



Sedona Open

Quickly Becoming a Summer Tradition

Escaping the late July heat anywhere in the West usually doesn't take much prodding, especially for the golf-crazed among us. And to play Oakcreek Country Club, Arizona's only Robert Trent Jones and RTJ, Jr. collaboration, in tournament condition, for three days? "Twist my arm," right? Throw in better than \$30,000 in prize money, and you've got a weekend that's becoming as traditional as balloon, biplane and ATV rides in the Sedona summer, the seventh Sedona Open, July 20th-23rd.

Gaining a reputation throughout the West as a great golf getaway anytime of the year, Head Golf Professional Jamey Lewis brought the idea of something a lot more elaborate than the usual scramble-format, outing-for-a-day to Oakcreek CC in 2000. Three rounds of flighted competition, with some legitimate coin money at the top (last



year's winning pro, Arizonan Anthony Kang left with \$5,000 and the amateur flight winners with \$750 each) and a lot of fun throughout might find a niche in a lot of golf schedules in July, particularly when temperatures are 15-20 degrees cooler in the Sedona morning than those in Phoenix.

He was right, and now has the entire West Coast and Rocky Mountain states involved in playing, and the entire Sedona area acting as gracious hosts, offering up a vast array of summertime activities for those competitors who want to make it an entire family vacation in "Red Rock Splendor". The Saturday night Moonlight Putting Championship at Oakcreek, including food, drinks, live music and the inevitable dancing that goes with it is just one of the many events surrounding the tournament.

The Sedona Open is flighted for professionals, senior pros, and amateurs of differing handicaps, each playing 54-holes on the Jones' stunning midwestern-style layout set among the gorgeous red rocks that you almost expect to see "The Duke" himself pop his head around to keep an eye on you. And local knowledge doesn't necessarily pay off-- the top three pros and top three flight winners last year came from five different states. More information on the tournament, including an online entry form, accommodations and activities is available at www.sedonaopen.com or by calling Oakcreek Country Club at 888-703-9489. ■



The winner's check has grown to over \$5,000 since Oakcreek pro Jamey Lewis handed over the 2003 check to Aussie Andrew Getsen.