

East Mountain Golf Club



This file has been made in .pdf format so that you can't change it. Naaannaaaa Naaannnaaa Booo Boooo!!!!

Every good course has a story behind it, does yours?

Of course! Hello, and welcome to East Mountain. Located in a valley somewhere in Montana the golf club keeps secrecy a top priority. The owners of East Mountain have a strong influence in the US Government and have made their location as hidden as Area 51. In fact, it is rumored that George Bush himself recently gave East Mountain newer secrecy rights in a recent executive order. There are no aerial photos of the location, and it is not mentioned on any maps or reference documents, or even Wikipedia. The club employs no laborers other than the five co-owners of the resort. All maintenance on the course and services in the club house are provided by next generation robots with almost human intelligence.

The club even has rejected queries by Golf Digest to come and visit to rate the course for their biennial world golf course rankings. A source, who wished to remain anonymous said, "Pine Valley is very thankful that East Mountain decides to remain hidden, though I believe the two courses have worked out some sort of deal." It is because of this extreme seclusion from society that only rumors have reached the public of its existence, interesting only the most avid golfers.

One man then decided that this secret must be made known to all. On one historic day last May I started my search. So early on a Monday I set out in search of this mythical location. From old prophecies and mentions in only the most obscure golf course architecture books I had learned several things, the course was in a valley with the greatest views of the Rocky Mountains ever known to man. My research had limited that location down to three likely spots. I checked the first two, but to no avail. Then I headed for the third, knowing that it must be there if it did exist. I drove through the night, and just as dawn approached my car was hit by a buffalo. Fortunately I escaped virtually unharmed with my golf clubs, but the car was severely damaged. I was only 40 miles away. Being so close, and knowing this was my best chance I continued, on foot. It took me three days carrying my golf clubs and camping supplies that I had brought along. I ran out of food on Wednesday, but then by some miracle I came across an apple orchard just a mile or so from the expected location I was searching for.

However, the orchard was being guarded by a gigantic three-headed dog, I believe the owner called him Cherub, but I'm not quite sure, whatever the name was, it was completely and absurdly too cute for that monstrosity. So back to the story, I ran into the orchard, completely unaware of the dog three times my own size just forty yards away. So while I picked a few apples to quench my hunger. But by the time I had climbed down from the tree the dog was there, and ready to eat me. But right at that very moment I was saved, by the voice of the owner of the orchard, who was calling off the dog. He introduced himself to me and then when I told him about my quest he got a very strange look on his face. He told me to look around.

I did, and all I saw was a large quantity of apple trees. When I told him this he laughed and called me a moron. He then told me to really focus on the ground, not the apple trees. I did so, and then I saw it, I was standing right by the first tee at East Mountain. The owner of the orchard then revealed to me that he was the primary owner of the said golf resort. He said that it was against resort policy to allow non-members to play the course, or even leave without erasing their memory, but he said he admired my curiosity, and invited me to play a round with him.

So we played, after warming up on the exquisite three-hole practice course. Our foursome was filled out by Michelle Wie and David Duval. Apparently both of them had been slacking of their games so that they could just retire to East Mountain and play golf there without the pressure of tournament play. We played from the tips, 7,900 + yards up, down, and across the various hills in the valley. It was by far the hilliest course I had ever played, and it was later revealed to me that only about 500 people had ever played the course, all of whom were sworn to secrecy on the matter.

As for the match, the handicaps were a bit lopsided. Myself, being a 5 handicap, was the worst golfer of the group. When the owner suggested we play a high stakes game straight up I laughed at him. Not only did I not want to lose several hundred bucks playing a round on the greatest course ever, I didn't have that kind of cash with me. So he made me a proposition: he would cover my losses if I lost, but then I would have to have my memory of the round and the course erased. If I won, he would keep the earnings, and I would be allowed to make a recreation of the course for Links 2003. Not wanting to be impolite I accepted, and our straight up match, Michelle and I versus the owner and Duval commenced.

Obviously, since East Mountain is now available for Links 2003 we won the match. With the gamblers at the first tee placing Michelle and I as 20 to 1 underdogs, I don't think the owner ever expected what happened and to be honest neither did I. I mean its great having a LPGA star on your team, but she is still women and therefore still inferior. Fortunately I played the round of my life, and beat David Duval by three strokes. I finished at four strokes over par, with seven birdies and no bogeys. Welcome to East Mountain!

So after the match the owner shook my hand. I expected him to go back on his deal earlier, but surprisingly he did not. He told me "A deal is a deal, you may make this course as best you can for Links 2003. Personally I love the game and would love to see a recreation. We actually have a developer working on updating the game here and bringing it into the current time. It'll have a new and improved course designer, moving skies and water, realistic lighting and shadows, and so many more new features. Unfortunately though, the only computer in the world powerful enough to run it exists here, so we'll keep the program in storage until about 2020 and then release it. My only stipulation on our deal is that you preface the release by presenting your absurdly unbelievable story of your journey in the file verbatim so that the legend of East

Mountain remains a secret.” I accepted, and caught a plane back to Lehigh just in time to ace my Calc final, and then began work on recreating the greatest course ever made.

