

OUR HOST FOR JANUARY - Paul Dias, Golf Course Superintendent

Saratoga Country Club was established in the "Blue Hills" of Saratoga in 1958 as a 9 hole golf course. Originally open to the public, the club is now a private profit making corporation, aimed at providing a complete recreational complex for its members. The existing golf course is built on 50 of the 100 acres of land that the club owns. Many problems confronted the original club founders, the most significant being the loss of several greens and tees due to irrigation problems and then torrential rains. The irrigation system, designed by the then National Rainbird Sales, is an automatic system. Greens are controlled individually, while tees and fairways are controlled by a multi-valve arrangement, several different areas watering simultaneously. In 1970, the club embarked upon a major program of building 6 tennis courts and an additional level to the clubhouse. During construction of the tennis courts, a temporary tee was built due to the elimination of a fairway. This "temporary" tee is still in use (there is a lesson to be learned here) as the long range plan has not been implemented to date. Presently several new master development plans are under study for complete renovation of the golf course and the addition of several new holes.

Originally taking the position as the Golf Course Superintendent in 1969, I have had to develop new skills to meet the demands of a young and growing club. After a long tutelage under George Santana and a brief stint at Palo Alto Hills, the challenges and rewards provided here have been numerous. The diversity of the job became most evident when the tennis courts were being built, as I became the on site superintendent for construction. As the club grew, so did the responsibilities as the maintenance of the courts, swimming pool, clubhouse were incurred. Along with this went an involvement in the general administration of the club, relating to the daily management of the operations. Primary emphasis on the golf course has been the implementation of a maintenance program geared to improving the existing turf conditions, installation of cart paths, and drainage improvements. Working with a small but efficient crew has provided a constant challenge in trying to meet the needs, and I have to give much credit to these people for making this a successful operation.

THRU THE GREEN EDITOR Stanley Burgess
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DEADLINE DATE FIFTEENTH OF EACH MONTH