TREAT THICK GRASS LIKE HITTING FROM A BUNKER

Open your stance a bit and hit down just behind the ball with a sharp, descending blow (down and through). Instead of a spray of sand, you should get a spray of grass.

Message From The President

The weather has been great! And, all of the golf events have been well attended. The January monthly meeting was fantastic, with Gay Marie Od- den and her crew providing the outstanding mix of entrée salads and home made strawberry cream puff pastry for dessert. Entertainment for the evening was an exciting “Trivia” contest, hosted by Dan Jacobs.

This month’s golf tip from the President’s desk is to “Choose your equipment carefully”. Golf equipment is made for the “average” person and we are “by no means – average”! Don’t just rely on your friends or golf buddies for what works for them. Take advantage of the multitude of professional talent, PGA Golf Pros that we have here at The Villages in the 10 Championship courses and two teaching facilities. Invest in custom club fitting so that your clubs fit your unique swing. And don’t forget about the opportunity to try out all the new equipment being featured at Golfest coming up on March 2nd and 3rd. In addition, you can do all of the following:

• Watch great golf entertainment on The Villages Healthcare System Main Stage.
• Win great prizes at the CenturyLink Par 3 Challenge.
• Try and buy the latest golf equipment.
• FREE 10-minute golf lessons by The Villages Golf Academy Pros
• Enjoy special Golfest pricing on all golf clubs (except Ping)

See you on the links! And, hit ‘em straight! ~Steve Westerlund

General Membership Meeting Minutes - January 24, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Steve Westerlund, President, at 6:15pm, January 24, 2012.

Steve welcomed new members, guests, and members who were attending their first ASGA meeting. Each person introduced themselves, and where they were from. It was reported that we just signed up five new members for a total of 214.

Steve then handed out appreciation gift certificates to last year’s Chair persons for the Golf Committee – Bob Miotke, Membership – Carol Ann Sexton (absent), and Secretary - Marilyn Wright (absent).

Reports were given by Gay Marie Od- den, Chair of the Social Committee. Gay Marie announced that her committee had purchased a free round of golf as a gift drawing for later in the evening. In addition, she mentioned that next month’s meeting will have a “Mardi Gras” theme, with Cajun food, a jazz band, and bead necklaces for everyone. Honor Bradley was introduced as this year’s Chair of the Membership committee. Myra Crosby was introduced as this year’s Treasurer.

The most recent Treasurer’s report is published in the monthly newsletter. Marianne Rogers is this year’s Chair of Communications (absent). And John Kuyper was introduced as this year’s Chair of the Golf Committee. John made comments in reference to the many different golf events that are planned, and the importance of “how” to cancel out of the different events, should you have to cancel. Mona Rubenstein was absent so Steve mentioned details on the upcoming off-campus golf outing scheduled at Daytona Shores on March 2nd thru 4th. Dan Jacobs was introduced as the coordinator for this evening’s entertainment.

To join, renew dues, make a change of address, phone, etc., call National Hotline at left or go to www.SinglesGolf.com/join
The Villages Chapter of the American Singles Golf Association

President
Steve Westerlund
swesterlund@comcast.net
352-552-0504

Chairs of the Board
Lee Bannister
golfalot@comcast.net
352-753-5074

Membership Chairperson
John Kuyper
jdkuyper@gmail.com
352-561-4307

Social Chairperson
Gay Marie Odden
Gaymarie.odden@yahoo.com
518-307-9824

Secretary
Judith Empey
Jmp911@msn.com
651-503-3597

Treasurer
Myra Crosby
Auntiem129@aol.com
352-751-3504

Nine & Dine Coordinator
Jack Parker
Jacpar4105@aol.com
910-987-1178

Priority Golf Coordinator
Bill Breadon
wbreadon@gmail.com
352-263-3309

Doubles Golf Coordinator
Bob Miotke
Rmiotke04@comcast.net
352-396-0654

Happy Hour Coordinator
Barbara Bonney
barbarabonney@gmail.com
352-750-9448

General and Golf Trivia contest, with prizes for the winners.

Meet & Greet

Membership Activities:
Thank you Gay Marie for the wonderful potluck last meeting! We had 5 new members join. Be sure to welcome all our guests and new members. You are the best advertisement for the ASGA.

