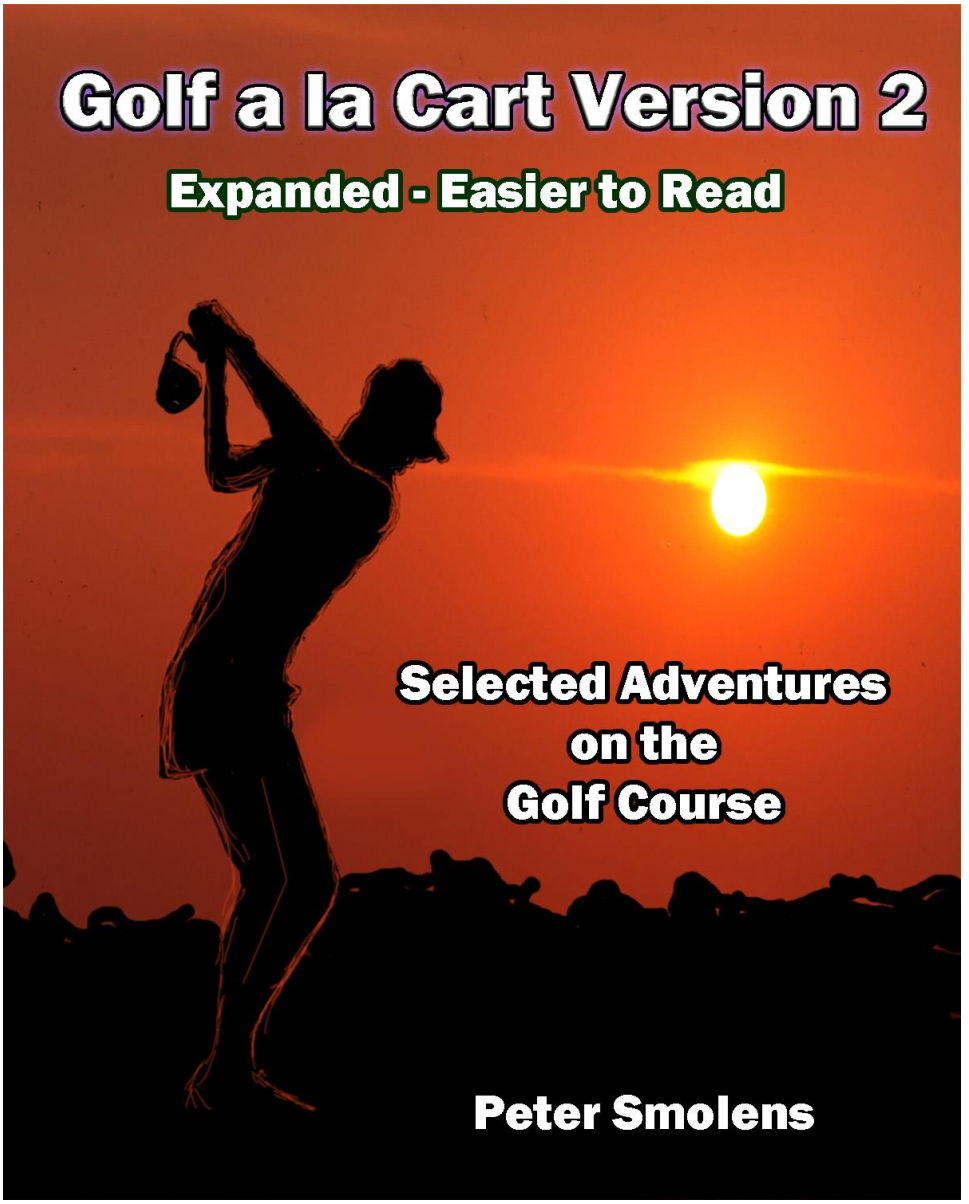

Golf a la Cart Version 2
Expanded - Easier to Read
Selected Adventures
on the
Golf Course
Peter Smolens

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

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

Thanks, and enjoy the book!
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For Linda



In Memory of Mary and Jack Smolens



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1. Introduction

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

It all began 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 island's top-rated golf courses 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. In Version 1 of **"Golf a la Cart,"** after compiling my golf articles, columns, and photographs, I scanned a selection of the published golf travel articles and columns, which I included as chapters in the **Golf Travel Section** of the book. In **Version 2,** I converted the scanned chapters to manuscript text. Making it easier to read. I also added additional photographic illustrations.

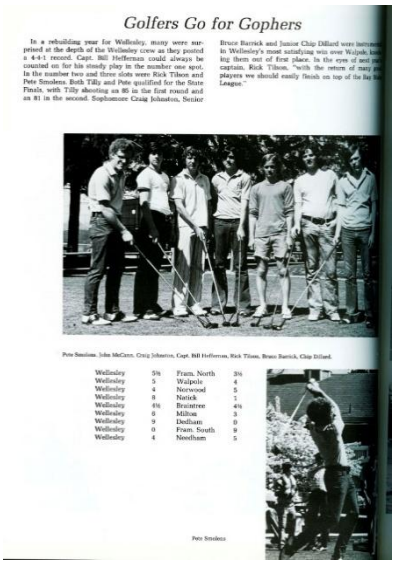
The **Golf Article and Column Section** contain a selection of manuscripts about different aspects of golf. Articles include golf course reviews and tips on how to play better and enjoy the game of golf. While producing this book, I reviewed, updated, and edited the manuscripts. Many articles include photographs and digital paintings from my stock photo file as illustrations. I also converted the scanned published articles and columns to manuscript text – the exception is **"Putting on Grips,"** which **Golf Tips Magazine c**onverted into captions accompanying a set of illustrations converted from my photographs by famed golf illustrator Phil Franke.

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

You'll find additional articles and columns on my website, pbsstudios.com.

Who am I?

I grew up as a member of the Wellesley Country Club (WCC) 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 the details.


Golfers Go for Gophers

In a rebuilding year for Wellesley, many were surprised at the depth of the Wellesley crew as they posted a 4-4-1 record. Capt. Bill Heffernan could always be counted on for his steady play in the number one spot. In the number two and three slots were Rick Tilson and Pete Smolens. Both Tilly and Pete qualified for the State Finals, with Tilly shooting an 85 in the first round and an 81 in the second. Sophomore Craig Johnston, Senior Bruce Barrick and Junior Chip Dillard were instrumental in Wellesley's most satisfying win over Walpole, knocking them out of first place. In the eyes of next year's captain, Rick Tilson, "with the return of many of our players we should easily finish on top of the Bay State League."

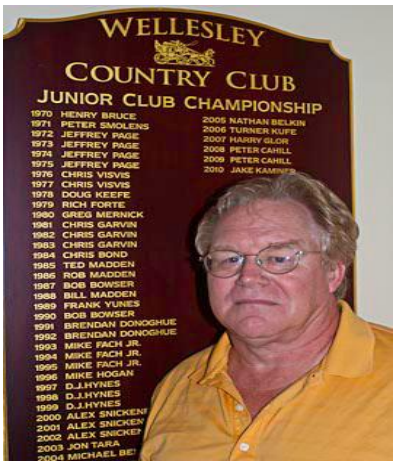
Pete Smolens, John McCann, Craig Johnston, Capt. Bill Heffernan, Rick Tilson, Bruce Barrick, Chip Dillard.

