

# COURSE BLOGS 2009

## End of Season Summary

### **Carl Koenig**

I've played most of the courses on our list this year, and a few that were not. Here are my recommendations:

#### REMOVE

1. Kingsway: It is simply not worth the drive.
2. Oakford, Serenoa: No one took the time to play or comment about these courses.
3. Venetian: They do not reciprocate. For example, they will not give us early tee times even though we call in the allotted time frame when they have open time slots.

#### ADD

1. Venice G&CC: They play in our Champions Tournament and Rosedale is the only Champions club that does not have reciprocals with them. Also it is a really really good course.
2. Isla Del Sol Yacht & CC, Pasadena Yacht & CC: They are very nice courses and to our north; we have a shortage of northern courses.
3. Sara Bay CC: A reasonable course that is close to Rosedale (6.5 miles).

#### PROCEDURES

1. Eliminate requiring our Pros to call for us to make tee times; we should be able to make our own tee times. Those with a Big Summer card can make their own tee times. What is the logic in giving non-club members a privilege that paying club members do not have?
2. Courses that limit play, such as The Venetian, should be required to state their tee time policy (like no tee times before 10:30am) so that we can add their policy to our reciprocal information sheet.
3. For symmetry I'm sure there is a third but I can't think of it right now.

Those are my opinions and I'm sticking with 'em.

Bent Tree 371-8200

7 days members may call \$20 Inclusive; Guest: \$29 + tax must present membership card

**Carl Koenig**

Played today; about a C+. I'd try other reciprocals first.  
Sunday, June 14, 2009 - 08:23 PM

Bobcat Trail 941-429-0500

3 days staff must call \$25 + tax; Guest: \$30 + tax

**Carl Koenig**

I played today. The fairways are terrific, the best I've played this summer. However, the greens were punched and sanded Wed. I'd wait two weeks but this course is a must-play!  
Friday, June 19, 2009 - 02:32 PM

Boca Royal 941-474-7475

4 days members may call \$22 Inclusive; Guest: \$25 Inclusive  
Aerification: 5/6, 6/10, 7/22, 9/23

**Carl Koenig**

An interesting course. The longest tees are about 6200. Playing the whites makes it a fun course with lots of interesting holes. It advertises itself as "the best kept secret in Florida." It's worth the trip.  
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:12 PM

Club Renaissance 813-642-9192

3 days staff must call \$25 + tax; Guest: \$35 + tax Aerification: 4/27, 7/8, 9/9

**Carl Koenig**

Played today and the course is in good condition. While they do not have a driving range they give you three free balls (Titleist DTs). We played in 3hr45min

and found 11 balls. So it was a productive round, from a golf ball point of view.  
Wednesday, August 12, 2009 - 05:29 PM

Heritage Oaks 926-7600

4 days members may call

**Carl Koenig**

This course is always in good condition and a pleasure to play.  
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:09 PM

Heron Creek 941-423-6955

4 days members may call      \$25 Inclusive; Guest: \$42 Inclusive

**Carl Koenig**

This course is always in top-notch condition. And the practice facility is first class. I will play it at least once each month. In my opinion this is one of our best reciprocals.  
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:14 PM

**Carl Koenig**

Played again yesterday and it is a really first rate facility.  
Thursday, July 9, 2009 - 09:31 AM

IMG Academies at El Conquistador 758-1464

2 days members may call      \$25 + tax; Guest: \$50 + tax

**M Matthews**

We Played this course on Monday June 8. The greens had been areated the week before and were really bad. They didn't use enough sand and all the rolls were bumpy. Other than the greens, the course was in good shape.  
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 - 04:45 PM

**Stan Flaming**

I played on thursday June 18, 2009. The course was in great condition except for the bumpy and very fast greens. Somewhat like Rosedale now.  
Good course where Paula Creamer and others learned their game.  
I played the "4" tees which were 5800 yards. Others go back to the high 6000s.

Almost had my first hole in one. Left it 4" short on hole 8.

Friday, June 19, 2009 - 01:19 PM

### **Jim Symons**

The Champions Interclub was played here on September 4, 2009. Of the 75 players from all of the Champions Interclub clubs, only 21 made their quota, so the course played very difficult. The greens were in good condition, but the fairways had recently been severely cut and the grass was just beginning to recover. The lies in the fairway were very tight.

