

## **Neon's Blog\_2013**

### **December 31 2013**

***Last day of the year. Shoveled about 3" snow around noon after it stopped. More coming tomorrow. Got the 2<sup>nd</sup> closet painted and ready to install the closet organizer.***

***I hope January brings me better luck. I looked back over my wagers since the middle of the month and found I cashed in 1/36 wagers for a net profit on that one wager of \$1.20. How is that for being snake bit?***

### **December 30 2013**

***Dang snow. A lousy 1" and the couse is covered. Even though it was 20 degrees, it was pretty balmy. That led to a dull day. Got some stuff off to the Goodwill and took the baseboards off Mary's closet. Will be painting it tomorrow.***

***Browns fired their head coach. He gets to keep his \$10M for 3 yrs even though he worked only 1 year. Wish I had a job like that.***

### **December 29 2013**

***The Browns and Bills looked pretty bad in their games. Benching Dareus the first half cost the Bills the game.***

### **December 28 2013**

***It's agonizing knowing all those golfers are out there and I don't have a tee time. Oh well. Took down the outside lights since it is balmy. Supposed to get to 50 today. Did a little yard clean up and put all the gifts away. Supposed to be cold the rest of the year. Maybe we can play one in the cold next week. Looking like more boring days from here on out.***

***Boxed up the gifts for Buffalo to take to the post office. We both forgot to load those gifts into my sister's car for her ride back. All 3 of us forgot. So much for senior moments.***

***Next up is getting Mary's closet cleaned out, painted, and ready for the organizer I purchased. That is promised by Jan 3.***

### **December 27 2013**

***Crap. All the courses are booked for tomorrow since it is going to be 50. I waited too long to call. Guess there are more golf enthusiasts around here than I thought. Damn Saturday golfers taking up all the tee times from us seniors!***

***Went to the funeral home to see what needs to be done. It is expensive to die these days. \$7 big ones even though mom already has a plot paid for.***

**December 26 2013**

***Quiet day. Sister Sue came from Pittsburgh for a visit and to exchange some gifts. Much quieter today. I sent out the pictures from yesterday.***

***Hey now! The sun is out and the snow is melting. Could there be another final golf opportunity Saturday? Stay tuned.***

**December 25 2013**

***We celebrated late afternoon and everyone enjoyed all the gifts. The kids were cute as ever and had a ball opening the gifts. The kids went out and planted my rakes, shovels, and easter stuff all over my front yard. I will have to go out and shoot a picture of their handiwork in the morning. It is quite a piece of art, lol. Merry Christmas everyone.***

**December 24 2013**

***Went out and looked at lift chairs for mom this morning. Picked up some horse radish for tomorrow's roast beef as well. All in all a quiet day. It is snowing now so it is going to be a White Christmas.***

***Mary and my sister went off to church at 4pm. Mom and I listened to Christmas music. Oh Holy Night, Hark the Herald Angels sing, and my favorite Silent Night. Wishing everyone a grand Holy day tomorrow. Remember what it is all about.***

**December 23 2013**

***This am started with a light dusting of snow. Thankfully, Wilkshire was open. I left at 10am, played 18, and was home by 1:15. not too shabby for a 40 min ride. I played 1-3 in light sleet, then 7-9, skipping around 2 foursomes. Played 10-14 then circled back and played 4-6, circled back and finished 15-18 to keep a fast pace. Birdied 16 and had a SSPW on the short par 3 #6 over the water. I bladed it right at the bank, it skipped off the water and to 12 feet of the pin. Missed my birdie by 1 inch. Getting that round in was HUGE. Put me past bro-in-law at 1503 holes vs his 1499.***

***My play was up and down this year, Charted below are my scoring groups. This year I had 51.4% of my scores at 85 and under. Last year it was 64%. The only plus is I did have more holes 81 and under.***

range	# scores	% total	2012
95-100	3	4.17%	5.81%
90-94	13	18.06%	12.79%
86-89	19	26.39%	17.44%
82-85	20	27.78%	48.84%
78-81	15	20.83%	12.79%
74-78	2	2.78%	2.33%

#### December 22 2013

*Well, the rain ended here at 8am or so. I called Wilkshire but they say it is too wet to open. Turkeyfoot is not answering. I will try some calls again tomorrow I guess. 60 degrees today but 35 tomorrow.*

*We are all ready for Christmas, so not much to do today except watch football. I need a Bills win for my annual football wager but am not very optimistic. The way my luck is going, I could call heads on a coin flip and lose 9 out of ten.*

