

# Golfin' on *sunshine*



**I**t looks like the course owners are just trying to provide shade for golfers, but they're really out to catch some rays.

The giant panels covering much of the south portion of the parking lot are one of two solar arrays designed to turn sunlight into free energy for Stevinson Ranch in Stevinson, Calif.

"People don't even realize what it is," says George Kelly, course owner. "They think it's just there for shade. But it really has been win-win."

The course started using solar power earlier this year, with a huge investment in the arrays that will eventually pay for themselves in saved energy costs. The setup in the parking lot provides energy to the clubhouse and electric cart storage, while the second installation near the 17<sup>th</sup> green powers the course's irrigation pump station.

"The key for us was the ability to finance this," says Kelly.

The whole project from installation to transition cost \$960,000. And while a federal grant will rebate about 30 percent of that back to the course, the cost for responsible energy use seems steep.

But Kelly's taking a long view of the cost and the results of a solar-powered golf course.

"This time of year, we saved just in this month about \$12,000 on our energy because of the solar panels, and our payment on them is about \$10,000," he says. "That'll flip when we go into winter for now, but there's a high degree of probability that rates will go up over time. In seven years, when it's paid off, we'll be in a good position."

Though the array is contributing to the course's bottom line, Kelly says its impact is more about showing their commitment to making golf operate greener.

"It really makes a statement for people who drive in here and haven't seen this kind of setup before," says Kelly. "The fact that we've made a major commitment says something about what we're trying to do."

## My other car is a golf cart

**I**f you're serious about your luxury golf carts, you may want to check out the newly-unveiled Garia Mansory edition, which premiered at the international motor show in Frankfurt this month.

The body of the high-end cart features carbon fiber – usually used in the motor sports and aircraft industries, and teakwood lines the cabin floor. Specially designed headlights, an air scoop and fender gills complete the design.

"When creating the Garia, we set out to build the best golf car in the world, teaming up with the most renowned suppliers in the automobile industry, and with the Garia Mansory Edition our connection to the automobile world is further strengthened," says Anders Lynge, designer of the Garia.

The car comes as a collaboration between Garia and Mansory, which customizes supercars such as the Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin and Bentley, and is available as both street legal and non-street legal.

We at the GCI Intergalactic HQ don't have all that far to travel between offices, but if someone felt like donating, it would make the trip that much nicer.

