

# Course Review: Round Lake Golf Club

OK, this is a tough one. We try to be as respectful as possible in reviewing every course we play. We understand people are working hard to make their livelihood in the very competitive golf industry. By the time we finish our Quest to play every golf course in Oregon, we will have covered well over 200 different venues. Obviously, some are going to be better than others.

And then there's the Round Lake Golf Club, located just outside of Klamath Falls. There's no way to sugarcoat this — it's just bad.

We visited Round Lake as part of our Golf Week 2014, accompanied by friends and frequent golfing partners Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack, Forest Grove High School classmates of Don's. (1976, if you're keeping score.) We actually enjoyed a rare, mid-week off-day before heading out to Round Lake in the late afternoon — native Montanan Pete had never been to Crater Lake, so Don and Dave escorted him there while Mitch checked in on some work projects.

Round Lake is attached to a rural RV/trailer park a few miles outside of Klamath Falls proper. You wind through the park a half-mile or so before arriving at the small clubhouse building. We were met by a friendly proprietor who gladly took the picture you see accompanying this article next to a nice golf course sign. He had an interesting collection of vintage golf balls for sale — need a sleeve of Blue



Hey, at least the sign and the flower bed were nice at Round Lake!



Here's the cup on the first hole at Round Lake Golf Club, located near Klamath Falls. Never seen anything like it.

Maxes? — and ice cold soda. Alas, those were the highlights of the visit.

Round Lake is an executive course featuring three par 4s and six par 3s, just a hair under 1,700 yards playing to a par of 30. There are some water features here and there. To say the course was rough is a huge understatement. The “fairways” are pretty much field grass, complete with weeds and dirt clods, mowed somewhat low. There were tee markers if not tee boxes per se. Wedging a tee into the rock hard ground was a task. We did generally play the ball exactly where it landed — not because we're not above bumping the ball to a better lie on a relaxed Golf Week round, but simply because there was never a better lie to be found.

All that said, the greens were the worst thing about Round Lake. **Check out the photo above**; a picture is worth a thousand words, as they say. Part grass, part weeds, part moss in places, several of the holes were overgrown to the point where you could see maybe only half of the hole. There's no telling the last time some of those cups had been moved — months and months ago, to be sure. We had literally never seen anything quite like it.

In a quick flash out near No. 6, we did see a coyote chase a deer into some underbrush. Much like a Roadrunner cartoon, the deer seemed to be winning the race.

The harsh but true bottom line: only play here if, like us, you're out to play every course in Oregon.