

- **REPLACE DIVOTS**
- **REPAIR BALL MARKS**
- **RAKE BUNKERS**

COURSE RATINGS / SLOPE

Red Marker: Championship
74.3 / 141

Green Marker: Regular
72.7 / 137

White Marker: Short
74.3 / 133

*Please permit faster matches
to play through.*

NO OUT OF BOUNDS

**NATIONAL GOLF LINKS
OF AMERICA**



**SOUTHAMPTON
NEW YORK**

22 September, 2002

DEDICATION

For C.B.

Without your dedication, golf as we know it would indeed be a good walked spoiled. Thank you Mr. MacDonald, for sharing your vision with the world.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course size: 22.770 Meg

Custom Libraries (2): CB MacDonald 9.401 Meg, NGLA2002 13.199 Meg

NGLA's greens are large for the most part - combined with the very real possibility of having 25 to 30 yard putts on sloped greens, it all adds up that 3 putting is not just an occasional happening at NGLA, it's downright expected. Not every green will play difficult, because a few are very flat in nature, but the course does have holes that will force you to play position golf.

!!! Please remember that IF you decide to play the course with DRY greens, that you have been forewarned. !!!

For the proper settings, I'd highly recommend:

Long Rough
Normal or Dry Greens
Breezy to Gusty winds

See the Scorecard at the end of this text file for course yardage.

3RD HOLE "ALPS": Once you're safely on the fairway, please wait for the Bell tower to chime, letting you know that the green is cleared.

6TH HOLE "SHORT": Based on the "pin of the day" you will need to SHIFT-R, then SPACE to rotate your golfer on the tee to the proper target. This is due in part to NGLA's 6th being a huge green complex, and because PGA 2000 does not have an auto rotate to pin feature.

SPOTTER FLAGS: The 3rd hole "Alps" and the 16th hole "Punchbowl" have large spotter flags that are visible from their respective fairways. They were placed on line with the center of the green, and do in no way aid you in lining up an approach shot in.

DESIGNER'S NOTES

NGLA stands as a testament to all that is good in the world of golf, and even in the world of art, for Charles Blair MacDonald's design, layout and subsequent creation stands as the epitome of perfection. Built on a plot of land that originally belonged to Shinnecock Hills in the Southampton area, C.B. deemed this property a find after spending 3 days riding over it on horseback.

Ideally, he wanted to create a course that had all of the best holes of Classic Golf course architecture from throughout the world on a single layout, and in this endeavor he succeeded beyond measure. He spent many months overseas, studying the best that was offered there and brought a clear and precise understanding of those holes with him to New York.

From the diabolical opening Valley hole, through the Sahara, Alps, Redan, Short, St. Andrews, Bottle, and Long. To the Plateau, Eden, Cape, Punchbowl and Home holes on the backside C.B. had his gem, and this course is a dream for the player, admirer, and student of the game. Segue way to the present:

Long before I even considered tackling this course for PGA 2000, I had known of this course, but knew very little beyond the basics of just what this course offered in aesthetics, playability, and sheer beauty. Thus, I created a website in part to learn of Classic Golf design, and in the process, learned that Golf Architecture is a passion that I did not know even existed inside of myself. George Bahto, Golf Historian and Architect helped immeasurably by answering questions via email that I had not only about these wonderful hole designs, but he also showed me that C.B. MacDonald and his partner Seth Raynor were perhaps the two best at their trade in the 20th century. On that, I agree totally and completely.

In recreating NGLA, one thought came to mind as I started the tedious task of collecting enough raw data to even see if I could make an accurate recreation of C.B. MacDonald's master work - this is one tough, yet fair course !.

Chris Clouser first sent me all 18 hole overheads, which had specific distances to landmarks, bunkers and yardage from the tees. I then was emailed a copy of

the Satellite imagery from an anonymous source which filled in the spots that I could not visually see.

As the weeks and subsequent months progressed, I was fortunate enough to have access to Golf Club Atlas.com (GCA for short). I started to post specific questions in regards to holes on the course, and many of my posts gathered a tremendous amount of responses giving me detail beyond anything I could have hoped for or imagined. Then, an absolute treasure fell into my hands quite literally, as I was offered a CD containing some 360 plus images of the course. The search was proving fruitful, and I then realized after spending almost a month studying all the images that I could make NGLA a reality.

So, fast forward a couple more months, and yet another gift came along, this one was so amazing that I literally shed a tear when the letter arrived. Pin positions from the just held 3 day Tournament. I then asked more questions at GCA, and found that the other 100 images, along with a couple threads, gave me the 4th day pin positions within 2 feet. The quest had come to fruition, in more ways than one.

