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John Cyran 404-272-1571

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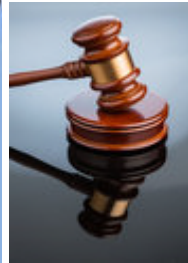
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Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 67 Issue 8

August 2023



President

Larry Fauconnet

LHFauconnet@gmail.com

(678) 654-2594



General: As the dog-days of August approach, perhaps it's a good time to take stock of our year-to-date. As of our July attendance report, we had roughly 216 members. This number is constantly in flux as we gain new members – who experience a lag of as much as a month before they earn their member number – and sadly, as we lose members. That number is down just slightly from where it was about a year ago. Of those 216, roughly 75% have played at least one round and 40% have played more than 10 rounds. In all, we've played over 2,200 rounds of golf so far this year bringing in over \$70,000 to the local golfing economy! Go us!!

Member Guest: I want to remind everyone that the **deadline for registering/paying for the Member-Guest at Lake Junaluska is August 15th**. This event is shaping up to be more popular than anticipated, and early October at Lake Junaluska this year also appears to be more popular than anticipated. As I write this, we have 28 of our block of 30 rooms committed, though not all yet paid for (as I write this on July 18th, 10 have paid). While there are rooms available at the Terrace Hotel at Lake Junaluska beyond our block for days we're scheduled to be, our agent at Lake Junaluska will temporarily block several of the rooms that are still available at the Lambeth Inn (the other Hotel on the property). So there should be enough rooms to accommodate all who are interested. We will set the rooming list in order of receipt of registration/payment as well as by commitment indicated on the survey taken in March. Those who pay earliest will be more likely to get the room type they prefer as well as a room at the Terrace Hotel.

Regarding requests to arrive early or extend an extra day. These will be handled on a case by case, first-come, first-served basis until we run out of availability. **Please DO NOT contact the reservations desk at Lake Junaluska directly.** Rather, contact me with your request and I will put you in touch with our agent (not reservations) at Lake Junaluska. She will best be able to accommodate our needs. These exceptions will all be handled individually. You will be charged the same rate as our negotiated rate at the venue; however, you will pay individually for the additional nights. Do not include these additional nights in your payment to me with your registration. When you speak with our agent at Lake Junaluska, she will take your credit card information to hold, and eventually pay for, that room for the additional nights.

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—The President's Message— Continued from Page 1

Regarding activities for the Ladies on Monday and Tuesday, we are currently looking at two options:

- 1) A boat tour of the lake followed by a light lunch/tea (\$75 each).
- 2) Transportation to Waynesville for shopping/lunch/etc. on your own (\$25)
- 3) Possibly both (one on one day and the other on the next)(\$100 for the package)

We'll be collecting for this/these activities separately in advance of the event, but will need to understand the level of interest in these options so we know which one to go with. Those bringing significant others - please email me your preferences so I know which way to go.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly by email (preferably) or by phone.

Other: One of our members reports finding an exceptionally large numbers of tees on the fairway. Perhaps they are being left by aliens learning the game as I know none of our members tee up their balls on the fairway.

In Memorium

Lest we forget, this golf we play is just a game. A game we enjoy as often as we can. These members passed away this year and no longer have that opportunity let us not forget them. Let us offer this golfer's prayer...

"For all the times I have swung a club, for the many friends and the game I love, for the patience I have found in sand or rough, for the excitement of making the shots though tough; for success is not measured by holes in one; but by the times that are shared when having fun.

Lord would you grant me one last request; to play You a round of the game I love best."

Jim Hood member since 1995

Bob Smith member since 2000

Jeff Burke member since 2021

Earl Conine member since 2002

Harley Thompson member since 1996

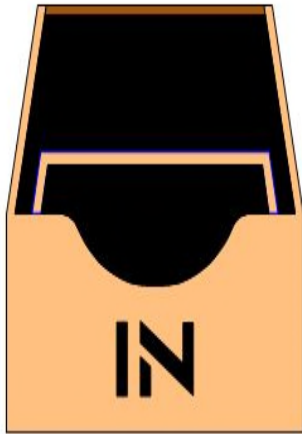
Norman (Styx) Phillips member 2009 - 2020

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Vice President

Ron Wade

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Golflink.com recently reported that there are about 60 golf courses, both public and private, within 20 miles of downtown Atlanta. This does not include some of the courses SGAA plays. Within the last 6 years, two courses we played have closed, and Cotton Fields may close later this year.

