

Jeff Okun



If a picture is indeed worth a thousand words, Jeff Okun has a lot to say. Before coronavirus hit, Jeff used to sneak away two or three times a year on photographic safaris to far flung lands.

Like the rest of us, Jeff also devotes a lot of time and energy to improving his golf game. He joined Redhawk Men's Club about 10 years ago so that he could "have a regular group of guys to play with." Over the course of that time his upbeat demeanor, scraggly beard and sandal golf shoes have become a familiar sight at Redhawk and throughout the Temecula Valley.

In between rounds of golf, Jeff estimates he's been to dozens of countries scattered across five continents over the last couple of decades. His passport documents trips to North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia but he has yet to make it to Australia and Antarctica. Jeff assures me that these last two of the seven continents are on his bucket list. Memorable stops include trips to the Ethiopian tribal lands and Bhutan, a bio-diverse kingdom sandwiched between Nepal, India and China in the Himalayas. "The people there are so beautiful," he said. "It's such an interesting place." To see for yourself go to jeffokun.com. "I never met Indiana Jones but I saw a lot of people who look like him," Jeff said. This year he was supposed to go to North Vietnam but travel restrictions related to Covid have made it tough.

A child of the 1950s and duck and cover drills, Jeff grew up in Lompoc on the Central Coast. His dad was a civilian employee at Vandenberg Air Force Base. He's seen and heard countless missiles take off – some not so successfully – ranging from Atlas and Thor to Titan. “That was a lot of fun,” he recalls.

Before regular golf and travel, Jeff had a career that covered 40 years. Anybody care to guess?

How about

- 1.) Shoe salesman
- 2.) Computer tech
- 3.) City Planner
- 4.) School district supervisor.

If you picked 3 and 4, give yourself an A-plus.

Jeff estimated he has a hand in building more than three dozen school facilities. At one time as an assistant superintendent in charge of facilities, Jeff's signature was worth millions of dollars on purchase orders and requisitions. “It used to be worth something,” he jokes. “But the day after I retired 10 years ago, it was worth nothing.”

His most exciting moment on the golf course (other than Cherrington throwing clubs at people): The time a large pine tree fell on the white tee on hole no. 6 at Redhawk, normally the tee they play from. That day he was playing from the nearby blue tees. A little too close for comfort, I guess. Jeff is equally proud of his Hole in One in 2016 on Hole #4.

You now know a little more about Jeff Okun. What player profile will be next? Stay Tuned.