



The California State Open “Bears” down on Nicklaus’ Bear Creek in Murrieta

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The 2016 California State Open at Bear Creek Golf Club

In its 117th year of existence, the California State Open will be played July 19th – 22nd, for the very first time at Bear Creek Golf Club in Murrieta, California, an early Jack Nicklaus Signature design, one of only a few in California and the home of the historic Skins Game in 1985 that featured Nicklaus himself, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Fuzzy Zoeller.

The field of 150+ players will consist of PGA professionals, past champions, top performers in 2015 and players exempt based on performance and a number of open qualifiers, making this one of the strongest fields in recent memory. This elite group of professionals and amateurs will tee it up for the opportunity to have their name engraved on the Championship trophy alongside the likes of defending champion Bryan Martin, the venerable Walter Hagen, first Masters winner Horton Smith, U.S. Open champion Gene Littler, PGA champion Jerry Barber, PGA Tour winners such as Dutch Harrison, Jimmy Powell, Roger Maltbie, Dennis Paulson, Greg Twiggs, Kirk Triplett, Tim Norris, Rex Caldwell, Ron Reif, Jason Gore and the Southern California Section’s very own PGA Professional National Champion Michael Block.

Bear Creek, opened in 1983, has hosted numerous PGA, PGA TOUR and USGA events and now the California State Open Championship for the first time.

Having first been played in 1900 and considered a PGA TOUR event in the 1920’s and 30’s, the California State Open has always boasted one of the most competitive State championship fields. Expected to headline the list of professionals from the Southern California Section are three-time reigning Omega SCPGA Player of the Year and past CSO Champion (2001) Block and two-time reigning Omega SCPGA AAA Player of the Year Kenny Pigman. Both are off to hot starts this year with three combined victories, leading their respective SCPGA division points lists.

The Championship will commence over four days and 72-holes with a 36-hole cut to the low 60 competitors on Wednesday evening. Spectators are welcome to walk along and cheer on their favorite players at the Championship and admission is free. All tournament information is available on www.scpga.com. The California State Open is owned and operated solely by the Southern California PGA.

ABOUT THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PGA

The PGA of America is the world’s largest working sports organization, comprised of 28,000 men and women golf Professionals

who are the recognized experts in growing, teaching and managing the game of golf, while serving millions of people throughout its 41 PGA Sections nationwide. Since its founding in 1916, The PGA of America has enhanced its leadership position by growing the game of golf through its premier spectator events, world-class education and training programs, significant philanthropic outreach initiatives, and award-winning golf promotions.

The Southern California Section was established in 1924, and today is comprised of over 1,700 golf Professionals working at over 500 golf facilities within the Section. The mission of the Southern California Section (SCPGA) is that Purpose of the PGA of America, to promote the enjoyment and involvement in the game of golf and to contribute to its growth by providing services to golf professionals and the golf industry. The SCPGA provides competitive playing opportunities, educational seminars, and growth of the game initiatives, within a geographic area that stretches from San Luis Obispo to the Tijuana border, and from the Pacific Ocean to the Nevada and Arizona borders.

The SCPGA created the Southern California PGA Foundation to develop and administer junior golf programs as well as an increasingly wide array of other community services throughout the Section. The Southern California PGA Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and operates as a public foundation. The SCPGA Foundation is involved in and supports the growth of the game of golf through initiatives such as Neighborhood Golf, Drive Chip & Putt, Junior League Golf, California Alliance for Golf, Friends of Golf and SCPGA/TGA Golf in Schools to name a few.

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