

# Inside the ropes: Entry deadlines for Club Team, Amateur and Senior 4-Ball championships close at hand

By Carr McCalla

If you plan on entering any of the first three LGA Championships for 2006, be aware that deadlines for those events are just around the corner. The always popular Club Team Championship will be held for the second consecutive year at Copper Mill Golf Club in Zachary. Teams consisting of six players (five club members and one of the club's professionals, or six club members) representing LGA Member Clubs will compete for bragging rights the weekend of April 22-23. Teams compete in a format similar to the Ryder Cup, with 4-Ball stroke play on Saturday and individual play on Sunday, in what typically comes down to the final holes of play to determine the Champion Club Team. Deadline for entries for this event is April 11. The LGA will accept up to 32 six-person teams.

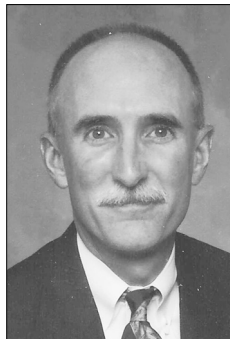
Entry deadline for the LGA Amateur Championship is April 24. The Jack Nicklaus-designed course at The Country Club of Louisiana will host the 87th edition of this, our marquee Championship on June 8-11. We received over 350 entries (our most ever) for this event the last time it was played at this wonderful venue in Baton Rouge (1999) and we anticipate that this year may challenge those numbers. Approximately 40 players are exempt from qualifying for this year's championship, leaving over 100 spots for players that will advance through sectional qualifiers held in early May at six sites across the state.

Carter Plantation, a relatively new facility in Springfield designed by Louisiana native and PGA Tour star David Toms that continues to draw rave reviews for not only its routing but its conditioning as well, plays host to this year's LGA Senior 4-Ball Championship. The event is scheduled for May 12-13, with the deadline for entry for this event set for May 2. In addition to the overall championship, age-group championships will also be conducted for Ages 60-64, 65-69, and 70 and over. Entries for the events mentioned above are at 5 p.m. on the dates indicated. Entries can be submitted online through [www.LGAgolf.org](http://www.LGAgolf.org), or by hard copy sent to the LGA office. Hard copies of the entry forms may be downloaded via the website by clicking on schedule, then info beside the applicable championship.

## LASER RANGEFINDER UPDATE #2

We spent a good bit of last month's column talking about the implications of the local rule allowing the use of laser rangefinders and announcing a partnership with Bushnell Performance Optics that will allow Louisiana golfers to purchase the Bushnell Pinseeker Tournament Edition rangefinder at a significant discount off the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP). The fulfillment website at [www.Rangefindergolf.com](http://www.Rangefindergolf.com) is now up and running

and we encourage you to consider purchasing your laser rangefinder from this website if you are, in fact, in the market for one. To reiterate, anyone who purchases the Pinseeker Tournament Edition from this outlet will receive \$100 off MSRP simply by utilizing [www.Rangefindergolf.com](http://www.Rangefindergolf.com) to purchase the device. If you are a LGA Handicap Network participant, you will receive an additional \$50 off (30 percent total) by entering your eight-digit LGA Handicap Network number (it should be listed on your handicap revision label) and indicating that the LGA is your state golf association.



**Carr McCalla**

## COURSE RATING UPDATE

Due to the hurricanes of last summer, many of our courses in southeastern and southwestern Louisiana have been altered significantly due to tree damage. In an effort to maintain the integrity of the USGA Course and slope-rating system in Louisiana, our staff and volunteer raters are embarking on an aggressive program to re-rate as many of the south Louisiana courses impacted by the storms as possible during the coming year. If your facility has had significant tree (or other) damage that has impacted the integrity of the routing of your pre-hurricane course, please contact our offices so that we can schedule a time to come re-rate your course. If your members continue to post scores based upon the pre-hurricane rating of your course, the USGA Handicap Indexes that your members receive won't be as accurate as they should be. Course and slope-rating services are one of the many services that the LGA provides free of charge to our member clubs. We are also pleased to provide these services to any non-LGA member course for a fee.

## HANDICAP, TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TMS) SEMINARS

We will conduct a number of seminars during the next couple of months. The first week in April we will have Curt Albertson, the author of the TMS program that is a part of our LGA Handicap Network software here to conduct three seminars for our LGA Handicap Network clubs. This state-of-the-art program was written to allow clubs utilizing our handicapping services software to also have access to a tournament management system that interfaces with the handicapping services to provide a seamless system when conducting local events at our LGA Member Clubs. Oakbourne Country Club in Lafayette (April 4), Calvert Crossing in Monroe (April 5) and Pelican Point in Gonzales (April 6) will host these important seminars. Our staff will be at Carter Plantation in Springfield (April 25) and Alexandria Golf and Country Club (May 24) to conduct seminars on the USGA Handicap System. The USGA is requiring every club that wishes to continue to provide USGA approved handicap indexes to their members to attend an approved handicap seminar before July 1. The LGA has conducted 10 of these USGA approved seminars over the course of the last two years in an attempt to give Louisiana clubs the opportunity to meet this requirement. At present, 85 percent of LGA Member Clubs have attended one of these seminars. The two seminars mentioned above will be the last

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