

GARY SHIMMIN
Member since 1999



OLD TABBY LINKS

Spring Island, S.C.

WHY OLD TABBY LINKS?

We actually didn't choose Old Tabby Links; we chose Spring Island, where the course is situated. While it's a top-line golf course, it's not really a golf-centric community. It's more nature-centric. It's 3,000 acres, with 400 homesites. Half the land is in a nature conservancy. We chose it for the whole package. Golf was an important part of it, and it's become more important with the renovation a couple of years ago.

OTHER BENEFITS

This island is relatively secluded; you have to cross a couple of causeways to get to it. We have a very strong arts program, a very strong equestrian program. About three years ago we installed a state-of-the-art fitness facility. One of the things that drew us to the community is that the membership demands that anything we do, we do top-drawer. Also, the fishing is excellent, both onshore and off. We're secluded, which is not to say remote, so you can be as social or inclusive as you deem appropriate.



THE GOLF COURSE

I'm hugely biased because I was in charge of the project of renovating it. . . . We decided that because we were going to be down for the better portion of a year, we should see if we could modernize it. It was (an Arnold) Palmer course, so we went back to Palmer and asked him: What would you do differently? What have you learned in the last 20 years? They took what was a really good golf course and upgraded it in virtually every respect. It's a lot of fun for people of all skill levels, which was one of the things we tried to accomplish with the redo. . . . It's a very good challenge – we've had a couple of State Opens here – but there are 350 members and not all of them play tournament golf. So it had to be as good as possible for as many people as possible.

