

## OWNERS CLUB NEWS

NO. 64 SPRING 2009



Travis Smith was 67 the first time he shot his age, one of the best rounds of his life. That day, he vowed to repeat the feat 99 more times before giving up the game he loves. A few years passed before he shot his age for a second time, but Travis wasn't deterred. If history was any indication, once he applied his considerable skill and determination to a goal, it was a safe bet he wasn't going to fail.

Travis didn't fail. In fact, today, he is well on his way to accomplishing a new goal – shooting his age for the 200th time.

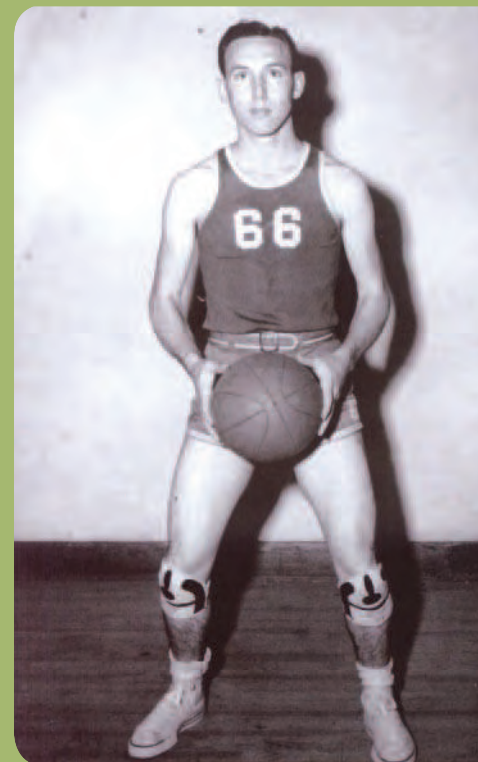
Travis regularly conquers the public courses near his hometown of Bethany, Oklahoma, a suburb of Oklahoma City. Lincoln Park, Earlywine, Lake Hefner, and Trosper Park are just a few of the courses in Travis's regular rotation. The constants during his quest have been the support of his loving wife, Juanita, and his faithful caddie, a Hillcrest AB.

Travis is a longtime Kangaroo Owner and a firm believer that golf was meant to be played on foot. "I just play better when I'm walking with my Kangaroo," says Travis.

He has always believed in doing things the right way, going back to his high school athletic career. A gifted athlete, Travis excelled for the Bethany High baseball and basketball teams, ultimately earning a basketball scholarship at Oklahoma City University. Still, his proudest moment had nothing to do with points scored or runs batted in. (continued on page 2)



Travis and Juanita



A 6'0" guard, Travis led Bethany High in scoring four consecutive years



*Coach Travis Smith (top left) and his Oklahoma State Champion Broncos, 1955*

"I started every game for the Bethany basketball team for four years, from the time I was a freshman, playing through sickness and injury," Travis recalls fondly. "That's one record that will never be broken."

After graduating from Oklahoma City University, Travis returned to Bethany to coach baseball and basketball. In just five years at Bethany, followed by three years at Southeast High School, he built a coaching resume that would be the envy of most career coaches. Notably, he coached a 15-year-old named Bobby Murcer, who went on to become a legendary Yankees outfielder. In 1955, Travis led his baseball team to Bethany's first state championship. That year, he was honored as Coach of the Year for the entire state of Oklahoma.

Travis subsequently gave up coaching for a career in sales, dealing in educational materials. He had played golf recreationally since college, "scoring in the 80s or 90s," and decided to begin lessons at age 50. His competitive fire sparked again, Travis heeded the advice of a local pro, who suggested fundamentals must be learned on the practice tee, rather than the golf course.

"Several years later, I realized he was right," Travis says with a chuckle.

In 2008, Travis notched his 8th hole-in-one and shot his age (78) 41 times. Dedicated as always, he played most of the year with a painful pinched nerve in his back.

Today, healthy again, he remains committed to playing golf two or three times per week. He recently played a round in 38-degree weather, when none of his regular playing partners were willing to brave the cold. He found a threesome to join, men less than half his age, riding carts. Travis walked with his Kangaroo and beat them all.

As Travis reflects upon a lifetime of golf, a trip to St. Andrews with his brother, Ellis, holds a special place in his memory. True to his character, Travis's favorite golf stories aren't about golf; they're about life.

The Old Course, 4th hole, a dogleg right. Travis's caddie suggested that he aim left, and Travis questioned why. "You can't see those deep bunkers from the tee, but they're there," said the caddie in his thick Scottish brogue.

