



www.sgaofatlanta.org

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President: JJ Goldsack
Vice-Pres: Dave Mueller
Secretary: Ted Pogue
Treasurer: Tom Vardase

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Larry Fauconnet	2028
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John Cyran	2027
Benny Russo	2027
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Past President

Mike Nobles
678-294-2363

Chaplain

Perry Provost
678-360-1229

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 70 Issue 8

August 2026

President

JJ Goldsack

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(770) 513-4609



Can you believe it is already August? Two important events you should plan for. The annual tournament begins September 8th. This year the format has changed. You will have 2 weeks to play 3 rounds. The final round will be played September 17th. Even though we reduced the number of outings to 6, the Country Club of Gwinnett was kind enough to continue to provide lunch on the last day of play. You are not required to play in the tournament to play any of those 6 days.

The annual Member Guest outing is October 4-7 in Hiawassee. Sign-up has begun and we would appreciate receiving your application by August 15th. You can find the application as well as pertinent information on the website and in this newsletter.

August 6th is our next board meeting. The meeting begins at 10 AM at the Country Club of Gwinnett. The meeting is open to all. If you are interested in how the organization operates, I encourage you to attend.

Finally, it is time to begin putting together a slate of candidates for 2027 officers and board of directors. Please consider volunteering your expertise to help SGAA.

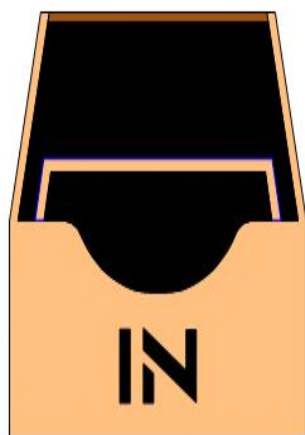


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Vice President

Dave Mueller

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Hope everyone has had a great summer so far. The year is over half done for 2026. We have covered a lot of ground so far this year. We have completed 2 great out of Town trips, and a fun par 3 outing. A lot of good and bad golf has been played. I'm looking forward to the events of the rest of the year. We have the upcoming Member-Guest Outing, our member golf tournament, and the yearend banquet to go. We also have elections at the end of the year as well. There is a lot to do for rest of 2026. I hope you get involved in running SGAA by volunteering for one of the committees we have.

A big thanks for all their work goes out to John Cyran and company for all the work on getting our computer signup problems worked out. Also thanks to Larry Fauconnet for his help with our Smoky Mountain golf outing. A fun trip was had by all.

If anyone has questions about SGAA, don't hesitate to ask any of your Board Members. If they don't know, they will find out for you.

Have a great second half of the year, have fun playing golf.

In Memory

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."

Gene Bryant member 1998 – 2022

Harry Chapman member 2017 – 2021

David Mason member since 2008

Gene Latham member since 2007

Jesse Dooley member 2002 – 2026

**EVENTS FOR
AUGUST 2026**

August 3
MON: 8:30 a/m
CC of Gwinnett

August 4
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Southland

August 5
WED: 8:30 a/m
Heron Bay

August 10
MON: 8:30 a/m
Ashton Hills

August 11
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Panola Mountain

August 13
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Bear Creek

August 17
MON: 8:30 a/m
Sugar Creek

August 18
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Collins Hill

August 20
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Georgia National

August 24
MON: 8:30 a/m
Cherokee Run

August 25
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Hard Labor Creek

August 26
WED: 8:30 a/m
Honey Creek—PAR 3

August 24
MON: 8:30 a/m
Mystery Valley

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



Membership Overview

As of August 2026, the SGAA welcomed several new members, bringing the total active membership to 215. This year, we have added eleven (11) new members, continuing the positive trend of growth. Our ongoing efforts to encourage friends and neighbors to join are making a difference, and it would be beneficial to maintain last year's momentum in membership additions.

Membership Application Process

When inviting prospective members to join, it is essential to ensure that all application forms are completed fully and legibly. Applications that are missing required information cannot be processed, so careful attention to detail is crucial. By assisting with accurate and thorough submissions, you help promote an efficient and effective membership process. Thank you for your continued support and diligence in this important matter.

Board Suggestions

If you have ideas to help the board or make SGAA activities more enjoyable, please share them with me or any board member. While not every suggestion can be put into action, each one will be discussed at the next board meeting. Your input is appreciated and helps us continue improving our group.

In Memoriam

We honor and remember Gene Bryant, who passed away in January. Gene was a member for over 20 years and was actively involved in the operation of SGAA until he could no longer participate. Gene Latham passed away on 02/09/2026. Gene was a member from 2007 through 2026 and was known for being a likable person and enjoyable golf companion. David Mason, a member for 18 years and well-liked by the membership, and Harry Chapman, who passed away this year after moving away from the Atlanta area, are also remembered. Harry enjoyed his family and time outdoors. Jesse Dooley was a member from 2002 to 2026. He was an ex-president and involved in all aspects of SGAA. He moved to Carrollton a few years ago. Many of you may not have had the privilege of knowing him. All these gentlemen will be greatly missed.

