



John Pina

La Rinconada Country Club

PROFILE

Position: Golf Course Superintendent

Years in the Golf Business: 9

Previous Employment:

Assistant Supt. at Sharon Heights Golf & CC

Education:

- BS in Agribusiness Management
Cal Poly SLO
- 2-Year Turf Science Certificate
Rutgers University

GCSANC Work or Interests:

Hosting the Assistant's Meeting, looking forward to serving the association as a board member

Other Organizations:

National Rifle Association

Family: Wife, Tracy

Interests Outside of Golf:

Flyfishing, 49ers and Giants

Favorite Vacation: Getting away to Hawaii

Favorite Course to Play:

The Meadow Club

Course You'd Like to Visit:

The Old Course at St. Andrews

Strangest Thing You've Witnessed

On The Golf Course:

The funniest thing was when a buddy teed off and accidentally hit the white tee block ten yards ahead. The ball came zooming back and hit him in the shin.

What You'd Be Doing If You Weren't Involved With Golf:

Working in the family wine business in the Napa Valley



Our Host For The GCSANC's Assistant Superintendent Meeting

La Rinconada

July 28, 2003

Located on approximately 125 acres of rolling hills in the heart of Los Gatos, La Rinconada Country Club can boast one of the most beautiful settings in the Santa Clara Valley. The Club overlooks the valley from the western foothills to the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The idea for building this full eighteen-hole course took shape in the late twenties and, due to the dedicated efforts of a small group of men, culminated in the dedication of the golf course in 1929. This event was reported in the Sunday, June 2, 1929 issue of the San Jose Mercury Herald. A copy of this issue is preserved and displayed in the Clubhouse. It shows pictures of the original clubhouse and a partial view of the golf course. It describes the setting as one of the finest locations that could be found for a golf course.

The Club and course were dedicated by Senator Sanborn Young, one of the original Club members. Other founding members included W.C. Sprague, W.B. Maxwell, Wendell C. Thomas, I.D. Mable, J.W. Higgenbotham, A.P. Giannini and James D. Bacigalupi. Former Pro Phil Jefferson was instrumental in building and maintaining the course in the early days. World War II brought the Club to the brink of bankruptcy. After the war it was sold to Sol J. Leider, the golfing dentist who did so much for golf in this area. On November 7, 1952, he was persuaded to lease the land back to a group of area residents for a period of 99 years and the Club was reborn in its present form.

The golf course at La Rinconada plays 6,300 yards with a rating of 70.5 and a slope of 126 for the men. For our lady players the course plays 5,600 yards with a rating of 71.4 and a slope of 124. The course is true to its vintage with tree lined fairways and small undulating greens surrounded by a plethora of bunkers. Tees and greens were placed close together making the course a joy to walk. We are also most proud of our newly renovated practice area. The grass tee driving range at La Rinconada Country Club is hands down the best in the valley.



Keith Beamer
Assistant GC Superintendent

www.larinconadacc.com