

# A few holiday reminders

By **MICHAEL WALDER**

Here's a holiday gift idea for the golfer in your family.

As many of you may recall, beginning in 2006, the USGA and R&A sanctioned the use of electronic distance measuring devices (EMDs) for tournament use, provided that the committee in charge of the competition has instituted a local rule to that effect. The Louisiana Golf Association followed the lead of many other state and regional golf associations in allowing their use in all of its

Championships for 2006. As a result, a great number of our tournament participants could be seen gathering their yardages with an EMD this year in the fairways of LGA events. Due to the success and popularity of the EMDs, the Louisiana Golf Association will once again allow its tournament participants to use them in its 2007 Championships.

For those of you who may not participate in LGA Championships, the use of EMDs has been allowed by the USGA Handicap System for the last number of years with respect to the posting of scores for handicapping purposes. With the additional perception of legality that has been created in regards to EMDs, you may have noticed



more and more of these devices on courses in Louisiana over the past year.

Shortly after the 2006 announcement by the USGA and R&A, the LGA entered into a partnership with Bushnell, Inc. to provide the Bushnell Pinseeker Tournament Edition laser rangefinder at a substantial discount to anyone purchasing the device through the LGA website ([www.LGAgolf.org](http://www.LGAgolf.org)). We are happy to announce that this partnership will continue for 2007!

With that in mind, if you are looking for gift ideas for the golfer in your family, a Bushnell laser rangefinder may be the present that will help them lower their scores. By going through the LGA website, you will be able to purchase the Bushnell Pinseeker Tournament Edition at the lowest price available (\$100 under the MSRP). If you are a participant in the LGA Handicap Network, you will be able to purchase the device for an additional \$50 discount! To order, simply go to the LGA website and click on the link for the Bushnell Pinseeker Tournament Edition on the right side of the homepage. From there, you will need to select the LGA as your participant golf association and enter your LGA Handicap Network number. If you are not a LGA Handicap Network participant, you can still purchase the device at \$100 below the MSRP by selecting the LGA as your participating association and following the prompts. If you have any questions about EMDs or purchasing them through our website, please contact the LGA office at (337) 265-3938.

## HANDICAP NOTES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

This holiday season, you may be one of many golfers in Louisiana who travel to visit family and friends in other parts of the country. If the weather cooperates, you may even find time to get in a few rounds of golf before coming back to the Pelican State. If this

applies to you or if you plan on playing golf outside of Louisiana at any point this winter, there are a few things that you will need to keep in mind before posting these scores for handicapping purposes.

First, you need to determine whether the course you played was in an active or inactive playing season. Most of the southern United States has an active playing season that lasts throughout the year and all scores that are made on these courses must be posted for handicapping purposes. However, many areas experience what is called an inactive season where the handicap computers are virtually shut down for the winter and scores may not be posted. These areas are generally found in the northern part of the country where the weather is much colder during the winter months and course conditions are not as favorable.

For example, if a player belonging to a golf club in Louisiana were to play a round of golf in Texas in the month of December, they would need to post that score back to their home club. However, if their travels took them to New York instead, they would still be able to enjoy their round, but would not be able to record it for handicapping purposes.

The reason behind active and inactive playing seasons relates to the Course and Slope Ratings of the golf course. These figures represent the difficulty of a course played under normal or mid-season playing conditions. The unpredictability of off-season conditions – slower green speeds, longer fairways, reduced bounce and roll – can greatly affect a course's difficulty. The course conditions during winter months are inconsistent with the way a course was rated and posting these scores could affect a player's Handicap Index.

Once you have determined that your score was made in a region with an active playing season, you will need to post it back to your home club. Posting the score at your club's handicap computer is the most common method for recording your scores, but when you are out of town, it is certainly not the most efficient. If your club participates in the LGA Handicap Network, you can take advantage of the LGA's internet score posting feature. To post scores via the internet, you will need to visit the LGA website ([www.LGAgolf.org](http://www.LGAgolf.org)) and make sure you have the following information: your eight-digit LGA Handicap Network number, your password (first time users will be prompted to create a password), the date you played the round, your adjusted score, and the Course and Slope Rating of the course you played (note: the club has the option to allow its members to post scores via the internet; not all clubs on the LGA Handicap Network participate in internet score posting). Once you have logged into the system and have entered the score and date from your round, you will need to select the course you played. If you played your round in Louisiana, simply select the course and tees that you played from the drop-down list of courses available. However, if your round was played out of state, you will need to manually enter the Course and Slope Rating of the course played. From there, simply follow the prompts to complete the posting process. Once the score is posted, it will be listed in your scoring record and if your email address is on file, a confirmation email will be sent to you. Golf during the winter months is viewed by many as lagniappe. Most times these rounds are used to help determine your Handicap Index. Sometimes, however, they are nothing more than an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon.

Happy Holidays from the Louisiana Golf Association and we will see you in 2007...inside the ropes!

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