

Golfers,

The long ordeal with Sandy Key is over. The new management is not willing to provide us with as much as we have received in the past. We are going to stick with Sandy Key for this year, but we may make a change in future years. I made the decision that it is too late to change for this year, so some costs will increase over what we have paid in the past. The specific areas of cost are the rooms that have been previously comped for hospitality are no longer going to be comped, and the tent/table/chair rental will not be paid for by Sandy Key. You will see that your cost was increased for golf by \$6/day of golf to cover the additional expense. Not much, but a cost we will have to pay this year. I am mostly concerned with the reduced amount of service Sandy Key provided last year and I don't expect to see a change in service this year either.

Sandy Key will give us a 10% discount on room rental if we book 30 rooms for the tournament. When you call Sandy Key to book your room, make sure they know that you are a part of BEGA. If we book 30 rooms, we will get the discount. If you have already booked your room, please call Sandy Key to confirm that they know you are with BEGA to get credit for the room and to get your discount if we have enough rooms. Room cost is \$112 for a two bedroom, \$130 for a three bedroom (per the Sandy Key website). Additional costs are cleaning (2 bedroom \$115, 3 bedroom \$125), Admin Fee (\$35), and Damage Waiver Fee (\$39). Sandy Key will require a deposit and payment in full is due 14 days before arrival. The 10% discount applies to only the room rate. If you rent a room for six nights, the seventh night is free.

Now to the golf. I think we have an exciting set of courses for this year. On Monday, we are playing Stonebrook, a course we played years ago. I have played Stonebrook and really enjoyed it. The course is in great shape and I think all that come early to play Monday will be happy they did.

On Tuesday, we will go back to Perdido Bay. This is another course we haven't played the past few years, mostly because of the course conditions. This year, the course has been taken care of and is also in great shape. We always enjoyed Perdido Bay and will enjoy it again this year.

Wednesday takes us to Soldiers Creek, another course from the past. I really didn't like Soldiers Creek when we played it before, but the owners have put a lot of work into the course and it is another that is in great shape. I have also played Soldiers Creek, it is now one of my favorite courses in the Perdido area. That says a lot for it I think with all the great courses in the area.

The four day tournament will take us to both courses at Craft Farms, Rock Creek, and of course Lost Key. We will play Cotton Creek on Thursday, Rock Creek Friday, Cypress Bend Saturday, and Lost Key on Sunday. These are all great course that we have played in recent years. I think the 72 hole tournament this year will include some of the most fun courses we have played together in a while, then we go get punished on Sunday at Lost Key.

All days will start with an 8:30 shotgun. Please be at the course no later than 8:00 each day. We will receive range balls at all courses.

We had the inaugural tournament banquet last year at Grand Lagoon Yacht Club and from your feedback, it was a great success. We are returning to Grand Lagoon Yacht Club this year for our banquet again. The building will be open at 4:30 so you can enjoy the sunset, which will be around 5:00, and dinner will be served shortly after sunset. Entry for each golfer is included in your golf fees, and guests will cost \$20 if paid when you enter the tournament, \$24 at the door. The menu is upgraded a little this year, remember we had a limited banquet budget last year. We will have a raffle and will raise money for Warriors for Freedom, the same charity we raised \$1200 for last year. Brent Mason won the grand prize last year, which was a free entry for this year's tournament. Once again, the grand prize in the raffle will be a free entry into the 2016 Perdido Key tournament. Buy lots of raffle tickets to improve your chances of winning and support a great cause at the same time.

Dwight