Monday, September 7, 2009 - 08:45 AM

### **Imperial Lakewoods 747-4653**

7 days staff must call      \$25 + tax; Guest: \$30 + tax    Cash, Visa or M/C

### **Ron Boehm**

Played this course on Wednesday, June 3 to avoid the Rosedale aerification. A nice course without a lot of trouble lurking. Greens on the back nine were a little thin with bad spots but overall the course was in fine shape. Service folks are friendly. Stay away from the fried food at lunch and go with the chicken salad -- not the Buffalo chicken. A nice total experience for only \$25. Pace of play was OK but not for the singles who were behind us. We didn't let them through because it was backed up with the regulars in foursomes.

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 - 04:07 PM

### **Carl Koenig**

Played today. The course is in ok condition. Ron is correct, there is plenty of driving room. While it is only 12 miles north playing it once is enough.

Friday, July 17, 2009 - 04:54 PM

### **Jacaranda West 941-493-2664**

2 days members may call    \$25 Inclusive; Guest: \$35 + tax    Ends Oct 15  
Closed: Wed July-Sep

### **Carl Koenig**

An older Florida course with lots of driving room. The greens are always "perfect". We make sure that we play it three or four times each season.

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:18 PM

**Carl Koenig**

Played course June 6th; excellent greens. The course is in very good shape, too.  
Saturday, June 27, 2009 - 12:09 PM

**Carl Koenig**

Played yesterday. The greens are in excellent condition. Overall, a very good play.  
Monday, August 10, 2009 - 11:23 PM

Kingsway (Lake Suzy) 941-625-8898

4 days staff must call \$25 = tax; Guest: \$40 + tax Closed Mon  
Aerification: 7/7-8, 9/14-15

**Carl Koenig**

Probably not worth the trip.  
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:22 PM

Lemon Bay 941-697-3729

7 days staff must call \$27 + tax; Guest: \$35 + tax Aerification: 6/15,  
8/3-10

**Carl Koenig**

When you pay ask about their lunch deal; if you pay for lunch as part of your round they give you a pretty good deal. This is a scenic course with holes running along the inter-coastal water way. It's worth the trip at least once each summer; take bug repellent.  
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:21 PM

**Carl Koenig**

I played this course today and my prior comments apply.  
Sunday, July 12, 2009 - 04:51 PM

Meadows, The 378-5153

2 days staff must call \$23 + tax; Guest: \$35 + tax

**Carl Koenig**

I played the Meadows course today. Outstanding! Best greens I've seen this

year. While I am not fond of having one par 3 on the front side and three on the back, this is a course worth playing; more than once.

Friday, July 3, 2009 - 06:26 PM

### **Stan Flaming**

The Meadows has two courses. I played the one I think was called the Highlands on Friday, July 24, 2009. The course was wide open and in great shape. The greens were fast but true. I want to go back and also play the other course. A great experience.

Tuesday, July 28, 2009 - 11:24 AM

### **Carl Koenig**

Yesterday I played the Highlands. It is a very good course, certainly worth playing, but I think the Meadows is a better course.

Saturday, October 10, 2009 - 03:33 PM Mission Valley 941-488-7747

### Mission Valley 941-488-7747

2 days staff must call \$25 + tax/cart; Guest: \$50 + tax/cart Monday:  
8:30 shotgun only

Aerification: 7/20, 9/14 Visa, M/C, AE (no cash)

### **Carl Koenig**

This course is about 20 miles from Rosedale; an easy drive. It was built in '67 and is in pretty good shape. They have the best arrangement for ice/water on the course. Also, a free beer/wine with each round. I like the layout and it can be easily walked.

Friday, August 14, 2009 - 01:46 PM

### Misty Creek 921-5258

2 days members may call \$25 + tax; Guest: \$46 + tax Inclusive  
(Unlimited, includes cart)

Aerification: 6/3-4, 7/29-30, 9/23-24 Closed Thursdays June-Oct

### **Carl Koenig**

I played the course today and everything is very good except the greens; they were recently punched and sanded. However, they are very close to good. I'd wait until after June 15th; then this is a recommended course, especially from the

6K White tees.

Friday, June 12, 2009 - 02:26 PM

Myakka Pines (Englewood) 941-474-1753 x1

3 days staff must call      \$25 Inclusive; Guest: \$30 Inclusive

**Carl Koenig**

With 27 holes (named Red, White and Blue) this older Florida course is worth the drive. Several interesting holes and the people were nice, too. I'll go back at least once more this summer.