Respectfully submitted,
~Judy Empey, Secretary

Sunshine Person
Eileen Batchelor is our “Sunshine Person”. Please contact her to advise her when you know of a member with serious health problems, entering the hospital or of a person passing, sunfun101@embarqmail.com or 259-1652.

Meet & Greet

Membership Activities:
Thank you Gay Marie for the wonderful potluck last meeting! We had 5 new members join. Be sure to welcome all our guests and new members. You are the best advertisement for the ASGA.

I would also like to ask all members to update your profile if your address, phone numbers, or email has changed. Please check into the ASGA website and go to the MYACCOUNT, login and “update your info.”

Lastly, I would remind you that it is ASGA National Policy: “Guests may attend one (1) meeting or golf outing, and then dues must be paid for continued participation.”

See you on the golf course. Swing easy, and not too often!
~Honor Bradley, Membership Chairperson

Happy Hour

Happy Hour for February 2012
The next Happy Hour will be on the Mallory Country Club’s PATIO on February 17th at 4 pm.
~Happy Hour Coordinator, Barbara Bonney

Upcoming Golf Events

2011 DOUBLES TEAM SCRAMBLE –
The January matches were at newly renovated Mira Mesa. The winners were 1st place tie (each team gets $20) at minus 3 under par: Eddie Manson, Midge Maddison, Eunice Schlegel, & Ron Kelly; and Arne Rotne, Toni Millar, Barb Morin, & John Kuyper. Third place tie with one under par were two teams splitting $10 ($5 for each team) were: Mona Rubenstein, Malcolm Miles, Laurie Berger, & sub Jackie Lewis; and Barb Richardson, Bill Breadon, Joyce LaGore, & Bob Miotke.

Just a reminder, that those playing each month should turn in your results via email to Bob Miotke at rmiotke04@comcast.net and hold onto your score cards until the winners have been announced for the month. Next month competition is on Roosevelt; could be tough to schedule tee times, so start planning early in month to get your groups together. Since all scrambles must be done within the calendar month I would expect all emails to have reached me by the 1st of the next month.

WE NEED A NEW DOUBLES COORDINATOR TO REPLACE BOB. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING BY CONTACTING JOHN KUYPER
jdkuyper@gmail.com or 561-4307.

NINE AND DINE

We will probably continue at Eagle Ridge through April of 2012. Golf will be on the second and fourth Wednesday’s each month. Cost for the outing has risen to $26 for nine holes of golf without food costs. The rates have begun to increase as the late fall and winter rates with snowbirds back down in Florida force these prices upwards. Consideration is now being taken to switch venues to the Links of Spruce Creek on Fridays at about half the cost. More information will be given as it develops.

For new members not knowing where Eagle Ridge is located it is just a couple miles north of CR42 on US441/27. The
wall facing US441/27 will indicate a Del Webb community. And there is a traffic light marking the entrance. You will go through the guard house and then proceed directly down the road to the golf course pro shop. We will publish rates with the first communication announcing time and date. Eagle Ridge has requested us set up foursomes so Jack Parker will be doing that to simplify finding your cart and the group you will be playing with.

Jack Parker is in charge of Nine and Dine. Jack can be reached at jarpar4105@aol.com.

CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE OUTINGS
Continental outing on January 14
First place team was composed of Gary Carson, Brian Mann, Toni Millar and their team net was 62. There was a tie for second plane and the team captains agreed to split 2nd and 3rd place monies. The teams were composed of Roger Johnson, Bob Martino, and Pam Schau along with the other team composed of John Kuyper, Paula Calhoun, Joyce Draft, and Malcolm Miles. Both teams came in with a net of 63. There were two closest to the pin awards with these awards going to Craig Hunt and Glenn Bartle who became popular with their teams since the prize money was to be split amongst the team. Thanks go to all the hardy souls who showed up and managed to finish prior to dark and before anyone suffered any frostbite.

