

MISGA GRAM

www.MISGA.Org

December 2005

VOLUME 82



President's Message

Tom Tarpley

The question that is frequently asked is, "What is MISGA?" The answer that quickly trips off one's tongue is MARYLAND INTERCLUB SENIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION. Well that is one answer—others might include "it is a social organization where you meet a diverse population of individuals and play golf"—or "you get to play golf at numerous good or great courses"—or "it offers a mechanism to express leadership skills and assume positions of responsibility." Whatever MISGA is, or represents, can be an expression of one's own personality, or your choice of what you want from the group. What it meant to me was first an expression of kindness or interest shown by Don Falconer to a new club member at Eagle Head. This interest aided in my rehabilitation from severe cardiac problems to a productive 20-handicap golfer. MISGA can influence how you enjoy your sunset years. You can choose just to play, and that is fine, but MISGA does provide the opportunity to excel in other areas (Leadership, Management, Committee Assignments, Coffee Making, Doughnut Purchasing, et cetera) that are associated with golf.

I am most appreciative of the privilege given me to serve as your President. It seems like yesterday that Chester Petranek said to me "Tarpley, I need somebody to make the coffee. From now on you are my assistant rep." Too bad he has scheduled play in a far away place and can't see me now in this exalted position, but he would probably say, "See, if you had just made the coffee right you could still be the assistant rep."

We have a great organization with dedicated leaders and an absolutely fantastic group of associates. Please get involved and make it better. Remember, anyone can complain about the petty little things that can and do go wrong, but it takes a big person to say so what, it is great to be alive and out on the course doing what many cannot. And that is simply, enjoying life and each other's company. Whatever you do, have fun or at least try. . It takes far fewer muscles to smile than frown!

If I can help give a yell, stay well and thank your spouse for her support. Play Well and Play Often!

LET OUR MISGA MOTTO FOR THE YEAR BE "ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE!"

Here is something you might want to consider for the MISGAGRAM. The info came from **Rich Anderson**, Rep at Prospect Bay, but the words are mine, and can be changed at will: "Who is MISGA's oldest active golfer? **Charlie Platzer**, of Prospect Bay, must be right up there. At the age of 90 he still plays golf 3 or 4 times a week, to a handicap of 24! Charlie didn't take up golf until the tender age of 72. Prospect Bay honored him with a "Charlie Platzer Day" in September, which drew 54 golfer participants. Keep up the good play, Charlie!" **Fenton Martin** Div. 3 Dir.



MISGA's Oldest Associate - Len Pasek 97 Years Old

Leonard Pasek (97) of Bethesda, Maryland, is the candidate of Kenwood Golf and Country Club and Division IV for the honor of being the most senior MISGA Associate. Len was born in 1908 in Academy, South Dakota, graduated as a civil engineer from South Dakota State, worked as an engineer in Peoria, Illinois, and then in Chicago in market research consulting. He moved to New York City, where he worked with Kimberly-Clark, which sent him to Washington in the early 1950s to work on defense contracts, then to the company's home office in Appleton, Wisconsin (to assist the President), and finally back to New York City, where he retired in 1965 at age 57. While in Washington for Kimberly-Clark during the Korean Conflict, Len joined the Manor Country Club in Rockville, where he golfed for several years. After he retired and moved to Washington, Len played golf at the Potomac Valley Club (no longer there), and later joined the Kenwood Club in 1979, where he has golfed for 26 years, including some of the very early years of MISGA. Len played his first round of golf at age 19 (1927), had a four handicap at age 38 (1946), and has had six holes-in-one. His most interesting hole-in-one came on a 150-yard par-three hole in Wisconsin when he hooked a 7-iron left of the green, where it ricocheted off a tree and ran across the green into the hole. He has broken par twice, including a round of 70 at age 70. He continued to shoot his age with an 84 at age 84, and an under-his-age 93 at age 95 (in 2004)! He golfs three times a week in season, plays in most MISGA events, and considers the gin rummy table in the Kenwood "Snakepit" as his "19th hole". He is annoyed if either the golfing or the gin rummy action is too slow. Len currently carries a 30.0 handicap index, with a fine, consistent game, in which he always plays smart. You want him in your foursome. He'll make you some money! Kenwood golfers aspire to be like Len. But to do that, they will have to be more active. Len, you are the man!

