

# Gold Digest



**ANTHONY KIM**

**BUDDIES  
TRIPS**

**& FUNNY  
STORIES**

**MY KEYS WILL  
MAKE YOU MORE  
CONSISTENT**

**ANNIKA'S  
10 RULES  
HOLE MORE  
PUTTS  
BEAT  
SIDEHILL  
LIES**



The Most Widely Read Golf Publication in the World



Left to right: Denny Mosseller of Dallas; Bob Revell of Albany, Ga.; Bill Cooper of Port St. Joe, Fla.; and Dwayne Jech of Springdale, Ark.

## FRIENDSHIP AND GOLF

After reading "On pines and needles" [by Matt Ginella, August] about the San Diego dudes who took on Pinehurst, I was virtually powerless to keep from writing you.

The third week of August we descended upon the hallowed grounds of Pinehurst. This is the 35th anniversary of our group's genesis, and we wanted to celebrate appropriately.

We discovered each other when we were steely-eyed jet pilots in the Air Force and stationed at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia in the early 1970s. We began playing golf as a foursome in 1973 and are still going semi-strong. During that time, however, life was not all fairways and greens. Ever vigilant as we were, we can now proudly divulge the skies over south Georgia were never threatened by Communist aggressors during our watch.

As we sneak up on our dotage, we still manage to get together several times every year, at least once characterized by a mega-über golfathon. We have assaulted your Scotlands, your Hilton Heads, your Sawgrasses and your Whistling Straits (last year), but have gathered close to our homes so the police who occasionally found need to

question us were known to us. This year, Pinehurst fell victim to our onslaught.

We held several bottles of young scotch in abeyance, took hostage a vat or three of wine, played multiple rounds of butt-ugly, competitive golf, told lies (which we have now almost come to believe ourselves) of how skilled and courageous we were as hot-shot pilots, and reveled in the hospitable confines of the Pine Crest Inn. We celebrated and fulfilled friendship as we fell asleep at 9:30, drooling on our respective golf shirts.

BILL COOPER / PORT ST. JOE, FLA.

**Editor's note:** For more buddies travel stories, see pages 98, 138 and 146.

## FIX BALL MARKS

Unrepaired ball marks are an epidemic, and I appreciate the mention of your study ["Fixing pitch marks," October]. I play private, upscale public and many courses, and there is no discernible difference—pitch marks abound equally. And don't get me started on bunker raking. The ogres who never repair or rake probably are unteachable, but one solution is for course managers to ask marshals

to get out of their carts and make repairs, and to give players reminders when they fail to make repairs. Direct admonishment or seeing a marshal can be productive.

JEFFREY C. BRIGGS / HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

## WHEN CHOKING IS OK

After watching Anthony Kim choke down on his clubs and crush the ball, I decided to play my next round choking down on all my clubs, even the driver. That was a fun round. More solid contact, better distance, straighter shots. After four holes, my playing partners started trying it.

GID POOL / NORTH PORT, FLA.

**Editor's note:** For more on Anthony Kim's method, see page 35.

## GOLF IN CHINA

Upon returning from teaching in China recently, I became engrossed in "Golf in the Year of the Rat" [by John Barton, August]. How true in every respect, and right on with the detailed and accurate account.

Barton stated golf will attract many new courses and players in the next 10 years. Having just completed my sixth summer teaching at Huazhong University in Wuhan, and as a 10-handicapper, I would like to add my main reason/obstacle for the lack of golfers in China: education. It's all about education.

During my many travels around China, I've found the same concern for studying, learning English and excelling at the highest degree to attain at least a master's degree, if not a Ph.D. You have to admire these students for the effort they put forth, but they have little or no social life. Until the Chinese ease this mind-set,

I don't foresee an immediate rush for new golfers.

Unless the government intervenes, these students won't pursue golf. It's too expensive to play a round or to practice at the range. Still, I see the day when a Chinese will be ranked in the top 50 in the world and have won a major.

GEORGE KIEFER / TUCSON

**Editor's note:** Shanshan Feng, the first Chinese to qualify for the LPGA Tour, finished second in the Bell Micro LPGA Classic in September.

## BEST DEAL IS FREE

Golf Digest did a nice job listing the best deals in golf [October] but failed to mention the best deal of all—a course where golf is free!

The Buhl Farm Golf Course, a nine-hole facility in Sharon, Pa., is still free to play after all these years. The course is in much better shape than many courses in the area and has a short, fun layout for all ages.

Arnold Palmer and John Cook played rounds here.

BOB GREENBURG / HERMITAGE, PA.



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## WHAT YOU'RE THINKING GOLFDIGEST.COM SURVEY

Q: What contributes most to your worst scores?

A few blowup holes.....	58.4%
Stretches of bad holes.....	14.7%
A poor start.....	12.9%
Disgust.....	4.0%

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