#### December 21 2013

*Rain all day with a big plus of all the snow melting away. It went fast! I will have to call around and see if I can find a course open tomorrow.*

*Finished off my closet organizer this morning and found a different one for Mary's closet. Put all my tools away. That was a chore. Mary went shopping and bought the Christmas roast beast which will be roast beast sandwich for any Christmas visitors.*

#### December 20 2013

*What fantastic tickets we had for the Doo Wop. Heinz Hall is very beautiful and fits this venue much better than the big Convocation Center they used last year. We saw the Drifters, Chiffons, Token's, Jay and the Americans, Maurice Williams and Crests. The all were excellent. Shoo be do! Do wah, Do wah! Got to sing along to the The Lion Sleeps Tonight, and Save the Last Dance for Me. If my sister's pictures work out, I may post one here. She is headed to Rochester NY tomorrow to visit her son Mike and family.*

*We went to the Rivers Casino after, My money quickly went but Mary and Sue walked out with an extra \$2 and \$9 respectively. I sure are on an "I have No Luck at All" streak.*

*Busy after we got home this am. Carolyn helped me put up a closet organizer, then we rushed mom off to hair wash and set. Picked up some birdseed too.*

#### December 19 2013

***The grandkids wore us out last night from 5-7:30.***

***Heading out to Doo Wop after lunch. My sister treated us to upgraded tickets which was very nice of her. We are right up front in one of them 10 chair mini balconies. They called her to ask if she wanted a VIP pass, but we didn't feel like shmoozing with the old people with 1" of makeup on. This could really be cool. I always wanted to be a Doo Wop backup singer, chiming in on the shoo doop shoo-be-dooos and such. My blog might be pretty long Friday night as I report on the concert.***

***Oh year, just a reminder that the only useful page so far is the home page. The others need a lot of work. Been busy lately.***

### **December 18 2013**

***Arrg. Furnace problems again. Was 69 when I got up. Furnace turned on when it wants to, runs awhile then shuts off before getting up to temperature. Service is coming hopefully this morning.***

***The service guy got here and figured out my problem. The furnace was not level and the water drain hole was on the high side. That is ok but just above the drain hole is a vacuum hose and it was on the low side. So the water on the low side was backing up into the vacuum line. He switched that to the high side and all was good. Maybe in the spring I should get them to level the furnace and fix the air and exhaust lines, which are not as they should be. That's hundreds though.***

***Son-in-Law Don had a fender bender yesterday and is borrowing my car till tbd from now. No biggie since one of us have to be here for mom anyway.***

***Doo Wop in Pittsburgh tomorrow. Staying overnight at sister Sue's and back early Friday.***

***Was working on the website slide show with my pics but they seem to be too small. They actually have a guy assigned to my account for help! Looks like I will need to find the original pics because I only have the thumbnails.***

### **December 17 2013**

***Took the wife for colonoscopy today. They did a couple of things and he has to go back in 3yrs. Wonderful daughter Carolyn did the mom watching for us. Surprised by 2 inches of snow last night. Wasn't expecting it. Bonus shoveliing!***

### **December 16 2013**

***Got out of the house for a change today. Met good buddy Rudy for lunch in Springfield, just up the road. The Mothership, Lockheed is closing in March, and everyone there is in limbo. Imagine working for a place that is closing. He said it is kind of weird these days with few having much motivation.***

***We updated each other on the families. He has 2 in college and 1 still in high school.***

***His wife is a nurse in Barberton working at a higher pay with no benefits. She might jump back in with benefits if a position opens up so they can grab the benefit package, at a lower pay though.***

**December 15 2013**

***Had a great idea last night. What say you put a wet sensor in the depends to remind you they need changed. When wet, the buzzer starts beeping. Can you imagine being in a nursing home with them all randomly beeping. At least that way the staff would be attending to those in need.***

**December 14 2013**

***Damn snow. Started to snow this morning and hasn't stopped yet. I had to cancel my trip to the golf sale 20 minutes away. Shoveled twice, about 4 inches total. The snow piles are up to my knees.***

***Took the opportunity to paint my closet. It had not been painted since we moved in and it really sucked up the paint. I ordered a closet organizer and it should be here next week. Hope to get it up before my sister comes for her Christmas visit. Only took a couple of hours.***

**December 13 2013**

***Another mom watch day. Did clean off my golf shoes though to keep busy. Mary was out with her church friends today.***

