

MISGA

GRAM

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www.MISGA.org



Our MISGA golf season is over until spring, but this is the time of year when planning for 2008 takes place. Your club rep is planning the schedule for 2008, and the Board is working on numerous projects to improve an already great organization.

One of the projects being considered is the compilation of a master list of e-mail addresses of all MISGA Associates. Most Associates have an e-mail address now, and a master list will enable the MISGA leadership to communicate to Associates matters of interest and importance. Also a master list will enable Division Directors to communicate to Associates within the division. Most club reps already communicate to their Associates by e-mail, so this is a logical expansion of our ability to communicate. There are some

hurdles to overcome (such as privacy issues and spam filters), but every Associate should provide his e-mail address when requested.

MISGA has an excellent web site, maintained by Byron Keadle of Patuxent Greens. If you haven't visited the web site, give it a try. It contains a great deal of information: history, old MISGAGrams, leadership listings, maps to clubs, directories, forms, by-laws, schedules, event photos, tournament results, and Board minutes.

During the past year, several clubs experimented with different formats to spice up the mixers. A couple of clubs tried playing in threesomes with the single best ball scoring. This speeded up play as well as introduced an interesting format. Other techniques to speed up play that were used successfully included placing time limits on play to qualify for prize money. One club required a foursome to complete play in 4 ½ hours to qualify. Suffice to say, play picked up. A new format is being considered for use in Division II for the ABCD Division II qualifier. You are going to see some interesting changes as the year progresses.

Events that are fun to participate in are the annual frolics. If you have not played in them in the past, make it a point to do so in 2008. These events are the **Winter Frolic** in Florida at *Crystal River* in late February over five days, the **Spring Frolic** at *Williamsburg* in May for three days, the **Summer Frolic** at *Carroll Valley* for two days in September, and the **Fall Frolics** at *Seabrook* and *Amelia Island* for four days each in November. Ladies have their own competition at these events, so everyone can participate. The *Carroll Valley* event, formerly restricted to club reps, has been opened up to all MISGA Associates.

I'll see many of you at the Winter Fling in Crystal River in February. When you see me, say hello!

Bob Turner, President

OPERATION SECOND CHANCE

MARYLAND INTERCLUB SENIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION (MISGA) HITS ONE OUT OF THE BALL PARK WITH THE BASES LOADED (OR A HOLE IN ONE) ON THE DAY OF A BIG TOURNAMENT!

During my membership in MISGA, two events are paramount in demonstrating the charitable aspects of this organization. The first was **Charles Fieldhouse** collecting for the September 11th disaster and now our partial funding of the Operation Second Chance Golf Tournament held October 1st in Montgomery County Md. This year the event was held at *Montgomery Village Golf Club*.

We were not the major sponsor but we did have an impact. As you will notice in the photos, MISGA signage is evident. As liaison, I played in a six-some consisting of **Ralph Starkey**, our President, **Tom Taylor**, Div. II Assistant Director, and **Frank Bennett** from Div 4. (The vice president and director from Div. 4 had previous commitments). We were blessed to have **Lt. Joe Bogart**, a seriously wounded veteran of Iraq, and his Seeing Eye companion, Gillian. Joe was happy to show he was an army engineer by removing his sunglasses and showing his prosthesis (right eye) with a nice engineering insignia in the central area. He has minimum vision in his remaining eye. Joe has been in Walter Reed for over a year. In fact, he should be home in Missouri now. He has chosen to stay in the army. Our prayers are that he can.

What a day of laughs we had. It was difficult to take advantage of Joe, but I certainly tried. Our group played so badly we had to use his shots and putts numerous times. We gave no quarter nor did he. There were numerous wounded vets playing -- leg, arm and hand prostheses were evident. Our service people have a great attitude. We treasure and honor these vets for giving so much for us.

We (MISGA) as a group owe so much to so few and their families. There is much to be done and as Joe indicated plenty of time for crying a bit, but a lot more time for laughing and forging ahead.