Wellesley	5½	Fram. North	3½
Wellesley	5	Walpole	4
Wellesley	4	Norwood	5
Wellesley	8	Natick	1
Wellesley	6½	Braintree	4½
Wellesley	8	Milton	3
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Pete Smolens

While caddying for my mother, I showed an interest in the game. As a Christmas present, my parents enrolled me in group golf lessons at WCC under the new head golf pro, Les Bond, the following spring. Between caddying and playing golf, I almost lived at the WCC through Junior and Senior high school. I became pretty 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 typically bring my Nikon 35mm camera to capture images of the golf course for my stock photography files. Over the years, I've converted some of my photographs to digital paintings. I've included a portfolio of golf course photographs and digital paintings throughout this book, serving as illustrations in the Golf Photography Section.

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 appreciate past successes (and failures), I also play golf for the moments 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

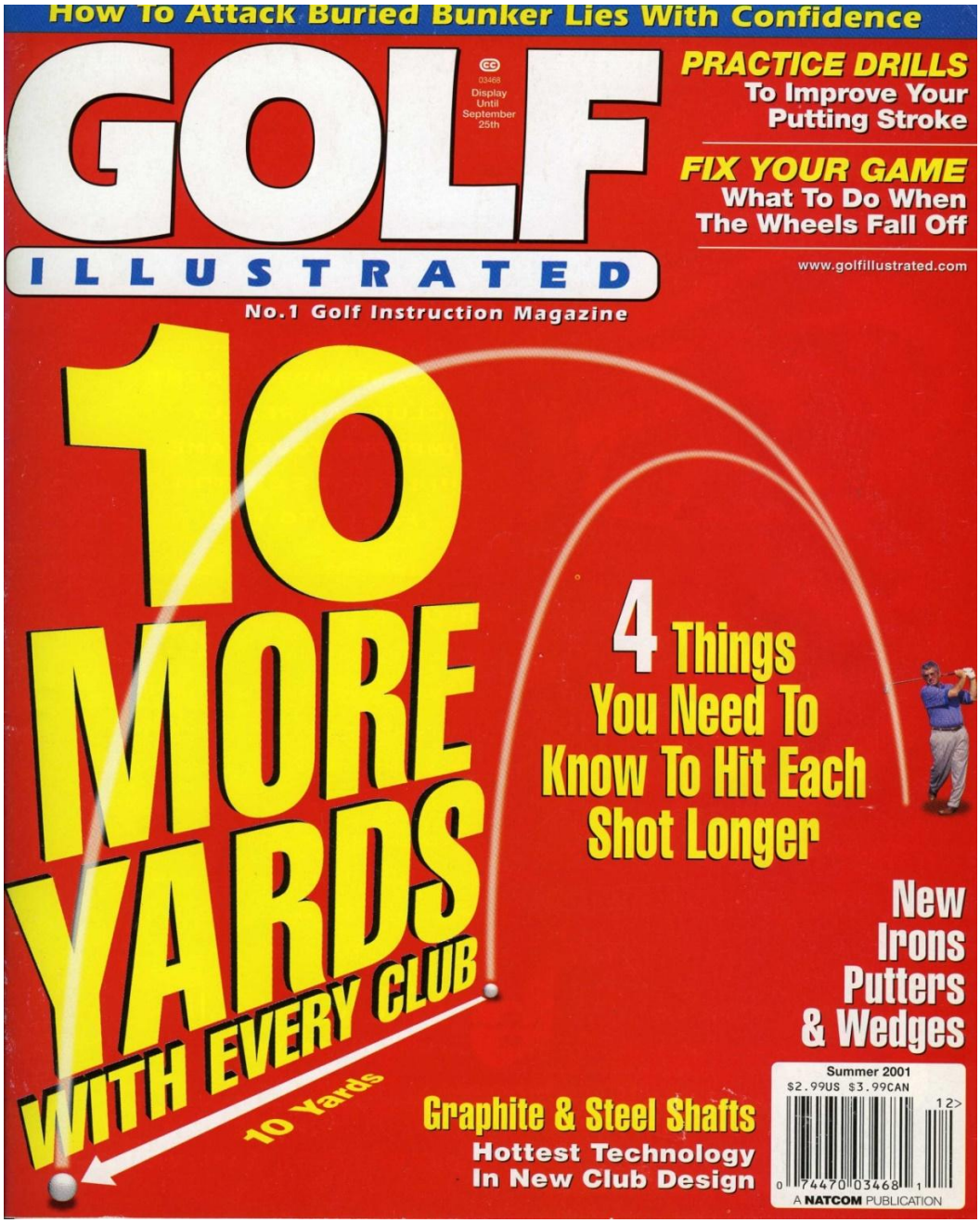
The **Golf Travel Articles** section contains a selection of golf travel articles that appeared in newspapers, magazines, and online publications. I've written golf travel articles for various golf publications through the years. Some publications stopped publishing their magazine after they accepted (and paid for), 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 discard my contributor copy of Washington Golf Monthly magazine, which contained 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: In Version 1 of "Golf a la Cart," I presented the published articles as scanned copies of the original articles as they were published in the magazine, newspaper, and online publication. During the scanning process, I included the cover, masthead (where you see my name in the contributor section), Table of Contents page, and the published article.

In Version 2 of "Golf a la Cart," I converted the scanned pages to manuscript text. Illustrating the chapters with additional photographs from my stock photo files. Each chapter contains the cover and title page of the magazine where the article was published. During the conversion process, I used modern editing tools to correct any mistakes in the original text.

2.1 Williamsburg Travel - Golf Illustrated, 2001





GOLF ILLUSTRATED

Summer ◆ 2001

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16th green Kingsmill River Course Williamsburg, VA

Williamsburg Travel

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

. Located 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. Today, this historic city has been rebuilt to represent a true-to-life replica of a colonial Southern town during the Revolutionary War. Celebrating its 75th anniversary, this place combines history and activities to make the perfect family vacation destination.

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 golf clubs are missing one of the best treasures Williamsburg has to offer - its many fine golf courses. America's most renowned museum village boasts an impressive collection of golf courses, ranging from classic to modern, that are sure to satisfy any golfer.

Royal New Kent and Stonehouse



The golf starts before you reach the historic district. The late golf course 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 exhibit the extremes of modern and classic golf course design.

Like Williamsburg, Strantz attempted to create a replica of a links golf course, inspired by Royal New Kent. I did one better. The only thing missing is the stiff breeze off the Irish Sea. A visually stunning golf course, every hole on this is special. Utilizing the natural characteristics of the land, Strantz crafted a modern-style golf course suitable for all levels.



For masochistic golfers, Royal New Kent offers "Invicta" tees, which means "unconquerable" - it's the correct word when playing for the tips at this golf course. Forget your standard rate and

slope numbers. At a length of 7,291 yards and a par 72, this course is sadistically rated 76.5 with a 147 slope - the highest in Virginia. When you add wind, forget the Revolutionary War; playing this golf course is a war in itself.



At the other end of the style spectrum is the Stonehouse golf course. The layout reflects the ruggedness of the region as it was during colonial times. Built in the classic golf course tradition of Cypress Point and Pine Valley, Stonehouse cuts through deep woods. Even with generously sized fairways, several holes demand accuracy to large greens that average more than 10,000 square feet. Having greens this large means lots of pin placements. Landing close to the pin is challenging due to numerous blind shots, deep bunkers, and sloping terrain that players often encounter at this golf course.

