

Alaskan course emerging from former cattle ranch on Glacier Bay

GUSTAVUS, Alaska — The Mount Fairweather Golf Course sounds like the kind of place you should put on your lifetime golfing itinerary.

The nine-hole track is the first ever in Gustavus, a small town of 258 or so inhabitants on Glacier Bay in Tongass National Park. The course features Icy Strait as its most dominant water hazard and sits near the town dock with spectacular views of the Fairweather Range and Chilkat Mountains.

For now, there's no clubhouse. But there is a shed full of free clubs and balls available for anyone wanting to play.

Morgan DeBoer, part of a long-time local farming family, is building the course on 120 acres of his parents' land that was originally a homestead where the DeBoers raised cattle and grew hay. The DeBoers originally considered building housing on the property. But DeBoer said he wanted to build something that both local residents and tourists could enjoy. There are plans for a 2,500-square-foot clubhouse next year.

"Doing a course seemed like a good thing to do," he told the *Juneau Empire*. "It's so natural; it's almost like God designed it."

DeBoer planted ryegrass last spring for the fairways and Kentucky bluegrass for the greens and tee boxes. The course also has a 275-yard long driving

range, but players have to retrieve their own balls. DeBoer hasn't had much time to play his course yet. He's still busy working his father's tractor and putting the finishing touches on a course he says resembles the more rugged, natural layouts on the Scottish and English coasts.

Course, namesake making progress

GREENVILLE, Mich. — After months of ups and downs, the Glenkerry Golf Course has opened nine holes to public play.

Due to heavy spring rains, the course had to be reseeded by co-owners David and Kathy Klein of Rockford, and a mid-July start date was pushed back to the end of August. Glenkerry has a temporary clubhouse set up for fall play. A new clubhouse will be built over the winter. Warner Bowen designed an 18-hole course, but the second nine will be built at a later date.

Glenkerry is named after Kerry Klein, one of the Klein's six children. Kerry Klein is severely handicapped with Rett Syndrome. Kathy Klein said her daughter's life and the course have similarities.

"They've both had their hard times and some bumps along the way," she told the *Greenville Daily News*. "But Kerry has the most wonderful personality of anyone I know. I think the golf course has persevered as well."



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