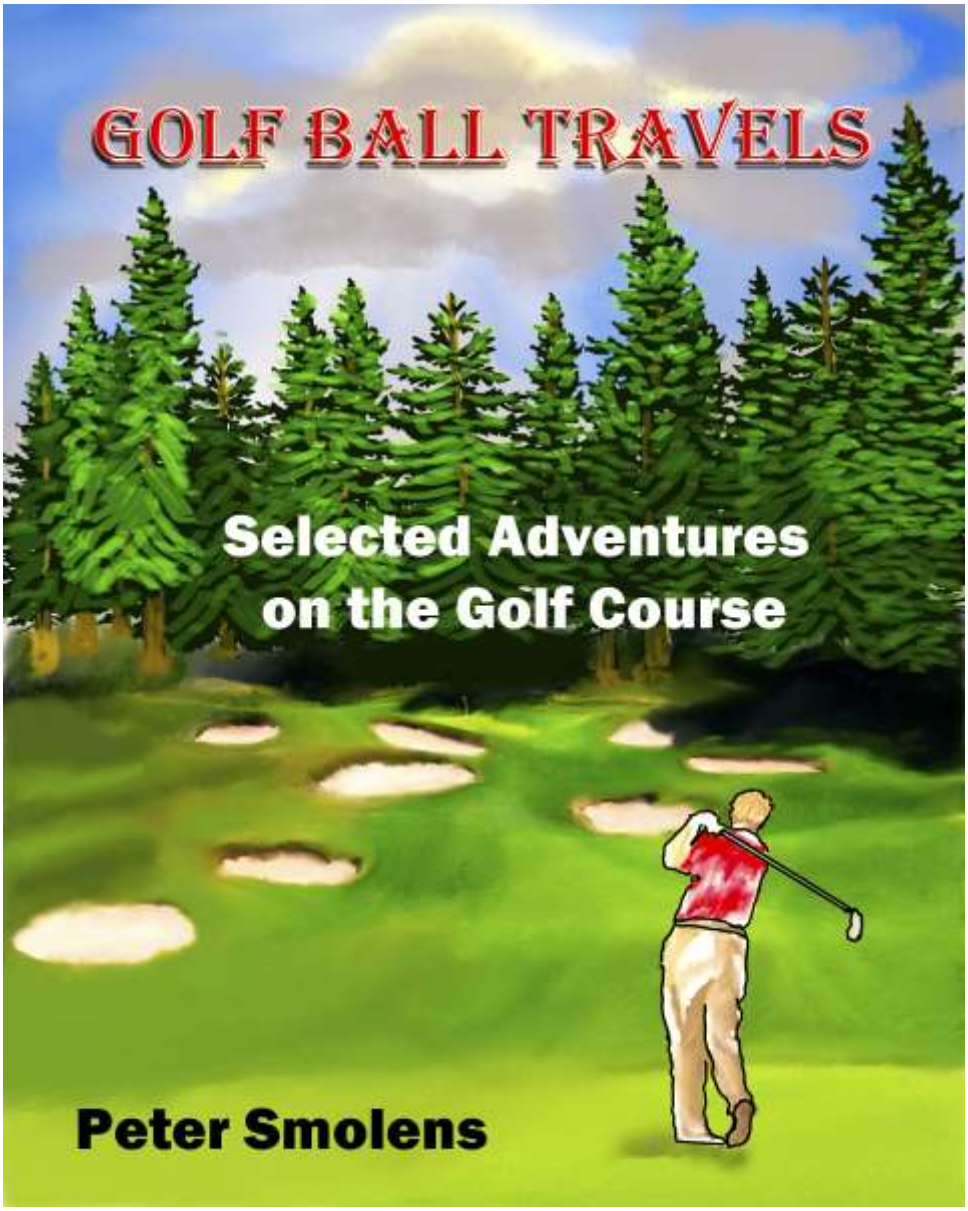

GOLF BALL TRAVELS
Selected Adventures
on the Golf Course
Peter Smolens

GOLF A LA CART

Selected Adventures on the Golf Course



Peter Smolens

Digital Art Press
Division of P.B.S. Studios
Manassas, VA

The Legal Page

"Golf a la Cart: Selected Adventures on the Golf Course"
Published by Digital Art Press
©2025 by Peter Smolens

Date: 5/28/2025

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission from P.B.S. Studios, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review.

Trademarks
All terms mentioned in this book, known as trademarks or service marks, have been appropriately capitalized. P.B.S. Studios cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. Use of a term in this book should not affect the validity of any trademark or service mark.

ISBN: 9798282995961 (printed version)

Warning and Disclaimer
This book provides information about my published and unpublished golf articles. The information is provided on an as-is basis. Every effort has been made for the text and pictures to be as complete and accurate as possible, but no warranty of fitness is implied. The author, Digital Art Press, and P.B.S. Studios shall have neither the liability nor responsibility to any person or entity concerning loss or damages arising from the information contained in the book.

In short, although I have tried my best to be accurate with the text and pictures, the book is "as is." The scanned articles are from the original source magazines. I'm genuinely sorry for any mistakes made within this text or its illustrations. Please inform me of any errors via email at psmolens@pbsstudios.com so I can make the corrections in subsequent editions.

Thanks, and enjoy the book!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

For Linda



In Memory of Mary and Jack Smolens



Table of Contents

The Legal Page 2

Table of Contents..... 4

1. Introduction 5

2. Golf Travel Articles 9

2.1 Williamsburg Travel - Golf Illustrated, 2001..... 10

2.2 Jamaica Golf Courses - SkyWritings Magazine, Jan 2004..... 15

3. Golf Articles and Columns.....23

3.1 Introduction..... 23

3.2 Beginners Guide to Playing Golf..... 24

3.3 Playing Senior Golf: Game for a Lifetime 28

3.4 Author, Peter Smolens..... 33

3.5 Golf a la Cart Sales Page 34

1. Introduction

For over thirty years, I have been able to write, photograph, and play golf on some of the best golf courses in New England, Jamaica, and the Mid-Atlantic states.

Starting with a chance encounter to play golf with Jeff Thoresen, editor of Washington Golf Monthly, which later became GolfStyles, Washington, that spring morning in 1994. Our introduction led me to write many articles for those magazines.

I traveled multiple times to Myrtle Beach, SC – to many, the world's golf capital, with more than 100 golf courses within the region for Golf Illustrated Magazine.

During my honeymoon and subsequent vacations, I wrote, photographed, and played many of the first-rate golf courses on the island of Jamaica for Air Jamaica SkyWriting Magazine.

The Purpose of this Book

Through the years, people have asked where they can find my articles. This book is my solution. After compiling my golf articles, columns, and photographs, I scanned a selection of those published golf travel articles, which are chapters in the **Golf Travel Section** of the book. You'll find additional articles and columns on my website.

The **Golf Article and Column Section** contains a selection of manuscripts about different aspects of golf. Articles include golf course reviews and ways to play better and enjoy golf. While producing this book, I reviewed, updated, and edited the manuscripts. Many articles include photographs and digital paintings from my stock photo file as illustrations.

The **Golf Photography** section contains a selection of my golf course photographs. Included are both published and unpublished images –my golf course portfolio.

Who am I?

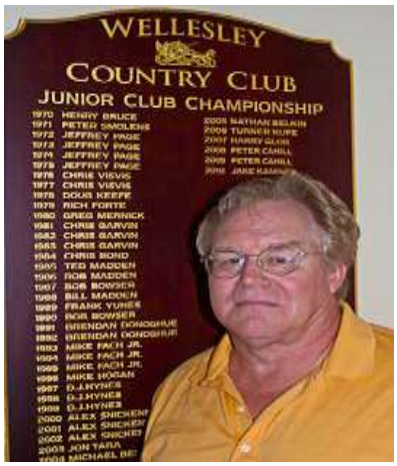
I grew up as a Wellesley Country Club (WCC) member just outside Boston, MA. Not only as a member but also as the first member who was a caddie – See the published chapter called **"Golf with Jack" -:** it's a tribute to my father for details.


Golfers Go for Gophers

While caddying for my mother, I showed an interest in the game. As a Christmas present, I was enrollment in group golf lessons at WCC under the new head golf pro, Les Bond. Between caddying and playing golf, I almost lived at the WCC through Junior and Senior high school. I became quite proficient at the game. By my mid-teens, my handicap was in the single digits. I played on my high school golf team all three years. I was the featured golfer in my high school yearbook (when I had a curly afro and a 28-inch waist)

I qualified for the WCC Club Championship in my junior and senior high school years, losing both times in the semi-finals to Joel Spangler. In 1971, I won the Junior Club Championship.

