

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 3, Issue 12

December, 2020

Golf in December

December is here and the end of 2020 is coming up fast. Don't forget to get that credit book used up by the 31st. Special orders need to be placed by the 15th! Range cards are a great way to use up your credit book.

Best wishes for enjoyable holidays for everyone and of course, a happy and healthy 2021.

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.

See you at the pro shop,

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. Soft close at 5:00pm as staff go out to check the course carrying the pro shop cell phone (520-561-1196).

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time 12-1 to 12-31: 8:00

Morning Shotgun: 8:00

Afternoon Shotgun: 1:00

Rate Periods:

12-1 to 12-31: Prime 8:00 - 11:22

Midday: 11:30 - 1:22

Twilight: 1:30 - 2:52

Super Twilight: 3:00 - 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.

December Maintenance Schedule

The **driving range tee** is planned to move onto the artificial turf on Monday, December 1st. During the winter months we will utilize the artificial tee for about 10-14 days each month to allow the natural turf to recover as much as possible from the expected heavy traffic.



The winter, especially during frost season, is when the staff gets most of the trimming around the perimeter of the course done. Now that we have a staff member designated for this duty, we hope to stay ahead of the ever-expanding amount of finished lots on the course.

Back Nine morning nine hole times will not be available on 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 and are great for learning a new skill or brushing up a skill that needs some work. **The clinic for December will cover chipping and will be held on Monday, December 14th, at 2:00pm, at the practice chipping green.**

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.

This is especially important during the early morning while workers are busy with prepping the course and not expecting to be in contact with residents.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Golfing News cont.

Holiday Sale: December 7 through December 13

Our pro shop sales remain as week-long events to avoid crowding in the pro shop. The Holiday Sale runs from Monday, December 7, through Sunday, December 13. Equipment will be 15% to 50% off and apparel will be 30% to 80% off.

Golf with the Pro

Come join Mike and Ken for a round of golf every Wednesday at 11:00am. The tee time has room for 3 residents. Mike will play nine holes and Ken will play nine holes. This is an opportunity to golf and socialize with your pros! Although there isn't time for a playing lesson, all topics and questions are welcome. The sign up book is at the counter in the pro shop. Regular green fees apply per membership status, but no placement points are assessed. Stop in or call the pro shop and get signed up today!

Credit Books Expire Soon!

Credit books will expire on 12-31-2020, any monies left will electronically expire. All monies earned December 1st and after will go towards your 2021 credit book. Many residents took advantage of our Halloween sale and the Club Fitting Day, but there is still a fair amount left on the club credit book ledger. Coming up Monday, December 7th, through Sunday, December 13th, we will have our annual Holiday Sale to help those looking for opportunities to spend some credit books dollars. If we don't have what you are looking for, we can order it as long as we have an account with the vendor. All special orders must be placed by December 15th to allow time for the merchandise to arrive before the end of the year. If for some reason the product is delayed, we will place your credit book money aside for that purchase. Finally, credit books may also be used to purchase range tokens or range cards.

Frost Delay Season

Frost Delay Season is upon us, so as of November 15th, you should check your Chelsea home page to see if your tee time has been delayed by frost. The information will be posted as close to 7am as possible. If your tee time is later in the morning or early afternoon, we ask that you check with the Pro Shop to see if any time has been made up.

Golfing News cont.

Community Snack Shack (Ed's Dogs)

The community snack shack is now open for business; however they are not yet making grab and go food for golfers. The cart parking and cart traffic flow is also still being sorted out. For these reasons, we ask that you enjoy Ed's Dogs BEFORE or AFTER golf, but *not* when turning to the back nine. If a group stops, they will lose their turn on the tee and will have to wait until the next opening. Our tee sheets are still very full due to COVID, and the wait could be fairly long.

Sand Containers

Additional sand containers **will be added** to the front nine at #6 tee and on the back nine to the restroom area at #15.

COVID-19 guidelines

COVID-19 guidelines were reviewed in the last Greens Committee meeting on October 7th and were updated for opening day October 20th. The changes are listed below. No additional changes are expected at this time.

- One golfer per cart is optional and NO LONGER MANDATORY. Rental carts will no longer be complimentary and golfers will be charged for use of rental carts.
 - Rakes will be restored to the bunkers.
 - Sand bottles will be replaced on rental carts, and on-course sand containers will be filled and available.
 - Water cups will be available at the Pro Shop by the ice and water machine and in the restrooms at #15 tee.
 - Flagsticks will REMAIN IN PLACE.
 - Shotguns WILL NOT BE RESTORED at this time.
 - While some of the procedures have been relaxed, **it has been observed that golfers are becoming lax in observing the utilization of masks and/or social distancing. We are fortunate that SBR has not experienced any severe issues with COVID; but, please stay vigilant as we are not free of this issue yet!**
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Golf Maintenance News

Turf Grass Quality and Cart Traffic

Since early April we have essentially doubled our cart traffic due to COVID guidelines. Summer months are less of a concern compared to winter months as Bermuda grass has a much better recuperative capacity than ryegrass. The following two sections will provide valuable information as to how healthy turf grass and traffic are related. Please ride with a playing partner when possible and be mindful of how you drive your golf cart. Please exit the greens complexes BEFORE the green and white stakes located on either side of the approach.

Cart traffic on overseeded golf courses.

In the southwest many golf courses, including ours, overseed in September or October, so they will be ready for play in late October or November. Although these facilities look good on opening day, golfers are playing on immature ryegrass seedlings that are very highly susceptible to traffic damage. The young plants have not developed a strong system at this point and are just beginning to produce multiple leaves which provide a denser surface. Heavy traffic at this time of the year can tear the young plants from the ground and delay the establishment of a strong base.

Cart traffic on non-overseeded golf courses.

For golf courses with Bermuda grass that have chosen not to overseed, fall is an important time to build a strong base going into the winter season. Mowing heights are typically raised (we are at $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch on dormant fairways) to provide a thicker pad of leaf material during the colder months when dormancy mechanisms have set in and growth slows or stops altogether. Heavy cart traffic during the fall compresses the turf canopy and sets the stage for thin surface conditions throughout the winter months. Restricting cart traffic helps build a stronger turf canopy and more leaf material heading towards colder months.

See you on the course!

Chris Blake
SBR GCS



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Tip from the Pro

Warming Up vs. Practice

There is an important distinction between what warming up and practice are, and also when each should be done. It may seem obvious, but to be clear: warming up is what you do just before the round; whereas, practice is done after or in between rounds. With this clear, what is the difference between the two, and why does it matter? Warm-up is about **tempo and feel** to help you best use the swing you currently have. Practice is designed to improve or maintain the **mechanical** aspects of the golf swing. Below I have listed some aspects of each to get you started on using each approach.

Warm-Up: promote awareness of "feel"

- Before a round, stretch and "warm up" the muscles to swing the golf club without injury. Slowly work up to full swings.
- Find your swing tempo by being aware of grip pressure and body tension. This will make the first tee and every subsequent shot easier to perform.
- Roll putts, hit chips and pitches to find green rolling speed.
- Hit bunker shots to get a feel for the heaviness of the sand at that time of day.

Practice: consciously rehearse and review set-up and swing mechanics

- Using an aiming stick (or club), verify aim, ball position, and squareness of club face.
- Consciously work on basic mechanical swing motion using drills.
- Focus on the feel of the swing and less on the results.



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: 520-260-9314

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 Ranchette Putters: ljsentivanac@gmail.com

Greens Committee: sbrgreencommittee@gmail.com

Contact Us!