



**High Meadows
Golf & Country Club**

1288 Country Club Road
Glade Valley, N.C., 28627
(336) 363-2622

Opened: 1964

Architect: George Cobb

Fast Facts: The High Meadows community includes 300-plus mountain homes linked by nine miles of private roads.

Inside High Meadows: Grandfather Mountain is visible 75 miles away on a clear day, and the club is only five miles from the famed Blue Ridge Parkway.

A Club With a View

A family atmosphere makes High Meadows Golf & Country Club feel like home in the Blue Ridge Mountains **BY RON GREEN JR.**

The road leading up the mountain to High Meadows Golf & Country Club near Roaring Gap, North Carolina, is a twisting, winding pathway that feels a bit like following a map toward a hidden treasure.

There are those who will tell you that's exactly what it is.

Situated approximately 3,000 feet above sea level and tucked into the Blue Ridge Mountains not far from the Virginia state line, High Meadows is whatever its members and guests want it to be: a short escape from the buzz of everyday life in Charlotte or the Triad, both of which are less than two hours away; or a tranquil, captivating place to call home.

With the George Cobb-designed golf course at the center of High Meadows, it's more than a golf destination. It's a place where the 185 members can spend afternoons and warm evenings on the deck encircling the clubhouse, breathing in the mountain air and a view that invites relaxation and appreciation.

Situated between Elkin and Sparta, High Meadows fits like a favorite sweatshirt. It's not big and it's not particularly fancy, but that's intentional. High Meadows is a place built on being comfortable. It's the kind of place where the burgers in the downstairs grill are popular and the filet mignon in the upstairs dining room is worth the visit.

The membership is made up of equal parts weekend visitors who come for a couple of days at a time, members who spend half the year in the North Carolina mountains and half the year someplace else, and the full-time residents. Though small in numbers, the membership is active throughout the year.

"This is a close-knit club with a real family-type atmosphere," says Mike West, the club's PGA General Manager.

High Meadows opened in 1964 with a golf course that takes the best of mountain golf—nice views, rolling terrain and comfortable temperatures—and makes the most of those attributes. The course bumps



and rolls but there are no crazy slopes or quirky design features.

With wide fairways and only 25 bunkers, High Meadows is player-friendly while still offering a solid test for any level of golfer. A recent renovation by Bill Bergin—the first in the club’s 55-year existence—enhanced the tees, added some new ones, and upgraded the bunkers. Completed in approximately five months, the project was more of a touch-up than a refitting.

“Hats off to George Cobb for building a course that could hold up for 55 years without anything being done to it,” says West, a former University of North Carolina golfer.

The George Cobb-designed layout at High Meadows features the elevation changes and striking views expected of a course 3,000 feet above sea level.

It’s golf in the mountains. Once you go up, you have to come down.

—High Meadows General Manager Mike West

High Meadows features bentgrass tees, greens and fairways, and temperatures rarely top 85 degrees in the summer. It’s also open for play throughout the year, though early May through Thanksgiving is the busiest season.

High Meadows isn’t long by modern standards—it plays 6,625 yards from all the way back and offers five sets of tees—but it can be demanding.

“It’s golf in the mountains,” West says. “Once you go up, you have to come down and once you go down, you have to come up. But none of the holes are so tight that you feel like you have to walk single-file down the fairway. It’s the kind of course you can play every day and not get tired of it.” ■

Ron Green Jr. is a senior writer for Global Golf Post.

