

A Countdown *has begun*



THE GOLF COURSE is a story of two tales. Several holes feature steep ridges and sharp drop-offs, while others play through a wide prairie with generous fairways.



Tonja Howard takes a picture of Jason, Brantlee, and Bree.

The Golf Club at Black Rock offers the best of mountains, golf, and water.

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO: With the temperature in Phoenix threatening to hit 120 degrees, the Howard family knew finding a mountain summer retreat was at hand.

"We toured all the top private clubs in the High Country of Arizona, but when I took a sneak peek at their tee sheets, almost every starting time had been spoken for," recalled Jason Howard. "Having to request a tee time a week in advance was a big turnoff."

In search of warm days, a clear lake, and quality golf, the Howards decided to pay a visit to Coeur d'Alene.

"Access to a world-class lake was an important criteria," said Jason. "Although Lake Tahoe is spectacular, its size keeps the water chilly, even in August. Lake Coeur d'Alene warms to a comfortable 75 degrees. My wife Tonja and I had seen photos of Black Rock so it was our first community to visit."

Jason conducted similar due diligence at Black Rock. "When I asked to see the tee sheet, the response was 'what tee sheet?' The ability to show up with little notice to play, quickly moved Black Rock to the top of my list."

ALIGNING SIMILAR INTERESTS

The Golf Club at Black Rock is named for rugged outcroppings of black basalt that jut up throughout the prop-

erty. Awarded *Golf Digest's* "Best New Private Course" in 2003, its steep crags, sunken marshes, and precipitous bluffs are eye-catching. Members have access to a 31,000 square-foot clubhouse with a pool, spa, tennis courts, fitness center, and a 7,000 square-foot event center. Nearby, a 129-slip marina provides convenient entry to Lake Coeur d'Alene and its 135 miles of shoreline.

"Jason and I decided Black Rock was best for us, but for very different reasons," explained Tonja Howard. "Jason liked the golf and we knew Brantlee would love to play the course as well. I liked the feel of the club itself, the people, atmosphere, lake, scenery, how child-friendly it was, the downtime, and the 'off the grid' feel."

"Joining was one of the best investments—both financially and emotionally—we have made. Quickly, we met other families with similar interests. Last year, as the summer days shortened and our attention turned toward moving back to Arizona, we had already started the countdown to return. It's our family's happy place that we can't wait to get back to this summer." ■

For membership information and an additional peek at the beauty of The Golf Club at Black Rock, please visit BlackRockIdaho.com.