

NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2014

- Thanks to all the members who participated in the Master's Pot last month. A recap of the event is contained in this newsletter.
- Sadly, another NTSGA member has passed away. See the short obituary in this newsletter.
- This year's US Open will be played at the Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, NC June 12-15. The US Open Pot will be open for selection by NTSGA members at Heritage Ranch on June 11.
- PGA tournaments come to the Metroplex this month. The Byron Nelson Golf Championship will be played May 15-18 at the TPC Four Seasons Resort and the Colonial will be played in Ft. Worth the following week, May 22-25.
- Another delicious buffet lunch will be served at the Hurricane Creek tournament, May 28.
- Thanks to the 86 members who submitted surveys last month. The survey results will be evaluated by the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting.
- Hot Golfer: **Butch Vaut** has been the tournament medalist in 5 of the last 6 events.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR MAY

Terry Bell 31st
Gene Clark 19th
Tom Hatfield 20th
Al Stalter 4th

Richard Carlson 15th
Bobby Clay 25th
Jerry Jenkins 24th
Tim Strobel 21st

Rich Carmen 27th
Phil Fahs 15th
John Johnson 30th
Ron Swanson 6th

Freddie Carroll 26th
Chris Haas 25th
Hubert Lytle 1st
Bill Thomas 13th

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

	Players	Percentage of full field	Low Gross	Low Net
Apr 2 Indian Creek –Lakes	121	94%	Ollie Cromwell 74 Butch Vaut 74	Stan Robertson 63
Apr 9 Heritage Ranch C.C.	130	101%	Butch Vaut 75	Jay Houston 69
Apr 16 Frisco Lakes	126	98%	Jay Gasper 76	Paul Myers 66
Apr 23 Buffalo Creek	128	100%	Butch Vaut 73	Gene Edmondson 63 Gerry Bell 63
Apr 30 Woodbridge	125	97%	Butch Vaut 74	Jay Houston 67

You can tell a lot about a woman's mood just by her hands. If they are holding a gun.....she's probably angry!

NEXT 4 TOURNAMENTS

May 7 Grapevine	8:00	\$40.00	
May 14 Lantana G.C.	8:00	\$40.00	
May 21 Riverside	8:00	\$40.00	
May 28 Hurricane Creek C.C.	8:00	\$40.00	Includes Buffet Lunch

DIRECTIONS TO GOLF COURSES

Grapevine (Grapevine) 817-410-3377; 3800 Fairway Dr. Take LBJ Frwy west, towards DFW airport. Prior to the airport entry, exit at Bass Pro Dr., continue to the traffic light. Turn left, drive over Hwy 121, past the Embassy Suites Hotel to the next traffic light (Hwy 26). Turn left, drive ½ mile to next traffic light, turn right (Fairway Dr.) Drive past Cowboys Golf Club and over the Lake Grapevine Dam. On the other side of the Dam, turn right into golf course entrance.

Lantana (Lantana) 940-728-4653; 800 Golf Club Dr. Drive north on I-35E (Stemmons Frwy) past Lewisville. Exit at FM407 (Justin Road) Exit #454A. Follow small sign to FM407 west, back over top of I-35E and continue west for 6.2 miles. Turn right at Lantana Trail (traffic light); drive 1.2 miles (divided road), turn right at Golf Club Dr., leads to clubhouse.

Riverside (Grand Prairie) 817-640-7800; 3000 Riverside Pkwy. Take the George Bush Turnpike west/south towards Arlington. Exit at Hwy 183, drive west 1.9 miles and turn onto Hwy 360 south. Drive 1.9 miles, exit at Riverside Pkwy, course entrance on right.

Hurricane Creek C.C. (Anna) 972-924-3247; 1800 Fairway Lane. Take I-75 (Central Expwy) north, exit at Anna (Truck Stop), turn left go over I-75, right turn onto the west service road, drive 1.7 miles (north). Left turn at small sign, leads to club.

SAD NEWS.....

NTSGA regrets to inform our members of the recent passing of Rick Smith. Rick died very unexpectedly at age 53, on April 11. Born in Kansas, growing up in New York and California, and then moving to Texas, Rick became an excellent golfer as a member of Canyon Creek C.C. He joined the North Texas Senior Golf Association in 2012 and was the winner of last year's Club Championship at Firewheel Golf Park.

Rest in Peace, Rick Smith



2014 MASTERS POT

The 78th edition of the Masters got off to a rousing start after ceremonial 1st tee drives by Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus. Sunny skies were clear, but windy conditions prevailed and could possibly send first round scores higher than usual. No Tiger Woods in the field this year because of recent back surgery, but much of the interest in the Metroplex focused on the play of Jesuit graduate, Jordan Spieth. Spieth played a very good first round shooting 71 and trailing leader Bill Haas by only 3 strokes. Two NTSGA members were very happy as **Chris Haas** and **Phil Fahs** had selected Haas as one of their selections. The most popular players chosen by NTSGA members to win this year's Masters Pot were Matt Kuchar, Adam Scott and Phil Mickelson.

