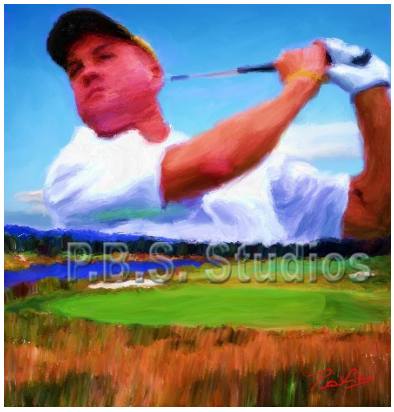
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9th Hole at Bull Run Golf Course
By
Peter Smolens

What Club Would You Hit?

Today's golf hole is the 9th Hole at Bull Run Golf Course in Haymarket, VA. I've played the golf course several times over the years. On the success of the Augustine golf course, golf course designer Rick Jacobson built another "high-end, daily-fee golf course" in the Northern Virginia region.



Recently, the digital painting shown here has taken on much more meaning. I read that Chip Sullivan, the golfer in this digital painting, passed away this spring. I combined his portrait with the 9th green at Bull Run, painted from behind the green as an illustration to show an editor that I could handle golf illustrations.

There is a great phrase in the yardage book: "Mother Nature created the setting, C. Lewis Waltrip had the vision, Rick Jacobson brought it to life."

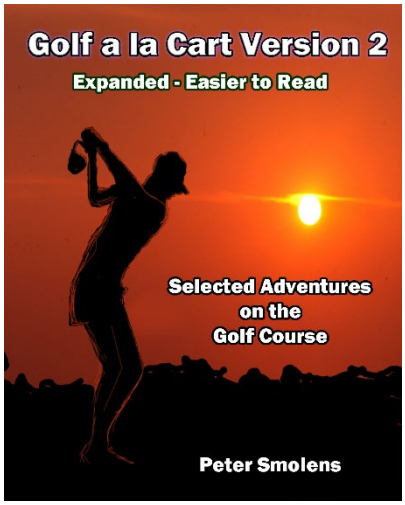
A protégé of Jack Nicklaus, Jacobson designed Bull Run Golf Course as a thinking man's golf course. There are holes where you can "grip it and rip it," and there are holes you must plan your attack based on your abilities.



The 9th hole is another example of popular golf hole design in the Mid-Atlantic region: a hole that crosses a body of water to a fairway on the other side. As the signature golf hole, it's the number one handicap hole, and for a good reason. It's a beast!

At 452 yards from the tips, it's "grip it and rip it." Your drive is across the lake to the fairway. From the tips, the fairway is diagonal away from the tee. Bite off as much of the lake as you dare. Warning, it's a longer carry than it looks. The challenges of the golf hole continue. With the lake running down the right side of the fairway, your approach shot must be accurate.

When I first played the golf course shortly after it opened, I didn't have a problem clearing the lake. Being scared of the water on the right, my common approach is to the left of the green. I've visited the bunker a few times.



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 of pbsstudios.com

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.

Give me a like and leave a comment. Use the Contact Form to email me. Let me know what you think about the series.

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