Contact Information Updates

If you change your address, phone number, or email, please notify me at tandgpogue@att.net. Keeping your contact information current ensures you receive timely updates about SGAA news and upcoming events.



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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

One thing I learned in my early years; "If you don't vote, you can't bitch about the outcome." I think I might have been maybe 9 or 10 when I first heard that expression – too young to vote – but the moral of the story was the same: If you don't participate, you quietly live with the actions of others.

The Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta is open to any – AND ALL – members willing to participate. That participation isn't just showing up and playing golf; it's the opportunity to have a voice in how decisions are made.

The first "official" opportunity is the online survey, <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/y2mi3FmQCw> in which your response to nine simple questions can have a large impact on when, where, and how our weekly in-town tournaments are set up. There really aren't a lot of excuses not to complete the survey... it takes, at the outside, maybe 15 minutes of your time; you don't have to leave home to participate; the weather has no impact on your participation; and although the requested deadline is the end of the month the sooner you complete the survey the less chance you'll forget and not have a chance to have your say.

The next "official" opportunity has a deadline of September 15th and is a bit more time consuming and requires a commitment. I'm talking about the opportunity to serve as either an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors. This year we're electing a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary as well as three new members to our Board of Directors. There is no time requirement of membership to be eligible for any of these offices; only a willingness to stand up and be counted as someone who wants to see SGAA thrive and grow. If you willing to serve let one of the Nominating Committee (listed on the website <https://sgaofatlanta.org/>) members know.



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In the
Spotlight

Richard Davidson



Richard Davidson

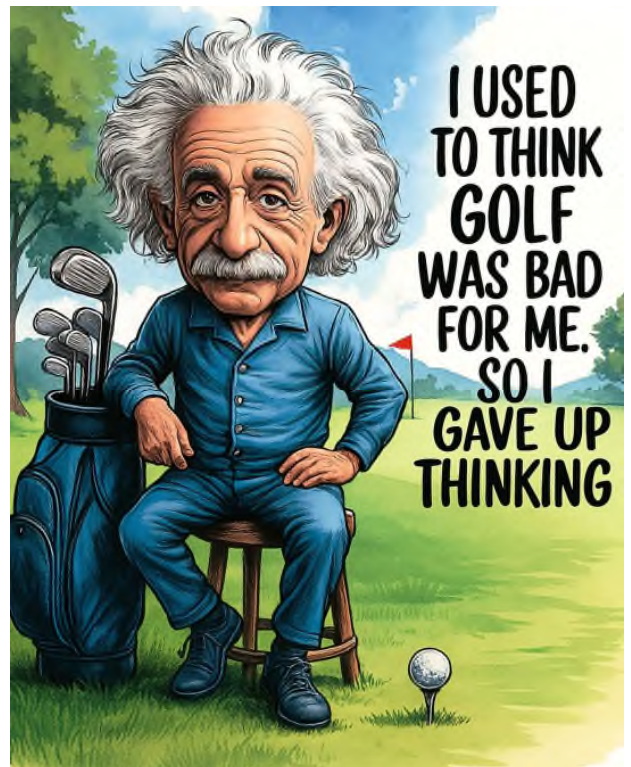
Member since 2026

I am Richard Davidson. Currently my wife and I reside in McDonough. We were both born in Atlanta and went to school together for thirteen years graduating from Southwest DeKalb High School.

I have retired twice. First in 2008 from General Motors when they closed the Doraville plant. Second from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 2021. At GM I was a maintenance supervisor. With the IBEW I was a journeyman wireman. I worked at both GM locations in Atlanta (Lakewood and Doraville) and at the Arlington, Texas plant. With the IBEW, I worked mostly in the Atlanta area but also in many locations across the nation.

How I got into golf. After I retired in 2021 my neighbor encouraged me to start golfing. He was a member at Eagles Landing Country Club. I played as his guest until 2024 when ELCC changed the rules and a guest could only play six times in a calendar year. So I joined. Unfortunately my neighbor had a debilitating stroke three weeks later. I was hooked and have enjoyed the golf and camaraderie ever since.


We're
Searching for
Volunteers



ANNUAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Our Annual Tournament begins on Tuesday, September 8th at Country Club of Gwinnett. 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 (\$45.00) are to be paid to the course before each round. There are 6 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 3 rounds to be considered as competing in the Annual Tournament. No matter how many rounds you complete during the Annual Tournament, your 3 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 footprint (human or otherwise), any untended sand marks from a previous 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.