Division IV's 2005 Pro-Am Tournament was held under an ideal sunny sky on October 17th at Hobbit's Glen Golf Club. Twenty-one teams competed, which included ones from Div. IV's Argyle, Bretton Woods, Hobbit's Glen, Lakewood, Leisure World, Montgomery, Montgomery Village and Norbeck, along with teams from Div. II's Holly Hills, Hunt Valley, Piney Branch and Westwinds.

The winning team with a net 62, was one from Norbeck, which included pro Pete Labourdette, Lary Yud, Wayne Edwards, Dave Roth and Ed Harkleroad. Second place, also with a 62, went to Holly Hills' team of pro Jody Rokisky, Jim Parker, Neil Brownrigg, Jim Rasmussen and All Shockley. Coming in third with a 63, was Montgomery's team of pro Frank Ferguson, Steve Parker, Dennis Beaufort, Gil Snyderand, John Ligon.

Also with a 63, and finishing fourth was the Westwind team composed of Fred Lobbin, Clarence Moody, Doug Walters, Tim Brewer and Dave Ratajski.

Gross prizes went to the professionals who finished in the top four. They were: First place, Matt Hill of Leisure Word with a 71 (one under par). Second place, Patti Post of Lakewood with a 72, third, Randy Barnes of Bretton Woods with a 74, and fourth, Jody Rokisky of Holly Hills with a 75.

Hobbit's Glen's new greens were in top shape, and a good time seemed to be had by all.

Jim Wilcox, Hobbit's Glen MISGA Rep.

MISGA-2005-FALL FROLICS – SEABROOK & AMELIA ISLAND

The November 2005 Fall Frolics at Seabrook & Amelia Island were a great success. For the second year in a row we had great weather with the temperature averaging in the 80's! I received a lot of feedback from the attendees stating that both venues were excellent choices & they all would like to return soon. I expect the 2006 Fall Frolics to fill up quite rapidly, based on the positive feedback I received.

The mixed scramble at both venues included both the men & women eighteen-hole golfers. These events provided an opportunity for the men to play with a mixed group and take advantage of the ladies skills. The remaining days, the 18 hole men golfers, the 18 hole ladies & the nine hole ladies played with their respective groups. The golf courses at both venues were in great shape and provided a challenge to all. Golf prize money exceeded \$3,000 at Seabrook & \$3,700 at Amelia.

After a day on the courses, everyone relaxed during the cocktail hour and dinner (the food was excellent). The cocktail hour gave everyone an opportunity to talk with old and new friends. On Monday and Wednesday, we played Bingo after dinner and lots of cash prizes were awarded. **Please note** that dinner is usually at 7:00 or 7:30 PM. The reason we don't eat earlier is due to possible frost or rain delays, which are unpredictable! After golf is completed we need time to gather the scorecards and audit them for accuracy. This all takes time! Seabrook non-golfing ladies enjoyed a tour to Historic Charleston, SC. They toured the historic district & a visit to the "Pink House" for tea. They had lunch at the "Slightly North of Broad" restaurant with time to shop and sightsee. The Amelia Island non-golfing ladies toured the Historic area of St. Augustine, FL. Another highlight of the tour was lunch in "The Famous 95 Cordova Cobalt Lounge in the historic Casa Monica Hotel. My wife, Susan who was unable to attend these years' events wants to thank the non-golfing ladies for the lovely "missed you" card they sent. It was very much unexpected & appreciated.

I would like to thank all of those who provided assistance in making the Fall Frolic a success. Special mention goes to Charlie Fieldhouse (master Bingo caller) and his assistants. Thanks to newcomer Karen Wells, guest of Joe Brendel, who presided over the 9 hole ladies @ Seabrook. Thanks to Patty Dale for presiding over the 9 holes ladies at Amelia Island. Also, thanks to Don LeCrone, Dwight Short & Bob West who provided advice, scoring audit assistance & help preparing the prize money envelopes & Bill Rapson for his help during both events. None of these events can be successful without having your help & space doesn't allow me to name all of those who assisted.

