

# 2015 Silver Anniversary BST

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As the weather here in Houston starts to change from hot, humid and friggin' awful to hot, humid and friggin' miserable, I know that BST is just around the corner. Actually, I really don't know that because I have been living in Denver and the weather has been friggin' awesome, but I digress. Sadly this will be the last BST because Obama and Nancy Pelosi don't like it when people get together to play golf, drink and have fun. Harry Reid then sent a letter to the tournament organizer demanding to know where we get our funding. Naturally that scared off all of our fat cat sponsors leaving us with only the one's listed above. Somehow we must manage to "Keep Calm and BST On".

As many of you know, this is the Silver Anniversary of the BST. Please take a moment to thank the founding members for keeping this event alive for 25 years. You will recognize Tim and Bob as the guys with the walkers, canes and oxygen tanks arguing with the buffet lady about never receiving their \$5 breakfast comp back in 1991. The crumpled and yellowed coupon with no expiration date held tightly in their withered hands. Also, when you see them be sure to donate to the Bayles-Langley Campaign for 2016 Pres & VP of The Villages Condo Owners Association in Florida.

For a complete history of the BST, please refer to the **BST 2012 Primer**. To quote from that tome, "In the early years, the 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." As you will undoubtedly note on Day 1, 25 years on, things have changed.

Looks like we might have one 1<sup>st</sup> timer this year and a couple of two timers along with some folks making a return appearance after a few years recovering from previous trips. So, for those new, nearly new, or returning yet recovering BSTers, I offer, free of charge secrets to surviving BST. Please also see Appendix 3 for my Top Ten Tips for Better BST Golf.

This year we welcome ourselves back to two old favourites: Sand Hollow, Where the Beer is Lame and Oasis Palmer, Where No One Knows Where to Aim. Finally, we will wrap up at the Concord Course at The Severe in Henderson, Where by This Point You've Forgotten Your Name.

## Getting There

It occurs to me now after all these years that BST is a little like the song *A Horse With No Name*.

"... On the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the journey I was looking at all the life..."

Your BST journey will begin as you arrive at McCarron, an air of hope and possibility about you, all bright eyed, bushy tailed and full of life. You'll be thinking things like, "I can win this thing...I bet I can make a living gambling...I only need \$500 in seed money...I can shoot my handicap...one bottle of Crown is plenty..."

Within 24 hours you will realize that one bottle of Crown might get you through breakfast, \$500 won't get you to lunch, and you will never even sniff your handicap. The only way you are going to make a living here is as a valet attendant. You are basically out of it at this point and the tournament hasn't even officially started!

Take a deep breath, grab a few more snorts of O2 at the airport oxygen bar or in Tim and Bob's case a full canister. You got nothing to worry about; you will win a million dollars on DraftKings.com on the weekend.

Hopefully, most of you will make the smart play and fly in Wednesday night, stay at a decent hotel in Vegas then drive to Mesquite on Thursday. That way you can get in all your college football bets. Not as smart, but a perfectly acceptable play is to fly in Thursday morning and drive straight to Mesquite. Whatever you do, God forbid, do not fly in Wednesday, drive to Mesquite and stay an extra night there. Most of you know what I mean.

There is also a little utilized option known as "The Buckley". You stay each night in a nice Vegas hotel and drive to Mesquite and St. George for golf each day. The drive gives you a great chance to listen to educational programs, motivational books, or

golf instruction on CD. Buckley's favorite for the ride is "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish". Alternatively, you can use the trip as an opportunity to get fired up by listening to some great music. Buckley's favorite for the ride is "The Carpenters Greatest Hits". Might as well make the best of it, eh?

Every year I make a joke about that place on the east side if I-15 about half way between Vegas and Mesquite where you can get everything from carpet cleaners to Crown Royal. I promise not to do that this year. However, should you need your laundry done, a breakfast taco and a double Crown, an iPhone charger, some cigarettes, the complete Dr. Seuss book collection on CD, The Carpenters Greatest Hits CD, want to have a deer butchered and shoulder mounted, or you're just running low on 9 mm ammo, you should seriously consider stopping.

