



MISGAGRAM

Volume 113 – December 2012

www.misga.org

President's Message



I look forward to serving as President this next year and I would like to accentuate the positive in MISGA. Too often, we focus on our shortcomings, forgetting how much positive work is done to provide an enjoyable golf experience for our 3,500 members.

So I want to start off the New Year by thanking all of the volunteers who are the heart and soul of this organization. Key to our success is the dedication of the club reps and assistant reps. Hours are devoted to establishing schedules, running mixers, and signing up new members. The more than 60 clubs that are members of MISGA organize over 300 mixers a year, a truly amazing accomplishment.

Then there is all of the work that goes into MISGA as a statewide organization. Volunteers serve on the Board, run our tournaments, handle the finances, maintain rosters, publish our newsletter, and keep us abreast of rules changes and handicap issues.

I also want to thank outgoing President Ralph Starkey for his tireless leadership and dedication to MISGA. This was the second time he has served us as President.

The golf industry nationwide has been through a tough couple of years. Hard economic times have taken a toll on golf clubs. Membership is down, and we have lost some clubs. But MISGA is still a large and vibrant organization. We need to continue to focus on providing the best possible golf experience to those who participate in our events.

I urge clubs and divisions to continue to experiment with their mixers. Try new formats and shorter courses. Get feedback from your members on what works and doesn't work. And share that information with other clubs.

Our membership loves the game of golf. We want to make sure that they also love to play in our events.

For the New Year, lift your glasses, give thanks for our ability to play this fabulous game, and prepare for an exciting season ahead.

Mike Urquhart
Kenwood Golf and Country Club

2013 MISGA Championship Tournaments

Championship	Location	Date	Rain Date
Past Presidents (ABCD)	Norbeck (Div IV) Rockville, MD	Monday August 19, 2013	TBA
2-Man Team	Prospect Bay (Div III) Grasonville, MD	Monday August 26, 2013	Monday September 9, 2013

NECROLOGY

Recent Deaths not previously reported in the MISGAGRAM

Maryland Interclub Seniors Golf Association

President
Mike Urquhart

Vice President
Jim Beisler

Secretary
John Babyak

Treasurer
Dick Schwinger

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

John "Jack" Devault



MISGA has lost another of its former workers. "Jack" Devault died at the age of 82. Jack has not been active for a number of years, having ill health but for those who remember, he served as Assistant Rep and Rep at West Winds before moving to Holly Hills. He then was the Division Assoc. Chair from 2001-2004. Jack was dedicated to MISGA and remained in touch and promoted our organization. He will be missed by his friends and family. May you be able to resume play of the game you loved and respected when you get to that big golf course in the sky.

-- Submitted by his friend Tom Tarpley

George Bolton

Another of our members, George Bolton, passed away on Wednesday, October 24. His obituary was published in the Frederick News Post today, October 30. George is survived by his wife, Sally, two children, and two grand children. George was a very good golfer and always a joy to be in his foursome. We at Glade Valley will miss him.

-- Earl Miller, Glade Valley Rep

2013 Upcoming Frolics & Flings

Winter Fling	Feb. 25 – Mar. 3, 2013	Crystal River, FL
Spring Fling	May 14-16, 2013	Williamsburg, VA
Summer Frolic	Sept. 11-12, 2013	Heritage Hills, York, PA

GREEN JACKET PRESENTATION
TO RALPH STARKEY
AT MANOR CC CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
December 11, 2012



Kay & Ralph Starkey, Tom Tarpley

Kay & Ralph Starkey, C.J. Myers, Tom Tarpley

It all started on the eastern shore. It was a dark and stormy night when the golf courses were closed.... But, I digress for a moment – and explain that there is no truth, absolutely no truth, to the rumor that he is responsible for the current condition of our postal service.

Ralph was born in the town of Centerville, MD in 1934 and immediately was denied membership in the Chester River Yacht and Country Club. He graduated from high school and attended Washington College. He served in the U. S. Army, was stationed in Germany and honorably discharged in 1956. He married Kay, has one son and two granddaughters, and is affectionately known as “Poppy.”

Ralph was employed by the U. S. Postal Service for 39 years – starting as a carrier and retiring as Postmaster of Easton in 1996. Ralph was active in the National Association of Postmasters, serving as president for two terms, and as the National Vice-President, representing Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey.