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 10:12 PM

Oakford 371-3680

No Comments

Palm Aire 355-9738

2 days members may call      \$25 + tax; Guest: \$48 + tax      Must show membership card

Lakes closed May-Sept      Visa, M/C or Cash

**Ron Boehm**

Played Wednesday, June 17 with a shotgun start at 8:30. W-I-D-E fairways and fairly short from the white tees. I don't know how it has a 123 rating with Rosedale at 118. Never in trouble and used the same ball and scored 8 strokes less than my average at Rosedale.

Course in is good shape and the greens are excellent. Bunkers are consistent. Well raked. Since this is a private course there is zero signage about where #1 and #10 start but the folks are helpful when you ask. Finding #15 for the shotgun start was a bit of an adventure.

There is a buffet on Wednesdays for eight bucks but we just opted for the free beer that comes with the reciprocal. Range balls are also part of the deal. Its an older course with members who have been around for more than a while. So if you want to feel young and have an outing with zero frustrations, try Palm Aire.  
Wednesday, June 17, 2009 - 04:02 PM

### **Carl Koeig**

Played the Champions course on Wed, July 29th. The course is in good shape and they give you a free beer or wine after your round. What more could a golfer want?

Saturday, August 1, 2009 - 10:20 PM

### **Pelican Pointe 496-4653 x221**

4 days staff must call \$22+ tax; Guest: am \$27 + tax, pm \$22 + tax

Range Balls \$4

Aerification: 7/17-18, 9/20-21

### **Carl Koenig**

I played the course today. They verticut the greens two weeks ago. I'd wait one more week to play. Otherwise, it was a good experience.

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 - 01:59 PM

### **H. Ellfeldt**

We played with three other couples on June 7. Good service, nice range and an enjoyable course other than the verticut greens. Another week is a must.

Thursday, June 11, 2009 - 10:01 AM

### **Plantation 493-2000**

2 days members may call \$25 + tax; Guest: \$50 + tax Credit Cards Only

### **Ron Boehm**

Played Panther's Claw at Plantation with 7 other Rosedale members. All agreed that the course was in great shape. There are a number of holes that require a little course knowledge to play correctly -- especially some short par fours with extreme doglegs. Greens were in great shape and VERY small. Don't worry about the pin placements -- just go for the center of the green. Food was excellent and the \$25 fee also includes a free beer or soda so keep your receipt. The other course was closed due to aeration and supposedly it is even nicer. Worth the ride to Venice.

Thursday, July 30, 2009 - 09:07 AM

### **Carl Koenig**

Played the Panther today. I agree with Ron's comments. Also, the practice facility is first rate. I hope to play their other course, the Bobcat, before the season ends; locals say it is a bit easier than the Panther even though it is rated a bit harder.

Panther (128/69.9 from white tees)  
Bobcat (130/70.6 from white tees  
Wednesday, September 23, 2009 - 08:54 PM

### **Stan Flaming**

Played one of the Plantation Courses on 9/24/09. This is a great older course with a lot of character. The LPGA has an office there and conducts sectional qualifying at the course from time to time. The greens were true and fair and the fairways were in great shape. It has a nice layout.  
Friday, September 25, 2009 - 05:25 PM

### Preserve at Tara 756-2944

7 days members may call      \$21 + tax; Guest: TBA      Aerification:  
6/9, 10/6

### **Ron Boehm**

To attract customers Tara Preserve now has a \$1 a hole rate on Mondays. They also provide draft beers and hot dogs for a buck each. We took the bait and played on June 15.

However the greens were aerated on June 9 so it was like playing Rosedale a week ago. Just one person behind the bar so service was spotty. Course was in decent shape except for the greens. At least McAnlis designed in some real fairways. A few 100 yard carries over environmental areas make it interesting. Use the diagrams on the nice score card to stay out of trouble.  
Monday, June 15, 2009 - 04:40 PM

### River Club 751-4211

7 days staff must call      \$26 + tax; Guest: \$34 before noon, \$29 after  
noon  
Aerification: 6/9, 7/27, 9/14

### **Paul Ficarro**

We played the course one week after their greens were aerated and they only charged us cart fees of \$19, instead of the \$26 reciprocal fee. The carts already had "Sky Caddie-type" GPS units mounted in them at no extra charge. The greens were remarkably smooth despite the recent aeration. The front nine was more interesting than the back nine, but, all-in-all, it was a good experience and good value for the money.

Tuesday, June 16, 2009 - 10:46 AM

### **Carl Koenig**

Played yesterday. While I made a good score it wasn't worth the drive. Sorry, River Club.

