

Course Review: Umpqua Golf Resort

The Umpqua Golf Resort in Sutherlin was Stop 1 of Day 1 of Golf Week 2014. The first course of the week is always special, and we (Don, Pete, Dave Cadd, Mitch Nosack) were more than ready to hit the first tee box after the drive down from Newberg (Forest Grove/Hillsboro for Dave and Mitch).

In fact, we were anxious enough to get going that by and large we're willing to overlook the word "resort" in Umpqua's title. Eagle Crest, Sunriver, the Running Y — those are resorts. The fact you can park an RV somewhere (such as Umpqua) doesn't qualify as a "resort" in our book. But whatever.

Umpqua — a ubiquitous moniker in Douglas County — is visible just to the west of I-5 as you travel south. One thing you don't see from the freeway is just how much water there is on the course. Ponds and little creeks and streams dot the layout and are in play on more than half the holes. Amazingly we collectively stayed out of water trouble for the most part.

Our arrival was greeted with much enthusiasm by both staff and Umpqua regulars. Don does all of the Golf Week planning and itinerating, so the pro shop folks were expecting us. Several locals chimed in when they heard us talking about our Quest, wanting to know how many courses we had left and what our favorites were — the first two questions almost everyone asks. The pro shop staffer generously gave us Umpqua Golf Resort logo balls when he heard



Pete about to chip on to a front nine green. As you can see, large and tiered. Also hard and fast.



Yikes! First day, first course of Golf Week 2014 — we could have looked a little more enthused. It was a long drive.

we collected one of those from each course. Even cheapskate Dave, the one of us who doesn't collect them, had a quick hand out for a free golf ball.

We generally play white tees, but Umpqua doesn't have those. Gold was the equivalent, measuring 5,800 yards, although a couple of times we ended up playing off of blue tees. The first thing we learned about Umpqua is that the greens were hard and fast — very hard and very fast. That took a few holes to adjust to.

No. 2 is listed as the No. 1 handicap hole, but from the gold tees (345 yards) it was pretty pedestrian. Water crosses the fairway but even duffers like us can hit it the 160 or so yards needed to carry. *But* No. 2 does have a huge, tiered green that was tricky.

We saw wild turkeys alongside the fairway on No. 17, which seems to happen frequently on Southern Oregon courses. No. 18 is a great finishing hole, a mid-length par 5 (452 from the golds) with a big dogleg right and water crossing the fairway in play on your second shot. Overall, Umpqua Golf Resort offered a great start to our golf week and one day when this Quest is all over, we'll be back.