

# Course Review: Cedar Bend Golf Course

OK, right away, let's tell you about the picture that accompanies this review of Cedar Bend Golf Course in Gold Beach. There is a small stream that meanders through the 9-hole course, and it does come into play several times. There are a handful of bridges that you walk over with your pull cart, and each bridge includes the old-fashioned "No Diving" sign depicted on the top of the photo to the right.

The bottom portion of the photo combo is the creek itself. Now, granted, we were there in August (2012). We'll concede that there is likely more water in the creek in the other three seasons than there is in the summer. However, seeing the creek as it was, there can't possibly be that much more water — and besides, in what season would somebody be most likely to jump off a bridge into a creek? Summer, we'd say. I suppose the course is concerned about liability, but I don't think anyone is pondering a swan dive into that creek. But the signs were worth several chuckles.

We played Cedar Bend as part of Golf Week 2012, which meant friends Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack were along for the tour along with Don and Pete. Obviously, with the advent of the Bandon Dunes complex and other new courses such as Bandon Crossings, older courses such as Cedar Bend (opened 1969) have been impacted. But, Cedar Bend seems to have found its niche in the local market.

The key word would be "local." There likely aren't many Bandon Dunes clients going out of their way to wind down Hwy. 101 to Cedar Bend, and that seems to suit the folks there just fine. Now, they were perfectly friendly and interested to hear of our golfing Quest, but had we not happened by, they'd be getting along just fine. A lot of local seniors play Cedar Bend, and the course also caters to and honors veterans. One hole even has a special tribute to veterans bridge.

We played the "championship tees" at Cedar Bend, which measure a little over 3100 yards. We played fairly well (for us, anyway), with our scores ranging from 40 to 49. You start your round with modest 329- and 354-yard par 4s, then No. 3 jumps at you with 537 yards and the aforementioned creek cut-



ting across the fairway of the par 5 about halfway to the green. Including No. 3, you go par 5, 3, 5 and 3 again in a layout that's a little unusual before ending with three par 4s. The best hole is No. 9, a 414-yard par 4.

Generally speaking, the course was in good condition. It's relatively easy to keep things pretty green along the Oregon Coast, even in the summer, and you got the impression that is never an issue at Cedar Bend. Indeed, there were a few spots that were spongy, making it likely you may be in for a soggy round other times of the year. A couple of the greens were bumpy, but otherwise in good shape.

The other quirk about Cedar Bend is its Popeye and Olive Oyl motif around the clubhouse and snack shop. No explanation as to why, and no cans of spinach for sale, either. We didn't ask. Overall, a good experience and a friendly wave good-bye from the proprietors.