I am in the process of reviewing and soliciting the contracts for the 2006 fall events to be scheduled in November 2006. MISGA has very specific requirements for our trips and I have to take into consideration price, location & amenities. I am considering Amelia Island, Fripp, Seabrook, Sea Trail & other venues. Anyone who would like to provide comments regarding these trips can do so by e-mail (pete233@verizon.net). Details will be provided in a future MISGAGRAM. It is our hope that all of the attendees will spread the word and urge others to attend the 2006 outings.

Peter Sorge, Jr., Events Chairman

MISGA SPRING FLING 2006

Returning to the "SHORE"

Don't miss out. Get your application in early.

No entry will be accepted if postmarked after the April 1, 2006 closing date.

The Spring Fling 2006 for men and ladies is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, May 1ST and May 2ND at Ocean City Golf Club's Seaside and Newport Bay courses. An optional third day on Wednesday May 3RD will be available at the Bay Club (West Course). (Last year we played the East Course at Bay Club.) (Note: maximum number of players at the Bay Club is 120 since we will be using only one course.)

We have successfully reduced costs by approximately \$100 for this event by making two changes. We have eliminated the Monday night banquet which many players said was just too much activity in a 24- hour period. There are many fine restaurants in the Ocean City area at varying cost levels that you can visit with your friends. The second change is that those needing room accommodations can stay at the Dunes Manor Hotel which has given us a very good group rate. The Dunes Manor Hotel is a fairly new, direct ocean front facility with many amenities including indoor pool. All rooms have ocean front porches.

The November 1, 2005 handicap index will be used. We will be playing team golf. Each foursome of men or women will be playing as a team. Formats will be different on each course.

Soft spikes are required for all three courses.

Check-in on Monday, May 1st at Ocean City Golf Course will begin at 10:30 AM. A snack lunch will be available prior to the shotgun start at 12:30 PM. Light hors d'oeuvres will be available at the club after play on Monday, while scores are being racked up. On Tuesday, May 2nd, check-in at Ocean City Golf Course will be underway by 8:00 AM with a shotgun start scheduled for 9:00 AM. Coffee and donuts will be available prior to golf and lunch will be at the club after play has ended. All foods mentioned above are included in the entry fee. In addition, a hot breakfast, if desired, will be available at the golf course. This hot breakfast is not included in the entry fee.

For Wednesday May 3rd at the Bay Club, check-in starts at 7:45 AM followed by a shotgun start at 8:30 AM. Please note that no food is included in the entry fee for play at the Bay Club. (Bay Club does have grill service available if desired.)

For those desiring overnight accommodations for Monday night, May 1st, arrangements will be made at the DunesManor Hotel on 28th Street, Ocean City, Maryland. Room fees, as applicable, are included in the rates shown on the entry form. Cancellations must be made no later than April 22, 2005 to insure a full refund. If you wish to reserve additional nights you may contact the DunesManor at 800-523-2888 ext. 5244 and ask for Lauren Prendergast.

A confirmation card or e-mail will be sent to you by March 10, confirming your entry. You will also receive a letter by April 15, 2006 outlining the arrangements the committee has made for you. If you are car-pooling with other golfers please inform us on your entry form.

Those playing at the Bay Club on May 3rd will have to make their own room accommodations for May 2nd, and all food on May 3.

Additional information?

Dick Dale 302-629-7322
Bill Morton 302-674-3107
John Kennedy 302-854-0155

MISGA SPRING FLING 2006 ENTRY FORM
MAY 1&2 AT OCEAN CITY GOLF & YACHT CLUB. — MAY 3 OPTIONAL AT BAY CLUB
CLOSING DATE IS SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2006

A. *Couples - Both playing 18 holes daily and sharing room	\$357	\$ _____
B. *Couples - With lady playing only 9 holes daily and sharing room	\$308	\$ _____
C. *Couples - Man only golfing and sharing a room	\$217	\$ _____
D. *Couples- Both playing 18 holes daily-no room.	\$281	\$ _____
E. *Couples- With lady playing only 9 holes daily-no room.	\$232	\$ _____
F. *Single golfer with a private room	\$217.	\$ _____
G. *Single golfer sharing room	\$179	\$ _____
H. *Single golfer with no room	\$141	\$ _____
I. *Nine hole lady golfer (18 holes, 9 each day) no room	\$128	\$ _____
J. May 3 Bay Club golf option- Couples	\$100	\$ _____
K. May 3 Bay Club golf option-Single golfer	\$ 50	\$ _____

(Bay Club cost includes green fees, cart and prize money only).

