

# PEACOCK GAP UPDATE: RENOVATION PROGRAM, DAY NINE

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San Rafael, Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Two-thirds of the way through a forced 12-day shutdown, work on the golf course and grounds of Peacock Gap GC&CC has made prodigious progress since our last tour of the facilities five days ago.

The San Rafael Sanitation District has nearly completed the Herculean task of replacing the 50 year old sewer pipe running, I would guess, around 400 yards across the southern end of the course without interrupting service and without forcing an indefinite closing of the golf course. With about 80 percent of the new system completed, Sanitation District workers were busy this morning burying the last hundred yards of pipe and preparing to disconnect the temporary, surface level pipeline that has been deployed since early last week.

Meanwhile, work on the five greens scheduled for major renovation this spring appears to be progressing according to plan. The recontouring and resodding of two problem greens, No. 7 and No. 14, is complete, while No. 6, 11, and 18 remain partly skinned, waiting for earthmovers and sand wagons to give them their intended shape before replacing sod. Gimmicky grooves and steep dipsy-doodly curves are rapidly becoming bygone vestiges of the Richardson era, as are greenside gullies, bumps and berms that tended to make even well struck approach shots careen off target. But have patience, fellow golfers, all is not sunshine and apple sauce. Have a little patience, please, while nature deals with all those vast areas that required resodding. Course Super John Rader estimates it will take roughly four weeks for the resodded areas to knit properly. Wherever possible, we'll be using unaffected, unresodded segments of these greens, such as the front portion of 6, 18 and 11, and the left and right wings of No. 7 for pin placements. On 14, with its vast area of resodded putting surfaces, using ground under repair or temporary green markings to protect the turf while it takes root is probably our only option.

Elsewhere, the neatniks and aesthetes in this crowd will be pleased with some of the less dramatic improvements affected since mid-April-- Like taking advantage of the shutdown to complete the usual spring plugging and sanding of tees, fairways, and greens while the course is otherwise unplayable. Like weeding the clubhouse approaches and pressure washing 50 years of green graddou from the once-white banisters along the clubhouse deck walk.

Even nature is doing its part to spiff up the place. Please note the new crop of yellow fuzz balls, the first goslings of spring, loitering along margin of the pond on 18. Spring's in the meadow, God's in his heaven...all's right with the world.

Bill Braznell