

# Alpha Drivers And Fairway Metals

## Equipment Review



By Wayne Freedman

KGO - Alpha Golf of Chatsworth, California, claims to make "the best drivers you've never heard of." I certainly hadn't heard of them when they invited me to test some of their clubs.

Alpha sells about 20-thousand big sticks a year, having carved a niche among long drive contestants. If you look in the bags at the Remax Championships, you would see Alpha well represented. In 2005, golfers using Alpha clubs finished well in the money in five divisions.. According to Alpha's count, no other manufacturer had so many heads in the competition.

The company has fifteen employees, led by Dr. Jim Yeh, a physicist and transplant from the aerospace industry. "We use a stronger, high yield titanium in our drivers," he says. His clubs look pear-shaped and traditional. The C.830.2 driver, which I tested, has a deep, 1 degree closed face, and also a deep center of gravity. At 10 degrees and with an Aldila NV-65-S shaft, the 460cc head sent balls high and straight with a stunningly crisp sound, excellent velocity, and a rock-solid feel across most of the face.

I loaned this club, along with the C830.2 steel-headed fairway metals, to several players of differing handicaps and abilities. "Don't look at the brand," I said. "Just hit the clubs." To a man, the players were impressed, if not sticky-fingered. Balls jumped off the face, although I found it to be a bit shallow for some shots out of the rough. In mentioning this to Mr. Yeh, he sent along another model, the C830 (15 degrees), which is three millimeters deeper, and I liked it even better. That club is fairly small, but has a deep center of gravity and just plows through the ball. It hits almost as long as a driver, and very straight, with a muted sound at impact. I would prefer the sound to be louder, but let's not quibble because after that testing session, two of the guys went to Alpha's web site and bought C830's for their personal use.

So does Alpha Golf, in fact, make "the best drivers you've never heard of?" Could be. Their equipment is certainly quite good, and better than some brands with which you are more familiar.

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