



Member Profile
David Webster
 Winter Park, Fla., USA

David Webster grew up in the Boston area, started playing golf at around age 6, and has been an avid golfer all his life. He learned the game on two Donald Ross courses, Wellesley CC outside Boston and Lake Sunapee CC in New Hampshire.

“I have loved golf since I was a kid, and have always been a student of the history and lore of the game,” he says.

Following high school David attended Duke University, which began a lifelong love of North Carolina and its rich golfing history and many courses.

David also attended Cornell University’s business school in Ithaca, N.Y. “Robert Trent Jones Sr. was a Cornell alum in landscape architecture and designed the course,” he says. “I got to play it a lot during my two years there.”

David is a “career financial guy” he says, having worked the past 20 years for Raymond James as a manager and financial advisor.

He and his wife, Jennie, have been married for 25 years and spent 12 of them in Seattle, Wash. Throughout those years, David has played golf throughout the country and has made the pilgrimage to Scotland and Ireland several times.

“The last few years I confess to a bit of a mid-life crisis with golf,” he says. “I was getting a little bored and complacent and the game was starting to lose some luster – so I feel reborn having stumbled upon the hickory world.”

Earlier this year David was playing at his local Winter Park golf club when he was paired with “hickory guy” Jeff Shafer, a regular at Florida hickory golf outings..

“By the third hole I was grilling Jeff about what these clubs were all about – and by the end of nine holes I had hit most of them,” he says.

From that point, he says, David was quickly hooked and compiled a loaner set until an order of clubs from Tad Moore arrived. “I’ve gone all in ever since.”

David quickly got to know and golf a lot with locals, Bill Geisler and Rich Grula, who have been instrumental in his hickory education. “These guys are purists with a deep genuine love of hickory and golf history, it has been very cool getting to know them,” he says.

David has played in several Florida events hosted by Mike Stevens of Tampa, Fla., and looks forward to many more. The 2017 Mid Pines Hickory Open was his first big tournament.

“I got to meet a lot of great folks and had a blast; the golf show on Saturday night in the ballroom (with open bar) was fun. I got paired in the first round in a foursome with eventual winner Craig Stroup. What a nice guy. When he heard it was my first ever hickory tourney he was very gracious and encouraging, all while grinding and concentrating on his own game.”

David and Jennie make their home in Winter Park near Orlando, Fla. Their two children are sons, Sam, an undergraduate engineer at Georgia Tech, and Jack, a senior at Winter Park High School.

How often do you play hickories?

My wife says I play too much golf, and I confess she’s right. I’ve gone “all in” with hickories 100 percent of the time.

What’s in your play set?

At this early stage exclusively Tad Moore clubs – driver, spoon, cleek, and baffle, deep face mashie through niblick and muscle-back blade putter. But I anticipate that changing over time to incorporate some original equipment.)

Favorite club?

No favorite, I love them all; but if pressed I’d say it’s a tie between the beautiful Jack White driver and blade putter.

What ball do you play?

At this stage of my hickory career I like the Calloway Chrome-Soft.



David Webster ready for hickory golf on one of Florida’s historic courses – Winter Park GC, est. 1914.

Favorite course for hickories?

I am learning quickly that “firm and fast” is ideal for hickories. Florida golf is pretty much the opposite, “lush and green.” One of my first rounds with hickories was on Chambers Bay, in Lakewood, Wash., which is sublime, it’s so nice. Locally, I love Grand Cypress, Mission Inn, and my own Winter Park Golf Club!

Favorite hickory tournament?

I’ll go with Mid Pines. I went to college an hour away and love the Pinehurst Sandhills region of North “Cah’linah.”

Any particular player or aspect of golf history you especially enjoy?

Easy for me – I was very lucky growing up as the family of my best friend were members of The Country Club in Brookline, Mass. I got to hang out there and play it a lot, one of the birthplaces of American golf. I have revered the story and lore of Francis Ouimet my whole life. Maybe Hollywood should make a movie of it one day – oh, wait, they did.

Best thing about hickory golf?

They’re just a blast to play. I love the challenge of hitting pure shots with hickories vs modern space age technology. And, of course, the people and camaraderie – we’re a unique, cool, small subculture in the world of golf.

Ideas to promote hickory golf?

Play hickories anywhere and everywhere, let others ooh and aah over the clubs and hit them if they like. Social media like Facebook and Instagram have huge reach and exposure at minimal effort. I already follow dozens of hickory enthusiast sites and people – from courses, companies, and events to people like stymiemagnet, mitchlaurence and clar-etdreamer. My favorite so far is onestogie – I’ve gotta meet this guy and buy him a beverage someday.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

I have an extensive golf library. I’ve read just about everything from Michael Bamberger, Dan Jenkins, James Dodson, Mark Frost, Jim Finegan and the like. This year in my new hickory life I’ve read Sir Walter by Tom Clavin, Tommy’s Honour by Kevin Cook and I’m currently re-reading The Grand Slam by Mark Frost.