

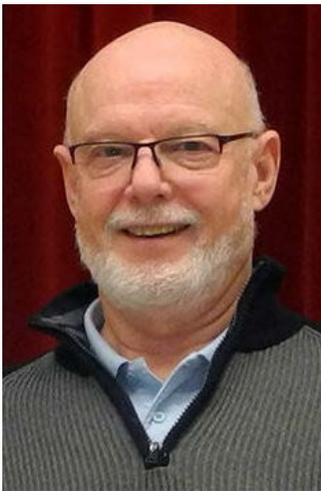


MISGAGRAM

Volume 134 – March 2018

www.misga.org

President's Message



We continue to face the challenge of keeping MISGA relevant to the ever-changing world of golf. There is a repetitive message of late that golf's popularity is on the wane; there is less interest in golf, courses are closing, it takes too long to play, golf is too expensive, private clubs are going public, land is more valuable for development than recreation. Indeed, the USGA will be implementing some significant changes to make some of our archaic rules more understandable and less onerous, all with the purpose of speeding play. We in MISGA see evidence of golf's decline. We are down to 47 member clubs, from 60, our number of associates has dropped by a thousand over the last 8 years to 2,630, and we have had to reduce our number of "Divisions" from

6 to 4 in the last two years.

We can be proud that our organization, made up of you and your golfing colleagues, has a history of tackling these issues for the benefit of our senior golfing members. I have no doubt (and perhaps CJ Meyers or Tom Tarpley or Byron Keadle can verify this) that one of the topics at the first ever MISGA meetings in 1976 was speeding up play. No doubt another early topic was keeping the cost reasonable. And kudos to MISGA for being vigilant about these issues. We continue to provide our members the opportunity to play a great variety of courses at an incredibly reasonable rate. I estimate that the "mixer" rates at our member clubs range from \$35-\$55 per person. Where can you go to play golf for that price that includes a prize pool, the classic MISGA breakfast (coffee and donuts), range balls, and with lunch (usually excellent food) thrown in??? Not only that, the quality of most of our courses is outstanding. Compare this to Maryland Free State, another golf organization in which I participate and support. Free State plays tournaments once a month during the season at some great private courses (including some MISGA courses). Their rate is around \$100 or higher for golf, prize pool and dinner.

(continued: p. 3)

Maryland
Interclub
Seniors Golf
Association

President
Greg Morris
Vice President
Malcomb Peterson
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:

tgnome1@gmail.com

Bob Hodges

MISGAGRAM Editor

The Lighter Side



"I hate the greenskeeper at this course."

OBITUARIES

Dr. Franklin Niel Postlethwait died on January 31, 2018 at his home in Wild Quail, Wyoming, Delaware, at the age of 93 after a long battle with cancer. Niel was a passionate golfer and spent many hours at the Wild Quail Golf and Country Club course into his nineties. He was a founding member of MISGA at Wild Quail.

Harold "Nitty" Nitowitz was very active within our senior group and traveled to many MISGA courses over his 25 plus years as a member. Nitty passed on November 23, 2017. He was 89. Among his many friends was Fred Funk who was Nitty's paper boy. Nitty also served as UMD's club representative in the mid nineties.

(President's Message, *continued*)

Unlike Free State or other similar groups, MISGA is made up of Senior Golfer Associations from membership clubs; not individuals. To be eligible to participate in MISGA you have to do so through your club's Senior Golf Association.

Because of this, and with the cooperation of our member courses, we are able to offer lots of golfing venues at those reasonable rates. This is also the basis for providing other unique golfing opportunities for our members. In Division 6 we have an active Match Play competition for those clubs who want to participate while other divisions host Ryder Club formats between clubs as well as pro-am tournaments. Of course, we have our own MISGA-wide stroke play and 2-person tournaments. We continue to strive to enhance the golfing experience.

Reviewing MISGA's history on our website we see that 42 years ago the basic premise of MISGA was established, and remains:

- *waiver of greens fees,*
- *non-competitive format with the home club members acting as hosts to the visitors, and,*
- *a strong emphasis on interclub fellowship in golf.*

I think this is a great recipe to continue to tackle the issues that plague golf and to create a positive, fun and worthwhile experience allowing all of us to enjoy the game. But, as I alluded to in the last MISGAGRAM, this doesn't happen in a vacuum. We all need to pitch in to make it work at the club level, divisional level, and Board level. To borrow from a former President, who was an excellent golfer himself, “**Ask not what MISGA can do for you, but what you can do for MISGA**”. So consider being an Assistant Rep or taking a role as a Divisional officer, or running the 50/50 at your home mixers.

Thanks, and contact me at gregmorris14@yahoo.com with any comments

Greg Morris

Winter Fling Trying to Make a Comeback

I'm considering a revival of the MISGA Winter Fling at The Plantation on Crystal River Florida for 2019 and would appreciate forwarding this to your club members. The rough details are in, and before my commitment I would like to hear from those who might want to attend.

