

Golf Gossip



December 2023, Volume 12—A Very Merry Christmas

President's Message



A very Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year to all of you. I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks for the very generous gift I received at the Christmas Social. It was unexpected, you definitely caught me by surprise, but what a wonderful surprise it was. Thank you again for your generosity, sweet notes of appreciation, and mostly for your friendship. You are all a blessing to me and I am so proud to be the President of a club with so many wonderful, caring ladies.

Speaking of being blessed, I was so blessed by all the notes of gratitude you sent in for the November issue. So many of you expressed thankfulness for the friendships you are finding and forming in the women's golf club. With all

the additional meet-ups we have scheduled throughout the winter, I hope they help you strengthen all those fun, friendly relationships. *Let's get together soon!*

One thing I do every year is make a list of commitments for the next year—a list of “New Year’s Resolutions” so to speak. Last year my list included 10 things I wanted to accomplish in 2023. Although I wasn’t faithful in most of them, they still help give some direction to my life to make sure I’m not here on planet earth just taking up space and passing time. Instead, I’m (hopefully) making a difference in the lives of those around me.

What do you think you can do next year to make a difference in someone else’s life? Let’s make a difference together! ♥

Judy Brooke
President



Christmas Social December 19th

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The Golfer's Guide to Winter Rules: Proceed With Confidence in Every Situation

For avid golfers, there's no better feeling than heading back to the course after a long, cold, dark winter. But those exciting early spring rounds are often played on less than ideal course conditions. Soggy fairways lead to muddy — and worse, plugged — balls, and standing water in all the wrong places.

Thankfully, the USGA offers the option of a Local Rule that allows golfers to persevere through wet course conditions. When in effect, Preferred Lies, often referred to as “Winter Rules” or “playing it up”, help golfers navigate a golf course recovering from heavy snow, spring thaws, or prolonged rain that either caused damage to the course or prevented the grounds crew from properly maintaining it.

In addition to the Local Rule, there are permanent Rules cemented into the Rules of Golf to protect golfers from unfair consequences of a wet course, including embedded balls and standing water. The rules of golf can be a tricky, complicated beast, so here's a breakdown of how to proceed in some common circumstances the next time you play on a soggy golf course.

NOTE: You're going to run into the term “general area” several times in this article. That term more or less refers to the fairway and rough, but here's the USGA's official definition:

The area of the course that covers all of the course except for the other four defined areas: (1) the teeing area you must play from in starting the hole you are playing, (2) all penalty areas (3) all bunkers, and (4) the putting green of the hole you are playing.

When Are Winter Rules in Effect?

The Rules of Golf state “When occasional local abnormal conditions might interfere with fair play, the affected parts of the course can be defined as ground under repair. When such conditions are widespread on the course the Committee can choose to adopt a Local Rule for “Preferred Lies” (also known as “Winter Rules”) to allow fair play or to help protect the fairway.”

So, who is this “Committee” that decides when Winter Rules are in play? The Committee is defined as “the person or group in charge of the competition or the course.” If you're playing in an organized competition, the tournament organizers will make this determination. Outside of a formal event, your facility may alert you if Winter Rules are in effect when you check-in, or you may assume the role of the committee and take it upon yourself to decide if Winter Rules are a go.



The Golfer's Guide to Winter Rules (cont.)

How to Proceed Under Winter Rules

The model local rule allows a player whose ball lies in the general area cut to fairway height or less to take free relief by placing the original ball or another ball within a specified relief area (one club length, six inches, one scorecard length, for example) from the spot of the original ball that is not nearer to the hole and is in the general area. Before replacing your ball, feel free to clean off any mud it has collected. This process is also known by its very descriptive nickname: lift, clean and place.

The USGA does not recommend implementing Winter Rules outside of the fairway, which could entitle your playing partner to free relief from a situation that might otherwise be unplayable. You wouldn't want that, would you? The USGA does, however, still want you to post your score for handicap purposes after your round, whether or not Winter Rules were in effect.

Other Course Condition Procedures

The Rules outlined above cover Preferred Lies, but there are other Rules in effect at all times that take course conditions into consideration. You'll need to be familiar with procedures for embedded balls and standing water before you tee it up in wet or soggy conditions.

