MISGARAM VOLUME 92

July 2008 www.MISGA.org



At the annual meeting of the club representatives at *Prospect Bay* in April, the club reps voted to support Operation Second Chance again this year. This organization supports veterans who were wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. Photos taken at last years golf outing (still posted on the MISGA web site) show how severely wounded many of these veterans are. Last year MISGA supported Operation Second Chance with a \$5000 donation. They greatly appreciated the support of MISGA and had a wonderful time at the Operation Second Chance golf outing. This year we have established a goal of \$6000 to be achieved by voluntary donations. They need our support. Charlie Fieldhouse volunteered to lead the fund drive. I hope many MISGA Associates will donate to this most worthwhile charity. Make checks payable to MISGA Operation Second Chance and send them to Charlie Fieldhouse, 18400 Foreston Road, Parkton, MD 21120.

The Spring Fling at Williamsburg was a great success thanks to the dedication of **Dick Dale** and **Ralph Starkey**. We played at the *Golden Horseshoe*, *Yorktown National*, and *Jamestown National*, all great venues. Attendance was high and everyone seemed to like the Williamsburg location. There was much to do and see, even for the non-golfing ladies.

The Summer Frolic, formerly only for club reps and board members, will be held September 3-4 at *Carroll Valley*. This event is now open to all MISGA associates so plan now to participate. Application forms are available on the MISGA web site. This is always a fun event. As with all MISGA flings and frolics, ladies are invited to participate in both nine-hole and eighteen-hole competitions.

The internet and e-mail have become a way of life for most of us. I can't imagine how MISGA operated before we had a web site and e-mail. Communicating among sixty-two clubs divided into six divisions with many events, directors, club reps, board members, and committees is a challenge, but e-mail and our web site make it work.

Posted on our web site is the Club Representatives Handbook. I encourage everyone to read it if only to get a grasp of what a fine organization MISGA is. And, of course, all club reps and assistant reps should become familiar with its contents.

I look forward to seeing many of you at *Carroll Valley* in September.

Maryland Interclub <u>Mis</u> Seniors Golf

President Bob Turner

Association

Vice President Byron Keadle

Sec retary John Babyak

Treasurer Gary Sorrell

The **MISGA***gram* is the official newsletter of the organization mailed free to all Associates four times each year. The mission of the '*gram* is to provide information of common interest to all association members. The '*gram* also can be read at www.misga.org.

The publication months for the MISGA*gram* are: April July September December

Noteworthy events and announcement for away activities, and articles of general interest may be submitted to the editor at any time for printing. The closing dates for publication are: 15 March (April) 01 June (July) 01 September (Sept.) 10 November (Dec.)

All materials should be sent via e-mail to: hahome@verizon.net

H. A. Hanson MISGAgram Editor

Event Reminders

MISGA Tournaments

The **Past Presidents ABCD** tournament will be at *Piney Branch GC* on Monday, 04 August; the rain date is Monday, 18 August.

The **Two-Man Team** tournament will be at *Ocean Pines GC* on Thursday, 14 August; the rain date is Thursday, 21 August.

A Reminder to Associates

To help rectify a problem within MISGA of non-posting of tournament scores, the Board of Directors adopted a policy intended to encourage associates to enter their tournament scores. Henceforth, any associate who does not post his score after playing in a MISGA sponsored statewide tournament will be declared ineligible to play in a MISGA tournament the following season. A part of the non-posting policy adopted by the Board is an appeals process for extenuating circumstances. However, to help ensure that scores are posted, excuses such as "I forgot" are likely not to be accepted. The postings will be monitored to ensure that the application of this new policy is fair to all associates who participate in the tournaments. NOTE: the MISGA mixers are not considered tournaments.

2008 Frolics

Carroll Valley

The information and the application form for the Summer Frolic at *Carroll Valley Resort, PA* (03, 04 September) were printed in the April issue of the *'gram.* An invitation to all MISGA associates, a description of accommodations and costs, and an application form are posted on the MISGA web site (<u>www.misga.org</u>). If you plan to attend and do not have a copy of the April issue, a copy of the application can be downloaded from the web site. Applications must be received by 01 August. (This event is preceded by a meeting of the MISGA Board of Directors on Tuesday, 02 September.)

