



SMGA 2011 Year End Report

The following is a brief description of SMGA activity highlights during 2011, listed generally in chronological order

SMGA Featured at PGA Teaching Summit Jim Estes, along with SMGA wounded warrior Tim Lang, presented a clinic session on adaptive golf instruction for wounded warriors at the PGA of America's 2011 *Teaching Summit* in Orlando, FL. The two day *Teaching Summit* is an educational program for PGA Professionals and features clinic sessions by some of the world's top golf instructors. The *Teaching Summit* was a part of the PGA's Annual Merchandise Show at which SMGA had the opportunity to discuss its Guidelines for Affiliation with interested PGA Golf Professionals. During the PGA show, an article which appeared in *USA Today* highlighting the *Teaching Summit* session presented by Jim and Tim and SMGA's work with wounded warriors was seen by President George W. Bush which led to SMGA's involvement with the George W. Bush Presidential Center in establishing the inaugural *Warrior Open* golf tournament. (www.warrioropen.com)

African American Golfer's Digest Selects Jim Estes As One of its 2011 Outstanding Leaders in Golf In January, the *African American Golfer's Digest* selected SMGA founder Jim Estes as one of its Annual Outstanding Leaders in Golf for his work with wounded warriors. The award was presented at the group's annual golf tournament and banquet in January in Florida. (<http://www.africanamericangolfersdigest.com/GameOn.html>)

SMGA Purchases ParaGolfer In March SMGA purchased a ParaGolfer, a special golf cart which enables lower extremity amputees and individuals with lower body paralysis to be stabilized in an upright position so they can take a more natural golf swing. As the below photos show, double and even triple amputees will be able to participate in SMGA's program and get out on the golf course. (<http://www.ottobock.com/cps/rde/xchg/ob.com/en/hs.xsl/2364.html>)



Wounded Warriors, Army Spc. Tim Hall (right), USMC LCpl. Mark Litynski (center) and USMC LCpl Nick Thom (right) demonstrate SMGA's ParaGolfer



SMGA Wounded Warriors at The Masters Thanks to a generous invitation from the Del Monte Corporation, six wounded warriors and two SMGA officials were able to attend the 2011 Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club. The invitation included passes to practice and tournament rounds, lodging, meals and local transportation. Indications are that the invitation will be extended to SMGA again in 2012.

SMGA Wounded Warriors at Monday After The Masters SMGA was again invited to send wounded warriors to the Hootie and the Blowfish *Monday After The Masters* extravaganza in Myrtle Beach, SC. SMGA Co-Founder Jamie Winslow accompanied five SMGA wounded warriors to the event.



SMGA wounded warriors at *Monday After The Masters*

SMGA Sponsors 7 Wounded Warriors on Golf Channel Amateur Tour Several years ago, the *Golf Channel* created a nationwide golf competition for amateur golfers, known as the *Golf Channel* Amateur Tour. Amateur golfers compete in a series of tournaments in their local area, with the top golfers earning the right to compete in regional events and ultimately qualify for the Tour National Championship. In 2011, SMGA sponsored seven (7) wounded warriors on the GCAMT. Four of the golfers won local events (see photo of Ramon Padilla below with his trophy for winning the Greystone tournament) Five SMGA golfers qualified for the National Championship event and three were able to participate; Denis Oliverio and Dan Pulsipher from the Washington DC/Metro Region and Mike Stafford from the Tennessee/Mississippi Region. All three competed in the four round National Championship played on four courses at PGA West in Palm Desert, CA.



Ramon Padilla with Greystone Golf Channel tournament trophy

SMGA Reaches Equipment Agreement with TaylorMade Golf Since its inception, SMGA has distributed over 250 sets of new, custom fitted golf clubs to wounded warriors who have participated in its program. In an effort to upgrade the quality of the golf equipment it provides to its participants, in late spring 2011 SMGA negotiated an agreement with Adidas/TaylorMade Golf whereby SMGA can purchase TaylorMade clubs and Adidas apparel significantly below wholesale prices. The agreement will reduce SMGA's annual equipment and apparel costs by a considerable amount.

National Golf Day At the Capital Jim Estes and Army Sgt. First Class Ramon Padilla participated in National Golf Day activities at the Rayburn House Office Building by giving a clinic for members of Congress and their staff members.



