

# Course Review: LakeRidge Golf Course

We really enjoyed our time in Lakeview as we ventured to LakeRidge Golf Course as part of Golf Week 2014. As if going to Klamath Falls from greater Portland isn't enough of a "roadie" in itself, one of our K-Falls days we set off bright and early for Lakeview and LakeRidge, to be followed by an afternoon round in Christmas Valley.

If you're keeping score at home, Lakeview is about 85 miles from Klamath Falls, then from Lakeview it's 118 miles to Christmas Valley, and then when it's time to head back to K-Falls ... well, you get the picture. Loooong day.

You're greeted by a great red barn clubhouse at LakeRidge. Don had talked to the woman inside on the phone about our Quest, and she was excited to meet us and talk about her course. When she heard we were going next to Christmas Valley, she scoffed and made a big point to tell us her course was much better than what we'd find there. *(Spoiler alert: we heard that again at lunch, see below, but it wasn't true! See our Christmas Valley course review.)*

We'll cut to the chase and say that LakeRidge was about what you'd expect for a course in a town of about 2,300 pretty much out in the middle of nowhere, even by rural Oregon standards. It's 9 holes, par 36, a little rough in places. One set of tees, 3,324 yards. The layout is by-and-large unimaginative, especially holes 4, 5 and 6, all par 4s of about the same length that just go back and forth. There are



Gotta love the red barn clubhouse at the LakeRidge Golf Course in Lakeview.



This sign greets you as you enter Lakeview; somehow, it's just the perfect small town Oregon welcome sign.

essentially competing 150-yard markers between holes 4 and 5 that you have to pay close attention to to know which is which. The greens were inconsistent; some were great, others a little splotchy. That said, we don't want to sound too negative — we had fun, and the people were great. It's a nice, relaxed family atmosphere at LakeRidge.

In fact, playing in the group behind us was a family six-some. Dad and a couple of brothers were decent; Mom and two sisters pretty much along for the ride. But they were all playing and sharing what appeared to be about 2 1/2 sets of clubs between them. We were happy to be in front of them.

One thing we won't forget about LakeRidge was the poor soul mowing the course. He was on No. 2 as we approached it, and he smiled and waved us through. But he was mowing the entire course on a run-of-the-mill, Sears-type garden tractor. A small riding mower, in other words, not anything at all commercial grade like you'd expect to see at a golf course. That guy was going to be mowing forever!

Thanks to a strong recommendation from the proprietress in the pro shop, we ate lunch at the Happy Horse Deli in town. Exceptionally friendly people there, great food, and our server was a local kid who played to a 4 handicap at the golf course. But he, too, just had to rag on the course at Christmas Valley. Apparently that is great sport in Lakeview! ☺