

May 2022

# Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club



|                         |   |                           |       |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------|
| President's Message     | 2 | Putts from the Fringe     | 7     |
| Centennial Spotlight    | 3 | SMLGA News                | 8     |
| From the Clubhouse      | 4 | Announcements / Book Club | 9     |
| Jeff Caplenor Golf Camp | 5 | Calendar of Events        | 10-11 |
| Golf News               | 6 | Club Information          | 12    |

[www.smgcc.org](http://www.smgcc.org)



## President's Message

The club is in full Spring mode. The course is starting to green up, the dining room is full and the pool will be opening soon. As we roll into pool season, I want to remind all parents we do not provide lifeguards. We obviously want all members to have a great pool experience and everyone to stay safe throughout pool season, so please be mindful of your children while enjoying the pool.

I want to thank Mr. Greg Russell for stepping up and monitoring our SMGCC email address, smgccfeedback@gmail.com. This address allows members to communicate any praises, ideas, or concerns to our Board. Please know all emails are discussed with the leadership team and appropriate actions are taken.

The Mountaineer Member/Guest tournament currently has a full field, and we have created a waiting list. If you would like to get on the list, please see Paul in the Pro Shop. Also, please take a look at the long list of tournaments we host throughout the year and get signed up! Couples golf is in full swing on Friday evenings, so get out and enjoy the nail-biting competition.

Each month we are getting a little closer to wrapping up the renovation. I truly want to thank our membership/staff for the patience and understanding as we work through this project. We are experiencing supply chain issues on items to construct the front porch/drive thru as well as the store front glass for the pro shop. I will continue to monitor this project on a daily basis and push to the end. SMGCC will be a much more desirable club and the demand will continue to grow as we complete the house.

Please be on the look out for communication regarding upcoming events in May. Socially we will be celebrating all of the Moms, having a Cinco De Mayo menu and kicking off the pool season with our Memorial Day celebration. Out on the golf course we have the 2-day Member/Member tournament and the tradition will continue with the Signal Mountain Invitational.

Chad Sikes



# Centennial Spotlight

## Back from the Brink...

Have you ever wondered why there are public tennis courts, ball fields, and a playground right in the middle of the country club grounds? You've come to the right place to find out.

Our golf course opened for play in 1916 as part of the new Signal Mountain Inn. Six years later, the Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club was founded by a group of Signal Mountain residents and was incorporated with the State of Tennessee in February, 1922. We don't know the specific details of how and when the club came into ownership of the golf course, but it stands to reason that shortly after the founding of SMGCC, ownership of the course was transferred to the new club by C.E. James, the developer of the Inn and golf course.

With the population of Signal Mountain steadily growing and the dramatic upswing in golf interest across the country, things must have been looking promising for SMGCC in the early days. However, just seven years after its founding - in 1929 - the Great Depression hit and made things exceedingly difficult for the young club to survive. With most people struggling to pay for essentials, very few could afford the luxury of belonging to a country club, and the SMGCC membership dwindled to almost nothing. With a tiny number of remaining members, the club struggled to meet its financial obligations and ended up borrowing \$70,000 from the Volunteer State Life Insurance Co. just to keep the doors open. (In today's dollars, this would be the equivalent of more than \$1.1 million.)

As the Depression dragged on for many years, things at the club didn't improve enough, and Volunteer Life ended up foreclosing on the mortgage in May, 1937. A court-appointed official was directed to sell the club property at public auction, and Volunteer Life bought the entire property (132 acres and all improvements and equipment) for \$12,000. This very easily could have marked the end of SMGCC, had it not been for the vision and generosity of some mountain residents who were determined to save the course.

These men formed a corporation called the Signal Mountain Park Company and purchased the club property back from Volunteer Life for \$25,000. They then worked out an agreement with the Town of Signal Mountain to give the property to the Town, to be used for recreational space for all citizens. In exchange for the gift of land, SMGCC was given a long-term lease on the property, so that the club would be able to continue to function and use the course going forward. This unusual and ingenious agreement between the Town and the club has been mutually beneficial for over 70 years and is still in effect today. The Town owns the land on which our course sits, and the club leases the land from the Town.

This explains why there are public amenities in the middle of the club property that are used and enjoyed by all citizens of our community. In addition to the playground, tennis courts, and fields that are still in use today, the Town's first public swimming pool - built as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration - was located for several decades where the playground of Althaus Park sits, across the parking lot from where the club pool is now located. The club pool opened in 2005.





## From the Clubhouse



## May is here, and we have several celebrations!

May looks to be a busy month to celebrate. First of we will have a special Cinco de Mayo menu for Thurs May 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Kentucky Derby get together in the main bar on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> and finally our annual Memorial Day Celebration Monday May 30<sup>th</sup>, whew, and our new Summer Menus and Wine Selections.

