

COURSE GUIDE

#1: Get your round off to a good start! A short, relatively easy par 5 if you do the simple things. Stay in the fairway and play it as a three shot hole and par or better is likely. There's room for error off the tee but prepare to lay a second shot up short and on the right side of the fairway. It's the hole most often birdied, but a wayward drive can make recovery difficult. Water is to the left of most tees, rough clads the right side of the green with a grass bunker on the left, and the old Oak tree to the left front of the green seems to be insignificant . . . unless you're anywhere on the left in the fairway or rough. A fun hole that can get you off to a good start! **Handicap 18**

#2: It's this simple; get a par and move on! The lowest handicap of the six par 3s, this hole is short except from the black tees (over 200 yards). But the green or fringe is a must to snag a par. Sloping to the back right, the two-tiered green punishes chip shots from its surrounding rough, dunes, and a hidden grass trap on the left. You really need to hit this green! **Handicap 5**

#3: Owen's Draw A deceptive hole, this slight dogleg left par 4 has OB on the left and a seemingly magnetized sand trap on the right. Play the fairway! The approach is slightly uphill, sometimes one extra club, onto a narrow green sloping down from back to front. A sand trap to the right of the green makes an interesting approach. Another hole to smile at par! **Handicap 8**

#4: Horseshoe The view from the tee on this short par 3 is complex. The horseshoe green slopes on both sides down to lower levels. Between is a sand trap that can take a variety of off-target shots, and the water in front with its intimidating retaining wall is filled with golf balls from nerve racking tee shots! Plus another sand trap on the left and rough bunkers on the right and back. Depending on the pin placement you can snag a birdie here . . . or find yourself struggling for bogey! If you're superstitious try to forget that an upside down horseshoe means "bad luck"! **Handicap 13**

Now cross the road. Many players think after surviving the first four holes the course gets easier. Decide for yourself!

#5: The Tucker A short par 4 straight down the fairway! It's this simple; play it like you see it. There is trouble for any drive to the left, but other than that the biggest problems are water to the left of the green and slopes to the right and back. When the pin is on the lower tier #5 gives up some good scores! **Handicap 10**

#6: How accurate is your drive? Straight is a must on this long, narrow par 4! The winding ditch on the left is guarded by hardwoods and pines, and a ball in the thicket of pines to the right calls for a pitch-out or a big gamble. Even after a good drive three tiers of sloping green challenge even the lowest handicappers. That is, if you make it through the maze of sand traps and dunes. Most say the approach shot takes an extra club even though the look from the fairway wouldn't seem to call for it. Don't beat yourself up over a mistake here! It's a tough hole! **Handicap 1**

#7: So many options! This par 5 gives up some birdies and an occasional eagle . . . but there's OB to the left and a strip of rough that crosses the fairway for the long drives that would otherwise be "go-fors". Anything to the right off the tee is a challenge but can be a negotiated lay-up for a third approach shot. A narrow landing strip in front of the green isn't a consideration as it's guarded by a sand trap in front and water on both sides. A second shot lay-up to the left of the green is the smart, safe play, and then chip across the water to a scenic green. But don't chip too far! Go over and there's water there, too! Smile when you leave this hole! You've faced more obstacles than you might realize! **Handicap 12**

#8: If you find the pin on the bottom tier of this par 3 you have a good chance at a good score. The green's slopes will often funnel a shot towards several pin placements on the lower tier. A wayward tee shot to the right will find water regardless, but especially if the pin is on the top tier. The handicap on this hole could literally change by multiple shots depending on pin placement alone, and it's carded as the second most difficult par 3. The top tier calls for a very accurate tee shot to a small landing area. Even the best golfers find themselves over par quite often when trying to navigate to the top. **Handicap 6**

#9: Cooter Caddie Don't make this hole hard! A short dog leg right par 4 makes standing on the tee tempting to challenge the design. The sparse pines to the right seem to be saying, "You can go straight through us!" Sometimes the challenge is even to go over them. And some play up #5 fairway! It's not OB and possible to have a short chip looking straight at the cup! But the terrain isn't kept perfect for that reason, and more good scores are carded by playing the fairway. Long hitters often drive through this fairway and without a good lie in the rough the sloping green can be extremely hard to negotiate. It's narrow, but wide, with bunkers in front and dunes on three sides, all considered rough. The approach shot from the fairway, though short, presents a challenge not being able to see the cup. Never-the-less, #9 plays as one of the easier holes when played by design. **Handicap 9**

Make the turn and try not to think about teeing off where onlookers could easily be present in the restaurant. The temptation to hit a bomb on #10 is great, BUT

#10: Laughing Oak Said by many to be the most deceptive hole they've ever played, take this advice! Stay right! Even an approach shot from the rough on the right most often proves to be friendlier than anything on the left side. This average length par 4 looks easy from the tee. There's one solitary reason it's the number 3 handicap hole. The haunting oak tree on the left side in front of the green. It makes an approach shot from the left one of three things: unbelievably good, very lucky, but most likely trouble! That big oak even affects the break on this two-tier green that is also guarded by water to the right of the huge downward slope. **Handicap 3**