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

Located at the west end of the historic district is the campus of the College of William and Mary. Founded in 1693, it is the second-oldest college in the United States. Between rounds of golf, take a walk around this beautiful campus of higher learning.

Late in the afternoon, you'll want to be at the head of Duke of Gloucester Street for the daily fife and drum corps performance. Afterwards, stop by the King's 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.

Golden Horseshoe

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 situated within the historic confines of Williamsburg. Built under the supervision of John D. Rockefeller Jr. in 1937, the Inn led the way in revitalizing the area. Sparing no expense during construction, the Inn has long been known for its fine accommodations and dining. Golfers will take joy in finding 45 holes of the best golf in the area behind the resort.



The star attraction is the Gold Course - a beautiful layout designed by the late master golf architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. (RTJ). The course was redesigned and updated by Rees Jones in 1988. As he described the job, "It was like tailoring a good suit for the modern game."

By adding length to a few holes, rebuilding the greens to current USGA standards, and installing a new irrigation system, Jones improved on his father's original 1963 design. What Rees did not have to do was improve the quality of the holes. Now 6.817 yards from the

tips, the course's length may seem tame compared to others in the area, but "the Shoe," as locals like to call it, has all the trademarks of an RTJ course. It demands precision golf at its finest.



Jones has always been known for creating challenging par-3s. At the Golf Course, you will find that all par 3s require difficult iron shots to large, heavily contoured greens with a variety of pin placements. The last par three on the course is reputed to be the first island green in the history of golf course design. As part of the difficult set of finishing holes that include a 561-yard par five and two par fours that measure over 400 yards, these holes are the challenge you'll want to end your round.

Although less known than its more famous brother, the Green Course is a Rees Jones original design built in 1991, at 7,120 yards from the back tees. The Green Course is longer than the Gold Course. Carved through rolling land and hardwood forests, this gem provides plenty of space in the landing areas. Players who keep the ball on the fairway can score well at this golf course.

The challenging Par 31 Spotswood course can serve as a perfect golf course for beginners, a warm-up to the other golf courses, or for an early evening nine holes after dinner. Named for the colonial governor Alexander Spotswood, who in 1716 organized an expedition of 63 men to explore the region, crossing the Virginia Piedmont to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Upon his return, he gave to each of his travelling companions a Golden Horseshoe. This fun

executive course features a par 5, a couple of par 4s, and six par 3s, all compressed into 1.865 yards.

Kingsmill Resort

Once you leave Colonial Williamsburg proper, you will find several golf courses that cater to your golfing tastes for a challenge. Beginning just south of the historical area and next to Jamestown Landing is Kingsmill Resort.

Stretching out along the James River, the 2,900-acre Kingsmill resort complex has three fine championship golf courses. Playing host to the LPGA Kingsmill Championship on September 6-9, the River Course is the best-known golf course in the Williamsburg area. Each year, during the tournament season in September, the River Course showcases the beautiful array of Virginia fall foliage.



Originally designed by Pete Dye in 1975, the River Course represents one of Dye's earlier, subtler designs. Using the rolling landscape to his advantage and utilizing his trademark railway ties (removed during a subsequent redesign), Dye integrated the golf course into the land along the river and throughout the development. From tee to green, this course challenges the golfer. Some tee shots from the tips require a monster drive just to reach the fairway. Other features include a sprinkling of pot bunkers and false fronts to guard small, severely sloped greens. The course recently received a facelift from Kingsmill's own touring pro and local resident, Curtis Strange. His goal was to make the course even longer (6,853 yards) to compete with today's golf club improvement.



Even the king of golf has put his mark on Kingsmill golf. Arnold Palmer, along with golf course architect Ed Seay, designed the Plantation golf course. As the shortest and easiest layout of the championship golf courses, the Plantation Course is a nice contrast to the other courses at the resort. With generous fairways and large, undulating greens, this forgiving course is a joy to play. Still, the 6,643-yard par-72 track is designed to be quite challenging, regardless of the golfer's handicap. Many greens are multi-level affairs. You might hit the golf ball on the green, but with the pin placement, you may still have a long putt.

Because it is the farthest away and in the least developed area of the resort, the residents at Kingsmill like to think of the Woods Course as their own private golf course. The newest golf addition to Kingsmill is a solid challenge for any golfer. Working with Washington D.C. area golf course designers, Tom Clark and Curtis Strange, they have designed a 6,784-yard layout that fits nicely into the landscape. This course offers a variety of holes, ranging from long and challenging to strategic placement holes. When playing this course, keep your golf ball in the fairway. There are plenty of hazards ready to catch your wayward shots. Luckily, three practice holes and an expansive range offer you a way to get prepared before taking on the course.

A favorite golf course for families is Kingsmill's Bray Links. At pitch and putt length, this golf course features glow-in-the-dark golf balls, tee markers, and flags, allowing the course to be played at night. Bray Links is a perfect golf course for beginners, where the whole family can enjoy themselves.

.Ford's Colony



Holding up the west flank of town, Ford's Colony combines 54 holes of superb golf with fine dining in an excellent residential setting. As another father/son combination, Ellis and Dan Maples designed the original 18 holes in 1985, which have since become the Marsh Hawk course. Since then, his son, Dan Maples, took over the design chores for the Blackheath golf course and the latest addition, the Blue Heron golf courses, 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 real estate too close to the golf course. A perfect example is the Blue Heron course, which features a hole where golfers tee off from a narrow strip of land with water on both sides. The rest of the hole is straightforward, with no hazards, fitting nicely into the landscape and making for a stark contrast to the rest of the hazard-filled golf course.



Make sure you bring a change of clothes (jackets and ties required) because after your round, you'll want to eat at The Dining Room. Under Chef Blair Machado, the eating establishment located in the refurbished clubhouse offers a 5-course meal that includes sweet red pepper bisque with jumbo crabmeat, as well as salmon, lobster, scallops, beef,

and bison. To accompany your meal, select wine from their extensive wine cellar.

No matter where you turn in the Williamsburg area, you will find many excellent golf courses to challenge any golfer.