In the mid-70s, I returned to Wellesley Country Club to become the assistant golf pro, caddie master, and weekend starter. After a season at Wellesley Country Club, I worked at the Country Club of New Seabury (CCNS) and Nashawtuc Country Club (NCC), a private country club located in Concord, MA, just north of Boston, in 1979. Long-time head pro-



Charley Volpone hired me as the Second Assistant Golf Pro. I ran the pro shop, which included managing the caddie master and backroom staff. What I witnessed during that golf season drove me out of the business.

In the early 80s, while married, I rarely played golf. Struggling to make ends meet with my new family, golf was a luxury I could not afford. I had a choice: Play golf or take my family out to dinner - you can guess which option won.

After separating from my first wife, I again found my passion for golf. Upon moving my stuff into the apartment, my roommate, Frank Simons, got excited when he saw my old MacGregor Staff Golf Bag. Frank had just caught the golf bug and wanted to play golf all the time. He got me back into playing golf again.

Once I started playing, I became obsessed with golf again. As a photographer, I usually bring my Nikon 35mm camera to take pictures of the golf course for my stock photography files. I've included a portfolio of golf course photographs and digital paintings throughout this book as illustrations and in the **Golf Photography Section** of the book.

People wonder why we bother to play this crazy game. Mark Twain said it best for people who don't understand golf: "Golf is a Good Walk Spoiled." For us who have caught the golf bug, in the movie "Legend of Bagger Vance," Hardy said it best: "Golf is a game that can't be won; it can only be played." So, I play. To enjoy past successes (and failures), I also play golf for the moments in golf that are yet to come. See you on the golf course soon.
Remember – Fairways and Greens!



4th- 8th hole Double Green Complex at Cacapon GC WVA

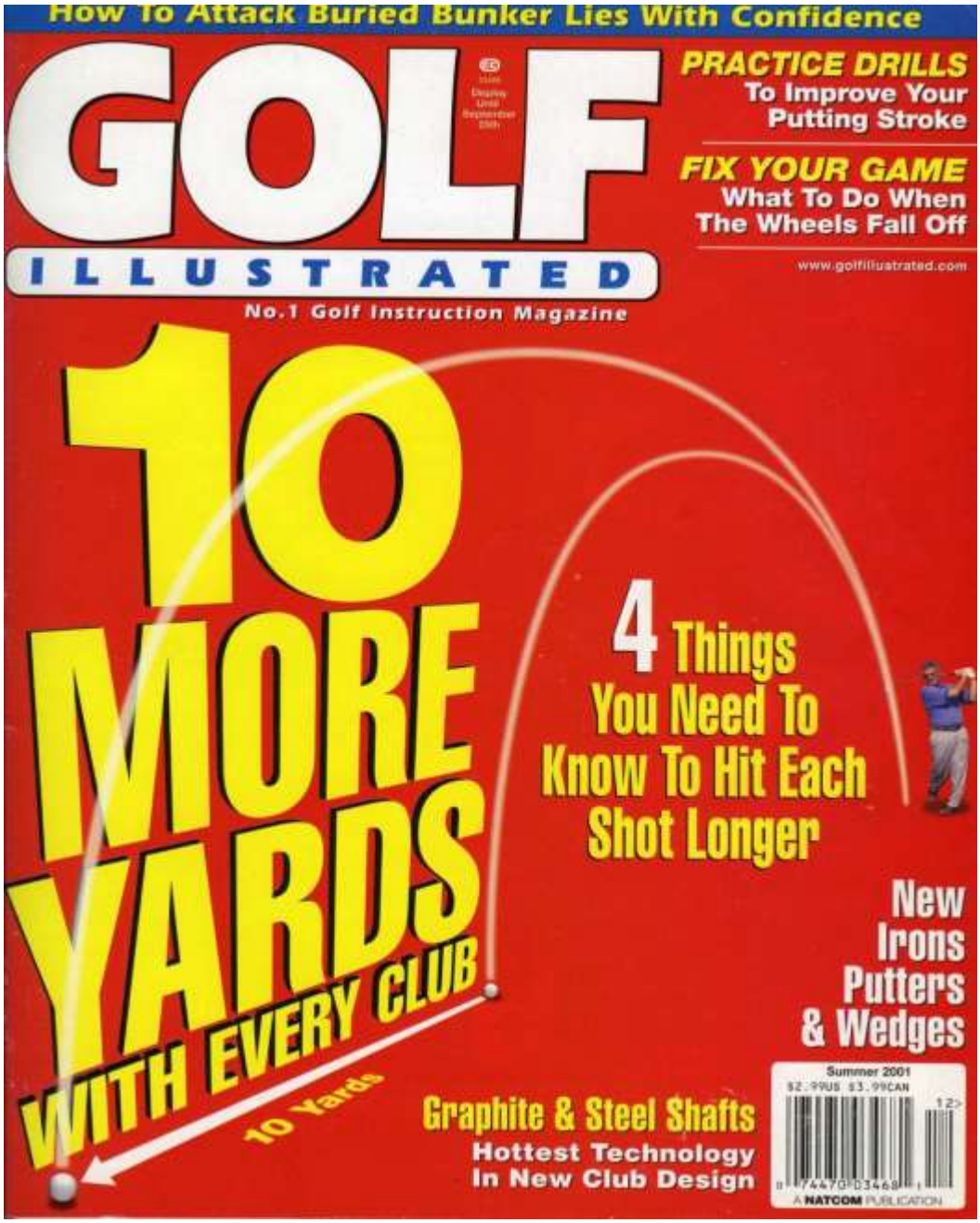
2. Golf Travel Articles

The **Golf Travel Articles** section contains a selection of golf travel articles that appeared in newspapers, magazines, and online publications. I've written travel articles for various golf publications through the years. Some publications stopped publishing their magazine after they accepted (and paid), but never published the manuscripts.

As part of the payment for publication, I received copies of the magazine that contained my published articles. Unfortunately, some of the contributors' copies have been lost. During a move, a box containing contributor magazines got wet and unreadable. Many of my early publications from the 90s were ruined. For example, I had to throw out my contributor copy of Washington Golf Monthly magazine containing my first "Play the Game" feature on the Colonial Golf Course. The original manuscript and accompanying photographic illustrations are in the **Article and Column** section.

Full Disclosure: The published articles presented are scanned copies of the original article as it was published in the magazine, newspaper, and online publication. During the scanning process, I included the cover, masthead (where you see my name in the contributors section), Table of Contents page, and the published article.

2.1 Williamsburg Travel - Golf Illustrated, 2001





GOLF ILLUSTRATED

Summer ◆ 2001

EQUIPMENT

36 New Irons, Putters & Wedges
By Laurie Lee Dovey, Equipment Editor

44 Get A Grip On Your Game
By Laurie Lee Dovey, Equipment Editor

54 Graphite & Steel Shafts: Hottest Technology In New Club Design
By Laurie Lee Dovey, Equipment Editor

36
Find out which of the latest line of irons, putters and wedges introduced by club manufacturers can help improve your game.

TRAVEL

48 COLONIAL GOLF: Wonderful Williamsburg
By Peter Smolens

48
Combining history, golf and mild summer temperatures, Williamsburg, Va., provides the perfect vacation destination for the entire family.

44
Regripping your clubs can help you gain more feel and consistency for better results.

MATRX
RAPPORT TOUR Ni-495
Fujikura

54
Utilizing graphite and steel together, multi-material shafts feature the hottest new technology in golf club design. Discover how you can get the best-of-both-worlds performance from these high-tech designs.

DEPARTMENTS

8 Rules & Etiquette
12 Featured PGA Teaching Pros
18 Mastering The Mental Game
56 What's Hot In Golf
59 Stroke Shavers

Page 6 ◆ Golf Illustrated

COLONIAL

Wonderful Williamsburg

By Peter Smolens

The cannon guarding the 16th green at Kingsmill River Course in Williamsburg, Va., is just for show, and the only bunkers left on the land that was once known as Burwell's Landing are merely to capture stray golf balls that miss this difficult green. Once fortified by American forces to protect the area when the British shelled, today they're subtle reminders that you're in the middle of historic land. Wars have been fought to protect this land.

