

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF SINGLES GOLF IN AMERICA

# ALBANY SINGLES GOLF

Albany Chapter - American Singles Golf Association — December 2008

## HOLIDAY PARTY - DECEMBER 14TH

### President's Message

It is December. The air is crisp and cold. Hints of snow are in the offing. Our clubs have been put away to stay warm for the winter. Some of our members will be south or go south for part of the winter to keep their game on track. Some are even participating in one of the National ASGA events!

For those of us who remain in the Capital Region, it is a time to remember the fun, the great shots and the camaraderie that we shared this past year. It is also a time to look ahead to next season and to improve on the past. I encourage you all to join us for our golf planning meeting on January 11th at 3:00 pm at Hearthstone Village in Latham. All ideas and suggestions are welcomed. If you are unable to be with us, feel free to submit any suggestions or recommendations that you have.

It is also Holiday season! On December 14th, we will hold our annual holiday party. This year it will be at **Karen Babin's** house in Saratoga Springs. Both Karen and **Ellen Riley** will be doing the bulk of the preparations. But all of us will be providing something. It is another opportunity to celebrate with a great group of people! Watch your emails for more information. Many thanks to Karen and Ellen for

their gracious hospitality!

At our recent board meeting, we began planning for our annual "Meet & Greet" gathering to recruit new members. At the moment, we are looking at early April. One possibility for a site is the former Callaway which has been renovated. It is now known as the "Blu Stone Bistro." **Don** and **Rita** will meet with the new manager about utilizing their facility and report back to us at our next meeting. It also may be the spot we may choose to meet regularly on Fridays. Its central location and parking are big pluses. If you are nearby the Blu Stone Bistro, check it out and let us know what you think.

No matter what our religious background, holiday time is always a special and sacred time. As we approach the end of this year and the beginning of a new one, I wish you all a blessed Holiday and a Happy New Year! May you and your loved ones be blest with happiness, good health and peace! See you on the links in '09! ~Gary



### Albany ASGA Meeting Minutes 12/2/08

Meeting was called to order by **Gary** at 7:00 at Tuscan's Grill.

Present:: **Gary O'Brien, Mike Congero, Kathy Vaknier, Rita Roberti, Don Sislowski, Marian Gogola, Karen Bishop**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Karen Bishop  
Minutes from 11/4 approved

**TREASURE'S REPORT:** Mike Congero  
Available Balance = \$ 3,682.01  
There is \$60.00 for French's Hollow-  
we'll continue to hold this amount.  
Minutes were approved-

**MEMBERSHIP:** Don Sislowski  
Meet-up.com - There is a monthly fee involved. Need to sit down with Beth about how to set up the website. Need a consistent meeting place for the site? We will talk with Beth about the possibilities.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE:**  
Old Calloway is now the Blu Stone Bistro. They have offered us a deal on drinks and food if we meet as a group. We will follow up on that after the first of the year because they just reopened. Want to think

### NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATION

**NEXT BIG NATIONAL EVENT:** New Year's in Orlando  
\*\*\*\* Stay at 4-Star Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate  
Info at [www.SinglesGolf.com/newyears](http://www.SinglesGolf.com/newyears)

**Other Multi-Chapter Events:** [SinglesGolf.com/events](http://SinglesGolf.com/events)

**National Website:** [www.SinglesGolf.com](http://www.SinglesGolf.com)

**E-Mail:** [ASGANational@aol.com](mailto:ASGANational@aol.com)

**New Office Hours:** 8:00am to 4:00pm, M-F (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](http://www.SinglesGolf.com/join)

### LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

**Regular Meeting Date:** First Tuesday of each month

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 6th

**Meeting Location:** The Tuscan Grill

**Our Website:** [www.timesunion.com/communities/asga](http://www.timesunion.com/communities/asga)

**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.

**Albany, NY**  
**Chapter**  
of the  
**American Singles**  
**Golf Association**



**President**

Gary O'Brien  
[gobrien3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gobrien3@nycap.rr.com)  
518-785-8165

**Chairman of the Board**

Tom Bourke  
[tbourke@imgdate.com](mailto:tbourke@imgdate.com)  
(508) 208-5110

**Vice-President & Newsletter**

Don Sislowski

**Local Golf**

Beth Disque  
[reader16@earthlink.net](mailto:reader16@earthlink.net)  
(518) 783-8191

