

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SINGLES GOLF IN AMERICA

HARTFORD SINGLES GOLF

Hartford, CT Chapter - American Singles Golf Association — August 2008

RYDER CUP AGAINST CENTRAL MASS - AUGUST 16TH

August President's Letter

Greetings Friends of **HASGA**,

Many of you already know, but for those who do not, this month's newsletter has been produced for you by **Stephanie Sewell**. She offered to take a hand at this job, and I took her up on her offer. She and I will be happy to take any ideas, suggestions or additions you may want to offer to make this something you look forward to receiving in your mailbox every month. Let us know.....

I also hate to be the bearer of bad news, but while playing golf last week in the Member/Guest at Pequot, I noticed that some leaves were starting to change color. Nothing yellow or orange yet, but subtle color changes, that were noticeable at the tops!! Sorry, to all the hot, summer weather lovers (**Dave Walstrom, Jack Curtiss** and **Pat Sullivan**).

I hope all of you are getting used to the "Tee-Blasts" that are being sent out by **Cathy Duncan** at the beginning of each week. Make sure you scroll to the bottom to get **ALL** the information found in each blurb. This is something we decided to try as several people commented on the number of emails received in one week from **HASGA**. This now has cut down on the

number of e-mails **Cathy** has had to send out and hopefully, connected you, through the blurbs, to our new website. We have heard **MANY** positive comments, and how easy it is to register for events and see what's happening in detail with the Chapter by simply clicking onto the site:

www.HartfordSinglesGolf.org We are always looking for photos to post, so if anyone has taken some during an event, and would like to share.....we would love to use them. Just send these to **Rhonda Idleman**, Web Master, at rji27@comcast.net She will love this!

I mentioned in the June newsletter that I would be stepping down as President at the end of this year. This means we will be looking for a new President to head up our Chapter for 2009. Other positions to be open and available are Golf Chairman and committee, along with Treasurer.

So that we can continue to have a viable Chapter and golf league, we need several people willing to step up, take part, and give back to the group as a whole. By late August or early September, we will have a Nominating Committee set up to begin the process of recruiting. I hope for the sake of **HASGA** we get some takers! It's funny (not really), this is my third August President's

Letter, and we are still talking about the need of new faces to fill in the Board for the following year. Think about getting together with a fellow member, and together join a Committee, share some ideas, work on a project, or even Co-Chair a Committee. The Club is only as good as those who volunteer to lead. Talk to any of the Board or Committee members. See what they do. Obviously, it's difficult to just "step" into a position, but if you get on a Committee and work with that for a year, it becomes oh, so easy to lead as a Chair the following year. If you don't try it, you'll never know!

Keep racking up those HASGA points,
~**Nancy Hammond**

RYDER CUP 2008

It is that time of year again...time to keep the trophy at home! This year **HASGA** travels to Massachusetts to battle against the Central Mass Chapter. The Tournament will be played at the New England Country Club in Bellingham, Massachusetts, on Saturday **August 16**. It will be a shotgun start at 1:00 P. M., and we hope for some fans and cheerleaders that day!

The team, alphabetically, includes:

NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATION

Attend a Multi-Chapter Event. Meet more singles.

Play more golf. Go to SinglesGolf.com/events

National Website: www.SinglesGolf.com

E-Mail: ASGANational@aol.com

Office Hours: 8:30-4:30, M-Th; 8:30-12:30 Fridays (Eastern)

National Office: 704-889-4600 or 1-888-GOLFMATE

To join ASGA or renew your dues, contact the National Office at above number or go to www.SinglesGolf.com/join

LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

Regular Meeting Date: Second Tuesday of each month, Open Forum, following the Board Meeting

Times: Board - 6:15, Members - 7:30

Meeting Location: Dakota's, Wethersfield, off US 91

Our Website: www.hartfordsinglesgolf.org

Our Hotline: 1-888-465-3628

(See next page for list of officers and board members.)

To join, renew dues, make a change of address, phone, etc., call National Hotline at left.

