

www.sgaofatlanta.org

Officers

President: Larry Fauconnet Vice-Pres: Ron Wade Secretary: Ted Pogue Treasurer: Tom Vardase

Board of Directors

Dennis Hanson 2025 2025 Ward Humphries **Gary Nelson** 2025 Jim Begnaud 2024 Ron Panter 2024 2024 Cleve Shupe Kevin Anderson 2023 2023 John Cyran JJ Goldsack 2023

Past President

Dave Mueller 770-298-2829

Chaplain Norm Jaros 404-636-2159

Table Captains

 Monday

 John Cyran
 404-272-1571

 Tuesday

 John Cyran
 404-272-1571

Wednesday
Tom Gryder 404-232-9741
Thursday

Bob Remich 404-822-1379

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 67 Issue 9

September 2023



President Larry Fauconnet LHFauconnet@gmail.com (678) 654-2594



Ah September! And time for the annual tournament! I wish all the best of luck as you hit the links for our annual championship at Bear Creek!

I've a lot to cover this month, but the editor prefers I only use a single page. So, let's see if I can fit ten pounds of crap in a five-pound bag. I may not be able to do it.

Firstly, I'd like to say thank you to all those who have been helping out with grass-roots efforts to grow membership. We have a new display to use when appropriate, we have cards being passed out by tables and being left at the clubs we play along with tri-folds telling folks who we are. And, we've been featured in some local publications. Perhaps these efforts have born some fruit as we have around an average of three new members every month. I'm hopeful that we are returning the club to growth vs. decline.

Regarding the upcoming Member-Guest tournament. As a reminder, this is an event that we traditionally try to make just a little nicer than our standard out-of-towns so that we can invite our spouses and sometimes bring friends and family to join us in our enjoyment of the game. Therefore, it tends to cost more than our normal outof-town events. This year I attempted to keep the price as low as possible while keeping the venue both nice and nearby. The result was our contracting with Lake Junaluska for the event. Initially, we had thirty indicate that they would attend the event, with others saying that they might attend. We contracted rooms accordingly. However, due to unforeseen medical and financial issues for some, the number of attendees is now in the low/mid 20s, though some additional members may yet opt to attend. We have to release the rooms we don't assign back to venue on September 1st. The ability for folks to attend after that point will depend on availability at the venue. We may also incur a small loss due to failing to meet the contracted room. If you would still like to attend, contact me and I'll see if we can find a room at the venue for you.

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-The President's Message - Continued from Page 1

A number of things were covered this month at the Board of Directors meeting. One of them included the requirement of the president to plan and host a member-guest event. Given the increasing costs of lodging, food, gas and green fees, we anticipate costs for future member-guest tournaments will only increase. Therefore, we voted give the president the ability to opt not to hold a member guest tournament if need be. We also provided guidance that the president will have broad discretion regarding the composition of that tournament.

Other things covered at the BOD meeting included:

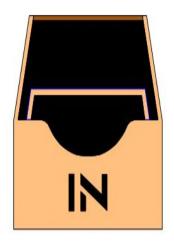
- We voted to have the table open one hour prior to tee-time (vs. 90 minutes) and close one-half hour prior to tee time starting in 2024.
- We discussed, but took no action on: Joining the GSGA, tee adjustments, and having supersenior tees.
- We opted to discontinue utilizing the calling post (which we haven't used in some time).
- Ron Wade discussed difficulties in finding a reasonably priced venue for the 2024 member guest
- We determined that the New Member Handbook needs to be updated. Ron Wade will do this.
- We are looking for a new source for bag-tags and awards, as well as looking for someone to take over as Awards Committee chairman.
- And we discussed the loss of Cotton Fields and emerging issues with Southland.

We are looking forward to the end of year banquet, and have narrowed the potential venues down to three, we'll let you know where and when it will be as soon as we finalized the details.

Now, for some reminders of things that you should all already know:

- Please start on the hole that the table assigns. If you are in the final group, please do not drop back a hole or two.
- Please be careful to fill out scorecards correctly and legibly. The most critical thing is being sure
 to have a score, the correct score, posted for each hole. Failing to do this disqualifies the player. It also helps if you do the math correctly.
- When you fill out your score cards prior to the round, include the player's name, member number, and handicap (Flight and Points. e.g.: A-25, B-18, etc.)
- Don't tee up your balls in the fairway. The only place we use tees is in the tee-box.





