

Course Review: Springfield Golf Club

Things were beginning to transition a bit at the Springfield Country Club when we visited on our first day of Golf Week 2011. The club was just dipping its toes into the semi-private waters, so to speak. We'd heard it was the easiest to get on of the Eugene area's three private courses, but we didn't know anyone there and were wondering how to go about playing it when, about two months before our early August arrival, they began offering two tee times per day Saturdays and Sunday on GolfNow.com. We snagged one of those and problem solved!

(Today, it's the Springfield Golf Club and they have tee times all over GolfNow every day.)

We were still actually a hair nervous as we approached the course. Our private club experience to date had been in Pendleton and La Grande, two private country clubs that overtly welcome out-of-town players. But we were warmly greeted by staff that day — none of whom could have been much over 21. The kid who checked us in wanted to know all about our Quest, and jumped right then to our website and then went and "liked" our Facebook page on the spot. Gotta like that. ☺

We played the white tees, measuring 5,700 yards, so it's not overly long — the tips are just 6,468. Despite the presence of any average golfer's three worst nightmares — trees, water and bunkers — we cruised through the front nine in fine fashion. On the front nine, Holes 6 and 7 are the only two without water in play somewhere. No. 8 is tough, there are three bands of water crossing the fairway. It's a



All decked out in our Sunday finest at what was then the Springfield Country Club.



Gently rolling terrain and a wide variety of mature tree species describes the setting at the Springfield Golf Club.

458-yard par 5. The first perpendicular creek is right out there where you might land a good drive. The next two are back from the green maybe 10 and 20 yards, respectively, so don't leave your approach short! Miraculously, we had a par (Don) and bogey (Pete) and no water balls on the hole.

The Mohawk River winds through the back nine. Holes 11 and 12 feature narrow fairways with Marcola Road uncomfortably parallel on the left. Don has a penchant for hitting transportation routes on the left, so obligingly whacked one off of Marcola Road on No. 12, accounting for a double bogey.

Our only beef at Springfield is that the second nine backed up and we crawled in. It was a late Sunday afternoon and there were no marshals on the course. They need marshals on Sunday afternoons, or at least they did on *that* Sunday afternoon. Despite the slow pace, Pete caught fire on the back and carded a 40, ending up with 85, a stroke better than Don. Overall, we had a great afternoon and a great jump-start to the rest of Golf Week 2011.