



Richland Golf Club ~ Raising a New Flag

Nick Ciattei



Hole 4 Par 4

We have some big changes to announce at one of *The Golf Guide's* favorite courses. The former Hollow Creek Golf Club in Middletown, MD, has become Richland Golf Club with new owners and a new management team overseeing operations. We are hearing great things about the transition, and 2016 should be quite a year with fresh pieces in place.

The Rick Jacobson designed golf course opened in 2002 and put the last birdie on the proverbial scorecard of the Frederick, MD, golf boom. Today, golfers in Frederick County and the metropolitan regions of Baltimore and Washington choose Richland Golf Club among their favorites. It offers a true

retreat from the daily grind. Richland's well-conditioned layout features four sets of tees that range in length from the reds at 5105 to the blues at nearly 6800 yards. While not overly long by today's modern standards, Jacobson uses natural terrain, hazards, and undulating greens to challenge players of all skill levels. The architect used this same pattern at both Bull Run and Augustine golf clubs in Virginia. First time players should note that the front nine plays more open while the back nine is cut tighter. The front nine starts with a long downhill par 4. Talk about opening with a bang, this hole is rated the hardest on the scorecard. Lots of trouble lurks to the left, so approach the green with caution. The second introduces the first of four par 5s, which are all reachable in two for bigger hitters. Other highlights of the first nine include the par 3 fourth that plays over wetlands. Two deep bunkers guard the heavily sloped green. You'll run into difficulty on the par 5 fifth because the hole plays uphill all the way. So think extra club when approaching the green. Richland's outward nine wraps up with three par 4s. Keep the driver in the bag on the ninth for smart play. Position a fairway wood or hybrid to leave you a downhill second shot over wetlands.

The back nine opens with a wonderfully flowing par five where a drive overtop the hill in the elevated fairway gives you a realistic shot to get home in two. After the par 3 eleventh, you come to what I feel are the key holes on your round at Richland Golf Club. Four par 4s, none oppressively long but rather ones that require accuracy, can rapidly change a good round to a bad one or vice versa. The twelfth hole's large environmental area runs up a majority of the left side. That same hazard lies to your left on the following hole. A favorite hole of mine on the inward nine, the charming downhill par 3 sixteenth, features a large bunker complex on the right. The closing hole at Richland presents an outstanding par 5 risk-reward hole with plenty of fairway



Hole 12 Par 4

bunkers and a large pond that protects a majority of the left side.



Hole 18 Par 5

The Valley Grill at Richland perpetuates the golf course tradition of the nineteenth hole and may just be one of the best in the Mid-Atlantic region. This sports bar fulfills not only a golfer's dream, but sports gods and goddesses alike will love the 20 foot wide screen TVs during any season. A very impressive selection of domestic and imported beers, a tasty casual dining menu, and live entertainment have made this one of the area's favorite watering holes. The spacious, upscale clubhouse and surrounding patio area also are very appealing for weddings and receptions. The surrounding Middletown Valley landscape makes a picturesque background for any event.

East Coast Golf Management, who oversees close to two dozen golf courses in the Carolina's including the Myrtle Beach area, brings their expertise and impressive management resume to Richland, and the new owners are committed to making the golf course one the entire community, both young and old, can be proud of and enjoy. Just a short drive from Frederick, MD, the Richland Golf Club will win you over again and again. 

GOLF

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