

CHIP SHOTS

MY APPRECIATION

THANK YOU IS IN ORDER – It has been three months since Geneva and someways it feels like a lifetime. I spent much of those three months rehashing the 2022 outing giving credit to the winning teams and several individuals who bested the field both team wise and skills wise. They certainly deserve the accolades. But I wish to take this opportunity to thank those who make Geneva such a success. Pat yourselves on the back. Don't be humble. Geneva would not be Geneva without your contributions and personalities. Any efforts from the different committees would be insignificant if you do not have fun. That aspect of Geneva you bring with your golf clubs.

HAVING SAID THAT – I still wish to give a shout out to a few who help me put together this event. For over 20 years, Jay Green has been my Columbus contact. His ability to find and attend many gatherings be it parties, reunions, weddings, funerals, etc., keeps Geneva contacts up to date. Maybe some of these get togethers he crashes but once inside he is always welcomed. The field and Friday pairings are the creation of Mr. Green. Geneva Merchandise is sponsored by Legend Fritz Ford. Years of experience in fashion and small item goods has created connections which benefitted Geneva throughout the years and still is spot on with today's participants. Hats, towels, coolers, chairs, whatever we receive, credit Fritz Ford and that is the reason he is a Legend. Another who deserves mention for his contribution is Co-Commissioner and Sargent of Arms, Blaise Plageman supported by his band of faithful servants. Working with Blaise is Ben Lloyd who programs Geneva's high tech scoring program. Their computerized scoring practices eliminate hours of paperwork and frees time for many of us to indulge in more "Geneva Worthy" activities. The Thursday practice round is put together by Shawn Dorn who also devises the Scramble teams. Another innovation that became an instant hit was the brainchild of Bob Rutherford. Lumpy, Fritz, and Mike Sachs open their rental to the Geneva masses as a sort of social gathering club. Many stop on their way to the Strip as if it was an alcohol kiosk. On their way back most stumble in for a nightcap. Others park their butts for hours just as they would in the Stagg Room at their Country Club. Why not? It

is a great place to hang out and enjoy the excellent Manhattans and Old Fashions concocted by their superb garcon, Doctor Hate. I salute all of you and the many I failed to mention.

A COUPLE HUMOROUS TAKES - "If you are afraid to offend you cannot be honest." Thomas Paine is credited with that quote. I often dispatch humorous moments at others expense. When these moments happen to me, I am obligated to take my medicine also. It took rookie Mark Kovachy seven holes to catch the Geneva spirit. Standing on the 8th green at Chardon Lakes, Mark asked me, "How much does that pin weigh?" I got it. He did not need to tell me I have an obligation to pick up a pin once in awhile and fit it back in the hole. Funny thing, that moment keeps me conscientious to this day to perform my share of pin duties. Later that night, it was Shawn Dorn's turn to take a shot at me. "Frank, call the police," he said. I asked if something was wrong. "Someone stole your ass," he replied. I try so hard not to sag. I worry too many farts may expose brown streaks in my briefs. I spend much more energy pulling up my pants all day than I do picking up golf pins. I say, maybe suspenders are in my future. Never-the-less, the Handicap Committee has Mark and Shawn's numbers under consideration and lower handicaps for next year are being discussed. One final story I want to pass along. I roomed with Jay Green this year. The first bag out of his car carried his exercise equipment. The next fifteen minutes he spent demonstrating and explaining their purposes. He had pulleys for arm and chest movement, pulleys to perform squats, pulleys to climb walls, pulleys for any and all stretching a human body can take. Hell, if I did all that in the morning, I would be so tired I would have to go back to bed. I will let you judge how well these calisthenics improved his game. He shot 108, 101, and 90.

COMING ATTRACTIONS – Just days after the closing of the 2022 outing, I had a list of brothers who missed this year but earmarked a return next July. Mel Voll was a late scratch because of illness but promises to come back in 2023. His tongs and spatula skills at the Commissioner's Dinner are always valuable but he is so missed by those who do not know they miss him. As the field hits the links for Friday's round, Mel stays in the clubhouse entertaining a pretty bartender. He performs like a lounge comedian delivering joke after joke with Jerry Seinfeld precision and humor, amidst real life experiences, often in short story form. The following day he performs a whole new act at Pera's pool for a different class of

women. If you scroll down to the photo gallery, you will see a picture of Blaise in an empty pool. That is not the case when Mel is present. There is a host of swimmers on hand taking part in Mel's impromptu performance. I suggest take a seat on Pera's veranda around midnight when Mel finally entertains the Geneva field. Others planning to return next year include Tom Jech and Shannon Boothe. I received a phone call from Charter Member Dick Barrett. He already secured a room at Pera's for next July. Dick was one of the original eight in Geneva's initial year in 1977. With Dick on board, my sights are set on coaxing Jim Nogawick and Adrian Skunza, more Chartered Members, to join us. Word in Carolina is Nogs is playing the best golf of his life. Adrian does not play anymore but he would make a perfect straight man for Mel.

LOOKING AHEAD – We close the treasure chest of 2022 filled with fond memories. It is time to focus on next year. The dates for 2023 is July 28, 29, & 30. I consider Geneva a gathering of good friends and in the last month, I realized how valuable good friends are. I am going to finish with a quote from Ben Franklin who said, "Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late."