2026 SGAA MEMBER/GUEST ACTIVITIES



Famous as the home of Georgia's highest peak, Brasstown Bald, Hiawassee is full of gorgeous mountain scenery and recreation opportunities. Hiawassee was originally inhabited by Cherokee tribes. It is located near the Appalachian and Southern Highroads trails. Lake Chatuge is another beloved landmark with countless recreation opportunities, along with the trout fishing favorite, the Hiawassee River. Don't miss the changing color of the leaves.

Brasstown Bald, is a must-see at over 4,000 feet and surrounded by the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. On clear days, visitors can see four states from the observation deck.

Walking Trails in Hiawassee, GA

Hiawassee, Georgia, is a treasure trove for hikers and nature enthusiasts. The town offers a variety of walking trails that cater to different skill levels and preferences. Here are some of the best walking trails in Hiawassee:

1. Wagon Train Trail: This trail is known for its challenging incline and beautiful waterfall views. It has a 4.6-star rating from 401 reviews, making it a popular choice for hikers.
2. Bell Mountain Trail: Offering stunning summit views, this trail is perfect for photography enthusiasts and is open year-round.
3. Tallulah Gorge State Park Trails: With over 20 miles of well-maintained trails, this park is a must-visit for those seeking epic views and waterfalls.
4. Little Tennessee River Greenway: A scenic river trail that provides a peaceful, shaded path with beautiful views of the river.
5. Nantahala Bikeway: A bike trail that runs alongside the Little Tennessee River, offering a unique experience for those who prefer biking.
6. Hamilton Rhododendron Gardens: A hidden gem, this botanical garden features a variety of native plants and flowers, making it a peaceful spot for a stroll. A sprawling botanical garden with more than 3,000 plants, including dogwood, native azaleas, wildflowers, trillium and rhododendron. In fact, the more than 400 varieties of rhododendron make it the largest collection in the state. The garden includes two lovely hiking trails– a 1-mile trail and a 2-mile trail– as well as walking paths that lead along the shore of Lake Chatuge and to a popular fishing hole.
7. High Shoals Falls - One of the area's most stunning waterfalls is High Shoals Falls, five falls in one area that have a total vertical drop of 300 feet. Accessible by the 1.2-mile High Shoals Trail, there are observation decks along the way.
8. The Chatgugue trail - The 1-mile, dog-friendly hiking trail takes you through the forest along the banks of a small peninsula, offering sensational views of the shoreline and southern Appalachian Mountains along the way.
9. Rent A Boat - As much fun as a day at the beach can be, there's nothing better than exploring the lake in your own boat or jet ski.

These trails are just a few examples of the many walking opportunities Hiawassee has to offer. Whether you're looking for a leisurely stroll or a challenging hike, Hiawassee's trails provide a perfect escape into nature. Remember to pack hiking safety essentials and enjoy the breathtaking scenery along the way.



2026 SGAA MEMBER/GUEST ACTIVITIES

Shopping places in Hiawassee

1. Art Works
2. Trailful Outdoor Co.
3. TATA On Main
4. Lakeview Vintage Market
5. Hiawassee Antique Mall
6. Secret's Attic
7. Always Christmas
8. Mountain Quilts
9. The Wishing Well
10. Hen's Nest

Alexander's "Everything Under The Sun" has been family-owned since 1953. And families love coming to Alexander's, where there's something for everyone. With 50,000 square feet of retail space (and expanding all the time), Alexander's sells just about everything. ADDRESS: 4482 Town Creek School Road, Blairsville, GA 30512, 706-745-6450.

Harrah's Cherokee Valley River – A Caesars Rewards Destination - 777 Casino Parkway, Murphy, NC 28906. Take advantage of recreation opportunities such as the casino, or grab a bite at Brew Brothers, one of the hotel's 6 restaurants. A great escape with glorious views.

Enjoy a great afternoon on Lake Chatuge by renting a boat from one of several local venues. Lake Chatuge and the surrounding rivers and creeks are home to a great variety of fish making it the ideal place to relax and enjoy a fishing adventure.

Enjoy the scenery and North Georgia Mountain views while on horseback. There are several trails and horseback riding opportunities around the Lodge.



Cane Creek Vinery – Young Harris

Widely regarded as one of North Georgia's best wineries, Crane Creek Vineyards encompasses 20+ acres high in the hills of Young Harris GA. Cane Creek offers full wine service, including tastings, wine by the glass, and bottles, along with drip coffee, espresso drinks, snacks, and pastries. It is the perfect spot to unwind with a glass of wine or freshly brewed coffee—whether you're relaxing in the lounge or enjoying the sweeping vineyard views from the deck. Prices for the wine, cheese, snacks tastings are have not been finalized. This will be updated as soon as they are finalized.