Located about 150 miles from our nation's capital along the James River, Williamsburg, Va., was the original capital of the colony of Virginia from 1699 to 1780. This historic city has been rebuilt to represent a true-to-life replica of a colonial Southern town during the period around the Revolutionary War. Celebrating its 75th anniversary, this place is where history and outdoor activities combine to make the perfect family vacation destination.



Just south of the historical area and next to Jamestown landing sits the 2,900-acre Kingsmill Resort complex with three championship courses.

Although most people come to historic Colonial Williamsburg to see how people who founded this country lived in those early years, golfers who don't bring their clubs are missing one of the best treasures Williamsburg has to offer — its many fine golf courses. Indeed, America's most renowned museum village now boasts an impressive collection of golf course designs that range from classic to modern and that are sure to satisfy any golfer.

The golf starts even before you reach the historic district. Designer Mike Strantz, who has won acclaim for his bold designs, provides two fine examples of his versatility. Royal New Kent and Stonehouse golf courses show the extreme ends of modern and classic golf course design.

Like Williamsburg, Strantz tried to create a true replica of a links golf course with Royal Kent. He did one better. The only thing missing from this golf course is the stiff breeze off the Irish Sea. A visually stunning golf course, every hole on this course is special. Using the natural characteristics of the land, Strantz has sculpted a modern-style course for golfers of all levels.

For masochistic golfers, Royal New Kent offers "Invicta" tees, which means "unconquerable" — it's the correct word for the tips of this course. Forget your standard rate and slope numbers. At a length of 7,291 yards and a par 72, this course from these tees is sadistically rated 76.5 with a 147 slope — the highest in Virginia. When you add the wind, forget the Revolutionary War or the war between the states, playing this golf course is a war in itself.

At the other end of the style spectrum is the Stonehouse Golf Course. This layout reflects the ruggedness of the region as it was back in Colonial times. Built in the classic tradition of Cypress Point and Pine Valley, Stonehouse is cut through deep woods. Even with generous size fairways, several holes demand shot accuracy to large greens that average more than 10,000 square feet. Having greens this large means lots of fine pin placements. Landing close to the pin is difficult due to the many blind shots, deep bunkers and sloping ter-

Page 48 ◆ Golf Illustrated

GOLF

Combining history, golf and mild summer temperatures, Williamsburg, Va., provides the perfect vacation destination for the entire family.

rain that players find as the norm for this course.

Once you arrive at Williamsburg, you will find that the Historic District is alive with re-enactments and restored buildings. Traveling to Williamsburg is like stepping back in time to the 18th century. Wandering around the Historic District, you'll see no signs of modern America, just horse-drawn carriages that plod slowly along cobblestone roads. Hard-working artisans are happy to explain their work as they go about their daily business, presenting an informative and up-close look at life in Colonial times.

Located at the west end of the historic area stands the campus of the College of William and Mary. Founded in 1693, it is the second oldest college in America. Between rounds of golf, take some time to walk around this beautiful campus of higher learning.

During the late afternoon you will want to be at the head of Duke of Gloucester Street for the daily fife and drum corps performance. Afterwards, stop by the Kings Arms tavern and have a drink and some fine food by candlelight at tables set with pewter candlesticks and fine linens. Just don't be surprised when you get a history lesson while being served foods that were popular in Colonial times.

As home to the PGA Tour Michelob Championship, the River Course is the best known of all the courses in the Williamsburg area.

A good tee shot away from the Historic District sits the Golden Horseshoe golf course. As a feature of the Williamsburg Inn, a five-star resort hotel and restaurant owned and operated by Colonial Williamsburg, this is the only resort and golf course actually within the confines of Williams-



Courtesy Kingsmill Resort

Golf Illustrated ◆ Page 49

COLONIAL GOLF: Wonderful Williamsburg

Because it is the farthest away and in the least developed area of the resort, the residents at Kingsmill like to think of Woods Course as their own private course. The newest golf addition at Kingsmill is a solid challenge for any golfer. Working with Washington, D.C., area course designer Tom Clark, Strange designed a 6,784-yard layout that fits nicely into the landscape. This course offers a variety of holes, from killer long to strategic placement holes. When playing this course, you will use every club in your bag.

Designed by Joe LaFoy, the 6,775-yard Kiskiack Golf Club was once the home of the Kiskiack (which means painted water) Indians before English settlers moved into the region.



Courtesy Kiskiack Golf Club

Designed by Ault, Clark and Associates, Kingsmill's Bray Links is a perfect course for beginners. At pitch and putt length, this layout features glow-in-the-dark golf balls, tee markers and flagsticks so it can be played at night. This is one course the whole family can enjoy.

Opening in 1995, the Colonial Golf Course in Toano was the first upscale daily-fee layout in the Williamsburg region not associated with a major resort or housing complex. Designed by Lester George with help from former touring pro Robert Wrenn, this course has consistently been listed as one of the best in the state.

Built around natural wetlands, the Colonial is a thinking man's golf course. It requires players to consider placement instead of length. Still, most of the holes are designed so if you play good shots, par is an obtainable score. However, if you stray from the fairway, ravines, traps, wetlands and trees lining either side of the fairway are ready to catch your wayward shot. Luckily, three practice holes and an expansive range offer you a way to get ready before taking on this course.

Holding up the west flank of town, Ford's Colony combines 54 holes of excellent golf with fine eating in a wonderful residential setting. This is another father/son combination. Ellis and Dan Maples designed the original 18 holes in 1985, which has since become the Marsh Hawk course. After taking over the designing chores from his father, Dan Maples has designed the BlackHeath and the latest addition, the Blue Heron golf course, which opened in 1998.

As the centerpiece of an award-winning semi-private golf course community, all the layouts have the trademark stamp of a Maples design. Using woods and water on most holes, each course is sculpted into the landscape without imposing the real estate too close to the golf. A perfect example is included in the Blue Heron course, which features a hole where players tee off from a strip of land with water on both sides and then are pleasantly surprised to find no hazards, just a straight hole that fits in nicely with the existing landscape. This is a stark contrast to the rest of the hazard-filled course.

Make sure you bring a change of clothes (jackets and ties are required) because after your round you'll want to eat at The Dinning Room. Under chef David Everett, this eating establishment located in the newly refurbished clubhouse has received the coveted AAA Five Diamond Award. You can feast on a five-course meal that includes sweet red pepper bisque with jumbo crab meat, salmon monkey fish as well as lobster, scallops and bison. To accompany your meal, you can select from more than 1,000 bottles of wine in the large wine cellar.

