

SunBird Golf Club Chandler, AZ

PROJECT DETAILS

General Manager
Leo Buries

Installation Date
September 2007

PROJECT GOALS

- Upgrade irrigation system to increase system efficiency and reduce water consumption
- Install an automated central control system to improve irrigation water management and reduce troubleshooting and maintenance time
- Choose an easy-to-install irrigation system

RESULTS

- Installed new EAGLE™ Golf Rotors and an IC System, providing pinpoint irrigation control and improved efficiency.
- With fewer components and a simple wire path, the easy-to-install system enable much of the work to be completed in-house by the SunBird maintenance staff.
- The system's simplicity reduced maintenance and troubleshooting issues. Advanced diagnostics built into the control software allow the computer to communicate to individual rotors enabling easy identification of field problems.



For the first time, control technology is integrated right into the rotor.



The IC™ System is easier to install. It requires less wire and fewer splices, saving materials, labor and time.

New Rain Bird IC™ System improves irrigation coverage and simplifies maintenance for SunBird Golf Club

The upgrade was installed in-house, saving water & time

Project Overview

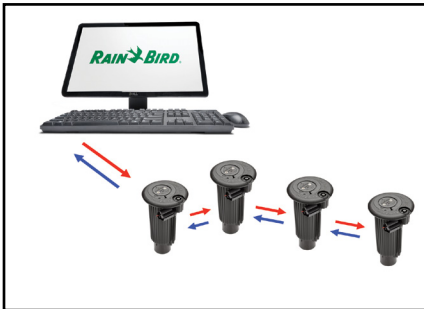
The SunBird Golf Club in Chandler, Arizona is well known as a friendly, executive 18-hole course. Designed by Gary Panks, ASGCA, the SunBird Golf Club opened in 1985. It features narrow fairways that make it challenging to both low and high handicappers. Prior to the renovation the course was irrigating 70 acres of turf with stand-alone controllers. The golf course staff struggled with a host of irrigation management challenges that caused poor sprinkler coverage. The controllers were old technology and challenging to employ effectively.

Project Challenges

The SunBird staff knew that the irrigation system required an upgrade, however they didn't have the resources to hire a contractor to complete a total renovation. The new irrigation system was going to be installed entirely by golf course employees and some volunteer labor, so it had to be straightforward and intuitive. "SunBird needed an updated system—one with improved coverage and maintainability," said Leo Buries, general manager. "We were experiencing long run times, poor irrigation coverage, and the controllers were old and difficult to maintain."



Rain Bird EAGLE™ IC Rotors use up to 23 percent less water to deliver a more playable course.



Central control and Rain Bird's IC Rotors communicate instantly with one another. Voltage tests and diagnostics can be run in real time. Make adjustments. Solve problems. Instantly.

Rain Bird Corporation
6991 E. Southpoint Road
Tucson, AZ 85756
Phone (520) 741-6100
Fax (520) 741-6522

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Solutions

To achieve fully integrated central control and increase irrigation efficiency, the team at SunBird chose the Rain Bird IC System, an intelligent control platform that links the rotors directly with the central control. Using significantly less wire and 50 percent fewer splices, Integrated Control Technology™ eliminates satellite controllers, reduces waste, and cuts down on maintenance costs. The simple design and easy installation greatly appealed to the team.

With the IC System, Integrated Control Technology is built right into the rotor. For SunBird, this meant better control, easier installation, and easier maintenance. "The coverage of rotors and single head control allows pinpoint irrigation control. The older system had four to eight heads on a block, which created coverage and maintenance problems. Central control is a huge benefit to both operate and troubleshoot the system," explained Buries.

Buries and a team of employees and volunteers successfully installed the new control system. "The fewer number of components and simple connections made it easy to install. It is very straightforward—I don't know how much simpler it can get!"

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While a self-install may not fit the plans of most golf courses, it suited SunBird's needs. They also came to understand the value of hiring a professional contractor when it comes to large-scale irrigation system installation. "We found issues with the wire path caused by our installation practices. Using a professional contractor would have eliminated those issues," Buries said. "Fortunately the advanced diagnostics of the IC System were very helpful to isolate and resolve any field issues. We could often identify and troubleshoot a wire issue in as little as 20 minutes using the IC System diagnostics. The ability to measure voltage at any sprinkler right from the computer software is hugely valuable."

Summary

The IC System and straight-to-the-rotor communication—combined with easy installation—made the Rain Bird IC System the right choice for SunBird. The improved irrigation coverage and superior control has simplified maintenance on the course. With no satellite controllers in the field, the IC System enhanced the aesthetics of the course and kept costs down. "The system is awesome. We no longer have controllers on the course—everything is right at the sprinkler. The system is ideal for our course, which is spread across more than 70 acres," said Buries.

In addition to being easy to install, the IC System is easy to maintain. Its intelligent two-way communication direct to every sprinkler on the golf course means that staff can manage troubleshooting through intuitive diagnostics built into the central control software. This simplicity also means greater reliability. With fewer parts, wiring, and splices, the IC System offers consistent, reliable performance. If SunBird wants to upgrade or expand, they can easily add IC Series Rotors, and update the Central Control software as enhancements become available.