



From The Pro Shop and Staff @ Dobson Ranch

In case you haven't heard our Superintendent, Don Flavell, is retiring August 16. He's decided after 27 years working with the City of Mesa it's time to relax and pursue other interests. In the last sixteen years as Dobson Ranch's Golf Course Administrator and Superintendent, and the last 8 years working in partnership with MJ Golf, we strived to provide all of you with a top shelf golf facility.

First off, I would like you to know what an unbelievable job Don has done for us over the last 16 years. Don has improved the condition of the facility each year he has been here. Under his watch, there was a new irrigation system installed throughout the entire golf course, as well as a new Pro Shop and putting green added South of the Pro Shop. All of the bunkers had new sand added, as well as a face lift or reduction of the 12th hole sand traps. On several of the holes tee boxes were added or leveled to improve conditions and playability @ Dobson Ranch. The lake repair project around #4 was completed during his tenure, as well as the removal of the old railroad ties and replaced with pavers around the 8th green and 9th tee box. Countless programs in fertilization, weed control, tree trimming, rolling greens, painting, and testing of new products have kept Dobson Ranch a notch above any public facility and I would say most private facilities in the valley. Fifty year old Bermuda was never supposed to putt this good, we sure like that roller! Did you know that when Don came on board is when we first started having our fairways over seeded? He truly brought the character back to Dobson Ranch. This is just to name a few of the accomplishments Don has added to our facility. Don has also helped guide me and Dobson Ranch through a recession. When most facilities were down in play 25 to 50 percent, we were down 5 percent. While most courses were failing, we were surviving and now thriving. What I really find amazing is he accomplished all of this and all the daily operations with a maintenance staff of 9 people. Most 18 hole facilities have a staff of 16-20. His organizational skills are truly second to none.

But now its time to celebrate with Don for a job well done! Don has told me from the start that his goal for Dobson Ranch, was to leave it in better shape than he found it. Well all I can say is "mission accomplished"! Don didn't want to make a big deal of his leaving with the City, by having a retirement party, but is ok with us to having a low key event here at the course to honor him. With the help of the DRGA we are having a putting contest on August 8, 2014 from 5 to 7 pm. Sharon and Dobson's Restaurant will provide a keg of beer, and Brad Evans will supply the music. No speeches, just fun and a chance to come by and wish Don the best, and thank him for all he done for us @ Dobson Ranch.

Hope to see you there,

Jim Gentry
MJ Golf Management
Brian Herring
Head Golf Professional