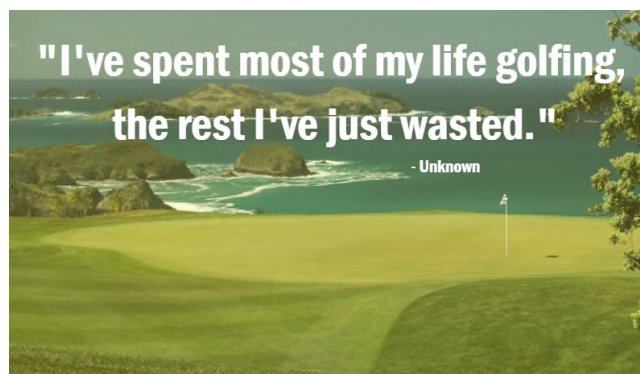
Quoting a February 2022 publication of the National Golf Foundation on golf course closings: "Golf courses are always going to close, such is the nature of any business. with an average footprint of about 150 acres, [courses] ... hold particular interest for developers. So, it's notable that the number of golf course closures in 2021 – 130.5 as measured in 18-hole equivalents – is down 53% from its peak two years ago, prior to the pandemic."

According to the report, more courses closed than opened every year between 2006 and 2020. The peak year for closings during that period was, surprisingly, pre-pandemic. In 2019, 2.1% of the total US "18 hole equivalent supply" closed. In 2020 and 2021, closings were only 1.4% and 1% respectfully.

Cotton Fields Golf Club was developed by Jerry Schwendinger in the early 1990s and has been one of our key courses. Mr. Schwendinger also operated another course in Henry county and sold it to the county several years ago. The county later sold that course to a developer. He sold Cotton Fields to the county in 2008 and the county proposes to develop an aquatic park and office park on the property. The County Commission was scheduled to vote on the development proposal on July 18 but deferred action because of widespread resistance to the proposal.

Tina Murry has been with Cotton Fields since 2002. According to Tina, golf starts are now substantially above pre-pandemic levels. Despite increases in the cost of chemicals and equipment, the course is profitable. They have avoided the shortage of labor experienced by many other organizations as most of the employees have been at the course for several years.

There are rumors among golf professionals that other local courses are vulnerable to development. If this trend continues, our In Town Tournament Scheduling Committee will have to scramble.



**EVENTS FOR
AUGUST 2023**

- August 1
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Crystal Lake \$35
- August 2
WED: 8:30 a/m
Honey Creek \$30
- August 3
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Bear Creek \$36
- August 7
MON: 8:30 a/m
Monroe CC \$35
- August 9
WED: 8:30 a/m
Southland \$32
- August 10
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Mystery Valley \$34
- August 14
MON: 8:30 a/m
Crystal Lake \$35
- August 15
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Chimneys \$45
- August 16
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Panola Mountain \$30
- Aug 17—Board Meeting**
- August 22
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Cotton Fields \$28
- August 23
WED: 8:30 a/m
Georgia National \$35
- August 24
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Providence \$35
- August 28
MON: 8:30 a/m
Heron Bay \$35
- August 30
WED: 8:30 a/m
Honey Creek \$30
- August 31
THUR: 8:30 a/m
PAR 3 Providence \$35

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**Secretary
Ted Pogue
tandgpogue@att.net
(404) 281-6158**



We begin August 2023 with 217 active members. Five Members have passed away in 2023, Jim Hood, Bob Smith, Jeff Burke, Earl Conine and Harley Thompson.

Keep up the good work on the new applications. We are accepting applications for 2023. Application forms are available at each registration table or by contacting me.

New applications should include a check for \$50 to insure membership.

MAKE SURE THAT ALL THE BLANKS ON THE APPLICATION FORM ARE FILLED OUT. MAKE SURE THEY ARE EASILY READ.

Continue to ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to join us. Get your blank applications from the registration tables. New applicants must have two (2) sponsors.