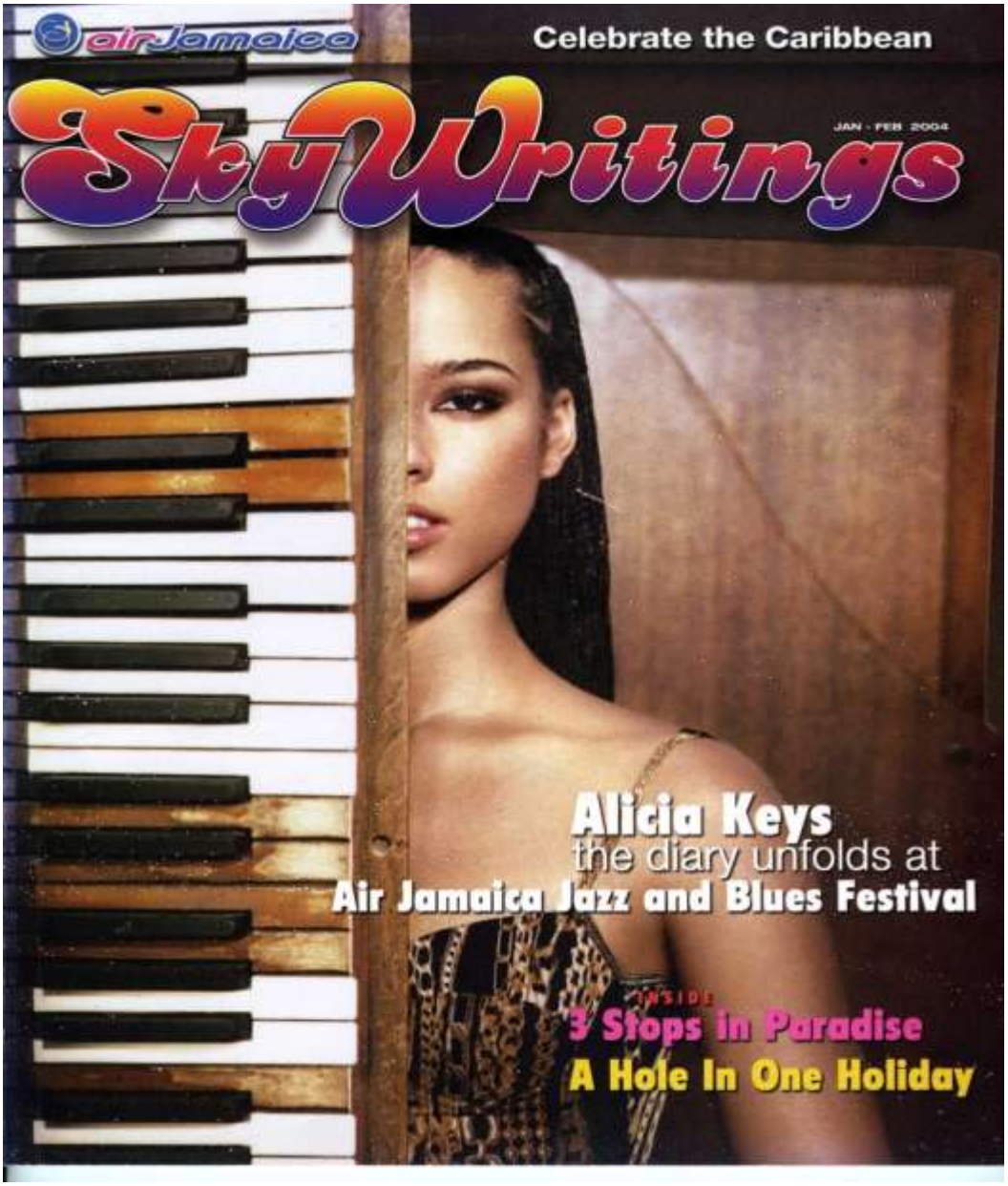
Protecting Williamsburg from the North is the Kiskiack Golf Course. This land was once the home of the Kiskiack (which means painted water) Indians before English settlers moved into the region. Designed by Joe LaFoy, the 6,775-yard Kiskiack Golf Club is built on an area where the Henry Lee house once stood. Lee was one of the first settlers of the region, arriving in 1640. With its new clubhouse, this course is a fine addition to the golf scene in Williamsburg.

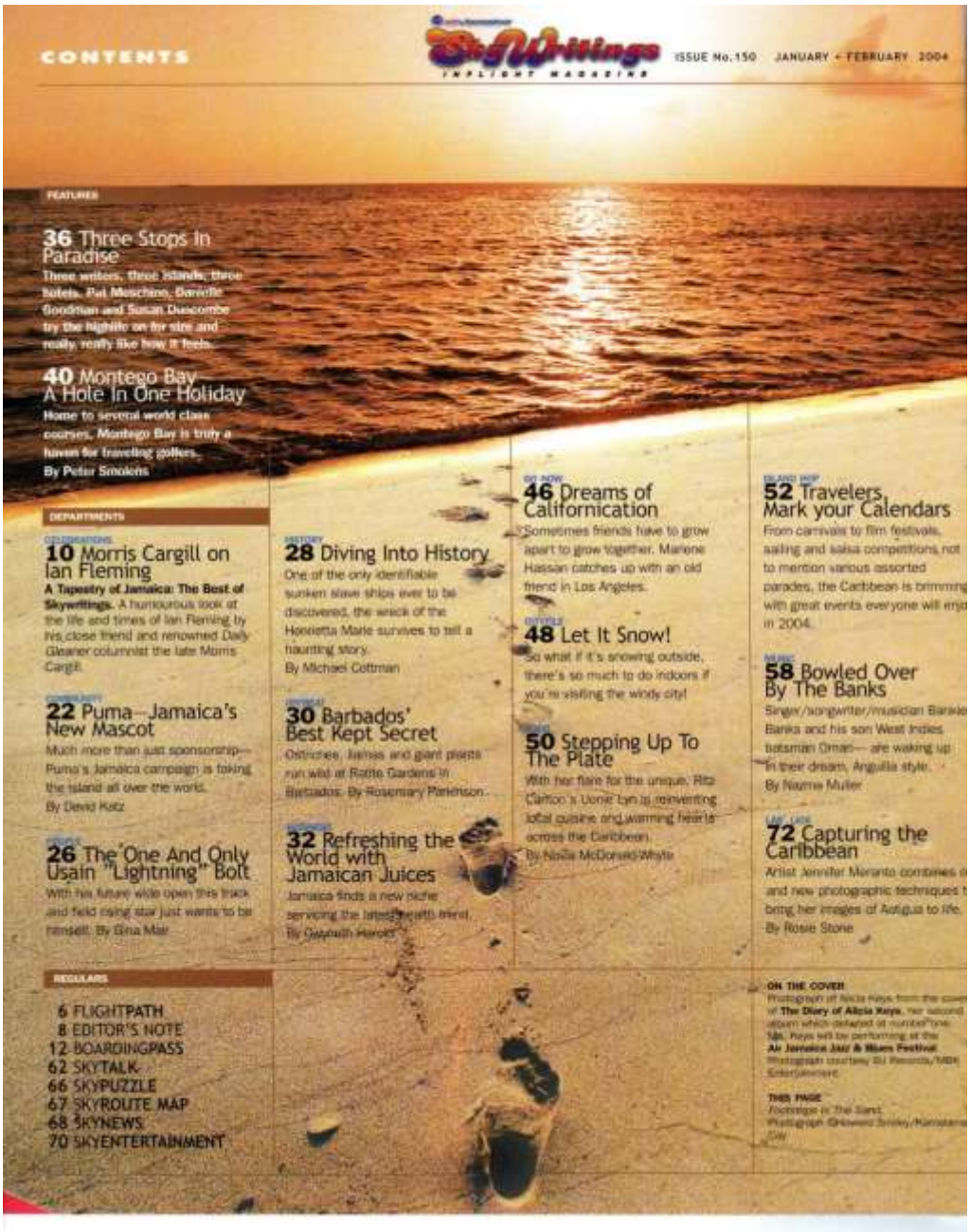
Williamsburg National Golf Course is Jack Nicklaus' entry into the Williamsburg area. Designed by Jim Lite in 1995 and managed by Nicklaus' Golden Bear company, this layout features some of the finest greens around the region.

Although history is the primary reason people visit Williamsburg, with the variety of activities from outright fun at Kingsmill Bush Gardens to some of the finest golf courses on the East Coast, the area has something for everyone. That's all part of the special experience of the region, says Frances Fenderson, owner of the Colonial Course. It's for this very reason Williamsburg has become a golf destination that the whole family can enjoy. GI

Page 52 ◆ Golf Illustrated

2.2 Jamaica Golf Courses - SkyWritings Magazine, Jan 2004





CONTENTS

Skywritings
INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

ISSUE No.150 JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2004

FEATURES

36 Three Stops In Paradise
Three writers, three islands, three hotels. Pat Meschino, Danielle Goodman and Susan Duncombe try the highlife on for size and really, really like how it feels.

40 Montego Bay A Hole In One Holiday
Home to several world class courses, Montego Bay is truly a haven for traveling golfers.
By Peter Smolens

DEPARTMENTS

10 Morris Cargill on Ian Fleming
A Tapestry of Jamaica: The Best of Skywritings. A humourous look at the life and times of Ian Fleming by his close friend and renowned Daily Gleaner columnist the late Morris Cargill.

22 Puma—Jamaica's New Mascot
Much more than just sponsorship—Puma's Jamaica campaign is taking the island all over the world.
By David Kotz

26 The One And Only Usain "Lightning" Bolt
With his future wide open this track and field rising star just wants to be himself. By Gina Mair

28 Diving Into History
One of the only identifiable sunken slave ships ever to be discovered, the wreck of the Henrietta Marie survives to tell a haunting story.
By Michael Cottman

30 Barbados' Best Kept Secret
Ostriches, llamas and giant plants run wild at Rotte Gardens in Barbados. By Rosemary Parkinson

32 Refreshing the World with Jamaican Juices
Jamaica finds a new niche servicing the latest health trend.
By Gwyneth Harper

46 Dreams of Californication
Sometimes friends have to grow apart to grow together. Marlene Hassian catches up with an old friend in Los Angeles.