Dates: **March 3 to March 9, 2019** (6 nights accommodations)

At The Plantation on Crystal River Website.. www.plantationoncrystalriver.com ;

Schedule: Arrive Sunday March 3 . Reception Cocktail and light Apps 6-7 PM (cash Bar)

- Golf Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Breakfast included Monday through Saturday (get away day)
- Buffet Dinner on golf days (M, T, Th, F). Cash Bar
- Hospitality Room w/ice (not stocked-BYOB).
- Possible Spa discounts (working still)

Costs:

2 golfers - one room: \$2100

1 golfer+1 non golfer: \$1900

1 golfer, single occupancy: \$1500

Golf & Maid Gratuity, Meal Gratuity, Taxes and Resort Fee Included... also Prize money included.

Patio rooms add \$60 to total.

PLEASE RESPOND directly to Jack Sullivan, National at Tantallon, email: JohnLSuL@msn.com

Your response to this is not a commitment to attend. If I receive enough positive remarks, then I'll post formal announcement with application on MISGA.org website for a late fall signup and payment before a January 2019 deadline.

2018 MISGA SPRING FLING

Williamsburg, Virginia

Tuesday May 8 (Arrival) - Thursday May 10 (Departure)

The 2018 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 May. We will be playing three different courses:

Kingsmill (Plantation Course)

Golden Horseshoe (Gold Course - this golf course went through a \$9M dollar renovation and just opened back up), and

Kiskiack Golf Club.

A central hotel was not set up since a lot of people still like to use their time shares or want to use hotels to get points on their credit cards. There is a wide variety of lodging in Williamsburg with something to fit every taste and budget. All three courses are within a few miles of downtown Williamsburg.

Shotgun start times are scheduled for:

Tuesday – Kingsmill (Plantation) @ 12: 00 PM

Wednesday - Golden Horseshoe (Gold) @ 9:00 AM

Thursday - Kiskiack @ 9:00 AM

The basic package price includes three rounds of golf, golf prizes, one dinner, one deli buffet lunch and one luncheon for the non-golfing wives/guest. (Luncheon for Non-Golfers will be @ Shields Tavern in downtown historical Williamsburg on Tuesday, May 8th).

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 **Bill Duncan, 410-979-0276** for an Application Form.

The field will be restricted to the first 72 golfers. Get your application in early to ensure you will be playing these outstanding courses in May.

2018 MISGA SUMMER FROLIC

The 2018 MISGA Summer Frolic and the Annual State Board of Directors Meeting will be held at Liberty Mountain Resort at Carroll Valley in Fairfield PA

Monday, September 10, 2018 -- Board of Directors Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Meeting is preceded by Golf via Tee Times beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Green / Cart fees and Dinner included in package if staying all 3 days, Otherwise DINNER FEES ARE AL A CARTE

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 - Golf via Tee Times beginning at 11:00a.m.

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 - Golf / Mixed Scramble Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Check-out /s 11:00am Those playing in the Scramble must check out prior to playing.

Monday Dinner is scheduled for 6:00 pm in the Eagle and Owl Restaurant in the Lodge.

Tuesday & Wednesday Breakfasts are served in the Eagle and Owl Restaurant in the Lodge between 6:00am and 10:00am.

Tuesday Dinner is at 6:00 pm for appetizers with dinner at 7:00 pm in the Alpine Room across the street from the Lodge. **[Gentlemen are requested to please wear a jacket.](#)**

Wednesday Lunch is also in the Alpine Room across the street from the Lodge immediately following golf.

SPECIAL NOTE: ALL CONTACT WITH STAFF AT LIBERTY MOUNTAIN ARE TO BE MADE THROUGH THE GROUP CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE:

Tom Taylor (Email: trytogolf@comcast.net

Cell #: 410-596-9669)

Nice Thought

Bruce Cowan, MISGAGRAM Liason for Div II, sent in the following.

As has been a custom over the years, Glade Valley MISGA makes a donation at the end of the season to the local Walkersville Food Bank. This money (\$300.00) out of our treasury comes from the profits of our member, Ben Snouffer, selling those 50-50 tickets at home mixers. Thanks Ben. Attached is a picture of our own Leo Duncan, assistant Rep, making the presentation to volunteers Barbara Crum and Tom Ritondo of the Walkersville Food Bank on or about November 10. Thanks Leo. (That grin on his face looks like he just sank a birdie putt.)



RULES AND HANDICAP

Well the 2018 season is almost upon us. Next year we will have the largest rules change in a very long time. If you haven't yet reviewed the changes that are coming up I suggest you visit the USGA website (www.usga.org). Following this will be the first major change to the handicap system to make it uniform around the world, this should be coming in 2020. It will also change things from what we are use too. More on this in coming issues.

I will leave you with a story I heard the other day:

Editors note: The following does not reflect the editorial policy of this publication.

After a particularly bad round of golf, Robert decided not to go to the nineteenth hole [the clubhouse bar] and started to go straight home.

As he was walking to the golf car park to get his Range Rover, a policeman stopped him and asked', Did you tee off on the seventeenth hole about twenty minutes ago?'

