

The VGA Eagle

Second Quarter 2018

From the Board Meeting March 13, 2018

The Board decided to change the format of the **VGA Championship**. In the past the tournament consisted of a net flight and a gross flight. Under the new format, the **tournament will consist of only two or three net flights** based on the number of participants. Each flight will consist of about ten players. If there are two flights in the tournament, then the first four places in each flight will awarded prize money. If there are three flights, then the first three places in each flight will be awarded prize money. The prize money amounts will stay the same as in the past, \$200 for first place, \$150 for second, \$100 for third, and, if needed, \$75 for fourth place. This year the tournament will be at an out of town location and over a weekend in September to be decided by The Board at their June meeting.

The Board voted to have **two separate flights for VGA events when the number of members in a tournament is at least 20**. Members will still pay \$10 to enter all pots in the tournament, however the prize money for placing in the top three in each flight will be halved. Remember according to VGA rules, if the number of participants is less than 13, then only two places will be awarded prize money. Also, there will be **a separate birdie pot for each group**. However, there will only be one award for each closest-to-the-pin on par threes. **Big Dog points will be awarded to the top three in each flight**.

The **second quarter schedule** was presented to the Board and is on the VGA website. Be sure to thank **Larry Burton** for his work on the Wednesday schedule and **Dan Campos** for his work on the Saturday schedule.

The Board discussed the necessity and the responsibility of all VGA members to know and to follow the USGA's Rules of Golf. The following is found under the section entitled "The Spirit of the Game".

"Golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on **the integrity of the individual** to show consideration for other players and **to abide by the Rules**. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf."

VGA members must follow the rules in order to maintain the VGA's integrity as part of the AGA and for its own reputation. Simply put, **players must follow the rules and players must challenge others who inappropriately interpret the rules**. It is common sense that if a golfer gets an advantage through a rule infraction, it hurts other players in the tournament and is a reflection on the VGA. Below are some cases in point.

In a recent VGA event, a player missed a short putt and casually hit the ball again missing the second putt. One player in the foursome said "It's good, you should have made it". Fortunately, the player disagreed and counted each stroke made

on the hole.

Also recently, a player teed the ball in front of the tee markers and struck the ball. A member of his foursome then told him he had teed the ball in front of the markers. One of the other members in the foursome suggested to let it go. But the member who noted the infraction insisted that the player take the mandatory two-stroke penalty.

In each case above, a player would have received an illegal advantage in tournament play due to purposely ignoring the rules of golf. **This should never happen!** It is one thing to improperly misinterpret the rules, but it is **by far worse to purposely misinterpret or ignore the rules of golf**. If you play the game, **the responsibility is yours!**

If you need guidance on this issue, just think, **what would Don Peterson do?**

A Special Tribute to Don Peterson

As most of the Valley Golfers know, **Don Peterson passed away on February 21, 2018**. Please check the end of the newsletter for a reprint of the article written about Don that was first printed in the March 2016 edition of [The VGA Eagle](#).

Upcoming tournaments

The **Don Peterson Two-Man Low Net tournaments** are set for April. The **Wednesday** event will be on **April 11 at Stonecreek** and the **Saturday** event will be on **April 21 at Ken MacDonald**. As in the past, members will be paired by the event coordinator based on their handicaps. Prize money will be awarded to the following places: **first place - \$100, second - \$60, and third - \$40**. These are fun events. Come out and play with one your golfing colleagues and maybe get some cash.

The **Champion of Champions** tournament is set for early May 2018. The **Wednesday** tournament is scheduled for **May 9 at Lookout Mountain** and **May 16 at The 500 Club**. The **Saturday** tournament is scheduled for **May 12 at ASU** and **May 19 at Aguila**. It is a **two-week handicapped total strokes event** for those members who won at least one VGA Wednesday or one Saturday tournament in the previous year (November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017). The Wednesday and Saturday winners will have an 18-hole playoff to decide the overall Champion of Champions and the second place finishers will play for overall third place. Prize money will be awarded at the annual banquet as follows; first place - \$100, second place - \$60, and third place \$40. **There is a \$10 fee to enter each event.**

Highlights from the Third Quarter

John Adair and **Tom Giljum** were the only players to have eagles in the first quarter of 2018, both on par fours. John holed his eagle at Union Hills on number 15 on February 10. Tom scored his on the fifth hole at Club West on February 14. Both were happy to collect \$25.00 from the VGA treasury. (It is a false notion that the money comes directly from Fred Baldwin's wallet.)