### BST Tournament Rules & Handicapping

USGA rules apply unless you are in my group. First and foremost, there will be no Suzann Pettersen controversy, as we will putt everything out. Generally, though you only need to do this if you are playing with Bayles and/or Langley. If you are in my group, we usually don't even bother putting in order to speed play.

Speaking of playing fast, the other key rule to note is the much discussed, oft maligned and always abused Desert Rule. The desert is played as a hazard whether marked or not; lateral if it's to the right or left. This means you **can not** ground your club and you **can not** pick up loose impediments (e.g., stuff like stones and branches and beer cans). If it's sand, it's desert, which means it's a hazard unless it's a bunker, which is also kind of like a hazard but without the colored markers (see Dustin Johnson e.g. 2010 PGA at Whistling Straights). This rule is designed to help you – honour it!

Regarding handicaps, if you have a GHIN you don't have anything to bitch about. If you do not have a GHIN, you will be assigned a handicap by the Tsar (traditional spelling preferred by this author). While you may feel the need to bitch about your assigned handicap, you really should just shut up then grab a double Crown and breakfast taco. If by some miracle you actually shoot your handicap, then you are not drinking enough, not gambling enough and taking it all too seriously. Stop it!

### Day Zero, Thursday 29 October: BST Buffet & Golf Academy, Las Vegas

Trust me, the last thing you want to do is spend your day (or night for that matter) in the casino. Like Bernie Sanders, their sole purpose is income redistribution. It's more pleasant than being robbed at gunpoint, but the result is the same. In an effort

to constantly improve the BST experience and keep you out of the casino we have created the Day Zero BST Buffet & Golf Academy. We will be offering several helpful programs including golf instruction as well as nutritional guidance to help you become the complete BST golfer.

BST success starts with a good breakfast. That's where the BST Breakfast Buffet Experience (formerly known as "The Valvo") comes in to play. It's not really a buffet in the traditional sense, because we only offer scotch, but there are three different vintages to choose from (see below). Besides, what else do you need really? Please note that the BST BBE will be also be offered each morning at the host course before the day's round (except in Hurricane, Mesquite and Henderson).



*Las Vegas: BST 2015 Breakfast Buffet Experience*

In addition, we are fortunate to have Martin Hull from the Golf Channel's *School of Golf* that will be offering a few tips to help you dial in that hosel shanked blade

runner “go to” shot. To get the most out of the drills you will need to pick up some supplies. Please bring the following: a garden hose, a railroad tie, one snowshoe, two floaties, a noodle, a hoodie, a flat billed cap, a pair of plus 4’s, a 1<sup>st</sup> basemen’s mitt, three yellow marshmallow chicks, two alignment sticks, a bottle of Crown, a hula hoop and a teddy bear. Don’t forget a mirror.

The 1<sup>st</sup> drill is as follows, please practice at home: Put the floaties on each arm while wearing the hoodie, the plus 4’s and the cap. Place an alignment stick behind each ear parallel to the ground, stuff all the marshmallow chicks in your mouth at once. Hand me the Crown then raise the railroad tie over your head with both hands channeling Louis Zamperini and keeping the alignment sticks parallel to the ground. If you drop the railroad tie, I keep the Crown. At this point it really doesn’t matter what you do with the rest of the stuff.

Alternatively, you can try the two training stations below.



*On the left – “The Orange Surfer” (as modeled by Republican Presidential hopeful Ted Cruz). You stand on a Bongo Board while using a long golf stick thingy to whip California Navel oranges at people on the driving range.*

*On the right – “Operation Mind Meld” (as modeled by Dave Fenton), which teaches you to play left handed using temple implants and subliminal messages delivered through disco music. Hit a bad shot and the gray prongs pierce your eardrums with a golf tee.*

As we all know, everyone is required to putt out. In an effort to improve your BST experience we will be offering a putting seminar (see below).



