

# The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 5, Issue 4

April, 2022

## Golf in April

April is here, and with it, the beginning of the end of the golf busy season. The Bermuda is actively growing and maintenance will be more active assisting the turf during our short growing season (April to September). This summer will be our first following a fully dormant winter. We have a great opportunity to set the stage for an even better winter season in 2023 as Aaron and team work hard to strengthen the base turf. 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.

Summer is coming!  
Mike Jahaske, PGA  
Director of Golf



## Pro Shop Schedule

Pro Shop Hours - Open 30 minutes before the first tee time and 1 hour before shotguns. The pro shop closes at 4:00pm. 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 4-1 to 4-30: 7:00am

Last tee time 4-1 to 4-30: 5:30pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

4-1 to 4-30: Prime 7:00 - 11:52

Midday 12:00 - 1:52

Twilight 2:00 - 3:22

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.

### April Maintenance Schedule

The **driving range tee** is planned to be on the artificial turf for one week beginning Monday, April 18th. The natural turf will be rested 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.

The Bermuda turf is actively growing and coming out of dormancy. The maintenance crew will be applying fertilizers and performing cultivation to support this activity. Changes in the rotation of the course or one hour delays to the first tee time may occur as needed to support these important procedures. Please support our maintenance staff by filling divots with sand and repairing ball marks on the green.

**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.



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## 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 April will cover pitching and will be held on Monday, April 18th, at 2:00pm at the practice pitching green.

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## 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!

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## Golfing News Cont.

### Cart Usage and Rules Effective April 1, 2022

#### Purpose

In order to significantly reduce and/or limit excessive wear and tear to the turf areas on the golf course due to cart traffic, the following policy will be applied.

#### Definitions

Traditional Golf Cart (TGC) - Designed for use on the golf course with a capacity of two riders.

Single Rider Cart (SRC) - A TGC with only one rider.

#### Cart Usage

Each tee time will be limited to two (2) golf carts, with the intent that a foursome would have two riders per cart.

#### Exception

If anyone is uncomfortable sharing a golf cart, *and they will be using a privately-owned cart*, the group may be allowed to play the course with the additional carts. However, the following restrictions shall apply:

On any given golf hole, only two carts will be allowed off the cart path when no other restrictions apply (i.e. Cart Path Only).

Any additional carts must remain on the cart path for the entire play of that hole (no alternating back and forth with the two other carts that are allowed on the turf for that hole).

Single Rider Carts with a handicap flag will not count as one of the "two carts".

Each tee time will be limited to one (1) SRC *with a handicap flag*, with the intent of having no more than a maximum of three carts per group driving on the turf.

This policy is not applicable to Personal Golf Vehicles (PGVs) (i.e. carts designed for one rider...e.g. scooters).

Carts with just spectators must always remain on the cart path (no exceptions).

#### Recommendation

For groups with more than two carts, we suggest the golfers determine within the group which cart or carts will remain on the cart path throughout the round during the playing of each hole.

#### Cart Rules

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

When the GATE SYSTEM is in effect, enter and exit turf areas through gates designated by 3-foot red stakes with green caps located at the beginning and end of fairways.

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.

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## Golfing News Cont.

### Pace of Play

On April 1st, the golf course returned to two riders per cart. It is important for all golfers to reacquaint themselves with the practices of efficient pace of play that have gone dormant during the single rider cart period. 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!

### Spring Sale

The Pro Shop's **Spring Week Sale** is Tuesday, April 26 through Monday, May 2. **Discounts of 15% to 80%! All regular price, in stock, apparel at 30% off! All regular price, in stock, equipment at 15% off!**

### Practice Putting Green Bumpers

Now that the weather is warming and the Bermuda turf is coming out of dormancy, we will be able to restore the practice putting green to 18 cups. This change should occur on Monday, April 4.

### Check In for Golf

On April 1st, the side window closed, and all check in for golf returned to **inside the pro shop**.

