



MISGAGRAM

Volume 158 – March 2024

www.misga.org

President's Message



In an adaptation of a Carl Sandberg quote, we may not know where we're going, but we're on the way. It was just a short while ago we entered the calendar year 2024. Now it's suddenly March and shortly we will march (pun intended) into the 2024 MISGA season. The definitive sign that the MISGA year is upon us is the annual gathering of immense brain power and wit aka the Annual BOD & Rep Meeting. Approximately 40 members of our leadership will gather @ Prospect Bay to conduct business, enjoy lunch, play golf and maybe solve any other worldly problems. Okay, maybe that last one's a stretch, but you never know! The real point

here is the dedicated work these volunteers do to ensure that MISGA thrives. Don't forget when you run across your Rep or Division Director or an Officer to offer your thanks. Better yet, offer to help or even replace them if they ever want to pass the baton. Hopefully we'll enjoy an outstanding season filled with sunshine, laughter and great golf. Yes, we all (hmmm, most) (ahem, maybe some) have a semblance of great golf ability.

There are things we can all do to ensure a successful season. First, be respectful of all players, golf course personnel and the course itself. Please obey all cart rules, fix your ball marks and fill your divots. MISGA has a zero-tolerance stance for breaches of golf etiquette. Second is being cognizant of Pace of Play. Everyone wants to play well at mixers and have a good time. Most people think 5+ hours together is too much time with each other. I'd agree. The remedies... well I only have so much space so I'll emphasize two. One, the BOD encourages all MISGAns to read the well written Pace of Play document on the website. Second, your BOD is asking the "A" player in each group to be proactive and help move the foursome along when there is a big gap in front of your group. Yes, you might make someone unhappy telling them to pick up after 8 or 9 but you have enough friends anyway!

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Maryland
Interclub
Seniors Golf
Association

President
Tom Ciandella
Vice President
Paul Bate
Secretary
Chuck Woods
Treasurer
George Blair

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:

tgnome1@gmail.com

Bob Hodges

MISGAGRAM Editor

The Lighter Side



“Hi, I’m with the tournament. Do you recall how many strokes Mr. Donwood took on the par-4 10th before you ate him?”

Obituary

I am sad to report the passing of one of Leisure World's assistant MISGA reps, Carl Ridenour, who died early in 2024, after a brief illness.

Barry Falgout

LW MISGA rep

President's Message, *continued*

For convenience, after much “discussion” , a Master Schedule is posted on the Website with the **CAVEAT – Do NOT call the hosting pro shop if you have interest in a mixer your club is not scheduled for!** In such a case you **MUST** go through your own rep. Should this become an issue, the violator will lose this privilege and jeopardize the schedule staying on the website for others.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity (since there's not much else to say) and thank the serving officers for their outstanding dedicated service to MISGA:

Paul Bate -- Vice-President, Blue Mash

George Blair – Treasurer, Crofton

Chuck Woods Secretary, Crofton

There is also the rest of the Board to thank, but too many to list. Thanks guys. Look at the website, misga.org on the leadership tab to see the illustrious gents filling various roles.

That's all folks. Go forth, play well, stay well and have fun; maybe even a beer after with friends. But, as Dean Martin said “If you drink don't drive. Don't even putt!” Good luck.

Tom Ciandella

MISGA President 2023-2024





Tidbits of MISGA History



MISGA Championship Tournaments Multi-Winning Grand Champions

In 1976, the first MISGA 2-Player Team Championship Tournament was held. Over the past 47 years, 12 associates have won multi-Grand Champion crowns, either with the same or different teammates.

Valentine (*Sparrows Point*) - Net - 1984 & 1985

Dailey (*Elks*) - Net - 1991 & 1993

Logan (*Elks*) - Net - 1991 & 1993

Began awarding Gross winners - 2009

Michael Gorski (*Eagle Creek*) - Gross - 2009 & 2010

Patrick Normyle (*Rattlewood*) - Net - 2011, 2012, 2014 & 2016

Dave Carney (*Rattlewood*) - Net - 2011 & 2012

Tim Brewer (*Rattlewood*) - Net - 2014 & 2016

Charles Gouret (*Rookery North*) - Gross - 2013 & 2015

Jeff Allen (*Wild Quail*) - Gross - 2016 & 2017

Dave Cox (*Wild Quail*) - Gross - 2016 & 2017

Craig Ostrom (*Hobbit's Glen*) - Gross - 2019, 2021 & 2022

Douglas Wilson (*Hobbit's Glen*) - Gross - 2019, 2021 & 2022

In 1991, the first MISGA Past Presidents (ABCD) Championship Tournament was held. Over the past 32 years, 5 associates have won multi-Grand Champion crowns.