**Multi-Chapter & Away Golf**

Ellen Riley

**Informal Golf**

John Holmes  
and  
Marian Gogola

**Social Chairperson**

Karen Bishop  
[karebsh1@yahoo.com](mailto:karebsh1@yahoo.com)  
518 -569-5165  
and  
Rita Roberti

**Membership Chairperson**

Ann Graziano  
and  
Kathi Vakiener

**Secretary**

Beth Disque  
[reader16@earthlink.net](mailto:reader16@earthlink.net)  
(518)783-8191

**Treasurer**

Mike Congero  
[mcongero48@aim.com](mailto:mcongero48@aim.com)  
518-587-4003

**Communications (Website)**

Beth Disque  
and  
Judy Axenson

about having out Meet and Greet there at the Blu Stone Bistro. Don will check with them.

This Friday we will meet at Tuscan's Grill at 6:00 PM. For those who would like to eat, that will be a little later.

Holiday party-- specifics will be done by email since Karen could not be at the meeting. Karen Bishop will contact her.

**ANYTHING ELSE:**

We talked about the date for the Meet and Greet, possibly the first weekend in April. We want to advertise in some of the golf flyers (brochures) that advertise for Spring golf.

**Golf Meeting:** Date is all set, January 11<sup>th</sup> at Hearthstone Village Community Center. We will order pizza from next door and people will bring their own drinks. Meeting will be at 3:00 PM.

**Superbowl Party:** Jan.6. Will discuss at next meeting how we want to do the food and what the to start the event.

**Calendars:** Mike will contact the company.

**Meeting Dates for 2009:** Have scheduled first Tuesday of each month with the Tuscan Grill. The time is 6:30 to order and 7:00 to begin the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00  
Respectfully submitted,  
~Karen Bishop

**Upcoming Events**

**Holiday Party 12/14/2008**

COME ONE, COME ALL!  
MEMBERS, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS,  
FRIENDS, AND GUESTS

Why: Join us for food, fun, and festivities at Albany ASGA's fabulous annual holiday party

When: Sunday, December 14 beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Where: At **Karen Babin's** house in Saratoga (directions will be provided for all attendees)

Entrees, water, coffee/tea will be pro-

vided. Bring your own beverage plus an appetizer or dessert to share. We are asking that those whose last names begin with A-K bring an appetizer. Those whose last names begin with L-Z are asked to bring a dessert. If you would prefer not to bring an appetizer or dessert, you may pay an extra \$5.00.

Cost - \$15.00 for members, \$20.00 for nonmembers

also, bring a unisex grab bag gift for our Chinese Auction... between \$10 - 15 in value. (NO LESS THAN \$10 PLEASE.)

RSVP - ASAP so Karen knows how much food will need

**Annual Golf Meeting 01/11/2009**

Annual Golf Meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup> at Hearthstone Village Community Center. We will order pizza from next door and people should bring their own drinks. The meeting will be at 3:00 PM. Check your emails for further details.

**Super Party 02/01/2009**

Mark your calendars for The Super Bowl party which will be held at the Hearthstone Village Community Center. We will be working out the details at the January board meeting, so stay tuned for further details.

**Game Night at Hearthstone Village - 11/5/2008**

On November 15<sup>th</sup> about a dozen of us joined our host **Don Sislowski** at his apartment community clubhouse. I've got to tell you it was a delight and the scope and quality of the facility was beyond all of our expectations!

There was a media room with 20 or so seats with side arms for drinks, a wonderful pool room, a beautiful working kitchen for a large group function and above all, a stunning 50 foot lounge room with lots of sofas and soft chairs topped off by a gorgeous fireplace. Folks, this place is going to be a killer for our SUPER BOWL party and so easy to get too off 155 just east of the NORTHWAY.

There was **RITA, BETH, GARY and JUDY, MARION, RICH, BOB L., WALTER T., ANN**, myself, and of course Don

who pulled it all off for ourselves.

The media room had that Wii game and half a dozen were tied up for a few hours trying to beat Tiger Woods at his unbeatable game – GOLF!

Some of us played some pool and some often sat in the beautiful and comfy lounge room. Because of the competition with Tiger, most didn't leave until after 1:30am. It was just great, many thanks to Don for coming up with this idea. And WOW, what a venue we have for the super bowl party since Don has already booked the clubhouse. ~Tom

### Game Night Feedback

To those of you that read the invitation for Game Night and thought that it didn't sound like fun, you were wrong, it was a blast.