Travis has never forgotten the words of the wise old Scotsman, and considers the casual exchange about golf strategy to be a profound metaphor for life.

"People are always looking for a shortcut," says Travis. "We never want to take advice."

Perhaps that's true for most of us. But there's certainly no shortcut to shooting your age 181 times (and counting.) When Travis Smith does it for the 200th time, likely later this year, you can be sure he did it the right way.

## HAVE AN OBSERVATION SEAT YOU DON'T USE?

Kangaroo discontinued manufacturing observation seats a couple years ago, but there are still people who want them. Conversely, some Owners don't use the seats they have.

So, if you have a seat you don't want anymore, consider returning it to the factory. Kangaroo refurbishes old seats to resell "Used." Please e-mail [JohnRaines@KangarooGolf.com](mailto:JohnRaines@KangarooGolf.com), or phone John Raines at (800) 438-3011 extension 240. Let him know what model you have. John needs observation seats for Model 5, Hillcrest, and Cadet models – and especially the brackets to put them on the motorcaddie. Price paid \$15 - \$30 depends on condition. Attach a photo to your e-mail if you can, or snail mail snapshot to John at PO Box 607, Columbus NC 28722.

If John's offer is agreeable, he will issue a Return Authorization and shipping label to get your seat and bracket back to the factory. You can take payment in cash or in credit on your future Kangaroo order.

AND IF YOU WANT TO GET ON KANGAROO'S LIST to buy a refurbished observation seat, contact John. The factory will let you know, in order requests are received, when an observation seat for your model becomes available.



### SHOT-THEIR-AGE

**Francis Hart** Wilbraham, MA  
Age 83 Shot 83 - Elmcrest Country Club

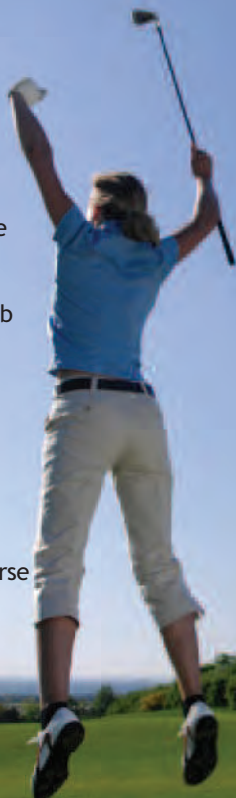
**Tyson Clayton** Hillsborough, NC  
Age 70 Shot 70 - Cedar Grove Golf Course

**Steve Driftmier** Wheatridge, CO  
Age 89 Shot 83 - Rolling Hills Country Club

**Bill Smith** Carrollton, TX  
Age 72 Shot 72 - Brookhaven Golf Course

**Travis Smith** Bethany, OK  
Age 78 Shot 77 - Lake Hefner Golf Club

**Jim Hagadone** Charlottesville, VA  
Age 77 Shot 77 - Meadow Creek Golf Course



### HOLES-IN-ONE

**John Heckman**  
Lock Haven, PA

**Nancy Danforth**  
Cedar Rapids, IA

**Frank Hori**  
Seattle, WA

**Shirley Baker**  
Wilson, NC

**Richard Tolotti**  
Uintah, UT

**Susan Hedlund**  
Las Cruces, NM

**Mary Odom**  
Auburn, CA

**Rich Pasinski**  
Berlin, CT

**Terry Hemmings**  
Lindale, TX

**Sue McElfresh**  
Fairfax, VA

**Pam Troutman**  
Millersburg, PA

**Walter Pieri**  
Highwood, IL

**Nancy Whiting**  
San Antonio, TX

**Travis Smith**  
Bethany, OK



## MOTORCADDIES AT TOKYO GOLF CLUB



Japan is the second-biggest golf nation, after the USA, in number of courses and number of players. When Kangaroo's president flew over Japan on a clear day, he saw hundreds of golf courses from the air. At one point during the flight he decided to count how many he could see at one time, and saw thirty. Japanese courses are beautifully manicured and landscaped, often on hilly terrain.

Almost all golfers walk. Traditionally the caddies are women. The Japanese caddie does everything an American caddie does, and more. She places tees in the ground, and serves as a course marshal to regulate pace of play. She typically does not carry bags. For that, there are big electric golf bag carriers, which usually transport bags for four players. It is only at the most exclusive courses that single-bag motorcaddies are used, and it is rare for players to be allowed to guide motorcaddies American-style, at their own pace of play.

Tokyo Golf Club is top-ranked in Japanese golf, an exquisite layout, which recently acquired a fleet of four Hillcrests for use by members. Kangaroo thanks Mr. Makoto Todo, club member, for his assistance and for sharing these photographs.