48 Let It Snow!
So what if it's snowing outside, there's so much to do indoors if you're visiting the windy city!

50 Stepping Up To The Plate
With her flare for the unique, Ritz Carlton's Lonie Lyn is reinventing local cuisine and warming hearts across the Caribbean.
By Nadia McDonald-Whyte

52 Travelers, Mark your Calendars
From carnivals to film festivals, sailing and salsa competitions, not to mention various assorted parades, the Caribbean is brimming with great events everyone will enjoy in 2004.

58 Bowled Over By The Banks
Singer/songwriter/musician Barakie Banks and his son West Indies batsman Omari— are waking up in their dream, Anguilla style.
By Naima Muller

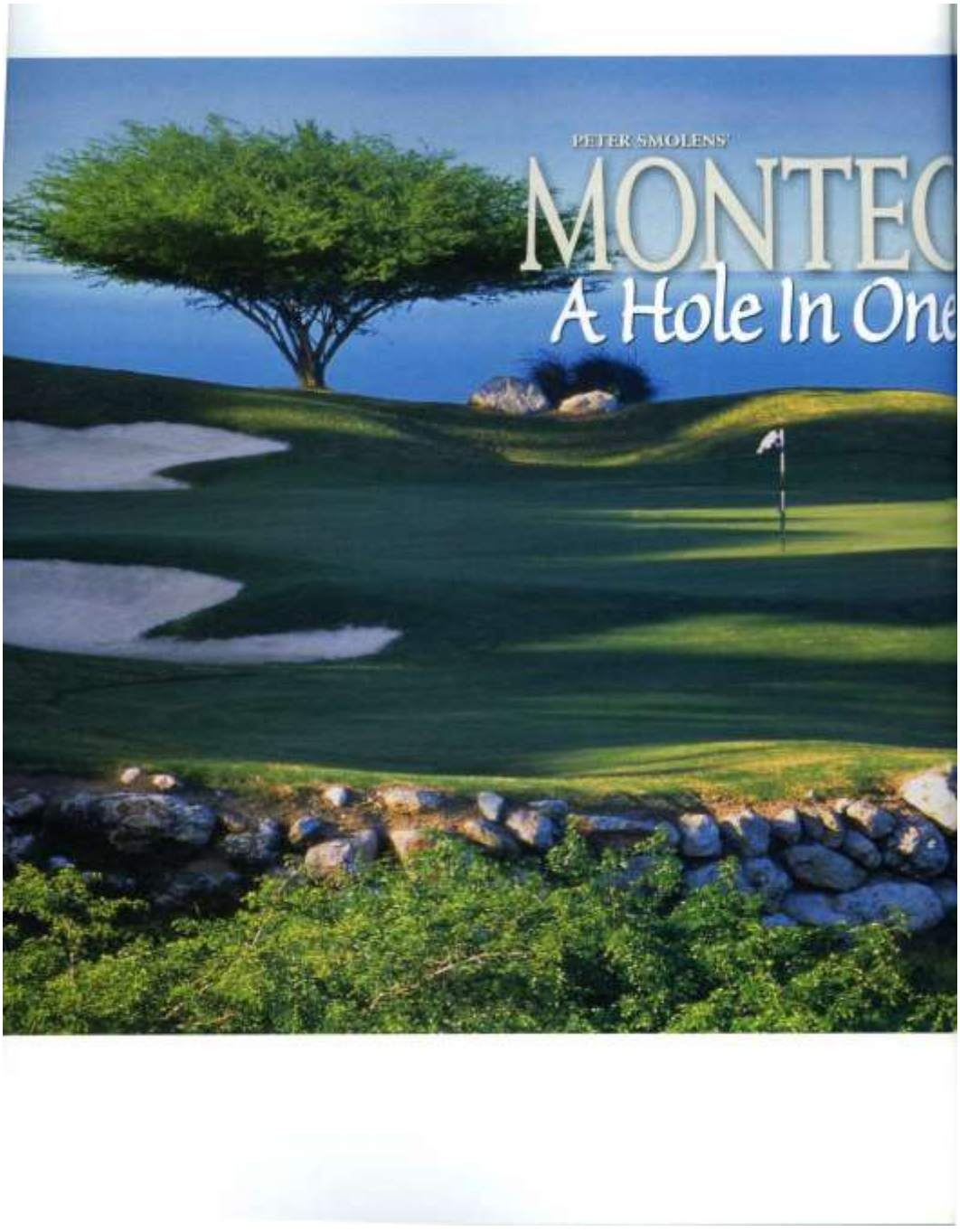
72 Capturing the Caribbean
Artist Jennifer Menanto combines old and new photographic techniques to bring her images of Antigua to life.
By Rosie Stone

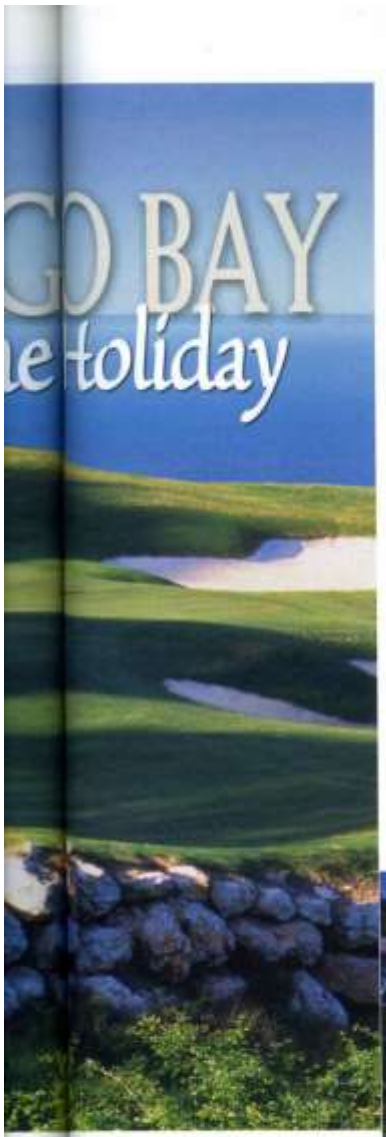
REGULARS

6 FLIGHTPATH
8 EDITOR'S NOTE
12 BOARDINGPASS
62 SKYTALK
66 SKYPUZZLE
67 SKYROUTE MAP
68 SKYNEWS
70 SKYENTERTAINMENT

ON THE COVER
Photograph of Nicola Keys from the cover of **The Diary of Alicia Keys**, her second album which debuted at number one on the US charts. Keys will be performing at the **Air Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival**
Photograph courtesy DJ Records/MDH Entertainment

THIS PAGE
Footsteps in The Sand
Photograph ©Howard Smiley/Kamoinge Inc.


PETER SMOLENS'
MONTEC
A Hole In One



During the opening of his White Witch golf course in Montego Bay, Jamaica, architect Robert Von Hagge was asked which of the 18 holes was his signature hole. He replied, "all 18 of them".

In many ways Von Hagge's claim could be true of all the golf courses around Montego Bay. There are so many "signature holes it's difficult to say which is the best. That's why golfers who visit Jamaica must bring their golf clubs. Playing the four courses that did and you will agree with superstar sports agent Donald Dell's assessment, "This is a little piece of heaven on earth." All of the courses are associated with a specific resort, but they are all open the public for an additional fee. You'll find that each golf course its own distinctive style. Still they are all upscale and worth the money.

Located behind the famous Rose Hall mansion and using the nickname after Annie Palmer, the famous legendary resident, the White Witch Golf Course is considered by many to be the crown jewel of Jamaican golf courses. Opened in 2000, this Ritz-Carlto Rose Hall Resort golf course has quickly become a favourite and have already featured in **Golf** and **Golf Digest** magazines.

Playing the course it's easy to see why. Hitting you hard right from the start, both nines begin with very demanding par fives ar feature the glorious Caribbean ocean as the spectacular backdrop the elevated first tee. On the other hand, to begin the back nine, you'll need to hit a shot of more than 200 yards to reach the fairv from the back tee. In addition, both nines offer spectacular par threes. The downhill 8th and the 13th both have ponds guarding front of the green. The view from the 17th tee, with the Caribbea ocean in the background, is worth the difficulties that you'll find you miss the green. Sand plays an important part of the 5th hole.



(above) The Ritz-Carlton's White Witch Golf Course. PHOTOGRAPH: PHOTOS WELDON (at right) Tryall Resort Golf Course.