*** Includes: Monday snack lunch & hors d'oeuvres after golf.**
Tuesday coffee & donuts and lunch.

TOTAL \$ _____

ENTRANTS - One MISGA Golfer or couple per application. Please print or type. We have to be able to read it!
"Use your ending season Nov 1, 2005 handicap index"

Member's name _____ Club _____ Index _____
E-Mail Address _____ **Rm: Smoking** _____ **Non-Smoking** _____

Lady's name _____ Club _____ Index _____
 Check one: Handicap index is for 18 holes ____ 9 holes ____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City & State _____ Zip Code _____

NOTE: HANDICAP INDEX SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION

No entry accepted if postmarked after the closing date of April 1, 2006

Special requests: _____

Make checks payable to "MISGA DIVISION ONE"
 and mail to:

Questions ?? Contact:

Richard Dale
25135 Pine Road
Seaford, Delaware 19973

John Kennedy	302-854-0155
Dick Dale	302-629-7322
Bill Morton	302-674-3107

Allowing Play from forward tees.

By Dan Williams, Chairman Mixer Committee-For the MISGA Board

Several of the MISGA Board members have been requested to allow play from forward tees by those players who for one reason or another cannot carry water hazards, waste areas or other areas which require penalty or loss of balls or both. This subject was discussed at the MISGA Board meeting on August 25. The board felt that the responsibility for running mixers and most other tournaments lies with the local MISGA representatives and that the board should not presume to impose any such requirement on the conduct of their respective outings. However, the board did acknowledge that this is a problem for some of our players and would encourage reps to take this into consideration when conducting their mixers. They have asked me to gather some ideas which might help the reps understand how some clubs are addressing this problem.

The board is mindful that the USGA Handicap system compensates for such situations as this by assigning handicaps that reflect each players' unique ability and that moving to forward tees would provide benefits in addition to the handicaps the players have already been assigned. There are a few ways that may be used to offer relief for those unable to carry hazards with out disadvantage to the other players: Either (A) All players in the competition be allowed to move forward or (B) some method be used to award prizes separately to those players who move forward and those who do not, or (C) find some other way to accomplish our objective which is fair to all concerned.

It appears to me, after some discussion with several other clubs and with players of all handicap levels, that the best approach might be as follows. Each rep will determine if his course has any holes that might represent a problem of this nature. At outings he will list those holes where participants may choose to move to the forward tees and what tees to move to. It will then be the responsibility of each player to decide whether he will move to the forward tees on any of the holes specified. He must make the decision and notify his playing partners before teeing. If he chooses to move forward he will be hitting his second shot from that tee; in other words, he is assessed a one stroke penalty for going to the forward tee. While this may sound harsh to some, please bear in mind that if he had hit from the regular tee and he had put his ball in the hazard, he would drop and be playing his third shot not his second.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any ideas or who has a better solution to the problem.

My email address is danwill01@msn.com .

Arthur Higginbottom - Talbot Country Club Easton, Md

Arthur Higginbottom is an active MISGA Member playing regularly out of Talbot Country Club. He was born on November 11, 1909 and has just turned 96 Years old.

Art plays regularly with the Talbot CC's Tuesday Men's Group and on Thursday with a group of golfers including Bill Darragh who submitted Arthur's name. He enjoys many MISGA events each year and has shot his age at least four times when he was in his late 80s and early 90s. Art is a tough competitor on the golf course and a pleasure to know.

Bill Darragh, Talbot Country Club.

Bob Burd - Shawnee Country Club

Our congratulations to Bob Burd. He came in second in his age group (60-64) in the U.S. National Senior Olympics held at Deer Run Golf Club in Pittsburgh, Pa. To qualify for the national games, Bob had to shoot a 78 or better. In the DE competition at Johnathan's Landing he scored a neat 67.

