



MISGAGRAM

Volume 110 – March 2012

www.misga.org

President's Message



I just returned from Florida MISGA Winter Fling at Crystal River. We stayed at the Plantation Inn and approximately 65 members participated. Weather was near 85 degrees each day. A great time was had by everyone.

Now, to the next event. The Spring Fling at Williamsburg will be held May 15 through the 17th. We are playing three of the best golf courses anywhere around. First, KingsMill, the Woods Course. The River Course where the PGA and LPGA have been played for several years. Last, but, the best of all, the Golden Horseshoe, World Class. We still have openings. Hope to see you in Williamsburg.

We still have problems with communications. At the Winter Fling, MISGA members were asking about the Spring Fling. Some had not heard any details until Dick Dale advised members of the upcoming event. We are not getting information out to our membership. It seems to me being aware and participating in our mixers and events will be our survival. Any ideas, please advise.

Annual Meeting to be held on April 9, 2012, at Prospect Bay for all the Reps. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m., with coffee and donuts. At noon, lunch to follow. Golf, if weather permits.

See you on the Course, have fun and play well.

"The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing"

Ralph E. Starkey,
President - 2012

**Maryland
Interclub
Seniors Golf
Association**

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The MISGAGRAM is the official newsletter of the organization published on the web site four times each year. The mission of the MISGAGRAM is to provide information of common interest to association members.

The MISGAGRAM can be read or downloaded at:

www.misga.org

The publication months for the MISGAGRAM are:

March

June

September

December

Noteworthy events and announcements for away activities, and articles of general interest may be submitted to the editor at any time for publishing. The closing dates for publication are:

10 March (March)

10 June (June)

20 Sept. (September)

20 Dec. (December)

All materials should be sent via e-mail to:

b.keadle@comcast.net

Byron W. Keadle
MISGAGRAM Editor

The following information was extracted from the MISGA web site:

2012 Meetings and Events

Annual Club Reps Meeting

April 9, 2012, Monday, at Prospect Bay
Coffee & Doughnuts at 9:00, Meeting at 9:30. Lunch and Golf optional.

Flings & Frolics

- Feb 26- Mar 3, Sun-Sat, Winter Fling at Crystal River, FL
- May 15 - 17, Tue - Thu - Spring Fling, Williamsburg, VA
- Sep. 12 -13, Wed - Thurs, Summer Frolic TBD
- Fall Frolic TBD

For more information, go to the [Frolics and Flings Page](#)

Championship Tournaments

- Thursday, September 6, 2012 (Rain Date 9/27) Two-Man Team, Norbeck C.C., DIV IV.
- Tuesday, August 14, 2012 (Rain 8/28) Past Presidents ABCD, Talbot C.C., DIV III.

For more information, see [Tournament Information and Division Schedule](#)

2012 Board Meetings

March 20, Tues.	Hobbit's Glen	Board Meeting Coffee and doughnuts at 9:30, meeting at 10:00 Golf following the meeting if weather suitable.
Sep 11, Tues.	TBD	Board Meeting
Dec. 4, Tues.	Caroline	Board Meeting Coffee and Doughnuts at 9:30, Meeting at 10:00 Lunch and Golf optional

Most Important & Relevant Changes to the Rules of Golf for 2012-2015

The USGA Rules of Golf were amended on January 1, 2012, and these new rules will be in effect through 2015. Most of the changes are relatively minor. But a few changes will possibly impact normal play.

Ball Moving after Address - Rule 18-2b:

Previously, if your ball moved (usually occurring on the green, of course) for virtually any reason, after you addressed the ball, you incurred a one-stroke penalty and had to replace the ball.

Under the Rule revision, an exception has been added to the Rule to remove the stroke penalty "if it is virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to move". The entire change means that IF WIND moves your ball after address (see new definition of address, below), you incur NO PENALTY. The change also requires you to PLAY THE BALL WHERE IT LIES. You do not replace the ball.

(A good change, huh – the wind part, not the play where it lies part, unless the ball was blown nearer the hole.)

But for some reason, the USGA did not change the Rule regarding the situation where gravity moves your ball. Decision 18-2b/11 states that gravity is not included in those situations which are certain that the player did not cause his ball to move. This means that IF GRAVITY moves your ball after address, you still incur a STROKE PENALTY and have to REPLACE THE BALL.

It's not easy to understand why the USGA decided that gravity is not similar to wind as an outside factor (not caused by the player) that moves your ball. Oh, well.