He is supposed to carry a single digit handicap (personally, I have never seen it). He has been active in organized golf since his retirement: Past President of MISGA and Free State and current President of MISGA – a two-time loser/or winner, if you prefer. Ralph has been a member of MISGA for 23 years, serving as Assistant Rep and Rep for Caroline Country Club for 20 years, President of Caroline C. C. in 1994-2010-2011, and President of MISGA in 2007 and 2012.

He was instrumental in moving the Spring Fling from Ocean City to the popular venue in Williamsburg, VA.

MISGA plays a major roll in his golf life. He should be recognized for his devotion, leadership, and demonstrated sportsmanship to and for the game of golf.

It was an honor to present the Green Jacket to Ralph Starkey. His wife, Kay, assisted in the ceremony.

-- Tom Tarpley, Past Presidents’ Ad Hoc Committee Chairman

2013 MISGA SPRING FLING

Williamsburg, Virginia

Tuesday May 14 (Arrival) ___ Thursday May 16 (Departure)

The **2013 SPRING FLING** will again be in Williamsburg Virginia, which is about a 2.5 to 3 hour drive south of Washington DC. Each year the weather has been ideal with the temperatures in the 70's in the daytime and mid 60's at night. The great weather and the excellent golf courses make Williamsburg the perfect location in mid May. We will be playing three different course: **Traditions at Stonehouse, Kingsmill Woods Course** and the **Golden Horseshoe Gold Course**. This will be first time we have played Stonehouse and the other two are back by popular demand. All three are excellent courses!

A central hotel was not set up since many people like to use their time-shares or want to use less expensive hotels to get points on their credit cards. There is a wide variety of lodgings in Williamsburg with something to fit every taste and budget. Check out www.williamsburgvacations.com for lodgings at hotels, suites, condos and bed and breakfasts plus discount tickets for the area attractions. The location is not critical since all three courses are within a few miles of downtown Williamsburg.

Shotgun starts times are scheduled for **1:00 PM on Tuesday 14th, 8:30 AM Wednesday 15th** and **9:00 AM Thursday 16th**. Typical MISGA team games will be played with no scrambles for the men.

Dinner on Wednesday night the 15th will be a plated dinner with three different entree choices at The Williamsburg Hospitality House located three blocks from the historic area of Colonial Williamsburg. No other meals are scheduled since there are a large variety of excellent restaurants in the Williamsburg area. There will be a luncheon scheduled for the non-golfing wives/guest.

The basis package price includes three rounds of golf, golf prizes, one dinner, and one luncheon for the non-golfing wives/guests.

MISGA associates must submit an APPLICATION FORM accompanied by a check for payment in full to the address on the form. Go to WWW.MISGA.ORG to download the form, which is located under the Frolics & Flings heading on the home page. If you are unable to access the web site or do not have email contact Howard Taylor 302-697-9499 for an Application Form. The field will be restricted to the **first 100 golfers**. Get your application in early to ensure you will be playing these outstanding courses in May.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
[A Forum for MISGA members to express their opinions]

10 November 2012

Hello Golfers:

My name is Dave Stevenson, MISGA REP for Crofton Country Club for the last 10 years. I love MISGA. I have a silver plate on my wall for outstanding service as mailing chairman in 1997, when Merle Shumaker was editor of the MISGAGRAM. We really have no MISGAGRAM now because it is only on the web & I would wager that 10% of the members bother to pull it up, unless they expect to see their name or face in it.

Yes, MISGA is changing & is not in many ways what the founders intended it to be. In my opinion, it was to be a senior men's golf association. I believe that when you try to have women play golf with, for & against men, there will be some rules established that will be unfair to either one or the other. For example, I played in a Pro Am at Piney Branch recently. The male pro played from the blue tees, the amateur from the gold & the amateur female played from the most forward green tee, as did the female pro. Now what's wrong with this picture?

Now don't believe I don't like women.....my mother was one & so were my 3 wives. My present wife is also a golfer a member of the Crofton ladies group. She & I play in many mixed couples events & mixed scrambles, but playing with other ladies makes it difficult to use the trees to relieve my bladder pain.

Now, to maintain our manhood & stand our ground, I suggest that we get together in a large group & insist on changing the BY-LAWS for MISGA, to have a MARYLAND SENIOR MENS GOLF ASSOCIATION, as I believe the founding fathers intended.

Please respond to DGS324@verizon.net with your thoughts.

Dave Stevenson
MISGA Rep.
Crofton Country Club
Crofton, Md.

