



Name: Steve Wickliffe

College/University: Florida International University

Year Turned Pro: 1978

Facility and Job Title: Los Alamos Golf Course – Golf Course Manager

Please give a summary of your Background and credentials

I became a PGA Member in 1981 and have been affiliated with seven different sections to date during my career. I started working at a resort operation in Sun Valley, Idaho and have worked at private and semi private facilities in Palm Springs, Minneapolis, Park City and most recently at public facilities in Montana and here in New Mexico.

What was your motivation to become a PGA Professional?

As a youngster in junior high and high school I played at the local course. The professional's son Tommy Sanderson was a very good player who played the PGA tour for a couple of years. Like so many young kids I looked up to him and wanted to do the same. After graduating from college and a very brief stint on the mini tour circuit my first job was working for Tommy at Elkhorn Golf Resort.

What is your specialty in the golf business?

I think with my background I'd say operations in general, more specifically, event and outing planning along with teaching and fiscal management.

Please list any accomplishments

Chapter Merchandiser of the Year – Private Facilities – Tamarisk CC
2006 Golf Inc. "Most Admired Operators"

What was your greatest moment in golf?

From a playing standpoint I would say it was long ago as an amateur when I won our city championship in Escondido, California. Unfortunately ever since then my game has been on a downward spiral. As a professional I think it was in 2006 when I was recognized by Golf Inc. Magazine as one of their Most Admired Operators.

What or who has had the greatest impact on your career?

I would have to say my dad who let me pursue my goals as a golf professional, even though he would have liked me to pursue other careers. I'd also say Tommy Sanderson, who I mentioned earlier, and who I looked up to in high school and gave me one of my first jobs as an assistant after finishing college.

Besides golf, what else do you enjoy?

Perhaps it's because I make so few birdies on the golf course I like to watch birds. I'm

an avid birder who keeps a life list and various state and yard lists. My other passion is fly-fishing specifically for trout.

If you could play any golf course in the world, which one would it be and who would complete your foursome?

Oh there are so many on the list that I would love to play. One that comes to mind is Pine Valley, in New Jersey one of the great classic courses. My three playing partners would be Lee Trevino, George W Bush and Vince Gill..... that would be fun.

If you could give lessons to anyone in the world who would it be and what advice would you give?

Oh gosh I think it would be interesting to give a lesson to Condoleezza Rice. I've admired her for what she's accomplished and I understand she has taken up the game. It would be fun to work with her on her overall game to get better. I'm sure if I was able to give her a series of lessons I'd learn some interesting things over the course of that series.

What is your favorite golf instruction tip?

From the lessons that I've given I've seen too many of our amateurs with too much tension when they hold or grip and swing the club. So I like to use the old analogy of holding a rock or other object that they are going to throw. And ask them if they were going to try and throw that object as far as they could, would squeezing that object help them throw it further? This gives the student the proper concept of the amount of pressure needed to hold and swing the club properly with speed.
