



L to R: John Carlin, John Carlin Agency; Susan Mills, Executive Director FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway; Coach Frank Beamer, VA Tech and Superintendent Phil Francis, Blue Ridge Parkway.

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FRIENDS Blue Ridge Parkway Golf Classic

The first annual Blue Ridge Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at the exclusive Ballyhack Golf Course in Roanoke, Virginia and will be hosted by Coach Frank Beamer of Virginia Tech. A dinner to 'Experience the Blue Ridge Parkway' will follow at the Shenandoah Club featuring local artists and musicians. Golfers may sign up for the charity golf outing and dinner which benefits FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Blue Ridge Golf Classic events will begin at 7:00 pm on Friday, May 28th, with a reception at the newly renovated Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center. All golfers receive free admission to the reception. A seasonal cuisine buffet will be served along with an evening of classical music. The shotgun start golf classic will take place on May 29th with registration at 9am at Ballyhack Golf Course located at 3609 Pitzer Road, off Route 116, in Roanoke. A live bluegrass music picnic luncheon will entertain participants at Ballyhack, followed by an awards ceremony.

The Experience the Blue Ridge Parkway evening will follow at the Shenandoah Club. Live bluegrass music will entertain attendees along with an evening that will touch all senses: sight, sound, feel and taste. At the reception you will step foot into the "live stage" to experience unique venues of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Charles Maynard, an award winning storyteller, author and outdoorsman will captivate your imagination from "jack tales" to history. Interpretive figures from the past will move among attendees as artists paint and a creative palate of local food tantalizes your taste.

Interested golfers and businesses interested in sponsorship of the event may contact FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway at 800.228.PARK (7275) or by visiting the website www.BlueRidgeFRIENDS.org. Individual golfers can participate for \$300 or \$1000 for a golf foursome. The cost of the dinner at the Shenandoah Club is \$150 per person. Other packages available include limited seating at Coach Beamer's table at the Shenandoah Club for \$500 per person. Numerous corporate sponsorship opportunities are still available. Golfing spots are limited, so golfers are encouraged to sign up immediately.

FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Roanoke that is dedicated to preserving, enhancing and protecting the Blue Ridge Parkway throughout Virginia and North Carolina. Funds are urgently needed to help repair the damage that the devastating winter had on the Blue Ridge Parkway and to continue vital educational and interpretive programs.

Ballyhack Golf Club offers a 190-acre Lester George designed 18-hole championship course and was recognized as the "No. 3 Best New Private Course of 2009" by *Golf Magazine*. The Scottish highland-type design incorporates the dramatic topography of the property overlooking the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Shenandoah Club is the oldest, continually-operating private club in Virginia and has been serving members for over a century. Quietly tucked away in downtown Roanoke, the Club is located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center is a newly designed oasis of comfort and unassuming style surrounded by the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. Located minutes from the Roanoke Regional Airport, they offer 320 renovated rooms and suites for the business traveler or recreation seeker.

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