Hartford, CT Chapter
of the
American Singles Golf Association



President

Nancy Hammond
nhammond@cox.net
860-633-0843

Chairman of the Board

None

Golf Chairperson

Mary LeBel
m.lebel@comcast.net
860-225-4571

Social Chairperson

Norma Spring
normaspring@att.net
860-673-4640

Membership Chairperson

Tom Woods
TWoods1231@aol.com
860-643-4477

Communications Chairperson

Cathy Duncan
Cath043@sbcglobal.net
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Secretary

To Be Determined

Treasurer

Stephanie Sewell
FONTOZZI@aol.com
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Vice President

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Webmaster

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Russ Avery, Dave Bromley, JoAnn Bryant, Jack Curtiss, Margaret Doyle, Toni Fedora, Rhonda Idleman, Mary LeBel, Rich Lee, Elizabeth Montgomery, Sue Roy, Betsy Schwartz, Stephanie Sewell, Rick St. George, Pat Sullivan, Diana Swenhall, Dave Swingle, Dave Walstrom and Tom Woods (T.Woods - sound familiar? His knee is feeling better, so he can play) The team is captained by **George Duffy** and **Nancy Hammond**, who both vow to bring home the trophy!

This contest was started in 2002, 6 years ago. And so far Hartford leads the race 4 wins to 2. We play a format similar to the real Ryder Cup - 6 holes of best ball/scramble, 6 holes of alternate shots (most difficult), and 6 holes of play your own ball. The 2 person teams are usually made up of a lady and man, but it seems this year we are still searching for a few good men. Between vacation and weddings plans we are just short of guys! We will keep trying, and hopefully when you read the outcome of this Tournament in the next newsletter, you will see we managed to get one more man, and to actually keep the trophy in our midst for yet, another year. Hey, it doesn't hurt to keep a positive thought here!

Wish us luck, and maybe think about joining us up there. It's always great to play with a gallery, good friends, and friendly faces. Go Team!!

~Nancy Hammond,
President and Co-Captain of Ryder Cup '08

ANNUAL MEMBER / GUEST TOURNAMENT

Our member/guest was held at Pequot Golf Club in Stonington this year on Sunday, July 13th. It proved to be a lot of fun, with our guests leading the way! We played a 2- person scramble and the

pairings were: **JoAnn Bryant** and her guest **Robert Burns**, **Nancy Hammond** and **Karen Brouwer**, **Rich Lee** and **Chuck Hart**, **Margaret Doyle** (coffee stains and all) brought **Linda Anderson**, and **Mary LeBel** brought **Tom Walb**. Good picking **Mary!**

The winners of the event were **Mary LeBel** and **Tom Walb** for low gross, with **Tom's** 85 sealing the deal! **JoAnn Bryant** and **Robert Burns** won low net, and closest to the pin was made by our own **Nancy Hammond** and a guest, **Chuck Hart**. Congratulations everyone!

Except for the dead skunk (this is not a golf term), it was a great day! For you nature lovers, you missed the Purple Martin bird condominiums on the 10th hole. Apparently, Pequot is a preserve for the Purples.

We were not trying to see how many golf courses we could go to that day, but we did end up meeting for dinner at Shennecosset, since it was on the route home. The group dined al fresco from the rather large menu of many selections. The bad thing about dining out can be the uninvited flying guests, who apparently found a cozy spot to torment, as **Joann Bryant** was quick to make note. Seems one little critter got under her shirt!

Everyone enjoyed the good weather, golf and guests. Let's try for a bigger group next year!!

~Margaret Doyle, Golf Committee

FIRST ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SMASH

By the time you read this, we will have most likely already held the first annual **Mid-Summer SMASH** at Hawk's Landing C.C. in Southington. It's to be held on Sunday, **August 3, 2008**. The idea came after a good portion of us played on the Fourth of July together in a Yellow Ball tournament. It was decided over dinner that evening, with eve-

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for the Hartford, CT chapter of the American Singles Golf Association are \$70.00 per 12 month period. Payment can be made by check or credit card. Mail with application to: ASGA Inc. P. O. Box 848, Pineville, NC 28134.

JOIN BY PHONE, FAX OR WEB

You can join the Hartford, CT chapter over the phone by calling toll-free 1-888-GOLFMATE (465-3628), faxing the application with credit card information to our toll-free fax at 1-888-465-3295, or go on-line at www.singlesgolf.com and submit your application with credit card information. Our office hours are 8:30-4:30 EST(M-Th).

