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since 1946

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South Jersey Golf Association Newsletter

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**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR - BARBARA VOLPE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF - GAIL REILLY**

***"Forget your opponents; always play against par."* ~ Sam Snead**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SJGA members,

So, what can **we do** for you to enhance your membership in SJGA? While the Board of Directors has had plenty on its plate since we last met together in October, we have established a mission for 2008 and that is to grow membership by keeping everyone involved and satisfied. The quandary is how to do this without overextending the resources of SJGA. Thus, we need your help. We can't nor should we, the B.O.D., make these decisions without direct input from you, as our job is to represent your best interests.

This is what we need from you. Please answer the survey which will be posted on our website by April 15th. Your responses will help us to develop new membership, while keeping you, our present members, coming back and being more active, not just in tournaments but in other ways too. Here are some questions for you to consider in preparing to take the survey.

- For those of you who have been members for ten years or more, how have the tournaments changed now as compared to then? Is this for the better? Why? Why not?
- In the spirit of fairness to our entire SJGA member courses, are you willing to sign up to play in tournaments on any of our listed courses? (See website for complete list) If not, honestly state why?
- How far would you travel to play in a SJGA event? Would you travel to Ocean County? Why? /Why not?
- If we added a Parent / Child (Relative / Child) tournament, would you participate? Why? Why not?

- If we added several weekend tournaments (especially for those who work and can't participate as frequently as they would like), would you play? Why? Why not?
- Should we pursue "joint programs" or "collaborative efforts" with other organizations? Why? Why not?
- Should we raise our present handicap threshold of 36.0 to help increase membership? If yes, should there be designated flights for them? Designated tournaments? Include them in the mix for all tournaments, without flighting them separately?
- Should we consider allowing youth, under the age of 18, to become SJGA members? 1) to play in designated tournaments designed for them and / or 2) to play in any tournaments for which they qualify?

The overall results of this survey will enable the BOD to brainstorm. Your efforts in this regard will help the B.O.D. to fulfill its mission to begin developing the strategies needed to implement new projects/ approaches to keep our SJGA membership active, satisfied and growing.

If you recall from our meeting last year, I had asked reps to become more involved by applying to be B.O.D. members or by joining committees to help the B.O.D. in its efforts to keep SJGA moving forward. To this point I want to personally thank the following representatives for their commitment over the years as well as those who have newly heeded our call: new BOD member and Treasurer, Rae West (Indian Spring), Jeanne Armstrong (Tavistock) and Lois and

(Continued on page 6)

New USGA Rule Changes for 2008

There have been some significant changes in the Rules of Golf for 2008 so we'd like to share a few of these with you before our season opens. All SJGA events are played according to the USGA Rules of Golf.

Searching for and Identifying a Ball (USGA Rule #12-2)

A ball lying in a hazard may now be lifted for identification. The correct procedure is to 1) announce your intention to lift the ball to your opponent or fellow-competitor, 2) mark the position of the ball, 3) give your opponent or fellow-competitor the opportunity to observe, 4) do not clean the ball beyond what is needed to identify it and 5) replace the ball.

Prior to this year, there was no penalty for hitting a wrong ball out of a hazard. We have all gotten used to playing out of a hazard without identifying the ball but that will have to change. Since you may now lift and identify a ball in a hazard, hitting a wrong ball out of a hazard is a two stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play (USGA Rule #15-3).

Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped (USGA Rule #19-2)

There is a change in the penalty when a player's ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by himself, his partner or either of their caddies or equipment. The player will now incur a penalty of one stroke. The penalties in place prior to 2008 were a two stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play.

Do You Know Where Your Ball Is?

Knowing where your ball is would be easy if we all stayed in the fairway but we know that's not always the case.

