



JetGreen

The CEO's Private Golf Shuttle

Corporate planes, meant to save time,
also ferry executives to top courses.

By MARK MAREMONT

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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Pittsburgh's weekend weather forecast on Friday, Jan. 28, called for light snow and temperatures in the 20s and 30s, but that didn't keep Raymond LeBoeuf, then chief executive of [PPG Industries Inc.](#), from playing golf. At 4 p.m., a Hawker 800 jet owned by the paint and glass company carried Mr. LeBoeuf from a small Pittsburgh airport to balmy Naples, Fla.

On Sunday, Mr. LeBoeuf played an 18-hole round of golf in Naples at the Hole In The Wall club, an invitation-only private club, whose entrance is a small, discreetly marked opening in a large hedge. His score was an impressive 82. The PPG jet flew Mr. LeBoeuf back to the company's Pittsburgh headquarters early on Monday.

GOLF RECORDS

Look up [golfers' scores](#) on the U.S. Golf Association's handicap database.

FORE!

[See a chart](#) of some executives who use corporate aircraft to fly to golf destinations.

The following weekend, Mr. LeBoeuf, 58 years old, again flew to Naples, where he owns a home valued at more than \$5 million. That time he improved his score to 77 at the Naples club, which has a five-year waiting list to join. In all, Mr. LeBoeuf, who retired in July, traveled to Naples on PPG's two corporate jets on eight weekends between late January and April. He played golf on each visit, and his scores, like those of many executive golfers, are posted on a database operated by the U.S. Golf Association.



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At PPG, spokesman Jeff Worden confirms that Mr. LeBoeuf was aboard the company jet on the eight weekend trips to Naples, "where he was in the process of establishing a new primary residence in preparation for his retirement." He adds that PPG has a security plan "requiring" the company's chairman and president to use corporate aircraft for personal as well as business trips. Mr. LeBoeuf, who was paid \$4 million in salary and bonus last year, says that "what I did there was consistent with corporate policy and the desires of

our board."

There are thousands of corporate aircraft flying the skies over the U.S. Most companies say these planes are necessary to conveniently and securely transport employees to distant facilities or meetings. Top executives "are really 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week people," notes Mike Nichols, an official with the National Business Aviation Association, a trade group. "These are really flying offices."

But a comparison of golf scores and flight records, some of which are available from commercial aviation-data services, shows that companies also use their jets for another purpose: as airborne limousines to fly CEOs and other executives to golf dates or to vacation homes where they have golf-club memberships.