The last piece was finding out that NGLA had moved the 1st tee to the right some 15 feet, and had altered it's 5th and 7th holes from a Par 5 to Par 4's, thus the scorecard for the course was now 71 - down from 73. A brilliant move since both holes were shortish 480 yard holes, and it also made the course even more compelling without altering the layout to meet today's rampant distance advances. The Old Pro House was torn down, and the new one is now fully operational with the practice green sitting to its immediate right, behind the 1st tee.

LAYOUT NOTES

My work on NGLA was broken down thusly:

I used Frank Roorda's Real Course layout method, and boy was this a time saver. 2 weeks to layout all 18 holes, 288 bunkers including waste areas, and the bay and beach head, since I had decided that this course would not need a panorama created.

I originally planned to use the topography map for quick elevation work for the entire plot, but was disappointed to see that the Topography map was off by some 60 yards. Hence, I had to start elevation work using the 450 plus images, saving the bunkers for last as I finished each hole.

Throughout the entire process, I worked on images for the Library, collected sounds, and started to find good source images that I could use to make the texture base from.

At that time, we had a get together for the TCD Clambake, and I played a round of golf online with Ray Hines and Jorgen Ekroth. I've always considered Jorgen and Yannick Trives to be the two best at Texture design for PGA, and had previously worked with Jorgen for a short period of time on Pine Valley with Chris Clouser prior to my CPU crashing.

Jorgen was very excited by my offer, as was I that he had accepted, and I quickly sent him about 15 images along with a rough and waste texture that I created. I also sent him a cut down copy of the first 5 holes of the plot, complete with base elevation work included so he could play with the textures, and actually test them himself. The rest as they say is history.

Along the way I created a new Pot Bunker method with steps for the 7th hole St. Andrews, devised a new way to create bunkers with depth to take advantage of the treacherous and devious mounding in place, and a couple other items which I'll keep to myself, till you play the course that is.

CREDITS AND THANKS

Jorgen Ekroth for his main texture work, from the tee boxes to the green and outward to the First Cut. This set is purely and simply, the best set of textures I've ever seen. Without his dedication and attention to detail, NGLA wouldn't have looked half as good. Thank you my brother!!!

Chris Clouser for sending me the 18 hole overheads for this project. They were/are an invaluable resource. Thank you.

To the Anonymous Donators: Thank you for the CD of images and for the pin position charts. Without them, NGLA could not have been completed.

To GCA for your inexhaustible fountain of knowledge and for being kind to a neophyte like myself. You're all diamonds in the rough.

Thank you to the 47th Battalion of the Royal Scottish Drum and Bagpipers for your incredible version of C.B.'s preferred song of choice.

All objects in the C.B. MacDonald library were created by the author from his personal collection of images from the course.

All objects in the NGLA2002 library EXCEPT the low tree images and the horsetail were created by various members of the TCD community. Thank you for your willingness to share.

All sounds are a part of the domain of the World Wide Web, and are freely available through many sources on the internet.

FINAL THOUGHT

I adore NGLA, and as I've said before - "Perfection in design, subtlety in character, and the best replay value on the planet : The National Golf Links of America"

This was the most fun I've ever had designing. Is it perfect ? Of course not, but I've given this course everything I have, and in all honesty with humble heart, believe it is far and away the best course I've ever done.

As to whether you will enjoy your round at The National Golf Links of America I will only say, that when you finished the 18th and walk towards the clubhouse that you'll have a smile on your face, and be willing to face its challenges again.

My sincerest appreciation to you for downloading my recreation of this magical course, and any comments or suggestions are most welcome and received at:

r_silverleaf@yahoo.com

I remain,

R.S. Barker

NATIONAL GOLF LINKS OF AMERICA

CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE	REGULAR COURSE	SHORT COURSE	HOLE	PAR	NAME	SELF	P'TNER	STROKES	OPP'NT	OPP'NT
327	307	289	1	4	Valley			11		
330	270	240	2	4	Sahara			15		
426	411	378	3	4	Alps			1		
195	177	159	4	3	Redan			13		
478	466	451	5	4	Hog's Back			9		
141	131	110	6	3	Short			17		
478	462	406	7	4	St. Andrews			7		
424	404	286	8	4	Bottle			3		
540	532	514	9	5	Long			5		
3339	3160	2833		35	OUT					
450	429	391	10	4	Shinnecock			2		
432	408	370	11	4	Plateau			8		
435	388	352	12	4	Sebonac			4		
174	161	147	13	3	Eden			18		
365	336	286	14	4	Cape			14		
397	367	311	15	4	Narrows			12		
404	381	360	16	4	Punchbowl			10		
375	350	319	17	4	Peconic			16		
502	478	448	18	5	Home			6		
3534	3298	2984		36	IN					
6873	6458	5817		71	TOTAL					

Date.....Handicap.....

Attested.....Net.....