

PASSION FOR INSANITY

When it comes to teaching golf on the high seas, I have learned an invaluable lesson; GOLF is GOLF all over the world. When recently traveling with Crystal Cruises as their primary golf pro on board, the variety of people from all over the world had a fever for golf exactly like Oklahomans. It didn't matter if my English needed to be revised to a more simple term for the Japanese or listening to the hilarious Aussie who threw his jargon into convulsions when reiterating a simple grip change. I was as they say "tickled pink" to get the opportunity to teach all golfers around the world on a ship sailing the Costa Rican waters.

But more importantly, I found the fever for this game the same for everyone. Fortunately in the U.S.A. we have been spoiled to the best instructors, teaching videos, golf courses and a wonderful TV show, The Golf Channel. Our ability to view golf anytime of the day is a perk and one that I thought funneled our fever for golf. Yet, many others around the globe do not have such luxuries and yet have that same yearning to fix the problems in their game and progress to a lower handicap. In fact, I'd say that of all the lessons I gave 50% of the Americans, primarily from California or Florida, and 50% of the foreigners sat in the same clinic agreed they struggle with the same problems. We discussed methods and theories they've tried but have been unsuccessful, and they clapped with joy as they began to find an education in golf rather than a position in the swing. It reminded me of a classroom, when they would be seated at the 10:00 am clinic hour and 2:30 pm. hour, you could see people pair up like school buddies to visit about the same problem in the game. At the end of a clinic I would have many sign up for private lessons and want to know more about a particular piece of education they remembered from a previous clinic on the ship I might have given days earlier. And finally it came to the last day of my first cruise and we just had a simple fun time telling stories. The all had a common denominator we are passionate about our games, even if the ladies who attended didn't take the game seriously, they still had passion. The next denominator was insanity. As much as we have this passion to play and learn, we also find a small insane side of the game that keeps us pondering how do improve and keep it steady. So Passion for Insanity was the theme that they had decided. Over 50 loyal students on the cruise from all cities imaginable all agreed they are hooked and can't help themselves to want more out of the game. So for your peace of mind Oklahomans, know that we are all in the same boat, regardless of race, color or handicap.

Crystal Cruises has asked me to join them again this year for many other cruises to Alaska, Greece, Rome, Costa Rica and more. I will still be teaching lessons in Tulsa when not sailing and welcome you to attend "Around the World" clinics. My schedule will be posted at Clary Fields Golf Club website and all lessons can be booked through the pro shop. I'm ready to sail out of winter and into spring, so get the clubs ready and let's play with passion...or was that insanity... ah let's just play.