



Jackson's Chase Golf Club ~ A History Crash Course

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I was never one who fared too well in my history studies in school. I was either too consumed with music or with the changing anatomy of young women. If I would have known then what I know now, I would have paid more attention in those classes ...especially concerning the Civil War era. There are no less than a half dozen courses featured in *The Golf Guide* that have ties to the war between the states. Playing Jackson's Chase Golf Club in Front Royal, VA, is similar to getting a crash course on legendary Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. It's all in the strategy!

The mighty general once cantered across the land that Jackson's Chase now occupies. One of Jackson's most notorious victories was over Union General George Banks. Jackson chased down Banks' troops as they were fleeing from Strasburg, VA. Thus the name and thus I'm finished my history lesson for today. Can we talk about golf now?!



Hole 5 Par 4

Much like our Civil War hero did in his battles, you too can use similar tactics when you play Jackson's Chase. Affectionately known to locals as "The Chase" or "The Jack," this 18-hole, par 72 layout, commands both wise and sometimes risky moves. Playing over an undulating terrain, the course features plenty of ravines, native hardwoods and top-notch views of the Blue Ridge and Massanutten mountain ranges. This popular and beautiful course stretches from a comfortable 4400 yards for the ladies to just over 6500 yards from the tips. The front nine opens with a short par 4 where all of your trouble is to the left. The par 3 second hole has a deep green, so back pin placements will warrant an extra club. The par 5 third carries more length than any other hole at The Chase, measuring over 550 yards from the back tees. Sand traps down the right side come into play if you are laying up for your second shot. A lofted shot is premium to a green that slopes sharply from front to back. Many tout the fourth hole as one of the top par 4s in the region. A solid tee shot is needed to reach the top of the hill. The green sits back surrounded by trees. Par here is always a good score. Hole number 5 is also a testy par 4 with bunkers guarding both sides of the fairway. Favor the left side on your tee ball on the sixth hole. Your dimpled friend will carom down to the right side, setting up your approach to this par 4. The par 3 seventh requires a decent carry to get to the putting surface, which is level with the tee box but with a deep

valley between them. The par 5 eighth normally requires three shots, with the emphasis on placing the second shot onto a small island-type fairway. Big hitters going for the green, which is built into the side of a hill, risk it all with no real bailout area in sight. A demanding tee shot over a nasty gorge awaits you on the par 4 ninth, but that's a walk in the park compared to the green, drenched with hills and bumps that can leave even the best with the blade scratching their heads.



Hole 7 Par 3

The inward nine at Jackson's Chase starts with a par 5 characterized by defined landing areas and dramatic changes in elevation. Many consider holes ten thru fourteen more of the target golf variety. You'll need to get your ball in the right places to score well.



Hole 11 Par 3

The par 3 eleventh is a gorgeous piece of golf memorabilia. From the elevated tee, you will witness the valley in all its glory with Signal Knob Mountain in the background. Now focus on getting your ball over the pond and on the right level of a two-tiered green. A fairway metal or rescue club is a smart play on the twelfth, a par 4 that plays over a deep chasm. Thirteen is an exciting par 5 that will have many in the "go-for-it-in-two" mode. Playing it strategically either way normally will give you a good scoring chance. Fourteen is a tough par 4 where this time, the fairway is severely sloped. Tee shots should favor the right side.

I've always thought the closing four holes at "The Jack" allow golfers the chance to get some lost strokes back. I've seen fifteen and seventeen, both par 4's, driven on occasion. Proper club choice will set up a birdie putt on the delightful, short sixteenth. The closer is also capable of adding a circled number to your scorecard if you can get a solid drive off the tee.



Hole 13 Par 5

Jackson's Chase Golf Club is often described as one where history and challenge meet. You can score well here as long as you leave your testosterone pills in the car. If not, the layout will school you! Either way, one thing is certain, it's hard to find a course that combines history, difficulty, and beauty so well.

For more information visit jacksonschase.com