Skiers bound for Mt. Bachelor will see Redmond's 18-hole course from the air if they fly in to Redmond Municipal Airport.

And they almost have to, since Redmond has the only commercial flights in the region.

"You can tell the difference between nine and 18 holes from the air," Mitchell said.

The other 18-hole course in Central Oregon is Kah-Nee-ta, about 45 miles north of Redmond.

" Mountain High plan to have 27 holes and The Riverhouse in Bend is thinking about having a course," Mitchell said. "By 1995 they're predicting there will be 50 percent more golfers than today.

"Where are they going to put them all?"

The city helped the club form Redmond Public Building Corporation to be able to sell tax-exempt revenue bonds. The project came to nearly \$600,000. The debt, paid by higher monthly dues and added members, will be retired in 15 years.

The club voted to expand memberships from 325 to 400.

The course is open to the public at most times. The major exceptions are tournaments. With nine more holes, tee times during members' play Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons will be more plentiful.

The new nine, actually 12 counting replacement holes on the original course, only appear more narrow than the old fairways.

"Most of the original nine is not lined with trees," said Juniper pro Bruce Wattenburger. "These give the feeling of old Nos. 4 and 5."

They give the feeling of a tunnel -- a tunnel where balls go right through the walls and vanish. Or splash into a pond like a Chicago bookie who forgot to pay his protection money.

Cement overshoes for the designer might be on the minds of golfers who succumb to No. 9. The 546-yard par 5 doglegs slightly right, then left to the green. The putting surfaces is protected by water on the right and back, and a bunker to the left.

The expansion was designed so more options could be added later, Mitchell said. One addition will be a second practice putting green.

The tee area of the driving range was more than doubled.

"A golf course is a living thing," said Craig Emerson, club president for 1986-87. "It's always being refurbished."

### ***Golf Course Start Slated for Spring***

[Reprinted from The Redmond Spokesman, Redmond, Ore. -- Wednesday, September 12, 2001]

By GARY G. NEWMAN, Spokesman staff writer

It's been a long row without much hoeing, but Juniper Golf Club plans to finally break ground on its new golf course in the spring.

Plans drawn up by Tacoma Golf Course architect John Harbottle show a 7,000-plus yard par 71 course with a high desert character as it winds its way through the landscape southwest of the fairgrounds.

The course is expected to open for play in late fall 2003 or spring 2004.

As designed, the course will cost about \$3.5 million, but details that will keep the course affordable to the club's membership still have to be nailed down.

"One of the issues is that we create affordable golf," said Juniper golf pro Bruce Wattenburger. "The intention is not to go out and spend a lot of money."

The course will be financed through revenue bonds that will be repaid through membership dues and green fees, according to Ron Bryant, president of the Redmond public building corporation which is a mechanism for funding public projects in Redmond.

Juniper Golf Club has 433 members and monthly dues are \$95. Summer green fees are \$35 for 18 holes and \$20 for nine holes.

Bryant said he thought there would be little change in club fees.

"I don't think we believe we'll have to increase the fees," he said.

The club has worked with the city for the past four years to acquire the land from the Bureau of Land management, and has already allocated about \$15 of member dues per month toward developing the new course, Bryant said. The club is still collecting on a previous revenue bond to develop the back nine at the present course and those funds will be switched to the new course, he added.

The course will sit on 177 acres, the northwest corner of which is at the present end of 19th street near the fairgrounds. It will be bounded on the west by the railroad tracks and on the south by the Bonneville power lines.

The course will be 500 yards longer than the present Juniper Golf Course. The longest hole will be a 650-yard par 5 challenge. The shortest will be a 100-yard par three hole from the short tee.

Two lakes comprising about six acres will be used as irrigation holding ponds.

There is also an eight-foot asphalt golf cart path.

"We're expecting a golf course that you would say is a championship golf course," Wattenburger said. "The intention isn't to make it so hard the average golfer can't play it."

As part of the course development, the city has applied to the state to return irrigation water to the Deschutes River in exchange for ground water.

Details such as the club house plan, restrooms and parking have yet to be settled. The club is also trying to swap land for about two to 10 acres that would lengthen the course to a par 72.

### ***Juniper Celebrates its 50th Anniversary***

[Reprinted from The Redmond Spokesman, Redmond, OR -- Wednesday, May 29, 2002]

By GARY G. NEWMAN, Spokesman staff writer

While Juniper Golf Club celebrates its 50th anniversary with a tournament Sunday, the club really started 62 years ago when a scratch golfer from Portland, who was sent to Redmond to manage the Western Auto Store, found out the nearest course was a rough nine-hole layout in Bend with equally rough hospitality.

