



February 14, 2009

Hello Fellow NASGA Members,

2009 is here, and who knows what it brings? I hope it will be more prosperous than 2008 and bring some stability for everyone. But there are other burning questions, such as “will California impose a golf tax (see below)?”, or “When will Tiger play again???” Anyway, with things being as they are, my scheduling philosophy for this year was to be even more sensitive to our golf economics than usual. That translates to both a focus on courses with reasonable pricing, as well as working hard to get some deals at some of our preferred venues. I think I was successful for the most part, and hope you enjoy this year very much!

A few important things to point out:

1) **This letter is coming out a little later than normal – please note that sign up deadlines for Santa Clara and Poppy Hills are imminent – February 20th.** We’re trying to go electronic as much as possible, so I encourage members to take advantage of electronic tournament sign up options available from the NASGA website. These are more immediate for you, and easier to track for us.

2) **There is a California Golf Tax that has been proposed by the Governor.** If you have not already heard about this, I encourage you to visit www.forecalifornia.com for more info and to voice your opinion. We don’t know when this will be resolved one way or another, but **if it passes, it is likely that all the courses left on our 2009 schedule will add this tax to our tournament rate, and NASGA will have to pass this on to our members.** So if this happens, we will update rates on the schedule on the website.

On a more positive note, a few highlights of our tournament schedule – please note the courses and prices for our Tahoe weekend – you’ll never get to play these courses at these rates again, so don’t miss it. In fact, sign up early and give me a reason to call them back and ask for more tee times! ;<) For Labor Day, we’re headed back to the Central Coast to play at two great courses, plus if you’re looking for a 3rd venue on the long weekend, I’d encourage people to try Hunter Ranch either on the way down or returning. Another change – we added a 3rd two day golf weekend – this time in Fairfield at a pair of great and reasonably priced golf courses, Rancho Solano and Paradise Valley. They’re close enough for some to make one or both a day trip, but cheap accommodations should also be available in Fairfield. And lastly, I worked out a great rate and a return to a shotgun format with Silver Creek for our summer mid-week event.

In regards to our Club Champ and NCGA qualifier tournaments, we removed the sign up fee for the 2 man best ball event so that this matches the ACNAC and ACC costs – basically no extra fee to sign up, but the winning team must pay their fees in the first round NCGA event. If our team(s) make it beyond that first round, the remainder is on NASGA, and proud to have you represent the club well! Also, Dave and the board are still working through what the format will be for these special tournaments, so stay tuned – we’ll post before the tournaments occur.

There are no changes to the NASGA board of directors or their responsibilities, so nothing to note on that front. And with that, I’ll just say that I’m very much looking forward to seeing everyone soon out on the links, and thanks to each of you in your participation and helping make NASGA a very successful NCGA associate club!

Sincerely,

Mark Thronson
President, NASGA