The National Senior Game was a 54- hole tournament with one practice round, held June 3 through the 18th of this year. Bob played two days with three golfers from Louisiana. He scored a 233 in the finals coming in three strokes behind the winner and seven strokes ahead of the third place finisher. The final field consisted of 57 players from 22 different states. Submitted by

Ed Daino - Shawnee Country Club

The New Summer Frolic at Carroll Valley Resort

In coming President **Tom Tarpley** announced at the MISGA Board Meeting on December 8th that MISGA will now have a **SUMMER FROLIC** at Carroll Valley Resort on September 13 and 14, 2006. **ALL MISGA Members** are invited, along with their Spouses, to enjoy two days of golf, food and drink in a beautiful early fall setting in the hills of Southern Pennsylvania. So, please mark your calendar now for these dates in September and look for the sign up sheet in a future MISGAGRAM!

TEE MARKER PLACEMENTS

The Situation

MISGA has a problem that has sustained its ugly head for many years. Where should tee markers be placed for MISGA golfing events? Do we accommodate the lower handicap golfers with a middle tee placement (*generally the white tees*) or do we accommodate the higher handicap golfers with a forward tee placement (*generally the gold tees*)? Regardless of which of the two placements is used, one faction of golfers is usually unhappy. Each faction has valid justification for its preferred tee marker placement. How can MISGA resolve this dilemma?

Lower handicap players state they normally play from the middle (*white*) tee markers. They prefer the longer course as it provides a more desirable level of difficulty and a suitable challenge. Also, their handicap index is based on play from the middle tees. In addition, they assert their normal club selection for hitting shots is based on the longer course. The shorter course encumbers their club selection – e.g., the driver is seldom used and only the shorter irons are used. In contrast, higher handicap players state they normally play from the forward (*gold*) tee markers. They prefer the shorter course where the level of difficulty and challenges offered are more in line with their playing ability. In addition, many higher handicap golfers are older with diminishing golfing skills or may be physically impaired; thus, the shorter course, from the forward tees, is a more fitting playing field.

The Solutions

Regardless of any solution selected, it should be one that provides maximum participation by both low and high handicap golfers. Some low handicappers will not participate in events limited to the forward (*gold*) tee marker placements while some high handicappers refuse to play in events limited to the middle (*white*) tee marker placements. Thus, it can be concluded that using *only* the middle tee or forward tee marker placements is not the *optimum* problem solver.

A number of MISGA clubs use the middle tee (*white*) markers, but place them well forward of the actual middle tee marker placement stones (*a.k.a. "light whites"*). This results in a shortened course. The higher handicappers are delighted, but it brings about complaints from the lower handicappers. The lower handicappers rightly state that posting their scores from the shortened course will result in an inaccurate handicap index. In reality, this error in handicap index applies to the high handicappers as well.

Some MISGA clubs use the middle tee markers for normal play, but permit play from the forward tee markers for specified high handicap players. To play from the forward tee markers, the golfer must qualify by application of an ***age plus handicap*** formula. For example, if a golfer's age plus his handicap is equal to or greater than 90, he may play from the forward tees. However, some clubs will penalize the player one stroke if he chooses to play from the forward tee markers. The one stroke penalty is the normal difference between an individual's official middle tee and forward tee handicaps (*as computed by the USGA certified Golf Net automated handicap program utilized by most MISGA club golf shops*). However, some contend the one stroke penalty is insufficient considering the difference in course length between the two tee marker placements.

Other MISGA clubs use the middle (*white*) tee markers for normal play, but allow golfers at a specified high handicap level (*20 and above, 25 and above, 28 and above, 30 and above, etc.*) to play from the forward tee markers. This is a variation of the ***age plus handicap*** approach; hence, the concerns cited above apply.

A few MISGA clubs have experimented with establishing flights. There is a flight for lower handicap golfers who play from the middle (*white*) tee markers and a flight for higher handicap golfers who play from the forward (*gold*) tee markers. A cut-off handicap separates the two flights. The cut-off point is based on the total number of participants, the range of penalty is the normal difference between an individual's official middle tee and forward tee handicaps (*as computed by the USGA certified Golf Net automated handicap program utilized by most MISGA club golf shops*). However, some contend the one stroke penalty is insufficient considering the difference in course length between the two tee marker placements.

Conclusions

The most effective tee marker placement strategy is the one that will provide maximum participation by both low and high handicap golfers with the **least** amount of complaining. That's the best for which any Club Rep can hope.

Regardless of which tee marker placement scheme is used, both the middle tee and forward tee markers should be placed within the USGA prescribed *allowable distance* from the tee marker placement stones.

