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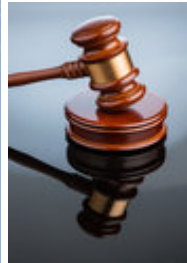
Bob Remich 404-822-1379

# Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

*DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP*

Volume 68 Issue 6

June 2024



**President**  
**Ron Wade**  
**Ron3392@aol.com**  
**(706) 318-2379**



It's no surprise that the golf industry is changing. Many traditional golf courses are being closed for other development, including housing. At least five courses in our area have closed since 2017 and others are in jeopardy. Inflation has affected the operating costs of courses, particularly the costs of chemicals and labor. Since the typical golf course covers 150 or more acres, marginally profitable or unprofitable courses are ripe for alternative development.

Many driving ranges have also been redeveloped in recent years. Driving ranges have traditionally been "place holders" for more profitable development. The large number of open acres covered by the typical driving range are attractive to developers and investors.

Top Golf was possibly the first organization to develop alternative non-traditional golf venues. Organized by twin brothers Steve and Dave Jolliffe in 2000 and acquired by Callaway in 2021, Top Golf features balls with microchips which facilitate automatic tracking and scoring and offers extensive food and drink menus. Top Golf markets to both experienced golfers and newbies, and provides a party-like atmosphere for participants.

Golfers may bring their own clubs or use clubs furnished by Top Golf. A number of automatically scored games are offered, including simulations of popular golf courses.

Top Golf has experienced rapid growth. There are now almost 100 locations in over ten countries, including two in the Atlanta area.

Another recently formed organization providing an alternative to the traditional golf course is GolfSuites. Only two locations are open, one in Lubbock, TX, and other in New Orleans, but two others are scheduled to open in 2025.

Unlike Top Golf, GolfSuites locations feature indoor simulators. GolfSuites also offer food and drink. The company has recently announced plans for CityClubs, a more upscale golf simulator lounge.

These golf alternatives are unlikely to replace the traditional game, but they may serve to increase the interest in the royal game.

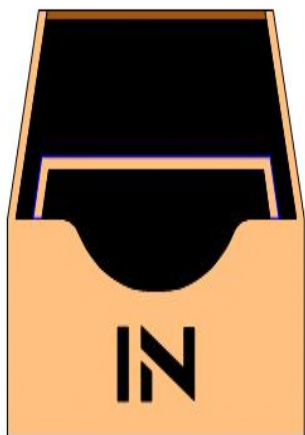
And, finally, a joke, courtesy of Mark Padzur of Executive Golfer: Why do pros encourage you to keep your head down in the swing: So you can't see them laughing.

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**Vice President**

**Mike Nobles**

**mike.nobles.usma79@gmail.com**

**(678) 294-2363**



I don't know about you but I am ready for summer to get here. I have never been much of a winter golfer and I have discovered the reason why after playing in twelve of the fifteen SGAA tournaments in December through February. I just find it very difficult to hit the ball when there is little to no grass on the fairways and I'm dressed up like the Michelin man in multiple layers of clothing. My average scores and my handicap went up and my shot-making confidence level went down. Fortunately, I still enjoyed the "fine fellowship" with my fellow SGAA members, so my overall experience remained extremely positive.

While we only had two tournaments canceled because of weather in the winter, that has not been the case in the spring. We have been rained out six times in March, April and May and have endured misty rain, saturated courses and cart-path-only conditions in several of the tournaments that we did end up playing. Playing in or after inclement weather can be very challenging and it has had some impact on our participation levels. Hopefully the spring rains will allow for lush fairways and smooth, even greens on the courses we play in the summer and fall.

We did have great weather for our first out-of-town tournament. Thirty-eight members made the trip down to Little Ocmulgee State Park and we had a blast. Larry Fauconnet did an outstanding job of planning and organizing the event and the golf and fellowship were loads of fun. Lots of jokes and funny stories were shared around the fire pit each night and Mike Thigpen dominated the chipping contest on Tuesday night. George Shingler and Mike Thigpen were the big winners in the tournament, each earning fifty dollars for their efforts.

