

The Chamber Connection: Golf draws tourists and dollars to the local Economy

By T. Myers

We live in a great area for outdoor sports and golf is a premier spring-summer and fall offering that should be recognized for the ways it helps build the economy here in South County!

Sunriver Resort is home to four different golf courses: Sunriver Meadows, Sunriver Woodlands, Crosswater, and Caldera Links. The fifth South County course is the public course, Quail Run, located in Lazy River South right off HWY 97 below the State Rec Rd.

Each course sets the daily green fees, offers lessons with the club pros, golf cart rentals and a good selection of golf items at the onsite pro shops. There are luncheonettes and restaurants available at each course. In the summer there is usually a roving beverage cart that goes around the courses for thirsty golfers to enjoy a refreshment. It is all about the comfort of the guests on the course/links! (def.: Links comes from the Scottish word for coastal sand dunes with water hazards and trees). The difficulty of each course is outlined in the course maps that describe the par for the holes and the size/length of each hole, there is usually a score card to use while you play. (Memberships are available at several of the local courses and the members pay a reduced fee for use of the facilities.)

Sunriver resort offers tourists a selection of packages to play at the four different courses. These usually include a 9-18 hole day of play, a golf cart, a quick lesson or driving range bucket of balls. Sometimes lunch is included around the scheduled tee times.

A note of interest? Quail Run and Crosswater are rated as two of the most challenging courses in all of Oregon. Todd Sickles is the QR club pro and he will tell you that the Quail Run 18 hole course is only one point away from being the toughest course in Central Oregon. (Behind the Crosswater course that hosts the professional tournaments here)

Local tournaments and fundraisers are scheduled nearly every weekend at Quail Run Golf Course in Lazy River. On August 23rd, the Can Cancer group held a tournament for 88 folks (22 foursomes) and they asked supporters to rsvp for a BBQ steak lunch! The weather was warm- although smoky- and the day was lots of fun for the participants. The Silent Auction had a large assortment of great things to bid for and because of the support from so many Can Cancer friends raising money was both fun and rewarding to Can Cancer! The La Pine Lions are slated for a fundraiser on the 20th of September. The sign-ups for foursomes are open now and include the fee for entry, the late day lunch, assorted door and raffle prizes for competitors only, and a golf cart included with your entry.

Quail Run hosts these local tournaments for members and nonmembers throughout their season. La Pine depends on Quail Run and supports what we consider to be a premiere course in Central Oregon.

Here is how the economics break down for local Central Oregon Golf:

Restaurant, grocery stores, and hotel motel stays, gas stations, golf course fees and pro shopping sprees, and do not forget the folks who work at all of these establishments. 68% of dollars stay in the local economy. Tourists and residents are equal supporters in the golf economy. Golf means business!