Day Two weather conditions were similar to the opening round and long hitting Bubba Watson vaulted into the lead at 7 under par. His round of 68 was 3 strokes clear of John Senden and four strokes ahead of 1st time player Jordan Spieth. Blustery wind conditions kept scores unusually high and many favorites of NTSGA golfers would not be playing on the weekend due to missing the cut. These players included Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Sergio Garcia, Patrick Reed, Jason Dufner and Zach Johnson. Of the 98 selections made in the 2014 NTSGA Masters Pot, only 36 pairs were still in the running.

Leading by 3 strokes to start Saturday's 3rd round, Bubba Watson quickly increased his lead to 5 strokes by recording an eagle on the 575 yd. 2nd hole after hitting driver, 9 iron. A windless Day 3 promised to allow players to quickly climb the leaderboard. Miguel Angel Jimenez at age 50, shot the best round of the tournament (66) and moved from 2 strokes of missing the cut to 3rd place for the start of the final round.

Jordan Spieth and Bubba Watson were tied for the lead beginning Sunday's final round. Matt Kuchar, Jonas Blixt, Thomas Bjorn, Ricky Fowler, Lee Westwood, Fred Couples, Justin Rose, John Senden, Kevin Stadler, Jim Furyk and Miguel Angel Jimenez were all within 4 strokes of the lead. Eight NTSGA members were happy as they had Jordan Spieth as one half of their combo selections. They included: **Rich Carmen, Tom Hatfield, Danny Millaway, Phil Fahs, Bill Rogers, Jack Thompson, Basil Greaves and Howie Bacharach.**

Bubba Watson's fine play thus far made 3 more NTSGA members encouraged to win the Pot. They included **Greg Windsor, Stan Robertson and Donnie Marks.**

After 3 holes, Spieth was the sole leader by 2 strokes over Matt Kuchar. One hole later on the long (246 yd.) par 3, 4th hole, Spieth excited the patrons by holing a bunker shot and momentarily led the field by 3 strokes. On 2 holes (#8 & #9) a 4 stroke swing occurred as Bubba Watson took a 2 stroke advantage beginning Augusta's back nine. Through 13 holes, Watson lengthened his lead to 3 strokes capitalizing on monster drives and accurate approach shots. He would keep that 3 shot cushion for the remainder of the afternoon, winning his 2nd Masters tournament.

The NTSGA Master's Pot runner ups were **Jack Thompson, Phil Fahs, Basil Greaves and Howie Bacharach.** Splitting the \$490.00 Pot were winners, **Donnie Marks and Stan Robertson.** They both selected Bubba Watson and Matt Kuchar. **CONGRATULATIONS, DONNIE MARKS AND STAN ROBERTSON!**

OUT OF MOUTHS OF LITTLE CHILDREN:

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure". My grandson remarked, "Look in your underwear, Grandpa.... mine says I'm 4 to 6"!

RUDE....

Some members are causing a great deal of frustration to Tournament Chairman, Rod Wells by canceling their commitment to participate in our tournaments at the last minute. In addition, this last minute cancellation could cause a fellow member to be knocked out of the field if that member had been dropped previously due to excessive sign ups.

Remember, the deadline for dropping out of an event is noon, 2 days before the tournament (usually Monday at 12:00). It's understandable if an emergency arises, but scheduling doctor's appointments, automobile maintenance, shopping trips or unfavorable weather forecasts should all allow cancellations before Monday noon.

Your attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

PUN INTENDED....

A Dentist and a Manicurist married....they fought tooth and nail!

THE NEED FOR SPEED

.....Quincy Sutton

Dave Pelz, the short game guru for many touring pros emphasizes several of the items that NTSGA has advocated for years. He is a lifelong golfer that enjoys the game of golf and is emotionally invested in the games' health and future. He has seen the game of golf grow from 3 ½ hour rounds to upwards of 6 hour rounds. He hates the way this trend is headed as it sucks the joy out of the game and curbs the enjoyment of all participants. It makes people angry and after research/study of this slow down trend, he has concluded that there is zero evidence that slow play improves scoring. He advocates always pulling a club while replacing another. For example, keep your putter in your hands for the cart ride to the next tee after you hole out, then place the putter in your bag as you take out your driver. (Then keep your driver in hand until you pull a club for the next shot). Pelz also preaches playing ready golf. If you're ready to hit either from the tee box or fairway, then hit, even if it's not your turn. Emphasize this practice for the entire foursome, so no one will be offended or fail to follow suit. Ready golf sends your rounds into warp speed and has little effect on your final score. NTSGA has emphasized faster rounds of golf by all members and has listed suggestions to improve the speed of play on "Items to Prevent Slow Play" following the NTSGA By-Laws on the Association website, ntsga.org

FACTS ABOUT THE MASTERS.....

Imagine beginning the golf tournament at Amen Corner (Holes 11, 12 & 13). That's the way Bobby Jones and course designer Alister MacKenzie originally had the course laid out and that's the way it was played for the first tournament in 1934, won by Horton Smith. One year later, when Gene Sarazen made his famous double eagle on #15, the nines were reversed and have remained so throughout the years. The reason for the flip was because frost was slower to thaw out on the lower portion of the golf course near Amen Corner for morning tee times.

