



### by DALE SIMPSON

It was certainly different than my day job as golf course superintendent at Crow Canyon Country Club. Recently I was given a chance to travel to Thailand with 22 other folks from across the United States, and together we had one mission: To Put Wheels On The World. We were supporting the efforts of Joni and Friends, Wheels for the World, a Christian-based organization that improves mobility for others by providing wheelchairs to those in need.

Our main objective was to distribute 400 hundred wheelchairs to underserved individuals with disabilities. As an outreach team, we not only distributed wheelchairs but also supplied each recipient with a bible written in their native language.

Within a two-week period, we traveled to four different locations in Thailand: Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Phayao and Songkhla. We had five teams consisting of physical therapist, mechanics, and support members that worked diligently to fit each individual in a wheelchair that was tailor-made just for them.

Since I always seem to be fixing things at work or home, my assignment was to serve as one of the mechanics. Each chair had to undergo some kind of modification before it would fit the individual in need. Whether it was making minor adjustments to the foot rests or adding a seat belt, or major modifications such as adding head and neck support or chest straps, the physical therapists made sure that the wheelchair was exactly what each person required based on physical challenge and need.

Each team had an interpreter so we could communicate with recipients and their family members throughout the entire fitting process. Most of the recipients were either Buddhist or Muslim and many were curious as to why we had made the long trek to Thailand to assist them. It was simple, we wanted to help improve the quality of their lives, which translated into an expression of our love/care for them. Each person received the "gift of mobility" and the hope of a better future. The blessing I received was seeing the smiles on their faces.

Back home, we are now exploring the possibility of a charity golf tournament that will benefit this worthy cause. If you are interested in learning more about Wheels for the World visit <http://bayarea.joniandfriends.org>.



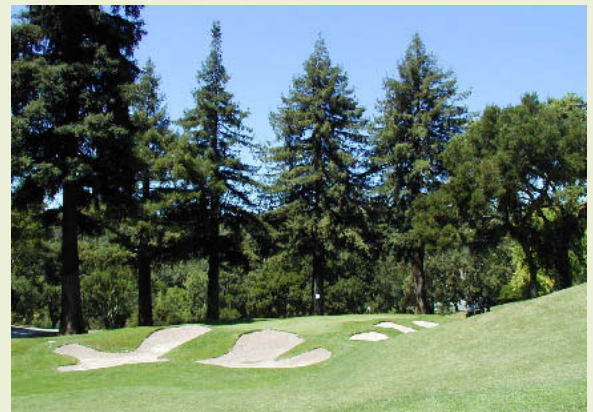
GCSANC Member Dale Simpson (center) adjusts a wheelchair for a needy recipient in Thailand.

### MAY 18

#### Superintendent Pro Tournament

*Orinda Country Club (pictured below)*

*Bob Lopic, Host Superintendent*



### JUNE 15

#### Davey-Nor Cal Cup Event

*Cinnabar Hills Golf Course*

*Brian Boyer, Host Superintendent*

### JULY 22

#### Crew Appreciation Day

*Oakland Coliseum: A's vs. Minnesota Twins*

*Clay Wood, Host Superintendent*

### AUGUST 24

#### Wagoner Scholarship and Research Tournament

#### Davey-Nor Cal Cup Event

*Contra Costa Country Club*

*John Martin, Host Superintendent*

### SEPTEMBER 20-22

#### Assistant Superintendents Bootcamp

### OCTOBER 19, 20

#### Superintendents Institute

#### Davey-Nor Cal Cup Event

*The Course at Wente Vineyards*

*Glenn Matthews, Host Superintendent*

### NOVEMBER 1-3

#### California GCSA Annual Meeting

*Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*

*Terry Vassey*

### DECEMBER

#### Holiday Gatherings

### JANUARY 2010

#### Election Meeting

*Spring Valley Golf Course*

*Chris Mains, Host Superintendent*