During my nine year tenure as a Club Rep, I found that using the middle (*white*) tees as the primary tee placement and allowing players whose **age plus handicap** is equal to or greater than 90 (*with a one stroke penalty*) to play from the forward (*gold*) tees has been the most acceptable with the fewest number of complaints. I never used the "flighted" scheme; thus, I'm unable to offer a valid opinion of it.

One thing is for sure. No matter which tee marker placement strategy is used, there will always be a few dissatisfied golfers willing to express their opinion as to how unfair it is for their "band of golfing brothers." They are the proverbial 10%. Club Reps must learn to accept this tenet of complaint.....it's the nature of the beast.

Issues for Consideration

Should MISGA determine the tee marker placements for all MISGA golfing events or should each of the six Divisions determine its preferred tee marker placements? Or should the host club make the tee marker placement determination?

Should optional tee marker placement strategies, like those cited above, be permissible? Are there other tee marker placement alternatives?

Currently, MISGA policy mandates that the middle (*white*) tee markers must be used for all 2-Man Team and ABCD Divisional Qualifiers and State Finals. How this requirement impacts regular mixer tee marker placements is an issue for discussion on another day.

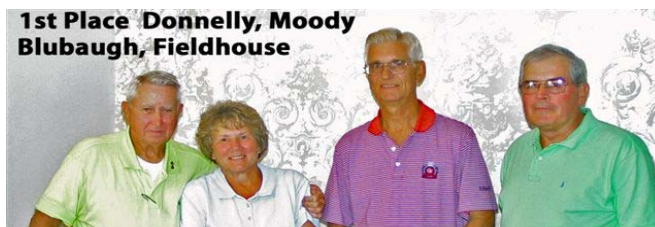
Anecdote

When I was new to the Club Rep game, I experienced the usual complaints one hears from the middle (*white*) tee - forward (*gold*) tee controversy. With a most noble attempt to minimize the complaining, I mustered a brainstorm. I conferred with our Club Pro and our Course Superintendent and suggested the white tee markers and the gold tee markers be placed at the same identical spot on each tee box - between the permanent white and gold marker stones. They agreed to give it a go, but chuckled at the suggestion. During the pre-golf instructions, we informed the golfers they could play from whatever tee marker they wished - white or gold. Their initial reaction to the instruction was one of surprise, interest, and amusement. However, after the golfing had concluded **all** of them expressed discontent. So much for that brainstorm. *The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley.*

Lloyd Stimson Assistant Director - Division VI, Associates Chairman - Division VI, Club Rep Emeritus - Tantallon CC

IT'S A SMALL WORLD As seen by Dick Dale

Karen Wells was the coordinator for the nine hole ladies at Seabrook. Patty Dale was the coordinator for the nine hole ladies at Amelia. Karen did not go to Amelia but continued to stay in the South to visit friends. When the Dales left Amelia a week later they stopped near Rocky Mount, NC at a gas station just off I-95. Patty went to the restroom and ran into Karen. At first they were not sure whether they knew each other, since they did not expect to see anyone familiar in the restroom. However, after a moment they realized they had both been nine holers at Seabrook. Ironic that two nine hole golfers met a week later and several hundred miles from Seabrook. It's a small world!



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

C.J. Myers and Charlie Fieldhouse were presented MISGA's newly named "Hastings Green Jacket" for their outstanding service to MISGA at the annual Division IV Christmas Luncheon. These two men have been the backbone of MISGA for many years and truly deserve this recognition. The following articles recognize the accomplishments of C. J. and Charlie.

A Tribute to C.J. Myers by Dick Hunt

The state of Montana has 0.3 % of the population of the United States. MISGA is fortunate that Montana gave us a favorite son who, since his retirement, has worked tirelessly for our organization. Because of its small population, knowing someone from Montana is unique. But knowing C.J. Myers is unique and special because of who he is.

C.J. has been: club rep at Manor Country Club; Division IV Assistant Director and Director; Fall Trip Coordinator; Policy and Planning Committee Chair; Rules and Handicap Committee Chair; currently Tournament Committee Chair; and of course C.J. was our President in 1997.