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## Golf Maintenance News

### Things are Greening Up!

Last month, I wrote about the native areas surrounding the course, and our management plan going forward. I'd like to continue the topic by identifying some of the most common plants around our course. Most of what's out there ARE NOT true weeds, they are native plants that we find in the surrounding desert. There are a few weeds out there, and we are focused on treating and eliminating them to the best of our ability.

#### Desirable flowering plants

Below is a list of the most common flowering plants we have. Many of these links come from Desert Mountain's web site, they did a great job listing many common flowering plants in the Sonoran Desert.

- Globe mallow - [Plant Profile: Desert Globemallow | The Arizona Native Plant Society \(aznps.com\)](#)
- Desert Marigold - [Desert Marigold | Desert Mountain, AZ \(desertmtcommunity.com\)](#)
- Penstemon - we have a couple different varieties around the course but the most common is Parry's Penstemon - [Parry's Penstemon | Desert Mountain, AZ \(desertmtcommunity.com\)](#)
- Desert Senna - [Desert Senna | Desert Mountain, AZ \(desertmtcommunity.com\)](#)
- Desert Zinnia - [Desert Zinnia \(Zinnia acerosa\) Plant Guide \(usda.gov\)](#)
- Golden Dysodia - [Golden Dysodia | Desert Mountain, AZ \(desertmtcommunity.com\)](#)
- Aster - [Aster | Desert Mountain, AZ \(desertmtcommunity.com\)](#)

\* article continued on next page.



## Golf Maintenance News

### Desirable shrubs

These are the common bushes / shrubs we have around the course.

- Tri-angle leaf Bursage - [Triangle-leaf Bursage \(arizona.edu\)](http://arizona.edu)
- Creosote - this is what you smell after the rains! - [Plants | AMWUA](#)
- Cat Claw Acacia - [Plants | AMWUA](#)
- Turpentine Bush - [Turpentine Bush | Desert Mountain, AZ \(desertmtcommunity.com\)](http://desertmtcommunity.com)
- Salt Bush - [Atriplex canescens \(arizona.edu\)](http://arizona.edu)

These are the most common plants we have around the course. Next month I'll identify the grass plants and cactus around the course.

### What's Next

As the course is waking up from dormancy over the next several weeks, it's imperative that we begin some of our cultural practices around the course, to ensure we are giving our Bermudagrass the right start, and allowing recovery from the winter traffic. Please be patient with our team as we are aerating, verticutting, and mowing to condition the Bermuda for this season. Over the next few months, it is also critical that we are watering our weak areas to promote Bermuda growth. This will entail us hand watering, using portable sprinklers, and occasional running sprinklers. This is all to provide our community the best conditions possible.

Thanks for the understanding!

Aaron Thomas - Golf Course Superintendent



## Tip from the Pro

### The Question of Broken Tees

Broken tees left on the tops of the tee boxes is an obscure and yet important topic. The importance to the issue is the potential for the tees to cause damage to one or more mower blades. This damage to the mower blades results in poor cuts and also, the cost to sharpen, or possibly replace, the blades. The extra expense is one part of the issue; but, there is also the loss in time the staff could spend making the course better. Since a golf course takes an immense amount of time to properly care for, that time is a precious commodity that can be better utilized.

All golfers can help by simply picking up their broken tee, and putting it in their pocket, the trash can, or tossing it into the desert far away from the turf areas, and remove the possibility that a mower blade will come into contact with it.

Thank you!

Mike Jahaske

SBR Director of Golf



## 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](http://www.sbrmga.com)

**SBRWGA:** [www.sbrwga.com](http://www.sbrwga.com)

**SBR Ranchette Putters:** [jackdon8@yahoo.com](mailto:jackdon8@yahoo.com)

**Greens Committee:** [SBRGreens@gmail.com](mailto:SBRGreens@gmail.com)

Contact Us!