

DGA Fall Classic History

In November, 1964, the fledgling DGA put together a trip to Pinehurst. Eight (8) golfers attended. The story is that they stayed at the Carolina Hotel/Lodge, played 7 rounds, had 7 breakfasts and some dinners...all for \$99 per person!. All of the Original Founders (Jim, Jackson, Ed Kerr, Tom McColgan and George Stamas) were there as well as two "new" members (Dan Fairlie and Min Minutello). Ed Kerr nipped Dan Fairlie by 1 shot.

In 1965, the trip/tournament returned to Pinehurst and has 12 players. Jim Jackson won and Dan Fairlie was 2nd again.

After a year off, the Fall trip was restarted but in Myrtle Beach. The group grew to 23 golfers in 1967. From 1967 through 1997, the trip was held in Myrtle Beach. The trip attracted between 16 – 32 golfers each year. The group stayed in The Caravelle or the Swamp Fox most of those years. In 1989, 32 golfers were signed up for the trip when Hurricane Hugo literally destroyed Myrtle Beach 10 days before the trip. George Stamas did a phenomenal job of securing lodging through Condotels in North Myrtle Beach. Many golf courses were closed but several opened in North Myrtle Beach and Calabash, NC just as we arrived. All 32 golfers found their way to North Myrtle Beach and played through incredible destruction.

In 1998, the trip tried Ocean City, Md because it was an easier drive from NJ and they were offering incredible deals. There were some good golf courses but the weather was colder and windier than a normal Myrtle Beach trip.

The trip moved back to the Myrtle Beach area from 1999 through 2005 except for 2003. Lodging and golf courses rotated between Ocean Isle Beach, NC, Central Myrtle Beach and Pawley's Island.

In 2003 and from 2006 -2008, the trip moved to Orlando so that we could take advantage of warmer and more consistent weather. During that time, we researched Innisbrook as a possible future trip but it was decided that it was too expensive. However, the economic recession hit in 2007-2008 and Innisbrook offered us 7 days of golf and lodging for less than \$1000. The DGA jumped at the opportunity and have been going to Innisbrook since 2009.

Most of the records were held by Ed Kerr, Min Minutello and Doug Conway. The Top 5 Finishers in the Four Day Individual Tournament have been documented in the DGA History file. After more research, most of the exact order of finish has been documented. There are a couple of years where the data is missing but for the most part, the DGA has a fairly complete set of statistics for the Fall Classic (Four Day Individual Tournament) as well as many of the Team Events held.

Some of the important and amazing statistics are:

Total # of Fall Trips – 55

Total # of Different Participants – 133

Total # of Participants – 1172

Total # of Winners - 33

Average # of Participants/Trip - 21

Most Fall Trips Attended – 47 (Min Minutello)

Most Consecutive Fall Trips Attended – 43 (Min Minutello)

Most Championships – 4 (Pete Bradley, Ed Kerr, Tom Kimberly, Dave Perry)

Most Consecutive Championships – 2 (Pete Bradley – 1976-1977, Tom Kimberly – 1998-1989, Ron Ceglia Sr – 2000-2001)

Most Top 5's – 14 (Ron Ceglia Sr)

Highest Top 5 % (minimum 10 trips) – 91% (Pete Bradley)

Most Top 5's without a Championship – 9 (John Bilik)

Average Winning Score – 291.1

Average Winning Score (Myrtle Beach) – 290.4

Average Winning Score (Florida) – 292.9

Average Winning Margin – 5.5 shots

Average Winning Margin (Myrtle Beach) – 5.2 shots

Average Winning Margin (Florida) – 6.3 shots

of Playoffs – 2 (Rob Perry was in both playoffs. Lost in 1996 and Won in 2011)

Lowest Winning Score – 268 (1997 – Mike Jeffries)

Largest Margin of Victory – 21 shots (1969 – Charlie McGrath, 2007 – Dave Perry)

Highest Winning Score – 307 (2014 – Mike Rolph)