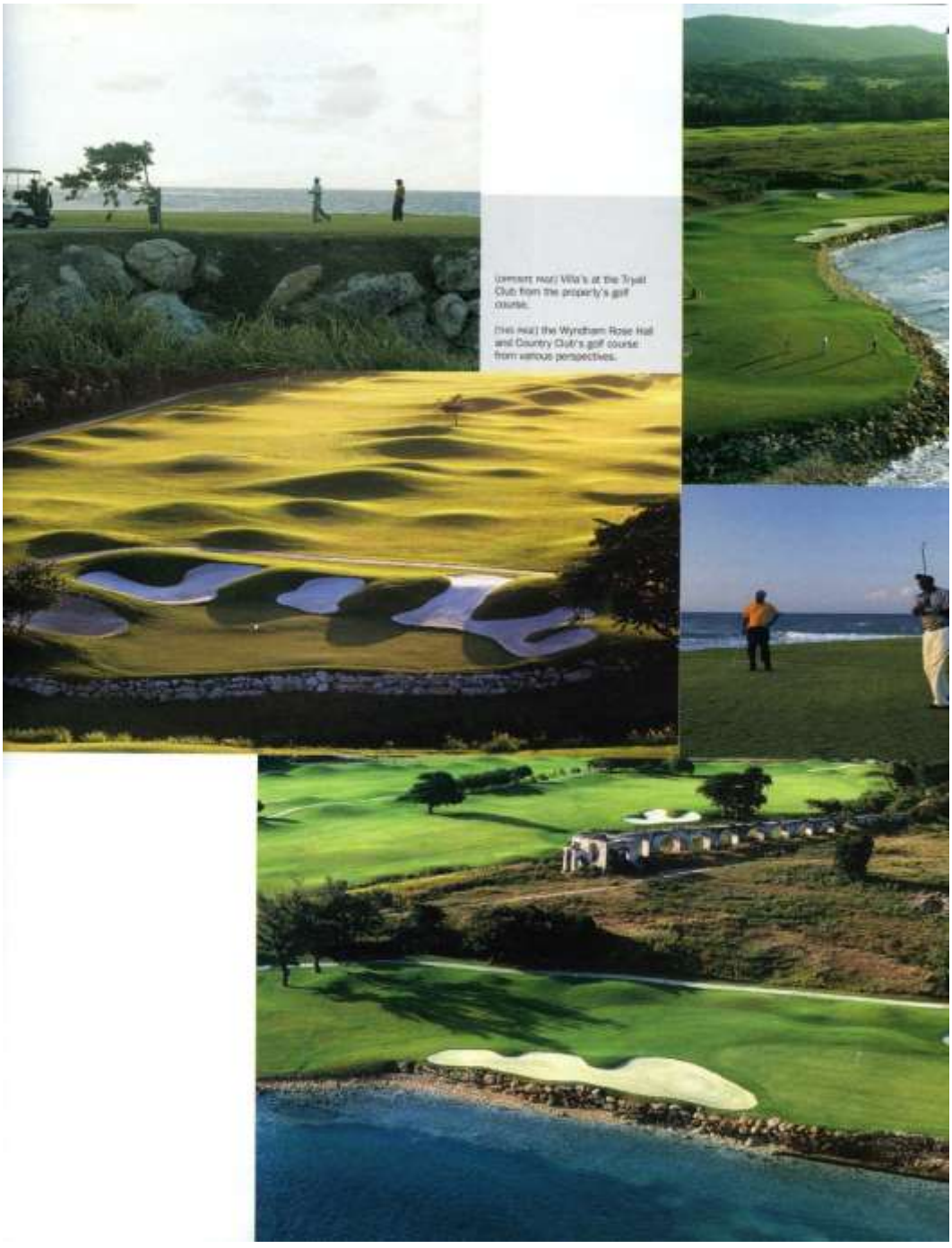


As the former home of an LPGA Jamaican Classic and the Johnny Walker World Golf tournaments, the Tryall Resort Golf Course is probably the best known golf course in Jamaica.

large trap creates the corner of the dogleg and collars the green making for a picturesque hole of lasting memories.

Saying that Jamaica is laid back is an understatement. The most popular phrase of the island, "No problem mon"! This is their way of saying "relax, we'll take care of you". In this congenial way Jamaicans provide a spectacular service. By the end of your stay you will get accustomed to this lifestyle and realize that maybe Jamaicans have the right idea. That said, although they aren't mandatory when playing, caddies are really worth the additional expense. Most are very experienced and their knowledge of golf, the course, local history, and the greens will help you enjoy your round. All the people at the golf courses, caddies included, are very friendly and go out of their way to make your visit special.

The superior service continues when you are greeted at the clubhouse of the Half Moon Bay Golf Course. Opened in 1961, this is a traditional Robert Trent Jones Sr. design golf course that is mature and well manicured in a tropical style. As with any of his designs, runway tees and traps are key elements. Half Moon has over 100 sand traps around the landing areas and guarding the green



(present day) Villa's at the Tryall Club from the property's golf course.

(this page) the Wyndham Rose Hall and Country Club's golf course from various perspectives.

The Half Moon Club Golf Course
Rose Hall, Jamaica
Phone: 876.953.2615
Price: $130 - $175
Cart: $30
Caddie: $15 (plus tip)

The Tryall Club Golf Course
Sandy Bay, Trelawny, Jamaica
Phone: 876.956.5660
Price: $80 - $150
Cart: $27
Caddie: $15 (plus tip)

The White Witch Golf Course
The Ritz-Carlton Rose Hall Resort
Rose Hall, Jamaica
Phone: 876.518.0174
Price: $125 - $225
All rates include green fees, cart fees, golf concierge (caddie) fees, and complimentary range balls.

Cinnamon Hill Golf Course
Wyndham Rose Hall Resort & Country Club
Rose Hall, Jamaica
Phone: 876.953.2650
Price: $85 - $130





As one of the largest former sugar plantations on the island, Rose Hall is also the location for another superb golf course—Cinnamon Hill.

to catch wayward shots. At over 7,100 yards from the tips, it is the longest course on the island.

As the former home of an LPGA Jamaican Classic and the Johnny Walker World Golf tournaments, the Tryall Club golf course is probably the best known golf course in Jamaica. Designed by Texan, Ralph Plummer, the course has nine holes at sea level and nine holes up into the mountains. Play this course from the back tees to get the best views. At 6,772 yards from the tips, playing from the back tees is worth the extra yardage. A perfect example of this is the back tee at the 15th hole. Cut into the hillside, the view from the tee box of the Caribbean ocean is worth the difficulties of the extra 30 yards that adds to the golf hole.

I played the members' layout. This has you playing the first six holes near the ocean. The next nine holes wind up and down the mountains before finishing up back at sea level. The 7th hole is a

golf hole you want to play from the back tee just for the view according to head golf pro, Nelson Long. Nicknamed the "Water Wheel" hole, at 434 yards from the back tee making this a very demanding uphill par four. From the back tee you'll hit your drive through large stone pillars. These pillars held up the aqueduct that brought water from the Flint River located two miles into the mountains to the mill. The water transported in this aqueduct was used to power the old sugar mill plantation that once occupied the land that is now the Tryall Club.

As one of the largest former sugar plantations on the island, Rose Hall is also the location for another superb golf course—Cinnamon Hill. Associated with the Wyndham Rose Hall Resort & Country Club, this course was originally designed by Henry O. Smedley of Canada. In 2001 (after seeing his wonderful work on the White Witch golf course located on the other side of the mansion) Robert Von Hagge was brought in to redesign and upgrade the course. When complete, the course was so different they changed the name to Cinnamon Hill. Using Bermuda grass for the fairways, this golf course is a perfect example of the contrasting styles of Jamaican golf. On one hand the holes that play right along the water are flat and open, taking full advantage of the trade winds off the Caribbean, whereas holes that wind up into the mountains are tree lined and very tight.

The course is built around the front of a beautiful mansion. It's the backdrop to the beautiful par three 2nd hole. During the upgrade process, Von Hagge took a big chance. He converted one of the most spectacular golf holes in the world—a beautiful par four that played along the coast to a peninsula green in the Caribbean called Chinaman's Reef—into a wonderful three-hole combination to end the front nine that will leave you breathless.

The back nine is all up in the mountains. Rarely will you get a flat lie. As you play the gently rolling downhill 14th hole, to the left fairway is the Jamaican home of the late famed country singer Johnny Cash and his wife June Carter-Cash. The next hole is a beautiful downhill par three over a ravine that features a waterfall as a backdrop behind and to the left of the green. If this looks familiar, it's the waterfall used in the James Bond movie "Live and Let Die". Behind the green of the double dogleg, 17th hole, are the original pillars from where the sugarcane mill used to be located.