Playing Tiger Woods on the Wii was the highlight of the night and I proved that you can play better virtually than on a real course by beating everyone. Those of you who've had the "dubious" pleasure of watching me play, knows that I struggle to break 120, let alone 100, so breaking a 100, and scoring an Eagle, as Tiger, was certainly a surprise. It goes to show you that you don't need to be a golfer to play the Wii.

Thanks to Don for letting us use the community room, hopefully we will be invited back soon. It is a great place to gather in the winter with its warm welcoming fireplace and cozy couches and plenty of tables to play board or card games.

Hopefully the next time, more of you will join us. ~Marian

Thanks, Don - It was a terrific night - even if I couldn't chip or putt! Thanks for being such a gracious host!! ~Ann & Tom

What a great time we had last evening! Many thanks to Don for hosting us and the facility at Hearthstone Village was just beautiful with so much to do. Losing at golf and pool are memories that I will carry with me for a long time! And the people were great as well! It ought to be a great Super Bowl Party when we are there in early February! Hope all of you are well! Much peace! ~Gary

### Game Night Photos



## **ROSTER UPDATES** → **Do It Yourself!**

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!



Gary Beth Tom Rita



Beth, Tom, Rita and Friends

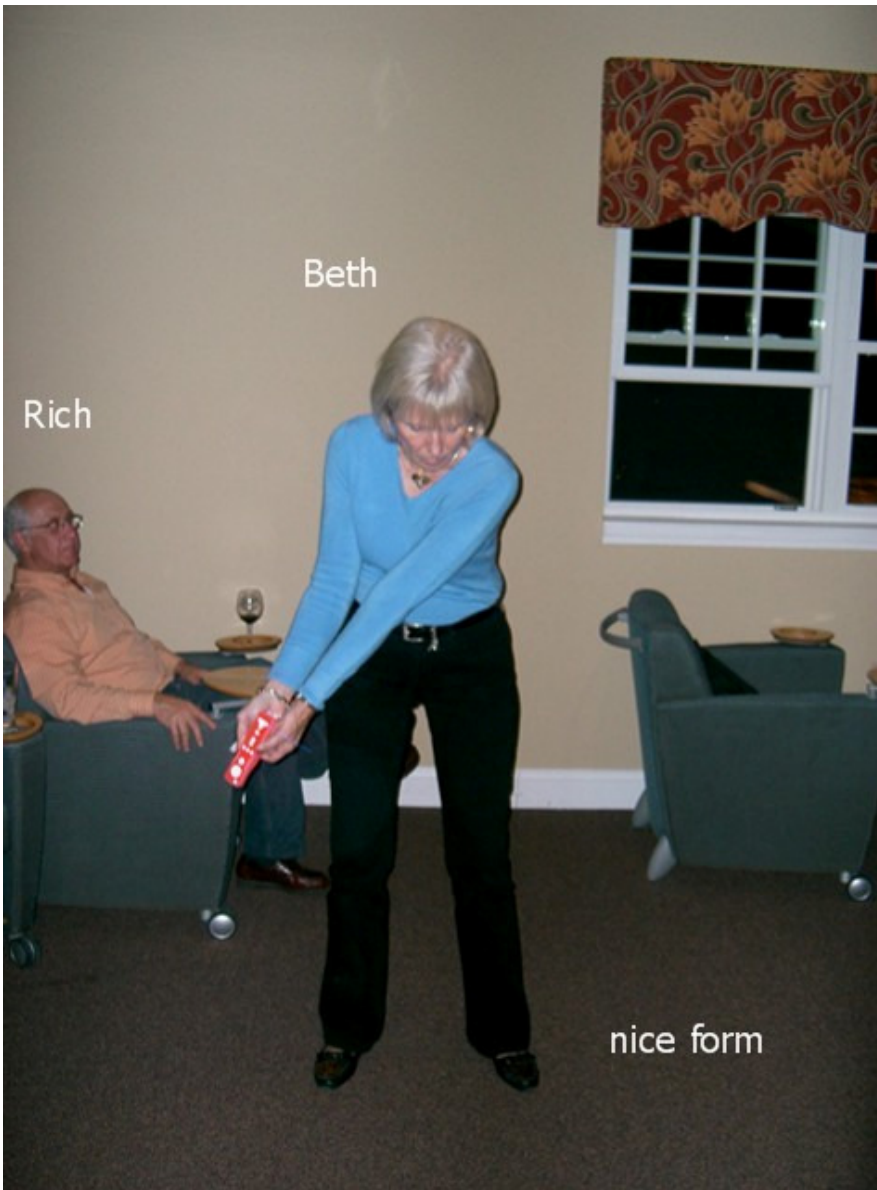
### Wii Golfers



Golf Princess Marian



Ann & Tiger



round. Larry said, "sure, but instead of a 3 stroke penalty, one stroke penalty on each hole for using a borrowed ball (hole #s 16, 17, and 18), I will only assess you one stroke for the remaining 3 holes. Was Larry correct? What is the correct ruling?

