STMGA History – Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Tim Ehrsam, STMGA President

Since its establishment in 1989, STMGA has been the premier golf association in the area. Fiscal Year 2026 represented another solid year for STMGA. We added 23 new members for a total membership of 233 (205 Full and 28 Associate members). STMGA's financials are sound, with a positive surplus balance, and we look forward to another year of golf and friendship in FY2027.

There were two major actions spearheaded by the Board in Fiscal 2026. One was a change in the Constitution, approved by voting Full Members, to allow Associate Members to vote and serve on the Board in a limited capacity. The second action was the Board initiating a "Blended Tee" proposal that was approved by Sea Trail Golf. Curt Miller spearheaded the blended tee effort, and it resulted in players having three additional tee options on each course: Blue-White, White-Gold, and Gold-Red combinations. These tee options will enable players to better match their chosen tees to their skill level.

STMGA increased the number of dinners and beverage/snack events for our members from prior years. Many STMGA members (and their spouses!) volunteered to make these events successful. We are fortunate that so many members are willing to help when asked.

The STMGA Board recognizes that improvements to Sea Trail Golf facilities will take time. The relationship between STMGA and the Sea Trail Resort Golf Management team and staff has been outstanding and there is excellent cooperation between Sea Trail Golf and STMGA.

Remembrance

It is important to recognize those STMGA Members who have passed away this fiscal year. Each of these members had a significant positive impact on our association. We remember the following members and their families: Tom Glick, Larry Hershoff, Bill Hummer, James Johnson, Ed Kazan.

Board of Directors and Committees

Kevin Jones, Curt Miller and Steve Comparone replaced John Christy, Dave Salisch, and Bill Vornehm. The Officers and Chairmen established by the Board following the General Elections were:

Officers and Board Members

President	Tim Ehrsam

Vice President	Ray Merkler
Secretary	Steve Comparone
Treasurer	Alan Suvalle
Tournament Chairman	Nick Priscu
Assistant Tournament Chairman	Dan Reynolds
Handicap Chairman	Kevin Jones
Member at Large	Bill Larkin
Member at large	Curt Miller

Other Responsibilities & Committees

1) Website Management – Nick Priscu

2) Newsletter – Tim Ehrsam

3) Welcoming / Mentoring – Steve Comparone

4) Socials and Luncheons – Bill Larkin

5) Handicap Committee – Kevin Jones (Chairman), Ray Merkler, Bill Larkin, Alan Suvalle, Dan Balsamo

6) Bag Tags – Nick Priscu

7) Award and Trophies – Ray Merkler & Jack Lambert

8) Beverage Purchases – Wayne Hellman

9) Sunshine – Skip O'Leary

10) Rules Committee – Dave Salisch (Chairman), Curt Miller, Steve Brown

11) Publicity – Kevin Jones

REVIEW OF MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

Fred Stephens Memorial BFA Charity Tournament (11/4/2025)

Chairmen – Larry Hershoff, Nick Priscu

The Fred Stephens Memorial Brunswick Family Assistance Tournament benefiting Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) was an extreme success. There were 112 players and, most importantly, $5,800 was raised. This was over $1,000 more than our previous best year.
BFA's executive director Kyle Abrams stated that BFA helped well over 10,000 FAMILIES in Brunswick County, which is about 1 person in 4 in the county. Thank you all for your generosity.

Team Match Play (2/17/26)

Chairmen – Nick Priscu, Ron Cybyske and Dan Reynolds

This always fun event was held in very cold and windy conditions. Fifty-six players were split into four equally blended handicap teams, with players in each foursome representing their Team (Green, Red, Blue, or White). Using Match Play in each foursome, points were awarded to each player/Team based on their hole result against the other players in their foursome. The results were:

1st Blue – 437.5

2nd White – 435.5

3rd Green – 432.0

4th Red – 423.0

After the round, a social event was held with beverages and snacks served in the Pink Palace.