At the end of your round, many resorts continue an old English tradition of serving tea at 4:00 p.m. every afternoon. The tea includes finger sandwiches, cakes and the famous Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee. After spending the day on the golf course or beach, it is a wonderful treat to tide you over until dinner.

Jamaica Welcome

A GUIDE TO GOLF
ADVERTORIAL

The centerpiece of the golf scene is **SUPERCLUBS GOLF CLUB – RUNAWAY BAY**, on Jamaica's North Coast, with its par 72, 18-hole PGA quality course.

Designed by British Commandeer John Harris, the course features long rolling fairways, panoramic sea views and large flat greens protected by grassy mounds and sand bunkers.

Measuring over 12,000 yards, the course has been home to many championship events, like the **Jamaica Open** and the **Ryder Cup**, and it holds an unbroken record of 62, set in 1982, by Jamaican international tour player, Seymour Rose. The facility is complimentary for some SuperClubs guests, but it is also available to non-guests, at a fixed fee. 1 800 GO SUPER (467-8737) or visit superclubs.com





CINNAMON HILL OCEAN COURSE AT WYNDHAM ROSE HALL

Winding down the mountains to the beaches at Jamaica's historic Rose Hall Plantation is a captivating oasis of golf.

On 400 acres, this 18-hole par 71 course boasts multiple tees, dramatic hilltop views, historic sites, natural inlaid stonewalls and a scenic field sprawling through mountains and valleys out to the coast and along the beaches.

Since it's redesign in April 2001, the course has rapidly become the favorite of the Montego Bay area, listed by Barron's as one of the Caribbean's top three courses. It's fun for every level golfer. Come play Cinnamon Hill Ocean Course.... And bring your camera!

1-800-WYNDHAM, (876) 953 2650

Tryall Club
Montego Bay
Jamaica, West Indies

THE TRYALL CLUB, JAMAICA

Experience fine Caribbean vacation living at our spectacular club-style resort. Enjoy luxurious villa accommodations, Tryall's legendary golf course, superb tennis, excellent cuisine, a private beach, kids club and more. For more information, call 1/800-238-5290 or 876/956-5660. Or visit our website: www.tryallclub.com



SUPERCLUBS GOLF CLUB– MONTEGO BAY, AT IRONSHORE.

SuperClubs took over the management of this par 72, 18-hole championship course, formerly known as Ironshore Golf & Country Club. Ironshore services guests at Breezes Montego Bay as well as Grand Lido Braco guests. In addition, Starfish guests get complimentary green fees at Ironshore. Ironshore's Clubhouse has undergone renovations and now includes a Pro Shop, equipment storage area, bar, showers and locker rooms. SuperClubs Resorts also boast their own nine-hole, par 36 executive course in Trelawny.

Guests at the AAA Four Diamond Grand Lido Braco enjoy unlimited complimentary access.

1 800 GO SUPER (467-8737) or visit superclubs.com

3. Golf Articles and Columns

3.1 Introduction

The following section contains a selection of articles and columns I wrote for various golf publications, including golf course reviews and other articles. Additional chapters include articles and columns about golf, including Golf Etiquette, Senior Golfer, Being a Guest at a Country Club, LPGA is Better, Play it Forward, and Tiger Woods 2.0.

> Full Disclosure: While going back and reviewing these articles, I made changes to improve the article. I had not looked at some of these articles for years. They needed the editorial work. It might be the reason editors rejected the original submissions. I used modern editing tools (thank you, Grammarly) to correct and improve the articles.

I added photographs or other illustrations to the manuscripts, like in magazines, to make it a complete package. In some cases, while preparing this book, I found that the golf course had closed. For example, I've included the manuscript of my first golf course review (the published version was lost) of Colonial Golf Course in Williamsburg, VA, for Washington Golf Monthly Magazine. The golf course is closed and is now a housing development.

3.2 Beginners Guide to Playing Golf



During a Saturday afternoon session at the local driving range, a former female co-worker who recently took up golf confided to me that she thought about giving up the game. Not because she thought the game was too hard, but because she could never feel comfortable on the golf course as a beginner.



"It's a catch-22 situation", Lynn said after she drove the ball more than 100 yards dead straight down the driving range. "Because of my job, I can only play on the weekends at the local public golf course, but most golfers don't have the patience to play with a beginner like me. I love the game and need to play in real conditions. But I don't want to hold up a foursome. How can I learn golf in a situation like that?"

Lynn's problem is not new. She started the right way by participating in group lessons from the club golf pro. She felt confident hitting the golf ball on the range. She was ready to take her golf game to the golf course. It is challenging to balance learning the game while playing golf on a public golf course full of weekend golfers. Still, we all had to start as beginners playing golf. To help Lynn and others, I've developed the following guidelines for learning to play golf while on a busy public course.

- Play when the course is empty - weekdays are better than weekends if you can. Mondays and Tuesdays are the quietest days for most public golf courses.

- Late afternoons and early evenings are better than mornings. Even on the weekends, you will find in late afternoons the golf course empties real quick by 6 P.M. on the weekend. Late on a weekend afternoon is a perfect time for a beginner to take the time to learn the game of golf without being rushed. During the summer, you can start your round after 6 P.M. and have plenty of light to get in at least 9 to 18 holes during the golf season. Also, there are many benefits to playing golf in the late afternoons. By starting that late, many golf courses offer twilight rates, making the cost of playing golf more reasonable.

Playing on the Weekends



What happens when you can only play on weekend mornings - prime time for golfers at a public golf course? The following method allows you to play with any level of players and not hold up your fellow golfers.

- Put together your own foursome. Get a tee time at mid-morning. Most weekend golfers like to play early, so a late morning tee time means they're already on the golf course. Talk to the local golf pro or starter. Tell him your situation and ask for their suggestions

when you call to make your tee time.

- If you're by yourself, let the starter know your level of play when you put your name on the sign-up sheet. Tell them you will not be playing for the score. If they know your level of play, Starters will try to pair you up with the right kind of player.

- Tell your playing partners your level of play before you start. Doing this is a common courtesy to your fellow golfers. Knowing this also lowers their level of expectations about your golf game.

- Let your playing partners know that you will not be playing for the score and that you have a plan that should not hold them up. Most golfers will understand and be accommodating.

Once on the course, only hit the ball the number of shots to par on each hole. Then, pick up the ball. Drop the ball on the edge of the green. Then play from there – this way, you can practice chipping and putting, taking only the number of strokes on the green till you hole the putt or reach par.

For example, let's say you're playing a par 4. Hit your drive and three shots on the fairway. No matter where you are, pick the ball up and move to the green. Once at the green, drop the ball just off the green. Chip the ball and take up to three putts to put the ball into the hole. After the third putt, pick up the ball and move on to the next hole. Using this method, on a par 4, you will take a maximum of 8 strokes per golf hole.

Worked Like a Dream

Lynn used this method when she joined me for a round at our public golf course. Throughout the round, she did not hold up our group. In fact, the rest of the group held up Lynn on some holes. She played most weekends, and by the end of the summer, she didn't need to pick the ball up in the fairway. Also, Lynn found she preferred to play on weekend

afternoons. “I can go to the office and get some work done in the morning and spend the afternoon on the golf course.” She also told me she found a regular group of golfers she plays with on the weekend afternoons.

By using these guidelines, you will have a chance to learn this fantastic game of golf while playing on a public golf course on the weekends.



16th Green Westfields GC Clifton, VA

3.3 Playing Senior Golf: Game for a Lifetime

I was rudely introduced to senior golf at the Jack Nickolas golf course at Reunion Resort in Orlando, FL. As a single, sneaking out for a quick round of golf while visiting friends in the area, the starter introduced me to my playing companions - two members/regular players. I'm sorry, I don't remember their names, but I'll never forget their golf games.

During the round, I found out their average was 73. They had met in the service when they were teens and had been best friends and golfing buddies ever since. They retired to Florida so they could play golf year-round.

During the round, they showed me how to play golf while hitting their drives an average of 200 yards. What they lacked in the distance, they made up by being accurate. I have seen the Moe Norman videos where he hits golf shots, landing on the blanket every time. I always thought that video was heavily edited until I watched my playing companions. Their drives were within five yards (often much less – once touching) between them and in the middle of the fairway every time. The accuracy carried through to their short game. Their wedge play and chipping were impressive if they didn't reach the green in regulation. Although I often out-drove them by 50 yards or more, they destroyed me. Both shot in the low 70s. I discovered that day how to play as a senior golfer.

