

# The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 5, Issue 6/7

June/July 2022

## Golf in June/July

June brought temperatures in the 100's, and July will hopefully include plenty of rainfall. Please remember to increase hydration. Here in the desert, due to the dry air, perspiration is not evident, and it is easy to get dehydrated without realizing it. Please also remember that the rain storms in summer usually also have thunder and lightning, so please take shelter and stay safe! 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 6-1 to 7-31: 7:00am

Last tee time 6-1 to 7-31: 6:00pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

6-1 to 7-31: 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.

### June/July Maintenance Schedule

The entire facility will be closed every Wednesday, June through September, June 6 to June 12 and August 1 to August 7 for heavier maintenance operations. The course has also one additional scheduled closure week September 19 to September 30 to prep for the winter. Since we will not be overseeding the fairways, carts may access the fairways when we open October 1. On the range tee, 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



## 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 putting and will be held on Monday, July 25th, at 9:00am 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!

## 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.

### Restrooms at #9 Tee

Now that the restrooms, ice and water machine, and expanded golfer parking are finished at Ed's Dogs, the restrooms at #9 tee will be closing as of June 1st. Water cups will not be provided at Ed's Dogs, so please grab a cup prior to beginning your round from the Pro Shop or one from home.

### Ball Marks

Great news, our new greens are starting to show signs of maturation and a softening which allows the ball to stop soon! The bad news is that this development we have all waited for also allows the ball to mark, or dimple, the greens when it lands. Please remember to get back 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 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!

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## Golf Maintenance News

### Summer is Here!

Summer is here and it's time to perform our cultural practices on the golf course. During our Wednesday and weeklong closures this summer, we'll focus on course aerification, thatch reduction, and drainage.

**Aeration** - I know many of you hear this term, and it only brings frustration, but it's an essential practice that must be done in order to maintain and improve the course.

#### **There are many benefits to the practice**

- thatch reduction
- improves drainage
- improves uniformity of water infiltration
- improves the efficiency of our fertilizer and chemicals applications,
- improves the overall playing condition of the course and helps improve the overall soil health.

Below are a couple links from the USGA to provide more information on aerification and its benefits.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/clubhouse/2017-ungated/09-17-ungated/5-things-every-golfer-should-know-about-aera->

[tion.html#:~:text=We%20aerate%20to%20improve%2C%20not,and%20promoting%20healthy%20turf%20roots.](https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/clubhouse/2017-ungated/09-17-ungated/5-things-every-golfer-should-know-about-aeration.html#:~:text=We%20aerate%20to%20improve%2C%20not,and%20promoting%20healthy%20turf%20roots.)

<https://www.usga.org/course-care/forethegolfer/why-do-golf-courses-aerate-so-much-.html>

**Thatch reduction** - We'll be performing several practices around the entire course to reduce our thatch. See the attached article from the USGA - <https://www.usga.org/articles/2012/10/course-care-thatch-control-key-to-firm-resilient-fairways-21474850692.html>

Aeration mentioned above as well.



## Golf Maintenance News Cont.

**Sand topdressing fairways** - This helps dilute the thatch layer which improves drainage and the aeration of the soil by providing more air space in the root zone. Overall this leads to a firmer playing surface.

We'll be de-thatching the fairways with a large rake called a "Spring Harrow". This will greatly reduce the "grain" of the fairways and bring up the upper thatch layer. This practice will seem very aggressive, we'll rake the fairways to stand up the grass and then scalp all the long runners that are stud up. Within a week or two the fairway will recover.

The use of our organic fertilizers also aids in thatch reduction by building a healthy soil microbial population that will feed on the thatch and convert it into a usable Nitrogen source for the turf.

**Drainage** - including the above two items we will be adding drainage lines in wet areas around the course for the next several months.

### Other Projects We Are Focused On This Summer

- Raising drain basins
- Lower grade along cart path where we have standing water on cart path
- Sod all bare areas to gain 98% turf coverage.
- Remove tree wells around course.
- Tee expansion as requested from the Greens Committee.
- Frazee mow crowned tees to level and improve surface.

One last topic I am frequently asked about is the **retention basins** around the course that hold water from our irrigation and monsoon rains. These basins were intentionally designed to hold water as part of the overall design of the golf course and community. We do add a mosquito larvacide to these areas every three weeks to help reduce the mosquito population.

Thank you,

Aaron Thomas

Golf Course Superintendent



## Tip from the Pro

### Hydration

This time of the summer, the temperatures are high and the humidity is low. While we are thankful for the low humidity, it masks the real loss of hydration from our bodies. To replace the hydration, it is important to always have water on hand to replenish the loss. Not only water, but water with electrolytes that is free from sugar and caffeine, as they can cause the body to lose even more water, increasing the possibility for dehydration. It is important to note, that once dehydrated, it can take as long as 24 hours to re-hydrate. Chronic dehydration can get to a point where IV fluids are necessary to get the body back on track, so be careful when your schedule calls for multiple days in a row out in our blazing heat, especially if this is your first experience with an Arizona summer.

Have fun out there!

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!