Embedded Ball

Whether or not Winter Rules are in effect, you are entitled to free relief for an embedded ball

in the general area. Your ball is deemed to be embedded when it is in its own pitch-mark as a result of your previous stroke and when part of the ball is below the level of the ground. If you find yourself in this situation, simply mark your reference point in the spot right behind the embedded ball, and drop within one club-length of that reference point, no nearer to the hole and within the general area.

Outside of the general area, players aren't as protected from an embedded ball. Of course, on the putting green you can mark, lift, clean and replace your ball, and fix any pitch-mark. However, you are not entitled to relief from an embedded ball in a bunker or penalty area.

Embedded Ball That Cannot Be Found

Anybody who has played golf on a wet course in the spring has probably hit what they thought was a perfect shot down the middle of the fairway, only to never find the ball. A soggy fairway can swallow your ball entirely and leave no trace. If this happens to you, you may be entitled to relief.

If you get to your ball's landing spot and find an abnormal course condition—such as temporary water or ground under repair—but can't find your ball, you are entitled to free relief if you can meet the known or virtually certain standard. Known or virtually certain means that “either there is conclusive evidence that the event in question happened to your ball, such as when you or other witnesses saw it happen, or, although there is a very small degree of doubt, all reasonably



The Golfer's Guide to Winter Rules (cont.)

available information shows that it is at least 95 percent likely that the event in question happened.”

In essence, if you know or are at least 95 percent certain that your ball is plugged in the fairway (or rough) and temporary water is present, you are entitled to free relief.

Standing water in a bunker, on the putting green, and in the general area are also covered in this article online.

Click on this link for the article online:

[Guide to Winter Rules](#)

Editor's Note: These are simple guidelines for winter play. However, since we are unable to post scores when playing in Northern Nevada



between November 30th and late March the goal in these off-season months is to have fun and practice perfecting your game!

How to Play Golf in the Cold: 8 Tips for Conquering Winter Golf

With temps dropping, daylight waning, and Christmas trees being erected, it can mean only one thing—winter is coming. For some, that might mean the clubs are being stored away in the back of the closet until spring, but for others, it's the beginning of a whole new season: winter golf.

When I moved to the Northeast from temperate Texas and its temperate winters, this was a new concept for me. Playing golf year-round is customary in the South, but north of the Mason-Dixon line, that proposition becomes a bit tricky. But after a couple years up North, I've learned that winter golf *is* possible up here, it just requires a different approach.

Now, I'm by no means an expert on winter golf, but as a stubborn Texas expat who refuses to

recognize golf's offseason, I have learned some tricks for playing through the winter. Here are my eight best tips.

1. Layer up

Don't wear a bulky coat out to the course. Instead, insulate your body heat with a series of layers. Both hoodies and vests are great layering pieces as they keep my body warm without restricting my swing.

2. Hoof it

I walk about 90 percent of the time I play, but in the winter it's critical. Walking is an easy way to keep you warm between shots, plus you get your steps in for the day.

3. Warm your hands

Feel is a crucial part of golf, and it all starts in



How to Play Golf in the Cold (cont.)

your hands, so you've got to keep them warm in the winter. Pack a pair of mittens to wear between shots or slip some hand warmers in your pockets. Whatever your preference, just remember to keep the blood flowing through your extremities.

4. Pack a hat

Make sure to keep your head warm, too. Throw a knit cap in your bag and pull it out when the weather gets really bad. It's about function over fashion during the winter.

5. Club up

The ball will not travel as far during the winter, so don't be afraid to swallow your pride and club up. If you try to hit the same shots you'd hit during the middle of the summer, you're in for a long day. Winter golf is a different game, and you should treat it as such.

6. Tee it forward

Don't be afraid to move up a tee box (or two). Playing the same tee box that you would during the summer is only going to make things more difficult. If you want to make birdies during the winter, you're going to need to play a shorter course.

7. Mix it up

Winter golf is a great opportunity to hone your shot-making ability. The conditions will be tough, so your stock driving-range shots aren't likely to be effective. Get creative with your shots as you battle the elements. Come spring, your game will be much more well-rounded.

