

Hollow Creek Golf Club ~ The 19th Hole

Kip Ritenour



Hole 5 Par 5

A word of caution to those visiting Hollow Creek Golf Club near Frederick, Maryland, for the first time — wait until your round is over before visiting the Valley Grill and Sports Bar located under the exquisitely charming 15,000 square foot French Country clubhouse. While the golf course is the undoubted star at Hollow Creek, the Valley Grill and Sports Bar adds immensely to the overall appeal of this fine facility. My foursome was nearly late for our afternoon tee time on a recent visit thanks to the charm and appeal of the great 19th hole watering spot. Filled with 20 Hi Def large screen TVs and one of the coldest and most impressive selection of beers in the area, one, or should I say a foursome, could lose track of time very, very easily. The Valley Grill and Sports Bar is a non-golfer attraction for

the locals and with good reason. Besides the outstanding array of domestic and imported brews, the pub also has nightly dining features and live music on the stunning outdoor patio each Friday night. For example, this past Sunday the grill featured an all you can eat prime rib night along with stars and bars poker night. Tuesday is open mic night with half price pizza and beer specials.

But back to the golf course and the reason you're reading this review. Hollow Creek is a fine Rick Jacobson design that features four sets of tees, ranging from the 5105-yard red tees to the 6780-yard blue tees. Not overly long by today's modern standards, Jacobson still managed to make Hollow Creek a challenge with a good mix of holes and some downright tricky and sometimes extremely undulating greens. Mix in a some subtle elevation changes, views of the Catocctin Mountains, water hazards and fairway bunkering, and Hollow Creek can be a challenge to even the best of golfers. Located in Middletown and convenient to both Baltimore and Washington D.C., Hollow Creek is another must play course in the burgeoning golf course explosion near Frederick. The area can now boast a big six as Hollow Creek can rightly stand next to neighboring courses Whiskey Creek, Maryland National, P.B. Dye Club, Worthington Manor, and Musket Ridge.

Hollow Creek is just as immaculate as its bordering upscale brethren and is such a sweet layout. The par 72 tract offers up plenty of opportunities for birdies, with all four of the par



Hole 6 Par 3

5's reachable even from the back tees. This quartet of holes measure in at 524, 499, 505 and 515 yards, and each plays shorter than the yardage when played downwind and with the generous firmness offered by the bentgrass fairways. The toughest hole at Hollow Creek comes early with the opening 453-yard hole. This is the longest par 4 and the number one handicap hole on the card, but as with the par 5's on the property, plays shorter than the yardage. Starting from an elevated tee a solid drive can leave a mid to short iron to the green. My group voted for the 236 yard par 3 sixth as the toughest golf hole at Hollow Creek. Playing from a slightly elevated tee, the sixth features a narrow boomerang green that's protected by a large bunker on the front right side of the putting surface. Only one par was managed on this diabolical hole.

After having a links-style feel for the first 11 holes, Jacobson switches things up on the pretty 356 yard par 4 twelfth. Framed by tall oak and hickory trees and a fairway bunker to the right, this hole provides a good chance at birdie. The 515 yard par 5 eighteenth is a beautiful finishing hole that also begs for those hitting a straight drive to go for the green in two.

The clubhouse sits behind the green to the left and a large lake with a cascading fountain lurks to the left. The eighteenth is definitely a feel good hole to finish up the day and a perfect segue into the aforementioned Valley Grill and Sports Bar. 🏌️



Hole 18 Par 5

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Hole 12 Par 4