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18th Hole at Whiskey Creek Golf Course
By
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What Club Would You Hit?

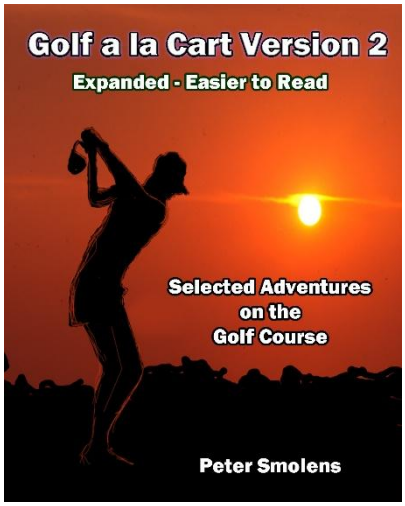
Today's golf hole is the 18th at Whiskey Creek Golf Course, Ijamsville, MD. Designed by Architect J. Michael Poellot with design consultant pro golfer, Ernie Els, I photographed and played for a feature article in Washington Golf Monthly (GolfStyles, Washington).



The 18th hole is another classic risk/reward par-5 hole. At 545 yards from the tips. It's often rated as one of the best finishing holes in the mid-Atlantic region. What makes it special is what's located in the middle of the fairway: a ruin of a 19th-century stone house. A relic from Prohibition days, bootleggers and smugglers stored Whiskey here before transporting it to speakeasies in the region. The house in the middle of the fairway makes it the ultimate strategic hole. Hit your drive to the left of the farmhouse; the fairway is narrow, and water comes into play. Keep it on the fairway, and long hitters can go for the green. To the right of the farmhouse is the longer, but safe side; the hole then becomes a three-shot lay-up with the approach shot over water.

The first time I played the 18th at Whiskey Creek Golf Course was during my first GolfStyles Washington Magazine Solstice Survival Golf Tournament. Starting just after sunrise, tournament players play the course in a shotgun format three times in a single day. During the first round of the day, I tried to be bold and hit my drive on the 18th hole to the left of the farmhouse. I worked perfectly, landing in the middle of the fairway. A well-struck fairway wood over the pond fronting the green put me in a greenside trap en route to a par-5. The next time didn't go as well. I ended up at the base of the farmhouse. I tried to hit a

left-handed shot sideways and whiffed. With an unplayable and a ball in the water, I one-putted for a snowman (8).



This photograph is 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 based on photographed golf holes.

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