- A. Larry was incorrect; there is really only a one stroke penalty.
- B. Larry was incorrect; there is really only a two stroke.
- C. Larry was incorrect; there is really a two stroke penalty per hole.
- D. Larry was correct, one stroke penalty per hole, but he was wrong to suggest that he would allow the penalty to be modified.
- E. Larry was incorrect; there is no penalty for borrowing a golf ball.

AND THE ANSWER IS: The answer is E.

When it comes to equipment, the rules only prevent a golfer from borrowing golf clubs. Borrowing a golf ball is permitted without penalty.

USGA Rule 4-4a is the applicable rule that prohibits a player from borrowing a club from another player playing on the course but the Rules do not prevent a player from borrowing other items of equipment (balls, towels, gloves, tees, etc.) from another player or an outside agency.

Had Larry been correct about a one stroke penalty per hole (which he wasn't) he would have been disqualified for offering to waive the penalty. USGA Rule 1-3 says that golfers can not agree to exclude any Rule or to waive any penalty that would be mandated for breach of rule. Such action would result in disqualification.



## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

### Happy Birthday to these members:

Michael Congero - 01/08  
 Michael Coscia - 12/18  
 Wayne Coulter - 12/28  
 Joan DiCioccio - 01/12  
 Libbi Guigli - 12/16  
 Bob LaBarge - 12/16  
 Bob Mattox - 12/09  
 William Millett - 12/26  
 Ellen Riley - 01/09  
 Don Sislowski - 01/12  
 Bob VanSise - 01/12  
 Don Willman - 01/15

### Welcome newest members:

William Millett - Joined 11/10/2008

### These members recently renewed:

Clyde Winne

### These members did not renew their dues:

*(date shown is date membership expired)*  
 Ann Graziano - 10/31/2008

### Our chapter currently has 54 members.

## Rules and More Rules

Q. Larry and I were playing golf last week. I had a sleeve of 3 balls in my bag. That should have been more enough. But it is fall, and leaves can hide a golf ball even in the Fairway. I lost a "fairway" ball to the leaves on holes number 4 and 11. I legitimately lost a ball in the creek on 16. At that point, having just lost my last ball, I turned to Larry and asked to borrow a ball to finish the

# ASGA NATIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN SINGLES GOLF ASSOCIATION — DECEMBER 2008

## Last Chance for Romance!

### Almost 200 Registered for New Year's Event in Orlando

Okay, "last chance for romance" doesn't really mean that. But since it rhymed, it was a good find. (Okay, I'll quit trying to be the poet!) We do hope you find some romance these holidays!

And by gosh, by golly, aren't travel expenses dropping like those 20 foot putts? Expedia.com's even got something going whereby if you book a flight through them they'll give you two hundred bucks towards a future vacation. Gas prices are down and so are the amount of holiday travelers (so the experts at AAA say), so there's simply no excuse to join nearly 200 of your fellow golfers for a fun-filled event this coming New Year's in Orlando, Florida.



This 3-day event is open to all ASGA members. It's an opportunity for you to meet friends you didn't know you had and to renew friendships.

#### Here are the basics:

- Who:** Open to all ASGA Members  
**When:** Monday, December 29, 2008 - Thursday, January 1, 2009  
**Where:** Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate, 1500 Masters Blvd., ChampionsGate, Florida 33898 Phone 407-390-6664  
**What:** 3-Night Stay - 6 Food functions - 2 Rounds of Golf with Optional Day-of-Arrival and Day-of-Departure Golf  
**Why:** To meet friends you didn't know you had and to have the time of your life!

**Standard Package Rate is \$ 450.24 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, IF PAYING BY CHECK and \$469.00 if paying by a major credit card.**

Our annual trip for warm climates in the winter have landed us back in Orlando once again. It's really tough to beat what this city offers to golfers. Yes, we could have chosen a venue less expensive but a vacation should feel like a vacation. This hotel will make you feel like "you have arrived." It is four-star from the rooms to the pools to the on-site golf courses, quality of food, etc. Check out the hotel's website (OmniOrlandoResort.com) and you'll see what we mean.