**December 12 2013**

***Started out at 8 degrees. It is cold. Not much doing today, mom out for hair wash is all. Oh yeah, the little ones are expected later on. Should be a workout.***

***I was so bored I went to the grocery store to pick up a few things. Now you know just how boring things were today.***

**December 11 2013 A sad day**

***Going to be 11 degrees tonight. Took the clubs out of the car cause it does not look like there will be another golfing opportunity this year. Put Mr. golfer with the pinwheel wheels back into the garage. Mary was bowling today so it was more mom watch for me.***

***Been thinking about my next home project and decided to redo our bedroom. First steps will be closet organizer and replacing closet doors. That will give us time to decide on whether we replace the rug, pull the wallpaper and what new bedroom furniture we want to put in there. That should keep me sane over the gawd awful winter dreariness.***

### December 10 2013

**Mom watch yesterday. Ran out to get gas for Mary and the miles to go said 2 miles when I got there. That was a bit to close, but I saved 17\$ on my Giant Eagle card. Got my 6 gallon can almost full to max out the savings.**

**Took Wes to get his car, then more mom watch today. Got my domain transferred but there is a 4 day wait/grace period. Transferred my files to ipage, but it's source code. I may have to redo everything.**

### December 9 2013

**The Bills stunk up the place with 5 turnovers and lost again. I had to go outside to spit. What happened to the Browns? I turned it off with a couple of minutes left and they were ahead more than 7 pts. They lost by 1 pt?**

**No response yet from the domain manager, but it is Sunday. I guess I will keep the blog up even though I can't post it. Today is day 3 with snow covering the ground.**

### December 8 2013

**Well, can't get to the place to edit my website thanks to Yahoo. They changed something up and I am stuck. Guess I am not the only one, cause their help page says they are "experiencing a high number of calls". Their support is almost non existent. Guess I missed some non eventful days, Dec5-7 waiting for Yahoo.**

**I am switching web host to ipage as of last night. Let's see how that goes. Got a deal from ipage \$2/mo for 36 months. I was paying \$111/yr so the switch is going to save me money. All I have to do is blunder my way through the transfer.**

**Finished the closet painting a couple days back. Nothing else is happening.**

### December 4 2013

**Painted the closet downstairs this morning. Looks good, but the door trim needs another coat since it was brown and now it will be white. Caulked around the door trim, so need to do second coat on the trim tomorrow. It should go quickly as there is not much trim to paint. Rest of the day was mom sitting.**

**Dick wanted to go to the retiree lunch so we missed a fantastic weather day. We will try Friday in freezing temps if it isn't stormy. Dick brought up Edgewood which is closed now. I emailed Houle, Mueche, Dick, Neil, and Mel my fondest memories:**

**i will always remember Neil 's miracle eagle on Edgewood #8 when he made a spectacular comeback to trounce me in league play.**

**Teeing a ball into the V of the tree left of the tee on #8 that i had to look at every time i played till they cut the damn thing down.**

***Taking such a huge divot on #8 tee, Neil said he couldn't dig a hole that size with a bloody spade.***

***Cranking the ball over the road on par 3 #16, re-teeing and leaving it 1" in front of the cup.***

***Teeing off in 5 degree weather, zero wind chill one winter Saturday.***

***Teeing off on a crumpled piece of paper trash cause it was so cold you couldn't get a tee in the ground.***

***Hearing Houle proclaim Neil "the feeder" on #12 green when he snaked a long putt close, or was it in?***

***Having Houle dub me "firewood", and telling me i should burn my putter.***

***Houle losing towels and such along the course, almost left his pull cart on # 15. Tis a good thing his head is attached.***

***Bob Mueche playing and bitching he only drove it 200yds and drubbing me 90% of the time.***

***Houle bitching for all 18 and still taking my money.***

### **December 3 2013**

***Watched Jenna yesterday in the morning cause school was still out. Got some simple outside lights up. Went and got a few prints to slide into the Christmas cards. They are mostly done except a handful that will get some inside notes.***

***Today was slow. Checking golf courses to see who is open. Sable creek is done. Turkeyfoot said to call in the morning, so I may play tomorrow. Don't have enough time to drive down to Wilkshire. Going to get back to rugged cold temps Friday.***

### **December 2 2013**

***Lots of stuff done day yesterday. We got the tree up, disconnected the lamp post wire in the cubbyhole, and dragged out more toys to give back to Wes and Carolyn.***