Fred Sparks, with his appropriate last name, ignited interest in the course in 1940. According to a story by Mickey Myrick in the club's 25th anniversary program, Sparks alone put in 5,500 hours of physical labor over 12 years before the course was done.

He and a cohort of friends pulled stumps, moved rocks, and waited out shortages caused by the world war to bring golf to Redmond.

Sparks and his friends petitioned the city to build the course on unused city land that was part of what became Roberts Field.

Sparks and City Engineer John Berning spent three weeks with surveyor's equipment roughing out the course and planning the irrigation system. Among Sparks' helpers, Mac Houk, Ted Wells, Harold Hansen, Ray Rogers, all Redmond golfers, worked out the agreement with the city.

"There's still a sense of community on the golf course that's always been here," says Bruce Wattenburger, who has been the Juniper pro for the past 19 years. "It's kind of a blue collar retired person's, affordable greens fee, golf course that still has its down home mentality."

Sparks and his friends pulled hundreds of stumps and moved tons of rock, but the project halted in 1942 when the war effort froze the availability of steel for irrigation pipes and many other things. The project revived in 1946 but steel pipe was still unavailable. The final push came in 1949 after an editorial by Joe Brown in the Redmond Spokesman implying that no one in Redmond had the gumption to finish work on the golf course.

Sparks solicited 76 memberships to Juniper Golf Club, and persuaded half the members to loan the club \$150 each as working capital, according to Myrick. He talked the Air Force out of three unused barracks, sawed them in half and moved them to the site of the club's present parking lot where they served as a pro shop and clubhouse for 10 years. Finally work was finished, pipe became available and grass was planted early in 1951.

Sparks stepped onto the first tee to drive the first ball on Memorial Day 1952. His dream of winning the club's first championship tournament died at the hands of Harold Hanson, a Bend club champion who edged him in the 1953 event. Who says the Bend-Redmond rivalry doesn't run deep?

Juniper has continued to grow. The present clubhouse and pro shop were added after a fire took the old buildings in 1963. They added a second nine in 1987.

Retired Redmond doctor Robert Unger remembers playing on sand greens before the lingering hardships of the war allowed for the irrigation pipe. The course was pretty simple at first.

"The old course, you just went up and back," he said. "They improved it 200 percent since then."

Wattenburger likens the Juniper Golf Course experience to a trek through the High Desert. The course is par 72. At just over 6,500 yards from the back tees, length is not an issue to the better players, Wattenburger said, but it's a challenge to hit the small greens.

"We have players who have been coming here for years," Wattenburger said. "It's challenging to them, especially the greens."

Not only has Juniper changed over the years, golfers have changed as well. The membership, which has grown to more than 430, has grown younger and more active year around. Where the parking lot may have had six cars on a winter day in the 1950s or 1960s, now it could have 60.

Wattenburger came to the club from Columbia Edgewater in Portland in 1983, where he worked for five years. He is current President of the Northwest section of the PGA, a position he also held in 1991 to 1995. He was a member of the PGA national board of directors from 1995-98 and also a past member of the PGA National Board of Control.

Wattenburger is especially proud of the club's youth program, which attracts 150 to 200 kids every summer. The club allows the Redmond High School golf team to play at the course free of charge.

"We're proud of the championship team we had last year," he said. "That is part of what we've done for the past 15 years in trying to keep kids in the game."

While Juniper has changed over the years for golfers, the world has changed for Juniper. The club will have to move to a new site south of the fairgrounds when its lease is up in 2006.

The Federal Aviation Administration has started enforcing fair market lease rates on its lands and the club's lease could soar from the dollar-a-year deal Sparks and his friends struck with the city to more than \$100,000 a year. So the club will move in fact, but maybe not in spirit.

"I don't see the structure of the club changing in any great degree," said Wattenburger. "It's the same old club, we'll just be parking in a different parking lot."

Golfers will celebrate 50 years of community golfing in Redmond when they tee off Sunday in a members-only tournament. They'll also be celebrating the Sparks that kindled a passion for this sport in the juniper.

### ***Juniper Named One of America's Best!***

For Immediate Release -- December 6, 2006

AMERICA'S BEST NEW COURSES NAMED IN GOLF DIGEST

Award's 23rd Straight Year Recognizes the Best in Golf Course Design;

## 23 States with Courses Included

New York, NY—for the 23rd consecutive year, Golf Digest has unveiled the results of its survey of America's Best New Courses. The latest ranking, which also includes the Best New Canadian courses, appears in the January 2007 issue (on newsstands December 12).