NEED TECH SUPPORT FOR YOUR MOTORCADDIE? Visit Kangaroo's new Tech Support Web site [www.KangarooGolf.com/owners](http://www.KangarooGolf.com/owners)

## SAVE \$10 ON A BATTERY THIS SPRING

Order a battery between April 15 and May 15, 2009, and receive a \$10 discount.

Must be member of Kangaroo Owners Club. Account number must be provided (three letters + three numbers, found above Name on address panel of Owners Club News) at time of order. Not valid on previous purchases.

ORDER BY MAIL, BY PHONE, OR BY E-MAIL:

MAIL: Send your check for \$103 to Kangaroo Owners Club Battery Offer, PO Box 607, Columbus NC 28722. (Shipping to 48 states is \$17, battery cost is \$96, minus your \$10 discount.) For shipping to Alaska or Hawaii, please call for quote.

PHONE: Call toll-free (800) 438-3011 extension 245 Mon.-Fri. 8-5 Eastern time. Have this newsletter handy with your Customer Code found above your name on the address panel. You may pay by credit card, or we'll invoice you.



E-MAIL: Do not order on Web site. Instead e-mail [Angel@KangarooGolf.com](mailto:Angel@KangarooGolf.com) with "Owners Battery Discount" in your subject line and provide your Customer Code (3 letters followed by 3 numbers.) Confirm your preferred shipping address. We will invoice you on open account, to be paid by personal check after you receive your battery.

## BIRDIES OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

Last July, a family of Carolina wrens took up residence in the Kangaroo factory. Why is this noteworthy? Well, after nearly 4 decades in the golf business, the Kangaroo team has learned that "birdies" are never to be taken for granted.

A ventilation fan provided entrance for the mother wren into the factory. Kangaroo employees are accustomed to coexisting with the occasional feathered friend, so no one paid much attention – until a nest appeared inside an empty box in the service area, filled with 4 speckled eggs.

Kangaroo employees kept close tabs on the young wrens, from the time they first opened their hungry beaks toward the tool shelf above. The inevitable bittersweet moment came about 2 weeks later, when a technician discovered the nest was empty. The wrens had headed south, apparently confident that Kangaroo operations were up to par.

Kangaroo isn't making any promises, but having a family of birds lend a watchful eye to the assembly of new motorcaddies certainly seems to be a good omen. Kangaroo plans to monitor new "Birdie Edition" owners, to determine whether they experience dramatic improvement in their golf games.

Assuming the results are positive, is there any truth to the rumor that a mother eagle could be next to nest at the factory? Not a peep from Kangaroo.



## THE BATTLE OF WATER ROO

Vern DeWitt of Rochester, New York, purchased two Hillcrest AB motorcaddies in 2002. He recently reported a harrowing tale about his Kangaroos. (If this sounds like another Old Yeller, rest assured the story ends happily.)

After spending last winter in Florida, Vern returned home in the spring to find twelve inches of water in his basement due to a sump pump failure. Casualties included the furnace, hot water heater, and a treadmill. Much to Vern's dismay, his beloved Kangaroos were also submerged. Their prognosis looked grim.

Before throwing away his caddies with the rest of the carnage, Vern made a last-ditch resuscitation attempt. He carefully cleaned the rust from the alligator clips and connected the batteries. To Vern's complete surprise, both Kangaroos immediately sprang to life.

Understandably, Vern remained pessimistic about the long-term prospects of his caddies. After thoroughly testing one in his driveway, he resolved to take it for a spin on the golf course. His faithful Kangaroo never missed a beat the entire round, although Vern did notice an occasional sloshing sound.



Vern returned from the golf course, and decided to perform exploratory surgery on the Kangaroo. He opened the gearbox, and out poured a stream of dirty water. Vern shook his head in astonishment, realizing that his caddie had operated while full of liquid.

His second Kangaroo experienced a minor setback during rehabilitation, as its wheels stopped turning at one point. Vern operated again, and discovered the motor was rusted solid. Eventually, he was able to break the motor loose, and reassemble the caddie. Since then, both caddies have been nearly as good as new.

"My experience is a tribute to the engineering and quality components in Kangaroo products," Vern says.

Disclaimer: There are no guarantees that other Kangaroos will survive being submerged in water. Frankly, Kangaroo engineers were quite surprised to hear about the triumph of Vern's caddies under the circumstances. In other words, don't try this at home.