Pueblo El Mirage renamed "Pueblo El Oasis"

It was an amazing day for Valley Golfers at Pueblo El Mirage on Saturday February 3. Twenty players showed up to challenge the course, and the course faired badly. Of the

20 participants, an amazing 16 had net scores under par, lead by a pair of 59s shot by **Ben Hughes** and **John Pierce**. Only one stroke behind at 60 were **Tony Dalton** and **Tom Hebert**. Ben placed first, John second, and Tony placed third. Tom Hebert, unbelievably, finished out of the money. The following players shot 64s and finished in a four-way tie for fifth place – **Rusty Silverman**, **Dan Delgado**, **Dan Clark**, and **Jeff Currie**.

Club West and the Valentine's Day Massacre

The VGA once again ran rampant over another golf course, this time on February 14. Of the 21 players who turned in a score, 16 had a net score under par. **John Euler** led the love-fest with a sweet 62, **Tom Giljum** a darling 63, with **Gordon Lukert** posting a lovable 64.

Other low net scores

Harley Ewing – 63 at San Marcos on January 6.

Dan Clark – 61 at Coldwater on January 13.

Eugene Disque – 62 at Coldwater on January 13.

Tony Dalton – 61 at Palmbrook on January 24.

Chad Olberding – 62 at Union Hills on February 10.

Bill Heller – 64 at Cave Creek on February 24.

Low gross scores

Mark Mathews – 71 at Coldwater on January 13.

Dan Campos – 72 at Coldwater on January 13.

Tom Hecoeks – 74 at Tres Rios on January 27.

Ben Hughes – 70 at Pueblo El Mirage on February 3.

Tom Hecoeks – 73 at Cave Creek on February 24.

Dan Campos – 71 at Cave Creek on February 24.

Big Dog Bites

Standings through **March 10**.

Fred Baldwin continues to lead in the **Wednesday** race with 20 points. **Larry Burton** has played well recently and has slipped into second place. **Richard Brooks** and **Tom Giljum** are close behind with 14 and 13 points respectively.

Bill Heller has surged into the lead in the **Saturday** race with 16 points. **Rusty**

Silverman is only point behind and in second place. **Eugene Disque** and **Neal Fisel** are in third and fourth place respectively with 13 and 11 points.

Letters to Arnie

Dear Arnie, is there any penalty for one golfer to use another golfer's club during a round of stroke play? If so, does it depend on exceeding the maximum of 14 clubs in the golfer's bag? Borrowin' Bob

Dear Bob, yes there is a two-stroke penalty assessed to a player whenever he uses another player's club during stroke play. However, there is a limit of two penalties, for a total of four strokes, in a single round. If the player does not include the penalty on his scorecard and enters his score as is, he is guilty of entering an incorrect score and is disqualified. The penalty is for using another player's club and not for exceeding the maximum of 14 clubs. There is no penalty given to the other player.

See rule 4.4 b.

Dear Arnie, recently I was approaching my ball in the rough when I accidentally kicked a pinecone, which then hit my ball. The ball rocked in place, but did not move. Should I have taken a penalty for moving my ball and if I should have, what should it have been? Footloose Freddy

Dear Freddy, since the ball rocked and did not actually move there is no penalty. However, if a player does cause a ball to move by dropping equipment on it, inadvertently kicking the ball, or some other means, then the player is assessed a one-stroke penalty and the player must replace the ball. If he does not replace the ball, he is assessed an additional two-stroke penalty.

See rules 18-2, 20-7 c.

VGA Hats for Sale!