As we get older, our golf game changes. This article shows how you can adapt your golf game and play well while getting older.

Everyone Gets Older

It's a fact as we get older, our bodies change. We're not as flexible as when we were younger. Less flexibility means a decrease in our range of motion. A lower range of motion means a

shorter, slower golf swing range. A shorter, slower golf swing means less distance and power.

I was lucky. I started playing golf when I was young (See "Golf with Dad"). I was a bomber; I hit a 300-yard drive. I know that because on a 500-yard hole, my drive landed on the 200-yard marker. Now I'm lucky if my drives carry 225 yards.

I've had to change my game. I can't cut the corner on many doglegs golf holes anymore. I have to play most golf holes the way the golf course designer planned the golf hole. In his book, "Golf by Design," Robert Trent Jones Jr. says golf course designers want you to play the golf hole a specific way. It is often called "Target Golf," which was made famous by Pete Dye. Many other golf course designers use this method to design modern golf courses. For example, golf course architect Mike Strantz designed visually intimidating golf courses like Royal New Kent, Caledonia, True Blue, and Tobacco Road. He provides plenty of fairway space if you play the golf hole to his designated landing areas. Many golf course designers suggest it's critical to select the correct tee. It's one of the reasons golf course designers provide multiple sets of tees.



Play It Forward

The USGA had an advertising campaign called "Play It Forward." Playing the correct golf tee has become a hot topic over the past few years. We, as golfers, have a lot of pride in our game, and for seniors, this pride can get in the way of our enjoyment of the game.

Seniors should "play it forward" in the best interest of everyone to play the next tee-up. Golf pro once told me, "You should select the tee that will allow you to have about 150 yards or less from the green for your second shot if you hit a good drive."

Use More Club

Today, PGA Tour golfers are in another world with their length – hitting 300-yard plus drives and 150-year wedges. That is one of the reasons why I love watching the LPGA. I can relate to their distances. Their distances are more in line with the average male golfer. As you get older, your power, especially your irons, diminishes.

One way of thinking about moving is this - when I was younger, playing from the back tees, I hit his 7-iron 160 yards. I found my 7-iron now only goes about 145 yards this golf season. I hit my second shots with the same club as before because I moved up a tee.

It still takes the same amount of talent to execute the golf shot. From the back tees, I have to hit longer irons and hybrids for my second shot to get to a long par 4s green in two. By moving up to the "Senior" tees, I'm hitting the same golf club into the greens. I'm scoring better and enjoying my golf game a lot more!

Learning to Play the Golf Course

Because of your lack of distance, you must adjust your thinking on the golf course. No longer can you think of going for the green on a par 5 with your second shot. In their book, "Breaking 90," authors TJ Thomason and Mike Adams show how knowing how far you hit your drives can allow you to play towards a fairway bunker, knowing you could never reach the bunker.



Become a Short Game Expert

Now that you understand the most significant issue senior golfer's face is lack of distance, becoming a short game expert can help you compensate for your lack of distance. The short game (100 yards and in) is your best place to gain strokes and shoot lower scores. Start focusing your practice on the short game. In his book, "Short Game Bible," author Dave Pelz says 50 percent of the golf shots taken during the round are from inside 100-yards. It is especially true for the senior golfer.

Pelz has a complete chapter on controlling your distances to improve your short game. With the same swing, Pelz uses a clock face in the backswing to generate distance. Once you learn how far you can hit each short iron using the "clock method," you'll become a short game expert.



Alignment is another area of the short game which improves your chance of scoring well. By not having proper alignment, you will never hit the target. After looking at my divot, I realized I was hitting golf shots that go straight but end left or right of your target. I found that my alignment was the cause of my problem. I was hitting the ball straight, right where I was aiming. Only my aim was off. I let the golf club follow my body by opening my stance to give my

hips space to turn. Make alignment part of your pre-shot routine. My short-game shot direction improved once I squared my stance toward the target.

Alignment is one of the things golfers forget to practice the most. When you hit golf balls on the driving range, use alignment sticks on the ground to ensure you're set up towards your target.

With a short iron in hand and proper alignment, your goal should be hitting your approach shot to the appropriate section of the green. With practice, once you learn to hit a golf shot from 100 yards and in, there is nothing to hold you back from being a better golfer!

Change Your Practice Habits

You must change your practice habits to help facilitate the changes in your golf game. Instead of spending all your time perfecting your drives, spend most of your time on the practice tee, working on drills to help you with distance control, alignment, and ball flight with your short irons. During your practice sessions, hit high and low shots to a distance of 25, 50, 75, and 100 yards. The late Harvey Penick, in his "Little Red Book - Seasoned Citizen chapter," suggests spending 75% of your time practicing the short game: wedge distance control, chipping, and putting.

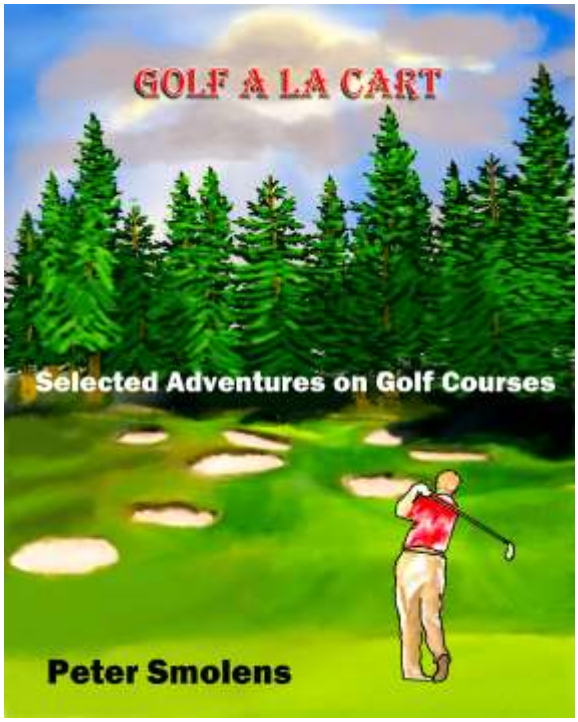
The two golf companions at the Reunion Resort golf course used these suggestions to take me to the cleaners. Between their accuracy, short game, and putting, they both scored in the low 70s. That lesson cost me a post-round lunch but gave me an early understanding of how to play the game when you get older. I never forgot that lesson.

3.4 Author, Peter Smolens



Author Peter Smolens is a writer, photographer, and digital painter and owner of P.B.S. Studios who has published articles, photographs, and digital painting articles in newspapers, magazines, and online publications. Publications include Washington Golf Monthly, GolfStyles, Washington, and Golf Illustrated magazines. "Golf a la Cart: Selected Adventures on the Golf Course" is his third book. His other books are, "Creating Digital Paintings Digital and "Photo-Painting: with Adobe Photoshop." A former Assistant Golf Pro, today he plays golf for exercise and fun.

3.5 Golf a la Cart Sales Page



Thank you for taking the time to read the sample chapters of my book, **"Golf a la Cart: Selected Adventures on the Golf Course."** If you liked what you read and saw, go to Amazon.com

"Golf a la Cart: Selected Adventures on the Golf Course" is available in Paperback and as an Amazon eBook format through Amazon.com, P.B.S. Studios store on Etsy, or signed copies directly from P.B.S. Studios, Digital Art Press Publishers. Contact me, Peter Smolens, at psmolens@pbsstudios.com.





GOLF A LA CART

Selected Adventures on the Golf Course

Golf a la Cart contains a selection of golf travel articles on golf courses in the mid-Atlantic, Myrtle Beach, and Jamaica area and how to enjoy yourself while improving your golf game.

Chapters include golf travel articles on:

* Williamsburg, Virginia
* West Virginia
* Outer Banks of North Carolina
* Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
* Golf Courses in Jamaica

Articles include Golf Etiquette, Senior Golfer, Being a Guest at a Country Club, LPGA vs PGA, Golf with Jack, Going Home (to play golf), and Tiger Woods 2.0.

Peter Smolens, writer/photographer/digital painter, has published articles, photographs, and digital paintings in books, newspapers, magazines, and online publications. A former Assistant Golf Pro, who now plays golf for fun. Golf a la Cart is his third book.