Dave,

I read your email (letter) with great interest. As an analogy, I follow tennis to an extreme and I resent that women get the same amount of prize money when they only need to win the best of 3 sets and the men have to win the best of 5 sets. My wife is an avid tennis player, as I used to be too until I took up golf, and she also agrees that it's "not fair" that men have to play longer and harder for the same money.

However, I find your position which you have conveyed at nearly every chance you get or every MISGA event you play, as out of touch. Please don't get me wrong as I am as conservative as most of the seniors that play MISGA, but I do not feel insecure or threatened by the ladies that participate in MISGA golf events. After all, to me at least, MISGA is about playing golf, having fun and meeting folks and making new friendships (men or women).

The times have changed much since the 50's, 60's and 70's and I think you would be better served, Dave, to just enjoy playing MISGA and not worry so much about who finishes in the top 5. Enjoy the game of golf and enjoy meeting new people. Let the club pros figure out the various strokes allowed women based on handicap and tee box and just enjoy your self.

Anyway, for what it's worth, that's my opinion.

Ron North

MISGA 2012 FALL FROLICS

Little River-Pinehurst, NC area: We played the Little River & Hyland Golf courses twice. The golf courses were in excellent condition. We were there during the "Sandy Storm", but only affected by the cold & wind. We were able to play all four days with most people enduring the elements. I am proud of the players braving these conditions. This just goes to show everyone that "seniors" are real golfers! The staff at both venues was very accommodating and made our stay enjoyable. After a day on the courses, everyone relaxed during the cocktail hour and dinner (the food was outstanding). The non golfing ladies enjoyed their History of Pinehurst Tour and lunch at Lady Bedford's Tea Parlour at Pinehurst. Also, they made some trips on their own to purchase items at the "Fruitcake Factory" and other shopping areas.

Fripp Island, SC: As always, we were treated to a great time by the golfing and food service staff. They have always gone out of their way to accommodate our needs. Those of us who arrived early on Sunday and were able to play golf enjoyed 82 degree weather. The weather turned colder & windier on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday but still was playable (remember-the courses are Ocean & Marsh courses that are influenced by the normal wind patterns). However, the weather was still also being influenced by "Sandy" and a nor'easter off the coast. Thursday it was in the 70's. The non-golfing ladies were treated to a cooking lesson by Fripp's executive chef. He taught them how to make shrimp risotto and they got to eat it along with salad and dessert. The dolphin tour was cancelled due to the colder weather, but many of the ladies went to the historic downtown Beaufort area and took in the sights.

The cocktail hours gave everyone an opportunity to talk with old and new friends. On Monday and Wednesday, we played Bingo after dinner at Little River and Fripp Island and lots of cash prizes were awarded. We were able to negotiate a 20% discount on non sale merchandise at both pro shops. Many of you took advantage of this to purchase shirts and other items.

I would like to thank everyone who provided assistance in making the Fall Frolics a success. They did an excellent job! Also, I want to thank Robin Woollatt & Howard Taylor for coordinating the Bingo events at Little River and Robin & Gene Horan for picking up the Bingo equipment and name tags. Also, thanks to Howard Taylor for his assistance at Little River in auditing the scoring results. Dwight Short helped me audit the scores at Fripp and make last minute changes to the pairings & Barbara Horan for providing additional transportation for the non golfing ladies. Also, I want to thank my wife, Susan, for coordinating the non-golfing ladies tours & luncheons. None of these events can be successful without assistance. Thanks to Byron Keadle for the photos at Little River and Greg Morris & Larry Bathgate for the photos taken @ Fripp. Pictures will be available on the MISGA web site & in the Misgram.

Greg's pictures of the Fripp Island Frolic can be viewed @

<https://picasaweb.google.com/117979346728320157957/MISGAFrippIslandFallFrolic?feat=email>

First time attendees: We had an increase in first time attendees at Fripp and hope they will join us in the future. Please note that dinner is usually at 7:00 PM. The reason we don't eat earlier is due to possible frost or rain delays, which are unpredictable! Also, some of you want time to explore the area after golf is completed and we need time to gather the scorecards and audit them for accuracy.

Anyone who would like to provide comments regarding these trips or suggest future venues can do so by e-mail (pete233@verizon.net). It is our hope that all of the attendees will spread the word and urge others to attend the 2013 outing.

Peter Sorge, Jr. MISGA Events Chairman

MISGA Fall Frolic – October 28 – November 2, 2012
 Little River Golf Resort, Carthage, NC



How the Privileged Park!