As part of MISGA, I want to thank Joe & Gillian and all his comrades in uniform for a magnificent day and a chance to share a moment in their lives. Our many thanks to president and founder of Operation Second Chance, **Cindy McGrew**, for your work and I hope that MISGA can once more participate with you in this outstanding mission.

*Tom Tarpley
Director Division II, MISGA*



Cindy gets a big kiss from Gillian, Joe's Companion and guide



Tom Tarpley, Joe Bogart and Gillian on putting green.



As is evident from these several pictures taken by Tom at the golf outing arranged by **Cindy McGrew** and *Operation Second Chance*, a prosthesis is hardly a handicap for a determined golfer with a positive, can-do attitude. Firmly planted feet, good balance, a smooth swing, and a full follow-through are still important whether you have all your original body parts or not. Most important of all is attitude. The accomplishments and attitude of these disabled servicemen should be kept in mind when we duff a few shots or shoot a couple of strokes over our handicap. A positive attitude is worth a bunch and there are some things that can be a bit more

aggravating than bugging a shot or missing a putt.

Cindy McGrew and her team of volunteers and all of the sponsors of this event deserve much praise for providing these men with the opportunity to hone their skills on the golf course. We, MISGA, should be pleased and proud that we were able to help, even in a small way, to make these gentlemen's lives a bit more interesting. Many thanks to **Tom Tarpley** for getting MISGA involved and to the MISGA board which helped sponsor this event.

We do not know the names of these young men pictured here or where they are from. What we do know of them is that they are not about to let their misfortune interfere with enjoyment of a round of golf. They display good balance, form and follow-through despite the artificial limbs. Most important is their determination not to let their handicaps interfere with getting on with their lives.



Honorable Mention



HOLE-IN-ONE Congratulations to *Bretton Woods Country Club* associate **Jasdip Singh** who made his first hole-in-one at hole no. 5 at *Lakewood* on 09 October. Jasdip used a 5-iron for his ace on the 156-yard, par-3 hole.

HOLE-IN-ONE Another *Bretton Woods Country Club* associate, **Keith Keary** (photo on left), made a hole-in-one at the Fall Fling at *Amelia Island, Ocean Links* on 06 November. The 18th hole is 105 yards to an island green. Congratulations Keith!

Fall Frolic at Amelia Island



The 22 happy folks pictured above were first time Frolic attendees. They were part of the MISGA gang that took advantage of the *Amelia Island* golf package.

2008 Schedule Information

Please note: The golf committee of *Piney Branch Golf Club* has approved **Monday, 04 August 2008** for the next A-B-C-D Past Presidents' Tournament. Please mark your calendars. A rain date will be set after resolution of scheduling conflicts.

Recently Deceased

Associate

Bill BASS
Robert BUNKER
Willard DERRICK
Mike DROBOTAN
Bill GREINER
Alfred MANN
Bill MC DANDEL
Allen SHUTTLEWORTH
David SILLS, Dr.

Club

Eagle Creek
Sussex Pines
Manor
Eagle Creek
Harbourtowne
Shawnee
Univ. of MD
Naval Academy
Shawnee

2008 MISGA SPRING FLING

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

TUESDAY, MAY 13 (ARRIVAL)—THURSDAY, MAY 15 (DEPARTURE)

The 2008 Spring Fling will be held in colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Williamsburg is located about 2.5 to 3 hours South of Washington, DC. We will be playing three excellent and different golf courses: *Williamsburg National Yorktown Course*, *Williamsburg National Jamestown Course* and the *Golden Horseshoe* course. Participation is guaranteed for the first 120 golfers. If there happen to be more entries than that, there will need to be enough additional entries to permit a shotgun start on a second course. This generally requires 40 additional golfers. (This is kind of like the infamous medicare doughnut hole.) Applications will only be accepted from MISGA members that have paid dues this year. All guests must provide a credit card at check-in at the hotel.

Accommodations will be provided at *Crowne Plaza* which is a large hotel/motel located approx. 3 miles from the historic area. This motel has the normal amenities associated with a large hotel including an indoor and an outdoor pool.

