

Pencil of the Week Chronicles 1b

12/2/20 Zoar



Mary dug deep for this week's pencil. After pulling 2 nondescript ones from some frugal course, she grabbed a Zoar Golf Club pencil. Isn't it beautiful? Pure white with green lettering. Quite a find! Zoar is about a 45 min ride south on 77 and just past Historic Zoar, Ohio. We seem to play it less frequently due to the long ride.

Been playing there for a very long time. Likely back to the 70s. I do remember playing there with my dad and brother Jim for one of the Parker Tournament rounds. Also later with Jim, Jim Jr, and George. It was on the DST years back and our Monday and Friday groups still play there once or twice a year. For some reason, I thought they had more bunkers back in the 70s. The guy in the clubhouse said no, there have not been any changes for as long as he can remember. When we first started playing there, the snack bar would cook up fresh donuts every morning. Boy, those were good. They had them for years but now have discontinued that. My mouth waters just thinking of them. George and I usually arrive there with coffee stains on our shirt as we dribble it there on the ride down.

The first hole is a par 4 with a pond right in front of the tee box. I can't tell you how many times a DST competitor topped it in there. There was always trepidation on that tee. Joy for a good shot, grumbling and laughter when the first ball was deep sixed. We did stifle any laughter when someone dumped a second in there though. Nobody ever wants to start out re-teeing.

The course is a fair test from the whites and the senior tees. The senior tees make some holes too short but the long ones reachable. The two most notable shots were within the last five years. Last year, i holed out my fairway wedge for an eagle on #1. It was with the Monday group. Dave wasn't looking and was amazed. He then wrote me down for a 3 and we had to correct it to a 2 later on. The other notable was perhaps 5 years back, when old buddy Kirk holed out a 6 iron on #18 for an eagle 2.

I looked back thru my scores and found them all the way back to 2002, 87, 89, 92. Looking thru my website highlights, I see that i had some super rounds. Found one where i was even par on the back nine. Had a 75 with that eagle in 2019, and a 77 back in 2017; both from the senior tees.

Everyone loves playing there and we will carry on as long as we can still play. Good place to find discounted shoes btw.

Stay tuned for next week's exciting Golf Pencil of the Week!

12/9/2020 Tam O Shanter



It is time for another Pencil of the Week story! I got the box out so Mary could pick and almost spilled them all on the floor. Quick reaction saved me from 10 minutes of pick up. Mary struck gold the first time. She came up with a pristine never used Tam O'Shanter. It is green with gold lettering, a popular design.

Thinking about Tam O'Shanter brings back fond and sad memories. On the sad side of things, he course in no more, the last ball was hit there, after 90 years of play, in 2018. Last year they auctioned everything off and began the destruction. We passed by it two weeks ago and I almost cried. The goodbye photo from the motley Friday group is attached.

Tam O'Shanter had 2 nines, the Hills, and the Dales. Every year they played the Ohio Amateur there. The Dales was fairly short with small treacherous fast greens that i never could concur. If i got 36 putts for the day it was a success. The Hills was , well hilly, and had some really long par 4s on it. This one was one of Mel's favorites.



We had Tam O' Shanter and Tannenhauf on our schedules. This was confusing to some and more than once someone ended up at the wrong course. I always called this one Tammy, but Denny called the other one Tanny. I had fun sending out emails that we were playing at TamOhauf or Tannenshanter to complicate things. Drove Dick crazy with those.

Memory number 1. Old buddy Neil loved playing there. It was only a 5 minute ride from where he lived at the time. The local town always had a speed trap there and surprisingly he was the only one of nabbed in it. One day i pulled in and there he was in the parking lot with a police car along side.

Memory number 2. I had always told Mel I would quit if he beat me. Well, I believe we were playing with our old boss, Lou Fulmer, RIP. I was trying a new driver and my slice was out of control. Not sure how many penalty strokes i had but Mel had me significantly down and didn't crack. Thank God on the last hole my hand cramped up so bad i couldn't even hold a golf club. I had to quit playing and withdraw. Fortunately my hand recovered so i could hold my beer glass on the 19th hole.

