

The Ranch Forecaddie

Volume 9, Issue 3

March 2026

Golf in March

March is the busiest golf month of the year with winter visitors, great weather, and long days! Competition for the perfect tee time is strong, so be sure to make a request rather than waiting to make a booking for your best advantage. Even though we are busy, with the longer days, there are plenty of tee times for everyone to get in that round of golf. Enjoy the beautiful weather! 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.

Mike Jahaske, PGA

Director of Golf

SaddleBrooke Ranch Golf Club



Pro Shop Schedule

Pro Shop Hours – Open thirty minutes before the first tee time and one hour before shotguns. The pro shop closes at 5:30pm. 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: March 1-14: 7:15am

March 15-31: 7:00am

Last tee time: March 1-31: 5:30pm

Shotguns: 8:00/1:00

Rate Periods:

March 1-31: Prime 7:15/7:00 – 11:52

Midday 12:00 – 1:52

Twilight 1:52 – 4:00

Super Twilight 4:00 – Sunset



Golf Maintenance News

Spring Came Early

With the mild temperatures we've had the past couple of months and the limited hard frosts, the course came through the winter season in amazing shape. The overall turf density around the entire course is the best we've had for the start of March since I've been here, and we're positioned to have an incredible spring season. These warm temperatures mean it's time for us to initiate our spring Agronomic practices that will encourage Bermudagrass growth and recovery. This is done in several different ways – changing the mowing heights, aerification, water management and fertility.

Greens – The greens made it through the winter in excellent condition. The growth of the greens responds most readily to the warmer days and nights which quickly effects the green's speeds. With this growth, we have started managing them more aggressively than the winter months. We are:

Lowering the Height of Cut (HOC) – during the winter months we raise the HOC, now we must slowly come down to our summer HOC.

We've begun - Grooming / brushing – this helps lift up the grass blades and reduce the “grain” of the greens.

Topdressing – We've started back up with our greens topdressing program to help smooth the surface from ball marks and old cup locations. Typically we top-dress every 7-14 days during the warmer months.

Roughs, fairways, tees and collars – Starting March 2nd we'll begin aeration practices.

Aerification – this is essential to open up the soil after months of cart traffic and compaction. Aerification helps with gas exchange between the soil and atmosphere, improves irrigation efficiency and uniformity and improves application efficiency – fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides. Lastly, it helps stimulate new growth of the Bermuda by creating channels for the new shoots to emerge.

For the fairways and roughs we'll use a “slicing blade” that will go down 3”-5” into the soil, not removing a core, and will have little to no surface disruption.

Collars and Tees – we'll be using .5” solid tines to open up the soil, so there will be no mess / “plugs” left behind and very little change in playability.

Lower mowing heights – the main objective of lowering the mowing heights is to remove all the brown dead/dormant leaves from the Bermudagrass. This will expose the newly emerging leaves and stems to the sunlight and help the overall green up and density of the course.

In the roughs it will create a more uniform playing surface smoothing out the thicker dormant areas and giving way to a more consistent, greener rough.



Golf Maintenance News

Irrigation/Water management – This is the most important factor, besides temperature, that influences Bermudagrass green up. If there's no water, there's no growth. We had decent winter rains this year which helped put us in our current course conditions.

Rainfall amounts from November 1st – February 25th over the past couple of years here at the course:

2022/2023 – 6.08”

2023/2024 – 5.11”

2024/2025 – 1.47” – of that, 1.39” came in one day – November 3rd.

2025/2026 – 4.01”

- As temperatures increase and the Bermudagrass comes out of dormancy, it's critical to supply the required moisture for the growth and recovery of the course. This is extremely important in the areas along the cart paths that sustain the most cart traffic, compaction and turf damage. Without any rain we're fully dependent on our irrigation system, making this is a critical time for us to be monitoring and making adjustments to the system as well as out manually watering on the course. We will be using:

- Portable hoses and sprinklers around the course and occasionally more overhead sprinklers will be running.
- People hand watering in play.
- Increased run times during the evenings.