If you were not able to join us at Little Ocmulgee, I would strongly encourage you to sign up for our next out-of-town tournament at Smokey Mountain Country Club on June 17-19. I can assure you that you will have a great time playing the beautiful mountain golf course and spending some quality time with some of the SGAA members that you may not know very well. The villas where we stay are roomy and many are located right on the golf course. If you think your wife would enjoy a trip up to the mountains, bring her along. Several members brought their wives last year and I am planning to bring my wife this year. The golf is great and the fellowship and memory-making is even better. The deadline for reservations is June 10, so get your sign-up forms and checks into Dave Mueller as soon as possible. Hope to see you there!

**MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE  
MEMBER/GUEST  
SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 2, 2024**

**EVENTS FOR  
JUNE 2024**

**All tee times  
are 8:30 a/m**

June 3  
MON: 8:30 a/m  
**Crystal Lake \$37**

June 4  
TUES: 8:30 a/m  
**Cherokee Run \$40**

June 5  
WED: 8:30 a/m  
**Georgia National \$37**

June 10  
MON: 8:30 a/m  
**Heron Bay \$37**

June 11  
TUES: 8:30 a/m  
**Bear Creek \$42**

June 12  
WED: 8:30 a/m  
**Browns Mill \$30**

**June 17—19  
SMOKEY MOUNTAIN TRIP**

June 24  
MON: 8:30 a/m  
**Southland \$36.72**

June 25  
TUES: 8:30 a/m  
**Providence \$37**

June 26  
WED: 8:30 a/m  
**Honey Creek \$32**

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Volume 68 Issue 6

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



We begin June 2024 with 204 active members. Two members and two past members have passed away in 2024. Past members Bill Lewis and Bill Almand. Present members Don Helm and Charles King. They will all be missed.

Please continue to ask your friends and neighbors to join our group. Make sure the application is complete and readable.

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.**

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!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## ***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."*

**Bill Lewis** member from 1998 – 2020

**Don Helm** member since 2002

**Charles King** member since 2019

**Bill Almand** member from 2002 – 2023

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**Editor**

**Steve Puster**

**steve.puster@gmail.com**

**(678) 262-7541**



*The opinions expressed on this page are purely the Editor's and may or may not coincide with those of the Board of Directors.*

## *Rambling from Tee to Green*

At the end of last year we lost 35 members. Seven of those members passed away in 2023 which means that 28 members decided not to renew their membership for whatever reason. We began March with 187 members and that number had grown to 204 by the beginning of June which means we have recouped about 60% of the number lost to the new season.

This is good news as those new members become active, we gain new friends and new perspectives and new ideas. All well and good, but sometimes those "new" ideas are just a reincarnation of an idea that was tried and didn't work. I'm not suggesting that we shouldn't try some new things; just that sometimes we can spend time on an idea that didn't work in an earlier trial.

What I'm trying to say is that while we look to the future and what we can do to strengthen our membership and enhance the fellowship let's not forget the past and the legacy of our older, less active members. This is my ninth year as a member and while that might not seem like a long time; I can look at our membership roster and see names that bring back memories; names like Dooley, Gabert, Frazier, Fruit, and Rehn to name a few. These members aren't as active now as in the past, but they have maintained their membership in Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta for a reason – they still care and enjoy the legacy they helped build and remember the good golf and fine fellowship. In some cases these members aren't active due to physical and/or medical limitations – but they cared enough to renew their membership. And I can guarantee you they still have a lot to offer this organization. They know what ideas have been tried and what worked and what didn't; but you will never learn from their wisdom if you don't ask.

"For some time, my wife's had this ridiculous idea that I'm playing too much golf. Actually, it came to a head at about 11.30 last night. She suddenly shouted at me: 'Golf, golf, golf. All you ever think about is bloody golf!' And I'll be honest, it frightened the life out of me. I mean, you don't expect to meet somebody on the 14th green at that time of night"

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In the  
Spotlight

Born in Evansville, Indiana, June 30, 1952, to second generation 'legal immigrants' from Holland and Prussia on my father's side and French/Irish on mom's side. Ah ha ... the American melting pot!

Dad was with Shell Oil Co. and we moved to Dallas, Texas in 1960 just in time to attend the first Cowboys game at the Cotton Bowl --- they lost a lot the first 5 years! It was here on that fateful day, November 22, 1963, that as a young and fully uniformed Boy Scout, had the privilege of greeting the Kennedys, Johnsons, and Connallys at Love Field airport ... little did we know.



