

Course Review: Avalon Park Pitch & Putt

Hey, we'll be the first to admit that the Avalon Park Pitch & Putt in Florence is *not* a real golf course. In fact, it barely qualifies as a pitch and putt course. But we passed right by it during Golf Week 2012, so we had to stop and play.

Golf Week 2012 included all courses Waldport and south except for the Bandon Dunes complex (though we did eat lunch there one day). Avalon Park Pitch & Putt was tentatively on the list, as it does show up here and there on Oregon golf course lists. In addition to Don and Pete, regular Golf Week sojourners Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack (high school classmates of Don) were on hand, so we had a ready-made foursome.

We passed by Avalon Park as we toiled down Highway 101 south of Florence and had to turn back. Technically located in Dunes City, though with a Florence address, it's easy to miss. There was nobody there. A dog in an adjacent home, fortunately fenced, did not seem pleased by our arrival. But he barked long and loud enough that eventually, the "course owner" came ambling out of the house.

"Can I help you fellas?" he asked. Yes, we're here to play was our response.

"Wow, we're not really open and I haven't mowed the greens in awhile," he said. "I'll tell you what, if you wanna play it as is, I'll only charge you \$5 — half-price."

Hmm. A sunny August day on the Oregon Coast



and he's not open? That was a definite red flag, but again, we were there to play. We did get a bit of an "Are you kidding me?" look when we asked about logo balls.

He definitely *wasn't* kidding about the greens. We could have used drivers to putt with, the grass was so long. Somehow, the Avalon Park scorecard was lost for posterity. Collectively, we don't recall a hole over 75 yards. You teed off of mats, there were nets, scrub brush, even a trickle of water in one place. There were also some nice evergreen trees, and lots of dandelions. We're competitive, so we had fun, but the round probably didn't take 45 minutes. Our \$5 discounted price would seem to be about right even with mowed greens — 10 bucks would have been *way* overpriced.

Gosh, what else? Oh, the place has a bit of a nautical theme, as you can sort of see from the accompanying photo (that's an overturned boat behind us). We tried to find a couple of other pictures of the place we could steal from the Internet, but the only one we turned up, as you see, is this shot of the "clubhouse" outer wall with someone making a peace sign. You know, whatever. ☺

Avalon Park also includes a small game hall, croquet and picnic area, so it's sort of a family fun/birthday center. In fact, you can rent the whole thing. If they're open. On a sunny day. In August. But hey, another "course" marked off the list!