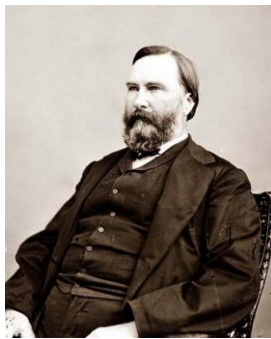


Big Sky Tournament Primer

Some of you guys are old veterans and know everything about the BST others are either new or have been too drunk to remember anything. Here's a handy Primer on the BST, one of the most respected and revered golfing events of the year.

History of the BST -- The Beginnings

It all began after the American Civil war when a rogue band of Confederate soldiers ran in to a rogue band of Union soldiers at a saloon outside of Mesquite, NV. Tim Bayles' great-great-great-grandmother's brother's uncle's sister's cousin on his mother's side, General Longstreet ran into Bob Langley's sister's great aunt's grandmother's nephew's brother, Camillo IX.



Our Founder: General Longstreet

Bob's Relative: Camillo Villegas the IX

The scene immediately got ugly with Longstreet's group accusing Camillo's group of cheating at poker. The scene, as was typical for the time had a deep and deliberate dialog that went something like –

“You're cheatin'! Who says?, I says! Oh yeah? Yeah! No I'm not! Yes you are! Who says? I says!...

All of this led to trouble and the first BST was a team event. As there were no golf courses at the time it was settled by muskets at dawn with both teams lining up and shooting at the same time. There were no survivors.



Longstreet vs Camillo, BST 1866 – All Square. Note: the Coyote Springs Club House in the Background

The Middle Ages

Word got back to relatives, and while everyone was really pissed for a long time, the competition waned until a Langley (formerly Camillo) saved the life of a Bayles during World War 2. Details are sketchy, but the rumor is that Spam was involved. From that point forward a friendship was formed and a friendly competition took place every ten years.



BST 1946



BST 1956



BST 1966

The Psychedelic Ages

Starting in 1967 the BST was held every year; sometimes 3 or 4 times a year. However, very little is known about BST during the late 60's as no one can remember much. Not quite sure why not, but here's one of the few surviving photo's of a sun rise party during the Autumnal Equinox.



BST Autumnal Equinox Sun Rise Party ca. 1967-1969

The Disco Error

In the 1970's the competition experienced dynamic growth and began to take on its modern form. By a strange twist of fate the dynamic duo of Tim Bayles and Bob Langley ended up in the same high school in South Orange, New Jersey. Sharing a passion for leisure suits and disco music they hitchhiked their way to Mesquite recruiting candidates as they went.



Tim Bayles, 1974 Prom



Bob Langley, 1974 Math Team Captain

Stopping along the way, in Midland, TX they were befriended by a bunch of onshore geophysicists back when it was cool to be an onshore geophysicist.



BST 1976: Dan Needham, Rick McFarland, John Graves and Dave Jessop. Midland Onshore Geophysicists Synchronized Disco Competition – Runner Up

Finally Golf

It was in the 1980's and in to the 90's when things turned to golf. It all started as an Iron Man like event: 100 mile bike ride, 26 mile run, 4 mile swim (in Lake Mesquite) and 36 shots of Jack. That's just how long it took to get from the RV park to the golf course. The tournament format was a four day 36 hole per day, 36 shots per day, no carts, no hotel room, no showers and no sleep marathon. Tees were back, the balls were balata, the woods were persimmon, the shafts were stiff, the stomachs were flat and the women and whiskey were cheap. Men were men and there was no stinking Desert Rule and No Stinking Handicaps. You played straight up and you played your ball as you found it. Shoes and shirts were optional and coach's shorts were the norm.



BST 1982: John Graves (left) and Tim Bayles (right) with a "date"

Unfortunately, the 90's ushered in the steroid era for many sports. Fortunately, the BST did not have that problem. Golf is an honorable sport and no one would dishonor the game or the competition by doping.

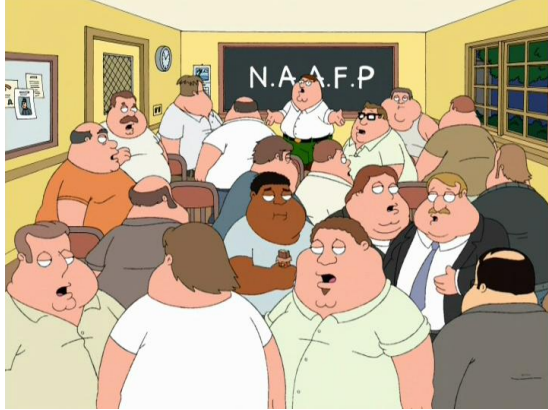


BST 1996 Group Photo



BST 1996 Winner

The Mesquite golfing and gambling authorities insisted that we institute a random drug testing/anti doping policy in 1997. Fortunately no one failed the doping test and clearly, we did not have a doping problem, however, that year we finally had to institute a dress code. (Editor's note: the 1996 and 1997 photos were intentionally place on different pages so as not to invite comparison)



BST 1997 Group Photo



BST 1997 Winner

“Everyone’s A Winner” Era

As the 2000’s rolled around, the whining started. “Can we move up a tee box? I can’t carry the junk.” “Do I have to go into the desert to look for my ball?” “Can I get strokes?” “Can we get a hotel?” Wah, wah, wah. Bunch of babies. So we moved up a tee and added a handicap division, brought in a Czar and invoked the desert rule.

