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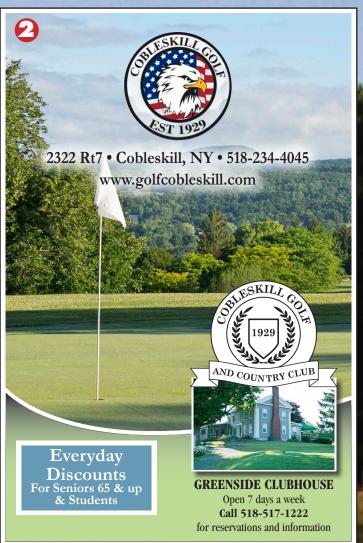
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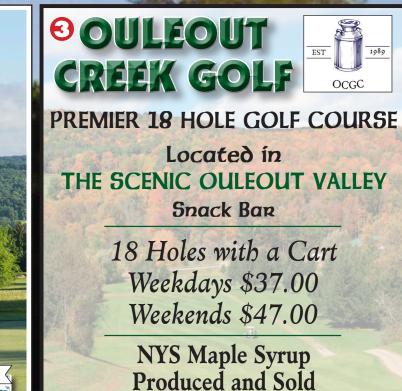
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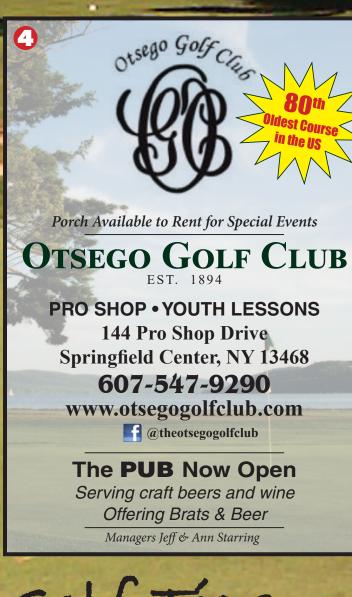




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Golf Tips

How to Read Greens

Things that will help:

(Do these things as thoroughly as you like and at your leisure while practicing. But, of course, don't do all these things on every putt during a round of golf -- keep pace of play in mind.)

- Get your eyes down lower (that's why everybody is squatting down to read the putts -- the closer your eyes get to the level of the plane you're trying to see the better your perspective). An extreme version of this would be lying down (don't do this when you're playing, but I've seen it done and have done it myself in practice just to see what it's like).
- Get any information you can from approaching chips and putts -- yours or those of the other players in your group -- especially if they're on a similar line to the putt you will hit next. It's especially good to see how the ball behaves as it slows down and gets very near the hole.
- Look from the low side of the hole. This is just another way of getting your eyes lower. Of course, this only works on putts where you can tell which side is the low side.

- Get far enough away from what you're looking at to give yourself a good angle or perspective. A good place to start, at least on shorter putts, is to get back as far away from the ball as the ball is from the hole.
- Take a look from the side of the putting line (approximately perpendicular to the intended line of the putt). This helps you to see if the putt is uphill or downhill.
- Imagine pouring a bucket of water on the green between your ball and the hole, which way would the water run?
- Judging the speed and line of your putts can be obvious or very subtle from putt to putt. But with a little time and experience and lots of trial and error anybody can develop the ability to read greens. It's an art, in the end, but nothing that focusing your attention won't get you.