8. Don't worry about your score

Because of USGA handicap rules, posting scores during the winter months isn't legal, so you won't have to worry about a bad round hurting your index. Playing during the winter is about getting in reps and keeping your swing loose, not for posting a personal best.

Click on this link to see the article online:
[Golf in the Cold](#)



Best Caddie Comments

Golfer:

"Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?"

Caddy:

"Eventually."



Golfer:

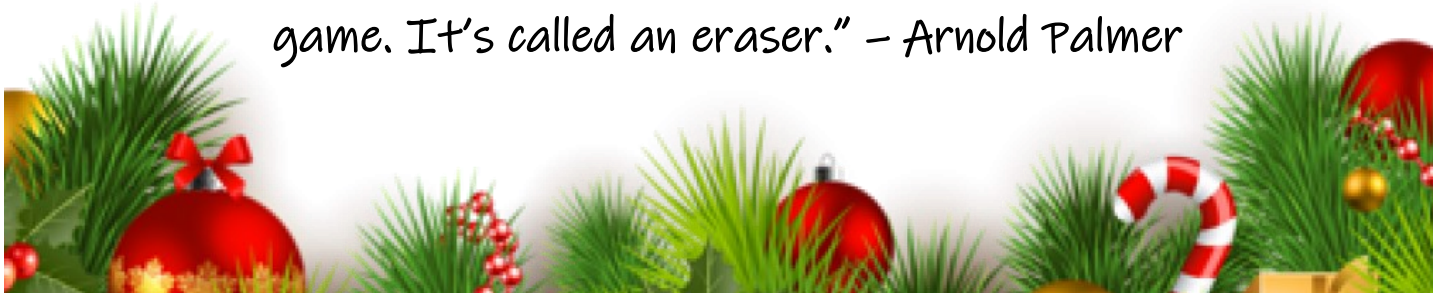
"Do you think my game is improving?"

Caddy:

"Yes, you miss the ball much closer now."



"I have a tip that can take five strokes off anyone's golf game. It's called an eraser." – Arnold Palmer





Hey ladies what's in your birdie juice?

We've got 5 suggestions

A few years ago, my friend Susan played a round of golf with a couple of Canadian ladies warming their cockles in sunny Palm Springs. The three women played well, and on the 17th hole, one of the snowbirds sank a birdie putt. She threw up her arms as if she'd just won the Kraft Nabisco and declared, "Birdie juice!"

Then she hurried to the cart to dig out of her golf bag a flask decorated with birdies and the words "BIRDIE JUICE." She took a sip and then offered the flask to each of her companions.

Susan took one taste, smacked her lips and said, "Why didn't you tell me about this sooner? I'd have played much better!"

So there you have the power of the birdie juice: Not only does it create an instant party to celebrate a birdie, its very presence can inspire success. If, that is, you have the right liquid inside your flask.

When you do a shot, the alcohol is only in your mouth for less than a second, so quality for taste or smoothness doesn't really matter (unless of course you would like to avoid a headache). Because alcohol from a flask is intended to be sipped rather than shot, quality should play a factor, so I'm not a big fan of Fireball except for giggles (and probably a hangover). I also don't recommend Jaeger Meister unless you can figure out a way to keep it cold.

The ladies from Canada carried butterscotch schnapps, a very feminine choice. I've got five other suggestions ranging from sweet to hearty. Choose the one you like best and you will have bigger incentive to birdie.

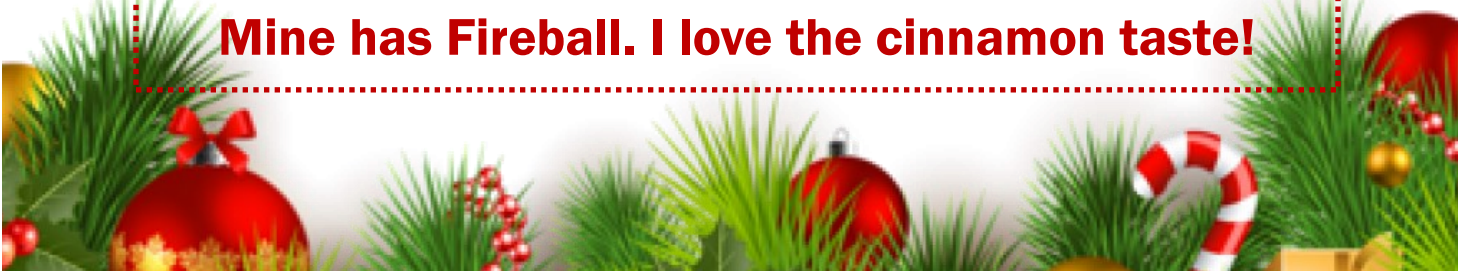
HERE ARE MY FIVE PICKS.