Neighborhood Challenge (1/6/26)

Chairmen – Nick Priscu, Ron Cybyske and Dan Reynolds

The Maples Team won this year's event. The team consisted of:

Greg Barndt, Brian Blaine, Bill Bradley, Vince Brown, Nick Brunelli, Ron Dubas, Bill Dunn, Tim Ehrsam, Steve Gamble, Brad Hastings, Mike Jenkins, James Johnson, Steve Johnson, Steve Kirby, Jack Lambert, Bill Mack, Tom Montreuil, Marv Peters, and Dave Salisch.

Spring Member/Member (3/23, 24, 26, 2026)

Chairmen – Nick Priscu, Ron Cybyske and Dan Reynolds

Sixty-four players participated and were split into six flights for this Match Play Tournament, played on the Jones and Byrd Courses. The Tournament Champion was determined using an elimination Alternate-shot Shootout on Jones holes 10, 17, and 18. The team of Mike Luff and

Steve Comparone were the Tournament Champions, winning the Tournament Shootout. Flight winners were:

Augusta National Flight	
Team	**Points**
Tim Ehrsam	28.5
Brian Blaine	
Bethpage Flight	
Team	**Points**
Mike Luff	31
Steve Comparone	
Congressional Flight	
Team	**Points**
Cliff Fowler	29.5
Greg Parfitt	
Pebble Beach Flight	
Team	**Points**
Wally Morrison	27
Tom Dolder	
Torey Pines Flight	
Team	**Points**
Ernie Tyler	28
Chris Marcotte	

Winged Foot Flight	
Team	**Points**
Charlie Garguilo	30
Jim Drum	

Team Match Play (5/26/26)

Chairmen – Nick Priscu, Ron Cybyske and Dan Reynolds

A second Team Match Play event was held in May, with 64 players split into four teams. The Blue Team edged the White Team for the win. Blue Team members were Ron Dubas, Tim Ehrsam, Gary Fagan, Bill Harbinson, Bill Hyland, Kevin Jones, Bob Laurie, George Mabes, Bill Mack, Steve Miller, Dan Reynolds, Michael Robinette, Gene Scheck, Robert Tucker, Randy Warren, and Bill Wilkinson.

No Visible Means of Support Awards (High Point Total on non-winning Teams):

Richard Corris for the Red Team and Phil Hall for the Green Team

After the round, a social event was held with beverages and snacks served in the Pink Palace.

33rd Annual Member/Guest (7/25 – 7/28)

Chairmen – Tim Ehrsam & Ray Merkler

Committee: Tim Ehrsam, Ray Merkler, Nick Priscu, Bill Larkin, and Alan Suvalle

The Member/Guest Tournament was a resounding success. 60 teams (120 players) competed with ten six-team divisions. The Sea Trail Golf Resort team fully supported STMGA for this event. All three courses were used for the event. Dinners and social events were held at the Convention Center.

The event began Wednesday evening with the traditional chip shot competition from the porch of Sunset Prime onto the Putting Green. This was followed by an Opening Ceremonies & Players Dinner, held at the Convention Center.

The Flighted Match Play contests for each flight were contested on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The flight winners competed in an alternate shot Tournament Championship Shootout held on Jones holes 10, 11, 17, and 18.

Other Tournament events included Pari-mutuel betting on each flight, longest drive, most accurate drive, daily closest-to-the-pin, putting contest, and a ball drop conducted by the Sunset Beach Fire Department! Friday featured a Hole-in-One Competition on Maples #11 for a Golf Cart (no winner this year).

The Closing Ceremonies Dinner was held at the Convention Center for all players and their non-playing guests/spouses. Numerous raffle prizes were distributed. Players were provided with a photograph of their team, commemorative golf shirt, golf hat, golf cart seat cover, and towel.

