



BRENT JESSUP PGA HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL

Upcoming Events

December

- 01 Winter Rates Begin
- 13-15 Christmas Golf Shop Sale
- 14 Annual Member's Meeting
- 14 Member's Tough Day
- 23-25 CLOSED: Christmas Holidays
- 26 Open
- 30 Closed

January

- 01 Open Holiday
- 06 Closed
- 13 Closed
- 20 Closed
- 27 Closed

Christmas Sale!

It's time for our annual golf shop Christmas Sale, December 13-15. This year, we will host the sale in our beautiful double-wide! Come see how we decorate and operate in our temporary headquarters. Balloon discounts will be available everywhere, and our famous "Elf" has a new game to "Double Your Discount" this year! As we prepare to move into the *Neiri Alumni & Visitor Center* building in early February, we need to move a great deal of current merchandise to make way for new goods in the new shop. Fill your stocking and save!

Annual Meeting & Tough Day: December 14

We will host our annual membership meeting on Saturday morning, December 14th, at 9:00 am in the *BellSouth Auditorium* of the *Madren Center*. All members are invited to come and hear updates on the construction plans going forward and review the past year. We will host our annual Member's Tough Day Competition following the meeting. Please RSVP your plans to attend the meeting now. Tough Day Golf sign up will be held at the meeting and you must attend the meeting in order to play.

New Golf Cars

We are excited to announce the arrival of our new fleet of E-Z-Go Elite golf carts. The new fleet has excellent upgrades, including deluxe custom seats, an energy use monitor, a personal electronics charging port, an impressive PACE technology package and a small cooler for your purchased beverages.

The PACE technology package includes precise satellite yardage and pin location information, electronic scorecard options, pace of play reminders, a Bluetooth music speaker, a message board, and geo-fencing to keep carts out of restricted areas around the course. You will also notice a smoother ride, something we have all looked forward to. Finally, we will be adding bottled water on the carts in the near future.

As our operational expenses continue to rise across the board, we will be raising the cart fees on December 1st to help offset a portion of those increases. Eighty percent of our competitive university golf courses have higher cart fees than our new pricing and many do not include the same amenities. The last cart fee increase was eight years ago (July 2016). The new cart fees for 18 holes will be \$28.03 plus tax (\$30) per rider and \$14.01 plus tax (\$15) per rider for 9 holes.

We know that price increases are never popular, but thank you for understanding that the costs of doing business continue to dictate pricing structure changes. Now, you not only have the best conditioned golf course in the Upstate, but you also have the newest and best golf cart fleet to match! Enjoy the new rides!

New Tenth tee Access Path

Last month we began using the new tenth tee access path located closer to the Madren Center Drive entrance. This path is the new permanent access point to number ten tee. Once the parking project and the halfway house are completed, you will drive straight across Madren Center Drive to reach the tenth tee. The old cart path access (up the hill) will be removed and sodded.

Back Nine Starts

We will soon be moving the food truck and restrooms to the new cart staging area adjacent to the new *Neiri Alumni & Visitor Center* building and 18th green. This is necessary to allow the driving range/parking lot project to get underway with minimized morning disturbances to the project. Once we complete the move, we will start all play from hole number ten every day until the parking project is complete. By starting on hole ten, you will finish the back nine first, be right at the food truck and restrooms, and then be able to drive the new route to the front nine.

Practice Area Update

Our practice areas (range and practice greens) are scheduled to close in early December so that the range/ parking renovation work can begin. 288 new parking spaces will be created in addition to the re-orientation of the practice range, plus new putting and chipping greens. The parking lot portion of the project is targeted for completion by the end of May, but the practice range and new practice greens will not be available until August-September.

Therefore, we will not offer a range club membership in 2025. We are installing a “warm up” hitting area (net) near the tenth tee cart path, allowing you to make a couple of practice swings before teeing off on number ten.

Winter Hours

December marks the beginning of our off-season operation schedule. The golf shop will open at 8:30 am each morning (Tuesday-Sunday) and close at 5:00 pm daily. The first tee time each morning is 9:00 am, barring any frost delays. We will maintain this schedule until March.

USGA-GHIN Renewal

In January, your USGA-GHIN handicap service fees are up for renewal. The renewal is automatic unless you notify the golf shop staff prior to January 20th. Members will be billed for the annual fee (members \$35, non-members \$45) on your January dues statement.