Fripp and Amelia Islands

The information and the application forms for the Fall Frolic at *Fripp Island, SC* (02 thru 07 November) and *Amelia Island, FL* (09 thru 14 November) also were printed in the April issue of the MISGAgram. The relevant information and the application forms also are posted on the MISGA web site. If you wish to attend, please download the application form(s) from the web site and submit them soon.

Please remember that Election Day is Tuesday, 04 November. If you intend to vote in this year's elections and are attending the Fall Frolic, you should obtain an absentee ballot.

MISGAgram Mail Opt-Out

Each month, the MISGA gram is posted on the MISGA web site (<u>www.misga.org/documents/</u>). The 'gram is formatted in Adobe .pdf which makes it easy to download and print in the same form as the mailed version. If you prefer to read the 'gram on-line, please advise your club rep who will jave you removed from the mailing list. Each copy of the MISGA gram costs about \$1 to print and mail; opting out of the mailing will save the club money.

Recently Deceased

Associate

Jack BACHKOSKY Paul BURDETT AI DERECKI George FUTCH Morris **GARNICK** Mike GAST Nelson GRILLO, Jr. Dan JONES Frank LANE AI MANN Gordon MASSEY. Jr. Bill McDANNEL Gus MISUNAS Robert **NIEMANN** Thomas **PASKALIDES** Edgar PLITT AI REMEIKIS Michael ROHRBACH AI SHUTTLEWORTH William THURMOND Bob WILLIM

<u>Club</u>

Walden USNA Tantallon Bowie Leisure World Sparrows Point Univ. of MD Easton Club Patuxent Greens Sha wnee Maple Dale Univ. of MD Maple Dale Montgomery Village Univ. of MD Rolling Road Kenwood CC Jonathan's Landing Chartwell CC Harbourtowne Maple Dale

All will be missed by their many friends and acquaintances.

Wanted: MISGA Web Master

The MISGA president is looking for a replacement for the retiring, current webmaster, Byron Keadle. Byron has served in this capacity since 2005 and feels that it is time to pass the torch to an enterprising, technically savvy computer and web site person. Of course, significant responsibility is associated with the position. He is expected to keep the web site information up to date with frequent changes and the deleting of outdated documents.

The two major duties of the Webmaster are:

- 1. To update and maintain the MISGA web site; and
- 2. To maintain and produce an annual MISGA Archive of documents having historical or administrative importance, supporting the MISGA Historian.

There are several other activities required to support these principle duties. The candidate should expect to perform document conversion, primarily from Microsoft Word (DOC) and Excel (XLS) to Adobe Acrobat (PDF). Some of his time will be spent preparing photographs for displaying on the web site. Most photographs are already in digital form, but some photographs may require color scanning.

The Webmaster will have the freedom to innovate and to develop new capabilities for the web site. For instance, a streamlined navigational scheme may be developed over time to make the web site easier to use. The new webmaster may develop a new and attractive theme for the web site, and perhaps even some interactive capabilities.

In addition to all the other benefits of the job, the Webmaster also enjoys a non-voting position on the MISGA Board of Directors and priority in attending Frolic-type events.

To indicate your interest in the Webmaster job, please notify President Bob Turner (<u>randaturner@comcast.net</u>) and Webmaster Byron Keadle (<u>b.keadle@comcast.net</u>).

Byron Keadle

Golfers: Examine Your Consciences!

Slow play - especially on public access golf courses - is strangling the game. This is not exactly hot breaking news. The traditional four-hour round is a relic of the past; five- or six-hour rounds have driven away many would-be players. Yet, oddly, no one thinks of himself or herself as part of the problem. It's always the group ahead, not me! It is rare indeed to find golfers who view themselves as slow players. Somewhere, somehow, someone must be the bottleneck. Hmm! Could it be - - YOU?