Winners:

Tournament Shootout Champion: Curt & Ryan Miller

1. Augusta National: Curt & Ryan Miller
2. Baltusrol: Bill & Chris Hyland
3. Bethpage: Landon & Johnny Kimrey
4. Congressional: Mahmood Ladha & Jon Marx
5. Oakmont: Michael Robinette & John Oleson
6. Pebble Beach: Paul Kennedy & David Hennigar

7. Pinehurst: Bill Wilkinson & Eric Coleman

8. Shinnecock Hills: Chris Marcotte & Shawn Hayward

9. Torrey Pines: Richard Corris & Charlie Pepe

10. Winged Foot: Bill & James Dunn

Osprey Cup (2/25/2026 – 8/26/2026)

Chairmen – Nick Priscu, Ron Cybyske and Dan Reynolds

Thirty-seven members competed in the 2026 Osprey Cup, one of STMGA's most prestigious events. Players earned points throughout the seven-month Cup competition based on their performance against the field on each tournament play date. In addition to the Championship Trophy, the winner receives one year's parking at the designated Osprey Cup Champion parking spot. The 2026 Osprey Cup results were:

1st Place: Lou Devita

2nd Place: Eric Williams

3rd Place: Greg Parfitt

4th Place: Dan Balsamo

Club Championship and Senior Club Championship

Chairmen – Nick Priscu, Ron Cybyske and Dan Reynolds

September 14, 15, and 17, STMGA held its annual Club Championship. Over the three days, sixteen players played gross, stroke play from the White Tees to determine the Club Champion. Additionally, players competed for Tournament White Tee Net Champion and Gold/Red Tee Net Champion. The winners were:

Club Champion - White Tees - Gross Score - Curt Miller

Net White Tees Champion - John Shelton

Net Red/Gold Tees Champion - Cliff Fowler

The Senior and Super Senior Club Championships were held September 22 and 24 on the Byrd and Maples courses. During the gross score stroke play, twenty-one Seniors 65+ and eighteen Super Seniors (75+) competed from the Gold and Red tees, respectively. The winners were:

Senior Club Champion: Eric Williams

Super Senior Club Champion: Ron Cybyske

Our Club and Senior Champions represent STMGA in the Annual Brunswick County Tournament of Champions, October 17 and 18, 2026 at Sandpiper Golf and Country Club.

OTHER NOTABLE ITEMS:

- **Board Members:**
  After serving on the Board for six years, Tim Ehrsam (four years as President) and Ray Merkler (four years as Vice President) resigned as Board members. As past President, Tim Ehrsam will continue to serve as a non-voting member of the Board.

  The Nominating Committee of Bill Dunn, Fran Conway, and John Christy presented a slate of candidates to serve 3-year terms. The following were elected by the membership:
  - Bill Harbinson
  - Bill Larkin (re-elected)
  - Eric Schultz

- **Financial Summary**:
  STMGA is fiscally sound. There was a surplus carried over from Fiscal 2025-2026. With that and prudent spending, the Board voted that there will be NO CHANGE from the 2025-2026 Member dues of $70 in Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

- **Constitution and By-Laws:**
  The STMGA voting membership accepted a proposed change to the STMGA Constitution and By-Laws. This change permits Associate Members to vote on all STMGA issues, as well as serve on the Board in limited number (two maximum) and position (cannot serve as President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Tournament Chairman).

- **Rules:**
  There were no major changes to the STMGA Local Rules, although several course-specific Local Rules were established, due to the completion of the Byrd and Maples Courses. Rules adjustments made by the Tournament Chairman for changes in daily playing conditions were addressed by stating them on scorecards for that day's play. Ad hoc guidance from the Tournament Chairman/Committee was also made at the opening of the Maples course as initial conditions were settling in (e.g., new turf/waste areas), as well as on the Byrd and Jones Courses (e.g., housing construction affecting holes 8 and 9 on both courses).

- **New Tees**:

As mentioned earlier, new tees for all three courses were proposed by the Board and approved by Sea Trail. These blended (hybrid) tee combination options are Blue/White, White/Gold, and Gold/Red. They are USGA/CGA rated, supported in the GHIN system, and available for all Sea Trail Resort golfers.