*BST 2015 Las Vegas Putting Seminar (3.4 CEUs)*

## Finding Your Way to the Course(s)

Not wanting to name names or anything, but in the past a few Okies had some trouble finding their way to the course. In an effort to improve your BST experience and aid the directionally challenged, the entrance to each of our golf courses will be attended and marked (see below).



*BST 2015 Course Greeters*

***Special Note: None of this is actually going to happen.***

## **Day One: Sand Hollow – Where the Beer is Lame**

“...there were plants and birds and rocks and things, there was sand and hills and rings ...”

Here's how it's going to play out – trust me. Before you reach Mesquite, you will be down \$500. Most likely you lost it at the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza & Casino. It doesn't matter really. What does matter is that on your 1<sup>st</sup> night, desperate to win back that \$500 you will stay up all night gambling and be down \$1000 by sunrise. Don't worry you can make it up on DraftKings.com on the weekend. At this point what you need is a double crown, a breakfast taco, a little shuteye and an afternoon round of golf to stretch the old back out.

So, I think I speak for everyone when I ask: Why in the name of God are we leaving at 715 AM on Day Friggin' One??!! Or is it Day 2? But, wait, if you never went to sleep is it still Day Zero? If it's Day Zero then you must still be thinking “I can win this thing...I can make a living gambling...I only need \$500 in seed money...I can shoot my handicap...one bottle of Crown is plenty...” Tell that little voice in your head to shut up then grab another double Crown and breakfast taco.

Sand Hollow is where we do the putting contest and the group photo. Every year I beg Tim to do it after the round. Every year he tells me to shut up and grab a double Crown and a breakfast taco (see <http://captiongenerator.com/54211/BST-Silver-Anniversary> as an example of what it's like in our BST organizational meetings).

***Special Note to Test if You are Really Reading This: Let's make this the most memorable BST Group Photo of all time. No kahaki's, no whites, no blues, no browns; I know this will challenge most of you but everyone where the brightest and loudest golf attire you got!***

Suggest you grab some breakfast tacos and a double crown and get on with the drive. By the way, the drive through the Virgin River Canyon really is awesome and has some great geology. Enjoy it. As a trained, licensed professional geo-scientist I am uniquely qualified to provide high quality analysis of the roadside geology and will do so for those in my van. For the rest of you please note, the rocks you see out your window range in age from recent to really old where the black stuff is lava the rest is quartz. Bet you guys wish you studied geology more.

I'm not saying it's a long drive or that it's in the middle of the desert or anything like that. But, once you reach mile marker 11,437.6 take the next exit. The course is another 115.4 miles west. You will need to stop at the Check Point Bravo and Register (see below).



*BST 2015 Hurricane, UT Check Point Bravo BST Registration and Special Tee Gift.*

I almost forgot the golf. Sand Hollow (see below) is the easiest course we will play as you can see from the photo below taken from the forward tees.



*Sand Hollow -- Note the stuff that's not grass is desert. Pro Tip: Don't go left*

## Day Two: The Oasis Palmer – Where No One Know Where to Aim

“...after two days in the desert sun, my skin began to turn red...”

You'll know its Day 2 by the pain in your head and the fur on your teeth. Then again that could just be the ham steak you had for breakfast. But wait, if you never went to sleep, is it really breakfast? Is it really Day 2? At this point it's hard to tell. One sure fire way to know which day you are on is to use the ancient Paiute calendar (you can pick one up at the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza & Casino). Each half day is measured in \$500 loss increments. If you are only down \$1000 then it's the start of Day 2. Don't worry you can make it up on DraftKings.com on the weekend.

There's also the odd chance that you are a bit hung-over. But wait, if you've never stopped drinking are you really hung-over or maybe just a little dehydrated? At this point it's hard to tell. One sure fire way to cure hangover is to use the ancient Paiute Medicine Man hangover cure: Grab some breakfast tacos and a double Crown (you can pick up a Paiute Medicine Man Guide at the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza & Casino). Please note: It is acceptable to substitute double bloodies if you need some veggies in your diet. Listen to your body, it will tell you what it needs.