We need to ask ourselves whether we have fallen into patterns of behavior that contribute to the general slowdown. A serious self-evaluation is in order. Catholics have a ritual they perform before confessing their sins called the 'Examination of Conscience'. They mentally review their behavior since their last Confessions and identify those lapses for which they are contrite. The review takes the form of a series of questions they ask themselves, e.g., have I lied or cheated? This exercise helps individuals to recognize their own shortcomings. If golfers employ this technique to examine their own consciences to see whether they are the ones contributing to the slowdown, they, like Catholics, may discover a need to repent and reform.

This checklist permits you to see whether you should reform your approach to the game; consider it as your Golfer's *Examination of Conscience*. Be honest with yourself and draw your own conclusions.

The Golfer's Examination of Conscience:

• Am I always ready to make my shot when it's my turn?

One of the most obvious drags on the game is the lack of readiness of many players - this in spite of the frequent pleas of club pros and a host of written articles. Every piece written on the subject of pace-of-play stresses the need to get into a position to make the next shot or hit the putt. It's axiomatic: if you are not ready, you are part of the problem!

• While waiting for the group ahead to move out of range, do I tee up my ball to be ready to hit?

Just for the heck of it, watch golfers standing on a tee awaiting the group ahead to move out of range. Chances are that most of them will just stand there idly. Why not tee up your ball so that you can make your stroke immediately after the coast is clear?

• Am I aware that, if I am the rider in a powered cart, I have a shared responsibility to keep the cart moving?

Both players in a cart should assist each other. One player wandering off to leave the other in charge of a cart is a big consumer of time. The "rider" is not just a passenger being chauffeured; both driver and rider share the responsibility to keep the cart moving.

• When using a cart, do I join the others in my group on the tee so as to be ready to tee off when it is my turn?

Some players simply sit in the cart until it is their turn to tee off. This may conserve energy for the individual, but it wastes time. Get your butt out of the cart and up to the teeing ground so that you are prepared to hit when it's your turn.

• Do I diligently watch other players' shots to assist in finding their golf balls?

Some players routinely make their shots, then return to a cart or return their club to their bag, totally ignoring the play of their fellow golfers. Observing the flight of the golf balls of other players can help in locating balls quickly and saving time.

• Do I have a brief and efficient setup procedure and limit myself to one practice swing?

A good setup procedure is essential to making good shots, but it need not be elaborate or lengthy. If it consumes 30 to 60 seconds or more to complete it, you must re-train yourself to do the setup more efficiently. Discipline yourself to do with no more than one practice swing. This does not mean rushing your swing; rushing the swing is neither necessary nor recommended.

• Do I disregard "honors" when another player is clearly ready to tee off?

Realistically, albeit non-traditional, the system of "honors" makes little sense when dealing with a significant slow-down. It is more logical that the *least* talented player should tee off first since he or she is less likely to hit into the group ahead. But, be that as it may, if the player with the honor is not ready to make a stroke, the one who is ready should hit.

• Do I limit my conversations with other players to times when play is not affected?

Friendly chitchat is part of the game and contributes to making it an enjoyable social event, but it becomes a time-waster when it interrupts the flow of the game. There are inevitably times during a round when action is suspended; have your conversations then. Otherwise, save it for the clubhouse.

• Do I do my part for course maintenance, but in a quick and efficient manner?

The actions required to maintain good course conditions are built-in time-consumers. Notably those actions are replacing divots, repairing ball marks, and raking bunkers. These all take time, but are necessary. However, each player should learn to perform these actions with as little waste of time as possible.

• Do I walk briskly from shot to shot and when clearing the green?

Hardly anything is more of a drag on the pace than a shuffling gait. MOVE! Yes, some golfers, because of age or disability, are unable to walk vigorously, but younger, healthier players need to get the lead out. Brisk walking is good for you and genuinely promotes a better tempo for your game.

