

## Course Rating: The Judge at Capitol Hill

Posted by [kmkasey](#) June 25, 2009 05:00AM

The verdict: Challenging golf

### COURSE INFO

**Address:** 2600 Constitution Ave., Prattville

**Phone:** 334-285-1114

**Web site:** [rtjgolf.com](http://rtjgolf.com)

**Par:** 36-36--72

**Yardage:** 4,955 to 7,794 yards

**USGA course rating:** 68.3 to 77.8

**Slope rating:** 121 to 144

**Greens:** Bermuda

**Green fee:** \$71, plus tax

**Date played:** June 1, 2009



Joe SongerThe 12th hole is a 200-yard-plus all-carry shot over a secluded cypress swamp -- and one of the most memorable holes on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

### THE COURSE

From the first tee -- you can view not only the fairway, the green and the backwater of the Alabama River from about 150 feet above, but also downtown Montgomery -- to the 18th tee, golfers are treated to a series of unbelievable views. The Judge is plenty tough on anyone who enters the property. The course stretches to 7,794 yards from the purple tees. The orange tees play a more reasonable 6,770 and the whites drop to 6,198. The par-5s alone play at 2,555 yards. Water comes into play on 13 holes, including three fantastic par-3s. The sixth (128 to 229 yards) plays to an island green. The 12th (98 to 231 yards) plays over a swamp. Wind can play a major factor on either hole. Of the par-5s, the seventh is the best. It plays 675 yards from the back tees and requires an accurate tee shot and layup to a narrow landing area. A lake guards the full right side of the fairway and cuts in front of the shallow green. The finishing hole is a quality par-4 (247 to 348 yards) featuring an uphill approach over a creek to an elevated green protected by four bunkers and with a waterfall just right of the green. For the most part, the condition of the course was excellent, with the fairways in great shape and the greens rolling at a nice pace.

**Score:** 10 (out of 10)



Joe SongerThe intimidating par-3 sixth at

Capitol Hill plays to an island green.

### **SERVICE**

Absolutely no issues. They took care of our clubs before and after our round. Inside, we found the front desk staff to be friendly and helpful, and we had a great lunch (and conversation with the waitresses) at the grill. We saw the beverage cart five times (much-needed as the temperature reached the 90s).

**Score:** 5 (out of 5)

### **EXTRAS**

The practice facility is one of the best around -- a 360-degree driving range, numerous practice greens and a great putting green. The pro shop is nicely stocked with top-of-the-line equipment and apparel, including some nice discounts. Good selection of tasty foods and beverages at the grill.

**Score:** 5 (out of 5)

### **VALUE**

The Judge runs \$10 more than the other two layouts (Senator and Legislature) at Capitol Hill, but I would say it's worth it. It might not be a course you play once a week (or even once a month for that matter), but if you're looking for that feeling of being at a Country Club, the price isn't that unreasonable.

**Score:** 8 (out of 10)

### **BOTTOM LINE**

Many golfers complain that The Judge is too difficult. Played from the purple tees, I might agree. But if you choose the right set of tees, you'll have a fun experience. I'd like to see something in between the white (6,198) and the orange (6,770), but you can mix and match to come up with an acceptable yardage. My playing partner, at Capitol Hill for the first time, said it was his best golfing experience. That's a pretty good verdict for The Judge.

**Final score:** 28 (out of 30)

*Kent Kasey is a member of The Birmingham News' sports staff. Write him at [kkasey@bhamnews.com](mailto:kkasey@bhamnews.com).*

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