

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 3, Issue 7

July, 2020

Golf in July

July of 2020 is a month full of change and new processes. We will continue throughout the summer with a new maintenance closure schedule each Wednesday to allow the crew to work more in depth on one nine at a time each week. Coming up this month I am excited to announce "Golf with the Pro" will begin! Weekly sign-ups will be available to get out on the course and play some golf with Mike and Ken. We are very much looking forward to getting started! 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



Pro Shop Schedule

Pro Shop Hours - Open 30 minutes before the first tee time and 1 hour before shotguns. Soft close at 3:00pm 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 7-1 to -31: 7:00

Morning Shotgun: 8:00

Afternoon Shotgun: 1:00

Rate Periods:

7-1 to 7-31: Prime 7:00 - 10:52

Midday: 11:00 - 12:52

Twilight: 1:00 - 2:22

Super Twilight: 2:30 - 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.

July Maintenance Schedule

In July, Bermuda turf is in heavy growth mode and major cultivation practices are a large part of the activity of the maintenance crew. Work on the perimeter of the course will resume to give the area a cut before monsoon season.

In July heavy maintenance projects are scheduled, so please take a look at the maintenance schedule posted on Chelsea for a comprehensive listing of maintenance closures or restrictions.



1. A second week-long closure is scheduled from Monday July 13th through Sunday July 19th. We will again aerify the greens and aerify and inject sand into the fairways.
2. Continuing through to overseeding we will close one nine very Wednesday for concentrated work without the interruption of golfing traffic and the potential for more projects to be completed. Golfers playing 18 holes will play the open nine twice.

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 July will cover the full swing and will be held on Monday, July 27th, at 9:00am at the driving range tee.**

Golfing News

Golf Course Updates

Once again this month we close for a week and all greens will be aerified and top-dressed, while a crew from the Dry-Ject company aerify and inject sand into the fairways. Golf course contractor, Oliphant will also begin re-vamping our practice chipping and pitching area. Aerifying the greens is something we do twice each summer; but as the fairway aerifying process is quite difficult to accomplish during play (as well as frustrating to golfers), we decided to combine the two into one operation and re-open with the work done, cleaned up, and the turf already beginning to heal and becoming smoother. These processes for the fairways, along with the acid injection and additional topdressing, will greatly help to strengthen our fairways so they can transition better and provide better summer surfaces.

Golfing News Continued

Golf Course Project Update as of June 22nd 2020

Maintenance week June 1-7- In our first ever maintenance closure week Chris and crew and contractor Dri-Ject completed aerification of fairways and greens as well as the start of repairing drainage issues and repair of weak areas in the fairways. This first week was extremely successful with the extensive progress made. A second closure week is scheduled for July 13-19 when the greens and fairways will again be aerified. These intensive practices should help set substantial improvement in the soil quality and the health and strength of the base Bermuda turf.

End of week of June 22nd- golf course contractor Oliphant arrived. They will be on site for 2-3 weeks to build 5 Gold tee boxes, re-vamp the practice chipping and pitching area, and repair sunken areas around bunkers that were reshaped.

Gold Tees - Holes 2, 11, 13, 15, and 17 will have Gold tees built (13 was started already and just needs to be completed). While a tee is being worked on all the other tees will be moved forward of the area for safety. The crew will work 7 days a week and we anticipate it will take 7-10 days to have the tees constructed. This means that those holes will be affected in some fashion throughout that period.

Practice Chipping and Pitching Area - along with the Gold tees the contractor will be re-vamping the practice chipping and pitching area. This work will create a major change in the area and will take roughly 8 weeks (including construction time) to be ready again for use. The work to be done includes:

Removal of current bunker.

Installation of new smaller bunker located towards the driving range field end of the green.

Reestablishing the outer border of the green as over time some loss in size has occurred. Our goal is to be able to add a third flag location.

Re-slope of the entire area to allow a close simulation of the green complexes on the course.

Enlarge the cart path side of the complex by moving the concrete curbing out as far as the slope will allow.

Potential removal of trees to allow the widest angle of shots into the green.

Contouring of the back corner of the driving range tee nearest to the green to allow the widest angle of shots into the green.

Practice Putting Green- During the close week of June 1-7 the practice putting green had the turf completely removed and the surface tilled and cleaned up. Areas that were not draining properly were found to have clumping of the root zone as the cause of the poor drainage. The clumping areas were removed during the tilling and smoothing of the surface in preparation for new sod. The green was then completely re-sodded including a new band of turf for the collar. Once green has been sodded it can take 4-6 weeks to fill in the seams, smooth the surface through top dressing, aerify after the sod has taken and settled, and reduce the cutting height gradually to obtain the typical rolling speed. These procedures put the green opening ready for use on Monday July 20th.