• If I hit a shot into an area that may be lost or out of bounds, do I hit a provisional shot rather than go directly to that area?

Even if you are pretty sure that your ball is safe, if there is any chance that it may be either out of bounds or lost, hit a provisional shot. It takes less time than returning to the point of the prior shot.

• If I am using a powered cart, do I return directly to the cart after making a shot and keep the club in my hand until I reach the next stop?

What're six or seven seconds? That's the typical time it takes to put a club back into the bag after making a shot. More time is required if cleaning or replacing a head cover is involved. Multiply that six or more seconds by the number of times it is done by a foursome and you add 15 to 20 minutes to your round. Instead hold the club until you reach your next shot or until you need to pause for a fellow player to make a shot. You will find that there is plenty of time to clean the club head, replace a head cover, and put the club back in the bag while you are waiting for a fellow player to make his or her shot.

• If my fellow player hits a shot which may be difficult to find, do I play my own shot first, then help him find his?

Action is delayed when all the players in a group join in the search for a potentially lost ball. Play is speeded up if those in a position to do so play their shots first, then help the poor soul in the woods.

• Do I park my powered cart at or near the back of the green or at the exit point from the hole?

How often have you waited in frustration when the group ahead on the green holes out, then takes two minutes or so to come BACK toward you to move a cart? If the cart is parked at the back of the green or near the exit point of the hole, the next group can prepare to hit sooner.

• If I begin to putt, do I continue putting until I hole out (as long as I do not interfere with other players)?

You've seen it often, perhaps done it yourself: play a first putt which ends up a foot or two from the hole, then mark and pick up the ball. Once you have begun to putt, if you don't make that first one, continue putting until you hole out. Clearly, if this action interferes with another player, you don't do it. But marking and lifting the ball simply takes too much extra time. Of course, remember not to rush the putt itself.

• If I am the first to hole-out, do I pick up the flagstick and extra clubs on the green?

Do not be the one who holes out first, then instantly vacates the green. A selfish act! Rather, pick up the flagstick and extra clubs and remain quiet and still while the others finish.

• After holing out, do I vacate the green swiftly?

Another frustrating experience for the group behind is to lag on the green after finishing the hole, sometimes marking the scorecard or engaging in a post mortem. Instead, once the last player has finished, promptly replace the flagstick and move rapidly off the green. The following group will be grateful.

If you answered **NO** to *any* of these questions, like it or not, YOU are one of the golfers bogging things down. Repent and reform or you will be one of the bottlenecks and you cannot blame slow play solely on that group ahead. You need to make a concerted effort to change your habits and you will help the rest of us. (You realize, of course, that WE who have written this are not slow players!!)

MISGA FLORIDA WINTER FLING

Held at the *Plantation Inn and Golf Resort* in Crystal River, Florida, from February 24 to March 1, 2008, the event was very successful. Many improvements had been made at the resort and the food was outstanding. The staff went out of their way to make everyone welcome.

The winners of Monday's <u>Mixed Scramble</u> were: 1st - Rich Boardman, *Rattlewood*; Bob Caradona, Ocean Pines; Pat Podoley, Bowie; Susan Brown, Chartwell. 2nd - Gene Horan, Bear Creek; Phil Lyons, Tantallon; Louis Perna, Cripple Creek; Gwyn Linthicum, Chartwell. 3rd - Bob Fitzgerald, Hobbits Glen; Carol Menton, Ocean Pines; Joe Eikenberg, Winter's Run; Kate Kessler, Chartwell. 4th - Buck Linthicum, Chartwell; Bob Conley, Lakewood; Dick Ris, Lakewood; Nancy McIntyre, Ocean Pines.

