



# MISGAGRAM

Volume 143 – June 2020

[www.misga.org](http://www.misga.org)

## President's Message



I hope you all received a copy of the email that cancelled all MISGA events for 2020 by now. If not, a copy is included at the bottom of this message.

We did not take this decision lightly. We carefully considered a number of alternatives but kept coming back to the position that there was no easy way to protect the health of our associates.

May 14, 2020

After considerable research and careful consideration, on May 12 the MISGA Board voted unanimously to cancel all MISGA events for 2020. That includes the club mixers, the state tournaments, and the Flings and Frolics scheduled for calendar year 2020.

There are a number of contributing factors to this decision including, of course, the possible exposure to the coronavirus, the prohibitions on gathering in groups at the golf course, no dining facilities, closed restrooms, no shotgun starts, closed clubhouses, possible legal liabilities, and a general reluctance of many MISGA associates to participate at this time.

We are sorry that we will not participate in these events this year. I will miss the camaraderie, the competition, the donuts, and most of all not seeing good friends.

### **Club Annual Dues**

Most clubs have paid their \$50.00 club annual fee. We propose to carry over that payment as a credit to 2021 instead of issuing refunds to each division treasurer who would turn around and issue refunds to all of the individual clubs that have paid in 2020. It will save a lot of time and effort this way.

*Continued on p. 3*

Maryland  
Interclub  
Seniors Golf  
Association

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Jeff Hild

**Vice President**

Wayne Rowland

**Secretary**

(Vacant)

**Treasurer**

Gary Manion

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](http://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)

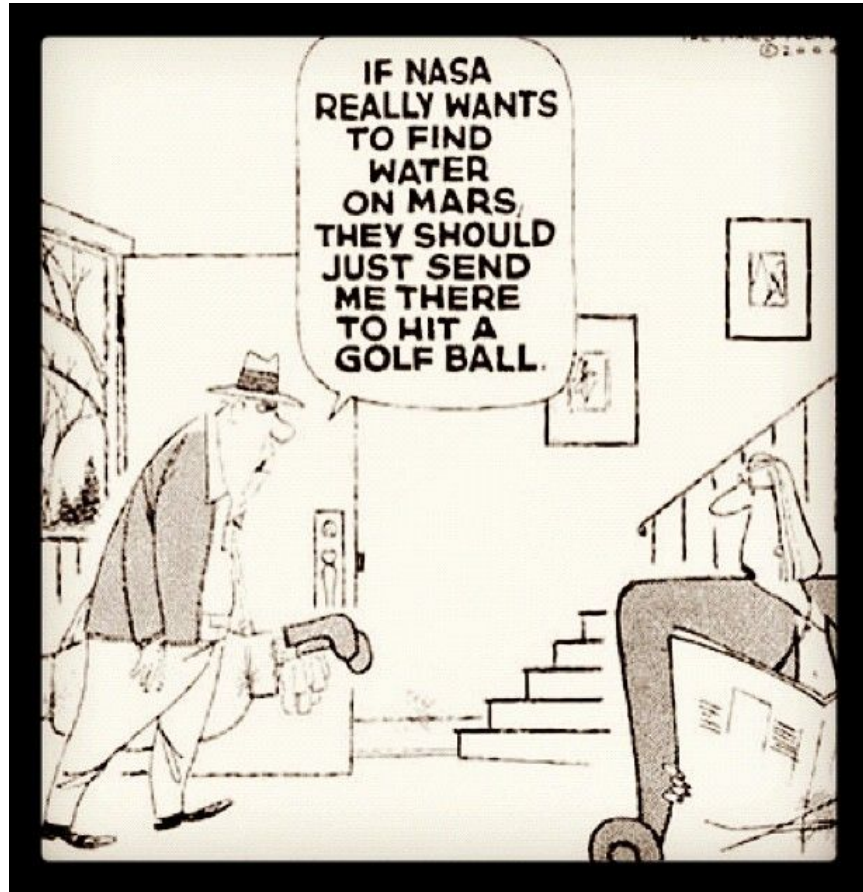
All materials should be sent via e-mail to:

[tgnome1@gmail.com](mailto:tgnome1@gmail.com)

Bob Hodges

MISGAGRAM Editor

## The Lighter Side



## Obituary

See article on Charles Fieldhouse below the president's Message.

## **Presidents Message** *(Continued from p. 1)*

### **Associates 'Dues**

This is the \$10.00 per associate fee usually due to the state treasurer by June 1 each year. We are cancelling this fee for 2020.

### **Division Operations Fees**

These are the fees that the state treasurer returns to the divisions each year to conduct division operations. Since we are not collecting associate fees, there will be no contributions to the divisions in 2020.