'Yes', Robert answered

'Did you happen to slice your ball so that it went over the trees and out of bounds and completely off the golf course?'

'Yes, I did. How did you know?' Robert questioned.

'Well', said the policeman gravely', Your golf ball flew out onto the main road and crashed through the windscreen of a BMW. The car driver lost control and crashed into six other cars and a fire engine. The fire engine was unable to reach the fire in time and the building burned down. Now, what do you intend to do about it?'

Robert thought it over very carefully and responded', I think I'll close my stance a little bit, tighten my grip and lower my right thumb.'

COMMIT

Did you ever decide that you were going to complete a project on Saturday, but when Saturday morning came, you found out that you didn't have the right tools, or the right hardware? Then you decided that you were tired, it was raining and there was a good football game on TV and then you never got around to the project. But if you committed yourself to finish the project, you would have made sure that you had the tools and the hardware before Saturday came. You would have thought about the project and you would have looked forward to finishing it, and you would have.

Did you ever get invited to a party and you replied that you would try to come? But when the night of the party came, you were tired, or it was raining, or there was a good football game on TV. If you had replied that you would be happy to come and were looking forward to the party, you would have looked forward to it, planned for it and would not have thought of reasons why you should not go.

MISGA is a lot like those projects and parties. MISGA holds a number of good events out of the area and the MISGA members that attend these events have a good time, this goes for golfers and non-golfers alike. In May, MISGA will be holding a three-day golf outing in Williamsburg, VA. We'll be playing the Golden Horseshoe course, Kingsmill and Kissiak. In the Fall, we will have one event, at Seabrook or Jekyll Island.. We also have a Summer Frolic at in September. These events include golf at some very good courses, good food and a lot of sociability. The only thing that you have to do, is COMMIT. If you do that, you'll find that you are not tired, it won't be raining and there will be nothing on TV. But you have to COMMIT to going.

The events are publicized in the MISGAGRAM and event descriptions and application forms are available on the website. COMMIT, fill out the registration form and plan to enjoy yourself. If you COMMIT, maybe some close friends will decide to join you.

The lack of people willing to commit their time or their talents is killing a lot of organizations. A lot of people just want to show up, do whatever and go home. That will only work for a while and then the organizations lose members and eventually fold.

Not that many years ago, registrations were not accepted before June 15th for the Fall Frolics, we had as many as three in one year. If your registration arrived on the 17th, you might find that there was no more room. In 2017, we were fortunate to get 60 people at the Fall Frolic. They did have a good time. A lot of effort goes into planning and running these events. If there are no Frolics because of lack of interest, then it will be too late to COMMIT.

ENTRY FEE - MISGA CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

Every year since the two MISGA Championship Tournaments (MCTs) have been played, a few associates have complained about the cost of the entry fee. The perpetual words of protest are - *"The cost to play in the tournament is much too high."* - *"We need to reduce the price."* - *"I won't play in a tournament that costs that much."* - *"Eliminate or reduce the amenities."* - *"We just wanna play golf."*

Gents, one must not look at the two MCTs as just another inexpensive routine weekly coffee & donuts, buffet luncheon MISGA mixer. The two MCTs are designed to be the highlight and pinnacle of MISGA's golfing season. They are MISGA's showcase golfing events of the year. They crown MISGA's gross and net

Grand Champions with high quality trophies (at MISGA expense, not part of the entry fee). The MCTs are explicitly designed to be first class, high quality tournaments with enhanced amenities. Furthermore, the two tournaments are played at two of MISGA's superior private country clubs. One should not expect to drink a flute of champagne for the price of a draft beer.

Take a realistic perspective of the cost to compete. The entry fee for each of the two 2017 MCTs was \$105. That included your cart fee, range balls, light luncheon, cash bar cocktail hour with light hors d'oeuvres, plated double entree' banquet (*surf & turf*) & a prize pool. Compare that to the week-day green/cart fee for the private country clubs in your division. In Division VI, the week-day guest green/cart fee at its 3 private clubs is: Chartwell - \$80, Naval Academy - \$70 and National - \$91. That's just the green/cart fee without the coffee & donuts, luncheon and prize pool of a mixer. Also, compare it to the entry fee for the Maryland State Golf Association tournaments - they begin at \$150. This includes only the cart fee, range balls, luncheon & prize pool - that's all. By comparison, the entry fee for the MCTs is well worth the price of admission. The two MCTs provide much more bang for the buck.

Annually, the 47 clubs of MISGA provide literally hundreds of low cost mixers. They are played on a wide variety of superior to pedestrian level courses. It is my opinion these mixers should be more than enough to satisfy the golfing thirst of the membership. Hence, I believe it would be a huge mistake for MISGA to consider downsizing the prominence of the two MCTs to placate a few "cost-conscious" dissenters. MISGA should continue staging the two MISGA Championship Tournaments (*Past Presidents {ABCD}* & *2-Man Team*) as regal golfing competitions.

Stim

Lloyd Stimson

MISGA Tournament Chairman (MTC)