

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 7, Issue 5

May 2024

Golf in May

May has arrived, and with it, the beginnings of the hot, sunny weather. Please remember to stay hydrated during your round to play at your best! Add electrolytes to your water to avoid feeling fatigued and to remain feeling mentally sharp. And, always protect yourself from excess exposure to the sun. Stay in tune with the Forecaddie to keep up-to-date with everything Pro Shop and golf course related. In the sections following, you will find all the information relating to this month in golf, as well as contact information for our golf associations and our Greens Committee.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Mike Jahaske, PGA

Director of Golf

SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club



Pro Shop Schedule

Pro Shop Hours - Open 30 minutes before the first tee time and 1 hour before shotguns. The pro shop closes at 5:30pm. Pro shop staff will carry the pro shop cell phone (520-561-1196) until 6:00.

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time: 5-1 to 5-31: 7:00am

Last tee time: 5-1 to 5-31: 5:30pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

5-1 to 5-31: Prime 7:00 - 11:52

Midday 12:00 - 1:52

Twilight 2:00 - 3:52

Super Twilight 4:00 - Sunset



Golf Maintenance Schedule

A maintenance plan is put into place at the beginning of the year. Variance in weather and agronomic conditions may require changes to the schedule.

May Maintenance Schedule

May is a lighter month for heavy maintenance; but in June, we will have the first of three closure weeks beginning June 3-June 9. We will be closed Wednesdays from June through September to perform the majority of routine aerification, topdressing, and fertilization.

We will continue closing one hole per nine to cart traffic to help maintain the quality of the turf. We will also continue our program of resting the natural turf tee on the *driving range* one week per month, except in December and January, when it will be rested for two weeks in those months due to the slowing of the growth rate of the rye overseed and the heavy use of the driving range.

Back Nine morning nine hole times will not be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on a year-round basis to allow maintenance time to complete weekly tasks.



Free Monthly Golf Clinic

Every month Mike and Ken will conduct a free golf clinic. All residents and their guests are welcome to attend, and there is no cost. Please sign up in the Pro Shop. The staff have a book behind the counter with all the scheduled clinics that you can sign up for. You are welcome to attend as often and as many as you like! The clinics will cover basic technique and mechanics of each topic. Our golf clinics are great for learning a new skill or brushing up a skill that needs some work.

The next clinic will be in May and will cover the putting. It will be held on Monday, May 20th at 9:00am at the practice putting green. Please see your Chelsea home page event calendar for the full clinic schedule.

Golfing News

Golf Course Access

Dear Residents, many of you have taken to walking as a way of exercise and to get out of the house. Please remember that for your safety, we do not allow joy riding, walking, biking, jogging, etc. on the golf course **AT ANY TIME**. Only golfers, golf staff, or emergency or other authorized service vehicles are allowed on the golf course and paths.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Eliminate Potential for Cup Damage

When using a "ball grabber" attached to the end of a putter to extract a ball from the cup, please remove the flagstick first to eliminate the potential for damage to the edge of the turf surrounding the cup. With the green dormant during this time of year it is important to carefully extract the ball from the cup even when using your hand. Stretch out your hand and extend two fingers into the cup to retrieve your golf ball. Thank you. Your efforts will help to keep the edges of the hole crisp and more playable!

Golfing News Cont.

Cart Rules

The following rules shall apply to all types of golf carts, both rental and privately-owned:

- DRIVE ON CART PATH until even with ball, then enter turf at 90°.
- SCATTER ACROSS TURF until ball is on the green complex.
- EXIT TURF at 90° to cart path.
- REMAIN ON CART PATH on all Par-3 holes.
- STAY 25 FEET from tees and greens.
- DO NOT DRIVE around sides or back of greens.
- DO NOT DRIVE in the desert.
- DO NOT ENTER private resident property to retrieve golf balls.

Ball Marks

Our greens have been in service for 3 years now. Aaron and his crew are doing a great job keeping them smooth and fast. To do our part as golfers, we should make every effort to keep ball marks repaired! Ball marks that are repaired immediately heal faster and create less surface disruption resulting in a smoother green. Let's do our part to keep the greens looking good! Please remember to stay in the habit of finding and repairing ball marks on the greens to help keep them rolling smoothly.