So what else makes East Mountain such a special place?

East Mountain does not have any cart paths. Because golf carts are pedestrian and for the proletariat, and the course is next to impossible to walk, East Mountain relies upon state of the art hovercraft vehicles that carry clubs, reach speeds close to 40 mph, and can traverse slopes in excess of 45 degrees.

The championship tees at East Mountain are reserved only for high stakes matches and the club championship. Everyone else pretty much plays the back tees, since no one with a handicap greater than 7 is allowed on the premises. In the club championship, the best winning score ever in relation to par was +7 through four rounds by Tiger Woods in 2000.

East Mountain was allegedly designed by George Crump, architect of Pine Valley. However no record exists of him ever being within 1000 miles of East Mountain’s location. The first ever club championship was held in 1932, and was won by Thomas Pepinski with a four day total of 431 (+143).

A member by the name of Charles Van Luttenburg attempted to walk the course by himself in 1952. He never returned.

Tiger Woods is a member, and comes here for the club championship and several other times throughout the year. The club championship is held the week before the British Open, and offers Tiger a stern test before the Open Championship. He has won the club championship seven straight times now, every time since joining the club in 2000.

Every inch of the course is heated with underground heaters which keep the course green and playable 365 days a year. The heat from the heaters even keeps the air around the course at about room temperature, allowing comfortable play even when the roads getting to the course are covered in four feet of snow.

It is rumored that if East Mountain Golf Club were a country, it would be able to successfully wage war against every country in the world with its stockpiles and technology, except for the United States and Turkmenistan.

That is the dumbest story I’ve ever heard, what about the actual course I’m going to be playing?

Well I thought it was a clever story. Anyway, I started work on East Mountain a while ago, but always got frustrated when I was unable to appropriately display the look I wanted. Planting was an especially frustrating process, and because of that the course ended up sitting untouched for almost a year. Then I got to Lehigh, and unlike high school, in college you actually have to finish things you start. So I learned how to do that, and then I remembered apcd and East Mountain. So over the last two months or so I turned a course with no seam blending, horrible bunker lips, and basically no planting, into the course that you see today. I probably should have been doing my homework instead of working on this, and I would have gained a lot of sleep. But for me it was worth it. East Mountain has honestly turned out better than I could have imagined.

My original plan was to make a course with gentle rolling hills. The sad truth is that I actually had to flatten or level many hills after the holes had been inserted in order to make the course

playable. For example the approach into the first hole's green is currently about 45 feet uphill. Originally it was about 30 yards uphill. You could hit an approach from 160 and have it trickle right back to your feet. But as it turned out I really enjoyed how the elevations came out and at least in my point of view have made every hole extremely unique. I'm sure every designer can and does say that about their own course, but I feel the need to say it. Maybe it's just because I've tested the course so many times.

The course is playable on all speed settings with (and without) the 1.06 mod. Playing on firm and fast will make the course play shorter, but it obviously makes the greens and approach shots much more difficult. From the back tees, the course does play close to 8000 yards, par 72. However, I honestly felt that distance was necessary. Most tees are elevated for obvious reasons, and this means that the course plays a good distance downhill. Depending on the wind and settings you may reach a 630 yard uphill par 5 in 2, and drive the green on a 428 yard par 4. The elevation drops are not absurdly extreme (largest in one shot is 39 yards I believe, hole 8) but the fairways tend to run at the landing areas, so drives generally travel a good distance. Most rounds that I play on either MM, MF, FM, or FF I end up using every club in my bag, which I feel is an important quality for any golf course.

You didn't do all this yourself, who were your accomplices?

First off I'd like to thank all the designers that have released courses thus far in Links 2003's lifetime. Had I not borrowed so many techniques, and ideas (let alone objects and textures, mentioned later) from them I doubt East Mountain would have ever become as good as it was today.

Second, the administrators at Links Corner and APCD-Courses.com for providing access to all the courses out there as well as forums to share and attain information on designing.

Third, the beta testers, Michael Kaseman, Jerry Garlisch, Roy Schellenberg, Jeff (hawk19) and Chuck Clark who helped fine tune this course. The amount of help provided by even a few voices of other Links players and designers is a great help in producing a final product that is enjoyable for everyone.

Fourth, the designers who I borrowed the textures and objects from. I should have kept better track, but as far as I know the textures are partly taken from the texture pack available at Links corner provided by Titanium Al, and others modified in color from Art Patscheck's Buck Creek. I think most of the alphas used were made by Wayne Hewitt and downloaded from APCD-courses.com. Most of the trees were used from Mike Jones' Crystal Pines, though some objects may have been used from Gary Campbell's Crater's Edge. Most of the grasses were from Dominique Bois / Rob Miller's Bethpage Black 2006.

Finally, I'd like to thank myself for all the time I could have spent sleeping but instead used to actually complete this course.