Arrive before Noon, Check-in after 4 PM



Jerry Shearer: Play it where you find it!

[ZOOM FOR LARGER PICTURES – 300 to 400 %, and even 500%]

Monday – 1-2-3 Net Best Balls (1 on Par 5, 2 on Par 4, 3 on Par 3)
 Little River Golf Course - Men's Flight & Ladies' Flight



1st – Robin Woollatt, Dick Dale (Blind)
 Ken Wallgren, Karl Brown



2nd – Byron Keadle Jerry Shearer.
 Harry Conover, Howard Taylor



1st – Carol Boardman, Judy Taylor
 Judi Short, Barbara Shearer



3rd – Larry Bathgate (Blind), Burr Short,
 Phil Lyons, Gonzalo Delfierro



9 Hole – Barbara Delfierro, Linda Stimson



2nd – Aretta Keadle, Ruth Woods
 Ruby Lepore, Nancy Woodward (no pic)



BINGO Preparation



Little River Clubhouse



BINGO – Gene Horan & Robin Woollatt

Tuesday – 2 Net Better Balls of Foursome
Hyland Golf Course - Men's Flight & Ladies' Flight



1st – Karl Brown, Dick Dale
Pete Sorge, Burr Short (Blind)



2nd – Gonzalo Delfierro, Byron Keadle,
Burr Short, Ed White



1st –Ruth Woods, Carol Boardman,
Barbara Shearer



3rd – Larry Bathgate Jerry Shearer,
Rich Boardman, Robin Woollatt



9 Hole– Barbara Delfierro, Linda Stimson



2nd – Ruby Lepore, Aretta Keadle
Judi Short



Hyland #5 Dogleg



Hyland #6 Par 3



Gonzalo chips it out!

Wednesday – 6-6-6 Net Better Balls (3 on 1-6, 2 on 7-12, 1 on 13-18)
 Little River Golf Course - Men's Flight & Ladies' Flight



1st – Harry Conover, Burr Short,
 Larry Bathgate, Karl Brown



2nd – Byron Keadle, Gonzalo Delfierro
 Ed White, Dave Woodward



1st – Ruth Woods, Judy Taylor,
 Barbara Shearer



3rd – Byron Keadle (Blind), Gent Horan,
 Rich Boardman, Robin Woollatt



9 Hole– Barbara Delfierro, Linda Stimson



2nd – Carol Boardman, Nancy Woodward,
 Janet Bowersox



Socializing on Halloween

Mystery MC

Non-Golfing Ladies



Susan Sorge, Barbara Horan, Patty Dale, Chris Conover, Judy White, Nancy Brown, Anne Woollatt, Rae Bathgate

Thursday – Mixed Scramble
 Hyland Golf Course – One Drive each Nine per Player, Step-aside Drive Only



Sunrise



Hyland #5 Dogleg



1st – Pete Sorge, Burr Short,
 Barbara Shearer, Byron Keadle



2nd – Paul Bowersox, Ruby Lepore,
 Judi Short, Howard Taylor



3rd – Phil Lyons, Dick Dale,
 Aretta Keadle, Rich Boardman



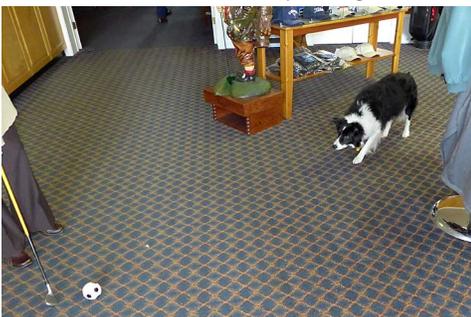
4th – Lloyd Stimson, Judy Taylor,
 Robin Woollatt, Larry Bathgate



5th – Dave Woodward, Ruth Woods,
 Gonzalo Delfierro, Karl Brown



9-Hole – Linda Stimson, Barbara Delfierro



Ready for the chip



Target acquired



Catch made



Let's do it again!

Sad Story with a Happy Ending

During the Scramble at Hyland on Thursday, our erstwhile leader lost his GPS device. It apparently fell off bag while he was searching for a lost ball in the woods, or nearby. After the golf was finished, Pete went back to the last know area where he had it and searched some more. That proved fruitless, so he notified the pro shop to look out for it. Pete planned to purchase another GPS on Friday, because he would need it at Fripp Island the following week.

