

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 7, Issue 4

April 2024

Golf in April

The year 2024 just began, and already we are in April! We have had plenty of rainfall this winter. With the dormancy program for the golf course, and the care from Aaron and crew, we should soon see an abundance of growing Bermuda grass. We are looking forward to our best summer of turf since beginning the course restoration almost four years ago. Thick turf translates to a great winter dormancy for 2025. 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.

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. The pro shop closes at 5:30pm. 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:

3-1 to 3-31: Prime 7:00 - 11:52

Midday 12:00 - 1:52

Twilight 2:00 - 3:52

Super Twilight 4:00 - 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.

April Maintenance Schedule

The Bermuda base is rapidly emerging from dormancy and greening up. Painting the turf is done until the fall. With the turf actively growing, it is necessary for mowers to be out on the course more often. It takes a few days each week to keep all the areas cut and groomed to playing height, and this will put the machines into golfer traffic at times. Staff are instructed to pull aside and idle their motors, but not shut them off as golfers play through.

We will continue closing one hole per nine to cart traffic to help maintain the quality of the turf. We will also continue our program of resting the natural turf tee on the **driving range** 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 and the heavy use of the driving range.

Back Nine morning nine hole times will not be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on a year-round basis to



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. Our golf clinics are great for learning a new skill or brushing up a skill that needs some work.

The next clinic will be in April and will cover the full swing. It will be held on Monday, April 29th at 2:00pm at the driving range tee. Please see your Chelsea home page event calendar for the full clinic schedule.

Golfing News

Golf Course Access

Dear Residents, 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. With the green dormant during this time of year it is important to carefully extract the ball from the cup even when using your hand. Stretch out your hand and extend two fingers into the cup to retrieve your golf ball. Thank you. Your efforts will help to keep the edges of the hole crisp and more playable!

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°.
- SCATTER ACROSS TURF until ball is on the green complex.
- 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 3 years 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 smoother 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.

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. Please make an effort to follow this approach as the wear and tear just after the Plum indicates that a good amount of golfers are NOT doing this!

Golf News Cont.

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Bunker Rake Placement



Please replace rakes in the bunkers at the lower end with the handle at a 90 degree angle to the edge and the end of the handle just inside the bunker. This orientation provides the least interference for golf balls and also keeps the rake easy to reach.

Thank you!

Golf Maintenance News

April 2024

The year 2024 has started out great for rainfall, which is so important for the desert's plants, animals, and our course! So far we've received 1.57" more rain to date in 2024 than in 2023. This will have such a positive impact on the course conditions in the next month as temperatures begin to warm, and the Bermudagrass begins to grow. It's also having major impact on the native areas surrounding the course. I understand this is a touchy subject for some, so I want to talk about it briefly before I become inundated by emails and requests. Here's an outline of our plan over the next month.

Continued on the next page.

Golf Maintenance News

Native areas and weeds

Mowing and spraying - 1st we'll go around with our large mower and get as close as we can to homeowner property lines, mowing an 8-10 foot band. 2nd we'll be treat the area with post and pre-emergent herbicides to keep the area clean for the next several months. It is our responsibility to maintain this area not yours. We will begin this process starting on the 8th and work throughout the month to complete it.

Our management approach to the native areas will be the same as last year.

We will be selectively mowing all the areas between the golf course and homes. In general, we'll be mowing the grasses down to 10-12 inches, the purpose of which is to remove the brown dormant parts of the grass plants and expose the newly emerging shoots. At the same time, we will be mowing some of our flowers and Forbes as this will also help promote new growth. While doing this, we'll be mowing around certain patches of plants that are taller to let them continue to grow and flower. This will give the course and the landscape more texture by creating different evaluations of plants. Throughout the spring and summer, we'll monitor growth and mow selected sections as needed. There may be certain areas around the course that will be mowed a few extra times to help with pace of play, but we will not be mowing the course multiple times over the summer. **As a reminder, you are not allowed to do anything to the area behind your home that is on the golf course side of your property.**

A few miscellaneous topics -

At no time should golfers be cutting through the maintenance paths or short cuts on the course. The area I see most abused is from holes 8 to 9. I see golfers driving from the cart paths over #8 approach and fairway. This is causing unneeded traffic and wear on that area. I have spoken with the maintenance team regarding the use of this area. Thanks for the understanding and help!

Pre-emergent — early course closure middle of the month. We will be closing the course early middle of the month - tentatively April 17th around 2:00 for our Goosegrass pre-emergent application. Once the course is closed, we cannot have any traffic over this application; traffic will severely burn the turf causing damage for several weeks.

Mosquito control — we are going to start using our mosquito larvicide - B.T.I. briquettes <https://www.amguardtech.com/product/summit-b-t-i-briquets-larvicide-with-bti/> this week in retention areas. This use will be done every 3-4 weeks throughout the rest of the summer and fall. We will also do our best to make sure all drainage areas are flowing and minimizing standing water around the course.

Thanks,

Aaron Thomas

Golf Course Superintendent



Tip from the Pro

Play Ready Golf!

Utilizing the following steps to play "Ready Golf" extends courtesy to your fellow golfers and increases the enjoyment of the game for everyone!

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 three 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!

Thanks!

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: 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 Lady Niners: www.sbrladyniners.home.blog

SBR Ranchette Putters: heasleypicky@gmail.com

Greens Committee: SBRGreens@gmail.com

Contact Us!