

## Fox Hollow Training Center The Hits Just Keep on Coming

Nick Ciattei

Over the years *The Golf Guide* has taken readers across countless fairways in the region. We have found so many terrific courses, BUT only a couple of excellent practice facilities exist, and Fox Hollow Training Center ranks near the top of that list. Operated by Baltimore County Golf and located in the middle of Fox Hollow Golf Course in Timonium, MD, they are completing their seventh year. The quite extensive project required several holes on the back nine to be completely redone to accommodate the size of the golf range.

Fox Hollow Training Center (FHTC) presents the perfect setting for players of all ages and skill levels to work on their game. The range itself has over sixty hitting stations, twenty of which are covered so you can still practice during bad weather. Targets are properly placed, and each station shows actual distances hit in a grid. Knowing the yardages of your clubs greatly influences improving







your game and scoring better, and you can really cultivate that aspect of the game here. At FHTC, they also have three putting greens, a chipping and pitching green, and practice bunkers to help your short game.

Have you ever gone to a range and were handed a bucket or bag of balls that have no dimples and look five years old? That doesn't happen at FHTC because they bring in brand new balls each season. They take pride in providing the best value in the region in the quality of their practice facility and quantity of golf balls per dollar. They offer range card memberships



for practice warriors to get the biggest bang for the buck. The driving range and short game areas are all well lit. The driving range features "up lighting" that allow golfers to better view their ball flight during evening practice.



As with any type of practice facility, Fox Hollow places emphasis on getting young ones to play. Their Junior Golf Academy offers golf camps each year, and in 2017 they saw the most participants in any one season. The fast-growing Drive, Chip and Putt Championship (partnered by The Masters, The PGA and USGA) for junior golfers age 7-15 has held their regional qualifier at Fox Hollow Training Center the past two years. FHTC hosts many networking groups and clinics to introduce the local business community to golf and each other. This terrific idea gets the staff together for some brainstorming and fun, plus bags a day away from the office.

If you are in the market to upgrade the sticks currently in your bag, test drive some new clubs at one of Fox Hollow demo days, which are big hits during golf season. Master Club Fitter Dick Severino performs premium custom club fitting service. "Seve" uses FlightScope technology to insure that you get the proper clubs for your swing. It comes as no surprise that for the last five years running Fox Hollow Training Center has



been named a Top 50 Public Driving Range by the GRAA (Golf Range Association of America), and I do not see this significant achievement ending soon!

The Fox Hollow Golf Course along with four other outstanding courses complete the Baltimore County Golf contingent. I've always thought that all five courses have unique characteristics and provide a variety of golfing experiences. I include Fox Hollow as one of the courses that I grew up on with its central location in the county. The former "Longview Golf Course" always stood out for its large water tower at the entrance and for the fact that some of the course was built on top of a landfill. Some 40 years later and after several redesigns, this popular course has forgiving fairways, and its overall yardage plays perfectly for any caliber of player.





Another of the 40 year plus clubs, Diamond Ridge is located on the west side of the county in Windsor Mill. This par 71 course was designed by the legendary Ed Ault, whose creations can be found all over the northeast. The front and back nines are distinctly different. The front nine's open nature contrasts the back nine's tighter style outlined by mature trees. In 1998, the county added another course adjacent to

Diamond Ridge. The Woodlands was quickly recognized as one of the best courses in the Baltimore region and takes golfers on a scenic journey through a world

of tall, hardwood trees that guard lush bentgrass fairways and large, undulating greens. Dramatic elevation changes and water features along with other challenges lay in wait on this Lindsay Ervin creation. The Woodlands and Diamond Ridge share the clubhouse making it ideal for golf events of any size, and with their combined 36 holes, provide endless setups.





with an array of exciting holes and some of the prettiest views you will find on ANY course. The course plays longer than the 6650 on the scorecard because you are basically at sea level. Bring a good flat stick because the huge greens will test everyone's putting skills.

The Woodlands Hole 2 Par 3

The north end of Baltimore County features a course originally designed to be a private club. Greystone Golf Course offers public golf about as good as it can get. Designed by 'Gentleman" Joe Lee, Greystone presents a true masterpiece in layout, challenge, and entertainment. A welcome mix of five par 5s and five par 3s provide plenty of scoring

The only waterfront course on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, Rocky Point

Golf Course is situated in Essex. Since 1971. this fair test of golf has delighted players

opportunities. With 140 feet of elevation changes, seven ponds, and more than 80 bunkers, this course will test your game and senses all at the same time. Bentgrass from tee to green, Greystone boasts being one of the Free State's best.

All of these courses share one common characteristic. No housing impedes play, and they are placed in relatively peaceful settings. From one end of the county to the other, Baltimore County Golf offers everything a golfer could want to enjoy this wonderful game we call golf. 🕥

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