ryone having so much fun, we should do it all again soon! And so, as usual, when put to the challenge, I forced **Rick St. George**, the partner in crime I had also strong armed to help format the Fourth's event, into helping me format another brainchildthe **Mid-Summer SMASH!** The name of this was decided upon, when I thought it would be greater to "SMASH" together the chapters located close enough to get here, and who would also supply some new faces to the mix, rather than just do another **HASGA** tournament. Surprisingly, we immediately received 4 interested people from Albany, followed by 4 more from Fairfield. We also have signed up a few non-members at this time, and so proving this is also a working idea. As I write this, no one has responded from Central Mass. But to be fair, their communications person just didn't get it out to their members as quickly. I guess the hesitation was because it was all coming from our Treasurer, instead of someone on the Golf, or Communications Committees. Well, time waits for no one, so of course those of you who know me, know I don't sit on something too, too long. Once I had cleared this idea with the proper people, I just went forward with my blitzes of e-mails, for which, I'm sure you all received.....marketing is everything! ;)

Hopefully, in next month's newsletter, when I follow this up with a more detailed article of the actual event, you will learn who came, who won some of the \$200 in prizes we plan to give out (depending on filling the field of 40), and who won the 50/50 raffle as well. This is going to be loads of fun, and a great opportunity to introduce any new friends or outside singles to our organization.

Stay tuned.....

~Stephanie E. Sewell, Treasurer

Talcott Mountain Music Festival Gathering

On July 12 there were 12 members who attended the Talcott Mountain Music Festival. We all partied to the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and their musical tribute to Motown, Rhythm & Blues. **Patti Landry** has been working these events this summer and was kind enough to save a place close to the stage for our group. **Patti**, along with **George Duffy**, **Sue Ammann**, **Jerry Maxwell**, **Chris Spence**, **Jean Co-**

per, **Karen Young**, **Helen Bessoni**, **Norma Spring**, **Wendy Butkas**, **Dave Walstrom** and **JoAnn Bryant** all sang and danced to the music of the Temptations, The Four Tops and The Drifters. What a great time we all had!

Guess this was just a warm-up for some, as a few extended the evening by going to the Maple Shade Restaurant to dance the rest of the night away.....all the way to midnight! See? You should have joined us!

~Norma Spring, Social Chairman

NEXT NINE, WINE & DINE SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH TUNXIS PLANTATION COUNTRY CLUB 89 Town Farm Road, Farmington, CT 3:00 p.m.

This will be the fourth of a **summer monthly event** at [Tunxis Plantation Country Club](#). In place of Sunday Night Golf, normally the **last Sunday of the month** is a **Nine, Wine & Dine**. However, this month it will be one week earlier so it does not interfere with Labor Day Weekend! Participants will begin by playing **9 holes of golf** on the Red, Green or White Course, whichever is decided by the group. Following golf, everyone will **gather in the restaurant for drinks and dinner**. The fee for golf is \$23.00, payable in the pro shop, and everyone orders dinner from the menu.

If you are not able to play golf, please join us for drinks and dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Tunxis restaurant. Look for the ASGA banner!

If you plan to play at this event, e-mail **JACK CURTISS** at jcurtiss0727@aol.com or call **JACK** at (203)736-2258. We hope to see you there!

Golf Committee Report

Details will follow, but please mark on your calendars for these dates:

August 16 - Ryder Cup, against Central Mass, in Bellingham, Massachusetts

August 10 -Practice round, Bellingham - all invited to play

September 13 - Portland Golf Club - 12 noon. Watch for more information....

Formats will mostly be "Play Your Own Ball" or "Best Ball". You may pick the one

that suits your needs. Foursomes will be made accordingly.

FINAL HOOKY DAY

September 22 - Course TBA

Details on all of these events will be on the web site, and blurbs in our **Tee Blasts** will be e-mailed. We hope to see you on the course!

~Mary Lebel, Golf Committee Chairman

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Happy Birthday to these members:

Sandra Hackett - 08/01

Norma Neumann-Johnson - 09/04

Tina Oswald - 08/05

Stephanie Sewell - 08/21

Norma Spring - 08/25

Patricia Sullivan - 09/06

Dave Swingle - 09/06

These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)

Steven Bai Rossi - 08/31/2008

Geraldine Ferro - 08/31/2008

Pearl Lynch - 08/31/2008

Margaret Machnicki - 08/31/2008

Barbara Metzen - 08/31/2008

Carmel Musumano - 08/31/2008

Karen Skog - 08/31/2008

Patricia Sullivan - 08/31/2008

Gwendolyn Westberry - 08/31/2008

Welcome newest members:

John Czepiel - Joined 07/31/2008

These members recently renewed:

Evelyn Bacon

Jack Curtiss

John Guandalini

Sandra Hackett

Harriet Haslett

Sue Roy

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)

Nancy Bertzos - 07/31/2008

Cathy Duncan - 07/31/2008

Dennis Franta - 07/31/2008

Amy Kwan - 07/31/2008

Brian Schwerkolt - 07/31/2008

Gary Swanson - 07/31/2008

Robert Williams - 07/31/2008

Our chapter currently has 73 members.