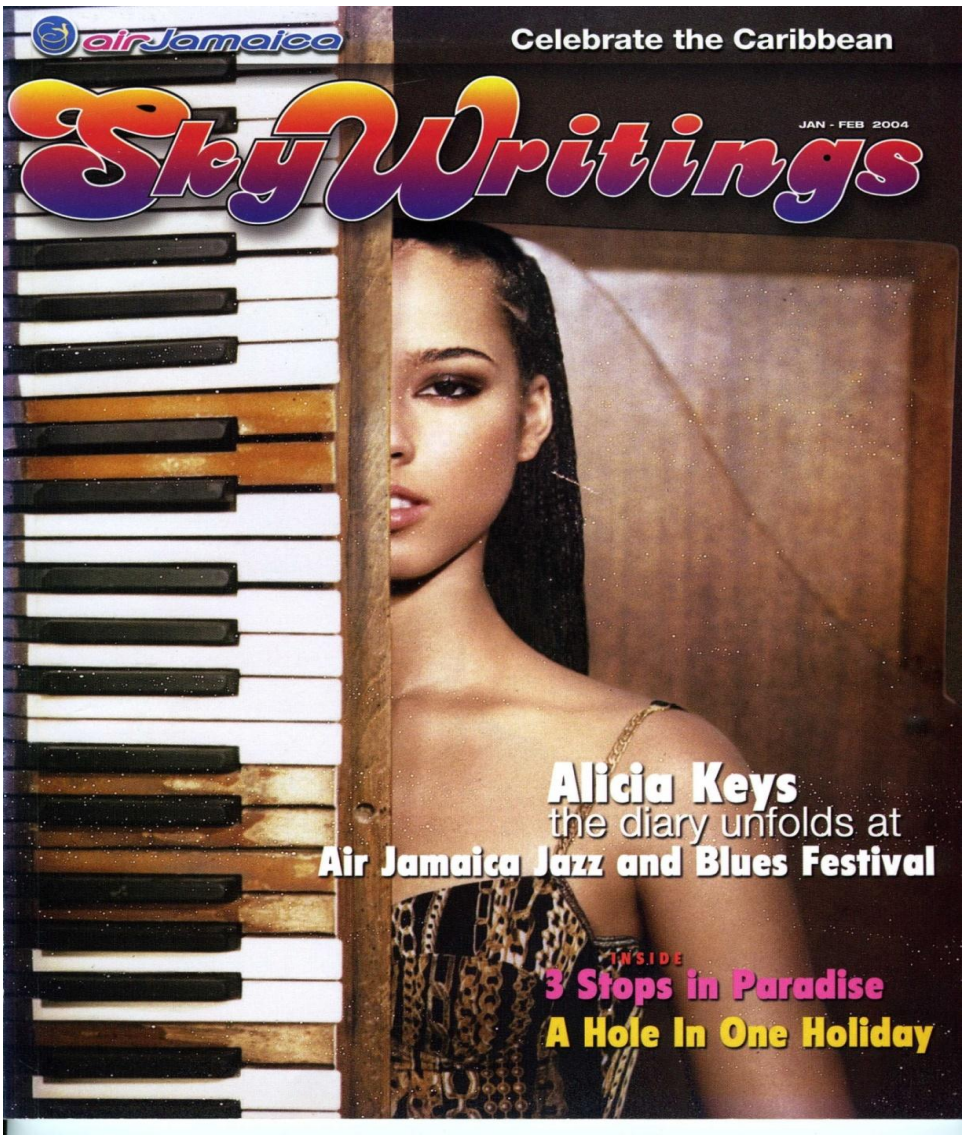
Protecting Williamsburg from the North is the Kiskiack Golf Course. This land was once the home for the Kiskiack (which means painted water) Indians, before English settlers moved into the region. Designed by Joe LaFoy, the 6,775-yard Kiskiack golf club is built on an area once owned by the Henry Lee house. 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's entry into the Williamsburg area. Two excellent golf courses are managed by the Nicklaus "Golden Bear" company. The Jamestown course was designed by Nicklaus associate Jim Lite in 1995 and is managed by the Nicklaus Golden Bear company, featuring some of the finest greens in the region. The Yorktown course is one of the newest courses in the area, designed by local favorite golf architect Tom Clark.



Although history is the primary reason people visit Williamsburg, with a variety of activities ranging from outright fun at Busch Gardens to some of the finest golf courses on the East Coast, Williamsburg has something for everyone. As a result, Williamsburg has become a golf destination that the entire family can enjoy.

2.2 Jamaica Golf Courses - SkyWritings Magazine, Jan 2004





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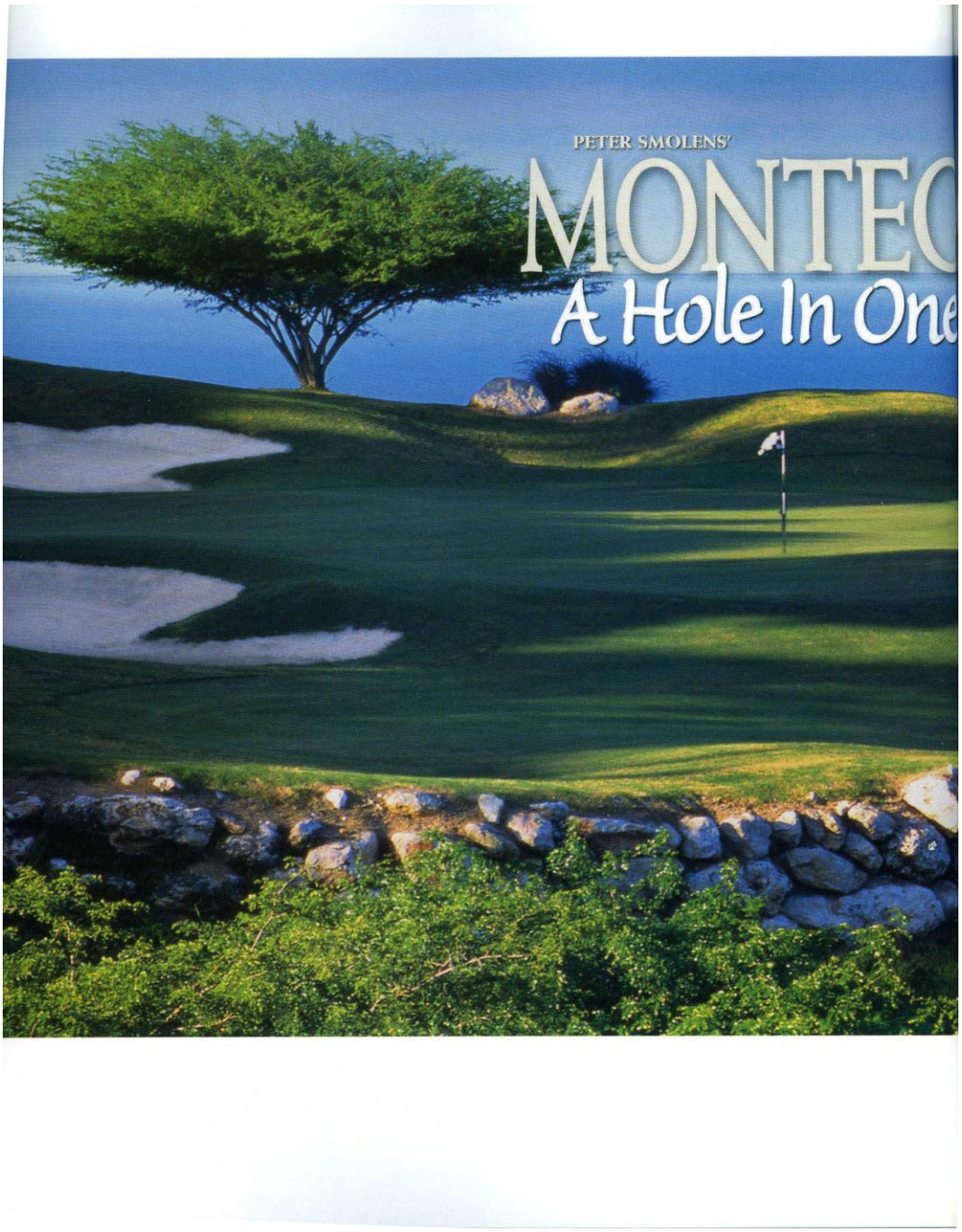
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ON THE COVER
Photograph of Alicia Keys from the cover of **The Diary of Alicia Keys**, her second album which debuted at number one. Ms. Keys will be performing at the **Air Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival**. Photograph courtesy ©J Records/MBK Entertainment.

