

Do you like your golf with just a dash of added flavor? As you line up a shot to the green on the eighth or ninth hole, would you like to pause long enough to see a plane make a three-point landing or another take off into the wild blue yonder?

You can do both if you are playing Spruce Creek Country Club, a golf course development that has grown up on the site of a World War II Naval Air Station. It's one of the many unique things that makes playing golf at Spruce Creek such an interesting experience. If flying your own plane and playing golf are your two main passions, then run, don't walk, to buy property and join Spruce Creek. At Spruce Creek, you

can own your own golf cart and park it next to your own plane in a hangar attached to your home. Sorry, polo ponies are not allowed.

The golf course itself is a member-owned, private facility that still accepts limited public play. It was designed by Bill Amick, a very fine golf course architect who still lives in our area and has designed courses all over the world. If you have played Halifax Plantation, Pelican North, Palm Harbor or Hidden Lakes along the Funcoast, you can appreciate Bill's fine hand and keen eye.

Spruce Creek is not the kind of course that will bring you to your knees and have you swear off golf. And, it's

not one of those courses where you'll lose a dozen balls. There is water and woods to swallow a misplaced shot, but if you lose a dozen balls in one round, or come close to that at Spruce Creek, I strongly urge you to head to your closest teaching professional and take a series of lessons.

The first hole at Spruce Creek is a par five, 485-yarder, that makes a very sharp dogleg to the right. The fairway on this hole is very wide from tee to green, so if you start off your round a little rusty, this hole is very forgiving.

The second hole is a short par four that most average golfers can reach easily in two. A large green demands

Funcoast

Spotlight on

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photo by Neil Watkins



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Fairways

Spruce Creek Country Club

by Sandy Hirsch

concentration on your second shot or you might be looking at a three-putt bogie.

The third hole, a par four, has a waste bunker all the way down the right side and a forest of trees along the left. This is a rather long par four, so you have to crank up a fairway wood or a long iron for the second shot. Don't be too upset with yourself if you end up with a bogie on this one.

The par five, 486-yard 8th, is the number one handicap hole on the course. It plays straight away for the first two shots then doglegs to the right for an approach over some sand traps. This shot requires some delicacy.

Only on a course like Spruce Creek will you see a sign on the ninth

tee that says in effect to watch out for low flying aircraft when teeing off.

The back nine at Spruce Creek offers a number of demanding holes that will test your abilities. I especially enjoy the two par threes, numbers 13 and 17. The 13th is a 143-yard carry over water to a well protected green, while the 17th, at 166-yards, requires accuracy if you want to assure a par.

I have to tell you that there were times in the past when I played Spruce Creek and it wasn't in the best condition. It left something to be desired. Boy, times do change. The course is now in excellent shape, thanks in good part to Golf Trust which has taken over the management of the club. The Company made a very wise decision to bring in a young man named

Kirk Menendez as Greens Superintendent. He has really made a difference.

For a great round of golf, call for a starting time at (386) 756-6114. Spruce Creek is located due west of Port Orange and west off Interstate 95. The friendly ambiance of the clubhouse will only add to your enjoyment

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