

# ***Pu'UOo***

**ARCHITECT: Dale Somerfelt**

**OPENED FOR PLAY: Winter 2002**

## **SCORECARD:**

Tee	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Par	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	4	3	36	4	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	4	36	72
Black	373	181	524	447	366	442	570	434	150	3487	342	426	502	381	213	555	162	441	437	3459	6946
Blue	344	148	502	427	337	412	536	411	128	3245	323	401	480	354	190	534	141	407	383	3213	6458
White	316	132	469	380	317	393	504	379	109	2999	278	357	448	340	154	470	112	359	362	2880	5879
Red	276	105	436	355	298	353	459	354	87	2723	262	327	400	313	117	436	94	339	332	2620	5343
Hncp	11	15	3	1	13	9	5	7	17		14	10	2	12	18	4	16	6	8		

## **Course History:**

The Pu'u'O'O volcano is located on the Hawaiian Island of Kilauea. It has been erupting since January of 1983. The lava has reached the ocean, causing dangerous steam explosions to occur, and with these explosions dense rock and molten spatter are hurled into the air. The flow of Pu'u'O'O has overrun a 700 year old Hawaiian Temple by the name of Waha'ula heiau. The temple's ancient structured rock walls are now almost completely covered. What a great place for a golf course.

Work began on the Ocean course in 1997 by a team of three architects, including Dale Somerfelt. The project faltered in the last two years, with two of the design team pulling out before even half the course was designed. Last year, in 2001, Somerfelt, the remaining architect began again. Discarding most of the other's ideas, he started over. The results are the Ocean course at Pu'u'O'O, the first new solo design from Somerfelt in almost ten years.

## **Architect's Notes:**

This course was originally started in Jack Nicklaus 5, with two of my fellow workers. Interest waned, especially by the other two, with one of them leaving the company about three years ago. I continually pushed this course to the back of the ones that I wanted to do. Late last summer, after finishing Cathedral Rock with Lee Gordon I resurrected Pu'u'O'O. This time though, I thought the course would really look the way I wanted it to in a full land plot program. That is how it came about to be done in PGA 2000. Using the existing hole routing and basic elevations we had already developed, I started over from scratch. When all was said and done, it resembles our original intent, (or at least mine), pretty close.

## **Architect's Notes:**

Since I'm still getting my feet wet in this program I made very few objects on my own and instead used those of others, borrowing from GBC where applicable

Libraries Used: Chippewa, Grande, Grande Palms, Ocean Side and Po'okela

Libraries Created: Hawaii

As always I want to thank those that provided the libraries and the great courses they were used on.

As always I look forward to comments, suggestions, or requests from this course or any others that I have done. Please feel free to e-mail me at [desomerfelt@earthlink.net](mailto:desomerfelt@earthlink.net).

Last but not least, this course was first copyrighted in ©2002 by myself. I ask that no portion be modified without my knowledge and that it is not used for personal monetary gain by anyone, living or not. Any resemblance to existing designs is unintentional and purely coincidental.

Other courses from myself, done in JN5 & GBC (\*where noted):

Pinery Narrows - \*Chinook North - Mentor Marsh #1 – TPC at Mt. St. Helens – \*TPC at Waterloo –  
\*TPC at Heron Bay - \*English Turn - \*TPC at Southwind - \*Sagebrush

And with Lee Gordon: the \*TPC at River Highlands and \*Cathedral Rock.

Next up for PGA2000, Colonial Country Club (Hogan's Alley).

Dale Somerfelt  
January 2002

## **Pu'u'O'O**

### **Hole Notes:**

**HOLE 1 - Par 4 / 373 yards** – As in most my other courses, I like to start with a short par four and a great chance at birdie. This one runs along the beach and offers an easy start. Be forewarned, make your birdies on this hole and number two, before heading up to the cliffs above the ocean.

**HOLE 2 - Par 3 / 181 yards** – A medium iron par three. This is reminiscent of a hole at Harbour Town, with the boards surrounding the elevated green and fairway. The trap fronting the green will only come into play when the wind is in your face.

