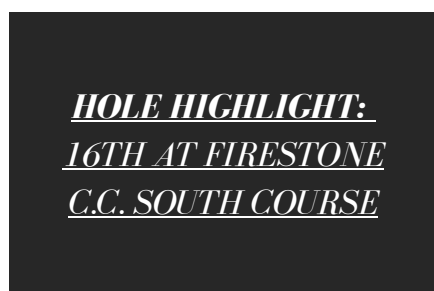
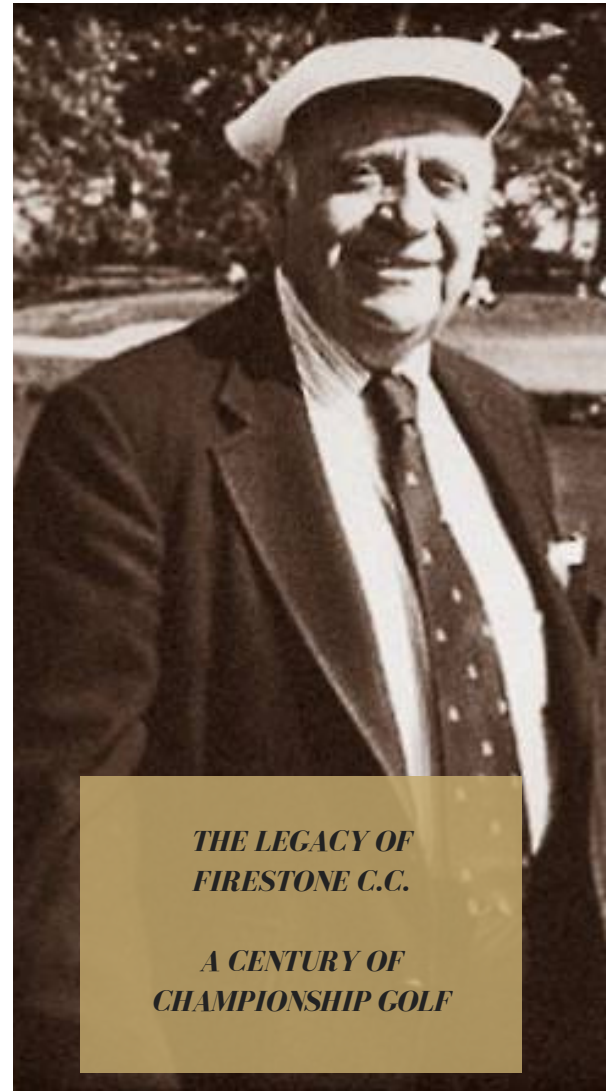


LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION



LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

MEMBER SHOWCASE



By: Dave Leigh
President, Robert Trent Jones Society

Firestone CC in Akron is one of the Society's most iconic courses and host to many golf greats over its history, now almost 100 years. It has hosted major golf championships on the RTJ-redesigned South Course, the legendary World Series of Golf, as well as the Bridgestone Classic. Even if you cannot attend our event September 12-13, here are some amazing facts about the courses that constitute Firestone.

Firestone is named for Harvey Firestone, owner and founder of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Like many industrialists of his era, he created a park for his employees and included a golf course designed by Bert Way. The first PGA Tour event held at Firestone was the Rubber City Open, which ran from 1954-59, with Tommy Bolt winning the inaugural event.

The course proved popular but was not considered true "championship" caliber. Like so many courses done in the 1950s, Robert Trent Jones Senior was hired to completely revamp Way's design, lengthening it and giving the course the "teeth" we know today. An interesting fact is that he was constrained by the same footprint but was able to add over 400 yards while dropping the course from a par 72 to a par 70.

In 1960, following its final year of the Rubber City Open, Firestone hosted the PGA Championship, the first of three majors hosted by Firestone on RTJ's design. The 1960 PGA was won by Jay Herbert (whose brother also won the PGA in 1957). Following the remodel, Firestone hosted numerous other events: the American Golf Classic, which ran from 1961 through 1976, the CBS Golf Classic, and the World Series of Golf. For many TV viewers, Firestone and its iconic water tower were synonymous with championship golf. Champions of all nationalities and eras played and loved Firestone. RTJ Society Legacy winners Al Geiberger and Jack Nicklaus won their PGA Championships at Firestone in 1965 and 1973, respectively.