Thursday, October 22, 2009 - 11:05 PM

### **River Strand at HH 708-3617**

7 days staff must call \$25 + tax; Guest: \$39 + tax before noon, \$29 + tax afternoon

No Denim, with collars and sleeves Cash, Visa, M/C or AE

### **Ron Boehm**

Played this recently. Nice shape but the greens are elevated -- no rolling on to the green if you slightly mishit a shot. There are lots of undulations on the greens. Don't assume a two putt is easy. Bunkers throughout the course with many in the fairway. Not as tight as Rosedale but you have to pick your target carefully. Overall a positive experience.

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 - 04:11 PM

### **Carl Koenig**

Today we played Interclub at this course. The greens have recovered from punching (almost) and the fairways are in good shape. The length of the three 9s varies so one side plays a lot shorter than the other. The course designer gives you plenty of driving room but then hides the greens. FYI: The Tributary and Estuary are the original nines and the Sanctuary is the new nine.

Thursday, June 18, 2009 - 11:35 PM

### **Stan Flaming**

Played RiverStrand on Friday, July 10th. Had heavy rains the days before but it still wasn't cartpaths except for one hole. Course was in great condition. A little

long from the white tees but still enjoyable. Greens were a little fast but fair. we played the Sanctuary and Estuary nine hole courses.  
Saturday, July 11, 2009 - 02:36 PM

River Wilderness 776-2602

2 days staff must call \$25 + tax; Guest: \$50 + tax Closed Mondays

**Carl Koenig**

In my opinion this is the best course on our reciprocal list. Need I say more?  
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:35 PM

Riverwood (Port Charlotte) 941-764-6661 x221

4 days staff must call 8am-4pm \$27 + tax; Guest: \$30 + tax Closed  
Tuesdays Jun-Sept  
Collared shirts, No Denim or Cut Offs

**Carl Koenig**

This is the first time I've played this course in three years. The greens are fast and the course is in great shape; much better than I remembered. Overall it is in much better condition than Rosedale. Balls are included and the practice facilities are first class. It is well worth the drive (about 48 minutes).  
Sunday, October 4, 2009 - 03:07 PM

Serenoa 925-2755

No Comments

Stoneybrook CC 941-966-1800

2 days staff must call \$25 + tax; Guest: \$35 + tax Closed Tuesdays  
Aerification: 6/1-2, 7/20-21, 8/31-9/1

**Carl Koenig**

I really enjoy this course. Excellent layout and always in excellent condition. It drains quickly so it is a good choice after a heavy rain if you want to try to avoid "cart path only". Good people, too.  
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:38 PM

**Ron Boehm**

I like this course. Play from the Golds to have the same distance as Rosedale whites tees. A lot of wide fairways with enough trouble that you do have to be a bit careful -- especially on the second shots. It is a nice layout but the bunkers on 7/19/09 were in tough shape. They aerified on 7/20 so I would recommend waiting for a few weeks to play.

Monday, July 20, 2009 - 03:01 PM

### **Carl Koenig**

I played this course again today. The greens are getting into top notch shape from their 9/1 aerification. The rest of the course is in excellent condition. The practice facility is first rate with balls included. All carts are new and come with towels. We finished in 3hr 20min. It is only about a 20 minute drive and I highly recommend it.

Sunday, September 20, 2009 - 09:33 PM

### **Stoneybrook at HH 746-2696**

7 days members may call M-F \$19 + tax, Sat-Sun \$24 + tax; Guest: M-F \$29 + tax

### **Carl Koenig**

I just don't like this course. It is too long from the white tees and I can't bring myself to play from the green tees. I think it is a good course but just doesn't fit my game. OK, so its me, not the course. Anyhow, the food service is very good.

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 09:40 PM

### **TPC at Prestancia 924-1331**

2 days staff must call \$23 + tax; Guest: \$73.50 + tax Closed

Mondays

Aerification: 7/21-22, Stadium 6/2-3, 8/18-19

### **Carl Koenig**

Played the Stadium course yesterday. This is a first class operation: practice facility, towels (cool towels on the course), etc. The course is in excellent shape with wide fairways. The White tees are 6032 yds. and offer a very enjoyable playing experience. The top spot on my reciprocal course list is getting crowded.

Thursday, July 16, 2009 - 09:33 PM

### **Stan Flaming**

Played the white tees today, Friday July 31, 2009. About 6000 yards. A great course which is wide fairways and fast true greens. The many flowers and trees added to the beauty. If I had an extra two million or so I might buy one of their large houses. Anyway, it's a great value. The guys in the pro shop know Mike Clayton and treated us well.