***Then we watched the grand kids for awhile. Wes came over and watched the Bills game. They were tied late in the game and ended up losing. They had 2 passes into FG range that were fumbled, so they ended up giving the game away. I was so mad I could spit.***

### **December 1 2013**

***Great day yesterday. We got out and nailed the Christmas shopping. A few items to go but they should be a piece of cake. My sisters left and headed home. We appreciated their help the last 5 days and day respectively. Going to be busy putting***

*the tree up today.*

*Looks like the snow is melting! There is hope for another round, perhaps this week will be our last chance.*

*November 30 2013*

*Last day of the month. My sister is watching mom, so we get to go out and shop today. Maybe get lunch too. Not too many gifts to go, Will need to write down what we need. Oh yeah, maybe a new pillow.*

*The weather is starting to break. May get to play once more this year.*

*November 29 2013*

*We had a nice family Thanksgiving. Wes' and Carolyn's family, Steve, and Catherine came over for the feast. We all ate too much. Steve's kids didn't make it. Jr is in the Chezck Republic and Katy was busy working at CVS. We watched the Parade and football. Did switch off the Ch3 parade when they had a bunch of dancing Transvestites on. That was pretty disgusting. What were they thinking?*

*Mary and Catherine are heading out to the shopping today. Sister Sue is coming for the day and plans to leave tomorrow.*

*November 28 2013*

*Happy Thanksgiving*

*November 27 2013*

*Wow. About 5-6" overnight. I had it shoveled by 8am and again around 11am since it was hairdresser day for mom. I went to the eye doctor and he dilated my eyes. With all the white snow out there I could hardly drive home. Had to shut the curtains when I got home. Now I know how the bats and vampires feel in the daylight. Took a good 2 hrs to wear off.*

*Anyway, my preference would be for this nasty snow to melt and stay away till Christmas. I still have to at least get 1 more round in this year,*

*November 26 2013*

*Sister should arrive by 1pm around the time the nurse and PT stops in for mom. She seemed to have gotten her strength back, but she has been a little shaky the last 2 days. I need to go snag some beverages for Wednesdays feast this morning before the crowds get here and the snow starts to hit us. Maybe we will whip up the rutabaga today since tomorrow will be so busy.*



*Grand kids were here last night to tire us out. They were both good. Mom and dad had a good time eating out in peace and quiet. Glad to help out.*

*November 25 2013*

*Watched Shrek 3 last night. It was quite entertaining. I like the part near the end where the gingerbread man pooped. He was run run as fast as he can earlier in the movie.*

*Should be a slow day till we watch the grandchildren around 4pm. The 3 yr old thinks M&Ms talk. He must have seen the commercial. Then we will be toast.*

*Big storm coming Tuesday. Sister may drive in early to beat the thing.*

*November 24 2013*

*Holy crap it it cold out there at 18 degrees. I think cabin fever is starting in.*

*I was thinking about my pillows last night. I have 3 custom pillows Mary made for me. The issue is to find a pillow you can rest your head on. If they are too hard, they press on your head wrong and hurt after a bit. Too soft and they don't support properly. Since I have such a big head, I struggle to find one that is just right. Goldilocks syndrome?*

*My big head once was full of awesome brain power, but now just mostly a mess of old left over spaghetti. I wonder if that makes my head heavier? Oh well. I suppose I will spend the rest of my days looking for that perfect pillow. We do have a \$100 bonus card for the Sleep Number store for recommending one to Mary's brother. Maybe I shall find a promising pillow there.*

*November 23 2013*

*Tis very cold this morning. I raked a few leaves and froze. There is still frost on the ground at 11am! Chores done, so it's going to be a dull day. Mary is going over to babysit while Wes and Kaetchen clean house o get ready for her parents visit.*

*We got a shopping list for Turkey day ready. Should be a nice Thanksgiving.*

*November 22 2013*

*The rain gave us a window and we only got wet the last 4 holes. I could have been somebody but fell 1 short.  $42-38=80$ . I putted well after leaving everything short the first 3 holes. Dick had  $48-41=89$ . He had issues after 3 good holes then straightened things out.*

*The bad news is they might close if we get the snow predicted and I still need one more round to pass bro-in-law for the year. I will have to check with them next week and may have to look around for an open course. Time now to mom watch the rest of*

*the day.*

**November 21 2013**

*Argg. The rain got her hours earlier than expected. Looks like it will rain out today and tomorrow. Oh well, Ice Golf starts next week with lows in the 30s and highs around 35. The ball will be taking nasty bounces, and always great entertainment.*

