

**M**y friend and veteran superintendent Matt Hendren does a fine job recapping the first ever *Golfdom* Summit, beginning on page 14. But here, I want to give you my personal top five moments from the event.

**#5 One last interview:** During the course of the Summit me and my team did more than 50 video interviews for *Golfdom* TV. It was a furious pace.

We needed to leave to catch our flight, and quickly pack up all our filming gear to get on the road. But I kept having the team unpack the gear, wanting to get “just one last interview” about three different times.

The last time I asked to have the equipment unpacked again, Hendren almost killed me with his angry look. But that last interview we did, with Chuck Hicks of Redexim, was perhaps the best interview of the week. (See one of his quotes on page 6.)

**#4 Rees Jones turns off my voice recorder:** On the first evening of the Summit, we had two great speakers: Ken Mangum followed by Rees Jones.

I told Ken before he got up to the podium that my voice recorder was up there recording the speeches. No problem.

Then Ken introduced Rees. I got up to take a few photos from different areas of the room. I heard Rees say, “Is this the clicker?” but I was moving around the room at the time and not watching him.

Apparently Rees mistook my voice recorder for the remote for the PowerPoint. You can imagine my horror when I checked and realized that, yes, Rees had managed to turn off my voice recorder before beginning his speech...

To my relief, Hendren had also set up a video camera to record Rees' speech. Crisis narrowly averted.

**#3 First par on hole 6:** The last round I played before Pinehurst was the worst round of golf I've played in years. It forced me to go see a

## My Top 5 Summit Moments

BY SETH JONES



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swing doctor for a few lessons, terrified that I'd stink up Pinehurst No. 2.

My group teed off on hole No. 2. For the first four holes, I was still terrible.

But then, my first par on hole 6, a 204-yard par three, woke me up. Suddenly I was right down the middle for the next 9 holes, much to the relief of my caddie.

**#2 Giving my “What I've Learned” speech:** I gave a speech I've been working on to the group that combines a few stories of cool places this industry has taken me with some of the things I've learned about our industry.

I'm thankful the speech was well received and even got a few good laughs from the room. (I'd love to give the speech more in 2012... I'm looking at you, Hawaii GCSA.)

**#1 Bob Farren concludes speech:** Bob Farren spoke to our group about the restoration of No. 2. Bob had just started his talk when a cell phone rang. Always annoying, right?

But even worse: it was Bob's cell phone.

He reached in his pocket, silenced the ringer, then looked to see who was the caller. He apologized to the audience, but asked for empathy. The crew, he said, was operating heavy equipment that day, equipment they don't operate every day. It had him nervous.

Bob took a heavy sigh, then one more quick peek at his phone.

“So... in conclusion,” Bob said with a wry smile, getting the biggest laugh of the week from a group that understood exactly what Bob was feeling.

So, in conclusion... a fantastic week. I can't wait for the 2012 edition!

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