Golf: Shotgun-start times are projected to be 1:00 PM on Tuesday, 12:30 PM on Wednesday and 9:00 AM on Thursday. Projected games include standard best two balls of four on Tuesday (Men's Flight and Women's flight); best two balls of four on Wednesday (men and women combined using the format that worked very successfully at Bay Club); and best two balls of four using the Hastings Hybrid system on Thursday (A & B players play their own ball and the C & D players select the best drive of the foursome and then play their own ball). There will be no scrambles. If there are enough (minimum of four) ladies to make a nine-hole group, we will try to set up a special playing time for them, if possible.

Since the hotel/motel is not located at the golf courses (although the courses are all within five miles), we have set up a special meeting room for the non-golfing ladies on arrival day. They can all get together at the motel at approx. 11:00 to 11:30 AM on Tuesday (having been dropped off by their golf nut husbands on the way to the golf course). They can have a leisurely lunch and then a bus will take them to a Plantation home for a tour at approx. 2:00 PM. When they return from the tour, they can continue to either socialize in the meeting room or proceed with check-in for their own personal room. On Wednesday morning, they can have a leisurely breakfast with their husband/golfers. After their husbands leave to play at the addictive game of golf, they can take a swim or use the shuttle service at the hotel to investigate Williamsburg. The variety of possibilities is too large to list but certainly includes the outlet stores, the historical area and the pottery. Logistics for the non-golfing ladies on checkout day are still being worked out, but we would like to be able to deliver the ladies to the golf course at approx. 1:00 PM so they can listen to their husband's tales of woe.

Dinner on Tuesday night will be held at the *Crowne Plaza* and is included in the package price. We have not scheduled any meals on Wednesday since there are such a large variety of excellent and different restaurants in the Williamsburg area, including several in the historic area. The hotel does provide an excellent breakfast buffet (\$10) if desired. On Thursday morning, we have included the breakfast buffet at the hotel since there is an early tee time on departure day.

In **summary**, the package price will include two nights lodging, three rounds of golf, one dinner and one breakfast, plus a plantation tour for the non-golfing ladies.

Official rates and applications will be posted on the MISGA.ORG web site in early December. (Because the final contract is not signed and the MISGAGRAM publishing deadlines, this article is being prepared before the registration forms are available.) Expected cost is approx. \$435 per golfer with two golfers in the room (\$870 per couple). A couple with a non-golfing lady will be approx. \$100 to \$150 less. MISGA associates must submit a **REGISTRATION FORM** accompanied by a check for payment in full to the address on the form. If you cannot access MISGA.ORG, contact **Dick Dale** (302-629-7322) or **Ralph Starkey** (410-479-2968) to get an application form. **Entries will close April 1.**

Dick Dale

News from Home (for the snowbirds)

It is not news that the O'Malley administration has decided to increase taxes in Maryland under the premise that there is a budget shortfall of \$1.7B. At the special session of the legislature called by Governor O'Malley to address this issue, there have been several proposals for ways to increase Maryland tax revenues. Of particular interest to many MISGA associates is the one that directly addresses the "snowbirds". This proposed provision would define a Maryland resident as someone who lives in the state three (3) or more months, rather than the six (6) months under current law. Anyone defined as a 'resident' is subject to Maryland income tax.

The proponents of this provision claim that persons who spend most of the year in lower tax states, mostly in the Sun Belt, don't carry their share of the tax burden. They further claim that the "snowbird" provision would raise as much as an additional \$60M. Opponents of the proposed measure contend that this provision unfairly targets retirees, many of whom are on fixed incomes. Whether this proposed provision to tax "snowbirds" will be adopted by the legislature is unknown at the time we are going to press. The "snowbird" provision was mentioned briefly in the *Baltimore Sun* on 10 November. There is no further information in the *Sun* or on the web site of the Maryland Legislature..