Heinz E Kuehn

How long have you been a member of SJGA?
3 years

With what club are you affiliated?
Indian Spring Golf Course

What other golf affiliations/positions/ do you hold?
USGA

What is/was your professional background ?
CAD Designer , Engineering

What has been your best score for a round of golf?
71

Have you ever been a champion of your League, your course, a flight champion, a tournament champion, etc.? **No**

What is your favorite public course to play in New Jersey? **Shore Gate Golf Club**

What is your favorite private course to play in New Jersey? **Pine Valley / Woodcrest**

What is your favorite course that you have played ? **Pine Valley**

Who would make up your dream foursome? (Professional Golfers)

Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Ernie Els, Woody Austin

Favorite Male? **Tiger Woods**

Favorite Female? **Annika Sorenstam**

What brand of clubs do you play? **Taylor Made**

What is your favorite club/iron? **7 Iron**

List three hobbies other than golf :

Traveling, Computers, Grandchildren

Most memorable moment on a golf course
(2) Holes-in-one

Most memorable professional golf tournament moment you have watched ?

Van de Velde losing the 1999 British Open

Favorite SJGA format **Two - Man Better Ball**

Favorite SJGA course that you've played
Greate Bay

Favorite hole that you've played in New Jersey?
18th at Pine Valley

Holly Moore

How long have you been a member of SJGA?
2nd Year

With what club are you affiliated?
Merchantville Country Club

What other golf affiliations/positions/ do you hold? **USGA, Women's GAP**

What is/was your professional background?
30 years + Quality Process Hardware Engineer mainly involved in government work in the electronics industry

What has been your best score for a round of golf? **85 – that's for 18 holes!!!**

Have you ever been a champion of your League, your course, a flight champion, a tournament champion, etc.?

A very long time along – Northern California Junior (Girls) Champ

What is your favorite public course to play in New Jersey? **Pennsauken CC**

What is your favorite private course to play in New Jersey? **Merchantville**

What is your favorite course that you have played? **Harding Park, San Francisco Ca.**

Who would make up your dream foursome? (Professional Golfers)

Woods, Leonard, Lehman and Palmer

Favorite Male? **Arnold Palmer**

Favorite Female? **Lorena Ochoa**

What brand of clubs do you play? **Ping G10**

Favorite club/iron? **56 degree wedge**

List three hobbies other than golf :

Playing miniature golf with the grandchildren, gardening and knitting

Most memorable moment on a golf course ?
Eagled 1st hole (par 5) at Merchantville CC

Most memorable professional golf tournament moment you have watched ?

When U.S. won the last Ryder Cup

Favorite SJGA format **Better Ball**

Favorite SJGA course that you've played ?

Links at Brigantine

Favorite hole that you've played in New Jersey ?

3rdrd hole at Olde York Country Club in Columbus NJ

John Petronis

How long have you been a member of SJGA?
1/2 year

With what club are you affiliated?
Harbor Pines Golf Club

What other golf affiliations/positions/ do you hold?

Class "A-14" Member, PGA of America, PGA Director of Instruction at JGA Golf Academy & Fitting Center, President / Founder, Cape May County Jr. Golf Foundation/ "Cape Jr. Golf Tour", non-profit 501c3, President/Founder, Jr. Golfers' Association of America/ "JGA Tour", non-profit 501c3 . Founder, www.juniorgolfers.net

What is/was your professional background?
I managed golf courses for a little over 13 years before opening the JGA Golf Academy & Fitting Center. I served my apprenticeship at Quail West G&CC in Naples, Florida and Galloway National GC in Galloway, NJ, Sand Barrens GC, Swainton, NJ. I went on to be the Director of Golf at The Pines at Clermont GC for 2 years and then Cape May National GC for 5 years. I currently operate my golf academy giving golf lessons, fixing clubs, and fitting customers for equipment. I left running golf courses to nurture the two non-profits that I founded. My goal is to build a successful program where more kids can not only have more opportunities at course access, but also have a lot of opportunities to get recognized by college coaches and therefore have a stronger chance at a scholarship & / or possibly even consider turning professional, if so desired.

What has been your best score for a round of golf? *70 with tons of 32's for 9-holes*

Have you ever been a champion of your League, your course, a flight champion, a tournament champion, etc.?

I've won tournaments against professionals.

What is your favorite public course to play in New Jersey? *Atlantic City CC*

What is your favorite private course to play in New Jersey? *Pine Valley GC*

What is your favorite course that you have played? *Pine Valley GC*

Who would make up your dream foursome? (Professional Golfers)

Tiger, Nicklaus, Palmer, Walter Hagen

(Continued on page 5)

Rae West

How long have you been a member of SJGA? *close to 20 years*
A Rep? *9 years*

With what club are you affiliated?
Indian Spring

What other golf affiliations/positions/ do you hold?

