

CHIP SHOTS

TIME TO LOOK AHEAD

LAST YEAR – Most everyone in America except Joe Biden is happy 2020 is in our rear view mirror and distancing further away by the second. I suspect what was normal will metamorphose into different realities. Could the mask be a required part of our lives until we take our turn in the box? Social distancing is closing many venues and establishments thus forcing us to continue this practice simply because there is nowhere to go. Virtual school lessons are the new method we discipline unruly students. Dial into zoom, the doctor will see you now. The events of 2020 will certainly bring about several changes in the way we live our lives.

THIS YEAR – Amidst all this, the Geneva Open played on in its usual format. The plan is to stay the course for 2021. As of today, the Geneva Open will take place Friday, July 23 thru Sunday, July 25. The hope is the vaccine kicks the virus ass and we gather and party like we have for the past 44 years. The Selection Committee began work on securing Friday's course and promises to pass along the choice once under contract. The Merchandise Committee is in constant contact with suppliers to deliver another fantastic give away. Since the calendar turned, the promise is a better 2021 and that is the intention of the Geneva Open. During these long, cold, winter months, I suggest we look forward to lounging around Pera's enjoying laughs and cold Bud Lights with the boys. I do.

MINI-LEGEND ON THE PROWL – The full Harvest moon lit the sky and October's chill supplanted September's calm. Where did we find Our Little Buddy? Jerry Graves trekked New Mexico way on an elk hunting expedition, a tradition he first endured in 2012. At his height, the rifle stands taller than him. "Who da thunk Jerry Graves would be out hunting in the mountains of New Mexico? 700 lbs., one shot," he said. Before we picture this little dude hiding in the trees like Elmer Fudd, the true facts need be made known. Jerry annually accompanies good friend Steve Dew. Only once was Jerry given a gun. Sitting alone in the cabin, the 357 Magnum was bear spray if needed. Jerry laughs about it today claiming he was lucky. An altercation with a grizzly would have been lunch for the beast. Most often Steve parked Mr. Graves in brush like a gnome. What is not clear is if Steve sprays his hunting partner with some stinky elk scent to attract his prey. Adventurous safaris such as this throughout the years is why Jerry Graves is a Mini-Legend. Perhaps he will grill a few elk burgers in Geneva.

GENEVA HISTORY – Click the GENEVA HISTORY page on the website and you can read some early memories of the Geneva Open. There is so much more that should be documented. Many events I forgot and many more I do not know. My intention is to continue this series periodically throughout the year. Any input and anecdotes you would like to share, please send them to me. They will be added to the publication and will be remembered and scrutinized for years to come. No matter what year or what ERA, if they are worth remembering and bring a smile to our faces, they fit the bill. There are several ways to submit your recollections whether face to face (six feet apart, of course), phone, e-mail, or carrier Pidgeon, I would love to hear from you. Like me, others would like to read your Geneva stories also.

THANK YOU – I want to take this opportunity to tell you the condolences, thoughts, and prayers concerning my Mom's death were very comforting. She was nice and kind. Visitors never left our house hungry. You may have sworn the smile on her face was painted but I assure you it was real. Even at 93 years old and not having a clue of who anyone was or what was happening around her, she still wore her smile. She lived her life as Bob Dylan once philosophized (although she never had any idea who the hell is Bob Dylan). "It is a successful day when you get up in the morning, lay down to sleep at night, and do what you want during the day."