

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2024

Golf in January

January and the New Year have arrived! The busiest time of the golf year is upon us. Due to the shorter days and higher volume of play, 1:00 shotguns will be utilized on days when a morning shotgun is large enough to affect players that desire 18 hole tee times in the afternoon. Days of the week to look for this will be Monday to Thursday. 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.

We wish you a happy and healthy 2024!

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 4:30pm. Pro shop staff will carry the pro shop cell phone (520-561-1196) until 5:30.

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time: 1-1 to 1-31: 8:00am

Last tee time: 1-1 to 1-31: 4:30pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

1-1 to 1-31: Prime 8:00 - 11:22

Midday 11:30 - 1:22

Twilight 1:30 - 3:30

Super Twilight 3:30 - 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.

January Maintenance Schedule

The Bermuda base is now dormant and mostly a golden brown color. In order to keep heat in the turf, to help it to stay pliable to resist damage from cart traffic, and to make it a beautiful green, we will be painting the fairways, greens, and tees every three weeks. During a paint week, a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday will have tee times starting one hour later.

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 January and will cover chipping. It will be held on Monday, January 29th at 2:00pm at the practice chipping green. Please see your Chelsea home page event calendar for the full clinic schedule.

Golfing News

Golf Course Access

Dear Residents, as much of the community activities have been closed for precautionary measures to help reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus, 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° when gates are not present.
- SCATTER ACROSS TURF until ball is on green.
- 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 almost 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 smooth 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.

Pace of Play

Please follow these simple tips to improve pace of play without having to rush around the course:

1. Be prepared to play your shot while waiting for others to hit, so you can play immediately without delay. This includes shots played while on the putting green.
2. Clean and replace your club in the bag; and record your score, at the next tee, not at the green.
3. Hit a provisional ball when appropriate, and limit searches for lost balls to 3 minutes. Players in the group that can hit safely should do so; while those that can't, should help search.
4. Limit socializing to periods when you are prepared to hit and there is a wait to safely hit.

Have fun on the course, and keep your play efficient, so all can experience an enjoyable pace of play!

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 Maintenance News

Winter Dormancy and "Painting" the Short Grass

So far this winter has been relatively mild compared to last year. From November 1st 2022 to December 21st of 2022 we had 17 days at or below freezing. This year, for the same dates we've only been at freezing or below 6 days. Even though we've had fewer cold days the Bermudagrass is still in a semi-dormant state, with little to no growth occurring.

While temperatures are the primary factor that determines winter dormancy, the second most important factor is daylight hours. December 21st is the shortest day of the year, as the days start to grow longer there's a positive effect on the Bermudagrass. Even with the cooler temperatures the Bermudagrass will increase growth ever so slightly as the days grow longer.

Current Dormancy on the Course

Roughs - The most evident part of the course is the roughs, and my estimation is that they are 50% dormant. Although the roughs look straw colored; if you look underneath the brown, there's still a fair amount of green leaves but no active growth occurring.

Tees and Fairways

These areas are only about 20% dormant, and there's still a lot of green leaf tissue to capture sunlight on our warmer winter days. This allows the tees and fairways to be the most responsive with small flushes of growth when the days are above 70 degrees and the night temperatures are mild.

Greens

Greens are looking really good, and they are maintaining their density and color. Greens dormancy can fluctuate, but currently they're at 10 - 20% dormancy.



Golf Maintenance News Cont.

Painting and Fertility

Our painting schedule falls in line with our fertility applications. This is a nice combination, as the green colorant helps warm up the Bermudagrass a little and allows us to get the needed fertility to the Bermudagrass.

To help enhance and maintain our green color on the tees, fairways and greens we use "turf paint" <https://guruscap.com/>. Painting has become very popular in the southeast/mid-Atlantic region over the past years and is becoming more popular here in the southwest. Painting allows us to have the aesthetics of overseeded turf but not the troubles associated with overseeding, which provides us with better year-round conditions on the course.

Our Current Painting Schedule

- Tees and fairways - every 3 weeks - this process typically takes us 2 mornings to complete, as we paint 9 holes each day.
- Greens are painted weekly.

All this being said we need to be conscious of traffic/wear patterns on the course to maintain our turf density and playing conditions. Please be aware of the cart path only holes and restrictions during our rainy days. Be aware of the white stakes we place out on the course to designate weak/thin areas that need some rest and recovery.

Have a great Holiday season!

Aaron Thomas
SBR Golf Course Superintendent.



Tip from the Pro

Tee Sheet Changes for 2024

Last winter after observing the increased volume of resident rounds, a discussion was initiated with the greens committee, our golf associations, and large social groups regarding how to increase 18 hole round availability while preserving twilight play. After much discussion, a decision was made to make changes to the sheet set up. These changes began this past December and will go forward into 2024 and beyond. The first change was to initiate year-round 8:00 shotguns versus changing seasonally between 8:00 and 9:00. This change was necessary in order to be able to offer a 1:00 afternoon shotgun. The combination of the 8:00 and 1:00 shotguns allows for the greatest amount of daily 18 hole rounds. The 1:00 shotgun is sized to retain twilight tee times, while accommodating those who wish to play a full round. The greatest need for this set up is Monday—Thursday when association play most greatly affects the tee sheet.

Golfers that play 18 holes on those days may find they have a 1:00 tee time in a shotgun during our shortest days in November, December, and January. During the longer days of the year an afternoon shotgun may not be needed, but the pro shop will keep an eye on placement and add shotguns if the volume of play dictates the need for them. We are happy to note that even with the higher volume of rounds, a wait list has not been necessary. We feel confident that with the changes mentioned above we will be able to accommodate our resident play for several more years without the need to wait list.

Happy New Year!

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 Putter: susanamorrill52@yahoo.com

Greens Committee: SBRGreens@gmail.com

Contact Us!