

Course Review: Pineway Golf Course

The people at Pineway Golf Course in Lebanon are just so nice and so friendly that we would very much like to tell you the course is a “can’t miss” or “hidden gem” layout. Alas, we can’t honestly say that. It is very much a pedestrian course. But again, the folks that run the place are great.

Pineway was our first stop of Golf Week 2011. We left Newberg bound for a friend’s home in Springfield, looking forward to a week’s worth of play in the greater Eugene area. It was a beautiful August Sunday morning (we felt a little guilty about missing church), and after Pineway we had a mid-afternoon tee time scheduled at the Springfield Country Club. Golf Week = Life is Good!

We checked in at the clubhouse in high spirits and were greeted warmly. “No problem” to step out and take a picture for us (upper right). They were interested to hear of our Quest and pleased to have us there. Then the first omen occurred: no logo balls at Pineway. Both of us have been collecting a logo ball from each course we play, and we can get irritable when a course doesn’t have one. Pineway was the first course of what promised to be a great week, so the lack of a logo ball was disappointing, but not a deal-breaker.

Pineway opened in 1958. The white tees — the “front nine” tees — measure 2967 yards. Four holes have slightly alternate tee boxes to make a blue tee “back nine” of a marginally different distance. It wasn’t the crack of dawn or anything, but we were there relatively early on a Sunday morning and as we teed off, a maintenance person jumped on a mower and raced out ahead of us to do a little grooming before we approached the first green. He was pretty much one hole ahead of us for most of the round.

That said, this is not a manicured course. The fairway grass is something better than the grass in your yard, but something less than what you’d expect at a golf course. Granted, we played in mid-August, but the grass was also much browner than you’d expect at a golf course, and just flat out sparse in some places. There didn’t seem to be much emphasis on replacing or reseeding fairway divots, so there were a lot of “scars” out there.



The greens at Pineway were decent. They were average speed and a little bumpy in places, but they did putt consistently, which is all you can ask for at any course. They are also somewhat smaller than average, which helps keep scoring at a reasonable margin. Plus, players at Pineway seem to be a little more proactive at repairing ball marks on greens than they are with fairway divots.

There are trees here and there at Pineway, though not as many as you might expect for a course with the word “pine” in its name. There’s a chute of them to tee off through from an elevated tee on No. 1, a 350-yard par 4 that begins your round. You’d have to hit your tee shot pretty bad pretty quick for them to be in play. No. 2 runs parallel back uphill slightly. No. 3 has trees on both sides, though the ones flanking the fairway on the left are pushed back quite a ways. No. 4 is a downhill, 150-yard par 3 that Pete birdied. Alas, that was the lone good news of the nine for Pete, who had two snowmen on his scorecard. Don had birdied the previous hole, the 280-yard No. 3; it’s the rare round when we see birdies on consecutive holes.

After two more pedestrian back and forth holes, Pineway’s best offering is No. 7. It’s just a 152-yard par 3, but the green is framed nicely on three sides by a grove of trees. You finish up with another pair of straight-as-an-arrow side-by-side holes. Bottom line: Pineway is a “locals” course, and, we’re sure, they do the best they can. But again, great people!