

THE INSIDE EDGE

from the Fanatic Frog

GILLES PARADIS



Hi, my name is Gilles Paradis, better known as the Fanatic Frog to my golfing buddies. Sure, I am a bit of a fanatic about the game, and yes, I am a Frenchie ("Frog") from Montreal. (They even claim I have an accent!)

I've been playing golf all my life except for a brief hiatus as an obsessive fisherman. But once I had all the equipment I could possibly purchase, I left fishing, returned to golf and haven't looked back. I play from the white tees, use a long putter (the YIPS drove me to it) and carry a handicap between 8 and 12 depending on how much money is on the game. And I am proud to say that I have teed off on most of the 200 or so Valley courses.

Each month I will be presenting you with "The Inside Edge," my take on a golf course and its community. I will mix it up between public and private courses. (And please let me know if you have a course you would like to see featured.)

In the article, you will find my impressions, course stats, and "Meet the Pro." For the inaugural edition of the "Scottsdale Golf Monthly," I am providing you with the scoop on Gainey Ranch Golf Club, an easy choice for me since my wife and I are members there.

There are so many positive things to say about Gainey. I like the friendly atmosphere at the club, a true sense of belonging, and a great staff that always remembers your name. It is centrally located with 27 holes consisting of three unique nines. You can get around 18 in four hours. Gainey has 5-6 holes that could be considered signatures, and is a "feel good course" meaning you will really enjoy your game here. If you miss the fairway, you will still have a shot, unlike many of the Arizona target courses.

That is not to say that the course is without challenges. The toughest hole for me is #7 on the Lakes. You need a big

drive, a huge second shot and the ability to stay out of the "water-water-everywhere."

My love/hate relationship with this hole is justified as I have won or lost any number of games there. The best moment I ever had on this course was a recent game with my insanely competitive golf buddy "Buzz." We were neck 'n neck for 18 holes. We played the Lakes and Arroyo with #9 Arroyo as our 18th hole. Buzz had holed in for a par and I sunk an unbelievable birdie putt to win the game. (That was one day that he didn't make fun of my "old fart" long putter!) Sure, I only left the course 5 bucks richer, but I was singing "You can't take that away from me."

The Member's Grill was waiting for us and we wisely chose Chef Jeff's Signature Chili (served in a sour dough bowl) out on the veranda overlooking the fountains of the Arroyo Course so that I could reminisce about my victory. Beer, \$3; chili, \$7; defeating Buzz, priceless!

What would it be like to live here?

Location, location, location. Whether you are in a small condo at the Courts or a multi-million dollar home at the Estates, you can enjoy the same lifestyle in all of Gainey's 15 communities. There are miles of lushly landscaped paths for walking, jogging and biking. Besides the golf course, there are pools in every community and an Estate Club with a 25-meter pool and 7 lighted tennis courts.

Gainey residents can take advantage of the neighboring Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort. Sit outside at the gorgeous outdoor patios and sip a beverage. Take in the scenery, and listen to the lively steel drums or watch the Flamenco Dancers that appear frequently. Or totally rejuvenate at the Spa Avania (the Golfer's Massage is the best!). Living at Gainey is enjoying the Resort Life day after day.

Meet the Pro

What a pleasure it is to have a game with Jim Murphy ("Murph"), Director of Golf at Gainey Ranch Golf Course, who is one of the nicest guys and most helpful instructors you will ever meet. No wonder he was voted Golf Professional of the year twice by the Southwest Section of the PGA.

You can tell that Jim loves Gainey not only by his 20 years at the course but also by his passion for the history of this former 640-acre Arabian horse ranch. Jim remembers that when he first came to Gainey there were cattle where The Shops at Gainey Village exist today, as he puts it, "a little piece of country across from the fabulous sprawl of the Gainey Ranch Golf Course and Community."

Jim was very generous in suggesting a strategy for the course. "Be aggressive on the par 5's and conservative on the par 3's as they play pretty long. If you can be on the right side of the pin, there are a number of "makeable birdie holes."

His favorite hole is #9 on the Lakes because it is a "great risk-reward hole; you can gain or lose a couple of strokes on this one!" When he is not at Gainey, Jim is all about family. Hunting, fishing, golfing (of course!) are activities Jim likes to share with his wife, Debbie, and their 5 kids - all under the age of 14. He is a busy man, that's for sure!

STAY TUNED...NEXT MONTH

Can't wait to tell you about my experience at FireRock Country Club – AMAZING and AWESOME! This incredible course is just a few miles east of Scottsdale and is set in the natural beauty of its namesake, Red Mountain, which is “on fire” every day in the glow of the sun. You won't want to miss this, so see you next month!

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GAINEY RANCH GOLF CLUB

7600 Gainey Club Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Phone: 480-951-0022 Clubhouse
 Website: www.gaineyranchcc.com
 Director Of Golf: Jim Murphy – “Murph”
 # Of Holes: 27 - Lakes, Dunes, Arroyo
 Signature Holes: #9 Arroyo, #9 Lakes
 Architect: J.Michael Poellot (Former Chief Architect For Robert Trent Jones)
 Date Opened: 1985
 Renovated: 2006/2007 \$1.5 Million On Clubhouse
 Public/Resort/Private: Private Members Only
 Plus Guests Of The Hyatt Gainey Ranch
 Practice Facilities: Grass Practice Range, 3 Putting Greens And A Chipping Area
 Attire: Golf Attire
 Walking Allowed: Yes

Carts On Paths Only: No
 Green Fees: Private
 Membership Plans/Initiation/Dues: Full, Corporate, Seasonal And Social. Starting As Low As \$6,000.
 Call Membership Director, Matthew Colo, for Information At 480-368-7690
 Arroyo/Lakes Combination:
 Rating/slope From Magenta: 69.8/123
 White: 67.1/116 Green: 69.1/124 Gold: 71.9/128
 Par Distance From Magenta: 5312
 White: 5790 Green: 6252 Gold: 6800
 Directions: Scottsdale Road, East On Doubletree Ranch Road, North On Gainey Club Drive
 Current Price Range Of Homes In The Community: \$275,000 -\$2,395,000

