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1st and 10th Holes at The Caverns Golf Course

By
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What Club Would You Hit?

If you hit your drive long enough down the middle on the first fairway at the Caverns Country Club Resort Course in Luray, Virginia, you might find your golf ball in one feature of this mountain golf course that you will not find on any other golf course in this country - a cave opening!

That's because the Caverns C.C. sits on top of the largest cavern in the world. Thankfully, a local rule on the scorecard states that if your ball comes to rest at the cave opening, you get a free drop with no penalty.



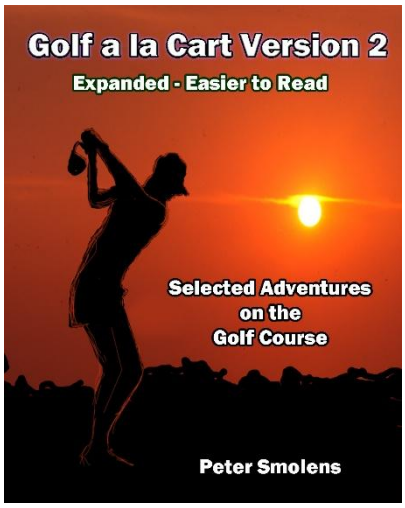
Located in the valley between the Shenandoah and the Massanutten mountain ranges and next to the Shenandoah River, the Caverns golf course is a perfect combination of incredible vista and toughness. With Bermuda tees, bluegrass fairways, and bent grass greens on the course, don't let the beautiful mountain backdrops distract you. It's the kind of golf course you must play a couple of times to understand the subtleties. Although not long, only 6400 yards from the tips, this course is a challenge - a real-thinking man's golf course. You use most of the clubs in your golf bag during your round. Position is the key to scoring on many holes in this course.

Beginning each nine are challenging golf holes. As noted, the first hole you tee off from an elevated tee, dropping straight down to the fairway and the cave opening. Anything

left of the tree-lined first hole is in the Shenandoah River, which is on the left next to the green. The last time I played the Caverns golf course, I hit a solid drive. Feeling bold, I went for the green in two only to watch my second shot land on the left side of the fairway and kick dead left, bouncing into the trees and the river on my way to a bogey start to the round.



The 10th hole is a long dogleg right, with the second shot uphill to a plateau green. To the left of the hogback landing area, there is a rough collection area. Like any drive with a draw, I found the collection area. It took the best shot of the day with a hybrid to reach the front of the green for a two-putt par.



These photographs are used as an illustration in my book, "Golf a la Cart Version 2," now available on Amazon or by contacting me. It's also available as a digital print at my Etsy Store. To purchase a print, go to the pbsstudios.com Golf Photography Gallery Section.

I hope you like my weekly series of columns about golf holes I have played and photographed. The series includes original photographs or digital paintings in the series based on photographed golf holes.

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