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



Traditions evolve in all organizations. Some are sacred cows and others are considered trivial by the uninitiated. However, over time even the most sacred traditions are challenged, either from inside the organization or by developments in the environment in which the organization operates. Threats to traditions may cause instability in the organization.

Among the traditions of SGAA are our registration and payment policies and the annual Member/Guest tournament. These traditions are being challenged, and in this article we will explore the challenges and some possible consequences.

Until recently, members registered for our regular tournaments on the day of the tournament. The member paid the tournament fee at registration, and paid the green fees to the course. Members were rarely turned away, and then only when the course could not supply enough carts.

The adoption of the preregistration process made this tradition obsolete. This process facilitates advance hole assignments by the table crews and enables us to provide more current and complete information to the courses about the expected number of players. Advance payment is not required, members are not penalized for not playing and players who do not preregister are allowed to play. The process is working effectively.

Even this improved process is being challenged. Because of increasing demand, courses are insisting that we provide more accurate and current information about the number of players expected. There are indications that some courses may require a guarantee of the number of starts we reserve. Moreover, one course has informed us that SGAA will be required to pay all green fees by check or credit card rather than each individual paying.

Your board is actively studying these developments. While no changes to our current practices have been identified, we will probably be required to refine our procedures further.

The Member/Guest tradition is under serious pressure for these reasons.

- Golf demand remained steady during the pandemic because golf was one of the few outdoor activities which was considered relatively safe.
- Demand has increased dramatically since the end of the pandemic.
- Member participation has decreased sharply. Only 20 golfers have committed for the 2023 Member/ Guest, down from only 30 in 2022.
- Inflation has had a profound effect on the projected cost of the Member/Guest. Preliminary proposals for the 2024 Member/Guest exceed \$1200 excluding awards and entertainment. Notably, room costs are being quoted at rates which are double the rates paid 5 years ago.

SGAA bylaws have previously required that the President arrange an annual Member/Guest in September or October with the approval of the Board. In view of the factors enumerated above, at its August meeting the Board amended the bylaws to provide that the President *MAY* arrange such a tournament. While we will diligently continue to attempt to arrange a tournament for 2024, the format of the tournament is likely to change, and there is no assurance that we will be successful.

EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Check Tee Times

September 5 TUES: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament Bear Creek \$36

September 6 WED: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament Bear Creek \$36

September 7 THUR: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament Bear Creek \$36

September 11 MON: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament Bear Creek \$36

September 12 TUES: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament Bear Creek \$36

September 13 WED: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament Bear Creek \$36

September 19 TUES: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament Bear Creek \$36

September 21 WED: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament

Bear Creek \$36

September 22 THUR: 8:30 a/m Annual Tournament

Bear Creek \$36 September 25

MON: 8:30 a/m Honey Creek \$30

September 26 TUES: <u>9:00</u> a/m Browns Mill \$32

September 27 WED: 8:30 a/m Cherokee Run \$30

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



We begin September 2023 with 219 active members. Six members have passed away in 2023, Jim Hood, Bob Smith, Jeff Burke, Earl Conine, Harley Thompson, and Harold Varn.

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
Steve Puster
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(678) 262-7541



Rambling from Tee to Green

ARE YOU MAN ENOUIGH TO DO THE JOB??

The summer is winding down and our focus is shifting to our Annual Tournament followed quickly by the Member-Guest at Lake Junaluska. Both of these are very important activities, but I draw your attention to the most important event of the SGAA calendar – the nomination and election of officers for the coming year.

At the End of Year Banquet set for Thursday, November 16th, we will be electing the President and the Vice President each for a one-year term; a Treasurer for a two-year term; and three new Directors each for a three-year term. These gentlemen will be joining the Secretary and the remaining Directors to provide the SGAA Leadership for 2024.

