

HOME ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

The Golf Club at Devils Tower gets my vote, offering the best of private destination golf.

By Mark Pazdur, Publisher

HULETT, WYOMING: It may not come as a surprise that the top 25 theme parks welcomed more than 255 million guests last year, with Disney World winning top honors greeting 58 million attendees. What *may* come as a revelation is that 305 million of us visited one of America's National Parks.

A full decade before the National Park Service was established, President Roosevelt (in 1906) recognized Devils Tower as the first United States national monument in order to protect the astounding geologic feature that protrudes out of the prairie surrounding the Black Hills.

Considered "Best Little Town in the West" and nine miles from Devils Tower is Hulett, home to The Golf Club at Devils Tower. With a population that tops out at 400, the town is a true Western oasis with the closest McDonald's almost an hour away.

THE DEFINITION OF DESTINATION GOLF

For generations, the Neiman family has called Hulett home. Today, their sawmill operations have hundreds of employees that supply over 250 million board-feet of lumber to major window manufacturers and several big box retailers.



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The Publisher's Page

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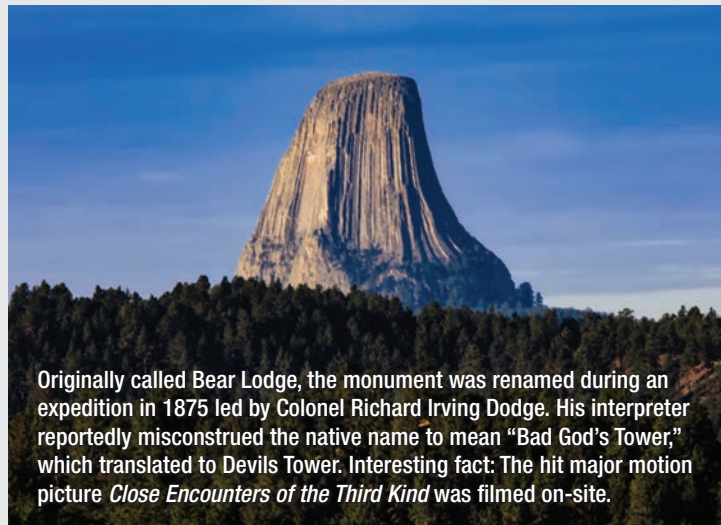
Wyoming's nickname is The Equality State
since it was the first state to grant
women the right to vote.

"You may have heard of *towns* with no stop lights. In our *county*, we don't have a stop light," reported Todd Coover, general manager at The Golf Club at Devils Tower. "The closest thing to a traffic jam is a flock of wild turkeys blocking the road. If you live in a big city and tire of road rage and virus concerns, you will relish a friendly wave from a passerby and the romance of small town Americana."

The Neiman family realized that for their mill operations to thrive, they had to offer a laundry list of everyday services and amenities to recruit and retain quality employees.

"The impetus behind our private golf club was threefold," detailed Todd. "First, to provide employees a recreational outlet. Second, create an environment that would attract professionals to Hulett. And finally, establish a golf experience so special that you would pick The Golf Club at Devils Tower as your summer destination. After all, life here revolves around being outdoors. We have a saying, 'you are not having fun unless you are burning diesel.' In addition to our destination trip-worthy golf, we offer an on-site runway for private aircraft, member cabins for overnight stays, a skeet range, and an ideal setting for hunting and fly fishing. You can literally be from tarmac to tee in 10 minutes.

"While golf faces secular demand challenges, our rounds played have doubled," proudly smiled Todd. "That's not to say you need to worry about a tee time. Most days, members can simply show up and hop in their golf cart. At the turn, you are welcome to stop for lunch before heading to the back nine. We are careful to preserve elbow room the West is known for." >



Originally called Bear Lodge, the monument was renamed during an expedition in 1875 led by Colonel Richard Irving Dodge. His interpreter reportedly misconstrued the native name to mean "Bad God's Tower," which translated to Devils Tower. Interesting fact: The hit major motion picture *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was filmed on-site.

“THE NEW \$4 MILLION CLUBHOUSE recently marked its one-year anniversary. Saloon tables are crafted out of Jack Daniels oak barrels and during season there are weekly whiskey tastings.”

– ANGELI COOVER, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, THE GOLF CLUB AT DEVILS TOWER



The back bar in the clubhouse saloon dates to the late 1890s. Rumor has it a few of the more notorious Black Hills pioneers, including Seth Bullock, bellied up to the bar.



The club has a ranch-to-table partnership with Durham Ranch in nearby Wright, Wyoming (one of the largest bison ranches in North America).



Bunkers are rough around the edges and fairways are framed by native grasses. The front nine plays through an open prairie and the back nine has more trees and elevation changes. The trio of holes 11, 12, and 13 play to the canyon rim with clear views of Devils Tower in the distance.

BEAUTY OF THE BLACK HILLS

“I’ve had the opportunity to work at several of the finest golf clubs including Pronghorn in Oregon [offering constant activities] and Rosewood CordeValle in California [with the best service imaginable],” said Jason Johnston, membership director. “When I learned of the opening at



The Golf Club at Devils Tower, I must admit my heart raced a bit. I was intrigued with the possibilities, but concerned that I had never lived in a rural setting. I guess you could say I’m sold on the area. This is my third season at the club. Our area is meant to be seen and explored, not described. In the Covid-19 world, as things sour in many big cities, we live better.

“I consider our membership a rare find. There aren’t many places where you seemingly have a \$40 million private club to yourself,” continued Jason. “Realizing our short golf season, we have attractively priced our regional membership with annual dues of only \$2,000. Best of all, you then receive an in-house \$500 credit that can be used toward lodging, food, and even ammo.” ■

To learn more, please visit DevilsTowerGolf.com, or call (307) 467-5773.