Drainage Repair- throughout the summer months areas that have poor drainage resulting in soggy turf will be addressed by removing the heavy thatch layer, drainage added or repaired, and new sod put in.

#10 Fairway and Rough- areas of #10 rough are being sodded. #10 fairway will be evaluated in the next few weeks for potential areas to sod.

Golf Maintenance News

Golf Course Agronomy Update- July

As we move in to the summer months, the transition from Perennial Ryegrass to Bermuda grass continues to go well and much better than expected. With a sophisticated agronomic plan going into winter, we worked the plan and I was basically hoping for the best. We did well. I attribute this to cleaner and healthier soils which produce stronger plant. Weak warm season turf grasses in cold environments can be difficult, and spring green up is difficult to predict. Weather is a driving force in many of the things we do. It shouldn't be understated that the warmer weather helped our program and advanced the recovery of the Bermuda grass base. This points to more winter injury in 2018 than we may have thought.

Practice Putting Green:

Our newly sodded putting green is growing in nicely. Current efforts are daily mowing with emphasis on firmness and smoothness which are the two most important factors when it comes to putting green quality. Current cutting heights are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch with intended goal of $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch on July 20 when the green will open. Greens on the course are currently mowed at just above $\frac{1}{10}$ inch so the PG will not react the same way our greens on the course will. As the green matures a more consistent surface compared to the greens on the course can be expected.

New Practice Area:

New chipping green area is finished and will be grassed the week of 7-13. Improvements have been made which has turned this area into a much better area for practice. The green will be bigger and will be able to accommodate 4 flagsticks instead of 2. The bunker has moved to allow for more pitching area. Mounds have been lowered towards number 1 to create a "softer" look. Longer range pitch shots are also an option now from behind the new bunker. We can expect this new area to open 2 weeks after the sod has rooted. Right now I'm thinking August 3.

Hole 10:

Yesterday we began recovery efforts on hole 10 with aerification of the fairways and heavy vertical mowing of the dead rough to create a prepared area for sod which will happen the same week as the new chipping area. Excessive thatch, as we have been discussing for the last 2 years, continues to be the main agronomic issue.

What is thatch?

Thatch is defined as a layer of partially decomposed organic matter and excessive layering can be found throughout the entire golf course property. Composed of decaying stems, foliage and roots which is a normal plant process- thatch can easily build up over time. An unhealthy thick layer of thatch creates a barrier to moisture, nutrient availability and air circulation. This will create a growing environment in which plant roots can literally suffocate. A thin layer of thatch is normal for most turf grass species, but a thick mat will limit turf health. On hole 10 we have over 10 times the amount of thatch than desired.

The sand injection along with other cultural practices will begin the dilution process. Immediate results should not be expected. This does not mean we won't have an acceptable playing surface. It just means that growing conditions on 10 and other holes are less than ideal.

I hope everyone is noticing the improved quality of the turf. Recovery efforts will take time, but overall I'm satisfied with the progress. Thank you for your patience and see you on the course!

Chris Blake

Class A GCS

SBR



Tip from the Pro

Aim, the Foundation of the Swing

I think many golfers would read the title of this article and immediately have several arguments in queue to refute it. While that is completely understandable; in my 28 years of instruction, I have found that no matter what the quality of the swing is, the aiming ability of the player plays a profound role in even the simple act of striking the ball well enough to fly at all. That is why I begin every lesson by checking and if necessary, instructing the player on proper aim and how to repeat it in practice and on the course.

Here is a simple synopsis on what is really occurring. Let's begin with something most would agree upon; most people have more difficulty hitting the ball with lower lofted clubs or when it is on the ground. Why is that? Again a simple explanation: loft creates spin and spin creates flight. Now let's add in aim. If a player is not aimed where they think they are visually, they usually know spatially where the target is and in the swing will steer the club towards the target. This act usually reduces the loft of the club or causes the player to swing upward at the ball (also reducing spin) at impact. What was the real cause of the poor shot, the swing or the aim? In my experience, correct the aim and that same swing produces golf shots that will fly up in the air and towards the intended target. And that is enough to enjoy playing the game.



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.org

SBRWGA: www.sbrwga.com

SBR Ranchette Putters: ljsentivanac@gmail.com

Greens Committee: sbrgreencommittee@gmail.com

Contact Us!