We encourage members to reserve Mother's Day tables as soon as possible as this date will book up fast. Please remember that cancellations must be made via email to [jfidelibus@smgcc.org](mailto:jfidelibus@smgcc.org) no later than 48 hours prior to the event.

Reservations are not required for the Kentucky Derby, Memorial Day. Reservations are suggested for Cinco de Mayo. Look for e-mail blast for all events. May also brings the opening of the Club Pool. We look to have the pool open by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Happy May,

Joe Fidelibus, Clubhouse Manager

# 2022 Jeff Caplenor Golf Camp

We are excited to announce that a second golf camp will be held July 25-28, 2022, at Signal Mountain Golf & Country Club for eight (8) young golfers who are selected based on application.

While the traditional summer camps at SMGCC are aimed at introducing kids to a game they can enjoy for life, this competitive edge camp will be designed to meet the instructional needs of more advanced junior players. The camp will be strategy and skills intensive for golfers who are serious about honing their games. The camp will be led by Paul Helle, Head Golf Professional at SMGCC and Ty Gosnell, Director of Junior Instruction at Rivertowne Country Club in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

Four girls and four boys who currently live on Signal Mountain, and are entering any middle/high school are eligible. Parents/guardians are NOT required to be members of SMGCC. There will be NO cost to attend this camp for the selected participants, as all expenses will be covered by The Jeff Caplenor Youth Golf Fund. Last year's participants are eligible to apply again this year.

This fund was established by Jeff's family to support the growth of the game among young golfers while honoring his love for the game and the significant contributions he made to Signal Mountain Golf & Country Club. The funds exist solely through the generosity of our donors in his memory.

To request an application contact Paul Helle at the SMGCC Golf Shop or Suzanne Caplenor at 423-314-4688 (or [scaplenor@me.com](mailto:scaplenor@me.com)). Applications must be submitted no later than May 31, 2022, and selected golfers will be notified by June 3, 2022.

We thank you and wish all the applicants the best!  
Keep swinging,  
The Jeff Caplenor Family



# Golf News

## Signal Mountain Invitational

The 77th Signal Mountain Invitational is just around the corner. The event will be held May 20th-22nd. The Invitational is one of the premier amateur events in the southeast. The tournament always draws a very strong field that typically includes several of our members. I hope this year will be no different. The unique thing about the Invitational is that it appeals to all ranges of golfers. The championship flight will house some of the best amateurs in the area while the Double Bogey Max division will include golfers with a 10.0 handicap or higher. We hope to once again have a great turnout from our membership competing in this great event this year. If you cannot participate but still wish to help out, we are still accepting sponsorships. Sponsorships are \$100. The sponsorship fee will get your name or company name listed on the sponsorship board displayed at the putting green for the entire tournament, your name listed on all of the cart signs, and listed on next year's invitation. The sponsorship will also get you an invitation to a great party held at the Country Club Friday, May 20th. Please contact the golf shop if you would like to sign-up or sponsor. One additional way to help this great event succeed is through voluntary efforts. With several blind tee shots and some participants playing this course for the first time, we love to have spotters out on the golf course to help players find the occasional errant tee shot. We also need volunteers to help at the scoring table. Please contact the golf shop if you would like to volunteer.

## Golf Carts

We continue to work through some issues with our current golf cart fleet. We ordered our new fleet back in December, but supply chain issues are pushing back the delivery until late summer. Club Car is working with us to get the current fleet running as best as possible. We have already changed several bad batteries and have extras to replace anymore failing batteries. Please notify the golf shop or cart staff if you have any issues with a cart so that we can note and address it as quickly as possible.

### Upcoming Events:

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Apr 30-May 1 | Member-Member                       |
| May 7        | Putting Tournament                  |
| May 20-22    | Invitational                        |
| May 30       | Memorial Day Scramble / Shootout #1 |

### Save the Dates

|               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| May 31-June 2 | Summer Golf Camp #1 (Full)            |
| June 18-20    | Summer Golf Camp #2 (Spots Remaining) |
| June 24-26    | Men's Club Championship               |
| July 9-10     | Ladies Club Championship              |
| July 11-13    | Summer Golf Camp #3 (Full)            |
| July 22-24    | Mountaineer                           |
| August 13-14  | Haskew Cup @ Black Creek Club         |
| Sep 30-Oct 1  | Malarkey Cup                          |

## Putts From The Fringe

I think spring has been a little hungover this year and I am looking forward to some warmer temperatures and getting some grass to grow. It appears that we did not make it through the winter without winter injury. Many shaded areas that see nearly zero sun for a good portion of December and January are slow to green up, we are pushing these areas but need the weather to cooperate. The green surrounds have been hit the hardest, managing bentgrass greens often means practices that are not ideal for the bermudagrass surrounds. Winter mowing and rolling creates a lot of stress on the surrounds at a time when the grass is most vulnerable. Often during the winter, our decision to not mow or roll is based on how much added stress to the surrounds we are willing to take to produce playing conditions for the day. The fertilizer and plant growth regulator program for the greens is also not always what is best for the surrounds and overspray adds to the problem. We are working to dial in our practices to avoid damaging and repairing these areas, please be patient with us.