And lastly, and definitely the most important member of the team is Microsoft. Had they not created such a wonderful bug-free program that is so reliable that making backups is simply a waste of time, I might never have even come close to completing East Mountain.

I think that's everyone. I made the hole previews, splash screen, and cameo using my limited Photoshop knowledge. I would like to apologize to my beta testers for taking so long to get the course finally out. My real life is pretty busy all year round, but I do appreciate the time they put into testing.

Dude, what's with the second release – only losers do that!

Well, the first version of the course had some loading time issues. My computer could handle it, but others could not. In fact, with over 12,000,000 2D Objects planted, APCD tried to crash every time I went in to select and delete some of those objects. So I took a year off, but last week I finally got rid of a fairly nasty spyware infection on my computer. Unfortunately I won't be winning free Ipods any more, but on the bright side my computer is now much quicker. So I went back to East Mountain and slowly eliminated objects about 250,000 at a time.

So now East Mountain is fixed. With a 95% reduction in planted objects and an 80% reduction in file size, East Mountain is now playable for everyone! It doesn't look as pretty, and honestly I sped through the replanting effort because I don't like to plant trees. Anyway, the course should load just fine now, and I hope that you take this chance to see some of the greatest vistas available for Links 2003.

This readme sucks, what else do I get?

Aside from a thrilling adventure through the mountains of Montana (The Grand Tetons are actually in Wyoming, but close enough) and 21 great holes of golf you get:

- This readme file, generally filled with worthless information.
- A course guide to help you navigate the hills
- A sneak peek of my upcoming projects
- An EULA file because it seems cool to write all the legal stuff
- And other stuff

I really hope that you enjoy your round here. The course itself turned out better than I could have imagined in the beginning, and I personally love every single hole. That being said, I wish that I could make the course look better. Compared with the top level courses mine admittedly is lacking in realism as far as the planting, rock cliffs, water hazards, bunkers, and 3d work (or lack thereof). I am amazed by what has been done by many designers, and I'd love to take this design and future ones to the next step. I'm going to try my best, but with such limited time and resources I am not sure that I'll be able to. I don't feel that those design flaws hurt the overall appeal of the course enough to demerit it. Obviously that is a biased opinion as the designer of the course, but really when I play a round I play it for the course and the overall scenery, not the little things. I hope you all agree.

Wait 21 holes? Who the hell does that?

I do. The original plan was, as a bonus for those who actually read this readme, or are at least smart enough to find this part and skip the rest of the stuff in here you will now know that there are three bonus holes starting just to the left of hole one. At East Mountain, these holes are not just used to warm up, but also to settle playoffs. Although all three holes are short compared to the rest of East Mountain, they provide views and shots that are very worthy of golf at East Mountain. I was going to have a puzzle here to solve in order for you get a password to access the course.

However, I doubt anyone would waste their time in such a long drawn out process for three golf holes. Therefore, the three hole practice course is the other .crz file in the zip folder named EM3HoleNew_locked.crz

Why did you lock the course you ass?

Well ordinarily I wouldn't, but given that I've used other designers textures and such in my course I didn't feel as though I could make those items widely available. Plus I don't want people laughing at my poor meshwork or silly seam blends. Enjoy the course, and if you would like to have an unlocked version if you are a beginning designer trying to see how I did something, or there's something about the course that you just can't stand and have to change before you play a full round, just let me know and I'll get you the unlocked file.

How are you so good at answering these tough questions that are tossed at you?

I guess it's just a natural skill that I have.

That's sweet, can you teach me?

No.

About The Designer:

Benjamin Mumma is currently in his sophomore year at Lehigh University. He is pursuing a major of Information and Systems Engineering inside the Integrated Business and Engineering Honors Program at Lehigh University. He is also an Eckardt Scholar, Rossin Junior Fellow, and plans on minoring in Applied Mathematics. Aside from schoolwork, Ben enjoys golf, tennis, poker, basketball, and all the cool stuff people do in college. In real life, Ben is listed as a 2.3 handicap, but rarely ever plays to it. He has one hole-in-one and his low round is a 71 (E) at Harrisburg Country Club. At Lehigh, Ben does not play on the golf team, but he is Associate Editor of the Lehigh Patriot (www.lehighpatriot.com) as well as Co-Founder and President of the Lehigh Debate Team.

Well that's definitely enough literature. For someone who constantly makes fun of English majors I sure do like to write a lot. If you'd like to tell me that this is the craziest, most inane, cockamamie, or useless readme you've ever seen, or if you actually have any comments/criticisms/hate mail/money/e-cards/whatever else about the actual course I can be reached at bam310@lehigh.edu – just don't sign me up for any spam, that just wouldn't be very nice.

Other good links:

www.lehighpatriot.com – The Lehigh Patriot, a Conservative political journal at Lehigh University.

www.bams-news.blogspot.com – Hey, I'm not that bad of a writer, at least as far as engineers go. Why don't you come and see what I have to say on the important topics of the day, and how politicians are failing to do their jobs.