All MISGA Divisions now have yearly training seminars for new club Reps and Division committee chairs. These seminars, originally instituted by C.J. in Division IV, have proven especially useful in helping new Reps understand their duties and have resulted in smoothly run mixers and tournaments. Another example of C.J.'s innovative concepts was establishment of the Club Reps Annual Report, and later the Division Annual Report compiled from the former. These reports provide fodder for the financial contribution of MISGA to individual clubs and become a marketing tool for recruiting new clubs.

One of the highlights of the year in Division IV is the annual Christmas luncheon, started by his predecessor Andy Anderson for the Division Club Reps and their wives. It is at this gathering that the outstanding Club Rep of the year is recognized and honored. C.J. expanded the scope of this social affair to include all MISGA Division Directors and Committee Chairs. Through the years, attendance at this party has grown to over 100 people who enjoy MISGA camaraderie at its best.

C.J. has been a member of Manor Country Club for the past 35 years and as a member of the Board of Governors works as tirelessly for Manor and Manor seniors as he does for MISGA. As an example, C.J. each year organizes two, three-day golf trips for fifty or so Manor seniors to Carroll Valley and Penn National golf courses.

Another example of his dedication and service to his fellow senior golfers is that he serves on the Board of Directors of the Free State Seniors Golf Association of Maryland and is publicity chair and Board Secretary.

C.J. and his wife Dorothy live in the Manor community in Rockville. He has six children and 16 grandchildren. He graduated from (guess where) Montana University in 1959 in electrical engineering and worked for General Electric until 1966. He then took a System Marketing Engineering position with ITT Corp in California, and transferred to their Washington office in 1968, where he worked as marketing manager until he retired in 1992.

When I came to Manor nine years ago, CJ was especially kind to me and introduced me to many Manor friends and helped me become a part of the club. CJ's life has been one of kindness, hard work, and a life of service. MISGA has been rewarded with his dedication.



C.J. Myers (left) is congratulated by MISGA President Paul Kieser (right) upon receipt of his Green Jacket

A Tribute to Charlie Fieldhouse by Dick Hunt

I first met Charlie Fieldhouse in 1994 when I was Club Rep at Rolling Road Golf Club and Charlie was Club Rep at Hunt Valley. We were hosting a mixer at Rolling Road and Charlie and I were teamed in the same foursome. On the second hole, a long par four, Charlie hit his second shot with such exuberance that he fell to the ground, hurt his leg and had to withdraw from the day's events. His shot landed eight feet from the cup and with his excellent putting skills, he would have made a sure birdie. It was at this event that I learned about the enthusiasm, interest and dedication Charlie has for golf, for MISGA and for life.

Charlie joined MISGA in 1987. He has been Club Rep at Hunt Valley; Division II Assistant Director and Director; Fall Trip Coordinator; currently Associates Chair; Past Presidents Committee Chair; and Charlie was our President in 2001. Since 1987, Charlie and his wife Kay have attended almost all the MISGA Fall Trips and Charlie has been in charge of trips to Jekyll Island.

While President, the country was faced with the catastrophe of the terrorists attacks on "9/11". Charlie went the extra mile and personally took the initiative in organizing MISGA's financial contribution to the 9/11 disaster. In his president's message in the MISGAGRAM of November 2001 Charlie thanked all the Associates for their response to his request and noted that our donations amounted to \$18,195.00.

Among Charlie's many contributions to MISGA, our web site was his brain child. It was created because of his request to some of our computer wizards to help MISGA enter the 21st century. Today we have an excellent web site with a wealth of information thanks to Charlie's inspiration. In his current role as Associates Chair, Charlie has similarly brought the accounting of our roster into the computer age. No longer do we tote huge piles of computer output to be distributed to each Club Rep - it all happens electronically.

Charlie's wife Kay describes him as a "computer nut". He is self-taught and relentless in achieving simplified and useful results. He seldom uses canned programs. He writes his own so that he gets the kind of output he wants. I first learned of his computer skills when I was his assistant for a Fall Trip to Jekyll Island. Charlie had organized all the data in an Excel spread sheet and when we had some disagreement with the hotel regarding costs, Charlie's computer reconciliation easily won the day.

In days past, "Charlie's Timonium Sunoco" was his successful business. Although I never visited his station, I'm sure it was successful because he is truly a "people person". Incidentally, his station was "full service" - something from the past. Charlie is also a veteran of the Korean conflict and I'm sure he served the Army with the same gusto as everything in his life.

