

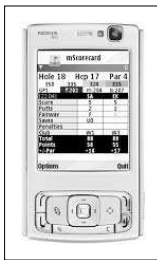
TECH TALK

Bob Appleby

Let Technology Help Your Golf Game

When I was told that this issue had a golfing theme for spring, I began to think about all the wonderful gadgets that are available for the golfer to help enhance your game. I was surprised by the amount of choices that are available in so many different categories. The few that I have chosen here are good representatives in each of their categories. I'm sure you can tell me many more that you have used. Feel free to share them and I will post your items on our product blog.

Golf score counters come in a variety of formats from simple mechanical to sophisticated electronic devices. If you have a Smart Phone, you may be able to use a product called mScorecard™. For less than \$20 you can add software to your phone that will give you the ability to calculate scores, handicaps, side-games and advanced round statistics for up to five players simultaneously. The mScorecard™ is compatible with java-enabled devices that support J2ME™ MIDP 1.0 or 2.0, including mobile phones, BlackBerry, PalmOne and Pocket PC devices. It will store complete game histories and advanced round statistics on your phone along with an unlimited number of courses, players and rounds. You can also post them on their server for detailed analysis. You can use your phone's built-in GPS to view your distances to the green. The software in this product will calculate and track your handicap index automatically. Wager and play popular side games including Skins, Nassau, Match Play, Stroke Play, Stableford, Greenies, Longest Drive, Birdies and Eagles. Share scorecards and stats with your friends via e-mail and extend the technology that you already own by adding this software program to your phone.



I have always liked Garmin products and when I saw the **Garmin Golf Logix GPS Unit** I thought, boy is this neat! This device offers the latest in golf GPS technology, where it gives you the exact computer readout of the distance to the green for each shot you play - perfect for folks who always seem to come up short on their approach shots or hit too hard at all times. My hand is raised on that one.



The Garmin GolfLogix II GPS-8 Golf GPS System is a handheld USGA and R&A sanctioned waterproof GPS with access to over 18,000 courses. The unit is simple to use and accurate without all of the bells and whistles that you find on other systems. Loading the courses on the unit will wear down the batteries quite quickly so I would suggest using rechargeables if you can. Being a gadget freak, that's the only kind of battery that I have lying around. Battery life on the course for standard batteries is about 17 hours. Most of the user comments that I have found on this device say that it was worth the purchase and they would not want to play without it. Priced around \$299, the lowest price I found on the internet was \$269.

When spring time comes I like to start out my golf season by going to the driving range to work out the kinks from my winter sloth. This product will help you gauge your swing speed on all of the clubs that you are practicing with. The **Medicus Golf Power Meter** advertises that it will help you increase your **Golf Club Swing Speed**, which in turn will help you increase

your **Swing Power**. Hit longer and straighter shots by increasing the power of your speed. Get instant feedback to improve consistency and control. With the Medicus Golf Power Meter, you'll discover that trying to swing harder can actually cause you to swing slower. You'll learn how to use your body to increase club head speed and club swing speed. A golf swing speed meter such as the Medicus PowerMeter allows you to have a Controlled Power Swing so that you consistently hit the ball farther and straighter! Unlike other golf swing speed meters the Medicus Power Meter is easily interchangeable between golf clubs. It can work on woods and irons and is specifically designed to tightly fit on any shaft size. With programmable swing performance settings you can dial-in your actual golfer and club specifications. It has a large easy to read LCD, 5 stroke programmable memory and will read clubhead speeds and golf club swing speeds up to 145 MPH. List price is \$129.95 but you can find it for \$19.95 in many places on the Internet.



Golf Range Meters can run you from \$29 up to \$500 depending on what you are looking for.



Bushnell makes several products in this category that use line of sight to determine distance to pin. On the low end is their 5x20mm Golf Scope Range finder and on the top end is the Bushnell Pinseeker that helps you determine compensation for slopes as well.

This unit can be found on the web for around \$335. If your favorite courses are not available on the Garmin this would be another way to help you to be the best golfer that you can be. This last item brings you into 21st Century Robotics with a motorized golf caddy cart. While this would be a budget breaker for me, if you have a little green floating around that needs to be spent this could be that one device that makes all of your Golf Buddies green with jealousy. Called the Shadow Caddy, this nifty robot follows a small transmitter attached to your belt. It is completely hands-free, no joysticks to mess with and makes your trip around the links a more leisurely stroll than a gruesome lug match. The Shadow Caddy is equipped with a sophisticated object detection system which prevents collisions with people and other objects on the course. It can also carry your refreshments enhancing your golfing experience as much as possible. Originally released in Australia, look in the future for this product to be available for rent at your local golf courses.





D's Windy Cottage

Specialty Gift Items and Home Decor

745 Lloyd Avenue Extension
(Behind Auto Zone)

724-537-5283
Tues-Wed-Fri-Sat, 10am - 5pm
Thurs, 10am - 7pm; Closed Sun & Mon

Framed Art, Heirloom Dolls,
Gund Bears, Soy Candles & Warmers
Kites, Spinners & Flags

We have a year-round Christmas Room!
Gift Certificates Available




It's amazing the number of products that are available to enhance your golf experience. I could probably fill this entire issue with a small sample of what is available to you. I've spent enough time in front of the computer. It's time for me to get out on the course; maybe I will see you out there!

Bob has been working in the computer field since 1975 and started Computer Connections with his partner Jude Daigle in 1981 at the beginning of the personal computer revolution. Bob grew up in Ligonier and graduated from Ligonier H.S. in 1972. Bob graduated from George Washington Medical University in 1978 and he is currently living in the Greensburg area. You can see more tech tips and product reviews in Bob's Blog pages at <http://www.bobstechtalk.com> and you can contact him at bobstechtalk@comcast.net.



724-238-4831
137 West Main Street
Ligonier, PA

"too much fun for such a small town"
check upcoming events and our menu
on line at www.ligoniertavern.com

Sun. 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Monday -Thurs. 11:30 am - 9:00 pm
Fri. & Sat 11:30 am - 10:00 pm

