

CHIP SHOTS

LITTLE MOUNTAIN BOOKED

FRIDAY AT LITTLE MOUNTAIN C.C. – Booked for round 1 is scenic Little Mountain Country Club. This golf course has much to offer. Nestled inside the upper class, suburban, residential community and slithering through enough oaks, maples, and pines to challenge a leisurely nature walk, it's all good when sitting on their comfortable veranda enjoying an adult beverage and a burger after the round. The atmosphere at Little Mountain is driven by the old adage "a bad day on the golf course beats any day at work." Although a few miles from Lake Erie, there is enough beautiful white sand to make you believe you are on the beach. Proper attire is required so they will not permit me to wear my speedos. This year marks our second visit to Little Mountain. The last time the Geneva Open played there was 2011. The course is owned by its pro and T.V. personality, Jimmy Hamlin. I am very excited the Geneva Open returns to Little Mountain for the 2021 outing.

GOLF IS IN THE AIR – As picturesque of the surroundings at Little Mountain, Augusta National cannot be matched. Having watched the Masters with plush green grass looking like expensive carpet adorned by colorful azaleas twinkling throughout the course bright as Christmas lights, brought warmth to many chilled bones and unused muscles. The Masters Golf Tournament, opening day of baseball, and Easter spell S=P-R-I-N-G. Send the wife to prepare her flower beds while we go to work and sharpen our golf skills. After a winter of more isolation than usual because the coronavirus shut down life, discarding the nuisance masks and breathe in fresh air is euphoria. The vaccine brings more confidence that life will reincarnate. By the time the 2021 Geneva Open commences Lumpy should be able to put his temperature taking instrument in cold storage and maybe Doc Hate will be more cordial to visitors. Is it too much to ask for a smile? Trending is the belief the saloons and restaurants will have resumed normal operations. Those factors shout Geneva and possibly the biggest field of all time.

THE RETURN OF THE OPTED OUT – Last year's field numbered 40 golfers plus Doc Hate. Six rookies joined the Geneva fraternity. Their initial season was not a true example of Geneva's entertaining magnitude. The Strip was half closed. Strong indications that life will be closer to normal by July. I am personally inviting last year's rookies back. Many veterans opted out in 2020 and the coronavirus was much to blame. Hopefully, they will feel comfortable enough to return in 2021. Bringing back much of the old gang who has shaped Geneva into a yearly destination stop is as exhilarating as a trip to LaGrange (how – how –how –how). Charter members Dick Barrett and Mini-Legend Jerry Graves missed last year's event. Others

included Jay and Dan Green, Mike Weilbacher, Ralph DiCarolis, Jim Centorbi, Ron Szymczak, Bill Kirk, Tom Jech, Don Jander, Brian Hughes, John Skunza, Jim Yurasek, Tom Ritter, and the ever loving, story teller, Mel Voll. Come back, we look forward to your return. The door remains open for those not so regular. The likes of Charter Member Jim Nogawick as well as Chuck Rotter, Wally Maley, Bob Elflein, Mike Yoli, Gary Metzger, Huck and Jim Plageman, Ben Lloyd and Mike Smith have an open invitation. All are Geneva Worthy. Even those who gave up golf like Charter Member Adrian Skunza and Gary Miller would truly be a blessing if they returned. Latest grapevine news is the great Bootha, Shannon Boothe, is considering another Geneva trip all the way from Utah.

EARLY MOUNTAIN ITINERARY – The date for Geneva's first round is Friday, July 23. Mark that down and be sure to inform the misses. Remind her that weekend is off limits as far as any other plans are concerned. Per usual, Legends Gary Glanzman and Vince Gatto teaming with Mini-Legends Jack Berger and Jerry Graves will lead us through the Little Mountain tract. The first tee time is scheduled for noon and twelve more tee times follow. The price to play is set at \$49, a bit more expensive than Maple Ridge. The condition of the course and the amenities make the extra monies worth it. Even golf hacks like myself find Little Mountain challenging but very playable. I have started working to improve my game. Last year, a so called friend of mine called my golf play execrable and I was proud until my partner said it was a snobbish way of saying lousy.