THIS PAGE
Footsteps In The Sand. Photograph ©Howard Smiley/Kamalame Cay


PETER SMOLENS'
MONTEC
A Hole In One



17th Green White Witch GC, Rose Hall Jamaica

Golf Courses in Jamaica

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". After playing a round on this beautiful golf course carved into the mountainside overlooking the Caribbean Sea, I agree with his assessment.

In many ways, Von Hagge's claim could be valid for all the golf courses in the Montego Bay region of Jamaica. There are so many "signature holes" that it's difficult to say which is the best. That is why golfers who visit Jamaica should bring their golf clubs. Playing all five courses, 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. Still, they are all open to the public for an additional fee. You'll find that each golf course has its own distinctive style. Still, they are all upscale and worth the money.



Located behind the famous Rose Hall mansion and named after the infamous Annie Palmer, the White Witch golf course is the crown jewel of Jamaican golf courses. Opened in 2000, this Ritz-Carlton resort golf course has quickly become a favorite. It has already featured in Golf and Golf Digest magazines.

Playing the course, it's easy to see why. Striking you right from the start. Both nines begin with very demanding par fives and feature the Caribbean Ocean as the spectacular backdrop from the elevated first tee. On the other hand, to start the back nine, you'll need to hit a shot of more than 200 yards to reach the fairway from the back tee. In addition, both nines offer a spectacular par threes. The downhill 8th and the 13th both have ponds guarding the front of the green. The view from the 17th tee, with the Caribbean Ocean in the background, is worth the difficulties that you'll find if you miss the green. Sand plays an integral part of the 5th hole. A 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 on the island, "No problem, mon"! It's their way of saying, "Relax, we'll take care of you." In this congenial way, Jamaicans provide spectacular service.



By the end of your stay, you will get accustomed to this lifestyle and realize that maybe they have the right idea. That said, although they are mandatory when playing, caddies are really worth the additional expense. Most caddies are very experienced. Their knowledge of golf, the course, local history, and the greens will help you make the most of your round. Caddies are just one example of the pleasant people of Jamaica. All the people at the golf courses were very friendly and went out of their way to make your visit memorable.



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. At over 7,100 yards from the tips, it is the longest course on the

island. As with any RTJ course, runway tees and traps are key elements to the design. Half Moon has over 100 sand traps around the landing areas and guards the green to catch wayward shots.

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. 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 extra 30 yards that add to the golf hole's difficulty.



I played the member's layout, which 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, this 434-yard par four from the back tee is a very demanding uphill shot. From the back tee, you'll hit your drive through large stone pillars. These pillars hold up the aqueduct that brought water from the Flint River, located 2 miles into the mountains, to the mill. This water mill was used to power the old sugar mill plantation that once occupied the land now known as Tryall Resort.



Guarding the left side of the 12th hole is a giant cotton tree. More than 400 years ago, the Arawak Indians used boats made from these trees to travel between South America and other regions. These gentle people were not prepared for the arrival of Christopher Columbus on May 4, 1494. With his arrival, the Spanish took control of the island. However, once it was discovered that the place lacked riches, the Spanish abandoned it. The English arrived and took control in 1655. They introduced the island to native crops like tobacco, cotton, and cocoa.

In the eighteenth century, during the reign of the Sugar King, the island was introduced to growing sugar crops. Soon, vast acreage of cane fields dominated the plains. Needing cheap labor, slavery was introduced to the region. Jamaica became the center of large, organized slave markets. The Arawak Indians, along with imported Africans, were enslaved to work the cane fields. This workforce location also became the staging area for nearly a million enslaved people who were transported to the American colonies.

Out of that travesty came the Maroons - the first source and symbol of the island's famous free spirit. As runaway slaves who lived in the mountains, these hard-working, independent peasant people are still regarded as the backbone of Jamaican culture. After 300 years under British rule, Jamaica gained its independence in 1962.



As one of the most extensive sugar plantations on the island, Rose Hall is also the location for another superb golf course - Cinnamon Hill. Associated with the Wyndham Hotel Resort, the Golf Course at Rose Hall was originally designed by Henry O. Smedley, a Canadian. In 2001, after seeing his outstanding 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 that it was renamed 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. In contrast, holes that wind up into the mountains are golf holes that are tree-lined and very tight.



The course is situated in front of this beautiful mansion museum. It's the backdrop to the stunning par-3 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-4 that played along the coast to a peninsula green in the Caribbean called Chinaman's Reef - into an excellent 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, featuring 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-grown coffee. After spending the day on the golf course or beach, it is a wonderful treat to tide you over until dinner.



White Witch GC, Rose Hall, Jamaica

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: Upon reviewing these articles, I made changes to improve the content. I hadn't looked at some of these articles in years. They needed the editorial work. It might be the reason editors rejected the original submissions. I utilized modern editing tools (thank you, Grammarly) to refine and enhance the articles.

I added photographs or other illustrations to the manuscripts, similar to those found in magazines, to complete the package. During the preparation of this book, I discovered 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 now a housing development.

For "Golf a la Cart Version 2," I went back and reviewed every column. The published articles that were scanned have been converted to regular type. I also added more illustrations (photographs and paintings)



Golfer Hole at Graywalls with Clouds

3.2 Golf Etiquette Column



Open the United States Golf Association (USGA) Rules of Golf, and it hits you right from the start. The first section discusses golf etiquette. Golf etiquette is one of the aspects that distinguishes golf from other sports. Golfers respect the rules of the game. In fact, the etiquette that participants display is unparalleled in sports. Professional golfers call rules infractions on themselves all the time.

The golf etiquette (or the lack of it) that you display on the course will say more about you as a golfer and a person than anything you ever do with your clubs. It's why golf has been called the "Gentleman's Game".

Etiquette is one of the most essential parts of the game of golf. If you genuinely love the game, then understanding the traditions and respect for your fellow golfers comes together in the golf etiquette you exhibit on the golf course. But what is golf etiquette? The dictionary defines etiquette as "the rules of proper social or professional behavior: manners."

So etiquette has to do with manners. Etiquette determines how we should handle ourselves in public while playing golf. Through courtesy and etiquette, we demonstrate our respect for others and convey how important they are to us and the game of golf.

Golf is a game of skill, strategy, and sportsmanship, and adhering to proper golf etiquette is essential for an enjoyable and respectful experience for everyone on the course.

Consideration for Other Players



Basic golf etiquette on the golf course prevents distractions and enhances safety. When your fellow golfer is preparing to hit the golf ball, make sure you are not in their line of sight. I suggest standing well away from the golfer, on the golfer's side, maintaining a safe distance.
For example, when on the tee, stand to the side or behind (though not directly behind, as some people find it distracting) the person teeing off. Keep quiet - don't move, talk, whistle, sneeze, or make other sounds. These can distract the other golfer's concentration.

These rules also apply on and throughout the golf course. You wouldn't like it if your fellow golfers did those things to you while you're trying to hit a golf shot. Standing in the direct sightline can be distracting when they're hitting a putt, chipping, or blasting from a bunker. If nothing else. You're putting yourself at physical risk.

Between shots, it's OK if you're friends to tease each other or get mad at yourself gently. However, getting visibly upset to the point of sulking, screaming, or throwing golf clubs. I'm sorry, but odds are you're not good enough to engage in such behaviors. No one wants to hear it, and it does no good to put a damper on a day at the golf course.

Living in our nation's capital, I quickly learned that there are specific subjects you want to avoid during conversations on golf courses. You may or may not agree with your playing

partner's political persuasion; as long as you keep your conversations about golf, you will have a better round.