The magazine selected King Carter Golf Club, in Virginia, as America's Best New Public Under \$75; Osprey Meadows, in the foothills of Idaho, as America's Best New Public \$75 and Over; The Concession Golf Club, east of Sarasota, Fla., as the year's Best New Private Course; and The Stanwich Club, in Greenwich, CT, as America's Best New Remodel. (The Remodel category was added in 2005 to recognize courses that underwent such extensive makeovers that the owners and members consider them new).

The full ranking and feature story on America's Best New Courses 2006, along with additional course photography not appearing in the magazine, can be viewed now at [GolfDigest.com](http://GolfDigest.com).

More than 165 new and remodeled golf courses nationwide were nominated for this year's ranking. Golf Digest has conducted America's Best New Courses rankings since 1983. Its panel of more than 800 low-handicap male and female golfers nationwide played and evaluated (at their own expense) nominated golf courses that opened between May 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006. Golf courses were rated on shot values, design variety, memorability, resistance to scoring and aesthetics. The average scores for each criterion were combined and totaled to determine the winners.

"It was a season that celebrated authenticity in golf design," said Ron Whitten, Golf Digest Senior Editor, and Architecture. "America's Best New Courses of 2006 reflect what pleasures result when man and money can yield to Mother Nature."

## AMERICA'S BEST NEW COURSES

Golf Digest January 2007 Issue

### **Best New Public under \$75**

1. King Carter Golf Club, Irvington, VA; Joel Weiman, designer
2. Blue Heron Golf Club (Highlands & Lakes Nines), Median, OH; John Robinson, designer
3. Sundance at A-Ga-Ming Golf Resort, Kewadin, MI; Jerry Matthews, designer
4. The Shoals (Schoolmaster), Muscle Shoals, AL; Roger Rulewich and Bobby Vaughan, designers
5. The Atchafalaya Golf Course at Idlewild, Patterson, LA; Rick Baril and Robert von Hagge, designers
- 6. Juniper Golf Course, Redmond, OR; John Harbottle, designer**

7. Bergamont Golf Club, Oregon, WI; Andy North, designer
8. The Jewel Golf Club, Lake City, MN; Hale Irwin and Stan Gentry, designers
9. Callippe Preserve Golf Course, Pleasanton, CA; Brian Costello, designer
10. Mines Golf Course, Grand Rapids, MI; Mike DeVries, designer

#### **Best New Public \$75 and Over**

1. Osprey Meadows, Donnelly, ID; Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Bruce Charlton, designers
2. Bandon Trails, Bandon, OR; Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, designers
3. Bay Creek Resort & Club (Nicklaus), Cape Charles, VA; Jack Nicklaus, designer
4. Northern Bay Golf Resort, Arkdale, WI; Dave Relford and Matt Mootz, designers
5. Classic Club, Palm Desert, CA; Arnold Palmer, Ed Seay and Vicki Martz, designers
6. Sunday River Golf Club, Newry, ME; Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Ty Butler, designers
7. The Prospector at Suncadia, Cle Elum, WA; Arnold Palmer, Ed Seay and Erik Larsen, designers
8. Bayside Resort Golf Club, Selbyville, DE; Jack Nicklaus, designer
9. Redstone Golf Club (Tournament Course), Humble, TX; Rees Jones, with David Toms, designers
10. The Meadows at Mystic Lake, Prior Lake, MN; Garrett Gill and Paul Miller, designers

#### **Best New Private**

1. The Concession Golf Club, Bradenton, FL; Jack Nicklaus and Tony Jacklin, designers
2. Forest Creek Golf Club (North Course), Pinehurst, NC; Tom Fazio, designer
3. The Club at Carlton Woods (Fazio Course), The Woodlands, TX; Tom Fazio, designer
4. Champions Retreat Golf Club (Bluff & Island Nines), Evans, GA; Jack Nicklaus/Arnold Palmer, Ed Seay and Harrison Minchew, designers
5. 3 Creek Ranch Golf Club, Jackson, WY; Rees Jones, designer
6. Ballyneal, Holyoke, CO; Tom Doak, designer
7. Tumble Creek Golf Course at Suncadia, Cle Elum, WA; Tom Doak, designer
8. Daniel island Club (Ralston Creek Course), Daniel Island, SC; Rees Jones, designer
9. Stone Eagle Club, Palm Desert, CA; Tom Doak, designer



10. Tuhaye Golf Course, Tuhaye, UT; Mark O'Meara and Brit Stenson, designers

**Best New Remodel**

1. The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT; Tom Fazio, designer

2. The Country Club of Rochester, Rochester, NY; Gil Hanse, designer

3. Kingsmill Resort & Spa (River Course), Williamsburg, VA; Pete Dye, designer

4. Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech, Radford, VA; Pete Dye, designer

5. Hermitage Country Club (Manakin Golf Course), Manakin-Sabot, VA; Keith Foster, designer