Addressing the Ball - Definitions:

Previously, you were deemed to have addressed the ball after you took your stance and grounded your club. Under the new definition, you have ADDRESSED the ball WHEN YOU HAVE GROUNDED YOUR CLUB, EITHER IN FRONT OF OR BEHIND THE BALL, REGARDLESS OF whether you took a STANCE. Now, stance is not a part of the definition of addressing the ball.

Ball in Hazard: Prohibited Actions - Rule 13-4, Exception 2:

Previously, if your ball was in a bunker, you could not smooth the sand until after your stroke was taken.

Under the Rule's revised exception 2, YOU MAY NOW SMOOTH/RAKE THE SAND BEFORE (as well as after) YOU TAKE YOUR STROKE.

Well, well. The USGA finally figured out that taking a stance in a bunker gives players enough "testing" of the sand so as to make any raking information irrelevant, and that therefore, conscientious players can be permitted to "care for the course" by possibly smoothing more of the footprints in bunkers which clueless/lazy golfers left behind. (Another good change, huh.)

To get/see the new Rules of Golf, 2012-2015, contact the USGA, at USGA.org.

- Dick Crone, MISGA Rules and Handicap Chairman

NECROLOGY

WILLIAM "BILL" BLOOMER

The death of William "Bill" Bloomer of Glenelg, MD is noted. Bill was a long time supporter and member of MISGA. He was a former member of West Winds CC and Holly Hills CC. He was a former Assistant Rep and a large presence on the golf course. Bill entertained with humorous stories, real or imagined, especially about his early life on the farm in the Cumberland area. He is survived by his wife, Nancy. Bill will be missed.

-- Tom Tarpley

JOHN GARDNER

John Gardner died of a heart attack on February 28 while on a skiing vacation with friends in Utah. John truly enjoyed playing golf in the Patuxent Greens SMGA last year and as many of you know, he was a regular throughout the off season as well. John was 58.

-- Mike Callahan

CARMI SAYLER

Carmi was an active MISGA member for many years in DIV. II. He served as Assistant Rep and Rep at Glade Valley; he also controlled the purse strings. He was adamant that his name was not Carmine, but Carmi and that his last name was Sayler, not Saylor. He will be missed by the folks from Glade Valley, the Division, and those that appreciated his dedication to MISGA. See you on that big course in the sky!

-- Tom Tarpley

On behalf of the 72 members of the Glade Valley Golf Club MISGA, I would like to express our sympathy on the passing of our friend, Carmi. As you know, he was a long time member and leader of our group, both formally and informally. He took many new members under his wing and counseled them on the "MISGA way." His sage advice, wisdom, and dry wit will be missed by all. He did much to enrich our lives and the senior golfing experience at Glade Valley. May all of his future scores be "pars" and "birdies."

-- Earl F. Miller, Jr.

THE "WORD"

This is a special message for all MISGA associates. We have become aware that the "word" has not been reaching everyone in MISGA. We are constantly surprised at routine mixers when we mention the various SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, and WINTER FLINGS that some MISGA members are not even aware of these events. We feel that many MISGA associates are missing out on excellent golf outings because of weak communications.

This particular message discusses the SPRING FLING in Williamsburg, Virginia. Many associates consider the flings to be for couples where both the husband and wife play golf. However, at Williamsburg, over the past four years, we are getting a steadily increasing number of associates with wives who don't play golf. We had 31 non-golfers this year. The "word" is slowly getting out. It is a win/win situation. The MISGA member gets to play up-scale golf courses and his wife can have an equally good time with other non-golfing wives exploring Williamsburg. Of course, we also have many golf playing couples.

The Williamsburg golf courses are outstanding and we have been averaging 90 golfers. However, we have room for 120 golfers and are always looking for additional golfers. The more golfers that attend, the lower the price that we can negotiate each year. We have tried to keep the cost at a very minimum. The fall and winter flings are five day events at resort areas, and therefore, of necessity, are slightly more expensive. The SPRING FLING at Williamsburg is only a two night/three day event. We encourage each entrant to obtain their own lodging, at their desired expense level. Many rent time shares. In addition, we only have one banquet meal which further reduces costs.

The golf courses for 2012 (May 15, 16, 17) include the Woods course at Kingsmill, the River course at Kingsmill and the Gold course at Golden Horseshoe. These are all top notch courses. Without exception, the entire field said that we must play the Woods course again. The river course at Kingsmill has been used by both the PGA and the LPGA in the past. And of course, the Gold Course at Golden Horseshoe is the crown jewel in the Williamsburg area and is one of the most picturesque courses in the world.