2026 SGAA MEMBER/GUEST TOURNAMENT

Chatgue Golf Course & Mountain Harbor Golf Course

October 4th – 7th, 2026

Hiawassee, Ga.

Monday – Wednesday T-Time 9:00 am at Chatgue Shores. Tuesday T-time 9:30 at Mountain Harbor.

Guests are welcome. Bring a friend, a family member, a neighbor. The more the merrier. Packages include the following: 3 nights lodging, 3 rounds of golf, 2 dinners, live band on Tuesday, and cash bar on Sunday and Tuesday.

If you are sharing a room and planning to play only two rounds and/or two nights, your roommate must have the same package as you. **RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE August 15th. All reservations must be made through the SGAA. NOTE: A continental breakfast is included with coffee, juices, cereal, sweet rolls and fruit.**

OCCUPANCY	PACKAGE	PRICE	CHOICE
Couple Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Lakeview	\$878	
Single Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Lakeview	\$776	
Double Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Lakeview	\$574	
Couple Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Regular	\$811	
Single Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Regular	\$709	
Double Occupancy	3 Nights, 3 Rds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2 – Regular	\$540	
Other Accomadations	3 Rounds of Golf, 2 Dinners for 2	\$473	

Other options may be available on an individual basis. Please call Larry Thomas at 770-596-4432 for rates.

Ladies golf on Monday/Wednesday at Mountain Harbor is \$65, Tuesday at Chatgue Shores is \$35. If your companion plans to play any of these days, please provide: NAME _____ Mon____ Tue____ Wed____

Wine Tasting Tuesday 11:00 – 1:00 NAME _____

Sunday dinner: **Member** – Trout ____ Brisket ____ **Dessert** – Pecan pie ____ Peach Cobbler ____
Spouse - Trout ____ Brisket ____ **Dessert** – Pecan pie ____ Peach Cobbler ____

Tuesday dinner: **Member** – Steak ____ Chicken ____ **Dessert** – Apple pie ____ Bread Pudding ____
Spouse – Steak ____ Chicken ____ **Dessert** – Apple pie ____ Bread Pudding ____

Name: _____ SGAA Member Number _____ Shirt size _____

Guest: _____ Guest Stroke Handicap _____ Shirt size _____

SGAA Roommate: _____

COMMENTS: _____

EARLY ARRIVAL: If you plan to come in on Saturday or stay over on Wednesday night, call Chatgue Shores for information on making an early arrival/late departure reservation. Let them know you are with SGAA.

Lake Chatgue Lodge, 653 Hwy 76, Hiawassee, Ga, . Phone 706-896-5253

SEND CHECKS TO: LARRY THOMAS

2065 WOODBERRY RUN DR.

SNELLVILLE, GEORGIA 30078



Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

2026 SGAA OFFICIAL BALLOT

FOR PRESIDENT (Vote for One):

___ DAVE MUELLER

___ WRITE-IN _____

FOR VICE PRESIDENT (Vote for One):

___ IS IT YOU???

___ WRITE-IN _____

FOR SECRETARY (Vote for One):

___ IS IT YOU???

___ WRITE-IN _____

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (3-yr Term) (Vote for **three***):

___ IS IT YOU???

___ YOUR BUDDY???

___ YOUR REGULAR PLAYING PARTNER???

___ ???

___ ???

___ ???

___ ???

___ WRITE-IN _____

___ WRITE-IN _____

___ WRITE-IN _____

****Voting for more than
three candidates for
the Board of Directors
will make your ENTIRE
ballot null and void***

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO THROW YOUR
HAT IN THE RING!**

The Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta By-Laws closes the window for nominations at September 15th, Don't wait until the last minute to decide to run for one of these important offices.

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DEADLINE FOR THE ONLINE MEMBER SURVEY IS AUGUST 31st						
2	3 CC of Gwinnett 8:30 a/m	4 Southland 8:30 a/m	5 Heron Bay 8:30 a/m	6 Board of Directors Meeting CC of Gwinnett 10:00 a/m	7	8
9	10 Ashton Hills 8:30 a/m	11 Panola Mountain 8:30 a/m	12	13 Bear Creek 8:30 a/m	14	15 
16	17 Sugar Creek 8:30 a/m	18 Collins Hill 8:30 a/m	19	20 Georgia National 8:30 a/m	21	22
23	24 Cherokee Run 8:30 a/m	25 Hard Labor Crk 8:30 a/m	26 PAR 3 Honey Creek 8:30 a/m	27	28	29
30	31 Mystery Valley 8:30 a/m	 REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR MEMBER-GUEST				

Steve Puster
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McDonough, GA 30253