

Course Review: Fiddler's Green Golf Center

There are, we kid you not, people who have no idea there is a golf course at Fiddler's Green. Well-known throughout Oregon as the state's largest pro shop, Fiddler's Green is also home to an 18-hole par 3 golf course. We made a quick stop there as part of our Golf Week 2011.

Truth be told, the course isn't anything special. Located between Eugene and Junction City, just north of the Eugene Airport, the Fiddler's Green Golf Course opened in 1964. Designed by John Zoller, Fiddler's measures 2378 yards; there's just one set of tees, gender is irrelevant. Par, obviously, is 54 — 18 x 3. The course is sort of hidden from the roadway. Passing by on Highway 99, you see the famous Fiddler's Green pro shop, the reader board advertising whatever's on special and the driving range nets. You don't necessarily see the golf course.

The holes range from 76 yards to the relative monster of No. 12, which charts out at 206. The majority are between 120 and 140. There are four ponds on the course, all clustered in the middle of the property. A small creek meanders near a few holes.

Fiddler's Green is an excellent place to take beginning golfers, as it's not particularly difficult or intimidating. More advanced golfers can always hone their short game, and Fiddler's Green frequently hosts family outings, birthday parties and such events. The property is as flat as the proverbial pancake and makes for an easy walk. Reservations not needed or required, and they offer cheap pull carts and even clubs for rent if you need them. You can play 18 at Fiddler's Green in as little as an hour if there's no one in your way.

But, reality is, Fiddler's Green is more about its teaching center, range and pro shop than it is the golf course. The range is your basic matted affair, and they update the balls frequently. Otherwise, it's nothing special, either — except it's attached to the Fiddler's Green pro shop.

The Fiddler's Green pro shop measures some



14,000 square feet. It's the largest *on-course* pro shop not only in Oregon, but on the entire West Coast. There's virtually nothing golf-related you can't find at Fiddler's Green. As you walk in the door, you'll first find a large selection of Oregon and Oregon State apparel — shirts and more with designs you won't find anywhere else, even at the two schools' respective team stores. Fiddler's Green is also an extremely popular stop for women, as it stocks a wide variety of ladies golf apparel hard to find elsewhere.

It goes without saying they have a huge selection of drivers, hybrids, fairway woods and irons. There's also a side room devoted entirely to putters, and another full of nothing but bags. The putting room, for example, includes over 2,000 models to choose from. Need some golf balls? Fiddler's Green sells over 50,000 dozen each year. Do the math — that's 600,000 golf balls. Or, put another way, as every regulation golf ball has 336 dimples, that's 201.6 million dimples sold!

You can also find every golf "gadget" imaginable at Fiddler's Green. Don's logo ball displays for The Quest were purchased at Fiddler's. And finally, they even have an underrated little snack shop with good burgers, hot dogs and sandwiches.