SMGA's Jim Estes and Ramon Padilla with Congressman, Jim Miller

5th Annual SMGA Charity Classic Another Sellout For the fifth consecutive year, SMGA's Annual Charity Golf Classic was a sellout with 132 golfers participating in SMGA's biggest annual fundraising event at Manor Country Club. A highlight of the 2011 event were the two holes-in-one on Manor's long Par 3 17th hole, which won the two golfers a new \$50,000 Cadillac CTS-V coupe. It marked the third consecutive year that a hole-in-one was recorded during the SMGA event. The guest speaker at the post golf banquet was US Army Vice Chief of Staff, General Peter Chiarelli. In April, SMGA lost one of its longest serving Board members and legal counsel with the passing of Robert Greenbaum. At the June SMGA Charity Classic, as an expression of what Bob had meant to SMGA, Bob's wife, Joan, was presented with flowers and an honorary Purple Heart by SMGA Board Member and Maryland Commandant of the Order of the Purple Heart, Charles Eggleston.



Pete Bechtel
presents SMGA
Pin Flag to
Gen. Chiarelli



Honorary Purple
Heart presented to
Joan Greenbaum

Lunch with Ken Venturi As a part of US Open week at Congressional Country Club, SMGA received an invitation to have lunch with Ken Venturi, the 1964 US Open Champion which was also played at Congressional. A group of 12 attended the lunch. Everyone got pictures taken with Venturi and had him sign US Open memorabilia. After lunch everyone was escorted "behind the ropes" and were able to meet and have their pictures taken with several US Open participants, including Sergio Garcia.



SMGA Lunch With Ken
Venturi at US Open



SMGA Folks with Sergio
Garcia at US Open



Warriors Matt Bilancia & Charles
Eggleston with '64 US Open
Champion Ken Venturi

First Two SMGA Chapters Established Furthering its mission to bring its rehabilitative golf program to as many wounded warriors as possible, in 2011 SMGA established its first two Chapters outside the Washington, DC area. A group in upstate New York headed by Frank Dorchak begun a series of fundraising tournaments for SMGA in 2010. The number of tournaments was expanded in 2011, with the season ending championship held in August at Watertown (NY) CC. In 2011, Frank approached military officials at Ft. Drum in Watertown about establishing a clinic program for wounded warriors at the Ft. Drum Warrior Transition Unit. After a demonstration clinic in May, presented by Jim, Judy Alvarez and Charles Eggleston, base and WTU commanders enthusiastically endorsed the program. Two clinic series were held during the summer with 12 wounded warriors earning new custom

fitted TaylorMade clubs. Frank is already scheduling more events in 2012, with new tournaments on both sides of the New York-Vermont border.



Ft. Drum Chapter Club Recipients



Ft. Drum Acting Base Commander Brig. Gen. Harry Miller thanks SMGA at New York Chapter Banquet

A second SMGA Chapter has been established at Ft. Eustis, VA, working with Head PGA Golf Pro Andy Weissinger. Weissinger was the recipient of the PGA of America's 2009 Patriot Award (the 2010 recipient was SMGA's Jim Estes) Seven Ft. Eustis wounded warriors earned new TaylorMade clubs during the 2011 Ft. Eustis clinic series.

SMGA's expansion effort was greatly assisted by a most generous grant in 2011 from the US Senior Golf Association Memorial Fund which will permit SMGA to continue its expansion in 2012. SMGA is currently working with groups to finalize additional chapters in 2012, among them groups in Pittsburgh, PA, Atlanta, GA and Tampa, FL.

Booz, Allen & Hamilton Strategic Plan Initiative SMGA received an offer from international consulting firm, Booz, Allen & Hamilton to undertake a Strategic Planning Initiative on a "skills-based volunteer" basis by a group of BAH employees. The Initiative will assist SMGA in plotting its future to continue fulfilling its Mission of helping wounded warriors. After an environment study and two sessions with the SMGA Board, the BAH volunteers plan to have the completed Plan to SMGA by the end of the year.