ASGA NATIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN SINGLES GOLF ASSOCIATION — AUGUST 2008

THE POWER OF YOU!

We've been around as an organization for about sixteen years now. Many people have come and gone. Over 25,000 have joined in one of our 70 chapters nationwide over the years. Many members are now hitting their 10th year of membership, and even some beyond that. Single-hood doesn't seem to be that bad of a deal and fits many of our members "to the tee."

And during these years, we've been able to draw some conclusions. First, getting new members is a good thing. Second, losing members is a good thing. Yes, when members "hook-up" with other members, we judge ourselves as being "successful," because the organization made a relationship happen, even though it's "congratulations and farewell" time for them. Our success in this regards provides additional validation, especially to newcomers. It says that we offer a great option to improve one's life: meet members of the opposite sex, enjoy more friends of both sexes, and play more golf.

Okay, we're validated. Now what?

To keep this organization, and especially your local chapter on the right (and fast) track, it's important to constantly promote "getting new members." New members today are your Board members next year and year's beyond. New members could be the reason you go to your next meeting. Will "he" or "she" be there? New members bring in their circle of friends. If you attend a meeting and no mention of bringing-in new members is made, then it's time for a talk with your Membership Committee, or your chapter president!

Every chapter should have an on-going program for members to bring in guests to meetings, socials and golf outings. One chapter offers a free beer or wine to members if they bring a guest to a meeting (the drink is paid out of the chapter treasury). Another offers the guest three mulligans at their first golf outing.

But whatever the incentive, if your chapter is not growing, it is, as they say, dying. ASGA National provides a number of things to help your chapter get guests to join your chapter:

- Display stands (see website for details / SinglesGolf.com)
- Press releases (we can help you write one of you can go to our website for some sample press releases)
- PSA's for local radio stations and signage for driving ranges

Local members can post chapter information on a regular basis on Craigslist and there are many other websites where simple posts will bring new members to your meeting.

So make something happen. Your efforts will make a difference.

Upcoming Multi-Chapter Events

Details and registration forms of all events are at www.Singlesgolf.com/events

- **Sea Palms Weekend / St. Simon's Island** - August 15-17, 2008. Hosted by the Jacksonville chapter. Contact Dorothy Nicholson at darn@bellsouth.net for more info.
- **Labor Day Weekend Event at Santee** - August 29 - 31, 2008. Hosted by the Upstate SC chapter.
- **Tunica Getaway, Tunica, Mississippi** - Sept. 8-10, 2008. Tunica is also known as "Little Las Vegas." Hosted by the Hot Springs, AR chapter. For information contact Peggy Jordan at pjghsv@suddenlink.net. *Note: this is a weekday (Mon-Wed) event!*
- **Carson City, Nevada - Annual Weekend Event** - Sept. 12-14, 2008, hosted by the Sacramento, CA chapter. Contact Dwight Pattison at golf@sactosinglesgolf.com
- **Mountain Fall Weekend at Lake Lure, NC** - October 17-19, 2008. Hosted by the Asheville chapter. Details can be found at www.MountainFallWeekend.com or contact Hank Parish (hyparish@msn.com) for more information.
- **Fall Fling at Mission Inn (Florida)** - October 24-26, 2008. Hosted by the Tampa Bay chapter.
- **New Year's Event (Florida likely)** - December 29-January 1, 2009. Hosted by ASGA National Office. Details TBA in August.

Bear Info: You Need to Read This!

We've been thinking about starting a chapter in Wyoming. While exploring the possibilities, we read a brochure from the Wyoming State Department of Fish and Wildlife advising golfers to take extra precautions and be on the alert for bears while playing on Big Horn, Grand Teton, and Shoshone National Forests Golf Courses.

They advise golfers to wear noise-producing devices such as little bells on their clothing to alert, but not to startle the bears unexpectedly. They also advise you to carry pepper spray in the case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch for signs of bear activity. Golfers should be able to "recognize the difference" between Black Bear and Grizzly Bear droppings on the golf course. Black Bear droppings are smaller and contain berries and possibly squirrel fur. Grizzly Bear droppings have bells, golf-gloves and sunglasses in them, and smell like pepper spray.

Just thought we'd point this out in case we ever have a multi-chapter event there!

- Tom Alsop
President / Founder
American Singles Golf Association