With our polarized country, golf is the one sport that can rise above politics. Through the years, I've played with golfers from both ends of the spectrum – all colors, races, ethnicities, or political persuasions. In all cases, we might not see eye to eye on the political spectrum, but when we step on the first tee, we're golfers. That fact alone makes us equal.

I once joined a threesome of Asian men who barely spoke English. We didn't say much, but it was wonderful to watch their banter. Even though I had no idea what they were saying, by their gestures, familiar to golfers everywhere, I understood what it meant when one of them missed a putt. They were cordial when it was my turn.

Be Ready to Play



Be ready to play before, at the start, and throughout the round.

No one likes someone who arrives at the golf course five minutes before their tee time and is not ready to play golf. Get to the golf course early. Your arrival time depends on how much practice and preparation you need before your round of golf.

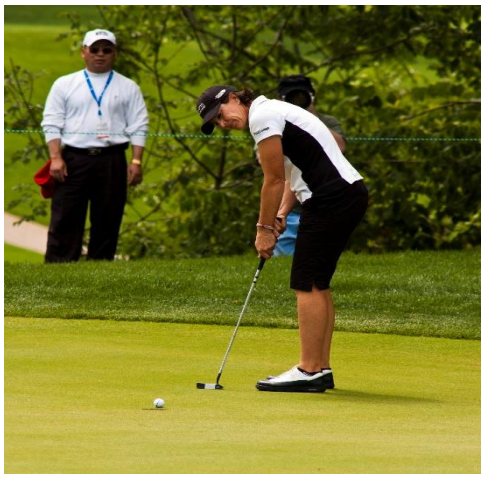
Remember, it begins with dropping off your clubs at the bag drop or taking them from your trunk to the course, putting on your golf shoes, and checking into the pro shop and starter. All this takes time. If you need to loosen up before the round, hit practice golf balls. Get the speed of the greens through chipping and putting; you'll need more time.

USGA recommends being ready ten minutes before your tee time. Before heading off to the play, ensure you have golf balls (properly marked), golf tees, a divot tool to repair ball marks, and golf ball markers in your pocket. Golf Chips are popular but can be distracting. Have a coin or other flat marker to mark your golf ball on the green. You'll need these items during the round, so make sure you have them when it's your turn to start playing your round of golf. Doing this prevents you and the rest of your foursome from being stressed.



On the golf course, be ready to play when it's your turn. The rules say it's your turn if you're farthest from the green. However, in recent years, the USGA has promoted "ready golf" to keep the golfers in the group moving. Ready golf means the first one who's prepared plays. For example, when you arrive at the next tee, the first player is ready and tees off. When on the green and the person away is delayed, and you're not in anyone's line, step up and putt.

You don't always have to mark your ball on the green, but as a courtesy to the other member of your golf group, if your golf ball interferes with another player's putting line, whether that's on the way to the hole or even behind it your ball can be a distraction, Being a former caddie, I always mark my golf ball when I reach the green so that I can clean it.



Stay out of the player's direct line of sight while others are putting. The Rules of Golf allow you to leave the flagstick in the cup while putting. It's now a personal choice – either way, if you pull it, lay it down on the green where it doesn't interfere with play and does not leave a mark on the green. The unwritten rule is that the first player to complete the hole should retrieve the flagstick and return it to the cup when everyone has finished on the green.

Although golf shoes are now spikeless, avoid walking on your fellow competitors' putting line (the path a player's ball will use to travel to the cup). You could leave an indentation or some other mark that could alter the path of their putts.

Quiet or Music



Golf requires lots of concentration. The physical act of hitting a golf ball takes a few seconds. Still, the mental preparation is crucial for executing the proper golf shot. One of the things I love about golf is that you're often out in the middle of a beautiful, manicured landscape playing a game. Borrowing a line from "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," the movie, "Life moves pretty fast, every once in a while, you need to stop and take in the view." A golf course is the perfect setting to relax and take in the view.

Music playing in the golf cart is a new vibe with the younger golfers. To be honest, it can be distracting. At a recent golf tournament, I played with some young golfers who had music playing in their golf carts. Although the volume was low, the music was soft jazz and an "easy listening" style. Initially, I found the music to be a distraction, but within a few holes, I realized I could tune out the music and focus on my game.

Before the round, you should always ask the rest of your group if they are okay with the music. While on the golf course, play the music at a volume that does not bother other players.

That also goes for conversations. Keep your conversations brief to minimize distractions. This respect for the "quiet zone" allows players to concentrate and make accurate shots.

Cell phones are an integral part of the golf environment in today's connected world. To avoid distractions, put your cell phone on vibrate before the round. If someone calls you while on the golf course, keep your conversation brief.

Pace of Play



Golf is more enjoyable when played at a comfortable pace. The goal is to be able to play when you get to your golf ball, and the group in front of you is out of range. Maintaining a reasonable pace of play is crucial to prevent a backup on the golf course. Be ready to play your shot when it's your turn.

The game takes long enough; don't make it longer by not being ready to play your shot when it's your turn. While others are hitting their shots,

use your rangefinder to get the yardage. Test for wind if you must. It doesn't change directions often, and it usually has a consistent speed. Select your club and be ready to play when it's your turn.



You don't need to take excessive practice swings before each shot. You're already loose and warmed up. Taking multiple practice swings slows down the process of hitting your golf shot. Taking practice putts on the green is illegal in stroke play, as it slows down the game.

Weekend golfers often pick up bad habits from the professional golf they see on TV. For golfers who play the game for a living, missing a putt can cost them serious money. They can look at the putt from every angle if it does not hold play. Weekend golfers who emulate pro golfers on TV slow the game's pace when on the green.

Another way golfers slow the pace of play is when a golfer does not know their distances. A perfect example is on a par five. The group ahead is on the green, and you've got more than 250 yards to the green. Most amateurs can't reach the green, so why wait? Hit your layup shot. Too many amateurs wait, knowing they can't get the green unless they hit a perfect shot. By the time the group in front clears off the green, they often miss-hit the shot.

Leave the green promptly when you've completed putting out. You'll have plenty of time on the next tee to record scores while your fellow competitors hit their tee shots.

Keep up with the group ahead. Slow play can lead to frustration for you and your fellow golfers. It's one of the most important (if not the most important) pieces of golf etiquette.

Cheating

Can you imagine a football lineman informing the referee that he held the on-rushing defensive lineman during the game-winning touchdown? Have you ever seen a hockey player admit to a holding penalty while in the corner, while battling for the puck? A baseball player claiming to have been tagged out while sliding into second base? Of course not! It would be unthinkable.

However, in golf, golfers often call penalties on themselves all the time. In the movie **"The Legend of Bagger Vance,"** Rannulph Junuh sees the ball move when he addresses the golf ball in the woods; he calls a penalty on himself. That scene is a perfect example why golf is called the "Gentleman's Game."

Care of the Course



How many times has this happened to you? You hit a perfect drive down the middle of the fairway. Upon arriving at your golf ball, you find it in the middle of a divot. I know the rule is to play it as it lies. Those are the breaks of the game. During practice rounds, I've tried to hit out of a divot. Unlike the pros, I, like most amateurs, rarely make good contact when hitting out of a divot. Plus, I also create a more significant divot. Of course, this always happens when I don't have any replacement sand. I should say I've played golf with wonderful people who often use the replacement sand to fill many divots. One of my golf friends gets multiple bottles of

replacement sand during the round. After playing rounds of golf with him, I now see an open divot, and I fill it with replacement sand.