Memory number 3 seemed pretty recent but the card says 2011. I think it was the first year or two i started playing with Denny's Monday group. I was riding with Houle. I think Dave was in the group as well but i don't recall. I was on fire. Good drives, rocketing irons, and decent putting. I birdied 2 on the front and came in 1 over 37. Tried to hold it together on the back but it was slipping away before a birdie on 18 for a 5 over 39. Scoring a lime time low of 74 was a treat so i bought a pitcher or two, which i didn't partake, after the round.

Memory 4 was indeed the best. Brother Jim was visiting on May 7, 2005. We had 2 groups that Saturday and I played in the second group with Jim(98), Bill(90), and Neil(92). I ended up at 87 after my 5th Ace on #14. The tee was up so i hit 8 iron. The ball took out the front of the cup and lodged in the hole. Nothing but net! Kirk was still green side and looked up wondering what the noise was, but had no clue. Others signing the card from the first group were Kirk, John, and Brian Powell. Don't remember Brian at all?

I found 3 more saved cards from 2018. In May i had a chip in and 2 other birdies shooting 82. Bill had a 79 that day. In August i shot 79 blowing away the field. Lastly an 82 on our Final Final round 9/30/2018 before the course's demise. That concludes this gut wrenching edition of Golf Pencil of the Week!

12/16/20 Legacy



It is time for another Pencil of the Week story! Sorry it was late but I was very busy today.

Mary snagged a Pinehurst trip pencil from the box today. She came up with a very good condition Legacy pencil. It is black with gold lettering.

The DST'ers traveled to Pinehurst for 25 years to compete in a 4, sometimes 5 round tournament for bragging rights and for a spot on our trophy plaque (and Skins money). For me, no bragging rights, nor did much skin money come my way. Two of the non winners (losers) can be located on the right side of the photo from 1996. No one in the photo was yet 50 yrs old at the time. Bill Hudgins squashed my one real chance over the years. He had a big lead and came choking home on the last nine, but recovered with a spectacular shot and took home the prize that year. I did get my name on the trophy in year #25, but it was unearned. That story is for another pencil.

The Legacy course was one designed by Jack Nicklaus' son and we all loved it. It was very young the first time we played there and I believe cart path only. We grumbled but went back every year and it just got better and better. George was always impressed. He always raved about the men's locker room and comfortable and spacious seating in the stalls.

They have a great gallery located here: <https://www.legacygolfnc.com/golf/course-gallery/>

The course was very fair and there were many risk reward choices to make. I had mixed results there. Looking back at my scores that i have, I was always 95 to 99 with one 89 in 2006 and a 93 in our final year of 2011. With the risk reward choices the scramble was always a treat.

Memory number 1. We got soaked to the bone one year. We ate lunch, dried out, and went back out to scramble.

Memory number 2. I remember having an amazing gassy round there one year. I forget who the poor fellow was that was riding with me.

Memory number 3. Tom Kimberly loved the place. I remember how deflated he was one year where he was destroyed on the first hole having played it poorly and then 4 putting. It was sad to watch.

Memory 4 was indeed the best. Bill Hudgins topped his shot to the par 3 ninth and began walking up to play his ball. Halfway down to the hole he was viciously attacked by one angry Canadian Geese. He was running about waving at the goose and trying to get away. To this day Mr. Bill is leery of these uncouth beasts.

I had my share of troubles on the ninth, many times hooking it into the water. There is a photo attached of the hole. Most played to the far right of the green. If you went at it and were short, you were wet. Take an extra club and you go over and face a downhill chip. Follow that up with a long tee shot across the lake on a par 5. Slice it a tad and you are very wet. I wouldn't be surprised if I walked away from those 2 holes 8 over par on occasion.

I wish I had some great shots to tell you about but they were few and far between. Nevertheless, it is one of my favorites and i hope one day i can play it again, from the senior tees this time.