19 year member Indian Spring Golf Assoc. 10 year member Ladies Wed. Nite League

What is/was your professional background?
Retired from nursing and spent 10 years as manager of the pro shop at Indian Spring

What has been your best score for a round of golf? *82*

Have you ever been a champion of your League, your course, a flight champion, a tournament champion, etc.?

Women's Club Champion at Indian Spring 1995 and 1996 Won 2 best of 4 at Little Mill in 1990 with SJGA

What is your favorite public course to play in New Jersey? *Indian Spring CC*

What is your favorite private course to play in New Jersey? *Burlington CC*

What is your favorite course that you have played? *Really do not have one*

Who would make up your dream foursome? (Professional Golfers) *Annika, Paula, Julie Inkster, Colleen Walker*

Favorite Male? *Tiger*

Favorite Female ? *Paula Creamer*

What brand of clubs do you play? *Mizuno*

What is your favorite club/iron?

Nike Fairway Rescue 22 degrees

List three hobbies other than golf : *Reading, gardening and family*

Most memorable moment on a golf course ?
Watching a friend get Hole in 1

Most memorable professional golf tournament moment you have watched?
Following Tiger at Baltusral in 2005

Favorite SJGA format *Mixed Better Ball*

Favorite SJGA course that you've played ?
Twisted Dune

Favorite hole that you've played in New Jersey? *#13 at Indian Spring*

New USGA Rule Changes for 2008 (Continued)

When you can't see your ball, the Rules have changed regarding what assumptions you may make.

Prior to 2008, you needed "reasonable evidence" that your ball was in a water hazard, lateral water hazard, abnormal ground conditions or an obstruction. You also needed "reasonable evidence" that your ball was moved by an outside agency. For any of these situations, reasonable evidence is no longer applicable. You must **know or be virtually certain** of the location of your ball or it is a lost ball.

Let's look at a water hazard as an example. If you see your ball enter the water hazard and remain there, you know that it is in the hazard and may proceed under the appropriate Rule. However, what happens if the water hazard is beyond a rise in the fairway so you can not see it? How will you know or be virtually certain that your ball is in the hazard?

Ask yourself this question; Is there anywhere else my ball could be? Are there trees around the hazard that could have deflected the shot, tall grass or bushes around the hazard, loose or muddy ground outside the hazard where the ball could be embedded? If you answer yes or have any other condition that could be hiding your ball, then, after a five minute search, your ball is lost and you must proceed under that Rule (USGA Rule #27-1c)

If you'd like more information regarding changes in the Rules or the Rules in general, please visit the USGA website: www.usga.org or contact the SJGA office at GolfOffice@sjgolf.org.

The SJGA Handicap Committee Is Here to Help You

When it comes to golf, handicaps are an integral part of any net event. In the past, the SJGA Tournament Committee and Tournament Directors were responsible for handling any questions or problems that arose regarding handicaps. But the SJGA Board of Directors has determined that our members would be best served by having a designated handicap committee ready to handle any questions or issues. The Committee members are John Petronis, Bill Kaufmann, and Jeannine Muse.

This committee will be available to audit a member's scoring record whenever a discrepancy is apparent but will also do random audits throughout the season to help assure that our events are conducted in a fair manner. As an SJGA member, you should feel free to contact the committee at any time.

Some of the areas we can assist in are:

General questions regarding the USGA Handicap System

Questions regarding the validity of a member's handicap

How your course handicap was calculated for a particular event

For handicap questions or more information, please contact:

GolfOffice@sjgolf.org

(609) 953-6873

SJGA is pleased to inform you that the following courses have become members for this coming year:

EWGA (S.J. Chapter)

McCullough's Emerald Golf Links

Wild Oaks Golf Club

SJGA Departures

SJGA and it's Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the commitment of

**Jerry Covella,
Steve Holloway,
and Bonnie Hood.**

We thank them for their unselfish contributions to the Board and committees on which they served.

To each of you -

Best wishes in your future endeavors.