It's the same way in sand traps. I can't tell you how often I've found my golf ball in the footprint of a previous golfer who did not rake the trap. At the Cacapon Resort golf course in West Virginia, a sign by the first tee advises that if your ball lands on a deer or dog print in the trap, you should move it to the nearest flat spot and play your shot without penalty. Some golf tournaments have the same temporary rule about landing in other golfers' footprints in a trap.

In Peter's version of the rules, there should be a rule saying amateurs can move the golf ball out of a divot or footprint.

Golf Etiquette advises repairing any ball marks, smoothing out your footprints in the sand trap, and removing any disturbances in the sand or divots you created in the fairway and on the green. Doing this simple act of golf course etiquette, you use a ball mark repair tool to restore the putting surface. Repairing ball marks shows respect for the course and future golfers. Leaving the golf course in good condition ensures fairness for all players.

Golf Carts



We've all seen **YouTube** videos of golfers doing dumb things with an electric golf cart. I suspect alcohol plays a large part in these escapades, which the participants think are funny. They're not. They cost the golf course a significant amount of money to repair or replace the golf carts. If you're driving the golf cart, you are responsible for maintaining the golf cart. Here are some guidelines you should remember when driving the golf cart.

- Golf carts can easily tip over if not driven properly.
- Stop the golf cart when others in your group are preparing to play their golf shot.
- Be wary of where others are playing. Ensure your golf cart is not in a position to be in the way of your fellow golfer's aim line.
- Remember to set the brake before you leave the cart.
- The windshield on a golf cart is not strong enough to stop an incoming golf ball.
- To speed up the pace of play, drive to your cart mate's golf ball. Unless the environment dictates otherwise, please don't wait for him to play his shot after he selects his golf club. Drive over to your golf ball and hit your shot. You can always meet your cart mate after you've hit your shot.
- Keep golf carts away from the green. Many golf courses have a rule: exit the fairway to the designated golf cart path about 50 yards before the green. Many golf course designers have designated places near the green for parking the golf carts.

Where to drive your golf cart for a beginner isn't a given. Most courses have rules about how close to the green (usually no closer than 50 yards) you can drive a cart, and you should rarely leave the path on par-3 holes. When carts are allowed in the fairways, many have a 90-degree rule, meaning you should stay on the cart path until you're even with your or your playing companion's golf ball. The idea is to limit potential damage to the golf course. Also,

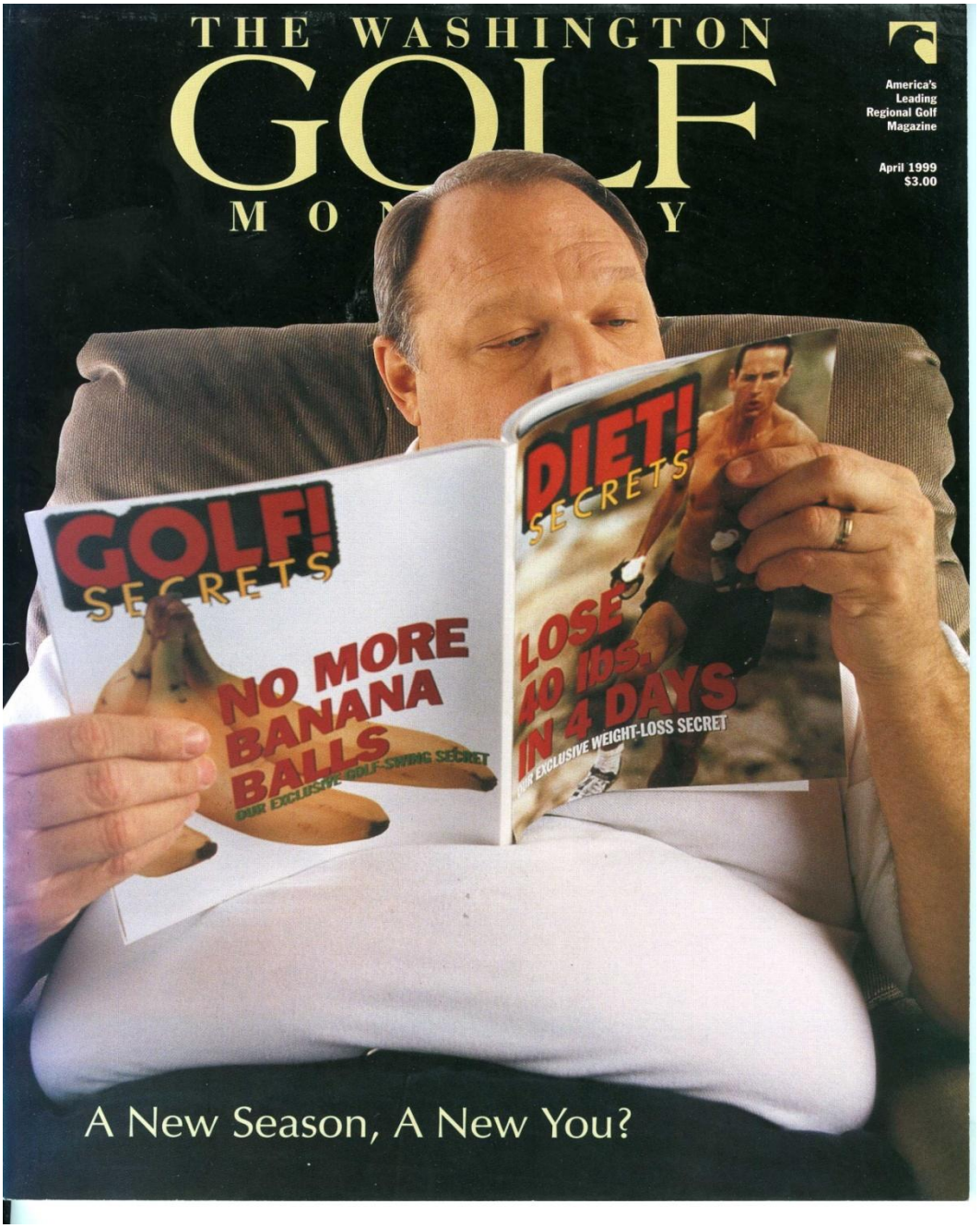
be cognizant of locking the brakes while someone else is taking a stroke. An ill-timed noise from the cart can cause another player to flinch.



By following these golf etiquette rules, golfers of all levels can enjoy a smoother and more enjoyable experience on the golf course. Remember, golf etiquette isn't just about following rules; it's about respecting the game, the course, and your fellow golfers. Harvey Penick's Little Red Book sums up etiquette best: "The best part of golf is that if you observe the etiquette, you can always find a game."