The Nominating Committee chaired by Dave Mueller and assisted by Ted Pogue, Jim Begnaud, and Kerry Phillips has been hard at work pulling together a slate of candidates from which you elect the new officers. A preliminary slate is presented in this Newsletter, but the By-Laws require the slate be finalized by September 15th so the membership will be notified two months prior to the election.

The finalized slate of candidates with their bio's will be provided in the October and the November Newsletters. A ballot with instructions on how to cast your ballot will be included in the November edition of the Newsletter.

All of this leads to the question: Are you man enough to do the job??



ANNUAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION



Our Annual Tournament begins on **Tuesday, September 5th 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 <u>MUST PLAY</u> 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 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 balls 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 <u>maximum</u> 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.

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

Harold Varn member 2016 - 2020

2024 SGAA CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

RON WADE – After graduation from Mississippi State University in 1960 Ron joined Andersen LLC. He retired in 1995 as Regional Managing Partner.

Ron and his wife Dot, to whom he has been married (and has obeyed assiduously) for over 60 years, moved from Kansas City to Georgia in 2000.

Member since 2017 At Dot's specific direction Ron took up golf soon after his retirement (there was mention of too much idle time in her house). After some initial resistance to the idea, he found, as others have, that the game can be addictive. He joined SGAA in 2017, served on a registration table for 5 years, and has served as Vice President for 2023.

Faith is an important influence in Ron and Dot's lives. Both are active in The Church on Main in Snellville.

FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT



Who's it going to be?

Contact any one of the

Nominating Committee
Dave Mueller -- 770-298-2829
Ted Pogue -- 404-281-6158
Jim Begnaud -- 678-428-0663
Kerry Phillips -- 770-468-6708

Deadline for Nominations September 15, 2023

FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER

TOM VARDASE - After approximately six years as the SGAA Treasurer, all I can say is, "the check is in the mail."

I came south in '75 to work in minor league baseball for the Jacksonville Suns - a privately owned club affiliated with the KC Royals. I left after two seasons and in 1980, I got the opportunity to begin a career in broadcast television production for a

new independent station. Came to Atlanta in '84 as the Production Manager for WATL, Channel 36, an independent station as well – you may have passed by the station on Ponce de Leon Avenue (an old bank building). In '88, I began to work for myself, incorporated as MVP Inc. In '92, we began working under contract with Georgia Public TV producing Prep Sports +, a high school sports and academics program. When it was all said and done, we completed 405 original half-hour programs as well as approximately 400 live high school football and boys & girls state basketball championship games

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (THREE VACANCIES TO BE FILLED)

BILL HERBERT -- I have been a member of the SGAA since 2012. Retired from the newspaper industry after 40 years and currently reside in McDonough. I am a Past Grand Knight of Council 7601 Knights of Columbus in McDonough. I was Chair of the Building Committee for St. James the Apostle Catholic Church. I have been married to Christie for 42 years and enjoy family time with our son, Bill; daughter in law, Melissa; Bill Herbert and our granddaughter, Emma. My favorite hobby is GOLF!

Jim Knapp -- I was born in Cleveland, Ohio. While attending Solon High school in Cleveland, I was a member of the golf team and served on the Student Council. I earned a degree in Business Administration from Clayton State College.



I worked in the logistics industry for fifty years and was an active member of the Atlanta Air Cargo Association. In 2002 I was founder and owner of Pro Air Cargo Sales. Inc. I retired in November 2020.

I currently attend Community Bible Church in Stockbridge, Georgia.



How about Bob, George, Steve, Tim, Pete, Gene, Harvey, Ted? If interested, please let the Nominating Committee know.

Who's it going to be?

Contact any one of the

Nominating Committee Dave Mueller -- 770-298-2829 Ted Poque -- 404-281-6158 Jim Begnaud – 678-428-0663 Kerry Phillips – 770-468-6708

Deadline for Nominations September 15, 2023

SGAA 2023 Year End Banquet And ELECTION OF OFFICERS

November 16, 2023

11:00 AM-2:00PM



SAVE THE DATE

DETAILS COMING NEXT MONTH

This is not so much "going to lunch" as it is about the friends and fellowship we've enjoyed this season. We will be electing the 2024 slate of officers.