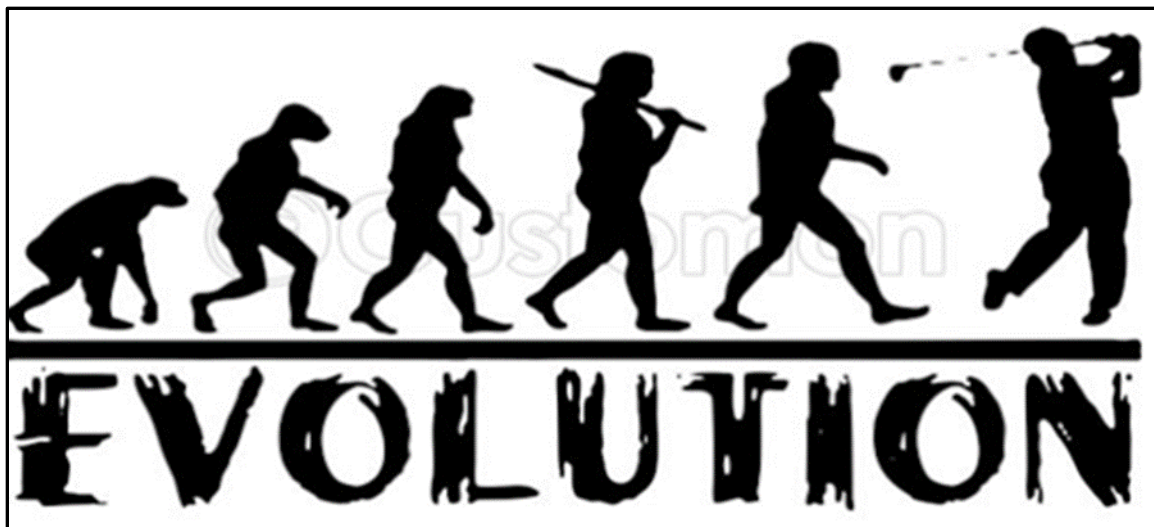
We will continue to review conditions for the balance of 2020 to gauge if/when MISGA sponsored events may resume. We will keep you informed of any developments.

If you get the opportunity to play golf in 2020, please remember to abide by all of the federal, state, and local guidance for staying safe while playing golf. We want you ready and able to resume playing in MISGA events as soon as conditions merit.

Stay healthy!

Jeff Hild

MISGA President



## MISGA ICON - CHARLES R. FIELDHOUSE

MISGA has recently lost one of its longtime members and an iconic leadership official. On April 28, 2020, Charles R. Fieldhouse, of Parkton, MD passed away after a long fight with cancer.



Charlie's time with MISGA began when he served as Club Rep at Hunt Valley CC in 1994–1998. In 1999, he joined Piney Branch CC in Hampstead, MD. Charlie served as MISGA President in 2001, as MISGA Vice President in 2000, Division 2 Director in 2001, Division 2 Deputy Director 1998-2000, Past Presidents Ad Hoc Chair 2003-2006, Associates Chair 2004-2008 & 2010-2012 and Historian 2007 & 2009-2013. One of Charlie's most

cherished activities was serving as the Bingo Caller at MISGA's seasonal special events.

Charlie was very meticulous when it came to establishing and maintaining MISGA records. His comprehensive record keeping provided significant and relevant data associated with MISGA's administrative operations – associates, club membership, history, etc.

In addition, Charlie organized and coordinated a number of special MISGA sponsored tournaments to help raise funds for recovering wounded veterans.



For his many and significant contributions to MISGA, Charlie was awarded MISGA's coveted Green Jacket in 2005.

Charlie was born in Struthers, OH on October 5, 1928. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was the proud owner of Charlie's Timonium Sunoco. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Kay (*married on the D-Day anniversary – June 6, 1953*), and a number of nieces and nephews.



## **Golf in the age of COVID-19**

I hope that this newsletter finds you and yours safe. Those of you who have had lost someone to the disease have my deepest sympathy. This disease has changed our lives. Golf is no exception. As restrictions on our social lives are reduced, we try and get back to “normalcy”. For golf that starts with one person per cart, no rakes in bunkers, no sand bottles, no gathering early before a round, no lingering after a round, no arriving before a specified time for your round and no social interaction (food and beverage) after the round.

As the restrictions continue to lift, we will get to see changes with social interaction; being able to stop for food and beverage so that we can collect or pay the bet we won or lost.

Golf may never get back to what we witnessed prior to the pandemic. Some of the changes instituted to protect the spread of COVID-19 should probably be kept.

A survey recently released on how it has changed the game is interesting. Pace of Play has gotten better. Average round is 3 hours 35 minutes. Most likely because requirement of only have one occupant per cart has made “ready golf” work. Not raking bunkers or removing the flag stick has something to do with it. Not having to reach into cup to retrieve your ball helps.

The golf cart industry is already looking at making single person carts. They would be smaller so a storage facility could hold more. Courses charge for each rider currently so giving each player his own cart is not hurting revenue. Instead of a bunker have 2-4 rakes put a rake on each cart. Put sand bottles back into the cart. The rakes and bottles can be sanitized after each round along with the cart.

Golf as a sport lends itself to the “social distancing” requirement that health officials say is needed better than any other sport. Having a live audience is an entirely different issue.