1. **The best peppermint schnapps you can afford.** This is the best choice for the sweet tooth who really doesn't care for the taste of spirits.
2. **Wild Turkey Honey Bourbon (or Jim Beam or Jack Daniels).** Honey bourbons are both sweet AND hearty, with such a smooth finish that they're a good bet for pleasing your whole foursome.
3. **Hornitos Tequila (gold) or Patron Silver Tequila.** If your most recent tequila memories date back to sorority shots, you have missed out on the joy of sipping tequila.
4. **Paul Masson VSOP Brandy, or Hennessy or Remy Martin.** Paul Masson delivers a quality low-end sipper for birdie girls who like their kick but don't want to take one in the wallet.
5. **Jameson or Bushmills Irish Whiskey.** These are the traditional sippers that your old-time links-loving duffer wouldn't do without. Purists drink them neat, and if you love whiskey, these are your best flask fillers.

To read the full article online, click on this link:

[Birdie Juice](#)

**Send us what's in your birdie juice flask.
Mine has Fireball. I love the cinnamon taste!**



Women's Winter League

Week 3 Results

Week #3 had a few drop-outs so teams were shuffled on the fly creating two teams from the original three. There was a stiff competition playing Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club in B.C., Canada, ending with only a two-point difference between the two teams for the final scores. It came down to the last hole played!

Team #1: Diane Bartsch, Suze Ericson, Beverly Hefferly, and D-D Woodruff.

Team #2: Judy Brooke, Gail Ellingwood, Jeanine Felix, and Lorna Johnston.

WINNERS

Week 4 Results

Week #4 teams visited Japan to play Taiheiyo Club Minori Course. They also had members from the women's golf club stop by Swing 395 to get their golfing groove on—both Julie Marraccini and Gail Ellingwood showed up with their hubbies. A big thanks to Beverly for being the onsite photographer and capturing all the fun memories!

Team #1: Margaret Fay, Beverly Hefferly, Virginia Irlakis, and Vickie Oland.

Team #2: Jeanine Felix, Claudia Meyer, Vickie Rutledge, and Monica Siewertsen

WINNERS

WINNERS



SWING
395 INDOOR
GOLF CLUB
NEVADA

Week 5 Results

Week #5 had us playing the PGA West Stadium Course in La Quinta. What beautiful scenery. What a lot of water! The winning team edged out everyone with two birdies and enjoyed Judy's birdie juice for both of those awesome birdies making sure they properly celebrated the occasion!

WINNERS

Team #1: Diane Bartsch, Judy Brooke, Jeanine Felix, and Beverly Hefferly

Team #2: Margaret Fay, Julie Marraccini, Lorie McMahaon, and D-D Woodruff.

Team #3: Peggy Frick, Gail Ellingwood, Lorna Johnston, and Jan Singyke.

Week 6 Results

Week #6 the teams headed to Norway to play Lofoten Links. The ladies said some holes felt like you were playing in Hawaii with absolutely gorgeous scenery. Team #3 took home the trophy money, winning by 6 points!

Team #1: Beverly Hefferly, Virginia Irlakis, and Jan Singyke.

Team #2: Suze Ericson, Claudia Meyer, and Vickie Rutledge.

Team #3: Diane Bartsch, Jeanine Felix, and Lorna Johnston.

WINNERS



Moments and Memories

"Sometimes you will never know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory." — Unknown.



Week #3 Winter Indoor League Winning Team:
(L-R): Judy Brooke, Gail Ellingwood, Lorna Johnston, and Jeanine Felix.



