

Course Review: Frontier Golf Course

Frontier Golf Course in rural Canby is on the come-back trail. Headed to foreclosure not that long ago, new owners rescued the 9 hole, par 3 layout in 2013 and are working to bring it back to a respectable life. Friendly proprietor Troy hasn't quit his day job (he confesses he'd like to), so progress is slower than he'd like, but we applaud anyone with interest in the golf business willing to make a run at it.

Make no mistake, Frontier is a low-budget, mom-and-pop operation. That's not meant to be negative, it's just reality. If you're looking for a highly manicured course, look elsewhere — Frontier isn't it. But for about a buck a hole, Frontier offers an opportunity for golf shot accuracy, something most all of us can definitely use.

There's nothing about Frontier's scorecard "stats" that will impress you. The longest hole is No. 9, assuming you play the back tee option at 174 yards. There's a shorter 124-yard option on No. 9 as well. The shortest hole is 90 yards. The entire layout measures just 1,069 yards — and that's if you play the "long tee" on No. 9.

Frontier's biggest asset is its trees. While most are at most 50 years old, give a tree half a century to grow and it'll mature quite nicely. To say Frontier's par 3 fairways are "tree-lined" is a gross understatement. On many, deciding exactly how to maneuver from the tee box to the green through the foliage



Each hole at Frontier features a Wild West name and a wagon wheel bench.



Hole No. 1, "Geronimo."

is the key challenge of the hole. Sometimes going straight just isn't an option, even on a 95-yard hole, so you've got to hit a cut here, a draw there. Despite Frontier's generally rough setting, there's an opportunity to work on your game here — or to simply learn the game on the cheap if you're a beginner.

Troy says he's working as best he can to "bring the greens back, they were almost gone when I bought the course." Kudos to him, though he's got some work to do. Small dandelions dot several of the small dance floors, so perhaps a little more weed and feed is in order. Ultimately, a par 3 course should be about the greens, you're not really supposed to be in the "fairway" on a par 3, so we certainly encourage Troy to keep plugging away on the greens.

In accordance with the Frontier name, there's a bit of a western motif to the layout. Each of the holes has a Wild West name — Desperado, Mule Skinner, etc. — and most tee areas have a bench made of old, sturdy wooden slats and metal wagon wheels. The tee boxes feature artificial grass mats, but Troy is quick to tell you when you check in that you're free to tee up in the grass adjacent to the mats if you wish (even though Rule 1 on the scorecard says you must use the mats). By the way, we love Rule 5: "No profanity. This is a family course."

Frontier features a small pro shop with minor amenities — chips, candy, ice cold drinks, rental carts. Plus Troy is happy to show off numerous photos from the course's history that dates back to 1964.