Country Club of Mount Dora outing on January 28
Two Best Ball Shamble.
• 1st Place team score 160 -- Richard Wagner, Karen Chewning, Barb Morin, & Ron Fleenor
• 2nd Place team score 163 -- John Wells, Molly Sietlatycki, Claude Scott, Phyllis Gramke
• 3rd Place team score 164 -- Malcolm Miles, Sue Cronin, Ralph Shinbaum & (it hard to believe but yes) Bob Miotke

Note that Ralph Shinbaum hit a fantastic tee shot on #6 that enabled the entire foursome to get Birdie 2's - ATTA BOY Ralph Other team scores in this competition were 166, 168, 168, and 172; so this was a good balance of foursome selection.

Treasurer's Summary Report - January 2011
~Myra Crosby, Treasurer

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- July 14 at The Links of Spruce Creek
- July 28 at Summer Glen Golf Course
- August 11 at Eagle Ridge Golf Course
- August 25 at Plantation Golf Course
- September 8 has not yet been confirmed
- September 22 will be in the villages but cannot be scheduled yet
- October 13 at Country Club of Mt Dora
- October 27 at Arlington Ridge Golf Course
- November 10 at The Links of Spruce Creek
- November 24 at Eagle Ridge Golf Course
- December 8 at Summer Glen Golf Course
- December 22 at Plantation Golf Course

As we get closer to the dates we will publish starting times, cost, and what type of competition it will be. March and June have 5 Saturdays in them so if anyone wants to take one of these dates and try to schedule us for an outing at a course we are not playing please let me know and I will give you whatever assistance you require to get the booking for the club. Hope this helps you with your planning for the year.

EXECUTIVE COURSE OUTINGS
John Kuyper has been scheduling these and will be able to be reached at jdkuyper@gmail.com. Read his regular results emails for more details of each different event golf game scores.

DATES AND EVENTS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITE:
https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0Amd969oXYYPsGv01ETc1FWRDa0E&hl=en

PRIORITY GOLF
Since we have added a number of new club members we might point out that this is a group of golfers who are The Village Priority Members. If you wish to join you may contact either Bill Breadon or Barb Richardson for more information.

All outings will be for 18 holes on each Thursday of the month. All outings will be the full 18 holes now that we are entering prime season. Most sessions will be probably be in the afternoon.

The group is also looking for those who would be willing to step in at the last minute as a sub, contact either Bill or Barb (listed below) as you will be held in a “sub” list in the event someone is unable to play or another person is needed. For more information contact either Bill Breadon wbreadon@gmail.com or Barb Richardson babsonfive@comcast.net.

~John Kuyper, Golf Committee Chair

SOCIAL
FEBRUARY 28TH
MARDI GRAS PARTY
New Orleans Cuisine $12.
Jambalaya Creole Chicken Pasta
Green Salad
Banana Foster Bread Pudding & Coffee
The Villages Dixieland Band
Must be present for Door prize

Reservations must be in and paid for by February 22nd, checks payable to ASGA and sent to GayMarie Odden, 2338 Bramble Terrace, The Villages, FL 32162

MARCH 27TH
LINE DANCING!
Gigantic Sandwiches $10.
TurkeyClub: Bacon, Tomato, Cheese, Lettuce, Avocado
OR
Roasted Veggie: Peppers, Tomato, Zucchini, Red Onion
Pasta Salad, Dessert & Coffee
Christine’s Crew will teach then WE dance.

Reservations must be in and paid for by March 22nd checks payable to ASGA and sent to GayMarie Odden, 2338 Bramble Terrace, The Villages, FL 32162

APRIL 24TH SOCIAL
CINCO DE MAYO PARTY
Mexican Buffet, Enchiladas, Quesadillas, Spanish rice, Green Salad, Dessert and Coffee, $12
Entertainment Steve Robinson Dancing and karaoke for those who feel the need to perform...