SEE YOU ON THE COURSE!!!!!!!!!!!!

ENJOY THE FINE FELLOWSHIP AND GOOD GOLF!!!!!!!!!!



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Editor

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Rambling from Tee to Green

While talking to a fellow member on the deck at Bear Creek it was mentioned that several members had complained about the long round the day before at Gwinnett. This reminded me of the *Member Survey of 2019* and how not much has changed since then. A bit of a synoptic refresher, if you will.

The top three reasons people joined SGAA: 1- Organized play; 2- Fellowship; and 3- Course choices.

The top three member complaints: 1- Slow play; 2- Courses too far from home; and 3- Early start times.

The top three improvements recommended: 1- Pace of Play; 2- Later winter start times; and 3- Reduced travel.

A modified play format on occasion: 1- 25% very interested; 2- 24% somewhat interested; 3- 21% not interested.

Changes members would like to see adopted tomorrow: 1- Later winter start time; 2- Restore "inside the leather" for putts; and 3- Promote integrity.

There are a lot more details provided in the Survey Results report; but these are the most predominant items. The reasons for joining SGAA vary from member to member, but I'm sure the majority of us joined for golf, fellowship, and course variety.

How do we retain our members and grow our organization without addressing the main points of contention uncovered in the Survey?

The problem with the winter start times was addressed as soon as possible, we have agreements with each of the courses we play and couldn't automatically change our starting times. The new agreements included a change in our start times for the winter months.

The next recurring item was the travel. Unfortunately, this is one "problem" we're all going to have to accept. At the time of the Survey, the center of our membership population was in Tucker and all of our courses were within a 25-mile radius of there.

Two-thirds of the respondents were interested in playing a modified format from time to time. Here's an example of a member stepping up and driving it down the middle of the fairway. Harry Matthews answered the call with our Par 3 tournaments [next one is August 31st at Providence].

Two of the changes the members wanted to see adopted tomorrow go hand in glove – "inside the leather" and integrity. I believe SGAA had a policy of *giving* you the putt if it was inside the leather of a normal putter for the 2016 and 2017 seasons. Yes, this "inside the leather" sped up the game; but the term "inside the leather" is a nebulous length. Most believed it as 18-24" which seems fine, but there's still a 6" differential. And as indicated by the Survey there are (or were) some members lacking integrity in their play. The allowance for a gimmie "inside the leather" was abandoned with the 2018 season because it would seem that some putter shafts were covered in leather from end to head.

I touched on the time it takes to play a round of golf in last month's Newsletter. This seems to be a never ending complaint. And I'm afraid it's here to stay. EVERYONE has to do their own individual part to keep the pace of play at four hours. Yes, there will be times when a ball is lost and you fall three minutes behind while you search; but the other players in the group should play their ball and then assist in the search. If this happens, then you should pick up the pace on the next hole so you don't get out of position.

Everyone complains about the long rounds; but so far, no one has offered an equitable solution.

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta



**PAR 3 TOURNAMENT
PROVIDENCE CLUB
THURSDAY, AUGUST 31ST
8:30 A/M
SPECIAL \$10 TABLE FEE**

It's great that you long hitters can get 250+ yards off the tee; but how good is your short game?

Don't think you've got it where you want it to be? Then it's time to get it together because in a few short weeks you'll be put to the test.

That's right; SGAA is holding another Par 3 Tournament at the Providence Club on Thursday, August 31st. This will be a shotgun start at 8:30 a/m. Special \$10 per player table fee applies for this event.

Payouts will be the same as our normal dogfight tournaments plus a low gross for each flight.

There's only a few short weeks left to dial in those distances and hone your aiming skill before this event.