Moving forward I encourage your feedback regarding any changes you'd offer. Cost and location are probably the foremost, but the menu and other suggestions to attract better attendance is welcome.

You can't put a price on friendship. I look forward to seeing you on November 16th.

Harry Matthews



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 with 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

2024 DUES NOTICE

From Article 1 Paragraph D of the Bylaws

D. DUES: Each member is required to pay annual membership dues of \$25.00. New members applying for membership after October 1st in any year shall be granted membership and the dues collected shall include membership dues for the following year. A dues notice will be posted in the Newsletters at least 60 days prior to January 1. All dues and fees must be paid by January 1 or the member will be dropped from the membership rolls. Any member suspended for non-payment of dues may be reinstated by March 31st of the next year with a majority vote of the Board of Directors provided all monies (including a penalty of \$20) due SGAA are paid in full. (R13)

IF THE 20223 FINAL "ATTENDANCE AND POINTS" REPORT INDICATES YOU HAVE EARNED AT LEAST 30 POINTS; 25 OF THOSE POINTS WILL BE APPLIED TO YOUR DUES AND WILL OFFSET THIS REQUIREMENT FOR 2024

(If Required) Mail your \$25.00 Dues Payment payable to — SGAA — to:

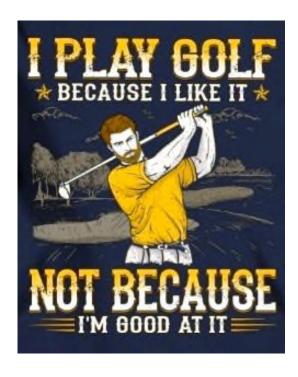
TOM VARDASE
TREASURER SGAA
3502 JOHNS ROAD
TUCKER, GEORGIA 30084

This sign is posted outside the pro shop of one of the courses we play — the message it conveys should be applicable to all the courses we play: RESPECT THE COURSE AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

WELCOME TO OUR COUNTRY CLUB Here are some of the Country Club Rules:

- Proper golf attire and footwear are required for the course and practice areas
 The dress code is enforced (If you don't know what proper golf attire is ask the Golf Shop staff)
- Respect private property. STAY OUT of private homeowner property.
- All alcoholic beverages and coolers must be obtained through the Country Club.
- No personal coolers allowed without explicit permission from the Golf Shop or Starting Official.
- No glass containers of any kind may be brought onto the golf course property.
- Deposit all trash in proper receptacles. DO NOT LITTER.
- YOU are responsible for your own ball and what it hits NOT the Country Club.
- Fill divots, rake traps, and repair ball marks.
- Keep Pace of Play. Only 2 hrs. for 9 holes & 4 hrs. for 18 holes.
- The Course Marshal will have the authority to ask players violating these rules and/or displaying improper conduct to leave the course without a refund.

If you cannot respect and obey these rules, you need to go somewhere else.





Now that the levity is out of the way; it's time to get serious.

This organization doesn't run by itself, it takes a willingness to make things happen:

A willingness to run for office;

A willingness to face the challenge;

and

A willingness to step up and make a difference.

September 15th is the deadline

GOOD GOLF

FINE FELLOWSHIP

		Sep	September 2023	023		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	DEWDLINE F	DEMDLINE FOR 2024 NOMINALIONS SEPTEMBER 15, 2023	MIN # 110NS 2023			
8	4	5	9	7	∞	6
		ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Por Crot	ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Box Crock	ANNUAL TOURNAMENT Box Crot		
		8:30a/m \$36	8:30a/m \$36	8:30a/m \$36		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	ANNUAL	ANNOAL	ANNUAL			
	TOURNAMENT	TOURNAMENT	TOURNAMENT			
	Bear Creek 8:30a/m \$36	Bear Creek 8:30a/m \$36	Bear Creek 8:30a/m \$36			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		ANNUAL	ANNUAL	ANNUAL		
		Bear Creek	Bear Creek	Bear Creek		
		8:30a/m \$36	8:30a/m \$36	8:30a/m \$36		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Honey Creek 8:30a/m \$30	Browns Mill 9:00a/m \$32	Cherokee Run 8:30a/m \$30			

Steve Puster 122 Salem Ridge Drive McDonough, GA 30253