

Course Review: Awbrey Glen Golf Club

One of the first things we want to do in discussing playing at Awbrey Glen Golf Club is acknowledge head pro Tim Fraley, who graciously agreed to let us play the course not once, but twice. We were set to play Awbrey Glen during Golf Week 2010 when Pete threw his back out and ended up heading home early. Don and friends Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack went ahead and played that year, then thanks to Tim, Don and Pete played the course together in the fall of 2014. We much appreciate the gesture.

Awbrey Glen is an 18-hole championship course designed by the late Gene “Bunny” Mason, a venerable Northwest golf course architect whose courses include Glaze Meadow at Black Butte, the Resort Course at Eagle Crest, Crooked River Ranch, Persimmon and Skamania Lodge, among others. Mason passed away in 2010, the same year Awbrey Glen hired world-renowned golf architect David McLay Kidd to evaluate its course and offer thoughts for improvements. Kidd has his fingerprints on Bandon Dunes and Tetherow in Bend on his resume.

As always, we played the white tees, which measure about 6,200 yards; you get over 7,000 from the tips. Awbrey Glen likes to self-promote the course



Mixin' it up with a pic on a green.



Here's a tree on the back nine at Awbrey Glen that you can hopefully miss.

as having “memorable holes offering enough difficulty to be challenging without being unfair or relying on gimmicks,” which is a fair assessment.

This is prime Bend acreage, so it goes without saying that the views of the Cascades are spectacular, including many only-in-Central-Oregon distinct rock outcroppings, in this case both lava and red-hued basalt. There's enough water to make things interesting, but certainly not unfair in any way.

For many, Awbrey Glen's signature hole is No. 15. A par 5 that measures 527 from the white tees, it's a dogleg right at the end and the green is on a level below the fairway. If you hit a good tee shot, you can be tempted to cut that corner — there are trees, but they're not thick and there are gaps. We both hit good tee shots and went for it, and both of us successfully landed on the lower level, Pete in the grass surrounding the green and Don in some junk, but playable junk.

Awbrey Glen also hosts an excellent practice facility along with a short, 5-hole, par 3 course designed for parents to introduce children to the game, which we heartily applaud.