Registration Form

SGAA Member-Guest 2023

Lake Junaluska, NC

1-4 October, 2023



Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center
91 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

- Challenge yourself with three rounds of golf at the historic, 103 year-old Lake Junaluska Golf Course.
- Lodging in lake-front rooms at the Terrace Hotel offering breathtaking views of the mountains and lake.
- Enjoy three hot buffet breakfasts at the Terrace dining room overlooking the lake.
- Join us for two group dinners (Sunday & Tuesday) in a private space overlooking the lake adjacent to the Terrace Hotel
- A boat-tour of the lake followed by a light lunch and/or a shopping trip into Waynesville are being arranged for guests on Monday and/or Tuesday. (Price to be determined)

All packages include:

- 3 rounds of golf per players
- 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners per person

8:30 Tee Times
each Day

Check
Option

Occupancy	Price	✓
Single	\$895 per person	
1 Player + 1 Non-playing guest (Couples, etc.)	\$1,045 per couple (player+ non-playing guest)	
Shared room – 2 players	\$650 per person*	

*Shared room per-person rates require two people to split the room expense. If only one comes, that person will need to cover the total single occupancy rate per room)

** Additional packages/adjustments may be possible if available on a case-by-case basis

Name: _____ SGAA Member# _____

Guest: _____ Guest Handicap (if applicable) _____

SGAA Roommate: _____ SGAA Member# _____

Make Checks Payable to SGAA
Mail Reservation Form & Check to:
Larry Fauconnet
4439 Foxfire Crossing
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Golf Format: Dogfight

- Monday: Four-man teams (A,B,C,D)
- Tuesday: Two-man teams (A/B vs. A/B & C/D vs C/D)
- Wednesday: Individual dogfight

Check Preference

1 King

2 Queen

Handicap (2
Double)

Registration Deadline is August 15th. No refunds past registration deadline.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Our Annual Tournament begins on Wednesday, September 6th at Bear Creek Golf Course. Tee time is 8:30 AM for all rounds of the tournament. There is a special one-time table fee of \$10.00 to be paid at the start of your tournament play. Green fees (\$36.00) are to be paid to the course before each round. There are 9 rounds scheduled for this tournament. You may play as many rounds during the tournament schedule as you like, but you MUST PLAY a minimum of 4 rounds to be considered as competing in the Annual Tournament. No matter how many rounds you complete during the Annual Tournament, your 4 best rounds will be used to determine your tournament standing.

The standard pre-registration applies to the tournament. You do not have to enter the tournament to play. You may also just show up, notify the table of your intentions, get a hole assignment, and pay your green fee.

The following SGAA rules are provided as a refresher as we begin tournament play. Additional information may be provided by the Table Captains, or on the SGAA website, as the tournament progresses.

1. Rules of Play—USGA, PGA and local course rules shall govern play except as listed below. While SGAA Rules may seem to be very tolerant it is for the benefit of members of the Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta and to promote speedier play. Any member or members wishing to abide strictly by USGA and PGA rules are welcome to do so.

2. A PLAYER--May pick up to identify, clean or exchange a ball that comes to rest anywhere within the boundaries of the golf course and replace the ball one club length, or within one club length, no closer to the hole without penalty except on the green (see rule #3), or in a sand trap (see rule #4). The ball must be placed in the same general environment (1st cut, 2nd cut, rough, etc.) as it originally came to rest. If a ball cannot be played within one club length and still considered unplayable it can be moved any distance on a line of entry back towards the last point the ball was struck with a one stroke penalty.

3. ON THE GREEN—A player may mark the ball's location and pick up to identify, clean or exchange his ball. Ball must be replaced at the mark where it was picked up.

4. SAND TRAP PLAY—If your ball is in a fairway bunker or greenside sand trap and lies in a foot print (human or otherwise), any untended sand marks from previous a player, or maintenance equipment, you can pick up your ball, rake the area of untended marks and replace your ball in the same spot without penalty. Also, any ball resting in water or mud can be pulled out and placed one club length no closer to the hole but still in the trap or bunker, without a penalty.

5. BALL OUT OF BOUNDS, UNPLAYABLE or LOST—When a ball is hit out of bounds, declared unplayable (see rule #2) or lost, after searching for a maximum of three (3) minutes, the player may place his ball any distance along the flight of the ball where the ball went out of bounds, is presumed lost or determined unplayable. A one (1)-stroke penalty shall be counted.

6. 14 CLUB RULE—Each player shall have no more than 14 clubs in his bag or face disqualification from that round.

7. DROP LOCATION—A ball hit into a water hazard must be marked off from the side of initial entry into that hazard as stated above (where the ball first crossed the yellow line).

