

# The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 7, Issue 2

February 2024

## Golf in February

As we begin February, the days have already lengthened by 40 minutes, and we will add another 60 by the end of the month. More daylight hours mean more time to golf! This is especially important since we are in the busiest time of the year. Continue to monitor the Chelsea home page each morning as frost is very possible all the way through the middle of next month even with the increased daylight and ever-increasing temperatures. Look for our pro shop Valentines Sale Week running Monday, February 12 through Sunday, February 18. New inventory is in stock with great discounts! 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 5:00pm. Pro shop staff will carry the pro shop cell phone (520-561-1196) until 5:30.

Staff is available until one hour before sunset.

First tee time: 2-1 to 2-14: 7:45am

2-15 to 2-28: 7:30am

Last tee time: 2-1 to 2-28: 5:00pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

2-1 to 2-28: Prime 7:45/7:30 - 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.

### February Maintenance Schedule

The Bermuda base is now fully dormant and a golden brown color. In order to keep heat in the turf, to help it to stay pliable to resist damage from cart traffic, and to make it a beautiful green, we will be painting the fairways, greens, and tees every three weeks. During a paint week, a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday will have tee times starting one hour later.

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 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. 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 February and will cover pitching. It will be held on Monday, February 26th at 2:00pm at the practice pitching green. 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.

### 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. 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!

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## Golf Maintenance News

### February Course Maintenance News

#### Poa Annua

I've had some inquiries regarding Poa annua / Annual Bluegrass control around the course. Poa annua is a cool season grassy weed that germinates in late September through spring and will continue growing into early summer.

When I started here in May of 2021 my estimation is that we had about 20%-30% Poa coverage around the course; my estimation now is 1%-2% coverage. We pay very close attention to Poa. I follow a "Poa Control Primer" written by Bert McCarty, Fred Yelverton and Travis Gannon - three highly regarded University researchers. If anyone is interested in the details, I'm happy to forward the document.

We manage Poa annua with both pre and post emergent products. Pre-emergent products ideally kill the young grass plants as they emerge from seed and begin to grow through the soil. We apply 3-4 of these applications a year which control multiple grassy weeds. Post-emergent products only kill the plants that are already above ground and require direct contact to the plant. Again, we make 2-3 applications over the entire course and spot spray small areas as needed.

#### Wetness around Greens

We focused on the wetness around greens the past month. The Irrigation Technicians went out and checked the rotations of the Greens and Collars irrigation heads, which are the heads that are located just off the greens. The guys replaced multiple heads that were not rotating properly and made rotational adjustments around every green. This should help reduce the wetness surrounding the greens' approaches.

#### Winter Rains = Great Spring Green Up and Conditions

I'm sure everyone doesn't love the rains we have been receiving, but it's an incredible help for the course conditions over the next few months. Please be understanding of the recent closures and the cart path only rules as this is done to preserve and improve on our conditions over the next few months. Please be aware of low areas when the restriction are removed; and if you see muddy track, don't drive through that area!

Thanks - Aaron Thomas - Golf Course Superintendent



## Tip from the Pro

### Better Contact from a Tight Lie

During the winter when much of the turf is dormant and the soil is firm, you may find yourself faced with a "tight lie." A "tight lie" is simply the condition when the "cushion" of the turf grass leaf and thatch is minimal, and there is little room for error during impact.

In order to create your best impact under these conditions, you must do what is called "maintaining your shaft angle." What does that mean? It means that at impact, the shaft of the golf club leans toward the target and not away from it. Achieving this affect is created at address by pushing the handle (grip) of the club slightly forward before taking your grip *and maintaining that angle* throughout the swing by keeping a light grip, moving your lower body through to a complete follow-through, and above all, not pushing or accelerating the club to "hit" at the ball.

If, during the swing, you can focus on swinging and brushing the grass, and not on hitting or applying power to the ball, you will have a good start on getting the proper feel for clean hits off of "tight lies."

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

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

**SBR Lady Niners:** [www.sbrladyniners.home.blog](http://www.sbrladyniners.home.blog)

**SBR Ranchette Putters:** [susanamorrill52@yahoo.com](mailto:susanamorrill52@yahoo.com)

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

Contact Us!