Wayne Rowland

MISGA Vice President

## **Tidbits of MISGA History**

### **MISGA's DIVISIONS**

In 1976, MISGA became an official seniors golfing organization. The original 12 clubs and 240 associates were located mostly in Maryland's western and northern regions of Washington, DC. By 1982, MISGA had grown to include 41 clubs and 2,200 associates throughout Maryland. It was at this time, the Board of Directors decided to divide MISGA into four geographical divisions. Each division would have two voting members on the Board - Division Director & Assistant Division Director.

#### **1982- 1995**

- I - Eastern Shore
- II - Western Maryland & Baltimore
- III- Washington, DC - East
- IV - Washington, DC - West

By 1996, MISGA had grown to include 53 clubs and 4,250 associates. There had been substantial growth on the Eastern Shore as well as Delaware and Pennsylvania. To accommodate this growth, the MISGA Board of Directors added a fifth division.

#### **1996 - 2003**

- I - Eastern Shore - North
- II - Western Maryland & Baltimore
- III - Washington, DC - East
- IV - Washington, DC - West
- V - Eastern Shore - South

MISGA continued to grow in club membership. In 2004, there were 57 clubs located in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The Board approved expanding to six divisions which included restructuring the Eastern Shore clubs into three divisions - I, III & V. Division III - Washington, DC - East was renumbered as Division VI. *(Odd numbers for eastern shore clubs and even numbers for western shore clubs)*

#### **2004 - 2016**

- I - Eastern Shore - East
- II - Western Maryland & Baltimore
- III - Eastern Shore - West
- IV - Washington, DC - West
- V - Eastern Shore - South
- VI - Washington, DC - East

After its peak years (4,760 associates in 2000 and 68 clubs in 2011), MISGA has been in a steady decline. In 2017, all the clubs of Division V - Eastern Shore - South withdrew from MISGA. Hence, MISGA was reduced to five operational divisions.

### 2017

- I - Eastern Shore - North
- II - Western Maryland & Baltimore
- III - Eastern Shore - West
- IV - Washington, DC - West
- VI - Washington, DC - East
- V - Eastern Shore - South **Withdrew & deactivated**

By the end of 2017, the number of member clubs on the Eastern Shore had dropped to a total of 10 (Division I - 6 and Division III - 4). At the Dec. 2017 BoD meeting, the Directors voted to deactivate Division III and merge its remaining clubs into Division I.

### 2018 - Present

- I - Eastern Shore
- II - Western Maryland & Baltimore
- IV - Washington, DC - West
- VI - Washington, DC - East
- III - Eastern Shore - West **Deactivated & merged into D-I**
- V - Eastern Shore - South **Inactive**

What goes around comes around. As of today, MISGA has returned to its original four division structure that was established in 1982. (1982: Clubs - 41, Associates - 2,200 .... 2019: Clubs - 43, Associates - 2,263). Only the out-of-sync divisional numbering is different.

*Lloyd Stimson*

MISGA History Chairman

## Golf at National Golf Club in the COVID era

A number of our senior golf members discovered what golf was like in Virginia this March and April while waiting for our Maryland courses to open. The Senior group at our club could travel easily to Fredericksburg or Manassas -- traffic was light! The good news was that we were able to play once or twice a week and keep our game somewhat up to "par". It was a great relief when we could finally play our own course in early May. After a couple of months of no play, but with the greens crew working during the lay-off, our course was in excellent condition (and still is!). It is interesting how the various courses handle the protocols of not touching surfaces, staying out of the pro shop and club house, and so on.

Our club was recently sold to a local group who took advantage of the down time to begin major clubhouse renovations, so we are still out of the club house! When it reopens it should be great.

Our greens keeper employed a unique system to not touch the flag while retrieving your ball. He attached a gizmo with a plastic bottom of the cup, attached to a hook on the flag sticks. To retrieve that birdie/par putt, you simply place your putter shaft under the hook and lift, and the ball rolls out. It's pretty cool, but, that little extra thin hook occasionally gets in the way of those putts, giving an additional excuse for the lip outs.

No shotgun starts, one cart per person, limited seating for lunches still puts a crimp in the MISGA style mixers. Our Senior Members Golf Association has events once a week using various MISGA scoring formats, and others such as Ryder Cup, match play events, shambles, scrambles and more. We miss visiting and socializing with our fellow senior groups around the state. Hopefully, next season we will be back in the MISGA saddle again.

Keep your game sharp for our ABCD Past Presidents and 2 Player Tournaments in 2021 (fingers crossed)!

Greg Morris, MISGA Tournament Chair

*Editor's note: Send me all the clever ways greenskeepers fixed it so you didn't have to touch the flag. I'll publish the list in the next edition. [tgnome1@gmail.com](mailto:tgnome1@gmail.com). Email subject Clever NoTouch*



## **No Flings (and you can't Frolic either)**

Based on the current COVID crisis, we have decided to suspend MISGA play for the near future. Therefore, the Frolics for 2020 are not being scheduled at this time.

Peter Sorge, Events Chairman

