



Cacapon Resort ~ Changing of the Guard

Nick Ciattei

For the last 40 years his name, carved in wood lettering to match the setting, welcomed you each time you entered the clubhouse at Cacapon Resort in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. Good Ole Charlie Fields has decided to hang up his golf spikes and trade them in for legos in his new position as “head grandfather.” Charlie, a fixture at Cacapon, served as the head professional there. I guess after babysitting us golfers for so long it was time for him to tackle some more mature customers! Don’t be surprised if you still see Charlie every once and awhile sitting and chatting or maybe taking in a round at the old workplace.

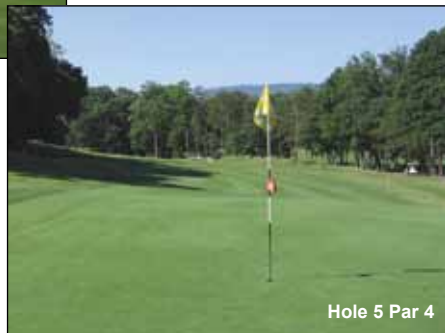
While filling Charlie’s shoes will not be an easy task, Kenneth McCarthy’s passion for the game practically ensures success. Ken told us that this homecoming brings him “full circle” in life since he was born and grew up in the Mountaineer state. McCarthy worked in the mid-Atlantic before having been the head pro at Belmont Country Club in Northern Virginia from 2005 to 2008. After a short stint in the Northeast, he returned to the area to run Fort Belvoir Golf Club.



Hole 1 Par 4

Architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. has stood the test of the time. Jones used his legendary trademarks like runaway tee boxes and the usual amounts of fairway bunkering to help earn Cacapon, one of his signature designs, high merits. *USA Today* named the course one of the 100 best designed tracts in the country. At an elevation of 2,300 feet, the ball seems to fly across the rolling foothills at the base of the mountain ridge. The par 72 measures 6827 from the tips and delivers a strong test for women at 5647 from the forward tees. The par 4 front nine opens from an elevated tee to a dogleg right. Bunkers protect both sides of the green on a slightly uphill approach. The par 4 second brings water into view down the right side and near the green. You must avoid a treeline on the right of

Other than that, things remain status quo at Cacapon. Who would argue with that? This season, you will find just about any outdoor activity happening at the 6,000-acre resort, but we believe that the award-winning golf course endures as the focal point to this outstanding playground. As always, the work of Hall of Fame Golf



Hole 5 Par 4

the first par 5, number three. One of the unique traits of Cacapon occurs on both par 3s on the outward nine. Holes four and eight share a double green that is nearly 100 yards long. Both play downhill to one of the property’s lowest areas. All par 4 doglegs, holes five through seven feature the toughest rated hole on the course, seven. At 430-yards from the blue tees, a big drive down the right side clears the corner. The par 5 ninth requires two straight shots to set up a wedge to the dance floor for a putt at birdie.



Hole 18 Par 5

You’ll notice that the back nine differs from the front nine with many more elevation changes. The par 4 tenth’s close proximity to the clubhouse makes it one of the most recognizable holes at Cacapon. On top of that, an eye-opening stone chimney stands right in the middle of the putting green located next to the tee box. The par 5 eleventh plays downhill and offers an excellent birdie opportunity as long as you avoid the bunkering up and around the green. Three par 4s in succession follow with the first being uphill, the next downhill, and the third relatively flat. A massive bunker along with two others protect the green on fifteen, the highlight par three laid out against the most natural of backdrops with an elevation change of some 70 feet from tee to green. Two fairway bunkers at the left corner of the dogleg cause trouble on sixteen making it a tough par 4 from the back tees. After the par 3 seventeenth, you get a final shot at glory on the course closer. Much like how most of the par 5s play at the resort, a couple of solid straight shots should set you up with a wedge into a well-protected green.

West Virginia State Parks carries out a terrific job at all of their courses and resort properties. As well as Cacapon, they maintain Pipestem and Twin Falls in the southern portion of the state, Canaan Valley in Davis, and the beautiful Arnold Palmer-designed Stonewall Resort in Roanoke. Make sure to get out to Cacapon Resort this season to welcome Ken to his new position. You never know. He may be around for another 40 years!

For more information visit cacaponresort.com



Hole 13 Par 4