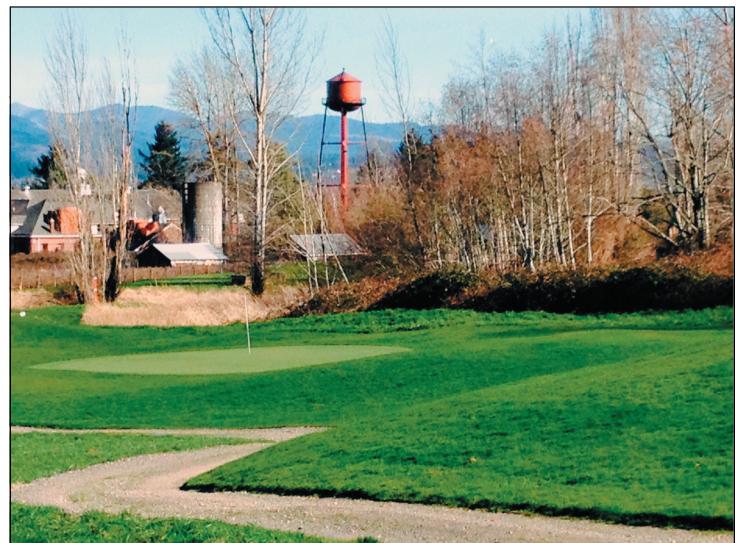


Course Review: McMenamins Pub Courses

So how many holes are there at the McMenamins Edgefield Pub Course in Troutdale? That's not the easiest thing to find on the Internet. Various golf sites list 9, 18, even 27. The answer is a strange one: 32. That's right, 32. The Pub Course is in fact two courses — one course of 20 holes (West Course), a second course of 12 (East Course). Yes, 20 and 12. Hey, McMenamins Edgefield is essentially a drinking resort, so who knows what shape the architects were in when building the course(s). ☺

Appropriately enough for this venue, you don't check in at a clubhouse, you do so at a bar. So while it doesn't look much like a pro shop — OK, nothing like a pro shop — we were very pleasantly surprised when we tepidly asked about the availability of logo balls, which weren't in evidence. Surprise! They had them buried in a little basket under the bar. That made our day.

We hit McMenamins Edgefield and the Pub Courses on a March 2015 morning. As usual more often than not, friends Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack filled out the Don and Pete foursome. Holes vary from 43 to 84 yards in length, so you don't need a full set of clubs. We pretty much just carried a 9-iron, wedge



Looking back toward McMenamins Edgefield from out on the West Pub Course.

and putter around the course. In the clubhouse ... er, check-in bar ... they don't rent clubs but have a barrel of weapons for you to choose from. The course advertises "all guests are welcome, even those who've never swung a club!" which can have its downside. More on that in a moment.

The two par 3 Pub Courses meander throughout the Edgefield property, winding in and around thickets of blackberry bushes, all the while offering panoramic views of the Columbia River Gorge while you work on your short game. We'd call the holes interesting, if not overly challenging. We're not really sure they need 32 holes, but it is what it is.

We started out on the 20-hole west side, and with no one in front of us we absolutely cruised through. The West Course is the more scenic of the two layouts as you get out away from the McMenamins immediate grounds and buildings more so than on the East Course, leaving the better opportunity to look back at the Edgefield water towers and the beginning of the Columbia Gorge behind.

We started the East Course behind a foursome of two young (20ish) couples. These were not golfers, the girls especially, and without being judgmental, it seemed likely their golf adventure was an effort to work off overindulgence from the night before there at the "resort." They did let us pass them on No. 4, which we greatly appreciated.



Perhaps the most sober foursome to ever play the Pub Courses at McMenamins Edgefield in Troutdale.