<u>Men's Play</u> - Tuesday 1st - Bob Kessler, Chartwell; Bill Leahy, Ocean Pines; Paul Curreri, Sparrows Point; Phil Martini, US Naval Academy. 2nd - Ralph Menton, Ocean Pines; Carter Hughlett, Harbourtowne; Felix Marucha, Rattlewood; Walter Robertson, Leisure World. 3rd Chuck Poor, Montgomery Village; Don Hilliard, Chartwell; Phil Lyons, Tantallon; Dick Ris, Lakewood. Thursday 1st - Ralph Menton, Ocean Pines; Bill Leahy, Ocean Pines; Sam Barrow, Montgomery Village; John Gale, Hobbits Glen. 2nd - Bill Stafford, Ocean Pines, Pat McAllorum, Ocean City; Bob McIntyre, Ocean Pines; Paul Curreri, Sparrows Point. 3rd - Buck Linthicum, Chartwell, Rich Boardman, Rattlewood; Tom Maxwell, Lakewood; Bill Nichols, Ocean Pines. Friday - 1st, Group A: Bob Kessler, Chartwell; Carter Hughlett, Harbourtowne; Don Hilliard, Chartwell; Bob McIntyre, Ocean Pines; Bob Conley, Lakewood. Group C: Louis Perna, Cripple Creek; Dick Ris, Lakewood; Bill Nichols, Ocean Pines; John Gale, Hobbits Glen.

<u>18-Hole Ladies Play</u> - Tuesday 1st - Dixie Hughlett, *Harbourtowne*; Kathy Fitzgerald, *Hobbits Glen*; Ann Turner, *Lakewood*; Nancy McIntyre, *Ocean Pines*. 2nd - Carol Boardmann, *Ft. Meade*; Pat Podoley, *Bowie*; Barbara Hilliard, *Chartwell*; Debbie Ris, *Lakewood*. Thursday 1st -Pat Podoley, *Bowie*; Kathy Fitzgerald, *Hobbits Glen*; Susan Brown, *Chartwell*; Nancy McIntyre, *Ocean Pines*. 2nd - Carol Boardmann, *Ft. Meade*; Ruth Lyons, *Tantallon*; Barbara Maxwell, *Lakewood*; Gwen Linthicum, *Chartwell*. Friday, 1st - Dixie Hughlett, *Harbourtowne*; Ruth Lyons, *Tantallon*; Susann Brown, *Chartwell*; Gwyn Linthicum, *Chartwell*, Gwyn Linthicum, *Chartwell*. 2nd - Pat Podoley, *Bowie*; Dorothy Gale, *Hobbits Glen*; Marion Schreyer, *Lakewood*; Sally Stafford, *Ocean Pines*.

<u>9-Hole Ladies Play</u> - Tuesday 1st - **Patty Dale**, *Seaford*; **Peggy Barrow**, *Montgomery Village*. Thursday 1st - **Marge Francis**, Sparrows *Point*; **Delores Perna**, *Cripple Creek*. Friday, all four ladies won in a scramble.

<u>Special Prizes</u>: Men's Low Gross - **Bob Kessler**, *Chartwell*; Low Net, **Jim Podoley**, *Bowie*. 18 - Hole Ladies Low Gross - **Ruth Lyons**, *Tantallon*; Low Net, **Dorothy Gale**, *Hobbits Glen*. Closest to the Pin - Men - **Buck Linthicum**, *Chartwell*; Ladies - **Nancy McIntyre**, *Ocean Pines*.

Operation Second Chance

For those of you who are not familiar with <u>Operation Second Chance</u>, there was an article in the July 2007 issue of the 'gram that described the purpose of <u>OSC</u> and set forth some of the services provided to the disabled servicemen and their families. In the December issue, there was a story and photos of last year's golf outing at *Montgomery Village*. Both of these issues of the 'gram (as are all issues) are available at the MISGA web site (<u>www.misga.org</u>). <u>Operation Second Chance</u> was organized by Ms. Cindy McGrew to provide visitation to service men and women recuperating from wounds received in Iraq and Afghanistan and it has grown into providing assistance to families and a variety of activities for those wounded service people confined to, or recuperating at, local Washington military hospitals. Regardless of what any of us may think of the police actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, those who serve there, and especially those who were wounded, deserve our support. <u>OSC</u> is an entirely voluntary operation; contributions should be sent to Charlie Fieldhouse (ref, message on first page by MISGA President, Bob Turner),

