

Course Rating: Oxmoor Valley, Ridge course

Posted by [kmkasey](#) May 14, 2009 15:29PM

RTJ course a stiff -- but fair -- test

COURSE INFO

Address: 100 Sunbelt Parkway, Birmingham

Phone: 205-942-1177

Web site: [rtjgolf.com](#)

Par: 36-36--72

Yardage: 4,974 to 7,055 yards

USGA course rating: 69.1 to 73.5

Slope rating: 122 to 140

Greens: Bentgrass

Green fee: \$74 plus tax (discount available with a Trail card)

Date played: May 9, 2009



Kent KaseyThe Ridge's signature hole -- the par-5 third hole.

THE COURSE

With hills and valleys all around and plenty of sand (35 well-placed bunkers), the Ridge course at Oxmoor Valley is a good -- and fair -- test on a solid layout. The par-5s stand out in my mind, especially the course's signature hole, the 451- to 539-yard third hole. It plays from an elevated tee to a fairway cut in half by a pond, then uphill to a green protected by a shelf of exposed shale. The eighth hole is among my top-3 favorite par-3s in the area. From an elevated tee, you face a shot of 129 to 176 yards to a green protected in front by water and a large bunker and in back by water. The drop in elevation makes the hole play a club or two shorter, so make sure you pick the right stick. The finishing hole is another fine par-5, playing 463 to 592 yards. A steep dropoff runs along the left side and in front of the green, making it a serious gamble to try to reach this green in two. The greens, which were flattened somewhat when they were rebuilt a few years ago, were rolling at a good medium pace. Given all the rain the area has seen recently, I expected to find a soggy course, but I was pleasantly surprised that carts were allowed off the cart path.

Score: 9 (out of 10)

SERVICE

From the curb to the front desk to the grill, great service. Although we saw the beverage cart four times during our round, the first time it was low on several beverages. We played in just under 4 1/2 hours, quite acceptable on a very busy Saturday.

Score: 4 (out of 5)

EXTRAS

One of the nicest ranges around and good practice greens. The clubhouse is well stocked and the grill offers a good selection of food and beverages. Each cart has a GPS system, which comes in handy given the many blind shots you'll face.

Score: 5 (out of 5)

VALUE

The course isn't inexpensive at \$74 plus tax, but a Trail card brings it down to about \$50. Neither price is all that bad given the condition of the course and the Country Club for a day service you receive at Oxmoor.

Score: 8 (out of 10)



great downhill par-3.

Kent KaseyThe eighth at the Ridge -- a

BOTTOM LINE

Course Rating: Oxmoor Valley, Ridge course - Birmingham News Golf - al.com

Oxmoor gets plenty of play -- about 400 golfers the day we played, according to the guy at the front desk - but the Ridge always seems to be in good shape. Rounds can drag on, depending on whether golfers are playing the proper set of tees, but it is an enjoyable course to play.

Final score: 26 (out of 30)

Kent Kasey is a member of The Birmingham News sports staff. Write him at kkasey@bhamnews.com.