(Continued from page 6)

Are there handicap limits to play in events? No Limits in our tournaments with the exception of the chapter championship

What are the range of handicaps? 6-40

Do you flight players by handicap or are they interspersed? We do some of both

Do you allow interested women come and play as guests to see if they want to become members? YES, you can play in 2 events before you are required to join. We also have 2 events that are open to anyone interested in EWGA.



Would you like to receive SJGA special deals and notices via email?

Just go to www.sjgolf.org and click on the above picture to send us your address.

SJGA does not share your personal information and your email address will be used for SJGA notices only.

2008 SJGA Scholarships for Graduating Seniors Available Now.

Go to www.sjgolf.org for directions, eligibility requirements and to download an application.

Deadline for submission is Wednesday, April 30, 2008 !!!

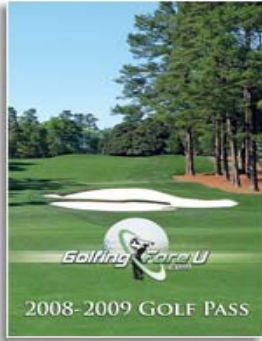
New This Year

Take Note !!!

S.J.G.A. is now using P.O. Boxes for submission of all Tournament Entries whether Men's, Women's or Mixed.

Be sure to read the "entry forms," found in your new 2008 Handbook, to see to which P.O. Box your entry should be sent.

Failure to do so could jeopardize successful participation.



Golfing Fore U Pass available at a 25% Golfing discount to SJGA members.

Featuring 45 courses in our playing area, the Pass will allow you to experience a great variety courses at a discount. SJGA members can purchase the pass for \$30.00 (a \$40 value) directly from the Golfing Fore U website or at designated SGJA events.

As an added bonus, \$5 from every sale will be donated by Golfing Fore U to the SJGA Scholarship Fund.

To purchase your pass, please visit the Golfing Fore U website at www.golfingforeu.com and be sure to use the promo code of SJGA when placing your order to receive your discount.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 ■ **SUMMER** ■
 ■ **Meeting** ■
 ■ at ■
 ■ Ramblewood ■
 ■ 11:00 meeting followed by ■
 ■ lunch and golf ■
 ■ Open to Representatives & ■
 ■ their guests (one) ■
 ■ Meeting & Lunch - no cost ■
 ■ Golf - \$30.00 per person) ■
 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Some SJGA Tournament Changes for 2008

Distance Measuring Devices

SJGA has reversed its position on distance measuring devices so their use will be allowed in 2008 tournaments. **It's important to know that devices that measure only distance will be allowed.** If your device has the ability to measure any other factor such as wind or elevation it is not allowed and the penalty is disqualification.

Need a Partner?

We have a new procedure for those looking for a partner in SJGA events. Just send in your entry form with all fields completed except the partner's information and in that area of the entry write "NEED A PARTNER".

We will make every attempt to fulfill your request.

Senior Men

Men 70 and older will now have an option of playing from the regular tees or the senior tees. Selection must be made on your entry form.

The Men's Senior Champion will be awarded to the overall low gross player from the standard tees. Men choosing to play from the senior (forward) tees will not be eligible to win the overall gross champion place.

📌
Save these Dates!

John Petronis (continued from Page 3)

Favorite Male Golfer? **Tiger Woods**

Favorite Female Golfer? **Annika**

What brand of clubs do you play?
Mizuno MP-60's

What is your favorite club/ iron ? **Putter**

List three hobbies other than golf :

Spending time with my kids (Heather-16 & Johnny-12) & wife (Terri)

Playing Guitar, writing songs, and jamming with my band "The Stand" www.myspace.com/thestandnj

Fishing & Crabbing during the summer

Most memorable moment on a golf course?

Caddying for my kids at the US Kids Golf World Championship. Heather (2002 & 2004) & Johnny (2005)

18) Most memorable professional golf tournament moment you have watched?

Tie - 1986 Masters (Jack Nicklaus winning) and Tiger's comeback win at the US Amateur at Pumpkin Ridge

Favorite SJGA format? **Ryder Cup**

Favorite SJGA course that you've played ?