### SAND & SEED HOLDER

Repair divots to help maintain your home course. Easy installation on handle tubing. Fits any Kangaroo model. Comes complete with Sand Bottle. \$49.00



### FOURTH WHEEL

Prevents your motorcaddie from tipping backwards on hilly courses. Side-to-side steering is as simple and smooth as always. Available for Hillcrest AB and Model 5. \$79.00



For more information about Kangaroo accessories, please visit [www.KangarooGolf.com](http://www.KangarooGolf.com)

To place an order, call John Raines (800) 438-3011 extension 240 Mon-Fri 8-5 Eastern Time. Or e-mail [JohnRaines@KangarooGolf.com](mailto:JohnRaines@KangarooGolf.com)



## KANGAROO AT USGA SENIOR AMATEUR

His rookie year on the senior amateur golf circuit marked a fresh start for Kangaroo Vice President, Tim Pope. Since 1975, he had diligently tried to qualify for a USGA event, beginning with the U.S. Amateur, then the Mid-Amateur. He has had heartbreakingly close calls along the way, with only a final putt standing between him and achieving his dream. This time, Tim wouldn't be denied.

Over 2300 golfers submitted entries for USGA Senior Amateur qualifying in 2008. Requirements included a minimum age of 55 years, and a maximum handicap index of 7.4. Tim played his sectional qualifying round at Alamance Country Club in Burlington, North Carolina, along with about 100 other hopeful qualifiers. Only five golfers would advance.

Tim thought his game was well suited to the layout of the course, so his confidence was high, particularly after a birdie on the first hole. Then the weather came, a cold hard rain and blustery winds. As other golfers retired, seeking refuge from the downpour, Tim soldiered on to a solid two-over-par 73, tied for the lead in the clubhouse. He was cautiously optimistic about making the top five, with playing conditions worsening by the minute.

When the final threesome completed play, the leaderboard showed: 70, 71, 72, 73, 73, 73. After sitting for nearly two hours, cold and damp,

Tim found himself in a three-way tie for fourth, forced into a playoff. By that time, the course was almost unplayable, and USGA officials cruelly chose a 240-yard uphill par 3 for the playoff. Tim bogeyed the first playoff hole, suffering through tense moments as the other two golfers had short putts for par. But this year, the golf gods were smiling on Tim. A missed putt forced a second playoff hole, which Tim won to advance.

Tim made an impressive showing at the USGA Senior Amateur Championship, played at Shady Oaks Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas. Usually reluctant to play without his trusty Kangaroo, he gladly passed the torch to his son, Adam, who caddied for Tim during the championship. Stroke play began with a field of 156. Tim advanced to the round of 64, with a 36-hole score of 152. In matchplay, Tim defeated David Strawn (Charlotte, NC) 2 and 1. Ironically, David had been the medalist in sectional qualifying at Alamance. In the round of 32, Tim lost 4 and 2 to eventual runner-up, George Zahringer (New York, NY).

By virtue of his top 64 finish, Tim earned an exemption for the 2009 British Senior Amateur Open, to be held at historic Prestwick Golf Club in Ayrshire, Scotland. Always the competitor, Tim has already purchased airline tickets and booked hotels. This time the entire family will attend, providing moral support as he tests his game on the links.



**OWNERS CLUB NEWS**  
**PO BOX 607**  
**COLUMBUS, NC 28722**



## KANGAROO IS HERE TO STAY

Dear Kangaroo Customer,

In these troubled times when many companies are going down, we want to let you know Kangaroo Golf is in good shape, and committed to serving your needs for many years to come.

Our firm remains stable and built for longevity. We're owned 100% by management who work here every day. Kangaroo has been in business for almost four decades, and both us owners have been here over half that time. We certainly don't intend to leave anytime soon. Our business isn't a subsidiary of some big corporation, and we don't plan to sell.

Kangaroo's profitable business model doesn't rely on debt. We owe very little to banks and we pay suppliers promptly. We're adequately capitalized and own our own building. Kangaroo remains a traditional American company that has resisted the trend to rely on off-shore sourcing or foreign labor.

We don't "push" sales volume with unrealistic discounting. Products are priced fairly so we can keep them in production indefinitely. We maintain factory machinery in good working order, train our people carefully, and reward them for making quality products and serving customers well. We're on top of the business, thinking about the future as well as today.

Our business has always lived up to our commitments. You can be assured that warranties will always be honored and spare parts will be available for years to come. We invite you to visit us in Columbus, North Carolina anytime to see for yourself.

Last, but certainly not least, the true secret to our enduring success is our loyal Kangaroo Owners. We certainly couldn't do it without you. Thank you for being a Kangaroo customer, whether you bought your motorcaddie this week or 37 years ago.

  
Michael McCue, President

  
Timothy Pope, Vice President