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Georgia's Tim Weinhart Eager to Defend Title as Southern CPC Makes Debut at Currahee Club

Tim Weinhart of Buford, Ga., will only have to travel some 90 minutes to defend his title in the Southern PGA Club Professional Championship. That's an advantage that most players would welcome when it comes to acclimating themselves to Currahee Club of Toccoa, Ga., site of one of the four fall Regional PGA Club Professional Championships.

The more course knowledge the better, considering the unique Jim Fazio-designed course, which will host PGA Professionals from 11 Sections and 15 states, Oct. 14-17. The low 32 scorers will earn a berth in the 38th PGA Club Professional Championship, June 23-26, 2005, at The Ocean Course in Kiawah Island, S.C.

The northeastern Georgia layout with its breathtaking vistas that lies some 90 minutes north of Atlanta, opened for play in July 2003, and already has been drawing praise from players throughout the country. But, one needs to play it often in preparation for a championship.

Currahee Club, named after the Cherokee words for "stand alone," is the first site in Georgia to host the Southern CPC.

The par-71 Jim Fazio designed course will play at 7,251 yards for the Southern CPC, though it can be stretched to 7,513. Currahee Club is situated on 1,150 acres with views of Lake Hartwell, Tugaloo River and the Blue Ridge Mountains from nearly every hole. Players also will be able to view North Carolina and South Carolina while standing in Georgia.

Though Currahee Club's pair of 600-plus yard par-5 holes will catch a player's attention, it is the course's par-3s that form a true knockout punch. The 17th hole, a par-3 that can be extended to 251 yards is a signature hole of another dimension. A player must carry a tee shot over a granite quarry with a waterfall on the right side of the green. The Southern CPC field will compete from 213 yards.

"I've played the hole from the back tee and it's all you want for any level of play," said Weinhart. "We won't be playing it from back there, but many go back there to say they did."

"I've played the course twice and I feel it's a pretty good course, a good driving golf course," said Weinhart, a PGA Assistant Professional at River Pines Golf Club in Alpharetta, Ga. "There is a lot of elevation change and you have to get adjusted to it, along with the hills and the foothills. You can tell there's some influence in the design from Jim Fazio's brother, Tom. There are better approach angles to the greens, and you have to respect that to be on the proper side of the green to score."

It was a disappointing CPC last June for Weinhart, who missed earning a berth in the 86th PGA

Championship at Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wis. by one stroke.

He bounced back to form by winning the Georgia State Open and earning his third consecutive Georgia PGA Player of the Year Award.

He will be an even busier contestant this month. Two days after the Southern CPC, Weinhart will make his ninth attempt to earn a berth on the PGA Tour. He will compete in the PGA Tour Qualifying School, Oct. 19-22, in Athens, Ga.

"I'm going to give it another try, and hope that this time things will work out," said Weinhart.

The Southern CPC, is run concurrently with the Western PGA Club Professional Championship, which is hosted by The Legends West Course at Diablo Grande Resort in Patterson, Calif.

Each championships features a total purse of \$150,000, and is presented by Titleist, FootJoy and Cobra; Buick, Club Car, and Amstel Light and Buckler.

The Greg Norman Collection is the Official Apparel sponsor of the CPC.

The PGA of America, founded in 1916, is a not-for-profit organization that promotes the game of golf while continuing to enhance the standards of the profession. The Association is comprised of more than 28,000 men and women PGA Professionals who are dedicated to growing participation in the game of golf.

2004 Regional PGA Club Professional Championships

Sept. 28 - Oct. 1: Northern PGA Club Professional Championship, Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids, Minn.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 3: Eastern PGA Club Professional Championship, Atunyote Golf Club, Verona, N.Y.

Oct. 14-17: Southern PGA Club Professional Championship, Currahee Golf Club, Toccoa, Ga.

Oct. 14-17: Western PGA Club Professional Championship, Diablo Grande Resort, (Legends West), Patterson, Calif.