That was followed by more complaining, “I need more strokes” “That SOB is sand bagging” “Can we move up a tee box? I can’t carry the junk.” “If they are going to say ‘Buffet Experience’ they need to have a friggin’ buffet damn it!”

Now we are so pathetic we are taking a day off during the match and playing from the “forward tees”. We’ve eliminated the gross flight altogether, waived the one ball and 14 club rule. It used to be the first sound you heard in the golf course parking lot was the “crack” of a beer can tab being pulled back and the smell of Crown and Aqua Velva. Now you hear the rattle of Advil bottles, the smell of Icy Hot and cries of “Oiy, I’m svitsing over here”. Tees are up, the balls are Extra Distance, the woods are prevalent (9 wood anyone? You know who you are.), the shafts are whippy, the guts are “Dunlaps” and the women and whiskey are expensive. The group photo looks like a magazine ad for Medicare Supplemental insurance.

What does the future hold? Maybe an EA Sports/Tiger Woods Golf tournament and an online gambling site.

Now that you've got a good feel for the history of the game here's a few highlights to look forward to in BST 2012.

Day One Highlights

This year we are trying something a little different. We start the tournament on Friday at The Chase at Coyote Springs or is it The Springs at Coyote Chase or, wait, is it The Coyote at Spring Chase. Anyway, Coyote Chase Springs can be located conveniently on the drive from Vegas to Mesquite. You head north by north east and when you reach the middle of nowhere, take a left. If you see a club house, turn around; you've gone to a golf course with a club house and we can't have that now can we. My biggest worry about this change is that we will miss the Native American Laundry/Liquor/Cigarette/Food Mart/Cold Beer/Guns/Casino/Gas Station/Clothing Outlet/Home School Supply/Taco/Checks Cashed stop. Get your liquor in Vegas!

That afternoon we depart the middle of nowhere for the edge of nowhere. Just when you think it's time to turn back, the bustling metropolis of Mesquite will appear on the horizon. You are welcomed by a giant bill board that says CASINO and under it Donnie and Marie Concert Halloween Night – Tickets Available. Now that's scary! But isn't it just our luck we are going to miss it. Upon your arrival in Mesquite keep one thing in mind – when you are not golfing, stay out of the Casino. Second thing you need to know, other than golf, the only thing to do in Mesquite is go to the Casino. It's a win-lose partnership.

By now you're only down about \$800 or maybe only \$750 if you won a little day money. Don't worry, I'm sure you will make it back tonight at blackjack. If not, they've got ATMs. By the way, that head ache and dry mouth – it's an inner ear problem from the airplane ride, you need balance. Crown and 7 is a proven natural homeopathic cure for inner ear problems. Your Medicare Supplemental insurance will cover it.

Day Two Highlights

Don't forget Rule 1 – stay out of the casino. Also, don't forget Rule 35 -- Get your college football bets in before we leave in the morning. Since you will need to follow Rule 1, give me your money and betting instructions. I will go in to the casino and make your bets...I promise. I am strong enough to avoid the other temptations. Today we travel to beautiful St. George, Utah a Saturday tradition. Why Saturday? Because you can't friggin' buy drinks on the golf course in Utah on Sunday damn it! A great drive to Coral Canyon and a great little golf course. Unfortunately, this will be the day before the Donnie and Marie tour stops at the St George Holiday Inn Express Lounge. Just our luck.

By now you're only down about \$1300 or maybe only \$1250 if you won a little day money. Don't worry, I'm sure you will make it back tonight at blackjack. If not, they've got ATMs. By the way, that head ache and dry mouth – it's desert related, stay hydrated. Crown and 7 is a proven natural homeopathic cure for dehydration. Your Medicare Supplemental insurance will cover it.

Day Three Highlights

I basically have no clue as this is uncharted territory. We've never had a day off before. I suggest you follow Rule 1 or alternatively stay up all night gambling as you can sleep in on Day Three. I think this is ham steak breakfast day. Rule 43 -- Don't miss the ham steak breakfast. Also, and this is totally unprecedented, if we go to the Eureka late enough Paul might actually get to experience the Buffet Experience. I got \$50 that says it will be closed for construction or health violations.

By now you're only down about \$2300 or maybe only \$2250 if you won a little day money. Don't worry, I'm sure you will make it back tonight at craps. If not, they've got ATMs. That pounding headache and dry mouth, it's no longer desert related. You must have sobered up. Crown and 7 is a proven natural homeopathic cure for soberness. Your Medicare Supplemental insurance will cover it.

Day Four Highlights

Ah, here we are the final day. It's always bittersweet, but this year we welcome Wolf Creek back in to the fold! What a great venue! The most frequently uttered phrases: "What the hell do I hit here?" "Where do I aim?" "Is that our guys on the next butte?" "Did anyone see where that went?" "Why are my hands shaking? Why does my head hurt so freaking much? Why can't I swallow? This Crown bottle was full this morning, what the hell happened?" Now we know what it must have felt like for the American's on Sunday at the 2012 Ryder Cup.

By now you're only down about \$3500 or maybe only \$3450 if you won a little day money. Don't worry, I'm sure you will make it back tonight at the slots. If not, they've got ATMs and there are slots at the airport. That pounding headache and dry mouth, it's no longer desert related and you are damn sure not sober. In fact, you should be used to it by now as it has become the new norm. You probably are also stunned that even though you are a 12 handicap you never broke 100. On the plane ride home you will come to realize that the only thing holding you back from great golf is a Lack Of Friggin' Talent. Crown and 7 is a proven natural homeopathic remedy for LOFT. Your Medicare Supplemental insurance will cover it.

Sadly, that is all until next year!