Of course at this point, you are probably wondering what happened to your golf game. Don't worry, there's still hope (not really, but I hate to bring you down this early in the trip). The good news is you are in the top 24, focus on that.

Never let it be said that the BST organizers don't care about your golfing success. On this day we will be offering another putting seminar this time put on by the Mesquite Women's Golf Association (see below). Please note: You ain't in Vegas anymore, Toto.



BST 2015 Mesquite, NV Mesquite WGA Putting Clinic

Oh yeah almost forgot about the golf course. The 1<sup>st</sup> couple of holes at Oasis Palmer will lull you into a false sense of comfort. You can actually see where to hit your drive on the 1<sup>st</sup> two holes. Maybe even a bit on #3. Don't get used to it, the rest of the course is all blind shots. You'll see what I mean on #4, just kidding actually you won't see a damn thing from the tee box on #4. Then you will reach the 5<sup>th</sup> tee box (or is it 7?) when you will realize that the 1<sup>st</sup> two letters in BST are BS for a reason (see below).



*Oasis Palmer Hole #5 (or is it hole #7). Pro Tip: Take a long iron and don't go left.*

The great news is tonight we head back to Vegas for Halloween on Fremont Street. Here's a picture from last year that pretty much sums it up (see below).



*BST 2014: Fremont Street Experience on Halloween. We blacked out the face of the guy in the OU shirt to protect his identity! Good thing none of our guys where OU crap.*

## Day 3: The Concord Course at The Revere – Where by Now You've Forgotten Your Name

"...in the desert you can't remember your name..." (So I modified the lyrics a little bit – sue me! You know you're feeling it.).

"...after three days in the desert fun..."

- Massive Headache – **Check**
- Blurred Vision – **Check**
- Empty Wallet – **Check**
- Only 40 Strokes out of the lead – **Check**
- Thinking you can still win BST today and use your winnings as seed money to win back your bankroll at the casino tonight – **Delusional**

How do you know it's Day 3? Because you are down \$2500 and according to the Paiute Calendar that would put you right in the middle of Day 3. Unless you are down \$5000, then it's Day# 5 and you've missed your return flight. You really don't give a crap at this point because your head hurts so bad just want to crawl up into a ball and go to sleep. Besides don't worry you can make up your losses on DraftKings.com when you get home.

The final round is just a wee bit south of Vegas at The Severe in Henderson. Many of you probably don't realize that The Severe clubhouse is built on an ancient Paiute burial ground (see picture below for proof) bringing a bunch of bad voodoo. The best thing to do to shake the bad voodoo is to use the ancient Paiute voodoo cure: Stand in the clubhouse, take in the great view of the Vegas skyline then grab some breakfast tacos and a double Crown (you can pick up a Paiute Voodoo Guide at the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza & Casino).



*Proof of Ancient Paiute Burial Site at The Severe clubhouse location.*

## Greatest Golfers in BST History

Now that we've got all that out of the way, let's linger in the past a bit. On the occasion of this important Silver Anniversary, let's take some time to honour and acknowledge the outstanding golf performances in BST history. It should only take a few seconds.

The written record only goes back to 2005, as the pre-2005 records were lost in the Great BST Server Clean Sweep of 2004. I'm not saying I had anything to do with the server sweep, but I did start playing the event in 2005. The previous years really don't count anyway as they didn't have the high level of competition that the last ten years had. So many of you have shared with me how much you appreciated that I took BST to another level, raised the bar if you will or perhaps sat at the bar. Some have insisted on calling it Needham's Tournament (you know, like Jack's tournament or Tiger's tournament) or the Needham Desert Classic (you know, like the Bob Hope Desert Classic), but I'm much too humble and modest for that. It will always be BST!