Week #3 Winter Indoor League Team #2:
(L-R): D-D Woodruff, Beverly Hefferly, Diane Bartsch, and Suze Ericson.



Week #3 crew
(Front): Claudia Meyer, Margaret Fay, and Jeanine Felix. (Back): Vickie Rutledge, Vickie Oland, Virginia Irlakis, and Monica Siewertsen.



Claudia Meyer and Vickie Rutledge
at Swing 395 on December 5th.



Monica and Beverly at Swing
395 on December 5th



Margaret and Virginia



Julie and Darrell



Gail



Vickie Oland

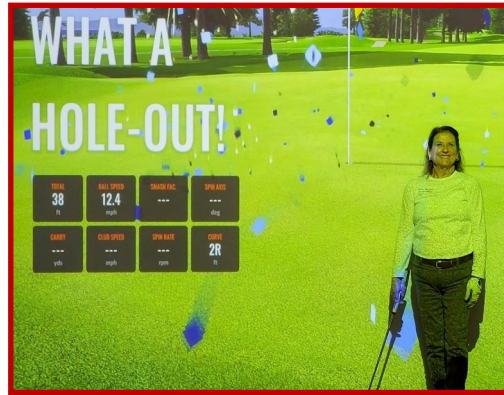
December 5th at Swing 395



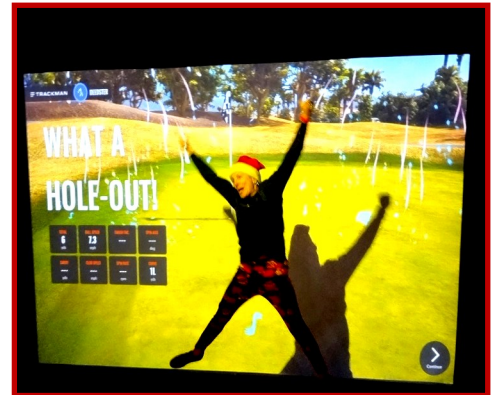
Moments and Memories



Team #1—the Birdie Babes—celebrating the first of two birdies with some delicious Fireball on Dec. 12th at Swing 395. (L-R): Beverly Hefferly, Judy Brooke, Diane Bartsch, and Jeanine Felix.



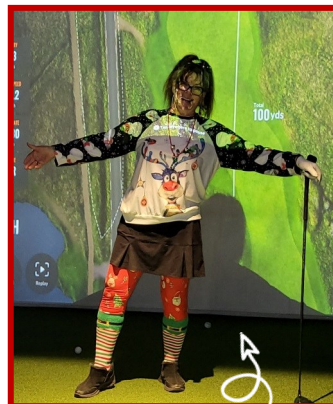
Week #3, November 28th, the Hole Out Queen was Beverly Hefferly. Great job, Beverly!



D-D Woodruff excitedly celebrating her hole-out (chip-in) on December 12th at Swing 395. It was the only hole-out that day.



On our last play day of 2023, December 19th, to celebrate the holiday season in style, Lorna brought Mimosas to share with everyone! All Beverly could say about them was, "They were a rousing success!" Thank you for making the play day special, Lorna! Photo on left: Beverly, Jan Singyke, and Virginia Irlakis. Middle: Rick Flores (Swing 395 owner) and Lorna. Photo on the right: Claudia and Vickie Rutledge.



Jeanine Felix (left) and Suze Ericson (right) celebrating the season at Swing 395 on December 19th.



Beverly Hefferly and her husband, Jerry, at the Capitol enjoying the Christmas Spirit.



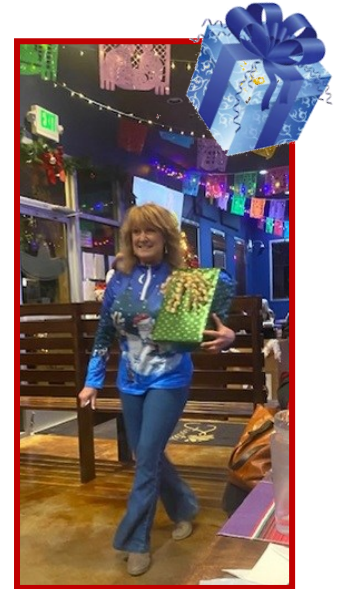
D-D Woodruff and Judy at the Gardnerville Parade of Lights on December 2nd.



