

Roy Williams Holds Court | Road Tripping to Georgia | Summer Tournament Results

# Carolinas Golf



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CAROLINAS GOLF ASSOCIATION  
VOL. 27, NO. 3

CAROLINASGOLF.ORG  
FALL 2020

# THEIR TIME THEIR FUTURE



**Insights from the  
Carolinas' Best  
Golf Authorities**







# Masterfully Done

## The Reserve Club at Woodside

3000 Reserve Club Drive  
Aiken, SC 29803

**Opened:** 2003

### Course Architect:

**Reserve Course** - Nicklaus Design, Steve Nicklaus (2002); **Hollow Creek Course** - Clyde Johnson, Fuzzy Zoeller (2019)

**Director of Golf:** John Keller, PGA

**Fast Fact:** Founding member Jared Long was named 2019 CPGA Legends Senior Amateur Player of the Year. Long also holds the Reserve Course scoring record of 62.

### Inside The Reserve Club:

The club has approximately 340 golfing members (927 total membership) and hosts 30,000 rounds annually.

The Reserve Club pays homage to a fabled neighbor with a special tournament week and year-round hospitality befitting a major championship **BY MICHAEL J. SOLENDER**

**I**t's not an exaggeration to describe Aiken, South Carolina, as a golf-loving community. The tiny village-like town, only a 30-minute drive from Georgia's Augusta National Golf Club, boasts nearly a dozen premium courses for its 31,000 residents to enjoy.

Residents of Aiken – *Southern Living Magazine's* Best Small Town of 2018 – are so enthusiastic about great golf that not even a global pandemic could hold back the July opening of The Reserve Club (TRC) at Woodside's long-awaited Hollow Creek Course. The course, a collaboration between Masters and U.S. Open Champion Fuzzy Zoeller and S.C. Lowcountry Hall of Fame designer Clyde Johnson, complements the established Nicklaus Design Reserve Course, built in 2002.

"We'd planned on a soft opening during our traditional MastersWeek in April," says TRC membership director Gabby Dubuc. "But, of course, the pandemic and postponement of the tournament down the road forced us to change our plans. We were delighted, however, to host a virtual grand opening on July 1, followed by the course opening for play the next day."

More than 160 rounds were carded on that belated opening day, with members offering rave reviews of their new track.

Annually, The Reserve Club showcases its special brand of hospitality over the 10 days surrounding the Masters, capitalizing on the global buzz accompany-







#### In Fine Company at The Reserve Club

The Reserve Club's year-round premium golf, proximity to Augusta National and superb playing conditions are a magnet for high-profile golfers. Here are a few notables who've carded rounds here:

- Joe Carter – MLB
- Ozzie Smith – MLB
- Bo Jackson – MLB and NFL
- Ed “Too Tall” Jones – NFL
- Robbie Gould – NFL
- David Duval – PGA Tour
- Scotty Cameron – Putter Designer
- Shaun Micheel – PGA Tour
- Kevin Kisner – PGA Tour
- Scott Brown – PGA Tour

yield to approach shots to greens that are fast, yet true.” Keller says No. 16, a downhill par 3, is the signature hole here with the elevated tee giving golfers a good look at the green overlooking scenic Lake Spalding. “We have more elevation here than people might expect. This course is one our members never tire of.”

The new Hollow Creek Course is named after the bordering nature preserve and rests in South Carolina’s first designated Bluebird habitat. “Hollow Creek is a completely different style and feel than the Reserve Course,” says Keller. “It’s a bit tougher, though very fun to play.”

The Reserve Club at Woodside now offers the new Hollow Creek layout (below left) along with the Reserve Course (lower right) for members and annual Masters Tournament guests.

ing professional golf’s major tournament held in nearby Augusta. Catering to golfers from across the country and as far away as Australia, Asia, and Europe, TRC’s Masters Week is a unique event offering visitors a memory-making bookend alongside their visit to the year’s first major.

“We’re the only club in the area offering this luxury VIP experience for Masters visitors,” said TRC general manager, Saul Schwartz. “When you come to The Reserve Club, you are a member for the day. We turn our ballroom into a large VIP suite, complete with big screen televisions for all the golf action. We offer Bloody Marys and breakfast pre-round in the morning, lounge access all day long for Masters action, a great lunch, afternoon rounds and every evening, we have a steakhouse setup with steak and lobster, fine wine, cigars and shuttle service.”

What began in 2004 with 600 rounds has grown to nearly 1,000 expected this fall when the rescheduled event coincides with the new Masters dates in November.

Of course, TRC’s game is on all year-round with premium golf as its centerpiece.

“Our Reserve Course is very playable and enjoyable for golfers at every level,” says John Keller, PGA Director of Golf at TRC. “Steve Nicklaus designed a fair, yet challenging layout. The key to scoring well here is keeping tee shots in the fairway, which should



Construction on Hollow Creek started in 2006, but was shuttered two years later during the economic downturn. A rebirth in 2019 saw Clyde Johnson pick up on his original design work and carefully bring the project through. Many originally issued permits had expired, leaving Johnson and team to work some rerouting magic.

“Clyde was here almost monthly for more than a year working on the course,” says Keller, “The result is nothing short of spectacular.”

In fact, you could call it close to masterful. ■

**Michael J. Solender** is a golf and travel writer based in Charlotte, N.C.