Reservations must be in and paid for by April 18th checks payable to ASGA and sent to GayMarie Odden, 2338 Bramble Terrace, The Villages, FL 31262

~Gay Marie Odden, Social Committee Chair

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS
Happy Birthday to these members:
Robb Axton - 02/04
Elizabeth Bell - 02/09
Elizabeth Benton - 02/12
William Breadon - 02/21
Bill Burgwald - 02/01
Jan Calvert - 02/02
Pamela Close - 03/12
Richard Dawson - 03/10
Leilani Devries - 02/14
Darryl Fish - 03/03
Sharon Grala - 02/25
Lucy Kelly - 02/23
John Kuyper - 02/06
Vickie Langkam - 02/23
Kathy Maloney - 03/15
Eddie Manson - 02/16
Michael Masters - 02/28
Joan McCulloch - 03/15
Frank McGurk - 03/11
Christina Miller - 03/02
Janice Morison - 03/08
Sally Ritchie - 03/07
Lee Robinson - 02/06

TRAVEL WITH THE VILLAGES ASGA
OUR FIRST TRIP OF THE NEW YEAR 2011
BOOK EARLY AND MAKE SURE YOU GET TO JOIN US
MARCH 2ND – MARCH 4TH
DAYTONA SHORES AND THE AKU TIKI BEST WESTERN
2 NIGHTS IN THE AKU BEST WESTERN
2 CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS
2 HOURS OF OPEN BAR
2 ROUNDS OF GOLF AT CYPRUS HEAD AND SPRUCE CREEK FLY IN
2 WONDERFUL DINNERS AT THE HOTEL
GOODIE BAGS AND MORE
All for just $263.00 pp double occupancy and just $373.00 for a private room
Call Mona at 352-553-8532 ASAP

~Mona Rubenstein monaasga@comcast.net 352-553-8532
Do you want to update your personal information on our chapter's roster? You can now do this yourself. Simply click on the MY ACCOUNT link at the national website (SinglesGolf.com). You can update your address, phone, add your cell phone, change handicap, etc. Doing it yourself takes the burden off of your chapter leaders so they can spend more time on the golf course and less time on the computer!

**These members are up for renewal:**
(date shown is last day of membership)
Fordyce Searles - 02/26
Linda Seibel - 02/16
Eileen Shafferty - 03/11
Molly Sielatycki - 02/03
Patricia Songer - 03/03
Ann Timke - 03/11
John Walsh - 02/26
Delphine Walter - 02/28

Welcome newest members:
William Basso - Joined 01/09/2012
Margaret Blount - Joined 12/13/2011
Ron Fleenor - Joined 12/26/2011
Virginia Funk - Joined 12/13/2011
Joseph Godin - Joined 01/10/2012
Roberta Lee - Joined 12/06/2011
Robert Martino - Joined 01/09/2012
Kay Mutty - Joined 01/02/2012

These members recently renewed:
Mary Burtchell
Charles Daniels
Emery Dillard
Joyce Draft
Midge Maddison
Robert Miotke
Carole Mosbaugh
Jeanette Pchelka
Ralph Shinbaum
Jeanette Wolf from
Marilyn Wright

These members did not renew their dues:
(date shown is date membership expired)
LaMar Aker - 01/31/2012
David Colbert - 01/31/2012
Patrick Conley - 01/31/2012
Sally Goodwin - 01/31/2012
Rosalind Lawrence - 01/31/2012
Joan McCulloch - 01/31/2012
Ruth Morgan - 01/31/2012
Barbara Morin - 01/31/2012
Eleanore Nyman - 01/31/2012
Richard Ormond - 01/31/2012
Jean Pridemore - 12/31/2011
Cris Stelling - 01/31/2012
Thomas Treadway - 01/31/2012

Our chapter currently has 216 members.

Rules and More Rules
Ball on green rotated without first marking position, legal or not?
Larry's ball was on the green, about 8 feet from the hole. Larry bent down next to his ball and rotated the ball to line up the imprinted arrow that was on the ball with the hole. He did not lift the ball, mark its position or change its position.

Scott called out foul. He said Larry, that's a one stroke penalty. I don't care if the ball didn't change position, you knew it was your ball and you touched the ball without marking the ball. Of course Larry protested and said he was entitled to rotate his ball if he did not move the ball's position and if the ball was on the green.

What is the correct ruling?

A. Scott is correct, one stroke penalty. Larry was in error for not first marking the ball.

B. Larry is correct, no penalty. On the green, a ball if not moved, it can be rotated. Marking the ball's position is not necessary because the ball is not being picked up and never moves from its' original position.