In 1969, Robert Trent Jones designed the North Course, which became immediately popular. This year, Society members will play both North and South, the first time we have 36 RTJ-designed holes to enjoy. While members experience the club's championship layouts, they will also experience the hospitality that has defined Firestone for generations. Few people embody that tradition more than Dick Robbins, who began working at Firestone in 1974 as a busboy in the Grille Room and now serves as Member Services Manager. Over more than 50 years at the club, Robbins has worked over 50 professional golf events, welcomed countless members and PGA Tour professionals, and helped preserve the exceptional service that has become synonymous with the Firestone experience.

The ultimate test will be the 16th on the South Course, a perennial choice for the toughest holes in the world. Known as the "Monster" (a name coined by the immortal Arnold Palmer), it measures 667 yards for the tour pros. Even with forward tees for us mere mortals, the third shot over water to a tight green is memorable and truly keeping with Jones' heroic shot values. Also on the South Course, #18 features a plaque on the right side of the fairway honoring Tiger Woods. In the 2000 NEC Invitational, Tiger needed to finish his round with daylight quickly disappearing. With spectators ringing the 18th with lights, Tiger hit an 8-iron to within 2 feet of the pin!

Here are some of the great champions who have won at Firestone: Jack Nicklaus (of course), Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Ken Venturi, Al Geiberger, Dave Stockton, Ray Floyd, Ernie Els, Vijay Singh, Bernhard Langer, Hale Irwin, Billy Casper, Shane Lowry.

LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

ROBERT TRENT JONES, SR.'S EARLY YEARS

Born in Ince-in-Makerfield, England, in 1906, **Robert Trent Jones moved with his family to the United States at age five**, settling in East Rochester, New York.

A gifted young golfer, **Jones shot a course-record 69 at Genesee Valley Park as a teenager. Although an ulcer ended his ambitions of competing professionally, golf remained his calling. At 19, he became the professional at Sodus Bay Heights Golf Club**, where he developed relationships with leading players of the era, including lifelong friend and supporter Gene Sarazen.

Jones enrolled at Cornell University in 1928 and created his own course of study focused on becoming a professional golf course designer. While there, he designed the back nine of Cornell's Robert Trent Jones Golf Course and met Ione Tefft Davis, whom he would marry in 1934. His career gained momentum in 1930 when he partnered with renowned Canadian architect Stanley Thompson, giving Jones the opportunity to learn from one of the game's established masters.

During the Great Depression, Jones pursued public golf projects funded through relief programs, helping bring professionally designed courses to a broader audience. His successful 1935 redesign of Green Lakes State Park Golf Course further established his career. By 1938, Jones had developed a growing roster of clients and a mature design philosophy, publishing his landmark manifesto, *Golf Course Architecture*, and laying the foundation for a career that would transform golf course design around the world.

LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

SOCIETY NEWS

MISSION VIEJO CC RETAINS JONES CUP AT 4TH ANNUAL SOCAL REGIONAL COMPETITION

On Wednesday, July 15, the Robert Trent Jones Society hosted the **fourth annual RTJ Society SoCal Regional Competition among five Society member clubs in Southern California:** Birnam Wood GC, El Caballero CC, Mission Viejo CC, Pauma Valley CC and Valencia CC.

Fifty-two players from the five clubs participated. Two four-person teams from Mission Viejo CC tied for first place in the team competition, allowing Mission Viejo to retain the RTJ Society Jones Cup trophy for another year. It marks Mission Viejo's third Jones Cup victory in the past four years.

The two Mission Viejo teams featured Don Alhanati, Don Natenstedt, Mimi Petke and David Cardwell on one team, and Brian Bailey, Jon Demitroff, **Josh Almieri** and Adam Openshaw on the other.

Almieri also won the individual low gross competition, shooting an even-par 72 for the tournament. Gale Webster of Valencia CC won the individual low net competition with a 1-under-par 71.

Five players from three different clubs also recorded net skins during the competition.



LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

22ND ANNUAL ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY GATHERING

As a member of an RTJ Society Member Club, you are invited to attend the Annual Gathering. We will enjoy friendly competition on the **North & South Courses**, **meaningful connection**, and **a deeper look into Society happenings alongside fellow RTJ Society clubs**. Guest speakers and additional experiences are being thoughtfully planned, with more details to come. Please continue to check www.roberttrentjonessociety.com for updates.

DETAILS

REGISTER NOW



What: Two rounds of golf, course historical tour, Friday Welcome Reception, Saturday breakfast & dinner, and Sunday dinner including limited beer, wine, cocktails, and gifts

Who: Robert Trent Jones Society Members and Friends

When: September 11-13, 2026

Where: Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio

Attire: Country Club
Semi-formal for September 13 dinner

Member Rate: \$995/person
Non-golfing guests \$345/person

*LEGACY*MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

PRESERVING THE LEGACY: RTJ RENOVATION & REMODEL SYMPOSIUM

The Robert Trent Jones Society is pleased to announce its upcoming Renovation and Remodel Symposium, to be conducted in late Fall 2026. The Symposium will be held for our membership via Zoom, featuring taped and live speakers over six evenings beginning in October. This informative programming is ideal for greens committees, club officers, course superintendents, and architect geeks alike.

The Symposium will assist our member clubs in any renovation or remodel they may be contemplating. We are inviting our membership to understand the renovation process, with a specific goal of preserving RTJ's intent for their course. Sessions will consist of two parts: practical business topics focused on tools necessary for a club to conduct a successful renovation project, and the architectural “case studies” by architects familiar with preserving and enhancing specific RTJ attributes.

We have a full list of architects, construction executives, and others you will find helpful and informative on the redesign process. Sign-up will begin on the Society webpage soon.

Warmly,

David Leigh

President

Robert Trent Jones Society

LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

REINTRODUCING THE ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY PASSPORT PROGRAM

Friends,

As a valued member club of the Robert Trent Jones Society, we are proud to reintroduce the Society's Passport Program, an exclusive opportunity that extends your golf experience far beyond your home course.

The Passport Program offers a reciprocal network of distinguished Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed courses, allowing members to experience some of the most iconic layouts in the game. From historic championship venues to hidden architectural gems, each course reflects the strategic brilliance and enduring legacy of Robert Trent Jones, Sr.

Participating clubs across the country open their doors through this unique arrangement, with reciprocal access coordinated directly through your club's golf professional. While specific terms and fees may vary by location, **your Head Professional or Director of Golf can assist with planning your visit and securing tee times provided that your own Club participates in the Passport Program.**

We encourage you to **explore the full list of participating courses on the Robert Trent Jones Society website** and begin planning your next round on a course shaped by one of golf's most influential architects.

Your next great golf experience may be just a Passport away.

Warmly,
David Cardwell
Executive Director
Robert Trent Jones Society

PASSPORT PROGRAM

LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

HOLE HIGHLIGHT

THE 16TH AT

Firestone
COUNTRY CLUB

THE SOUTH COURSE

Photo: Firestone C.C./Facebook

The Monster

From the tips, The **16th Par 5**, also known as the monster, plays at **677 yards**. The tee shot on this hole is important to be inside the tree line of the fairway. On the left is high fescue and trees and the right is guarded by thick tall trees.

A tee shot at the top of the hill on the right side of the fairway will launch the ball down the sloping fairway to add extra distance. Longer hitters can hit the slope to have under 300 yards in on the next shot. The green is guarded by a frontside pond and three bunkers behind and left of the green. **Trying to attack the green in two is very tough and very risky.** Laying up short of the pond on the second shot is the best play majority of the time. **The turtle shell shaped green** provides tough pin positions that can play tricky if not careful.

LEGACYMAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

WE CARE TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CLUB

Have something to share?

We welcome updates from member clubs, including tournaments, renovations, clubhouse news, and historical insights tied to the legacy of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Submit content anytime to **MemberHappenings@RTJSociety.com** for potential inclusion in future LEGACY mailings.

Have an idea for future features?

LEGACY is designed to grow with our membership. We encourage suggestions such as favorite RTJ-designed holes, archival photos, and unique club stories. **Share your ideas at MemberHappenings@RTJSociety.com or with your Executive Sponsor.**

Warmly,
David Leigh
President
Robert Trent Jones Society