As the course is greening up and becoming busier I would like to remind everyone of the cart traffic policies.

- Please keep carts 30 yards away from all greens
- Keep carts on the path on all par 3's
- Please be mindful of areas that are marked for cart traffic, thin turf areas and wet areas.

The funneling of cart traffic near the end of the fairway close to the green is a major traffic concern on almost every hole. Please consider the condition of the golf course when driving your cart. Thank you to the Ladies Golf Association for being considerate of the golf course and applying the necessary peer pressure to encourage everyone to take care of their course. I want to give as much access to the golf course and the fairways as possible, responsible cart traffic helps achieve this.

I can't let my dog out in the backyard without 4 bugs flying into the house which means summer is right around the corner. I am excited to how our drainage work in the greens performs with the summer stress and for these low cut warm season grasses to get going. Please sign up and check the Clubster App for more golf course updates. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you on the golf course!

Tyler



# SMLGA NEWS

The Signal Mountain Ladies Golf Association's official Opening Day was Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and while we had to delay our Scramble until the following Thursday due to the weather, we enjoyed a fun Easter-themed lunch meeting! Thank you to Laura Newbourne, our new Hospitality Chair, for the great decorations and to Chee Allen, Sylvia Friedl, and Deedee Raulston for their refresher on Golf Rules and Etiquette!



Congratulations to the April 21<sup>st</sup> Opening Day Scramble winners:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place-** Candy Feher, Maryellen Cook & Jean St. Charles  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place-** Debbie Durham, Chee Allen & Doris Chambers

The new Ladies Lounge is beautiful, comfortable and so appreciated- thank you to all who made it happen! Also, a big thanks to two of our LGA members, Holly Battle and Laura Newbourne, for contributing several of their course photos; and to the LGAers who donated money to have them finished on brushed aluminum and framed. These beautiful pictures are now displayed inside the Ladies' Lounge, as well as in the hallway outside the Men's Lounge.



Looking forward to another great LGA season with the Swinging Sisters on this beautiful course, and celebrating our Centennial year in our newly renovated Club House! Our tree is up and ready for all those birdies to be posted, so take dead aim and have fun!



P.S. Stay tuned for a weekend Ladies Clinic to be scheduled soon by Paul Helle.

Happy Birthday wishes to  
Sylvia Friedl- May 25<sup>th</sup>!



Join Our Mailing List  
Click Here

## UPDATE TO PAYMENT TERMS Effective June 1, 2022

**Payments for statement balances are due the 10th of each month following the statement date.**

**Effective June 1, 2022, a new 15 day “GRACE PERIOD” will go into effect. Any payments received AFTER the 25th of each month will be considered LATE and be subject to late fees.**

**Please call the Business Office at 423-886-5767 Ext. 225 to set up for automatic payment to avoid late fees.**

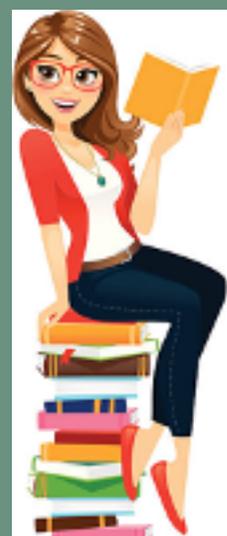
## SMGCC Book Club

**Thursday May 19, 6:00 PM**  
*The Presidents Club* by Nancy Gibbs & Michael Duffy

**Thursday June 16 , 6:00PM**  
To Be Announced

The “Lit Ladies” meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 6 PM to discuss & rate the current book. We have dinner afterward. All Ladies of the Club are welcome. Please text or email Treena Smith 423-785-7470 or squirtzer@aol.com.