We are always aware and conscious of watering on the course and do our best to try to minimize wet areas and maintain consistent conditions across the course.

Final note: Divots -as the new Bermudagrass is starting to grow, it's very important to fill all divots on the course, especially in the fairways and approaches. Filling your divots and leveling them with your foot ensures a much smoother playing surface and causes less damage to our mower blades. Without the sand there still will be a minor depression where the divot was even after the grass has grown back in.

Thanks,

Aaron Thomas

Director of Agronomy



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.

March Maintenance Schedule

The turf is coming out of dormancy early this year due to the extremely mild weather we are having, so no more painting will be required. With the turf coming back to life, we will start some cultivation practices earlier, such as slicing and core aeration. These practices will be kept to a minimum to avoid affecting play.



The 2026 annual golf maintenance schedule is available on your Chelsea home page.

We will continue closing one hole per nine to cart traffic to help maintain the quality of the turf.

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 March and will cover Pitching. It will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 2:00pm at the chipping 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!

Driving Range Tee

With the overseed of the driving range tee complete, and the winter season upon us, we began cycling back and forth on a weekly basis between the turf and the mat to maintain the best turf possible. This practice also helped quite a bit with our transition from the overseed turf back to the Bermuda base.

Golfing News Cont.

Access Flag Program

We released an updated Access Flag Program in July of last year with implementation following on August 1, 2024. Since then, many residents have taken advantage of this program and are using access flags to allow them to participate in our golf amenity.

Please remember that the program is structured to allow access to closed fairways while protecting the turf from the most damaging threat to the turf on the course, the golf cart. **We ask that all those who use the Access Flag Program to please follow the guidelines established so we can keep the course at its best.**

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!

Post Your Scores!

Please remember to post all scores as soon as possible to help the handicap system keep competition net scores fair for everyone!

How to Fill a Divot

- If a divot does not have any soil attached, or if it has shattered into small pieces, it cannot be replaced and expected to heal properly. Filling the divot with divot mix is the best option in these situations. Here at SaddleBrooke Ranch, our divot mix is pure sand.
- The way to properly fill a divot is this: Add mix until it is slightly below the height of the adjacent turf, then smooth the mix and press down with your foot. It is worth taking a few extra seconds to get the level just right. Too little mix will create poor playability and may not allow the divot to heal fully. Too much mix creates playability issues and can damage mowing equipment.
- Making our best effort to repair divots is an easy way to care for the course and help others enjoy their round. Knowing the correct technique is an important first step.
- Once on the course, take pride in your divot repair. Who knows, the divot you repair today could give you a better lie the next time around.



Tip from the Pro

Spring Cleaning or Periodic Reminders

This time of year we usually feel the sun on our face and take a deep gulp of the fragrant air of the spring blooms (and hopefully don't sneeze). Below I listed some reminders of things that help to keep our facility working and looking well!

- The greens are softening, please repair ball marks/
- The fairways are beginning to stir, fill divots with sand so they will knit together smoothly.
- Each day the range is very busy. Leave range baskets at the range. When residents take them home, we run out.
- Soft spikes and spikeless shoes CAN damage the greens when shoes are dragged or twisted in the turf of the putting surface. Please walk with care when on the greens.

Thank you for your attention to these matters!

Mike Jahaske PGA

SBR Director of Golf



Contact Information

Pro shop: 520-818-6403 **After Hours Cell:** 520-561-1196

Mike Jahaske: mike.jahaske@robson.com

Ken Steinke: ken.steinke@robson.com

Golf Maintenance: 520-600-8797

Aaron Thomas: aaron.thomas@robson.com

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: sbrladyniners@yahoo.com

SBR Ranchette Putters: acothran88@gmail.com

Greens Committee: SBRGreens@gmail.com