If you are interested, you can get more information at www.misga.org or by calling Dick Dale (302-629-7322) (dickdale@verizon.net) or Ralph Starkey (410-479-2968)(ralph.starkey@comcast.net)

2012 MISGA SPRING FLING

Williamsburg, Virginia

TUE, MAY 15 (ARRIVAL)--THUR, MAY 17 (DEPARTURE)

The 2012 SPRING FLING will again be held in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia which is located about 2.5 to 3 hours south of Washington, DC. This will be our fifth consecutive year in Williamsburg. Each year the weather has been ideal with temperatures in the 70's in the daytime and mid 60's at night. It is a prime time! That fact combined with the excellent golf courses makes Williamsburg an irresistible place in mid-May. We will be playing three different golf courses: The Woods Course at Kingsmill, the River Course at Kingsmill, and the Gold Course at Golden Horseshoe. We played the Woods course last year for the first time and the response was overwhelming that everyone wanted to play it again. The other two courses are premier courses in Williamsburg. The River Course has played host to both the PGA and the LPGA tours. The Gold Course, of course, is rated as one of the top 20 public courses in the US. Participation will be limited to 120 golfers.

The SPRING FLING is handled a little differently than the fall/winter flings which are full resort events for a week. We have tried to keep costs to a minimum, but play top-notch golf courses. A central hotel has not been set up since we have found that many people have time shares or want to use less expensive hotels and get points on their personal cards. Williamsburg has a large selection of accommodations. You may want to check out www.williamsburgvacations.com, or call 1-866-341-4866, for discount rates, using a special promo code "MISGA" for accommodations at hotels or condos and for discounted tickets to Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens etc. with their reservation. Many of these are one or two bedroom condos that can be rented for one or two nights even though you may not be a member of a timeshare organization. (Many people rented time shares and stayed for the entire week. They used the MISGA games for the heart of their week and then scheduled additional golf games for the other days.) The location you select in Williamsburg is not critical since the three golf courses are located within a few miles of downtown Williamsburg.

Golf shotgun start times are projected to be 1:00 PM on Tuesday, 8:30 AM on Wednesday and 9:00 AM on Thursday. Games will be typical MISGA team games. There will be no scrambles for the men.

We have seen a steadily increasing number of MISGA golfers with non-golfing wives at the Spring Fling (31 in 2011!). The ladies seem to have a very good time in Williamsburg. There will be a welcoming luncheon for the non-golfing ladies.

Dinner on Wednesday night will be an informal indoor picnic with four different meat choices and will be held at the Crowne Plaza and is included in the package price. Other than the Wednesday night dinner, we have not scheduled any other meals, since there are such a large variety of excellent and different restaurants in the Williamsburg area, including several in the historic area.

The basic package price includes three rounds of golf, golf prizes, one dinner, and one luncheon for the non-golfing ladies.

MISGA associates must submit a REGISTRATION FORM accompanied by a check for payment in full to the address on the form. (Forms are available at WWW.MISGA.ORG) If you cannot access MISGA.ORG, or don't have e-mail, contact either Dick Dale (302-629-7322) or Ralph Starkey (410-479-2968) to get an application form. Entries close April 15.

MISGA 2012 Winter Fling

For the ninth year, the Winter Fling was held at the Plantation Inn & Golf Resort in Crystal River, Florida. We had 58 18-hole golfers (36 men and 22 women), two 9-hole golfers, and 12 non-golfers. Except for the unwelcome rain on Monday, the weather was ideal for northerners looking to escape the snow (what snow?). The whole week was well organized by Nancy and Bob McIntyre, as usual. For this year, the golfing activity was coordinated by Laura and Bill Thomson of Ocean Pines (of course). The Thomsons replaced the Mentons, who retired to Florida after the 2011 Winter Fling.

Jim Beisler, Director of Division V, thanked the McIntyres & Mentons for their service in running the Winter Fling since 2004.



Bob & Nancy McIntyre, Carol & Ralph Menton, Jim Beisler

The new management team for 2013 will be Laura & Bill Thomson, who replaced the Mentons for 2012, and Connie and Jim Phipps, who will replace the McIntyres.



Laura & Bill Thomson, Connie & Jim Phipps

The Ocean Pines folks outnumbered all other clubs combined, as usual.

