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ARIZONA Golfer

Happy 4th of July!

July

ARIZONA'S GOLF NEWSPAPER

2009

Southwest Section PGA announces 2009 Officers and Board of Directors

Michael Wright named new president



Michael Wright



Michael Haywood



Don Rea



John Gunby



Greg Leitch



Wayne Clark

The Southwest Section PGA named new officers and Board of Directors at its annual meeting at the Firesky Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, earlier this month.

Gilbert resident **Michael Wright**, PGA, Director of Instruction at Superstition Springs Golf Club in Mesa, was named the section's new president, taking over for Brett Upper, director of golf at Arizona

Country Club.

Michael Haywood, PGA (Tucson Country Club) is vice president, and **Don Rea**, PGA (Augusta Ranch Golf Club in Mesa) is secretary.

Mr. Wright, 53, a third generation PGA Golf Professional, has over 29 years of professional teaching experience. He's

worked at Phoenix Country Club, Orange Tree Golf Club, Gold Canyon Golf Resort, Pinetop Lakes and Cottonwood. As a tournament player, Wright, the 2006 SWSPGA Junior Leader and PING Club Fitter of the Year, has also been an accomplished player. He has won

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Las Palomas Beach & Golf Resort— Puerto Peñasco offers great golf, great fun and great getaway packages

by Nancy G. Howard

Just 3½ hours drive time from Phoenix or Tucson, Puerto Peñasco, or Rocky Point as most of us know it, is the nearest and most enjoyable beach, with the best water temperatures, for us "Zonies" to run to for fun in the sun and a quick and affordable getaway. And, the best beach resort, in my opinion, is the Las Palomas Beach & Golf Resort. This three year old resort has grown into everything expected from its conception. It's much more than you'd expect and offers a fabulous surprise upon your arrival with its beauty in design, outstanding accommodations and all the amenities expected at a fine resort.

Las Palomas Beach & Golf Resort is a 350-acre beach and golf resort that features an 18-hole, par 72 authentic "seaside" links golf course, designed by Forrest Richardson & Associates. It was awarded the "International Development of the Year" by Golf Inc. magazine and Golf Development World magazine, and is rated by AAA as a 4 Diamond Resort. Travel+ Leisure Golf and USA Today touted Puerto Peñasco and Las Palomas



The "Links" fairway leading to Las Palomas Beach & Golf Resort

Beach & Golf Resort as the next hot Mexico destination.

It's a shame that so many have been influenced to stay in the U.S. and not enjoy the most affordable and delightful

getaways offered by our friendly Mexican neighbors. If the majority of us would just check out more of the facts on where the action is happening with the drug cartels,

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Southwest Section PGA

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tournaments at the Junior, Amateur, Professional and Senior Professional levels.

The section's new Board of Directors consists of **John Gunby** (Shalimar Golf Club in Tempe), **David Stead** (Angel Park Golf Course in Las Vegas), **Greg Leicht** (Vistal Golf Club in Phoenix), **Wayne Clark** (500 Club at Adobe Dam in Glendale) and **Mike Franko** (unattached life member).

Continuing on the SWSPGA board are **Jeremy Hayman** (Golf Club at Eagle Mountain in Fountain Hills), **Cale Cournoyer** (The Club at Seven Canyons in Sedona) and **Joel Schafer** (SunRidge Canyon Golf Course in Fountain Hills). All are PGA members. More than 400 PGA members and apprentices attended this year's annual meeting.

About The Southwest Section PGA

The Southwest Section PGA is one of 41 sections of the Professional Golfers' Association of America. Its boundaries include Arizona and Clark County, Nevada. Within the Section is a Southern Nevada Chapter and a Southern Chapter to further facilitate programs within those areas.

Its membership consists of a group of professionals dedicated to making golf a better game. They wear many hats; trained instructor, business manager, accomplished player, personnel manager, junior golf mentor, role model, community leader, rules authority, humanitarian, fund-raiser, and many more as these club professionals are responsible for the day to day activities at many of our golf facilities. The SWSPGA includes nearly 1,400 PGA members and apprentices involved in the operations of more than 350 golf facilities. The Section is the local delivery system for the PGA



Christopher Cain



Curt Hudek



David Stead



Mike Franko



Jeremy Hayman



Cale Cournoyer

of America programs and activities to promote the game of golf in this region and to enhance the skills of its members.


Mission: The mission of the Southwest Section PGA Foundation is to connect with the community and grow the game of golf in a number of meaningful ways; by providing funding for junior golf, providing families of PGA member's access to college scholarships and contributing to a number of other worthy causes.

Purpose:

- To Raise money for Junior Golf and local philanthropies
- To Provide the families of SWSPGA members access to scholarships in order to pursue a college education
- To Promote the game of golf from the corporate, community, and social aspect within the Southwest Section

The SWSPGA Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization, has served the community for the past 10 years by generously contributing to a 9/11 Relief Fund, Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross, Phoenix Children's Hospital and Special Olympics.

For more information, contact the SWSPGA at 480.443.9002 or visit www.southwest.pga.com.