Cart Damage to the Course

Without question, cart traffic is the number one cause of damage to the turf on the course. Please do your best to limit the time your cart is on the turf. **One easy way to do that is by staying on the cart path until even with your drive.** This simple tip can reduce wear and tear exponentially because entering the turf area early is the most common mistake made by golfers in terms of course damage. Please make an effort to follow this approach as the wear and tear just after the Plum indicates that a good amount of golfers are NOT doing this!

Golf News Cont.

Bunker Rake Placement



Please replace rakes in the bunkers at the lower end with the handle at a 90-degree angle to the edge and the end of the handle just inside the bunker. This orientation provides the least interference for golf balls and also keeps the rake easy to reach.

Thank you!

Golf Maintenance News

May 2024

May has begun and warmer temperatures are here. The Bermuda grass is starting to grow around the course. At this point, I'd say it's waking up from the winter. The Bermuda grass doesn't start actively growing until soil temps are above 65 degrees, and the nights consistently stay above 60 degrees. The biggest kicker for growth is when our dew point is above 40 for a few days, which doesn't typically happen until July when the monsoon starts.

Continued on the next page.

Golf Maintenance News

Topdressing

With this new growth occurring we begin changing our cultural practices from the winter season, and the most important one is topdressing of the greens. December - February we only top-dress the greens very lightly, 2-3 times at the most. Now through September our goal is to lightly top-dress every 10-14 days, with heavy top-dressing during our closures.

Topdressing serves multiple purposes for the greens, smoothing the surface, dilution of Organic Matter (OM) and improved infiltration. From a player's standpoint, most important is the smoothing of irregularities of the greens surface from ball marks, old plugs and foot traffic. From an Agronomic perspective, it's the dilution of organic matter build up in the upper 2-3 inches of the greens' surfaces. I have attached a couple of articles below that detail the effects of a successful topdressing program.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/59/12/the-process-of-topdressing.html>

<https://www.usga.org/course-care/forethegolfer/2017/topdressing-and-quality-putting-greens-go-together-like-peas-and.html>

So the next time you hear that we have top-dressed the greens, don't think of it as a negative; instead, remember it is critical for the maintenance and improvement of the greens.

Summer Closures are Coming!

Please remember that the course is closed for its first major aeration of the summer June 3rd - 9th. During these closures we work to perform required aeration and topdressing across the entire course. We will be working on these practices right up to opening. **THE COURSE WILL NOT BE IN PERFECT SHAPE WHEN WE OPEN.** This is our opportunity to perform as much work as possible without play, and we try to utilize the time as fully as possible.

Wednesday maintenance closures are in effect June 3rd - September 27th. This means that the course will be closed every Wednesday for maintenance from June 3rd - September 27th.

Thanks,

Aaron Thomas

Golf Course Superintendent



Tip from the Pro

Sink More Putts!

Missed putts usually fall into one or both of two categories: poor aim and/or poor distance control. The sources of these issues are usually due to an incorrect understanding or implementation of aiming or utilization of a hard to control method of creating distance with the stroke.

To produce proper aim and control distance more easily with the putting stroke focus on the keys points below.

Aim - proper aim technique places the **body line parallel to the target line** and allows the putter to swing naturally without manipulation on the target line with a slight arc that **keeps the face square much longer** producing good contact and consistent distance.

Stroke Method - the best method to produce a putting stroke utilizes moving **the arms together with the shoulders while keeping grip pressure light**. This method will create **consistent speed and tempo and controls distance by varying the stroke length**. This style of stroke is the physically simplest way to control distance, especially under pressure.

Mike Jahaske PGA

Director of Golf

SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club



Contact Information

Pro shop: 520-818-6403 **After Hours Cell:** 520-561-1196

Golf Maintenance: **Email:** aaron.thomas@robson.com

Phone: 520-600-8797

Chelsea: <https://sbranch.chelseareservations.com>

Your Chelsea home page has access to tee times and events as well as the golf event and maintenance calendars, special event news, rate sheets and annual/play card applications, seasonal daily frost delay info and golf starting times, and Greens Committee minutes.

SBRMGA: www.sbrmga.com

SBRWGA: www.sbrwga.com

SBR Lady Niners: www.sbrladyniners.home.blog

SBR Ranchette Putters: heasleypick@gmail.com

Greens Committee: SBRGreens@gmail.com

Contact Us!