SENIOR MISGA MEMBERS AT PATUXENT GREENS C.C. ACQUIRE AED

Patuxent Greens Country Club and the senior members put in place in September 2007 the ultimate benefits package: a "Heart Safe" Country Club program. The aim of this program is to make early defibrillation available in cardiac emergency. The Senior MISGA group at *Patuxent Greens* purchased the AED for use at *Patuxent Greens Country Club*. Subsequently, both the Ladies and Men's Golf Associations each contributed approximately one-third of the acquisition and training costs.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) can happen anywhere, anytime. SCA is usually caused by an electrical malfunction that makes the heart quiver ineffectively. CPR is not enough. It is a temporary measure that helps maintain blood flow to the brain. A lifesaving pulse of electricity, defibrillation, is the only treatment and must be delivered quickly to restore the heart's normal rhythm. Because every minute counts when sudden cardiac arrest strikes, the management of *Patuxent Greens Country Club* has placed a 'LIFEPAK' Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from *Cardiac Science* in a key location in the clubhouse. Eighteen employees and members have been trained in CPR and the use of the AED. These trained responders will be prepared to use an AED during an emergency, with confidence.



Every one of us at *Patuxent Greens* can make a lifesaving difference in a medical emergency by immediately notifying the clubhouse. This vital first step will quickly send trained responders to the scene.

Please join us in spreading the word to colleagues and your respective golf clubs about our new "Heart Safe" AED program and information about how you too can obtain an AED.

Photo shows (l. to r.) **Milton Zepp**, Master Instructor; **Bradford Bean**, General Manager of *Patuxent Greens C.C.*; and **Carl Ridenour**, MISGA Club Rep.

*Mike Lavelle, President
Patuxent Greens Senior Men's Golf Association*

We take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a joyous and safe holiday season. May you have a healthy, happy and prosperous 2008 and at least two strokes off your handicap..

Dear MISGA Associate:

The recent increase in US postal rates has substantially affected the costs of distributing the MISGAgram to all Associates. In an attempt to overcome the substantial cost increase, the 'gram is now being distributed as 'pre-sorted' US mail. (Previous issues had been distributed as first class mail with return requested for undelivered copies.) Even with this change, distribution costs are still a substantial part of the MISGA state budget. (There are over 4,000 MISGA Associates and the cost to MISGA for mailing the quarterly issues is still several thousand dollars each year.) In an attempt to reduce costs further, Associates are being asked to access the quarterly MISGAgram on the MISGA web site at www.misga.org. If a hard copy of the 'gram is desired, it can be downloaded from the MISGA web site and printed on your local printer.

The MISGAgram publication schedule for **2008** is **April, July, September, and December**. Each issue should be available on the MISGA web site the first week of each publication month. Mail delivery of each issue for those who elect to continue to receive the 'gram by will be approximately a week later. (US pre-sort mail is low priority and takes 7 to 10 days (or more) after receipt by the US Post Office.)

If you wish not to receive the MISGAgram by mail, please complete the following form and give it to your local club Rep. Please don't forget to provide your e-mail address. The e-mail address will be very helpful to the local MISGA club, the District administration and the state MISGA organization. Yes, we have requested this information before. We now feel we are ready to move further into the electronic age and serve you more efficiently, while saving money on mailing costs. If you do nothing, you will still receive the 'gram via the US mail. If you opt into viewing the MISGAgram on the MISGA web site, you will help the organization save the mailing costs. If an Associate, after trying the internet, **changes his mind, he can OPT OUT of the plan** by notifying his local club Rep.

DISCONTINUE (STOP) mailing the hardcopy of the MISGAGRAM.
I will download the MISGAGRAM from the MISGA Web Site.

Club Name _____

Associates Name _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Signature _____

Please sign and return this form to your local club Rep

NOTE: This form is printed on the inside back cover of the December 2007 issue of the MISGAgram. Please remove and give the **entire back cover** (with the above information completed) to your club Rep. The outside back cover contains your current mailing address and some additional information that may be useful in the event there are any questions.

Thank you for you cooperation!!!

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