But, before we get to the golf, I thought it would be worth listing out the top ten non golf items that make or made BST great. Sorry if I left off your favorites, but hey I make the list. Here they are in no particular order:

12. Crown
11. Ham Steak Breakfast
10. 6 egg omelet breakfast
9. Batista's
8. The cart girl at Coyote Springs, God bless her.
7. Dude, Where's my bag – Valvo Edition
6. Dude, Where's your bag – Watson Edition
5. 24 guys with the shakes walking in to the bar at The Ledges in Utah on Sunday needing a little hair of the dog
4. 24 guys walking out of the bar at The Ledges in Utah on Sunday looking like they just watched Saw III after being told that they don't serve alcohol on Sunday
3. What's Up Rudolph?
2. The Night of Amazing Bob
1. The Fremont Street Experience
0. Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza & Casino
- 1. Crown

Now, for a compilation of the greatest performances in BST history<sup>1</sup>, but first a few notables. The lowest net three round score in BST history goes to Jimmy "Sandbag"

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<sup>1</sup> In the Needham ERA 2005-2014

McKinzie at 210. The highest winning net score goes to Grant "I Always Shoot 85 or Better" Larson at 221 (note: it was really windy on Day 3). The largest margin of victory was in 2010 when Rick "Front Runner" McFarland won with a score of 211 beating Jim "Distant Second" Gaines by 12. Six of the ten tournaments were decided by 1 stroke!

## Now, here are the greatest golfers in BST history<sup>2</sup>:

### BST Wall of Champions<sup>3</sup>



Year	Winner	Score
2005	D. Needham	215
2006	T. Bayles	214
2007	A. Kucharski	218
2008	D. Fenton	216
2009	T. Moore	216
2010	R. McFarland	211
2011	L. Smith	220
2012	J. McKinzie	210
2013	R. Wheatley	212
2014	G. Larson	221

*Note: No repeat winners and two 1<sup>st</sup> timer winners.*

<sup>2</sup> In the Needham ERA 2005-2014

<sup>3</sup> In the Needham ERA 2005-2014

## BST Top Money Winners<sup>4</sup>



R. McFarland	\$1373	F. Carriere	\$795
D. Needham	\$1095	J. McKinzie	\$690
E. Elliott	\$1059	D. Fenton	\$645
T. Bayles	\$999	L. Smith	\$537
R. Wheatley	\$840	E. Larson	\$529

*Note: As an accountant and a damn good one at that, Bayles realizes that he has to pay taxes on any winnings over \$999. That's why this year he has graciously decided to donate all of his winnings to our charity: MSPSTD*

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<sup>4</sup> In the Needham Era 2005 - 2014

## BST Low Rounds -- Net<sup>5</sup>



62 R. McFarland Coral Canyon, 2012

L. Smith Conestoga, 2011

C. Hauser Palmer, 2007

D. Baird Concord, 2013

63 S. Sampson Palmer, 2007

64 D. Needham Palmer, 2008

D. Rosas Palmer, 2009

R. McFarland Concord, 2013

*Note: Everyone that shot net 63 or better is a sand bagging SOB!*

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<sup>5</sup> In The Needham Era 2005-2014

## BST Low Rounds -- Gross<sup>6</sup>



71 B. Klein

Sand Hollow, 2008

74 E. Elliott

Falcon Ridge, 2005

75 R. McFarland

Coral Canyon, 2012

D. Needham

Oasis Palmer, 2008

77 E. Elliott

Oasis Palmer, 2006

B. Klein

Oasis Palmer, 2008

R. McFarland

Coral Canyon, 2010

R. McFarland

Concord, 2013

*Note: I'm damn glad Ed and Brooks don't make it anymore!*

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<sup>6</sup> In the Needham Era 2005-2014

## Conclusion

Looking forward to this year's Silver Anniversary celebration, spending time with old friends and making new ones. Special shout out to our Big Toes (e.g., Sgt. Hulk) the founders and guys that made it happen over the years: Tim Bayles, Bob Langley and John Graves. This is without a doubt the best run, best organized and most funnest golf tournament of the year. Who in the hell would've ever thought to put a golf course in the middle of the desert anyway?