MISGA Winter Fling – February 26 to March 3, 2012
 Plantation Inn Golf Resort, Crystal River, Florida



Entrance



Inn



Pool Area

[ZOOM FOR LARGER PICTURES – 300 to 400 %]

Tuesday, February 28 – Mixed Scramble – No Restrictions



1st – Sid Hochstein, Bob Conley
 Laura Thomson, Bob McIntyre



2nd – Bob Turner, Dennis Medlock
 Gail Lynch, Ron Olszewski



3rd – Jim Phipps, Sally Stafford
 David Melocik, John Gale



4th – Jim Beisler, Ralph Menton
 Bobbie Maxwell, Gene Horan



Uh-oh! Let's just let him keep the ball. It's not like balls cost an arm and a leg.

Thursday, March 1 – Stableford (Men), Best Drive, play own ball in (Women)



1st – Nelson Fenwick, Rich Boardman
 John Gale, Gene Horan



2nd – Ron Rider, Patrick McAllorum
 Bob Kessler, Bob Conley



3rd – Bob Garrick, Jim Phipps
 Joe Lynch, Carter Hughlett



1st – Dixie Hughlett, Dorothy Gale
 Rose Olszewski, Sally Stafford



2nd – Frankie Gomsak, Sandy Garrick
 Page Medlock, Natalie Fenwick (blind)



9-Holers – Nancy McIntyre, Marie Zaia



Young White Ibis



Clears – Karl Brown, Gene Horan
Ralph Starkey, Dick Dale



White Ibis



Diane & Paul Bowersox, Bob & Ann Turner, Bobbie & Tom Maxwell,
Barbara & Gene Horan



Bob & Miriam Conley



Page & Dennis Medlock, Bob & Ann Turner, Sandra & Sid Hochstein



Carol & Rich Boardman

**Friday, March 2 – Men & Women play same format
3 BB (Holes 1-6), 2 BB (Holes 7-12), 1 BB (Holes 13-18)**



Flt 1 – Bill Stafford, Bob Turner,
Paul Bowersox, Bill Thomson



Flt 2 – Nelson Fenwick, Rich Boardman,
Joe Lynch, Dick Dale



Flt 3 – John Gale, Bob Garrick
Jim Beisler, Bob Kessler



Flt 1 – Kathy Fitzgerald, Carol Boardman
Norma Kessler, Sandy Garrick



Flt 2 – Janet Bowersox, Bobbie Maxwell
Frankie Gomsak, Laura Thomson



9-Holers – Nancy McIntyre, Marie Zaia



Low Gross – Carolyn Neal, Gene Horan
Low Net – Dick Dale, Frankie Gomsak



Clears – Bill Stafford, Gene Horan, Jim
Beisler, Mike Zaia, Dave Stevens



CTP – Kathy Fitzgerald, Frank Phillips



Common Moorhen



Great Blue Heron



Manatee

49th Wedding Anniversary



Sid and Sandra Hochstein

Fixing MISGA

During the past several years, there have been numerous suggestions aimed at improving the MISGA experience.

SLOW PLAY

1. For shotgun starts, put two groups on the par 3s and only one group on the following hole.
2. Continuous Putting – All putting lanes have already been stepped on by previous groups.
3. Mixed Tees – Some want shorter courses and some want longer courses. The obvious solution is to use “mixed tees.” If course handicaps follow the USGA guidance, then it will be an equitable competition.
4. Ready Golf! – Hit when ready, but watch everybody’s balls.
5. DQ – This is rather severe and can have the opposite of the intended effect. It may drive people away from mixers rather than speeding play. Of course, smaller fields will then play faster.

ENJOYMENT

1. Mixed Tees – With multiple tee options, one can choose the set of tees most suitable for his or her enjoyment.
2. Shorter Courses – Makes the game faster as well as more enjoyable.
3. Follow Golf Rules – You’ll really feel better about yourself! Try it.

CHEATING

It is doubtful whether cheating can ever be eliminated. Cheating is as ingrained in the game as gambling.

1. Eliminate prize money – If there is no prize or money involved, then cheating won’t matter and everyone can play by his own “interpretation” of the rules.

TOO EXPENSIVE

1. No Open Bars at Events – Non-drinkers shouldn’t be charged for others’ drinks.
2. Cut back on lunch to Soup & Sandwich Bar – We don’t need big meals in mid-afternoon.
3. Hold Fewer Mixers
4. Schedule Closer clubs – reduce traveling time and expense.

Let’s have more suggestions for making MISGA Mixers/Events a more enjoyable experience for all skill/age/sex levels.
