Salt Creek: A fun course

INDEPENDENT GOLFER
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SALT CREEK GOLF LINKS – Three words from the links this week; fun, fun, fun. The short trip to the Executive Salt Creek Golf Links is well worth the drive for the novice and experienced golfer a like.

At only 4,089 yards from the whites and 3,217 from the reds, Salt Creek uses the natural topography to create a challenging round of golf on a course that features one par 5, nine par 4's and eight par 3's.

Whether you're a hack and whack golfer or a precision short game golfer, Salt Creek Golf Links offers the perfect combination for a fun, relaxing round of golf, or a tune-up of your short game.

Taking advantage of the scenic hills, Salt Creek offers tricky dog legs and elevated tees, not to mention enough water to make any golfer pause and reconsider their club selection.

The first hole, a straight 300 yard par 4 lulls the golfer into a false sense of ease, with the second hole, a 205 yard par 3 offering the golfer a slightly tricky downhill slope to a guarded green.

As you continue along the winding course, one thing that few people would realize is that all of the mature trees north of the creek were all individually moved and placed there. What was once an open field has been transformed into a scenic escape, and while owner Don Laver says the course is a favourite among seniors and women, the course really is much more.

At only $22 for 18 and $13 for nine holes Monday to Friday, $24 for 18 holes and $15 for 9 on weekends and holidays, and $13 after 4 p.m. for unlimited holes, Salt Creek is an inexpensive reprieve for everyone young and old.

Making the course particularly enjoyable is the opportunity to reach many of the greens in one making for a great round with a friend, partner, parent or child.

"Every hole is a little different," says Mr. Laver. "It is fairly forgiving with some wide fairways."

Don't be fooled by the shorter distance however; the fourth hole is a 250 yard par 4 over a creek and a large tree. Players have the option of playing safe to an open fairway, or driving for the green – if you can carry 165-170 and stop the ball on the green, this is your best chance at Eagle.

The 245 yard par 4 16th is Salt Creek's signature hole with two spans of creek to cross onto the green. Longer hitters have the option of driving for the green while shorter players can take an easy swing from the tee into an open fairway opting for a safer second shot to the green.

All in all, Salt Creek Golf Links is the type of course that makes golf fun for everyone. If you've been looking for a course to get a hesitant beginner on, this is the course.

After going seven over on the front nine, I regrouped for a three over 36 on the back to finish with a 10-over 75. Definitely a must do again.

Next week we travel to the 2002-nominated best new course in Canada, Timber Ridge to take on the par 71 "hidden gem".

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