That evening at dinner, a small committee got together and organized a “blind auction,” with proceeds to benefit Pete for purchasing a new GPS. But who wants to bid on a “pig in a poke?” Well, Dave Woodward proved to be a capable auctioneer. Surprisingly, the bidding got up to \$300, probably only since it was for a worthy cause. At that point, Gene Horan was declared the winner and, after paying the \$300 dollars, proceeded to remove from the paper bag all sorts of crushed newspaper padding. Finally, the bottom was reached and Gene pulled out a GPS which appeared familiar to Peter. And it was!

Shortly after Peter had lost his GPS, it was found by a following group. They knew it belonged to Sorge, because he had a penchant for hooking it precariously on the back of his bag at the rear of his cart.

Well, Pete was totally surprised and delighted that the GPS had been found, despite all the anxiety caused by the delay and the fake phone calls back to the pro shop.



MISGA Presidential Transition at Board Meeting, 12/4/2012 Caroline Country Club



Mike Urquhart Accepts Gavel from Ralph Starkey



Mike Receives Pocket Patch from Ralph

Privilege of Playing Golf

This is a letter from a "former" golfer who no longer can play, but who has reflected on his years in golf and would like the rest of us to think about how we approach the game.

Dear Younger Me:

I can't play golf anymore. I tried to swing the club the other day, but my body wouldn't cooperate. The best I can do now is sometimes to take walks on the course, but my eyes aren't as good as they used to be so I don't see much. I have a lot of time to sit and think now, and I often think about the game.

It was my favorite game. I played most of my adult life. Thousands of rounds, thousands of hours practicing. As I look back, I guess I had a pretty good time at it. But now that I can't do it anymore, I wish I had done it differently.

It's funny, but with all the time I spent playing golf, I never thought I was a real golfer. I never felt good enough to really belong out there. It doesn't make much sense, since I scored better than average and a lot of people envied my game, but I always felt that if I was just a little better or a little more consistent, then I'd feel really good. I'd be satisfied with my game. But I never was. It was always "One of these days I'll get it" or "One day I'll get there" and now here I am. I can't play anymore, and I never got there.

I met a whole lot of different people out on the course. That was one of the best things about the game. But aside from my regular partners and a few others, I don't feel like I got to know many of those people very well. I know they didn't really get to know me. At times they probably didn't want to. I was pretty occupied with my own game most of the time and didn't have much time for anyone else, especially if I wasn't playing well.

So why am I writing you this letter anyway, just to complain? Not really. Like I said, my golfing experience wasn't that bad, but it could have been so much better, and I see that so clearly now. I want to tell you, so you can learn from it. I don't want you getting to my age and feeling the same regrets I'm feeling now.

I wish, I wish. Sad words, I suppose, but necessary. I wish I could have played the game with more joy, more freedom. I was always so concerned with "doing it right" that I never seemed to be able to enjoy just doing it at all. I was so hard on myself, never satisfied, always expecting more. Who was I trying to please? Certainly not myself, because I never did. If there were people whose opinions were important enough to justify all that self-criticism, I never met them.

I wish I could have been a better playing partner. I wasn't a bad person to be with, really, but I wish I had been friendlier and gotten to know people better. I wish I could have laughed and joked more and given people more encouragement. I probably would have gotten more from them, and I would have loved that. There were a few bad apples over the years, but most of the people I played with were friendly, polite, and sincere. They really just wanted to make friends and have a good time. I wish I could have made more friends and had a better time.

I'm inside a lot now and I miss the beauty of the outdoors. For years when I was golfing I walked through some of the most beautiful places on earth, and yet I don't feel I really saw them. Beautiful landscapes, trees, flowers, animals, the sky, and the ocean – how could I have missed so much? What was I thinking of that was so important – my grip, my back swing, my stance? Sure, I needed to think about those sometimes, but so often as to be oblivious to so much beauty? And all the green – the wonderful, deep, lush color of green! My eyes are starting to fail. I wish I had used them better so I would have more vivid memories now.

So what is it that I'm trying to say? I played the type of game that I thought I should play, to please the type of people that I thought I should please. But it didn't work. My game was mine to play, but I gave it away.

It's a wonderful game. Please, don't lose yours. Play a game that you want to play. Play a game that gives you joy and satisfaction and makes you a better person to your family and friends. Play with enthusiasm, play with freedom. Appreciate the beauty of nature and the people around you. Realize how lucky you are to be able to do it. All too soon your time will be up, and you won't be able to play anymore. Play a game that enriches your life.

Best wishes - don't waste a minute of golf - someday it will be gone!