



Donald Ross Course

This year, **French Lick Resort** hosts the Symetra Tour Donald Ross Classic and Senior LPGA Championship.



Dr. Gulley and participants in annual golf outing at French Lick.

Prognosis: GREAT GOLF



“PETE DYE’S DESIGN is a fantasy. Its backdrops are audacious.” – NANCY LOPEZ

French Lick Resort’s history of competition dates back to the 1924 PGA Championship, won by Walter Hagen.

FRENCH LICK, INDIANA: Personalized automobile license plates and e-mail addresses often provide insight into a person’s passion.

Dr. Mike Gulley, an internist at St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, took another route. His e-mail address reminds him of a nemesis overcome. “I have struggled with putting yips for decades,” winced Gulley. “My first AOL e-mail address contained the phrase ‘yipsdoctor’ to remind myself of a malady that has haunted me for years. The yips are like an addiction. You might be clean and sober, but you are never over it. Until my yips went into remission, I was easy prey with my golfing cronies.”

Since Jimmy Carter was President, Mike has organized a friends and family trip to French Lick Resort.

“What started as a foursome back in 1977 has grown to 40 players,” smiled Gulley. “We play 36 holes each day with a better ball, blind draw format. There are side bets galore with enough money on the line to keep your attention.

“We conclude each day with a hearty meal and usually turn in early, unless we try our luck in the casino.”

TOURNAMENT TESTED, TOUR APPROVED

French Lick Resort, with two sister hotels—the West Baden Springs Hotel and the French Lick Springs Hotel—first welcomed guests in 1845.

The AAA four diamond property has invested over \$600 million in recent years.

Amenities include the largest resort conference center in the Midwest, a full-service casino, two spas, the Kidsfest Lodge, a bowling alley, and 54 holes of golf (including the Ross and Dye designs).

“In my book, there isn’t a better resort for a buddies trip than French Lick,” expressed Gulley. “Both the Dye and Ross courses are stunners.

“I am partial to the Ross Course with its combination of tricky greens that require strategic approach shots. It’s superbly designed.

“But it’s not just the golf that keeps us coming back. It’s the people. They treat you like family,” said Gulley. ■

For information on fall golf packages, visit FrenchLick.com.