

CHIP SHOTS

READY TO TEE UP?

LAST MINUTE PUSH – Seven months ago I was wondering around a snowy Geneva taking pictures of what looked mysteriously like a ghost town. Under a blanket of snow, the golf course resembled an undiscovered and undisturbed new frontier. It never looked better. Deer tracks gave it the appearance of a bestial playground. The abandoned Summertime Inn would have been the perfect setting for a John Wayne Western. One could wander the streets for hours and never see a human being. Today? Geneva has resurrected as a bustling resort. Our bestial talents will take our turn of rustling the residents like cattlemen spending their money after a long drive. As trail boss of this band of crazies, I want to inform you the Geneva Committees are hard at work. I expect the pairings for Friday and Saturday will come fourth within two weeks. Scramble teams will also be announced shortly. Look for these publications to cross your computer. I will notify you when they are released. The Pairings Committee wants to point out that all were given a chance to request their foursome. Several responded. Several did not. To fill groups, there is a chance someone other than your click of guys may be part of your foursome. Please understand. The Scramble Committee is also hard at work. They spend hours attempting to make each squad competitive. They do an incredible job using handicaps and driving distance as guides to make each team. I thank each Committee for the excellent job they do, and I thank you for your understanding.

COST OF GOLF – Good news! The ante for this year's event is the same as last year. \$240 will cover Saturday and Sunday golf, all the purses, the Commissioner's Dinner, and merchandise. The fees at Manakiki on Friday will be each golfer's responsibility. The Geneva Open will not cover your beverages. That would skyrocket the cost. I witnessed firsthand the drinking habits of Don Jander and Steve Miller. I had the damndest time keeping up with them. The \$240 is still good value for what it encompasses. With a total purse of over \$2500 returned for fine play,

there is a good chance of winning some money back. Years ago, Geneva brother, the late Joe Casa, called Geneva “the town time passed by.” Inflation has crept Geneva more in tune with modern finances. For what we get out of Geneva, it is still well worth it.

MOTHER NATURE’S TEMPER – It was a peaceful mid-80’s, sunny day on Sunday, June 14, until it wasn’t. The tranquil afternoon gave way to a weather temper tantrum. The skies grayed, the winds howled and buckets of rain drenched Northeast Ohio for half an hour. This was the kind of tirade we have come to periodically expect from Mother Nature. Perhaps that is why we refer to her in the female gender. Geneva brethren Mark Maatz and I were having cocktails on the patio at the Firehouse Grille in Willoughby. The spirits kept us hydrated and the covered roof kept us dry. We watched Mother Nature blow off steam then it was nice again. No harm, no foul, or so we thought. The storm made its way to Geneva-on-the-Lake, gathering momentum with each passing mile. Winds measured 70 MPH by the time it reached the Village. Her anger knocked out power and caused plenty of damage. One casualty was the Ferris wheel situated behind the Firehouse Winery overlooking Lake Erie. Not anymore! It crumbled to the ground as if hit by a scud missile. Authorities closed Geneva-on-the-Lake while repairs took place. Yes, even the golf course was closed. Crews worked day and night for four days before power was restored and the Village reopened. This incident had me recollecting that the second weekend of June was Geneva’s original date. Because Mother Nature seemed to be more irritable at this time of year, we moved Geneva to its present July calendar spot. What a mess if the change had not been made. The image of sitting behind 18 green waiting for golfers to finish, chasing wind and rain-soaked money down the fairway, trying to make sense of waterlogged scorecards, watching the Gavin Cup Trophy tumble down the hill behind No. 9 green was a weather nightmare I hope to never have to deal with.

FINAL REMINDERS – As previously written, much is not etched in stone yet. The Committees will feverishly work to be ready by July 24. Here are a couple of activities that are etched in stone, golf and good times. As for the good times, you are on your own. I just hope you remember them.

Golf? There will be Skins, Scramble, Skill Shots, Gavin Cup, and Best Ball games to play. Squabbit will assist with the scoring, freeing scorekeepers to enjoy more good times. The challenge of chasing the dream of possessing the Gavin Cup for a year and having your name inscribed on the trophy will be tough. Defending Champions, Mini-Legend Jack Berger and Mike Pagnanelli, are a hard pair to beat. If they play like last year, the task may be too daunting to overcome. "If you are afraid of failure, you don't deserve to be successful," says Charles Barkley. "Bring on the challenge," I say. Beating the defending Best Ball Champions will not be easy either. The threesome of Mike Pagnanelli, Dagan Abdon, and Pat Dorn are the current champs. The remaining "A" players will draft their competition. This team is strong enough to compete as a threesome and still challenge to repeat as champions. Even I am not heartless enough to allow such buffoonery. They will receive the last pick in the draft, a Mr. Irrelevant as they call it in the NFL. I would be proud to be labeled as such. I am use to being irrelevant. When my wife was alive, she had her quirks. She liked to talk on the phone during sex. She called me from Chicago, Detroit, Sarasota, Nashville....