The VGA has a selection of good quality hats with our logo. There are two styles including: white with a blue or tan trim for \$35, sand with a tan trim for \$35 (not shown in the picture), and white with a blue trim and chin tie for \$30. There are also white golf hats for \$15 and visors for \$10. See Fred Baldwin for details.



VGA Legends

As most of you know, Don “Petey” Peterson is a long-time member of the VGA. He has devoted nearly 40 years to our association best summed up by his quote, “I love the VGA”.

Don was born and raised in Chicago. He learned the game of golf from his father when on family vacations in Michigan. His first wife bought him his first set of golf clubs in 1964 as a present for his graduation from college at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Don and his wife, Barb, at their home in Sun City

At college, Don admitted to being more of an athlete than a scholar. He lettered in three sports football, basketball, and baseball. He earned a degree in Sociology.

Don first came to Arizona for a brief time in February 1966 prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army. He liked the area so much that he decided this was where he wanted to live and moved to Phoenix in September 1968. His first job in the Valley was as a vocational rehabilitation counselor. Prior to his retirement in December 2012, he was the General Manager for Arizona Industries for the Blind for 23 years.

His association with the VGA began in the early 1970s with many Saturday rounds played at the old Camelot course, now Painted Mountain in Mesa. They also played the municipal courses on a rotational basis including Papago where Don met John Pierce and recruited him to play in the VGA.

Don’s VGA presidency dates back to 1978, which he earned “by default”. As time passed, he took on the role of secretary as well. His love and devotion to the VGA did not stop there. He took it upon himself to author the quarterly newsletter and sold hats for many years until he stepped down as president around 2011 and as secretary in 2014.

While Don served on the board, he always put the club first. He stated “You’re on the board to serve the members of the VGA and not your own goals and interests”. As president, Don remained neutral on VGA issues but when controversies arose, he always managed the Board’s concerns with calmness, dignity and class.

Some of Don’s fondest memories are of the young players that joined the VGA. Among those were Jeff Krakowiak who joined at age 12 and the Campos bothers. He claims that Danny Campos was fondly known as “Sweet Meat”. Don’s son, Toby, enjoyed riding the course with his father as a youth and has been a member of the VGA for several years. Don lit up when he stated, “One of my greatest thrills was when Toby won the club championship”.

Don has witnessed the VGA evolve over time “to a real golf club” due to a series of controversies. One of the first issues was to eliminate “bumping the ball” to improve

one's lie. Another monumental change was ending the VGA's relationship with all Phoenix municipal courses. Their golf pros had increased their scrip fees from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per round, which they refused to rescind even after he, Vic Bosiak, and Jim O'Keefe met with city officials. The fees were unacceptable to the membership and to the board resulting in the elimination of muni-courses from the Wednesday schedule.

Another issue back in the day was tee location. The board ultimately decided to change from using tees closest to 6,500 yards to varying tees chosen by the individual. As Don pointed out "It's not about the length of shots, it's about enjoying the round".

The last two major changes affected the club championship. At one time, some VGA members would rarely if ever play in a VGA weekly event and then play in the club championship. In response, the VGA board imposed a minimum of ten rounds of VGA participation to be eligible for the championship. At a later time, through the suggestion of Harry Dunham, the board changed the format of the tournament to have two separate divisions, a low gross and a low net.

Those of you who know Don could see that he always had a gleam in his eyes. One could see how much he enjoyed the guys in the VGA, the game of golf, beer and of course cards. He stated, "I love the game of golf and enjoyed playing the game because of its camaraderie and because it fulfilled my competitive juices". I still remember timidly walking into the Silverado clubhouse for my first VGA event and Don greeting me with "You must be Fred". And as for beer, he often used to quote John Pierce and say, "It is the nectar of the gods".

As most of you know, Don was diagnosed with ALS in 2013. Due to his competitive nature, he continued to play golf through September 2014. His last game was played with his wife of 34 years, Barb, at Whittaker Woods GC in Michigan. At that time he also ended nearly 40 years service as a VGA board member. However, when recently asked, "How are you doing?" he answered with a gleam in his eyes "I can't complain".