**Come join us for an evening of fun!**



# May 2022

| Sun.   | Mon.   | Tue.                     | Wed.   | Thu.                             | Fri.   | Sat.  |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>1</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br><br>Family Night<br>Kids Eat Free<br><br>Member-Member                 | <b>2</b><br>Club Closed                                | <b>3</b>                 | <b>4</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines  | <b>5</b><br>Cinco de Mayo<br>Meu | <b>6</b>                                     | <b>7</b><br>Spring<br>Putting<br>Tournament<br>KY Derby Get<br>Together |
| <b>8</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br>Mother's Day<br><br>Family Night<br>Kids Eat Free<br><br>Member-Member | <b>9</b><br>Club Closed                                | <b>10</b>                | <b>11</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines | <b>12</b>                        | <b>13</b>                                    | <b>14</b>   |
| <b>15</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br><br>Family Night<br>Kids Eat Free                                     | <b>16</b><br>Club Closed                               | <b>17</b>                | <b>18</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines | <b>19</b><br>Book Club           | <b>20</b><br>Signal Mountain<br>Invitational | <b>21</b><br>Signal Mountain<br>Invitational                            |
| <b>22</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br><br>Signal Mountain<br>Invitational                                   | <b>23</b><br>Club Closed                               | <b>24</b>                | <b>25</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines | <b>26</b>                        | <b>27</b>                                    | <b>28</b>   |
| <b>29</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br><br>Family Night<br>Kids Eat Free                                     | <b>30</b><br>Memorial Day<br>Scramble /<br>Shootout #2 | <b>31</b><br>Club Closed |  |                                  |  |   |

# June 2022

| Sun.  | Mon.  | Tue.      | Wed.   | Thu.                                      | Fri.                                    | Sat.   |
|---|---|-----------|--|---|---|--|
|   |   |           | <b>1</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines<br>Summer Golf<br>Camp #1 (Full) | <b>2</b><br>Summer Golf<br>Camp #1 (Full) | <b>3</b>                                | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>5</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br><br>Family Night<br>Kids Eat Free   | <b>6</b><br>Club Closed   | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines                                  | <b>9</b>                                  | <b>10</b>                               | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>12</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br><br>Family Night<br>Kids Eat Free  | <b>13</b><br>Club Closed  | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines                                 | <b>16</b><br>Book Club                    | <b>17</b>                               | <b>18</b><br>Summer Golf<br>Camp #2 (Spots<br>Remaining) |
| <b>19</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br>Family Night<br>Kids Eat Free<br>Summer Golf<br>Camp #2 (Spots<br>Remaining) | <b>20</b><br>Club Closed<br>Summer Golf<br>Camp #2 (Spots<br>Remaining) | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines                                 | <b>23</b>                                 | <b>24</b><br>Men's Club<br>Championship | <b>25</b><br>Men's Club<br>Championship                  |
| <b>26</b><br>Sunday Brunch<br>9am – 2pm<br><br>Family Night<br>Kids Eat Free  | <b>27</b><br>Club Closed  | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>Wine<br>Wednesday<br>50% off House<br>Wines                                 | <b>30</b>                                 |   |  |



Clubhouse Extensions:  
(423) 886-5767

Ollies  
Press: 0

Pro Shop & Tee Times  
Press: 1

Head Golf Pro, Paul Helle  
Press: 2

To-Go Orders & Reservations  
Press: 3

Main Bar  
Press: 4

Men's Card Room  
Press: 5

Business Office  
Press: 6

Controller & Office Manager  
Press: 7

Course Superintendent, Tyler Guy  
Press: 8

Club Manager, Joe Fidelibus  
Press: 9

Administrative Fax  
(423) 886-2879

### **Golf Shop Hours**

Tuesday - Sunday  
7:30am - 6:30pm  
(shop will close at 5:30pm after  
DST)

### **Range**

Tuesday - Sunday  
8am - Dusk

### **Main Dining Room & Bar**

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 8pm  
Sunday: 10am - 7pm

### **Men's Card Room**

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 8pm  
Sunday: 10am - 7pm

### **Pool (Memorial Day - Labor Day)**

Tuesday - Thursday: 10am - 8pm  
Friday & Saturday: 10am - 9pm  
Sunday 12:30pm - 8pm

### **Reservations & Party Inquiries**

[jfidelibus@smgcc.org](mailto:jfidelibus@smgcc.org)

## **Signal Mountain Golf & Country Club**

### **Board of Directors 2021**

#### OFFICERS:

Chad Sikes, President  
Rob Pearce, Vice-President  
Nick Carden, Treasurer  
David Marks, Secretary  
Arch Trimble IV, Past-President

#### DIRECTORS:

Andrew Guth  
Greg Russell  
Alan Kelley  
Kyle Wittler  
Lynne Marks  
Andrew Holt

#### MANAGEMENT STAFF:

Tyler Guy, Golf Course Superintendent  
[tguy@smgcc.org](mailto:tguy@smgcc.org)  
Paul Helle, Head Golf Professional  
[phelle@smgcc.org](mailto:phelle@smgcc.org)  
Joe Fidelibus, Club Manager  
[jfidelibus@smgcc.org](mailto:jfidelibus@smgcc.org)  
Katherine Powers, Accounting  
[kpowers@smgcc.org](mailto:kpowers@smgcc.org)