**HOLE 3 - Par 5 / 524 yards** – If played correctly it's a decent chance at a birdie, but if one strays from the fairway it could be the start of a rough set of holes. The green is separated from the fairway by a deep ravine that makes going for the green in two a risky one. From my standpoint of designing, it's one of my favorite holes on the course. As a player, this would be the beginning of Pu'u'O'O's "Aloha Corner"

**HOLE 4 - Par 4 / 447 yards** – This is the toughest hole on the course. It's a long par four with a hard to find fairway. The green is on the other side of a deep ravine and slopes from the front to the back. No matter how I try to play this one I'm always lucky to end up with a par.

**HOLE 5 - Par 4 / 366 yards** – The course comes down off the coastline with a short par four. Following the last hole this one seems like a breeze. The fairway meanders through the palms. Green-side, a river guards the right side. It's a great chance to recover from the bogey you may have gotten on number four.

**HOLE 6 - Par 4 / 442 yards** – Slight dogleg left. Play the drive right to get around the trees that line the left side. The green has a second tier towards the back.

**HOLE 7 - Par 5 / 570 yards** – The landing area is thin for the drive. It's more generous to the left than right. A fairway trap comes into play on the second shot. With the detached green, there's very little hope of going for it in two. It's best to play for a full club to the putting surface, which is small, but tame.

**HOLE 8 - Par 4 / 434 yards** – Straight away par four. If you can hit it straight and 300 yards than you can reach the second fairway. A smarter play may be with a three wood leaving a medium iron into the green. A large bunker runs along the right side on the approach.

**HOLE 9 - Par 3 / 150 yards** – The front finishes with the only par three hole on the outward nine. It's only 150 yards, but the green sits perched atop a hill. It requires a precise tee shot. Too short and you're in the bunkers. Too long and you're down the hill looking back at a chip that requires a special touch to get it close to the hole. For it's length, I think it can have a major impact on a good or bad round.

**HOLE 10 - Par 4 / 342 yards** – From tees surrounded by water, the start of the back nine has water all along the right side. At 327 yards it's short from the tips, but requires some smart course management for a birdie.

**HOLE 11 - Par 4 / 426 yards** – The fairway is wide but is encircled by a large trap that also separates the green from the fairway. A long iron into a narrow green makes this one difficult. Luckily there's a few bunkers behind the putting surface to stop any stray bullets here.

**HOLE 12 - Par 5 / 502 yards** – Not overly long for a par five, this one requires some precise shot making skills. Water is on the left from tee to green and the fairway is not very wide. Depending on how you want to play this hole, the tee shot can be anything from a driver to a long iron. Anything too far right is blocked on the next shot. There is some deep grass mounds to slow down anything on the approach. The green is severely sloped towards the water.

**HOLE 13 - Par 4 / 381 yards** – This is one of those unique holes, a wide green and a split fairway. Depending where the pin is determines if you take the high or low road. The tall trees in between the fairways will come into play if you're caught in the "wrong" fairway. The green itself is well bunkered and elevated.

**HOLE 14 - Par 3 / 213 yards** – It's a long par three over water to a green that slopes back to front. If you're too long it's a chip back down the hill. This is the easier of the two par threes on the back nine.

**HOLE 15 - Par 5 / 555 yards** – Again, not a long par five, but it's uphill, plus completely surrounded by the lava. The safe route is left, where two traps come into play. The fairway slopes from left to right on your next shot. The final shot is to an elevated green.

**HOLE 16 - Par 3 / 162 yards** – It's only 156 yards, but all downhill and surrounded once again by the lava. The putting surface slopes away from the player. Nine times out of ten you'll be chipping from behind the green. Don't expect a birdie, hope for a par.

**HOLE 17 - Par 4 / 441 yards** – This hole turned out a lot tougher than I had anticipated. 438 yards and uphill eleven feet add up to a difficult par four. It'll take a man-size drive for a good position to a green that's still fourteen feet up. A green in regulation deserves a pat on the back.

**HOLE 18 - Par 4 / 437 yards** – We end our trip through the lava with a long par four. The water is within reach from off the tee. If you play short you'll still have to contend with shaping a long iron around, over and between the palms, but it can be done.