We know gas prices are high, but you'll easily make-up for high gas prices with the savings you'll get on this one. If you and a friend visited this resort as a non-ASGA member at the same

time, the two of you would easily spend \$400 more for the same things you'll receive under our standard package. The standard package includes:

- 4-days, 3-night's stay at the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate, based on double occupancy (you'll have a roommate)
- Breakfast at Trevi's Restaurant at the Omni each day
- 2 rounds of golf, one at the National Course, one at the Int'l. courses (site of annual PGA Father-Son Event)
- Cart, range balls and prizes for winner
- 6 food functions: Cocktail Party / Welcoming Reception with hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner after first round of golf, 3 breakfasts and New Year's Eve plated dinner.
- Dancing with the DJ at the Omni on first and third nights
- Welcoming Gift, spa and David Leadbetter group discounts

### Registration Form Included In This Newsletter. Details and online registration at [SinglesGolf.com/newyears](http://SinglesGolf.com/newyears)

**New Year's Day falls on a Thursday** this time around and this event actually beings on a Monday. The beauty of this arrangement is that you can arrive as many as three (3) days early and stay up to three (3) days late and it will only cost you \$64 per person (based on dbl. occ.) to stay an additional night, or \$128 to room by yourself.

So check out all the details at [SinglesGolf.com/newyears](http://SinglesGolf.com/newyears) and get your registration form to us early. See you there!

### A Time to Give a Little Thanks

"Thank you's" are something we should and probably do hand out daily. At this time of the year, we do look back and can be very thankful for all of the folks who've made this year a success. But special thank-you's go out to our chapter presidents. These are the folks on the front line who accept as volunteers the burden of anything headed their way. When someone else doesn't do their job, it's the chapter president who fills in. So take a little time this year to thank your president and other chapter leaders who've made a difference. Give 'em a big hug!

### Poor Tiger

We heard this week that General Motors is pulling its \$9-million annual contract from Tiger Woods. There's doing everything, and rightfully so, to keep themselves afloat.

It's just so sad to hear that Tiger lost this contract right before the holidays. Seems like GM could have waited until first of the year.

How will he get by?

- Tom Alsop  
President / Founder  
American Singles Golf Association



AMERICAN SINGLES GOLF ASSOCIATION'S  
**NEW YEAR'S EVENT**  
**ORLANDO'S FOUR STAR**  
**OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE RESORT!**

**OPTIONAL DAY-OF-ARRIVAL & DAY OF DEPARTURE GOLF!**

**REGISTER OVER THE PHONE: 704-889-4600 (8am-4pm Eastern)**

**6 FOOD FUNCTIONS!**

ARRIVAL MON., DEC. 29, 2008 — DEPART THURS., JANUARY 1, 2009  
 Full details of event, updates, registration form at [SinglesGolf.com/newyears](http://SinglesGolf.com/newyears)

**PAY BY CHECK  
 GET 4% DISCOUNT!**

**Standard Package or Room-by-Myself Package Includes:**

- 2 days of on-site golf - Tues & Wed (includes cart, green fees and range balls)
- 3 nights lodging at Orlando's Omni ChampionsGate Resort + free WiFi
- 2 dinners + cocktail reception, dancing with the deejay. Cash bar at food events.
- Complimentary breakfast at Omni's Trevi's each day + NO resort fee
- Prizes each day for men & women closest to pin, team competitions +welcome gift

**Golf:** No need to drive to the courses—play the International and National Courses on the hotel property. **Optional Golf:** Play Mystic Dunes at 10-11am the day-of-arrival and/or day-of-departure golf at 9:00am at Marriott's Grande Pines GC (located 20 min. from hotel). Grande Pines includes buffet lunch. Transportation to GC's not included. (Opt. golf not included in standard package.) See website for details of golf format, established handicaps vs. non-established, etc.

**Non-Hotel / Non-Golf / Additional Nights Package:**

Non-Hotel includes everything except lodging & breakfasts  
 Non-Golf includes everything except golf  
 If you are staying additional nights, double occupancy rate is \$64.00\*\* pp add'l. per night & includes b'fast. Roommate must stay or you must pay single occupancy rate (\$128.00\*\*). Rate good 3 nights before & after event.

