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Thursday

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Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 69 Issue 3

March 2025

President

Mike Nobles

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(678) 294-2363



Our 2025 season has been pretty crazy thus far. Our first tournament got snowed out and two of the next three were course cancellations due to frigid weather. The weather then warmed up to the point where we were playing in shorts the first week in February. It changed again when we played at Dogwood Golf Club in Austell, GA for the first time on February 11th and those who braved the rain, wind and cold temperatures should win an award for being the toughest (or dumbest) golfers in the organization. Who knows what March weather will bring us.

Despite our arctic exposure to the course, I think the consensus was that Dogwood is going to be a great course to play when the weather gets better. I know it is a long way for many of us to drive through Atlanta traffic but the course is well suited for our membership. It is relatively flat and most holes are pretty wide open. The course is in great shape and the staff was friendly and appreciative that we were playing their course. They also had an excellent snack bar. I would highly recommend that you give Dogwood a try when we go back there in March or May.

I have been very pleased with the number of guests and/or new members that have joined us for a round of golf this year. One of my goals for SGAA in 2025 is to see us add two to three new members to our roster per month. We have had a few online requests for info that resulted in additions to our roster and as always, it's important for our current members to keep recruiting your family, friends and acquaintances to come join us.

I have made my selections for committee assignments for 2025 and they have been approved by the board of directors. John Cyran has posted them on the web page. You will notice that I reduced the total number of committees from eighteen down to ten by combining those with similar roles and functions. I recruited a number of new members to serve on committees to take advantage of their knowledge and skills and to give them a chance to give back to the organization. It also helps balance the workload. Let me know if you have any questions.

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Our first out-of-town tournament is set for April 14-16 at Little Ocmulgee State Park. I encourage all members to consider participating but especially our newer members. It's a great opportunity to play a great golf course and get to know some of the members that you may not know very well. I can speak from personal experience; out-of-town tournaments are lots of fun and well worth the cost.

Finally, if you become aware that one of our members has passed away, is seriously ill or is in the hospital or a rehab facility, please let me know. Our chaplain, Norman Jaros, is prepared to send a sympathy card or get well card from the organization.

Here's hoping for a warm, dry March. See you on the links!

The Mitsubishi Classic is requesting volunteers... look for additional information on page 8 of this edition of the Newsletter

From: Neal Singer <nasinger@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2025 12:49 PM
To: Ward Humphreys <ward.humphreys@gmail.com>
Cc: MacKenzie Tritt <MacKenzie@MitsubishiElectricClassic.com>
Subject: Re: Senior Golf Association of Atlanta

Ward
Hi

I will have something for you next week that you can send out to your membership.
Thank you for helping us recruit volunteers. We appreciate it very much.

Mackenzie- can you pull what we sent last year, update it and send to Ward?

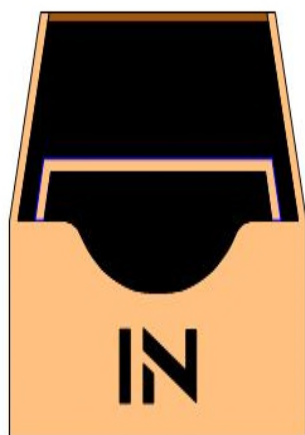
Thank you

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Vice President

JJ Goldsack

goldsack@bellsouth.net

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Greetings to all. When March play begins, start times will move up to 8:30 AM. Please remember that once the table closes at 8, we might be given the option or even asked to tee off early. Please try to arrive at the course by 8 AM.

I am asking for your assistance on a relatively new issue. In speaking with members who had joined in the past few years but did not renew for 2025, there was a significant number who indicated they didn't know very many members and their friend they had been playing with either moved or was not renewing.

When I joined SGAA, the table opened up at 7 and the sign up area was full of people trying to put a group together. This led to more interaction with other members. With the new preregistration, the interaction in the signup is limited. Don't misunderstand me, I am not criticizing the preregistration program, it has added great credibility for us with the golf courses. SGAA no longer brings 80-100 players to these courses and there are less courses available for us to play. The courses appreciate knowing how many players to expect and what holes we are using. This allows them to know when they can send out their local players.

I am asking for suggestions on how to engage our newer members with those of us who have been here for a while (my attempt to not call us old timers). Fellowship has always been an important part of SGAA. I am open to any suggestions and will be happy to present them to the board of directors. Thank you in advance for your help. Play well!

In Memoriam

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."

