

## ***July 2021 Newsletter***



**When you have to hit a golf shot over a body of water, a lot of things will no doubt be going through your mind . . .**

### ***How do you deal with water hazards???***

Water hazards – ponds, lakes, creeks, whatever – can be beautiful to look at and enjoy, just not necessarily on the golf course.

Forced to hit a shot over water can be one of the most daunting challenges for a lot of golfers, even good ones. But it doesn't have to be.

There are a number of ways to minimize the fear and anxiety that comes when you have to hit over a water hazard.

According to several articles, you can (1) take a deep breath and visualize a successful shot (that actually clears the water), (2) “club up” with, for example, a 6- instead of a 7-iron and slow down to create better contact with the ball, (3) keep your weight on your front side to avoid hitting behind the ball, etc.



There is also the idea of simply *forgetting there's water in front of you* . . . that works for a lot of golfers.

Take water out of your mind, hit your normal shot and avoid dropping your back shoulder and swinging the club up (trying to *help* get the ball in the air) to the point the club strikes mid-ball instead of the bottom of the ball . . . a common fault for golfers of all abilities with the result a topped shot. Think “water, what water?”

## **Short putts . . .**

- The Sonoma County Fair – this year called “Summer Fest” – will be July 27- Aug. 9. There will be a yet-to-be-announced modified, scaled-down format, with livestock, carnival rides and other features (see the Fair web site). And although there will be no horse racing (Sonoma Fair Racing will be held at Golden Gate Fields), we will be closing the golf course (not our choice) starting July 27 and re-opening Aug. 10. During the closure, we will be working on course projects, including greens, bunkers and improvement of the tee areas, time permitting.
- Our popular practice green is still closed, but plans are being made to open it back up, which might include limiting the number of players and the time they can practice on the green. Stay tuned . . . we're trying !!!
- Lessons are available at Fairgrounds from one of our Tayman Park Golf Group PGA pros. Call us at 284-3520 and we will give you the details
- When we're busy – especially weekends and holidays – if you're thinking of playing 18 holes, consider that because we are a 9-hole course, the No. 1 tee can be crowded when you finish your first nine, so sign up for nine holes, then if the first tee is open, go to the pro shop, pay the reduced fee for a second nine and head for the first tee . . . Cost comes out the same as if you paid for 18. But if it's backed up, or if you have simply had enough golf for one day, you aren't obligated to playing 18.
- We've had a couple of incidents recently where golfers have taken our electric carts on to the greens. Some people may not know or some just might not care, but either way, this is **not** permitted.
- We've also experienced a few golfers sneaking on the first tee, not checking in, not paying. We obviously don't allow that so please think about it.



## ***The practice green . . .***

A lot of good questions, but not a lot of good answers yet as far as the fate/future of our popular practice green.

We are exploring several possibilities, including adding a second level of screening to keep errant golf shots from landing on the practice green and endangering golfers as well as members of our staff. That possibility is still being researched and negotiated with the powers-that-be.

We considered building a new green adjacent to the putting green but that didn't seem like a good idea, for a number of reasons.



We are also thinking about re-opening the old practice green, but limiting play to a specified number of golfers.

We will continue to pursue options with the hope of eventually re-opening the old green, which is arguably the best practice green in the area.

In the meantime, golfers are urged to practice their chipping on a portion of our putting green. We only ask that you limit shots to short ones.

We really do appreciate your patience while we sort through the details in an effort to re-open our outstanding practice green.

## ***Fair or no fair ???***

We've received mixed messages over the past few months about what if any kind of Sonoma County Fair will be held this summer, as well as whether the annual horse racing session will be on the schedule, but the situation has become more clear.

According to the Sonoma County Fair web site, there *will* be a fair, although it will be scaled back . . . what exactly that means is somewhat uncertain, but there will be *something*. Dates are July 28 through Aug. 1 and Aug. 4-8 (closed Monday and Tuesday).

