

Course Review: McNary Golf Club

Tight. That's the reputation McNary Golf Club in Keizer has, as it meanders through the adjacent McNary Estates. The reputation is well deserved.

McNary Golf Club opened in 1962. It draws its name from being located on the site that once was the homestead of Charles McNary, a prominent Oregon politician who served as governor, U.S. Senator and served as the vice-presidential running mate of Wendell Willkie. You remember them, right? The twosome ran unsuccessfully against FDR in 1940. More importantly, Oregonian McNary was an avid golfer, and in fact, originally the old McNary home served as the course's first clubhouse.

McNary Golf Club is a par 71, championship course. It's not overly long, measuring just under 6000 yards from the white tees and somewhat over 6200 from the blues, but it's not short, either. The course is well groomed, featuring lush fairways, spacious greens and plenty of water hazards to provide a challenge for all golfers. Local stream Claggett Creek comes into play on holes 1, 9, 10 and 18, and over the years the course has also been augmented with several small lakes with fountains. There are also trees here and there, plus a good smattering of bunkers, but water and houses are the main hazards at McNary.

The greens are fairly large at McNary, with varying degrees of undulation and break, but readable. They are medium speed, and once you get a feel for them you can putt somewhat aggressively.

We played McNary with friends Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack, frequent companions on Golf Weeks and other legs of The Quest. Given the proximity of the homes, we decided on the first tee to have a little contest and keep track of houses hit. Don jumped into the lead early, rattling one off a roof on No. 2, a 319-yard par 4 that's straight as an arrow



and shouldn't be a problem. Mitch jumped into the fray on No. 6, solidly striking a home on the 378-yard par 4 that eases slightly right. Not wanting to fall behind, Pete promptly got on the leaderboard next hole, No. 7, just a 145-yard par 3.

Dave apparently misunderstood the game, as he never did hit a house. Instead, he hit a person — Don — with his chip shot around the No. 8 green. Fortunately he won that category with a 1.

Tired of messing around, Pete took charge on the back nine. He grabbed the lead for good on No. 12, a 505-yard par 5 that's long and straight. But he really put it away two holes later on the 411-yard par 4. The hole bends slightly left. Pete hammered a tee shot right off of one house, dropped a ball near the scene of the crime and promptly yanked his approach shot left, bouncing off another residence near the green. *Game over!* Try as they could, the remaining three just couldn't overcome that insurmountable lead. (Truth be told, we all managed to miss any further houses, or in Dave's case, people.)

This tongue-in-cheek but accurate play-by-play of our respective "house hunting" is meant to drive home one point: *McNary is a tight layout*, and there's little room to stray. It's also a very nice course, and features many online specials, including an electronic discount coupon if you take the time to "like" their Facebook page.