I've been told about his Christmas Garden. He is a devotee of "0" gauge model trains and each year erects a garden with automated layouts and as many as 17 simultaneously running trains. His enjoyment from this endeavor is other peoples pleasure.

Charlie has been a good friend for the past eleven years. I have been fortunate to know his ever pleasant good humor, kindness, courtesy and boundless energy.



Charlie Fieldhouse (left) receives his Green Jacket from MISGA Pdresident Paul Kieser

Why Not Different Tees?

Aretta and I attended the Annual Fall Senior Golf Classic at the High Hampton Inn & Country Club in western North Carolina in September. They have three age divisions for the week-long series of tournaments: 50-64, 65-74, & 75+. The men's divisions play from the White, Gold, and Green tees; all women's divisions play from the Red tees. Handicaps are determined through individual stroke play on the first day using the Callaway Scoring System. This tends to reduce the sandbagger effect – it's much harder to “game” the system. Gross scores from day one are used to determine ABCD Mixed Scramble pairings for Tuesday's team event and Thursday's Individual Net and Gross events. Team events are mixed foursomes, both by gender and age groups. In every case, individuals hit from their assigned tees. For Wednesday's Stableford scoring team event, each player is given an individual “quota” determined by the Monday Callaway scores. For Thursday's Individual Medal Play, net and gross prizes are given in each age flight.

Golfers of all skill levels (handicaps) really enjoyed the opportunity to play from age-determined tees. The expressed objectives were the enjoyment and camaraderie among senior golfers of all ages and genders. This is much like the stated purposes of MISGA, “to develop greater interest, enjoyment, communication and participation in golf by senior members of golf clubs in the State of Maryland and adjoining areas. Its goal is to foster friendships and camaraderie through tournaments and mixers...” To my knowledge, no one complained about the reduced yardage for the forward tees, other than in a joking manner.

The High Hampton Inn has been conducting these Senior Golf Tournaments for 19 years, and many attendees are repeat participants. They must be doing something right. There may be some valuable lessons here for MISGA, who has experienced a declining participation in its out-of-state events, particularly the Fall Flings, during recent years.

Some members of MISGA have expressed sentiments for permitting older players to use forward tees during MISGA Mixers and Tournaments. Perhaps now is the time to explore the use of multiple tees as a way of encouraging participation in MISGA activities. Certainly, within MISGA, *competition* must remain a lower priority consideration than *enjoyment (for all) and camaraderie*. Is winning a sleeve of balls more important than the joy of participating on a level playing field?



Island Green at High Hampton

For those players who are concerned (worried) about “giving up” their inherent advantage (youth and strength) to allow older golfers to compete on a more favorable, or at least, a more enjoyable basis, USGA has made provision for competitors using different tees. The golfer playing from the tees with the higher Course Rating receives extra strokes, which are added to his already determined Course Handicap. The number of extra strokes is the rounded-off difference between the two Course Ratings. Of course the forward tees get a reduced total yardage; that's what the Slope and Course Ratings adjust for. The USGA has investigated the equity of these relationships to a greater extent than has been done within MISGA.

The 15th Annual Spring Senior Golf Classic will be held in June, 2006. Perhaps some MISGA principals should attend to find out what seems to be so appealing about these multiple-tee events. Again, the determination of which tees to play is based on age, not handicap.

So, why not multiple tees for MISGA events?

Byron Keadle, Patuxent Greens

A Witches Ode To Peter

After all is said and done,

We really had a lot of fun.

And I would like it,

If you knew,

I'm making up a special brew.

And witches cast a spell you know.

So all your scores are going to grow,

And then your sight will start to fade.

You'll have to rest in lots of shade.

The knees will knock,

And hands will shake.

The sand traps call.

You cannot rake

But now I leave

To fly away

And cast a spell another day.

Can it be that one of the Ladies that went to Seatrail wanted to get even with Mr. Sorge?



Jim Mitchell
MISGAGRAM EDITOR
324 Locust Thorn Court
Millersville, MD 21108

Prsrt First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Southern MD
Permit No. 305



Congratulations to **Jim Wilcox** of Hobbits Glen (above with Mike) who has just completed his life's ambition of playing every Public and Private Golf course in the State of Maryland.