Christmas Social December 19, 2023



It was like the 12 days of Christmas with 12 members showing up for the Christmas social. We enjoyed delicious Mexican cuisine, tasty beverages, and then had a great gift exchange. Only one gift was stolen! Everyone else kept the gift they first picked from the pile. This was Janet Brown's inaugural night out on the town with her golfing girlfriends. Judy was caught by surprise with a generous gift from the club members. From the bottom of her heart, she thanks each of you for your friendship, appreciation, and love.



Spectacular Skies from the Tribe



This wave cloud was taken at sunset by Judy Brooke in Gardnerville.

Sunsets are
proof that no
matter what
happens, every
day can end
beautifully.

—Kristen Butler



A sunset by Judy Brooke's deck in Gardnerville.



A sunrise by Deb Warzynski's deck in Holbrook Highlands.



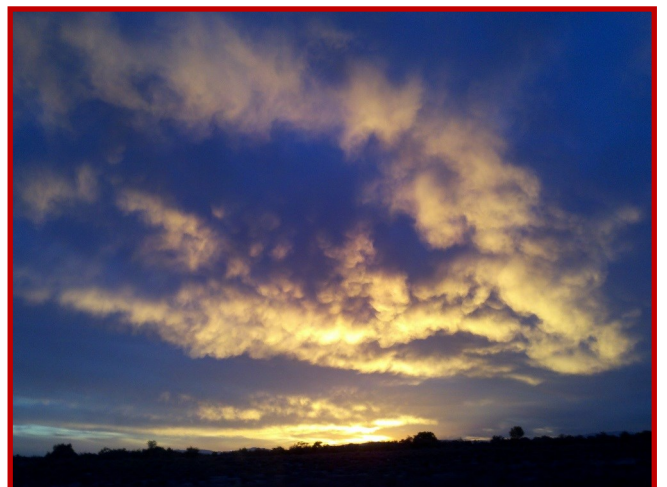
A sunset by Judy Brooke's deck in Gardnerville.



A sunset by Joni Becksted in Gardnerville.



A sunrise by Peggy Frick..



Two very different sunsets in the Carson Valley taken by Monica Siewertsen (above and right).

More Spectacular Skies



Jan Singyke caught this gnarly wave cloud suspended above the Valley just before sunset in Gardnerville.



Full moon rising by Joni Becksted in Gardnerville.

For one minute, walk outside, stand there, in silence, look up to the sky, and contemplate how amazing life is. —Unknown



A sunrise in the Carson Valley taken by Monica Siewertsen.



A recent Minden sunrise by Sara Cleary.



A sunset by Peggy Frick..

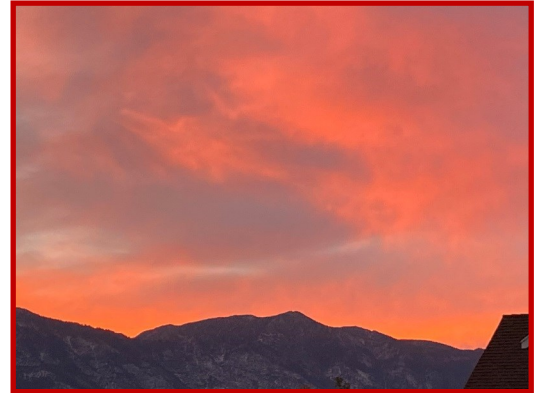


A sunrise in Holbrook by Suze Ericson.

More Spectacular Skies



A sunset by Joni Becksted in Gardnerville.



A sunset by Debbie Steele in Gardnerville.



A sunset by Debbie Steele in Gardnerville.



A sunset by Debbie Steele in Gardnerville.



We want not only your photos for future editions of *Golf Gossip*, but also any fun/funny tidbits of golf gossip you experience with your golfing partners!

Email your pictures and stories to judy psalms100@gmail.com. Thank you for helping make *Golf Gossip* fun, informative and worth reading.

Judy Brooke
Club President & Editor