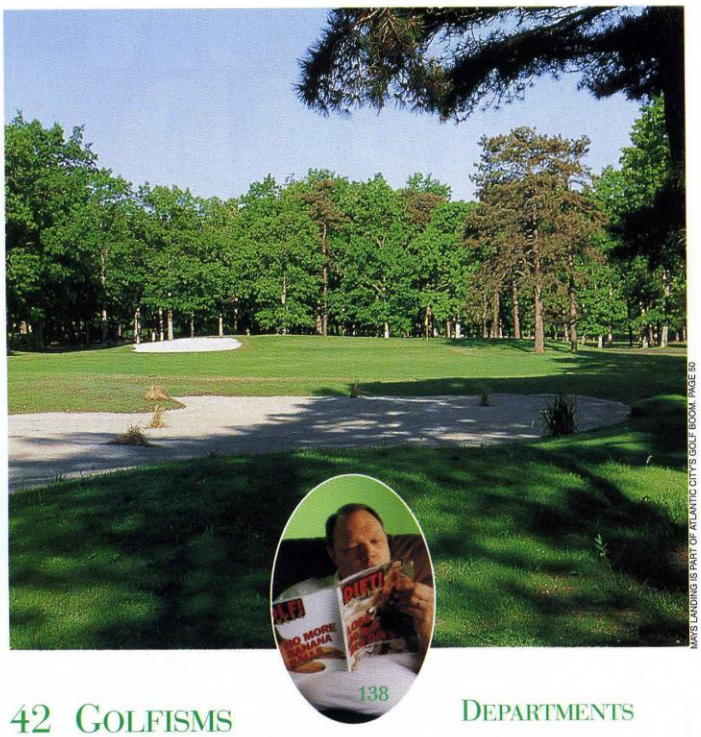
Practice these basic golf etiquette principles to ensure a positive experience for you and everyone else on the golf course.

3.3 Golf Dad Column - Washington Golf Monthly, April 1999



WGM

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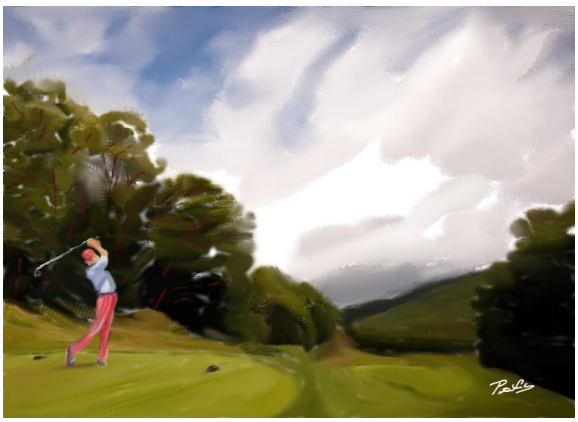
BPA INTERNATIONAL

Golf with Jack
A Tribute to my Father

Although John H. "Jack" Smolens, my father, passed away in 1981, I feel his presence whenever I step onto a golf course. It was because of him that I play golf. He instilled a love of the game in me at an early age. He was my most significant influence in golf and life.

Far from a natural, my father was your regular hacker with a big banana ball and a 16 handicap. But you would never find a more dedicated golfer. He discovered the game, like many, through the big three: Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, and Arnold Palmer. It was because of them that he joined the local country club.

I was ten when he asked me to caddie for my mother. A struggling beginner, she played on Sunday afternoons with my father. Because of the lack of available caddies, my mother wanted to ensure she had a bag toter. Being the middle child of the three boys in the family (my older brother John was already showing promise as a tennis player, and my younger brother Michael was too young), I was the logical choice.



The following weekend, I spent the afternoon walking around the hilly New England golf course, pulling my mother's cart. At the end of the round, my father gave me two dollars (remember, we're in our early 60s). When I got money to spend the afternoon with my parents, my employment future was set. I couldn't wait for next Sunday!

Initially, everyone thought it was cute that my mother would have her son pull her golf cart. Mom told one of her friends, "At least I know he's not getting into trouble."

Once school was out for the summer, I went to the club to caddie. Although I didn't know it at the time, this simple act of a youthful teen wanting to make some money caused quite a stir among some of the club members. A member's son who actually wanted to be a caddie?

Thankfully, my father and Les Bond, the golf professional at the club, came to my rescue. They had the insight to be rational about the situation. The club needed caddies (this was before golf carts took over), and I was willing to work there. So, the decision was that when I was a caddie, I was to be treated like a caddie. When I came to play, I was a member. It worked out because club rules stated that only adults could play on weekend mornings (Little did they know that I would later break that rule when I qualified for the Club Championship at 16 years old).

By high school, I became one of the top caddies in the club. Club members would request my services. Still, one of my proudest moments was when my father asked me to caddie in the club's annual member-guest tournament.



Through caddying, I learned how to play the game of golf. Throughout my teenage years, when I wasn't caddying, I worked on improving my golf game. By my junior year in high school, my handicap was in the single digits.

I played my first "real" golf tournament with my father that spring. His regular partner for the annual "Spring Cup" golf tournament at the club was injured. Needing a partner, he asked if I would consider playing with him instead of working as a caddie. I jumped at the opportunity.



We did ok. The "Spring Cup" was a two-person best-ball tournament based on handicap. We played pretty well, qualifying for the first flight. Over the next few weekends, we moved through the field only to lose in the finals to a man who, despite getting 16 shots off my handicap, shoots a lifetime best 83 on his ball. Although I played well, shooting 75 on my ball, we lost two and one.

The few times I played golf with my father during high school were always a treat. He had a way of making me feel relaxed, which allowed me to enjoy the game of golf and play better. In my senior year in high school, I regularly shot in the low to mid-70s, but I could never break the par barrier. It finally happened while playing with my father. I finally broke par while qualifying for the club championship, shooting a one-under-par 70.

A once-in-a-lifetime round, my drives stayed in the fairway. The irons were heading at the pin, and some putts were dropping. As we played the last few holes, I realized what was happening. But Dad always knew what to say to keep me level-headed. Sinking the short birdie putt on the 18th green, I don't know who was happier. All I know is I will never forget the smile on my father's face when I looked up after hearing the ball fall into the cup.

After high school, I embarked on a journey to become a professional golfer, working at country clubs in New England.

My father was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease - a deadly form of cancer. With his health slowly deteriorating, rounds of golf with my father became special. I made it an annual event to have Dad join me for one afternoon of golf at the club where I worked. Those days have become cherished memories that I will remember for the rest of my life.

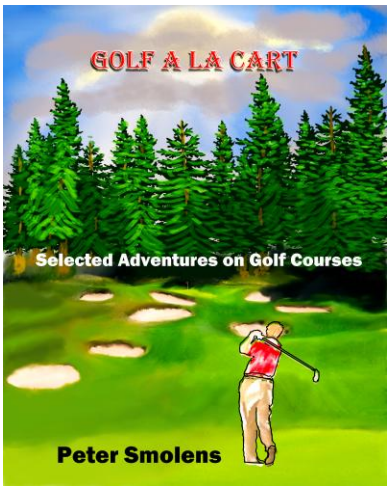
The last round of golf we had together was in 1979, while I was an Assistant Golf Pro at Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, MA. Although he didn't play very well, I remember that he was smiling every time I looked over. During the round, I asked him why he seemed happy.

"The circle was complete," he said as we rode in the cart. "Seeing how you hit the golf ball, I know that golf will always be in our family." Happy Father's Day, Dad – you're the best!

3.4 Other Books by Peter Smolens







3.5 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 paintings in newspapers, magazines, and online publications. Publications include Washington Golf Monthly, GolfStyles, Washington, and Golf Illustrated magazines. A former Assistant Golf Pro, today he plays golf for exercise and fun. "Golf a la Cart Version 2: Selected Adventures on the Golf Course" is his fourth book for Digital Art Press and P.B.S. Studios. Go to pbsstudios.com to learn more about his books, articles, photography, and digital paintings.