Marty Duvall Hole-In-One

Congratulations to **Marty Duvall** for his recent hole-in-one on November 15th. **Mr. Duvall** aced hole #12 with a 138-yard pitching wedge shot. Witnessing the perfect shot were **Carl Sitler**, **Howard Bodenhorn**, and **Scott Ramey**. Too bad **Mr. Duvall** was not a member of the Walker Course Member's Hole-In-One Club. The jackpot continues despite his perfect shot.

Employee Appreciation Fund

Continuing the tradition started several years ago by the members (WCMA), this year **Steve Trojan** has agreed to serve as the “Point Man” for contributions to the Employee Appreciation Fund. All funds collected are passed along to **Don Garrett** and **Brent Jessup** for distribution to their staff as a thank you for a job well done.

Last year, more than \$7,000 was distributed. If you are inclined, please submit your contribution to **Mr. Trojan** before December 13th. Checks need to be made payable to **STEVE TROJAN**. You may also drop your contribution at the golf shop in a sealed envelope marked for the fund. Contributions will be distributed to the staff the week of December 15th. Thank you in advance for participating and appreciating our staff's hard work this past year!

November Status

November was a very warm month. With no killing frost, the course stayed green far longer than it ever has. While very green, it wasn't actively growing, making it susceptible to late season disease issues. We had a lot of leaf spot pop up on some fairways and tees, especially shaded areas where the dew lingers past midday. One example is the gold tee on #16, with over half of the tee ravaged by leaf spot. We will likely need to resod it next spring. We finally got some cold weather the last couple of days of November that has carried into December which has finally put the turf into winter dormancy.

It appears the warm November has caused the leaves to stay on the trees longer as well. They are falling now, and we spend every morning cleaning them up, even though by afternoon it looks like we haven't.

We were able to get all our winter weed control sprayed earlier this month, so we are looking forward to a clean winter from a weed standpoint.

December Goals

With the grass finally in dormancy, we will turn our attention to winter project work such as under brushing, tree pruning, removing the remaining trees downed by Helene, raising sprinklers, repairing drainage basins, mulching, edging and replenishing sand in bunkers. This work will continue in January and February. We have a great deal of work we hope to complete this winter. I really enjoy the winter months as it allows us time to tackle this type of work that we are unable to do during the growing season.

On Monday, December 2nd, we went to 3 cups in each green. As in past years, this not only assists us during the holidays when staffing levels are low, but it also helps to minimize frost delays with not having to wait until the frost clears to change cups.

The greens covers were placed near each green on Tuesday the 3rd. Here's hoping we don't have to use them this year.

#10 Tee Access

We began using the new access path to #10 tee last month. I previously mentioned that we wouldn't start using it until everything was tied in and landscaped, but that work has been delayed and temporary path was taking a beating. This work should occur early next year, and we will go back to the temporary path while it is being completed.

#18 Project

This project is finally coming to an end. The permanent cart path was installed and the area behind the green has been shaped and sodded. The rock wall has been finished. We are in the process of cleaning up some loose ends and hope to lay sod the week of December 9th.

Once the final work has been completed behind the pond, the temporary cart path will be removed and sodded.

The new fountain is scheduled to be installed in the pond in January.

Year in Review

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Membership meeting on December 14th. Once again, I will be presenting the year in review from the maintenance standpoint. It has been a good year, with many challenges and a few successes along the way.

The maintenance staff and I would like to thank you for all your support in 2024. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a great 2025!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pro-Shop

Operating Hours:

Monday
(Seasonal)
Tuesday—Sunday
7:30 am—7:00 pm

Practice Range Hours:

Monday
(Seasonal)
Tuesday—Sunday
7:45 am—6:30pm
(Weather Permitting)

Brent Jessup

Head Golf Professional

656-7516

Don Garrett

Course Superintendent

656-1814

Azenda Thompson

Accounting

656-0595

Golf Pro-Shop

656-0236

Club House Grill

656-7518

Sole On The Green

656-7444

The Martin Inn

654-9020

The Madren Center

656-7155

Membership by the Numbers

Individuals: 187
Family: 95 Life: 27
Non-Resident: 89
Young Alumni: 30
Inactive: 5 Legacy Life: 13
Total Membership: 446

New Members

Dalton Massey

Neil & Renee Monaghan

Member Resignations

Dee Mango

Greg & Dana Boehling

December 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|---|---|
| 1 Winter Rates Begin | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Christmas Golf Shop Sale 13th-15th | 14 Annual Member's Meeting Member's Tough Day |
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