Marvin Gibbs member 1993 – 2023

Len Lancette member since 2016

Lamar Frazier member since 1995

**EVENTS FOR
MARCH 2025**

***Tee Times revert to 8:30 a/m
with the change to DST***

March 3

MON: 10:00 a/m

Dogwood \$40

March 4

TUES: 10:00 a/m

Bear Creek \$42

March 5

WED: 10:00 a/m

Georgia National \$37

March 11

TUES: 8:30 a/m

CC of Gwinnett \$45

March 12

WED: 8:30 a/m

Honey Creek \$35

March 13

THUR: 8:30 a/m

Providence \$37

March 17

MON: 8:30 a/m

Heron Bay \$37

March 19

WED: 8:30 a/m

Pine Hills \$28

March 20

THUR: 8:30 a/m

Sugar Creek \$33

March 24

MON: 8:30 a/m

Mystery Valley \$40

March 25

TUES: 8:30 a/m

Crystal Lake \$37

March 27

THUR: 8:30 a/m

Hard Labor Creek \$39+

March 31

MON: 8:30 a/m

Monroe CC \$45

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



We begin March 2025 with 198 active members. We have 30 inactive members that did not pay their dues to renew their membership. Several attempts by email and phone calls have been made to try and find out why they have chosen not to continue with us. We did not reach several of those who did not renew. We had some whose health would not let them renew. Some have moved out of the area. Some did not respond to our inquiries. They all will be missed. Please continue to ask your friends and neighbors to join our group. Make sure the application is complete and readable.

List of those who did not respond is below. The ones who did respond are not listed since we know their reasoning. If you know any of these people, please contact them and see if they would like to continue with the SGAA.

Mike Fowler, John Alexander, Erv Hunter, Sandy Welch, Bob Henderson, John Strock, Jim Whitlock, and Ervin Boyd

There are more who did not renew, but we have spoken with them, and they have informed the SGAA of their status.

2 past members, Marvin Gibbs and Len Lancette passed away in December. One Member, Lamar Frazier passed away in February.

MEMBERS, IF ANY OF YOU CHANGE ANY OF YOU INFORMATION (ADDRESS, PHONE #, OR EMAIL) PLEASE LET ME KNOW AT tandgpogue@att.net. WE CANNOT KEEP YOU INFORMED IF WE DON'T HAVE CORRECT INFORMATION.





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Editor

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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

"I'm not sure I'm going to be playing with the group this year.

I played a total of 4 rounds with the group last year and in those rounds I had balls come by me twice as I waited in the fairway for the green to clear so I could hit my second shot.

Hitting into the group ahead of you is a dangerous habit and I blame everyone in the group for not stopping the person teeing off.

I know everyone gets frustrated by the pace of play but that type of behavior is unacceptable and will often lead to larger conflicts.

The group needs to address those individuals before someone gets hurt."

That's the response I received after I requested a new member send me their short bio for inclusion in our *Member Spotlight*. Disappointed would be an understatement to my reaction.

Not only is hitting into the group ahead of you a breach of golf etiquette; as mentioned above, it is dangerous. Yes, we all want to keep moving especially on the tee box but the little bit of extra time it will take to make sure the fairway is clear is no excuse for hitting a blind shot.

I've heard two theories on why the game we play is called "golf": 1 all the other four letter words were taken; and 2 it was a way for the Scottish men to have some peace and quiet in their lives and "golf" is an acronym for "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden". Golf is often referred to as a gentlemen's game so I lean toward the latter explanation.

This means that hitting into the group ahead of you is also a breach of gentlemanly conduct.

We've all been in the situation where we looked at a shot – maybe approaching a creek – where a 7 iron seems to be the correct club to use for a layup only to flush the shot and end up in the hazard. That can happen in any situation.

When you're in that situation where you've got a blind shot and you "think" the group ahead of you is clear, but you're not sure; remember ***When there's doubt check it out.***

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In the
Spotlight



Steve Smith

Member since 2024

My story very much mirrors another member's, Tim Dickinson's, story from back in the April newsletter. I have played with Tim a couple of times and knew that he went to Georgia Tech, but I did not know there are more similarities in how we grew up. I too was born at Georgia Baptist Hospital in 1958. I grew up in East Point which is not too far from where Tim grew up in Decatur. I remember watching them build Lakewood Freeway about a mile from my house that connected I-285 at Greenbriar Mall to I-75 just South of Atlanta. I played basketball, football, and track at Headland High School. I was also on the Math team. I also went to Georgia Tech and graduated with honors with a degree in Industrial Management. I took some programming classes at Tech and figured that I was pretty good at it since there always seemed to be a line of people in my class in the computer room asking me how to write FORTRAN code. (Yes I am a nerd). Tim was probably in a number of my classes at Tech but I guess our paths did not cross for one reason or another. My first job was with Lockheed in Marietta where I initially started in Engineering but soon moved into an Information Technology group. I worked for Lockheed for about 10 years and then worked for Crawford & Company for about 30 years managing projects and software teams.

