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9th
Year!

THIS MONTH: NEW JERSEY'S THE WILDWOODS | CANADIAN ROCKIES

GOLF VACATIONS

MAY 2011



KAUAI GOLF
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TAKES ITS JUST DUE

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SWEET STUFF

The use of the term “hybrid” has crept into modern lexicon to such a wide extent that it is commonplace to refer to automobiles, pets, computers and even golf clubs that combine two different technologies or species into one.

Bushnell Outdoor Products, makers of the most popular brand of laser rangefinders in the golf industry, has taken the concept one step further with the introduction of the first range finder that combines the two most popular technologies for distance measuring—laser and GPS utilizing satellite coordinates to give distances to objects on the course.

Being the first company to combine these two methods of measurement is ground-breaking in itself, but the Bushnell Hybrid also features some outstanding improvements over its previous laser and GPS models that are noteworthy.



First of all, the laser part of the rangefinder is now encased in a much sleeker, manageable and lighter package than the company's high-end instruments of the past. The GPS portion that is affixed to the side of the laser is easy to use out of the box and preloaded with over 16,000 American courses that can be easily accessed without a download, although that option still exists with the supplied USB cable when hooked to an internet connection.

The Hybrid's GPS provides simple, at-a-glance distances to front, center and back of the green. The Hybrid also offers four custom points on a hole that can be extremely helpful to reference on blind tee shots/approaches on a golf course. The GPS distances are also convenient on days when it is “cart paths only” when golfers are deciding what clubs to bring with them. Another great feature is the shot distance mode that makes it easy for the golfer to gauge how far a drive or an approach was hit.

The laser range finding technology engineered into the Hybrid provides golfers with precise distances within one yard to virtually any point on any course in the world.

With the Hybrid, you can now acquire exact distances to the

flag, lip of a bunker, tree, or any other object on the course. Knowing the exact lasered distance to the flag, as well as the GPS provided distance to the front, center and back of the green, enables the golfer to strategize and hit every approach shot with confidence. There is also a mapping feature on the GPS portion of the device to save your own settings for your favorite courses or to highlight notable landmarks.

Having the ability to use both laser and GPS technologies, golfers now have the best of both worlds in one unit. The Hybrid is legal for tournament play under USGA decision 14-3/0.5 that permits a committee to establish a local rule that allows a player to use a distance-measuring device to obtain distance information.

“We believe this first of its kind rangefinder will give golfers the best of both worlds,” said Phil Gyori, Executive Vice President of Marketing at Bushnell. “There has been a long ongoing debate over laser rangefinders and GPS devices, and we are excited to bring the Hybrid to consumers and offer them a product that marries the best laser rangefinder technology with the easy to use features of a GPS rangefinder.”

For more information on the Bushnell family of rangefinders, visit the company's website at www.bushnellgolf.com.

Generally regarded as one of the top crafters of custom forged irons in the world, Japanese golf-club manufacturer Miura Golf has introduced its most advanced game-improvement club yet with the development of the Passing Point 9003 (PP-9003) forged cavity-back irons this spring.

The Passing Point concepts is Miura's recognition of golfers' lifelong steps to improvement and are meant for players that appreciate the feel of the finest forged club combined with some of the most cutting-edge game improvement features found in a cavity back club.

“We are targeting the player that might have started with a cast (iron) product and now wants the rewarding feel of a forged product,” said Adam Barr, president of Miura Golf. “We are confident golfers will fall in love with the PP-9003 irons, especially after they see their games improve.”

Miura is a family company, and the development of this club brought out the best in two generations of Miura expertise. Company founder and chairman Katsuhiko Miura worked with his sons, Yoshitaka and Shinei, to make a “friendly” golf club. Together, they created a club of surpassing utility, ease of play and, yes, friendliness.

Three key areas were targeted by Miura in this new club to give every advantage to the player.

“Mr. Miura wanted to build a club that gave some impact help, help with a higher trajectory and some turf interaction help—and wanted to honor those players that have the desire to be a forged club golfer,” added Barr. “The perimeter weighting helps and the sole is wider—but not maximum wide and the top line gives some heft—but

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by TERRY ROSS

is not so wide that it makes people feel like inferior golfers.”

The PP-9003 is designed for all levels of players, but seniors, women and high-handicappers will particularly benefit from the iron's performance characteristics.

The cavity has been carefully designed to assign just the right amount of weight to the most effective places in the head. The thoroughly researched and tested PP-9003 design places the center of gravity low for a high, soft-landing flight that still holds its line and never balloons. And as with all Miura clubs, the weight and balance are obsessively consistent throughout the set.



The friendly PP-9003 irons are easier to address with confidence; they promote well-balanced ball trajectory in terms of distance, direction and height; and there's no variance in shape, weight or balance between each club in the set, which provides golfers with confidence.

“These are really designed for players in two different stages of their golfing career—those that are getting better and gaining more swing speed as they improve and want to graduate to a forged club—and the older player who may be losing speed and flexibility and wants a little more help in these areas as their skills decline with age but also want that feel of forging,” explained Barr. “We feel that the forged experience of hitting a golf ball is a much finer wine.”

Miura, which has been known world-wide for its custom forged blades and cavity back irons, has produced custom forgings for the best players in the world and some of the biggest names in golf. All of their irons are custom built and made by hand by artisans in Japan.

The PP-9003 is available in a 4-iron through pitching wedge set (plus gap wedge) in right-hand only. The PP-9003 can be tested by visiting www.miuragolf.com to locate the closest Miura dealer.

It may look odd and sound funny for a golf training device, but the Gyro Swing golf training club actually lets players feel when you are committing one of the cardinal sins of a sound and effective golf swing—coming over the top.

Operated by a rechargeable battery that operates the device's gyroscope that is encased in the head of the club, swinging the Gyro Swing gives instant feedback when one is casting or coming over the top from the outside as the club takes a definite twisting force when these faults occur. It will help improve the golf swing by feeling the correct swing plane and release. The gyroscope in the club head forces your swing to stay on plane and grooves a perfectly timed release.

The Gyro Swing is a training tool that lets golfers actually feel the correct plane and release—instead of worrying about positions and mechanics. Gyro Swing's unique 20,000 RPM gyroscope in the club head ingrains the sense of the perfect swing and forces the swing to stay on plane and grooves a perfectly timed release.

It is an excellent practice tool for curing problems such as "coming over the top" and casting by providing resistance when swings go off-plane or have an early release. Additional features of the club are a see-through grip guide for ideal hand placement and dual-color shaft which visually reinforces the sense of swinging on a plane. A Rick Smith instructional DVD comes with the Gyro Swing that has golf fundamentals and drills for using the club, along with a head cover.

It can be purchased online at retailers throughout North America and is available at www.SKLZ.com