“...I been through the desert on a horse with no name, it felt good to be out of the rain...”



***See Y'all in The Desert!***

## Appendix 3: Ten Tips for Better BST Golf

Because I like you guys, I will offer up my ten best tips to better golf at BST.

1. Linger in the past. Forget that stay in the present crap. If you just took 3 quads in a row why should you put that out of your mind? Mull it over, cuss yourself. Throw a club! As you tee up your next shot and ready yourself to hit, keep thinking, "Don't take another quad".
2. Be indecisive. Or should it be decisive? I'm not sure. Should I take a shot of Crown or did I already have one? As you approach that 175 yd downhill par 3 with a 100 yd elevation drop and a green surrounded by rocks and water, understand that you do not have the right club. No one can club it right. Step forward and swing like a man with no confidence.
3. Get ahead of yourself. Always be thinking about your total score and where you stand in the tournament. Staying in the moment is for mental wussies. BST winners think like this -- "It's only the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole, but if I can par the rest of the way out I can finish 4 over." Besides after Day One you'll be out of it anyway, then you can kick back and enjoy it.
4. Plan out the entire round. Let's see, if I start out with two double bloodies I should be fine as long as I see the cart girl by the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee box. And again on odd holes on the front and even holes on the back. This leads me to the next point.
5. Learn the course. You may want to pay a few extra \$\$ to get the course map. I'm not talking about the one with hole layouts and yardages, that's boring. You don't know how far you hit any of your clubs anyway. Get the one that shows where the concessions are and has the route and timing for every beverage cart. You have to know these things.
6. Be a resource for your competitors. Golf is a gentlemen's game afterall and these desert courses are challenging. Be sure to offer advice, especially to the newbies. "You've probably never played a desert course before. I know that looks downhill, but that's a desert illusion. You really need to take two extra clubs." On blind shots, it's probably best not to mention to them where the trouble is. It will only make them uptight.
7. Don't bother warming up. Has it ever done any good? Think about it. Have you ever looked back on a round and said, "I'm damn glad I warmed up!" Seriously. The best thing you can do is grab a couple breakfast tacos and a

few double bloodies. No one has ever looked back on a round and said, "Son of a bitch. Wish I didn't drink during that round." See what I'm talking about.

8. Pick a target. This is really important. Pick a target that is not trouble. A lot of golfers screw this up by picking a safe place to hit. That's completely wrong. You are much better off thinking about what to avoid. Stand behind the ball and notice all the trouble. Forced carry, desert right, desert left, thick rough, narrow fairway, no cart girl. If you put nothing but negative thoughts in your head it will leave room for a positive result. It's a Zen thing, universal balance and crap like that.
9. Visualize your shot and develop a strategy. This is really important. Take a look at the hole, does this set up for a butter cut or a soft high draw? What yardage do you want for your approach? If you are thinking along those lines you got lost and entered the wrong tournament. What you really need to visualize is "Where will my ball go when I smack this drive off that boulder in the desert? When I pull hook into the canyon, I should be able to blade the next one back into play."
10. Swing thoughts. This is really important. Suggest you stick to half a dozen or so. That will free you up to swing unconsciously. Or is it subconsciously? Doesn't matter you will be unconscious most of the time anyway. Here are a few of my favorite swing thoughts. Please feel free to use all of them or choose your favorites. They do work best in the order listed.
  - a. Take a strong grip
  - b. Don't fall over
  - c. Yank the club back forcefully
  - d. Why didn't I split those 8's?
  - e. I feel like I'm going to pass out
  - f. Why did I drink all that Crown?
  - g. Am I aimed right?
  - h. Where's the cart girl?
  - i. I wonder where this ball is going to go?
  - j. Crap do I have enough golf balls to finish the round?
  - k. Yank the club down forcefully

After you've hit, look up and say, "Anybody see where my ball went?"