I retired in June of 2023 and wanted to do 2 things in retirement: 1) play golf and 2) play senior softball with some friends of mine. Well, my career in senior softball went down in flames in the second game of the Fall season in my second at bat when I got a hit to left field, turned to run to first base and almost did a header into the dirt just past home plate. I tore my left Achilles tendon which destroyed my senior softball aspirations. Luckily it was not a full tear but I was laid up for a few months and went through a few months of rehabilitation.

Once I was healthy enough, I started playing golf. In prior years I would only average playing maybe 4-5 times per year. I joined a senior team with my good friend and former neighbor, Rick Olson (who also got me into SGAA).

I have a lot to learn about golf. I have good days and bad days but little things really keep me going. An example is that back in April of last year I was playing a par-3 hole with Rick and another friend and got a hole-in-one on the 15th hole. They did not believe me since I hit an ugly tee shot and they were getting their clubs and did not see the ball roll left, and roll right, and then roll right into hole. I had to walk up and pull the ball out of the hole to prove it to them. There were some other little things like winning a putting and chipping contest at a team event, getting "closest to the hole" a couple of times, etc. Little things like that keep me wanting to play more golf.

I have 3 daughters and 5 grand kids. I coach my oldest grandson and oldest granddaughter (10 year old twins) in basketball at JFBC. I hope to coach the other 3 grandkids when they get older. I have a great wife of soon to be 19 years who grew up in Hampton Georgia. She and I met at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church about 20 years ago on a beautiful Sunday morning.

SGAA Out of Town

Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge



Wallace Adams Course at Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge

80 Live Oak Trail
Helena, GA

April 14, 15, 16, 2025
Monday Tee-Time 12:30 pm (EDT)

Guests are welcome! Bring a friend, family member, neighbor, etc.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: March 13, 2025

Packages include the following:

Two or three nights lodging, golf, dinners, breakfasts, & lunch on Tuesday

Note: Double occupancy rates below assumes roommates have identical packages.

Choose Option

Occupancy	Packages	Price per Person (2 nights)		Sunday Arrival (3 nights)	
Single	3 Days golf, lodging, meals	\$549.00		\$676.00	
Double	3 Days golf, lodging, meals	\$418.00		\$482.00	

Contact Larry Fauconnet re: any package requests not noted above

Name: _____ SGAA Member #: _____

Guest Name: _____ Guest Stroke Handicap: _____

SGAA Roommate: _____ SGAA Member #: _____

ALL reservations, including Sunday, must be made through SGAA.

No Refunds after reservation deadline on March 13, 2025

Make Checks Payable to: SGAA

Mail Reservation form and check to:

Larry Fauconnet
4439 Foxfire Crossing
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Formats:

Monday: Four-man teams – ABCD dogfight

Tuesday: Two-man teams –A/B vs A/B and C/D vs. C/D

Wednesday: Individual Dogfight

- Blind-draw for empty slots / guests
- Mon/Tue teams randomly generated

Call/email Larry Fauconnet with any questions at LHFauconnet@gmail.com 678-654-2594



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PRESENTED BY Vensure

R.S. Andrews

REGISTER
**FOR A
GREAT
CAUSE.**

The Mitsubishi Electric Classic presented by Vensure is returning to metro Atlanta from April 25-27, 2025, standing proud as a premier event on the PGA TOUR Champions. Benefiting local charities through the Gwinnett Championship Foundation Inc., the tournament has raised over \$5 million since 2013. Volunteerism is a cornerstone of the PGA TOUR and essential to the success of this event—each year, more than 500 volunteers generously donate their time, with a variety of committees available to suit every interest.

For those looking to join the excitement, be sure to register early using the discount code below to secure your spot and enjoy exclusive savings.

REGISTER TODAY

WWW.MITSUBISHIELECTRICCLASSIC.COM

For more information or questions, contact fellow member Ward Humphreys at ward.humphreys@gmail.com or text 404 444-1786

This is an excerpt taken from the online edition of *Golf* magazine. It's a bit lengthy, but well worth the read...

"The Privilege of Playing Golf!"