Dick Stearns (*Tantallon*) - Gross - 1998, 1999, 2002

Bob Burd (*Shawnee*) - Gross - 2003, 2005, 2006 & 2013

Chuck Winwood (*Tantallon*) - Gross - 2007 & 2010

Jeff Allen (*Wild Quail*) - Gross - 2012, 2015, 2016 & 2017

Robert Egge (*Wild Quail*) - Gross - 2019 & 2021

Stim

Lloyd Stimson
MISGA History Chairman



Frolics 'n Flings

Winter Fling

The Florida MISGA golf trail led us to Crystal River for the 2024 Winter Fling. The MISGA presence at the Plantation on Crystal River has been ongoing for over 20 years on the same course, the same resort and mostly the same staff. The biggest difference this time was the devastation a late season Tornado did to take out 263 trees, the clubhouse, pro shop and the 19th hole bar and grill. The course played differently but not easier without some well-placed giant oak trees. The tornado came and went in 7 minutes around 2 AM. This timing was lucky, in the fact it was thought to arrive at 2 PM but was delayed. Good thing as 82 golfers were in harm's way at 2 PM.

Now for the good news. We show up and enjoy our Winter Fling in warm sunny weather, full of food, fun and even some golf. There was 3 MISGA Past Presidents attending, Tom Tarpley, Wayne Rowland and Greg Morris, so we could rename the event MISGA Board South. The small turnout of 21 attendees found plenty of good times together. We played various formats ranging from MISGA-Mix, some Stableford, a handicap challenge, and a closing day shamble. Golfers were awarded prizes based on team efforts to which everybody contributed. The pairings were arranged to get the players as much diversity as possible and at dinner each golfing day as many different dinner partners as well.

Competition winners: Monday-Greg Morris and Hobie Swartwood won the opening Cluster Putt followed by day 1 winners John Weiss, Sperry Storm, Steve Irish, and Martha Arthur. Closest to the pin (CTP) and 2nd CTP John Weiss and Ed Kelly. Tuesday's winners were Mark Rayford, Steve Irish, Christa Storm, and Jack Sullivan. CTP and 2nd were Sperry.

Storm and Christa Storm. Thursday's (Wed is rest day) winners Ed Kelly, Chester Taylor, Tom Tarpley, and Kathy Fitzgerald. CTP and 2nd were Mark Rayford and Bob Fitzgerald. Friday's winners were Ed Kelly, Martha Arthur, Tom Tarpley, and Mark Rayford. CTP and 2nd were Christa Storm and John Weiss.



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The title of **MR Crystal River** went to **Mark Rayford** and **MZ Crystal River** went to **Martha Arthur** for their 2-day low net totals. The weeklong chipping contest was won by Sperry Storm and crowned Master Chip. There were 2 putt-offs at dinner to decide scorecard ties, always fun.

Overall, the \$800 in prize money was spread over all 16 golfers including Cliff Valliant and Wayne Rowland plus 1 non golfer, Dolly Flook. No one 'Took the Collar'.

The Sunday reception and 4 buffet dinners were fabulous with our favorite staffer, Salome, who has been with us for 5 years taking great care of us.

Attendees came from: Bay Hills (Northwest), Ocean Pines, Turf Valley, TPC Potomac (Musket Ridge), Holly Hills, Leisure World, Hobbit's Glen, Montgomery (Margaritaville), Norbeck and Tantallon (National). The support from our non-golfers was from Suzanne Weiss, Rose Mary Swartwood, Dottie Burhans and Aileen Sullivan

This is a unique venue offering unusual comfort and convenience. It's an older resort with some bumps and bruises but affords easy comradery like no other.

There is a stirring about stopping this event in favor of a Spring Fling farther North, but this Winter Fling at Cystal River would be very hard to duplicate. I would like to hear from members on this. (johnlsul@msn.com)

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Fall Frolic

We are looking forward to the next great adventure away from our home territory. The Fall Frolic is going to Virginia Beach October 6-12, THIS YEAR. To get the hotel to agree to host this we committed to bringing 40 people. For inducement, we contracted with Virginia Golf Vacations to book 4 great VB area



courses. Golf is the reason for the event but the social aspect and camaraderie of a Sunday evening reception with light fare and a cash bar and on golf days (Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri) a nice buffet dinner. Mornings, the hotel will provide a full breakfast before your tee timed golf. For golf and dinner, we mix you up as much as possible. Couples stay together for dinner.

