

# “You Had Me at Hello.”



Above: The Member/Guest tournament is called 867—in reference to the height in feet from the base to the summit of Devils Tower National Monument. Below: The 1895 antique red birch backbar in the clubhouse was discovered at The Cowboy Bar in Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

## *The Golf Club at Devils Tower— At Home on the Western Frontier*

HULETT, WYOMING: The naming of The Golf Club at Devils Tower has an interesting history behind it. The club pays homage to Devils Tower National Monument, an astounding geological feature protruding out of the prairie of the Black Hills that was declared the first National Monument in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt. An interesting side note: Devils Tower was featured heavily in Steven Spielberg’s hit motion picture, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, filmed in 1977.

“I grew up at the club as ‘chief dishwasher,’” fondly recalled Andy Bears, assistant general manager at The Golf Club at Devils Tower. “My parents ran the clubhouse restaurant and I would ‘sneak out’ before and after the lunch rush to practice. I probably have walked the front nine more than anyone else.”

### *GALLERY OF A DIFFERENT SORT*

The Wyoming state flag prominently features a white silhouette of a bison. “It makes sense,” said Bears. “Wildlife is a part of our culture. A couple of years ago, I was putting on the practice green when a stray cow barrels through into a nearby pond. The next thing I know, two



cowboys on horseback appear over the ridge, hustle down the hill, and lasso the wayward cow back to the herd. I think it is safe to say that this is not something you would see in Scottsdale, Arizona, or Naples, Florida.”

The Devils Tower National Monument is visible from four holes. “Our bunkers are rough around the edges and fairways are framed by native grasses,” detailed Bears. “The front 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.

“Over the course of my golf career, I had stints across America,” concluded Bears. “But I always gravitated back to Hulett and The Golf Club at Devils Tower. With respect to Tom Cruise in the movie *Jerry Maguire*, ‘You had me at hello.’” ■

*To learn more, please visit [DevilsTowerGolf.com](http://DevilsTowerGolf.com), or call (307) 467-5773.*

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“Our family story is a lesson in the fruits of hard work. My great-granddad manufactured grain doors for railroads during the Great Depression. The natural progression of business required us to establish a sawmill and business flourished. One of our more profitable products was manufacturing ‘mine squares’ as support structures for the Hearst family silver mines. I wanted to establish a golf experience so special that you would pick our club as your summer destination. I think we succeeded on all accounts and, to boot, we carry no debt on the club. To ease the travel burden to the Northwestern Black Hills of Wyoming, we built a 5,500-foot runway just up the street from the clubhouse. We greet you in a concierge cart for your short ride to the first tee.”

— JIM NEIMAN JR., OWNER OF THE GOLF CLUB AT DEVILS TOWER