SMGA Develops Adaptive Golf Instruction Certification Course in Collaboration with Penn State University Working with Penn State University, Jim Estes and Judy Alvarez have developed an Adaptive Golf Instruction Certification Course for PGA Professionals who want to work with wounded warriors and other individuals with disabilities. The course has been approved for Continuing Education Credits by both the PGA of America and the LPGA. The first Certification Course was held in August at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, PA. The course will be important in qualifying more PGA Professionals to work with wounded warriors.



1st Adaptive Golf Instruction Certificate Recipients



SMGA WW Tim Lang helps instruct fellow wounded warrior at 1st Adaptive Golf Certification Course

SMGA's Tim Lang Accompanies US Solheim Cup Team to Competition in Ireland

At the 2011 PGA Merchandise Show, US Solheim Cup Team Captain, Rosie Jones met Tim Lang, an SMGA program participant who lost a leg in a IED explosion in Iraq. Jones was so impressed by Tim that she invited him to accompany the US Team to the Solheim Cup (women's equivalent of the Ryder Cup) competition at Killeen Castle in Ireland, as an Honorary Vice Captain and inspiration to US team members. Tim, dressed in his US Marine Corp dress blues, led the US Team in the Solheim Cup Opening Ceremonies procession. At

the conclusion of the event, Rosie Jones sent a letter to SMGA commending Tim for his contribution to the US Team's effort.



USMC Sgt. Tim Lang escorts US Solheim Cup Captain Rosie Jones during Opening Ceremonies

Two SMGA Wounded Warriors Participate in International Pro-Am at St. Andrews

In late spring, a supporter of SMGA offered to pay for two SMGA wounded warriors to accompany Olney Golf Park Head Professional, Dayne Bulloch, to participate in the Annual International Pro-Am in St. Andrews, Scotland. In August, eight (8) SMGA wounded warriors competed for the two spots in an 18 hole round at Northwest Park GC. Brian Donarski won a spot outright and Ramon Padilla won the second spot in a 19th hole playoff with two other warriors.



Scotland International Pro-Am Playoff Competitors

Seven SMGA Wounded Warriors Play in Inaugural Warrior Open After reading a January article in *US Today* regarding Tim Lang, SMGA and the session Jim presented at the PGA Teaching Summit, former President George W. Bush instructed his staff to contact Jim and SMGA for assistance in organizing a golf tournament for wounded warriors. As a result, the Bush Center created the *Warrior Open* for military personnel wounded during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The inaugural event was played in October at the Las Colinas Club in Dallas. Of the twenty (20) wounded warriors who participated, seven were current or former participants in SMGA's program. SMGA's Mike Stafford finished 2nd and Brian Donarski and John Faulkenberry tied for 3rd. In addition, SMGA was selected by the event participants as one of four groups highlighted during the *Warrior Open* for their service on behalf of wounded warriors. For more information pertaining to the *Warrior Open* and to read the bios of the participants, go to:

www.warrioropen.com



SMGA's Jim Estes with Pres. Bush during planning session for *Warrior Open*



Pres. George W. Bush and participants in Inaugural *Warrior Open*



SMGA Board Members at *Warrior Open* with SMGA participant Ramon Padilla

New Board Members Elected at SMGA Annual Meeting At the SMGA Annual Meeting in September, five new members were elected to the SMGA Board of the Directors. Four have been volunteers at SMGA events for a considerable time and bring a variety of expertise to the Board. They are: John Bushman; Jim Knorr; Andy McCann; and, Jerry Mills. In addition, Anthony Fernandez, who had been serving as SMGA legal counsel since the passing of Bob Greenbaum in April 2011, was officially named to the Board. In other Board moves, Jamie Winslow succeeded Pete Bechtel as Board Chairman, with Pete taking over as Secretary when Ellen Kay stepped down due to her school and work demands and President Brian Finan, Vice-President Darin Ayers and Treasurer Ed Henderson were reelected to additional two year terms.