Friday, July 31, 2009 - 06:20 PM

### Twin Isles 941-637-1232 x3

2 days staff must call     \$25 + tax; Guest: \$30 + tax     Closed  
Mondays                      No Cash

### **Carl Koenig**

Played this course today. It has a good practice range, a nice layout and very wide fairways. While I enjoyed the course it is not worth the drive. It is worth playing only if you happen to be in the area for other purposes, like visiting friends.

Sunday, July 19, 2009 - 03:45 PM

### University Park 359-9999 x1

3 days members may call     \$25 + tax; Guest: \$35 + tax     Aerification:  
6/22-23, 8/10-12, 9/28-30

### **Ron Boehm**

I played holes 19-27 and 1-9 with some Rosedale friends last Monday -- which were the holes that were open on June 8. Course was in great shape and greens were especially nice. Great wide fairways are a change from Rosedale. The meal selection on Monday is only a buffet so that was a bit of a disappointment. Had a hot dog and beer sitting outside under the fans but we wanted some A/C. Make sure you program your SkyCaddie for all 27 holes -- you never know what you will be playing. A quality experience!

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 - 04:01 PM

### Venetian 941-441-2294

3 days staff must call     \$25 + tax; Guest: \$35 + tax     Aerification:  
9/21-29

### **Carl Koenig**

Since they will not honor tee times before 10 am I think we should remove them from out lists.

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - 05:03 PM

### Vinoy St. Pete 727-896-8000

4 days staff must call     \$28 Inclusive     Guest: \$40 Inclusive

Aerification: 6/16-26, 8/4-6

### **Paul Ficarro**

Played this course in May and enjoyed it thoroughly. It was in great shape, the greens are smooth and quick. Though short from the white tees, many shots are into the wind coming off the Gulf. It's only about a 35 minute drive from Rosedale.

Friday, June 12, 2009 - 10:47 AM

### **Stan Flaming**

Played the course on thursday, July 16, 2009. Was an easy 45 mile drive north of Rosedale. We played the blue tees which was 5952 yards. The white green and black tees were shorter. The course was in great condition except for one temporary green. The fairways were cut a little short making the ball sit down a bit. The greens were fast but fair.

Vinoy resort was built in 1925. Not sure when the course was built but its old and mature. All in all a great place to play.

Saturday, July 18, 2009 - 01:25 PM

### Waterlefe 744-0393

2 days staff must call     \$25 Inclusive     Guest: \$40 weekday, \$55 weekend

### **Carl Koenig**

Played today. The greens are terrible. Avoid this course for a few months.

Wednesday, July 22, 2009 - 03:17 PM

### Other Non-Reciprocal Courses

### **Carl Koenig**

Venice G&CC

I played today and the course is in excellent condition; it is a must-play. In fact it is in my top five area courses. They have excellent practice facilities, provide towels, coffee, tea and lemon for your water.

Since the course is not on our reciprocal list you need to find a member of almost any other area course (Preserve, Tara, Riverstrand, etc) and have them take you as their guest; the guest fee is \$37.

It is my opinion that we should not let the Venice G&CC play in our Champion Interclub tournaments since Rosedale is the only Interclub participant not included in Venice's reciprocal list.

Sunday, June 21, 2009 - 11:34 PM

**Carl Koenig**

Pasadena Yacht and Country Club

Only 35 minutes from Rosedale this facility is in a graded community that is perfect for the person who loves boating and golf. The charge to play was \$37 and the service was first rate. Due to recent rains the course was very wet; give it a week to fully dry. Try it out!

Sunday, July 5, 2009 - 09:40 PM

**Carl Koenig**

Sara Bay Country Club

This course is 6.7 miles from Rosedale and is a very old (1926) Donald Ross course. Tommy Armour (sp?) was its first pro and Bobby Jones worked there. The Whites are a challenge (6.414; 71.0, 125) with a lot of trees, water and really really fast greens. I recommend that we replace Kingsway, which is average and too far away, with Sara Bay on our Reciprocal list next year.

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 - 06:56 PM

**Carl Koenig**

Isla Del Sol Yacht & Country Club

Played it today and it was a really really good course. It's about a 35 min drive (St Pete's) up I275 Exit 17 then about three miles. Several innercoastal and gulf

views; open fairways and very good greens. We should add this course to our list of reciprocals.

Sunday, October 11, 2009 - 01:59 PM