**Dave Walters**

Member since 2024

Due to a career change our family moved to Greensboro, North Carolina where I attended Grimsley High School and played on the golf team. My only 'golf claim to fame' was initiated at Sedgefield Country Club. The PGA Tour made an annual stop at the Greater Greensboro Open [now the Wyndham] and I caddied for a first year pro right out of Oklahoma State and the Walker Cup Team --- Dave Eichelberger. "We" qualified for the tournament at my dad's club and my parents let me skip school that following week to work at the GGO. Made the cut! YEA!! I went on to work for Dave each summer on tour throughout high school and college. Had a really successful season together in 1971 --- runner-up in Greensboro and won the Greater Milwaukee Open. What a summer job!

Received my BS in Political Science from Lenoir-Rhyne College (now University) in Hickory, NC and attended the MBA program at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Married my college sweetheart, Jean, in 1975 and blessed to have one daughter, Jessica, residing in Asheville, NC.

Retired from a 30 year career in the home furnishings industry with two fine companies Ethan Allen Inc. and La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries. You just may be sitting in one of our' world famous recliners' right now! :)

We live in Lilburn and have since 1986 when I joined Northwood Country Club (Gwinnett's oldest private club) and remained a member until it was closed and sold to a developer in 2019.

I currently hold a real estate broker's license in Georgia and North Carolina. I am active in politics and serve as a Deacon at Calvary Chapel Stone Mountain.

I look forward 'to good golf and fine fellowship' with the SGAA.

p.s. Did I mention I'm a BIG Braves fan?!?



## SMOKEY MOUNTAIN COUNTRY CLUB

**JUNE 17, 18, 19, 2024**  
**1112 CONLEY CREEK ROAD**  
**WHITTIER NC 28789**  
**MONDAY TEE TIME 12:30 PM EST**

GUEST WELCOME! BRING FRIENDS AND/OR FAMILY - THE MORE THE MERRIER. PRICES ARE PER PERSON, SINGLE OR DOUBLE AND INCLUDES GOLF AND MEALS.

ACCOMMODATIONS ARE FIRST CLASS TWO BEDROOM CONDO UNITS WITH FULL KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM W/TV AND PORCH. EACH BEDROOM HAS A TV AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM.

**CONDOS HOUSE 2, 3 OR 4 GOLFERS; 2 SINGLES, OR 1 SINGLE AND A DOUBLE, OR 2 DOUBLES. WE'VE RESERVED ADDITIONAL ROOMS, BUT CONDO SPACE IS LIMITED. WE HAVE INDIVIDUAL ROOM AVAILABLE AT THE "SLEEP INN" IN BRYSON CITY, IF NEEDED.**

PACKAGE	ONE GOLFER PER BEDROOM	TWO GOLFERS PER BEDROOM
3 Golf, 2 nights, meals per person	\$430.00	\$375.00
3 Golf, 3 nights, Meals with <b>Sunday Early arrival</b>	\$495.00	\$420.00
COUPLE: 3 Rounds Golf for one Member 2 nights lodging and no meals	\$345.00 per bedroom	
Spouse meals	\$90.00	
Additional packages available by request		

All reservations must be made through SGAA.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 10TH**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SGAA Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Stroke Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

SGAA Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_ SGAA Number \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to SGAA  
 Mail Reservation Form and Check to:  
**DAVE MUELLER**  
 1167 Vintage Way  
 Hoschton, GA 30548

**Monday Tournament will be four-man team A, B, C, D. Dogfight format. Tuesday Tournament will be two-man Teams. A/B players against A/B players. C/D players against C/D players. Dogfight format. Wednesday Tournament will be an individual dogfight format.**

**JUNE 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
	Crystal Lake 8:30a/m \$37	Cherokee Run 8:30a/m \$40	Georgia National 8:30a/m \$37			
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
	Heron Bay 8:30a/m \$37	Bear Creek 8:30a/m \$42	Browns Mill 8:30a/m \$30			
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
	Southland 8:30a/m \$36.72	Providence 8:30a/m \$37	Honey Creek 8:30a/m \$32			
<b>30</b>						

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE  
SMOKEY MOUNTAIN TRIP -- JUNE 10th**

**OUT OF TOWN  
SMOKEY MOUNTAIN TRIP**

Steve Puster  
122 Salem Ridge Drive  
McDonough, GA 30253