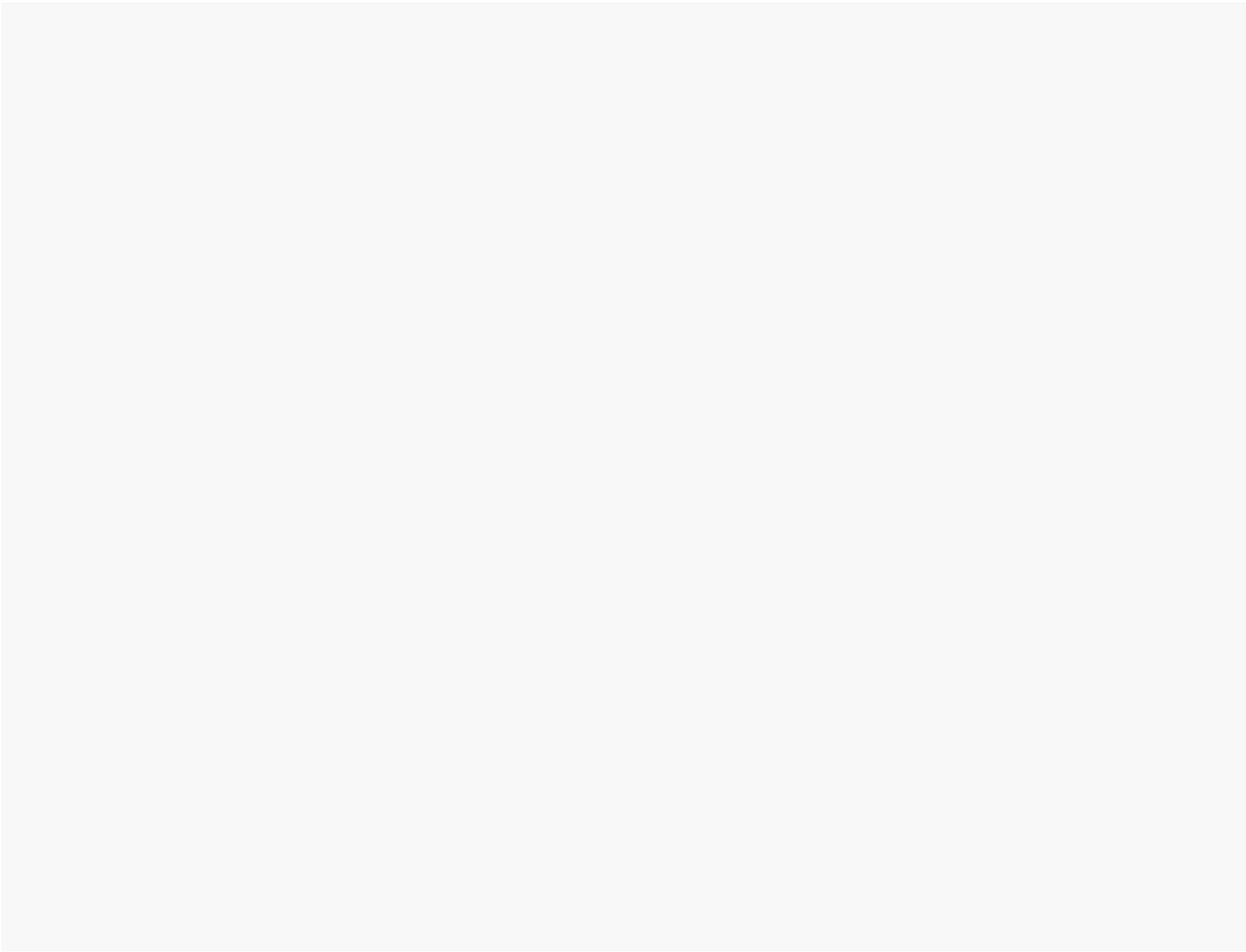
As far as horse racing, there will be a Sonoma County Fair program, but it will reportedly be held at Golden Gate Fields instead of Santa Rosa. Golden Gate Fields is not open to the public at this time, but to watch Wine Country Racing you can still watch and wager on your favorite horses.

GGF will be live streaming races online at <https://www.goldengatefields.com/> and there will be instructions on their main page as to how to watch.

**Bottom line:** As far as our golf course is concerned, we will apparently be open . . . we usually close for two weeks to accommodate the horses. There will be efforts made to keep fair-going non-golfers from packing our parking lot. Stay tuned.

**Lessons:** We are still lining up a teaching pro for Fairgrounds, but if you want instruction from our PGA pro **Frank Johnson**, call the Pro Shop (284-3520) and we can help get you set up.





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