



## February 2017 Newsletter



**Fog???**  
**What fog???**  
**December and January brought rain, wind and occasionally fog. But limited visibility didn't keep Fairgrounds Club members from teeing it up for a round one wet Saturday.**

### **More golfers have 'time for 9' . . .**

Less than 30 years ago, nearly half the golf courses in the United States were comprised of nine holes.

In fact, the first U.S. Open played in 1895 was contested on a nine-hole course.

As golf gained in popularity late in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the large majority of new courses had 18 holes, some of them 27 or 36 holes.

There were those who spoke of playing 18 holes as "real golf," but that kind of thinking is changing.

Golfers, like most people, have demands on their time, and the idea of playing a 4- or 5-hour 18-hole round isn't as attractive as it once was. A growing number of golfers simply can't justify the time to play 18 holes.

So courses like ours at Fairgrounds offer a sensible and less-expensive option. You can play our nine holes – seven par 3s and two par 4s – in well under two hours. Most 18-hole rounds at our course take about 3 hours for most players.

Encouraging golfers to play nine holes is a good way to target "lapsed golfers and new golfers," according to PGA president Ted Bishop. "The 18-hole round has its place but let's see how many people we can attract with an offer of nine quick holes."





## ***Winter Warrior . . .***

Santa Rosan Rich Topolewski was the **only** golfer to tee it up one rainy day in mid-December. Topolewski, 64, who works for Petaluma Creamery, wisely put on his rubber boots and was able to make it through a wet nine holes. He ended up shooting a 38, adding that “playing today really wasn’t all that bad.”

## ***Fairgrounds web site***

We are just about ready to launch a new Fairgrounds Golf Course web site, which should be ready sometime this month.

It will contain much of the same information as our previous site, with some additional helpful details. We’re not sure of the date as this is being written, but if you have any questions, just come to the pro shop and we will attempt to answer them.

New range balls, special clinics and lesson packages are also coming, so stay tuned. And remember, our covered, lighted range is **always** open, rain or shine.

## ***During the winter, golfers need a plan . . .***

Most golf instructors urge players to make a practice plan for the wet-weather months. Most advise working on your short game, including putting.

Because the ball doesn’t fly or roll well in wet weather, when you visit the range, don’t worry about distance but more about developing a consistent swing.

It is also suggested that if you can afford it, plan a trip to warmer climates where you can play without worrying about ruining shoes and clothes or plugging balls.

Or how about buying or building an indoor net or putting green?

Some pros say to work on your grip, either getting help from a local pro or buying a club with a training grip attached. One PGA teaching pro recommends wrapping paper around the grip of a regular club, holding the club with a grip so light the paper doesn’t make a crinkling sound. Hey, it’s worth a try.

**Note:** Fairgrounds Golf Course is often playable when others in the area are not. Give us a call at 284-3520 and we will give you an honest assessment of what the conditions are like on our course. Hope to see you soon

