



Member Profile

Frank Rosenzweig

Pittsburgh, Pa., USA

A Pittsburgh native, Frank Rosenzweig has been playing golf since age 13, introduced to the game by his uncle. "My Dad was a tennis player, but my uncle was a golfer," he says. Frank took to the game and competed on both his high school (Taylor Alderdice) and college (University of Pittsburgh) golf teams.

Following school, where he majored in psychology, Frank began a more than 40-year career in information technology. He was a research assistant at the Pitt computer center, a systems programmer and systems programming manager at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., and at IBM in Bethesda and Dallas, Texas. He also worked in the product development lab in Dallas and taught large systems architectures at the IBM Education Center. The last eight or so years prior to retiring in 2006, he was an I/T consultant to both the federal government and to large private sector corporations.

About four years ago, during a First Tee of Pittsburgh outing, Frank was introduced to hickory golf by good friend Bern Bernacki. Frank serves as a volunteer coach for the First Tee, and Bernacki (Region 2 Director for the Golf Collectors Society) serves on its board of directors.

Frank loved the game and has become increasingly active on both the pre-1900 and post-1900 eastern "tours" during the past two years. He has twice played in the Vermont Hickory Open, has been a four-time competitor in the Pittsburgh Hickory Event, has made four appearances at the Foxburg Championship, twice at the U.S. Hickory Open, twice at Mid Pines, twice at the GCS National hickory championship, and made his "rookie" appearance at the National Hickory Championship this year at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. This month he plans to attend the C.B. Macdonald Challenge at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario, Canada.

Frank and his wife, Gail, have been married for 41 years and have a daughter who currently practices law in New York City. "Retirement has been wonderful," he says. "I'm busier than ever."

How often do you play hickories?

Other than sanctioned events, I still mostly play modern equipment. I keep trying to convince my golfing group to try hickory, but I have been unsuccessful to date. I do try and play at least a couple of times a month with the wooden sticks.

What's in your play set?

My pre-1900 set is four clubs "matched" by Paul Dietz. They are a mid-iron, mashie, mashie-niblick, and lofter. I have added a replica long-nose from Mike Just and a very heavy niblick whose markings are unreadable.

My post-1900 set from Louisville Golf consists of a driver, spoon, cleek, mid-iron, mashie, mashie niblick, benny, jigger, 50-degree niblick, 56-degree niblick. I've added a brand new bulldog from Tad Moore Golf.

What ball do you play?

For modern technology, I play whatever pro shop low compression ball I can find on sale. I wish I could find balata-90 balls, but they don't exist anymore. For post-1900 hickory tournament play, I like the McIntyre Victor; for practice the Wilson Staff 50 or Duo seems to work well. For pre-1900, I like the NHC ball but, sometimes, we don't have a choice. {Some pre-1900 tournament directors will select either the NHC ball or the McIntyre gutta ball for their events. – Ed.}

Favorite course for hickories?

I am partial to Donald Ross designs (Seaview notwithstanding).



Frank Rosenzweig tees off during a recent Pittsburgh Golf Event and First Tee outing.

ing). My own club is a Ross course that is extremely hickory friendly, playing at around 5,000 yards with typical undulating greens and many false fronts. However, I really love the Foxburg Golf Club for both pre- and post-1900 equipment. This, of course, is subject to change as I encounter more courses.

Favorite hickory tournament?

Other than our own Pittsburgh event, as of August 2013 I would have to say that the Foxburg Hickory Championship is my favorite event, closely followed by the Vermont Hickory Open. They are small enough that everyone gets to know each other and a wonderful time is had by all participants.

Best thing about hickory golf?

Without question, the people keep me interested and participating. I have always felt welcome, even as an event "rookie." The respect for the game and the playing environment shown by the participants is without equal. I wish that more players of modern equipment would show that same respect.

Ideas for promoting hickory golf...

We are looking for more hickory fanatics to become involved with The First Tee chapters around the country. It is a great opportunity to bring the history and traditions of the game to kids from ages 7-18 along with the life skills and healthy habits that we try and impart. The morning of our Pittsburgh Hickory Outing, we invite some of our more advanced First Tee participants to play in a real tournament using clubs provided by Bern Bernacki. It is a huge success, now only limited by the number of club sets that he can provide.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

"Downhill Lie" by Carl Hiaason, an hilarious confessional about returning to golf after a 32-year absence.