#11: At first blush you might wonder how this could possibly be the number 4 handicap hole! Two hardwoods on the left capture most any wayward tee shot in that direction. Those fortunate enough to go through or over find a challenging second shot downhill to a small landing area. Too far to the right can find the ditch, rough with nothing to do but chip out, or the water hazard that also protects #12 green. The fairway is a must to set up an approach into this long, narrow green guarded by a sand trap on the left and water to the right. **Handicap 4**

#12: Sudden Death Passers-by who don't play golf look at this hole from the road and think how easy it must be! What they don't realize is that, though short, a straight shot must carry the green or be in the water. The green slopes towards the front and to the right, but two large pines on the left block many shots that could otherwise bounce on. Still one of the easier holes on the course, #12 is a good birdie opportunity for the golfer who doesn't let hitting over the water affect his nerves. **Handicap 14**

#13: Buckwheat Long drives don't bring an advantage here! A par 4 dogleg right demands a tee shot in the fairway, then a relatively short approach shot. Things that add up a score are three sand traps on the left side of the green, a natural bunker on the right, and water all the way across the front. Still not a terribly hard par 4, but don't be short! **Handicap 11**

#14: This short par 5 sees varied scores from eagles to double-digits! Played by design it's an easy three shot to green par five. But it tempts golfers to go over the picturesque water and island, play close to water, or risk the mounds and rough that surround the green. While some eagles do fly, getting across the water can sometimes take more than a shot or two! And a two-tiered green awaits! **Handicap 15**

#15: This mid-length par 3 requires an excellent tee shot to have a reasonable birdie putt. Par is a good score any time and often requires a good "up and down". The green has peculiar breaks that make it seem like an optical illusion. A large sand trap slashes hope on shots short of the green, while shots to either side or over require playing from grass bunkers or dunes. A good shot from the tee is a must! **Handicap 7**

#16: RIP Billy Another short par 5 that lends itself to a lot of birdies. Par is very good as well since there is only one path to the green. Over the water that lies only feet in front of a multi-tiered green. Gamblers often go for it in two, but the odds of a good eagle putt are slim. Some of the best golfers lay up to a relatively easy 60 to 100 yard third shot. It's another hole where playing the course by design pays dividends. If a long hitter is in the fairway on his drive there's a good chance a little roll will place the ball at a place almost too tempting to lay up. Risk and reward! **Handicap 16**

#17: A beautiful, friendly par 3 facing a green that slopes from back to front. The green is surrounded by grass dunes and a grass bunker in front. A shot to either side could easily end up with a putt from friendly slopes, but the grass is not cut short around the green so a miss still makes for a hard chip. Take advantage of this hole before standing on #18 tee! **Handicap 17**

#18: Alcatraz A long, hard par 4, and a finishing hole impossible to forget! The lake details the dogleg left and the more distance cut off from the tee, the more water to cross. It's an impossible reach to the green from the drop zone so double bogey (or higher) finds itself on many scorecards! No doubt the fairway is key; you decide how far back to cross. The approach is to a challenging green with a bunker on the left and various obstacles in the front. And the right side? Don't go there! The green winds oddly to the back and left. A pin placement there can make this hole feel like a par 5. No matter how you play it #18 is a great finishing hole! **Handicap 2**

FROM THE PAST

#3 **Owen's Draw** In the first round of the 2016 Senior Championship Owen Carty found the out of bounds on #3 almost impossible to avoid.

#4 **Big Ben** There's a small memorial on the white tee on #4. Ben Spearman was small in stature but left a huge legacy to enjoy. In earlier years Mr. Ben and about six or seven others would play together, all walking.

#5 **The Tucker** Where the cart path turns to the left towards #6 tee there's a small tree shadowing a memorial for Tucker Smith. The Folds of Honor Tournament in Brookhaven is also called "The Tucker" in memory and honor of this young Marine.

#9 **Cooter Caddie** Legend has it that before riding in carts, "Cooter" was caddying for a business acquaintance of Bill Furlow. Then hole #5, Cooter suggested a 5 iron from what appeared to the gentleman to be a much shorter shot. Supposedly the ball bounced from the roof of the clubhouse backwards to the bottom of an empty swimming pool, then on the green.

#10 **Laughing Oak** No one who has played the hole multiple times can argue that this tree might be the single-most albatross on the course. It truly must laugh as it takes out shot after shot.

#12 **Sudden Death** An obvious name for #12, it's often the choice for "sudden death" in scrambles, shoot-outs, and tournaments.

#13 **Buckwheat** Over the last decade no one has done more for the course than Jeff Henning, aka "Buckwheat". In the spring of 2016 while looking for drains from the sand traps on #13 he didn't account for how steep it is to the water. That's where he went . . . tractor and all . . . even with brakes locked. The good news is he dug up the drain on the way down!

#16 **RIP Billy** Sha Walker has provided goats to keep the island on #14 clean for years. In autumn of 2016 the pair met their demise as one drowned when their leashes got tangled. The other, "Billy", was killed on the bank of the tee on #16 when a mysterious predator(s) took the life but left the carcass. Both were buried with respect on course property.

#18 **Alcatraz** It's this simple. Walk a straight line with hopes of getting out with a good score. Veer slightly and there's no escape.