

Course Review: Harbor Links Golf Course

We spent the bulk of Golf Week 2014 stationed at the Running Y Resort in Klamath Falls. We played two really great courses that week: our host Running Y Ranch Course and the private Reames Golf & Country Club. The top course of the next level was Harbor Links.

Harbor Links Golf Course was completed in 1989. Its calling card is water — there's agua in play on 15 of 18 holes. The course also features modestly narrow fairways, well manicured tees, thick rough and nice, very consistent greens — though they run slower than you'd guess. They're also pretty straightforward, not a lot of break "toward the water" or otherwise, despite all the ponds.

Harbor Links is adjacent to the far end of Klamath Lake. Klamath Lake is well known for being the home and safe haven for many species of waterfowl, and some of those birds will wander over to the golf course. Klamath Falls High School's mascot is the pelican, so there are plenty of those around.

Despite the course name, this is a "links-style" course, not a true links course. Even in Southeastern Oregon you're going to find some trees. They aren't often in play at Harbor Links, but hit it errantly enough and you can find occasional tree trouble (if you haven't landed in water somewhere).

We played Harbor Links on the second-to-last day



The crew ready to tee it up at Harbor Links as we wound down toward the end of Golf Week 2014.



A typical Harbor Links Golf Course hole — flat with water lurking nearby.

of our trip, by which time we were pretty well tuckered out, plus it was mid-August in K-Falls, so it was plenty hot. Ergo, we took golf cars out on the course. However, Harbor Links is an extremely flat course, akin to the proverbial pancake. This is a course you could easily walk. We played the white tees, which measure something under 6,000 yards. Again, at the end of a long, hot week, that was fine.

There's a premium on hitting accurate tee shots at Harbor Links. Yes, you can say that about most golf courses, but that is particularly the case here. As mentioned above, the white tees are under 6,000 yards, so you don't need to bomb it every hole.

Well placed tee shots also help you avoid a small annoyance at Harbor Links: several areas of "artificial" out-of-bounds — on-course OB designated by white stakes. This is not the PGA tour where if you're on the course you're in play, we get that, and we understand the need to move people through and keep a decent pace. But let's just say there may have been an occasional foot wedge or a true "play it as it lies" a few times.

Finally, we can't say enough about how friendly the pro shop staff was. They were apologetic about being temporarily out of logo balls (a frequent occurrence on this trip), but gave us a card and ultimately mailed them to us after they re-ordered.

This is a good course to play if you're in Klamath Falls. Not "on par" with Reames or the Running Y, but by far the best of the rest.