



# A Duffer's Idyll

Bridgeport, West Virginia

*Pete Dye, for one, and Arnold Palmer, for another, know an idyll when it's obvious. So when each in his way happened upon the rolling hills and maze of valleys in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, eureka! they thought if not exclaimed aloud, I've found it. A golfer's gift. And then each course designer got to work, creating a haven around Bridgeport, West Virginia, where a great golf escape awaits.*

## **PETE DYE GOLF COURSE**

[www.petedye.com](http://www.petedye.com)

Said to be the "Shangri-la of golf," Dye's namesake course five miles from town is "golf of the first order," raves the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "a distant place of stunning beauty." Created from 250 acres of classic West Virginia coal mining terrain, Pete Dye is unforgettable play. "There isn't anything more dramatic than this piece of property," says Dye. Exposed strip-mined high walls. Waterfalls. Mountainsides of trees and beautiful long views. Even a cart path through a mineshaft. There's a 435-yard, par-4 hole #2 that requires, it is said, "a

fearless golf ball" to clear the ravine. Like lots of short shots to challenge the imagination, putting surfaces whose undulations put the putter blade to the ultimate test and sand, ah sand! Says Dye: it is "well represented." Still, there is plenty of tame par-5 play and lots of opportunity to score well on delightfully thought-provoking greens. Add valet parking, airport limo service, an ultra-comfortable clubhouse, and luxury lodging, and you eureka, indeed; you have it all.

## **STONEWALL RESORT**

[www.stonewallresort.com](http://www.stonewallresort.com)

With an Adirondacks-style lodge overlooking a 26-mile lake, the Stonewall Resort 25 miles from Bridgeport has given Arnold Palmer all the inspiration he needs to lay out a game players agree is great. His all-bentgrass, par-72 thriller backdropped by forested knobs and broken peaks offers all manner of challenge. Lots of elevated greens; a fine collection of par-4s; a back nine that departs from a lakeside grove of 100-year-old Old Pecans; and 2,000 pristine acres of creeks and wetlands; rolling hills and valleys. This is golf drama, indeed. There's even an exciting par-4 15th that looks, it has been said, like a stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway paved with turfgrass – mountains as far as the eye can see. In a word, majestic. Add all manner of other Southern charms – spa to lakeside cottages – Stonewall and Palmer...well, they will do your play proud. ✕

## **FBO of the Great Golf Escape**

The Koukoulis family of Bridgeport, West Virginia, are nothing if not golfer friendly. Their KCI Aviation at the Harrison/Marion Regional Airport (CKB) is a duffer-loving stop where aviators great-golf-escaping will be handled with all the care and finesse of a perfect tee shot.

KCI's 22,000-sq-ft hangar is a one-stop haven for it all – flight planning, weather, fuel, catering...the works. And ever since 1976 when Angelo C. Koukoulis founded the facility where personnel may as well be Koukoulises, too (since so many loyally have served up to almost 30 years), KCI has become quite the popular Bridgeport presence. After all, this FBO holds an exclusive contract with Pratt & Whitney to work on aircraft with its engines; its avionics capabilities (with sheet metal facility) are superb; its excellent flight training program has earned very rare approval from the West Virginia Department of Education.

From airframe maintenance to its snazzy "Aircraft Beautification Package," which glosses your wings to a positively spit-n-polish gorgeous, this family enterprise is an FBO of true Koukoulis magnitude. That is to say, it will make your day. [www.kciaviation.com](http://www.kciaviation.com) (304) 842-7157