



Packsaddle Ridge Golf Club ~ High Praise

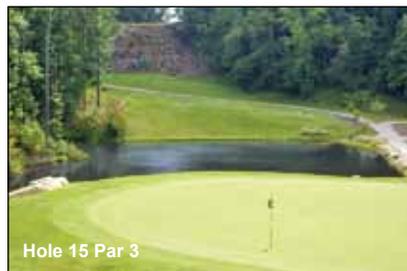
Nick Ciattei

It didn't take long after the Summer of 2002 opening of Packsaddle Ridge in Keezletown, VA, for the buzz to hit the streets. An immediate award from *Golf Digest* as one of the top five new courses in the country definitely opened up some eyes. Architect Russell Breeden and developer Jeff Forbes created this visually stunning golf course across 500 acres that provides plenty of wow factor as you journey basically to the top of a mountain. Simply put, Packsaddle endures as one of the most beautiful courses in the mid-Atlantic.

This breathtaking mountain course begins with a short drive off of Interstate 81. As you wind your way up the mountain, expect to see a cow or two and you might even run into a goat. Yes, a local might say, you'll find Packsaddle Ridge "just up yonder." You will discover total tranquility at this facility with its mile-long driveway bordered by white three-bar fencing. While Packsaddle Ridge can boast having many signature-worthy holes, two on the back nine stand out head and shoulders above the rest. The par 4 thirteenth, simply called "The View," doesn't host a panel full of ladies bickering back and forth about Hollywood gossip! This hole plays just over 300 yards and runs uphill all the way. You can really absorb the natural view of the valley below with glimpses of Harrisonburg and the campus of JMU on the horizon from a bench sitting area behind the green. On a clear day, even the bordering state of West Virginia comes into view. The par 3 fifteenth, appropriately named "The Packsaddle," also merits attention. A long cart ride escorts you to a tee box perched on the side of a cliff. A thrilling downhill tee ball will hang in the air for what seems like an eternity before hopefully landing on the sloping green fronted by a large pond.



Hole 13 Par 4



Hole 15 Par 3

Renovations have taken place or are in progress as Packsaddle Ridge moves forward to make the layout as player friendly as possible. The owners now look to tweak the existing trail to improve the overall product. They have completed revamping the par 4 fifth. The water hazard that ran across the fairway has been filled. A majority of the trees and all of the brush on the left side of the previous hazard have been removed, and adding a cascading water runoff resulted in a very handsome setting. Packsaddle has also cleared the course extensively to make it easier for golfers to get around. All of the tree stumps, rocks, and brush have been removed between the

first and second holes and between holes four and five, and look for an thorough sprucing up to the right side of the par 4 tenth to be complete by next spring.

Packsaddle Ridge has never had an "easy" tag attached to it. The course is recognized as one of the more challenging ones in the Shenandoah Valley with dramatic elevation changes and sweeping tree-lined topography. To get more players to pick the proper tee boxes, Packsaddle rearranged the forward tee box markers so that higher handicap golfers have shorter options. The red and gold tees are now together at 4700 yards, and the white tees moved up to 5200. A green tee has been added at 5900, and of course, more experienced players can challenge the back two sets of tees at 6400 and 7000 yards respectively. An in-depth scorecard is provided, so study closely before selecting your tees.

Packsaddle Ridge now offers one of the latest playing fads in the golf world. Fling Golf, a new way to play golf, is geared toward beginners or those who want a different way to get out on the course and have fun. You use a fling stick similar to ones used in lacrosse. You throw and putt with ONE stick that you use everywhere during your round. Stick rentals run just \$10. The course will also be installing a set of 15 inch cups soon for juniors to putt toward when they reach the green.

Packsaddle Ridge holds a high spot on everyone's must-play list in the Commonwealth. Don't miss out on this elevating golf experience.

For more information visit packsaddle.net

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*Per person, includes double occupancy accommodations with continental breakfast, green & cart fees, taxes and service charges.

Hole 1 Par 4