Written by a former golfer who can no longer play, but who has reflected on his years in golf and would like the rest of us to think about how we approach the game. Powerful stuff.

Dear Younger Me:

I can't play golf anymore. I tried to swing the club the other day, but my body wouldn't cooperate. The best I can do now is sometimes take walks on the course, but my eyes aren't as good as they used to be so I don't see much. I have a lot of time to sit and think now, and I often think about the game.

It was my favorite game. I played most of my adult life. Thousands of rounds, thousands of hours practicing. As I look back, I guess I had a pretty good time at it. But now that I can't do it anymore, "I wish I had done it differently!" It's funny, but with all the time I spent playing golf, I never thought I was a real golfer. I never felt good enough to really belong out there. It doesn't make much sense, since I scored better than average and a lot of people envied my game, but I always felt that if I was just a little better or a little more consistent, then I'd feel really good. I'd be satisfied with my game. But I never was. It was always "One of these days I'll get it" or "One day I'll get there" and now here I am. I can't play anymore, and I never got there.

I met a whole lot of different people out on the course. That was one of the best things about the game. But aside from my regular partners and a few others, I don't feel like I got to know many of those people very well. I know they didn't really get to know me. At times they probably didn't want to. I was pretty occupied with my own game most of the time and didn't have much time for anyone else, especially if I wasn't playing well. So why am I writing you this letter anyway, just to complain? Not really. Like I said, my golfing experience wasn't that bad. But it could have been so much better, and I see that so clearly now. I want to tell you, so you can learn from it. I don't want you getting to my age and feeling the same regrets I'm feeling now.

I wish, I wish. Sad words, I suppose, but necessary. I wish I could have played the game with more joy, more freedom. I was always so concerned with "doing it right" that I never seemed to be able to enjoy just doing it at all. I was so hard on myself, never satisfied, always expecting more. Who was I trying to please? Certainly not myself, because I never did. If there were people whose opinions were important enough to justify all that self-criticism, I never met them. I wish I could have been a better playing partner. I wasn't a bad person to be with, really, but I wish I had been friendlier and gotten to know people better. I "wish I could have laughed and joked more and given people more encouragement." I probably would have gotten more from them, and I would have loved that. There were a few bad apples over the years, but most of the people I played with were friendly, polite, and sincere. They really just wanted to make friends and have a good time. "I wish I could have made more friends and had a better time."

I'm inside a lot now and I miss the beauty of the outdoors. For years when I was golfing I walked through some of the most beautiful places on earth, and yet I don't feel I really saw them. Beautiful landscapes, trees, flowers, animals, the sky, and the ocean "how could I have missed so much?" What was I thinking of that was so important – my grip, my back swing, my stance? Sure, I needed to think about those "sometimes", but so often as to be oblivious to so much beauty? "And all the green – the wonderful, deep, lush color of green!" My eyes are starting to fail. I wish I had used them better so I would have more vivid memories now.

So what is it that I'm trying to say? I played the type of game that I thought I should play, to please the type of people that I thought I should please. But it didn't work. My game was mine to play, but I gave it away.

It's a wonderful game. Please, don't lose yours. Play a game that you want to play. Play a game that gives you joy and satisfaction and makes you a better person to your family and friends. Play with enthusiasm, play with freedom. Appreciate the beauty of nature and the people around you. Realize how lucky you are to be able to do it. All too soon your time will be up, and you won't be able to play anymore. Play a game that enriches your life.

Best wishes . . . don't waste a minute of golf . . .someday it will be gone!



MARCH 2025

NOTE:

Tee Times revert to 8:30 a/m with the change to Daylight Saving Time

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Dogwood 10:00a/m \$40	4 Bear Creek 10:00a/m \$42	5 Georgia National 10:00a/m \$37	6	7	8
9	10	11 CC of Gwinnett 8:30a/m \$45	12 Honey Creek 8:30a/m \$35	13 Providence 8:30a/m \$37	14	15
16	17 Heron Bay 8:30a/m \$37	18	19 Pine Hills 8:30a/m \$28	20 Sugar Creek 8:30a/m \$33	21	22
23	24 Mystery Valley 8:30a/m \$40	25 Crystal Lake 8:30a/m \$37	26	27 Hard Labor Crk 8:30a/m \$39+	28	29
30	31 Monroe CC 8:30a/m \$45	<p><i>March 13th</i></p> <p>LITTLE OCMULGEE TRIP</p> <p><i>Registration Deadline</i></p>				

Steve Puster
122 Salem Ridge Drive
McDonough, GA 30253