8. GUEST PLAY—Members may bring a guest during the year except to the Annual Tournament, or other designated tournaments when published to the membership. However, members have priority in the event of a cart shortage. The cards for this foursome will be held by the table captain until all member players have checked in, holes and carts assigned. After this time, the foursome with a guest can be assigned a hole. As stated, in the event of cart shortage the guest will not be allowed to play and the remainder of that foursome has the choice of playing (if there are openings in a group) or not playing. Never will an SGAA member be asked to leave and a guest allowed to play.





2023 SGAA Out-of-Town

HICKORY KNOB STATE RESORT PARK

Hickory Knob Golf Course
November 13th – 15th, 2023
McCormick, SC.

Monday T-Time 12:30 pm; Tuesday – Wednesday T-Time 8:30 am.

Guests are welcome. Bring a friend, a family member, a neighbor. The more the merrier.

Packages include the following: **RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE October 24th.**

2 nights lodging, 2 or 3 rounds of golf, 2 dinners. **NOTE: Breakfast is NOT included due to their kitchen being closed. The Pro Shop will have croissants, muffins, and sweet rolls for reasonable prices. Coffee will be free. Dinner is catered in from a local restaurant.**

If you are planning to play two rounds on Monday & Tuesday or two rounds Monday & Wednesday and want a double room, your roommate must have the same package as you.

OCCUPANCY	PACKAGE	PER PERSON	CHOICE
Single Occupancy	3 Days Golf (Pool)	\$339.00	
Double Occupancy	3 Days Golf (Pool)	\$250.00	
Single Occupancy	3 Days Golf (Lake)	\$320.00	
Double Occupancy	3 Days Golf (Lake)	\$242.00	
Single Occupancy	2 Days Golf (Pool) golf M-W; 2 nights	\$307.00	
Double Occupancy	2 Days Golf (Pool) golf M-W; 2 nights	\$219.00	
Single Occupancy	2 Days Golf (Lake) golf M-Tu; 1 night	\$190.00	
Double Occupancy	2 Days Golf (Lake) golf M-Tu; 1 night	\$150.00	
Member/Spouse	3 Days Golf for 1 Member plus 2 nights lodging (Pool)	\$339.00	
Member/Spouse	3 Days Golf for 1 Member plus 2 nights lodging (Lake)	\$320.00	

IF SPOUSE WILL EAT DINNER WITH US, PLEASE ADD \$20.00 PER NIGHT. NOTATE HERE _____

All reservations must be made through the SGAA.

Name: _____ SGAA Member Number _____

Guest: _____ Guest Stroke Handicap _____

SGAA Roommate: _____

COMMENTS: _____

EARLY ARRIVAL: If you plan to come in on Sunday, call Larry Fauconnet (678) 654-2594 for information on making an early arrival reservation.


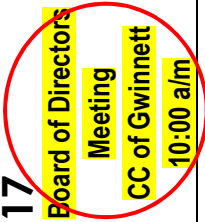
Hickory Knob Resort, 1591 Resort Dr., McCormick, SC, 29835. Phone 864-391-2450

SEND CHECKS TO: LARRY FAUCONNET

4439 FOXFIRE CROSSING

STOCKBRIDGE, GA. 30281

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Crystal Lake 8:30a/m \$35	2 Honey Creek 8:30a/m \$30	3 Bear Creek 8:30a/m \$36	4	5
6	7 Monroe CC 8:30a/m \$35	8	9 Southland 8:30a/m \$32	10 Mystery Valley 8:30a/m \$34	11	12
13	14 Crystal Lake 8:30a/m \$35	15  Chimneys 8:30a/m \$45	16 Panola Mountain 8:30a/m \$30	17  Board of Directors Meeting CC of Gwinnett 10:00 a/m	18	19
20	21	22 Cotton Fields 8:30a/m \$28	23 Georgia National 8:30a/m \$35	24 Providence 8:30a/m \$35	25	26
27	28 Heron Bay 8:30a/m \$35	29	30 Honey Creek 8:30a/m \$30	31 PAR 3 Providence 8:30a/m \$35		



August 15th Registration Deadline

MEMBER-GUEST AT LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C.

OCTOBER 1-4, 2023



Steve Puster
122 Salem Ridge Drive
McDonough, GA 30253