

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2023

Golf in January

Another year has come and gone. We are happy to celebrate a fresh start and a brand new golf season with our course in the best shape in years! 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.

Happy New Year!

Mike Jahaske, PGA
Director of Golf
SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club



www.thelearningsite.info

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 4:30.

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: 4:00pm

Shotguns: 9:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

1-1 to 1-31: 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.

January Maintenance Schedule

We will continue closing one hole per nine to cart traffic to help maintain the quality of the turf. We will continue our program of resting the natural turf 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 slowing down and will go fully into dormancy following our first frost. Please support our maintenance staff by filling divots with sand and repairing ball marks on the green. Cart traffic is highly damaging to the turf, so please limit time on the turf as much as possible.

We will delay tee times for one hour two days a month to help facilitate painting the course. Painting will be done on regular weekday tee time days (Mon, Wed, or Fri).

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 and are great for learning a new skill or brushing up a skill that needs some work.

The next clinic will cover putting and will be held on Monday, January 23rd, at 2:00 pm at the practice putting 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.

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. Thank you.

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 a little over one year 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.

Golf Maintenance News

Water Conservation and Usage at SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club

With the New Year fast approaching, it's time to review the past years' practices and reflect on what has been successful and what we can improve on.

The Most Critical Areas to Review

For any golf course manager one of the most critical areas to review is water management and usage on the golf course. The topic is especially important as in 2025 the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) will implement its Fifth management plan. Since 1980 the state has been implementing water management plans in an effort to conserve ground water and attain its long term water management goals. For more information here's a link to ADWR's web site - [AMA Management Plans | Arizona Department of Water Resources \(azwater.gov\)](https://www.azwater.gov/AMA/ManagementPlans).

For more detailed Golf Course information - 5MP Concepts Page: <https://new.azwater.gov/5MP/plans-concepts> (Under "Turf Breakout Group" and "Golf Conservation Program.")

What does this mean for golf course managers? It means as environmental stewards we need to continue to improve on how we use water on our golf courses. Smart water management isn't just how much water we apply to the course each night; it's creating an integrated management plan that allows us to use the water in the most efficient ways possible.

Our Success Story

A success story for us here at SaddleBrooke Ranch is the move to not overseed our fairways in the winter months. By doing this the past two winters we have not only greatly improved our year-round turf conditions, but we have saved a tremendous amount of water. I did a comparison of water usage from 2008-2020 when the fairways were overseed, to the past two years - 2021-2022. By not overseeding we have saved 30 million gallons of water versus past years of overseeding. Next year this number will be even better since we had to grow in the new greens in 2021. By not overseeding we do meet the new ADWR Fifth Management Plans allotments.



Golf Maintenance News Cont.

Water Savings

How do we save so much water? By not overseeding!

During the establishment of the winter seed we need to water 6-7 times daily for 10-14 days to get the seed to germinate and establish.

Once established the winter overseed requires more water than our semi-dormant fairways do now.

By not overseeding, we don't have to water as heavy to regrow in the Bermudagrass during the spring and summer months.

A huge saving is that we don't have to sod acres of turf in the fairways each spring and summer as sod establishment requires a large amount of water.

Next month I'll continue with the water conservation theme and highlight what we do on the course to help manage our water usage.

Thanks and have a great New Year!

Aaron Thomas

SBR Golf Course Superintendent



Tip from the Pro

Driving Range Mat Use



Every month we spend some time on the mat at the driving range tee to help the natural turf recover. During those periods several golfers persist in using the turf in front of the mat. The photo above is a clear example of this practice.

Please support our efforts to keep the range tee the in good shape for our golfers, and use the mat only during this time.

Thank you!

Mike Jahaske PGA

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

SBRWGA: www.sbrwga.com

SBR Ranchette Putters: jackdon8@yahoo.com

Greens Committee: SBRGreens@gmail.com

Contact Us!