Successful 2011 Clinic Series at the Olney Golf Park SMGA concluded its 2011 clinic series in October with a 9 hole round with over 30 participants at Manor Country Club. Over 80 wounded warriors participated in SMGA’s eight week Saturday clinics and five week Thursday TBI/PTSD clinics during the spring and over 90 wounded warriors participated in the eight week fall Saturday clinics and six week TBI/PTSD clinics. During the year, over 40 wounded warriors qualified for new, custom fitted, sets of clubs. Featured presenters at this year’s clinics included former LPGA Tour Player, Kris Tchetter (spring and fall); Sean “The Beast” Fister, three time World Long Drive Champion; and, Paraplegic Professional Golfer and Trick Shot Artist, Dennis Walter. In addition, country music legend and avid golfer, Vince Gill accompanied Kris Tchetter to the fall clinic. The SMGA clinic program could not be a success without the large number of volunteers who each week give their time helping to set up the equipment for the participants and assist the PGA instructors during the clinics. SMGA is indebted to, and fortunate to have, such dedicated volunteers committed to support its efforts for wounded warriors. (www.olneygolfpark.com)



Wounded Warriors at fall finale at Manor CC



Vince Gill at SMGA Fall Clinic

Record Number of Playing Opportunities for Wounded Warriors in 2011 Between March and November, SMGA received invitations for wounded warriors to participate in a record number of over 60 corporate and charitable golf tournaments and outings. These playing opportunities are a major part of SMGA’s program as they provide not only opportunities to play some of the area’s top golf courses, but also opportunities to meet and network with individuals who appreciate the opportunity to play with and help wounded warriors. One special invitation was the opportunity provided by Clark Construction Co. for SMGA wounded warriors to play in the Pro Am during the Melrose Open Nationwide Tour event at the University of Maryland. In addition, throughout the year Argyle Country Club, Norbeck Country Club and Northwest Park Golf Course opened their courses to SMGA wounded warriors for week-day play.



SMGA at the Melrose Pro Am

SMGA Named Charity Beneficiary of Numerous Golf Events In 2011, SMGA was the beneficiary of fundraising golf events sponsored by numerous corporations and other private groups. Some groups, such as Kearney & Co. (3rd year), Club Corp (2nd year), Bryce Mountain Resort, the Raspberry Falls Golf Group and General Dynamics-AIS named SMGA as the beneficiary of their annual charity golf tournaments. Others, including Four Reservations, Ned Devine Golfing Society, Booz, Allen & Hamilton, the Rosner Auto Group, and the Employees of Northrop Grumman created new events in 2011 specifically to raise money for SMGA. In addition, after seeing the same January article in *US Today* which inspired former President Bush to create his *Warrior Open*, a young man and his father in Dallas, TX, formed the North Texas Wounded Warrior Golf Association (NTWWGA) to organize what they intend to be an annual fundraising tournament for SMGA and which they hope will fund an SMGA program in Texas. SMGA is greatly appreciative for the efforts of Matt Rosenberger and his father Glenn and for their interest in helping SMGA and its mission to help wounded warriors.



SMGA WWs Denis Oliverio, Brian Bradley, Chris Bowers and Matt Levine participate in NTWWGA tournament

4th Annual Veterans Day Appreciation Dinner Sets New Record For the past four years the United Methodist Men of the Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church in Olney, MD has held a Veterans Day Appreciation Dinner as a fund raiser for SMGA. This year a record of over 170 people attended the dinner and heard wounded warrior and Purple Heart recipient Charles Eggleston as the featured speaker and saw a special video created by wounded warrior Matt Bilancia to thank the church for its support of SMGA. The 2011 dinner raised a record amount for SMGA.



SMGA's Charles Eggleston speaks at Veterans Day Dinner



Charles Eggleston with WWII Vet at Veterans Day Dinner

Efforts Moving Forward for SMGA to Offer Programs at Ft. Belvoir and Quantico As 2011 ends, SMGA is actively working with base officials to offer programs to wounded warriors at Ft. Belvoir and Quantico Marine Base. Approximately one-third of the wounded warriors from Walter Reed were transferred to Ft. Belvoir when the DC facility closed in August. (The remaining 2/3 went to the former Bethesda Naval Hospital, now called the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center) The proposed golf instruction program at Ft. Belvoir will be held at the base golf course facility. Plans are being developed with the Raspberry Fall Golf Group for the program for Quantico to be run at Augustine Golf Club which is now a part of the Raspberry Falls Group. SMGA PGA Instructor, Dave Barton has offered to lead the program at Augustine.

Happy New Year !!!