And the answer is...
The correct answer is A. Scott was correct, Larry is awarded a one stroke penalty for touching the ball other than as provided for in the Rules. Under Rules 6-b and 20-1, a ball on the putting green may be lifted, or touched, or rotated, after its position has been marked. Had Larry marked the ball position before rotating it, there would have been no penalty.
Declining Membership: We Can Talk About It, or . . . do something about it.

Membership in the national association has remained in the same place for the past three years, about 3300 members. In the past 19 years, right at 35,000 people have joined our 75 chapters around the country.

But the point of this article is not the national picture, but your local one. I’ve said many times that “singles want to meet other quality singles . . . in quantity.” You don’t want to go to a general membership meeting and see the same 11 people you saw last month. You want to see new faces. As with all organizations, this doesn’t happen automatically.

We’re all consumers. Look at how and why you go about making decisions. Look at the reasons why, when you first heard of the American Singles Golf Association, you joined. You had an image in your mind that this just might be a good fit for your life. Golfers seem to be nice people. They’re not bowlers. There’s etiquette in the game and there’s social etiquette in the game of meeting other singles.

People ask me: How can you help our chapter grow. Membership is down. People have gotten “married-off.” (Is that the same thing as getting married?) I usually reply by asking them to go to our online “grow” page: www.SinglesGolf.com/grow

“Great idea,” you think. The next time I’m on the computer, I’ll go there. But if you don’t, and you’re seriously interested in seeing growth in your chapter, here’s what I have found actually works.

But First . . .

Each chapter has a Membership Chairperson. The assigned duties of that person is to head a committee to do the following:

a) activate a new member when he or she joins. Don’t just collect the check. See that they get involved right away. If your chapter has a weakness, get them involved in joining a committee to fix the problem;

b) retain existing members. ASGA National bills existing members one month prior to their dues period ending. But you won’t get someone to renew their dues if you haven’t seen them in six months. Watch for who’s coming up for renewal in 3-4 months and make sure they are participating and benefiting from their membership; and

c) create membership growth. Without new people joining, your chapter is dying. Don’t wait until you’re on your last breath before you head to the fitness center.

Our Tampa Bay chapter recently requested a spreadsheet of all prior members so they could contact them and get them to join again. The list contained almost 700 names of former members, of which over 400 had email addresses. Divide the work-load up and make a concerted effort to get these “lost souls” involved in your chapter again. To get a list for your chapter, simply email Irene@SinglesGolf.com.

Growth

Over the past years, two things stand out which created a large amount of members in a short period of time. Timing is everything. If you’re going to do something, make it happen at the beginning of the golf season, not the end. Some chapters have done this around Valentine’s Day, although it may be a bit chilly for our northern chapters. So maybe April Fool’s may be appropriate!

1) Involve your local newspaper in your chapter. They’re looking for fun things to write about, things that their readers would enjoy reading about. At the beginning of your golf season, have a big turnout. Invite former members. Find out who writes feature articles for your local paper and get them to join your threesome for a round of golf. Make sure he brings a photographer and the photographer has his own golf cart. Your goal is to see a “Love on the Links” or a “Birdies and the Bees” type article to appear in your Sunday features section. This has happened before and the national office has received 100-400 calls over the next week. More details on this approach at www.SinglesGolf.com/Valentine

2) Grow quickly from a golf show booth. Last year, Denver signed-up 25 members in two days. It was amazing what one of our newest chapters could do. For details, head over to www.SinglesGolf.com/GolfShow to see how they did it and how you can get ASGA National to pay for a large portion of this booth.

Our Cruise and Other Great Events

We still have room for more on our Caribbean cruise. Go to www.SinglesGolf.com/cruise for details. 65 already signed-up.

Our Orlando & Ft. Lauderdale chapters are hosting the Sunshine Fling, February 17-18. Our Wilmington, NC chapter is hosting their Beach Blast Weekend, March 16-18. We hope to have our Ireland website up by February 10 and Sacramento’s doing their Gold Country Classic May 4-5. Memorial Day survey out soon. Details at www.SinglesGolf.com/events

Finally, welcome to our new Chapter Presidents and Board members! Let’s have a great year ahead!

- Tom Alsop, President / Founder
American Singles Golf Association
GolfASGA@aol.com