Atlantic City CC

Favorite hole that you've played in New Jersey? **Cohanzick's 15th Hole**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 ■ **FALL** ■
 ■ **Annual Meeting** ■
 ■ Sunday, October 19, 2008 ■
 ■ at SeaView Marriott Resort ■
 ■ 11:00 am Brunch ■
 ■ Tee Times 1:00 pm on the ■
 ■ Bay Course ■
 ■ Open to everyone ■
 ■ Cost - TBD ■
 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

SJGA Welcomes EWGA

Chatting with S.J. Chapter President, Ellie Keppy

How long has the South Jersey Chapter been in existence? We are in our 3rd year.

Why did you get involved in your chapter? I enjoy sharing what golf has given me over the last 33 years and seeing new golfers catch the bug.

How many members do you have? about 100

The age range? 25-65

What is the mission of EWGA? Learn, Play, Enjoy. To teach the game of golf to as many women as possible. The EWGA believes in conducting itself according to the values embodied by the game of golf: Honesty, Integrity, Respect, Honor, Sportsmanship, Fun and Friendship.

Do you only take professional women as members? No anyone can join!

What is the membership fee? What are the benefits? How can one join?

Go to www.ewga.com for a complete explanation

When do these leagues and tournaments occur? We start league play around May 1st and go thru mid September. Events are year round and golf events run May thru October

How many leagues do you have? Three- Renault, Indian Spring, McCullough's Emerald Golf Links

How many EWGA chapter tournaments do you hold annually? Five

(Continued on page 4)

More Americans Are Giving Up Golf

Excerpted from New York Times Article (February 21, 2008)

Jim Kass, the research director of the National Golf Foundation, an industry group, said the gradual but prolonged slump in golf has defied the adage, "Once a golfer, always a golfer." About three million golfers quit playing each year, and slightly fewer than that have been picking it up. A two-year campaign by the foundation to bring new players into the game, he said, "hasn't shown much in the way of results."

"The man in the street will tell you that golf is booming because he sees Tiger Woods on TV," Mr. Kass said. "But we track the reality. The reality is, while we haven't exactly tanked, the numbers have been disappointing for some time."

The total number of people who play has declined or remained flat each year since 2000, dropping to about 26 million, according to the National Golf Foundation and the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association

More troubling to golf boosters, the number of people who play 25 times a year or more fell to 4.6 million from 6.9 million in 2000, a loss of about a third.

Surveys sponsored by the foundation have asked players what keeps them away. The answer is usually economic, Mr. Kass said. "No time. Two jobs. Real wages not going up. Pensions going away. Corporate cutbacks in country club memberships."

Rodney B. Warnick, a professor of recreation studies and tourism at the University of Massachusetts, said that the aging population of the United States was probably a part of the problem, too, and that "there is a younger generation that is just not as active."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Ted Kershner, the Ratings Review Committee, James Baldwin (Atlantis) and Bill Barlow (Golden Pheasant) Men's Team Matches Committee, and Debbie Beck (Greate Bay) and Merk Raffensperger (Moorestown), Women's Team Matches Committee.

Please think about stepping up and getting more involved yourself. It never hurts to have someone bringing an expertise to an organization and putting it to good use. Presently, we need someone with experience in Public Relations and / or Marketing to help develop new and better strategies.

Do you recognize these names? These are SJGA members who presently serve or just recently volunteered for our Board or one of our committees: new BOD members Holly Moore (Merchantville) and Heinz Kuehn (Indian Spring), Judy McIntyre (Women's Team Matches), Robert Seabo (Men's Team Matches), Patricia Bourke, Jan Brundin, Sally Dinn, George Eby, Judy Gibson, Dick Hill, Chuck Hoffman, Don

McKay, Pat O'Brien and Alan Perkins (Ratings Review/Trainees). We thank them.

If you have an interest but aren't sure whether you have the time, or the necessary experience, etc., a new SJGA Manual of all committee job descriptions and the requisite qualifications to be a committee member will be posted on our website by April 15th. This new feature will enable you to see what is available, what the duties are, what particular qualifications you will need, when these committees meet, who presently serves, etc. Feel free to contact the particular committee chairperson if you need further clarification. (See the 2008 Handbook)

I hope you enjoy participating in the 2008 tournaments we've scheduled for you this year. I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 19th, where we will be playing the Bay Course at the SeaView Marriott. (See Handbook)

Best Wishes,

Gail Reilly