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Las Palomas

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you would be aware that it is no where near Puerto Peñasco. Nor has the swine flu caused any concern in the area. None of this bad publicity has occurred with our closest neighbor.

I recently returned from a week's trip to Mazatlan with my girls and 15 month old granddaughter, and we had a marvelous trip. And, it could not have been safer. I have a dear friend that just returned with his family (wife and three children) from Ixtapa where they had their annual beach vacation. No problems and no fears. Yes, things are happening in Mexico that are of concern, however not in the areas most of us visit for fun and certainly not in Puerto Peñasco. The most they've had happen is an occasional DUI, according to my Mexican sources who live and work there.

From sorting through the facts to see exactly where the real danger has taken place, Puerto Peñasco is so far removed and so far north of Mexico City and the southern portions of the country, as well as from the Pacific Ocean, there is no reason to cancel getaways or to avoid your favorite vacation spot. That is my opinion. Yes, we need to be cautious and aware of our surroundings, however we have to do the same in the United States. Just last week people were gunned down in a Denny's in New Mexico. Does that mean we will never go to New Mexico or a Denny's? Certainly hope not.

I absolutely love visiting Mexico and have made many wonderful Mexican friends, as well as many American friends who live and work in Mexico, and I refuse to let fear keep me from enjoying my favorite beaches, golf courses, resorts and friends. Here's hoping that you will do the same while stretching your funds and family fun as well.

Las Palomas Beach & Golf Resort features a condominium hotel with an infinity-edge pool, swim up bar, water slide, heated whirlpool and fitness center. The Resort offers a convention center as well as plenty of security expected at any private resort community.

Each guest of the Resort enjoys all the comforts of home in one of 430 unique, spacious and beautifully appointed privately owned condominiums. In addition to the one to three bedroom

suites and three to five bedroom penthouse suites, every suite features a fully furnished living area with satellite television, DVD player and complimentary internet connection, a complete laundry room with full size washer and dryer, fully equipped gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, side-by-side refrigerator, range/oven, microwave and dishwasher and a dining area and breakfast bar. Plus, a large patio with fabulous views of the Sea of Cortez as well as BBQ areas for grilling on your own, should you choose to do so.

The spacious, condo-hotel units are available for rent and range from 1,063 to 6,753 square feet, each with a large, private ocean view terrace. You have the luxury of a four star hotel with all its amenities in the privacy of your own condo. Room service is excellent, and there is fine/casual dining offered at La Maria or Citron restaurants.

The Links at Las Palomas opened in

women friendly. The Links also includes a "bonus hole" that provides a unique way for golfers to settle that tie or can be played as an alternate green for the 18th hole. The facility features a practice range, putting green, clubhouse with grille,

and well-appointed pro shop.

Summer Unlimited Golf Special includes: 2 nights & 3 days in a one bedroom luxury ocean view suite, Breakfast at La Maria or Citron restaurants, Unlimited rounds of golf at The Links, Up to 2 children under 10 years of age free (golf and breakfast not included). \$169 +tax, per person, double occupancy. Reservations required. Valid July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009

Seniors Beach & Golf Getaway includes: 3 nights & 4 days in a one bedroom luxury ocean view suite, Unlimited rounds of golf at The Links, Mexican dinner at any of their 4 Diamonds awarded restaurants.

\$72*+tax, per person, per night, double occupancy.

Reservations required. *Some restrictions apply. Valid July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009.

In addition, AZ Beach TOURS.com provides a chartered hosted bus tour for transportation to and from Rocky Point at just \$80 per person, should you prefer not



Infinity edge pool overlooking this Sea of Cortez



2006, and has grown up well. Ron Castillo, Director of Golf General Manager and Rick Gillespie, Golf Course Superintendent keep the daily operation running smoothly. The Links is sculpted from dramatic seaside dunes in the "true links" tradition. Anyone and everyone, who plays golf, needs to play a links course in their lifetime to truly say they have experienced the Game. This is the closest "seaside" true links course to Tucson and Phoenix.

Situated along Sandy Beach on the shores of the Sea of Cortez, the terrain closely resembles that of where golf began more than 600 years ago. The breezes from the coast enhance the challenge along with the unexpected elevations. This course will not give you an easy run at it, yet it is a pleasure to experience and it's

to drive yourself. July 17th through 19th transportation is available at this time for booking. Visit www.azbeachtours.com for more information or to book your specific getaway dates.

Groups are welcomed, call for more information and customize your group visit.

For more information on golf, golf packages or club membership, call 866.286.5053 in U.S. or visit www.lplgc.com. For more information on the Resort or reservations, call 866.460.1986 in U.S., visit www.laspalomasresort.net or reservations@lppmc.com.

Vernon Swaback is the master planner of Las Palomas and known for his master plans of DC Ranch and Anthem. He is a protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright. Tourist development plans call for the expansion of the local airport to become an International airport which is being completed east of the city.

Las Palomas Beach & Golf Resort goes far beyond your expectations of a great resort, golf is fabulous, beaches are lovely, pools are refreshingly beautiful, and the dining is outstanding. I definitely recommend Las Palomas Beach & Golf Resort for a most pleasurable, relaxing or exhilarating getaway with your golf buddies, family or loved one.