More detail is available at <https://misga.org/events.htm>. The flyer has hotel, golf course and golf format info. The Entry form has the financial info. An entry in the first 10 registrations may get a king suite upgrade, via a drawing. All this can be had for as little as \$1250 (6 days hotel, food and golf). Detail questions to Jack Sullivan at (see below)

Jack Sullivan
SMGA Chair, MISGA Club Rep. NGC Tantallon
MISGA Division 6 Tournament Director
Coordinator Winter Fling at Crystal River FL and Fall Frolic at Va Beach VA
(info on misga.org)

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Benefits of Membership (besides being the chairman)?

On January 18 of this year, Carl Lazar hit a hole in one on the fifth hole of St. John's Golf and Country Club. He said his wife and one other person witnessed this feat. Congratulations Carl!





2024 - MISGA PAST PRESIDENTS (ABCD) CHAMPIONSHIP

CROFTON COUNTRY CLUB - MONDAY - June 24, 2024

CROFTON, MD

(Rain Date: July 8, 2024)

(as of Jan. 19, 2024)

FORMAT: 18-HOLE - INDIVIDUAL STROKE PLAY (Gross & Net)

A maximum field of 100 competitors will be divided into four flights of A-B-C-D handicapped players - lowest in "A" to highest in "D" (approximately 25% in each flight). "A" players will compete against "A" players, "B" players against "B" players, "C" players against "Cs" and "Ds" against "Ds."

ELIGIBILITY: All MISGA associates in good standing. Finalists must qualify through their Division's selection process. Each finalist must have an established valid USGA Handicap Index computed and maintained at the finalist's home club. The current MISGA President, all MISGA Past Presidents and the 2023 Gross and Net Past Presidents (ABCD) Grand Champions are automatically eligible (they do not have to process through their Division's qualification procedure) but must pay the Entry Fee.

HANDICAP ALLOWANCE:

Tournament Playing Handicap = 95% of Course Handicap (men & women)



PRIZES:

1. Based on a full field of 100 finalists, 34 finalists (34% of the field) will receive a Pro Shop Gift Certificate (the Gross and Net Grand Champions plus 4 gross and 4 net winners in each flight).
2. In addition, the Gross and Net Grand Champions will receive a high quality engraved trophy.
3. Players desiring to compete for the Gross Grand Champion trophy must play from the White tee placement. Inform your Club Rep when you sign-up.
4. Winners of the four Closest-to-the-Pin holes will receive a cash prize - split the pot. \$5 entry fee.

ENTRY FEE: \$110 per person - includes the prize pool, a buffet breakfast (eggs, bacon, etc.), range balls, cart fee, cash bar cocktail hour (w/light hors d'oeuvres) and a buffet dinner.

REGISTRATION: SEE YOUR MISGA CLUB REP

For detailed information, refer to the MISGA website, Tournament Info Section, 2024 Past Presidents (ABCD) flyer.



2024 - MISGA 2-PLAYER TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

HOLLY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB - MONDAY - JULY 29, 2024

IJAMSVILLE, MD (Rain Date: Monday - August 19, 2024)



FORMAT: 18-HOLE - TEAM STROKE PLAY (*Gross & Net Best Ball*)

The maximum field of 50 teams will not be divided into flights. Each 2-Player Team will be competing against all other 2-Player Teams. There will be one **Gross** and one **Net 2-Player Team Grand Champion**.

ELIGIBILITY: All MISGA associates in good standing. Finalists must qualify through their Division's selection process. Finalists must have an established valid **USGA Handicap Index** computed and maintained at the finalist's home club. Teammates of each 2-Player Team must be members of the same club. The 2023 **Gross & Net Grand Champions** are automatically eligible (*do not have to process through their Division's qualification procedure*), but must pay the Entry Fee.

HANDICAP ALLOWANCE:

Tournament Playing Handicap = **85%** of Course Handicap (*men & women*)



PRIZES:

1. Based on a full field of 50 teams, 16 total teams (*32% of the field*) will receive a Pro Shop Gift Certificate (*the Gross and Net Grand Champions plus 7 gross teams and 7 net teams*).
2. In addition, the **Gross** and **Net Grand Champions** will receive a high quality engraved trophy.
3. Teams desiring to compete for the **Gross Grand Champion** trophy must play from the **SGA Blue** tee placement. Inform your Club Rep when you sign-up.
4. Winners of the four **Closest-to-the-Pin** holes will receive a cash prize - split the pot. \$5 entry fee.

ENTRY FEE: \$110 per person (*\$220 per team*) - includes the prize pool, a buffet breakfast, range balls, cart fee, cash bar cocktail hour (*w/light hors d'oeuvres*) and a buffet dinner.

REGISTRATION: SEE YOUR MISGA CLUB REP

For detailed information, refer to MISGA website, Tournament Info Section, **2024 2-Player Team flyer**.