**We Must Have Your Check Or Credit Card Number by 11/28/08.** 20% cancellation fee on or prior to 11/28/08. Absolutely NO refunds after 11/28/2008, however, you may sell your position to another member. Make check payable to "ASGA," complete this registration form and include your payment. Letter or e mail confirmation sent out upon receipt. If you don't receive confirmation within 14 days of submitting, you must call us (704-889-4600) to verify your registration.

**ONE FORM PER PERSON, PLEASE PRINT — THIS EVENT IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY — NOT A MEMBER? CALL 704-889-4600 & JOIN!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Fem \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PH ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK/CELL PH ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Established handicap players will play USGA Rules of Golf both rounds; non-established group will play scramble day one, shamble day two.

- ( ) I have an **ESTABLISHED HANDICAP** of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ GOLF CLUB ( ) My chapter issues my handicap  
(ASGA chapters count as a 'golf clubs without real estate' according to USGA handicapping rules. Your chapter's handicap chairperson or committee must be able to verify this number as your handicap.)
- ( ) My handicap is **NOT ESTABLISHED** but my average 18-hole golf score is \_\_\_\_\_ (You have until 11/29/08 to provide us with an established handicap.)
- ( ) My handicap is established from the SENIOR TEES and I would prefer to play from the senior tees where available.

**TWO (2) FREE DRINK  
 TICKETS IF REG. BY 10/31/08**

**4% DISCOUNT (IF PAYING BY CHECK! TAKE DEDUCTION AT BOTTOM OF FORM.) CHECK APPROPRIATE PACKAGE:**

- ( ) \$469 — STANDARD PACKAGE (dbl. occ.) ( ) \$267 — NON-HOTEL PACKAGE\* ( ) \$661 — ROOM-BY-MYSELF PACKAGE
  - ( ) \$326 — NON-GOLF PACKAGE (Includes hotel, b'fast, dinners / dbl. occ.) ( ) \$516 — NON-GOLF ROOM-BY-MYSELF
  - ( ) \$64 — Day-of-Arrival Optional Golf (12/29) at Mystic Dunes GC—10-11am tee times or shotgun, depending on quantity of players. We'll notify you.
  - ( ) \$97 — Day-of-Departure Optional Golf (includes buffet lunch) (01/01/09 — New Year's Day) at Grande Pines GC (Shotgun start at 9am)
- \* For Orlando Chapter Resident Members only (please respect this policy as we are under contract with hotel and MUST meet their minimums!)

My roommate will be \_\_\_\_\_ (if left blank, we'll assign same-sex roommate) Please do not list yourself as someone else's roommate without their permission. **IMPORTANT:** If you choose a roommate, we can't hold your room until both parties have paid.)

Requesting a room w/ ( ) One King ( ) 2 Doubles Room preferences are 1st come—1st served. Only the hotel controls the availability of room types. We register you regardless of availability.

Optional Age Info: ( ) 30's ( ) 40's ( ) 50's ( ) 60's ( ) 70's or more

During one golf event, please pair me with \_\_\_\_\_ **SORRY, WE CANNOT HONOR MULTIPLE REQUESTS. WE TAKE YOUR FIRST REQUEST ONLY. THANKS!**

I AM REMITTING: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for package checked above  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ add \$10 for mulligans (3 per day for golf play on the 29th and 30th only)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ add for Day-of-Arrival Golf (18 holes) at Mystic Dunes Golf Course  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ add for Day-of-Departure Golf (18 holes) at Marriott's Grande Pines  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ add for add'l.nights (rates above): indicate dates you plan to come early/stay late: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ add \$70.00 to join ASGA or add 12 months to your current membership

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND FORM  
 TO US WITHOUT PAYMENT.  
 CANCELLATION POLICY AT  
 SINGLESGOLF.COM APPLIES.**

**\*\*TOTAL AMT.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **AMOUNT I AGREE TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD INDICATED BELOW\*\*** ONLY VISA/MC/AMEX/DISC ACCEPTED  
**DEDUCT 4% HERE** \$ - \_\_\_\_\_ (SUBTRACT 4% of above amount if paying by check). 5% of check amount add'l. fee for checks returned to us by your bank.  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **NET TOTAL (CHECK ENCLOSED MADE PAYABLE TO "ASGA, INC.")**

**\*\* You are authorized to charge my credit card number below the \*TOTAL AMOUNT\* indicated above. My credit card number is:**

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS: 704-889-4600 MAIL FORM & PAYMENT TO: ASGA, BOX 848, PINEVILLE, NC 28134 OR FAX TO 704-889-4607 IF USING CREDIT CARD.**