

Course Review: Pine Meadows Golf Course

We had a very entertaining round in Tygh Valley when we played Pine Meadows Golf Course on opening day of our Golf Week 2015. It was an ambitious Day 1, as we played 36 holes — 18 at Hood River Golf & Country Club, 9 at The Dalles Country Club and then a final 9 at Pine Meadows. And from there, on to Pendleton for the night, so it was a very long day.

Tygh Valley isn't really on the way to anywhere, you've got to make a point to go there. Amazingly, after posting some pictures to the Don and Pete Facebook page, we found out that one of Don's high school classmates now lives in Tygh Valley. Leading up to Golf Week 2015, we weren't even sure the course still existed. It doesn't have a website, and various Internet chatter talked about the course being closed. Other online articles said it was open again, and a phone call confirmed they were indeed open and anxious to host us.

The biggest surprise was just how nice the course was. Pine Meadows is listed on a national "pasture golf" website, which doesn't sound promising. But Pine Meadows turned out to be anything but. It's no country club, but it was green and well maintained,



and included a nice little clubhouse with a deck being enjoyed by several people when we pulled up late afternoon.

You may have known this course as Pine Hollow, which was its previous name, as explained to us by the relatively new owner. That's also where the Internet confusion came about. In fact, when we asked about logo balls, after an initial negative reply, the owner suddenly exclaimed, "Wait a minute, I inherited a few Pine Hollow logo balls. Want one of those?" He pulled two out of a drawer and gave them to us for free; that made our day.

A little about the course itself. It's short and pretty much stuffed into a big square acreage lot. Par is 34, and the white tees measure a shade under 2500 yards. But the course's claim to fame is No. 2, the so-called "Hole From Hell." It's a 212-yard par 3 that features a green completely surrounded by trees. Huge, old-growth trees adjacent to the green form a canopy that guards entry by air from almost every angle. Somebody somewhere deemed "The Hole From Hell" as Oregon's second hardest hole. We can't tell you who, and a quick Google search didn't yield any such results, but that doesn't keep Pine Meadows from claiming it in glory. More power to them!

The greens were actually overwatered during our visit, a couple of times we had to fish our balls out of water in the cup. But they're working hard to reclaim greens that were let go by the previous owners, so it was a minor inconvenience. We had a great time, made a lot of new friends and love our "Pine Hollow" logo balls!



The so-called "Bridge To Hell," the route to 212-yard Hole No. 2 at Pine Meadows, the alleged second-hardest hole in Oregon.