SPRING FLING-WILLIAMSBURG

Ninety-eight Golfers participated in the Spring Fling at Williamsburg, Virginia. We had three absolutely perfect, sunny days for golf with temperatures in the mid seventies in the day time and mid sixties at night. The first day at the Gold Course at Golden Horseshoe was definitely an interesting experience. The "slope rating" for this course from the white T's is 135 which means that it is very difficult. Our MISGA members said they really enjoyed the course but the average net score was 79.5, which is unusually high. The high scores may have been affected slightly by having to use "cart paths only" since there had been a very significant rainstorm the day before. Everyone should play this course at least once in their lifetime. The second day was played at the Yorktown course at Williamsburg National. The women and men played together in a format that did not involve a scramble. The third day was played on the Jamestown course at Williamsburg National that was designed by Jack Nicklaus.

Most of the non-golfing ladies took advantage of the many shopping opportunities that are available in Williamsburg. In addition, the ladies visited Berkeley Plantation which is very historical. Benjamin Harrison, son of the builder, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a three time governor of Virginia. William Henry Harrison, born at Berkeley and known as "Tippecanoe", the Indian fighter, was the ninth president of the United States. His grandson, Benjamin Harrison was the 23rd president of the United States. "Taps" was composed at Berkeley in 1862. President Lincoln reviewed the 140,000 Union Troops while staying at Berkeley. And, the most important fact for some people, is that the first Bourbon Whiskey in America was distilled at Berkeley in 1621.

This fling was set up differently than most fall and winter flings in that lodging was provided at the Crowne Plaza hotel if desired, but applicants could also arrange for their own lodging. Approximately one third of the field provided their own lodging, many of those using time-share units Prior Spring Flings had been at Ocean City; this was the first time at Williamsburg. Many of the participants expressed the opinion that this event was well organized and enjoyable and that they hoped that the Spring Fling would return to Williamsburg.

The 1st place team at the *Golden Horseshoe Gold Course* was **David Cook**, **Charlie Fieldhouse**, **Gene Horan** and **Jim Mills**. On Tuesday, the ladies played the *Golden Horseshoe Green Course* and the 1st place team was **Nancy Benner**, **Ruth Crovo**, **Alice Daino** and **Ginny Grossnickle**. On Wednesday, 14 May, play was at the *Yorktown Course* of the *Williamsburg National Golf Club*. There were two flights of players; the first flight consisted of one lady and three men for each team and the second flight teams were two ladies and two men each. The 1st place team of flight two was **Carol Boardman**, **Marilyn Horne**, **Wallace Hoff** and **Howard Taylor**. On Thursday morning, the group returned to the *Williamsburg National Golf Club* to play on the *Jamestown Course*. Both of the *Williamsburg National* courses were easier that the *Golden Horseshoe* courses with identical slopes of 121. The 1st place ladies' team on Thursday was **Barbara Shearer**, **Judy Taylor**, **Ann Turner** and **Ruby Wallgren**. The 1st place teams.

MISGA has been advised by **Chris Hartig**, Golf Director, Premier Golf, who arranged the golf events, that Premier Golf has an arrangement with "GOLF" magazine that allows a free one year subscription to all golfers that book through them. Anyone who played on the Williamsburg trip is eligible to receive this free subscription by e-mailing their name and address to chartig@virginiagolfvacations.com.

Division II Honors

At the Div II annual meeting and training session of March 26, Thomas Tarpley and Charlie Fieldhouse were honored for their long, long and continued service to MISGA, their division and their clubs. They are two men who have devoted their time for over twenty years to bettering this organization. We were told that Charlie has never missed a meeting, a frolic or a fling as long as he has been in MISGA. Not many men can say that! If MISGA ever needs anything done, these are the two men who can never say no. We don't believe that they know what the word means. Congratulations to two very deserving men.



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