

# Course Review: Crosswater Club at Sunriver

Crosswater Club is the highest-end of Sunriver Resort's high-end golf courses. It's a private course, but you can get on if you stay on the resort property or, of course, you can go out with a member. We did the latter during our 2013 Golf Week in Central Oregon.

Here's the course description from Crosswater's own website: *Crosswater is a traditional exclusively bent grass heathland style 7,683-yard golf course, which crosses the Little Deschutes River seven times. Five tees on each hole balance risks against rewards and challenge golfers of all levels.* That's it in a nutshell, but far from the whole story.

Golf Week 2013 included Don's Forest Grove High School classmates Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack. Our entrée to Crosswater was Randy Schneider, who was in the class behind us. Randy was a close high school buddy with Mitch's brother, so given that connection Dave graciously opted out of the day.

Crosswater opened in 1995, and Don had played there once, about two years later. He played with a friend of relatively equal golf competence — both not great, but not terrible. Their conclusion at the time: the course was simply too hard. The original Crosswater included lots of forced carries to fairly small landing areas and slicker than snot greens that were difficult to putt. It had been a long day on the links.

Fortunately, there's been an effort since Crosswater's opening to make the course more playable.



Not that it's easy, but it's *easier* than it was. We played the white tees, the "short tees" at Crosswater but still 6185 yards. Twelve of the course's 18 holes have water in play, and generally speaking if there's not water there are bunkers. There are many memorable holes, but none more so than No. 12. It's 572 yards from the whites (687 from the tips!) and gently bends left its entire route. It's completely tree-lined all along the right side, while a skinny lake borders the fairway the entire way on the left. This is a hole with zero margin for error. The next hole is a short par 3, 137 from the whites, but almost all of that yardage is carry over water, with the green being small and heavily bunkered.

Crosswater's holes are all named, something we're not overly fond of short of Augusta. But we will admit quite a bit of thought went into the process. No. 12, described above, is appropriately named "Endless." No. 11 is "Pioneer" — see note below.

Off-topic Note 1: Adjacent to Hole 11 is something you don't often see *on* a golf course: a pioneer cemetery. The Allen Ranch Cemetery sits encompassed by a low, white picket fence. A couple of the gravesites within have their own smaller fences. The cemetery contains eight marked graves, although historians believe it's likely there are other unmarked ones within the graveyard. It's a definite stop and take a picture moment.

Off-topic Note 2: If you like crabcakes, Crosswater's Grille Restaurant has excellent ones, oddly enough, being a couple of hundred miles from the coast.