**November 20 2013**

*Mom watched most of the day. Ran over to loan the boy some tools before that. After Mary got home from bowling, I ran over and helped the boy bag some leaves and take them to yard recycle. Grandson went too and we were lucky enough to find a couple of pumpkins to smash.*

*Golf tomorrow. Probably the last round before Ice Golf begins. Looking much colder next week.*

**November 19 2013**

*Just a haircut and mom watching today. Very boring. Forgot to post yesterday. Grand kids distract you and then you are just so tired you forget.*

**November 18 2013**

*Quite a storm came thru last night with tornado watch to boot. We got an inch of rain so it was walking only today. I gave it a try and played well in still high winds. I shot 83 with a triple on the last hole. If I could have avoided that and puttied better I would have broke 80. Dick played very well on the front shooting 41, but faded on the back with 2 water balls and an OB to shoot 87. Man, I was tired after 7 holes, but somehow managed to finish. My back is killing me.*

*Wind pulled a piece of siding out, so I better go out and get it back in before it totally flies away.*

**November 17 2013**

*Oops. Missed Saturday blog. This is getting to be a habit. Yesterday was busy. Mary went grocery shopping while I watched mom. Then it was out to the yard to mow, rake and bag leaves. That took 2.5 hrs and I was exhausted. The car line at the yard recycle was out to the road so I only made one trip. I will take the second load today.*

*Settled down to rest and played the ponies. Got lucky with a pick 5 and won about \$600. Had them send me a check for \$400 and held some for future wagers.*

*Pretty much mom watch today, watching football, Hope the rain clears as predicted for golf tomorrow. I still need 3 rounds to pass bro-in-law. Looks like I have a good chance with the weather holding up well.*

### November 15 2013

*Oops. Missed yesterday when we spent all morning taking mom to the doctors and getting an Xray and playing with the kids last night. Doctor called and said she is doing fine.*

*Today was balmy golf and doctor for me. Mel was the only one to get into the snow and got a free drop. He did score 1 birdie and just missed 2 others. I went 0-3 on birdies. My chipping was awful. Never got one close till the last hole. Dick played a good front but put 3 in the water and was hooking big time the back nine. Mel shot 98, Dick 96, and I had 85. We all had a few 3 putt greens.*

### November 13 2013

*The snow is melting so we should be good to play Friday.*

*Another day of mom watching today. On the positive side, she pooped today, else we would be panicing. PT is coming today to give her a workout and doctor appt tomorrow to discuss her gastro issues. Got to get her up way early to make 10am appt.*

*My brain death concerns are easing. I have worked my chess rating back from 1200 to 1290 or so. There may be hope for me yet.*

### November 12 2013

*Well, first area snowfall. We had 4-5 inches on the railing, much less on the ground since it is warm. The sun is doing a good job melting it so we can play Friday. I still need 4 rounds to pass bro-in-law this year.*

*The visiting nurse should be here shortly. I would guess she has good vitals and it's just her late stage Alzheimer's that is raising it's ugly head. Starting to research her options for care going forward. It's sad because she is at the point where we can't communicate very well. She has good hrs and bad hrs.*

### November 11 2013

*Feeling a bit under the weather today. May be allergy, may be a cold coming on. Twas difficult golfing today. Strong winds made for a rough day. Shot 84 though; 45-39 with 6 pars on the back. Dick shot 93. Was really cold into the wind, nice otherwise. Hope the winds die down for Friday.*

*Now on mom watch as Mary has headed to the mall with neighbor Brenda.*

### November 10 2013

*Just noticed the blog dates said 2014 back to mid September. Either no one reads my blog or no one reads the date. I went back and fixed them up. Grand kids were over*

*to help bag leaves. We did 12 bags and dropped them off at yard recycle. We found 5 pumpkins to smash, so they had fun. Jenna found a small one and took it home.*

*Watched the big Bills vs Steelers game. The Bills really looked bad and left with their tails between their legs. They were embarrassed.*

*Mom was fine today and ate better than most days.*

#### *November 9 2013 Updated*

*Busy morning. Cut the plants back, raked leaves, mowed a bit, bagged leaves and hauled 9 bags to yard recycle. Phew, I was ready to go back to bed at 11am. Back then to mom watch as Mary went shopping with neighbor Brenda.*

*Wes wants some help later sawing down a branch on one of the trees. It was a difficult task. Neighbor's pine was leaning on his outside wiring.*

*Wes had rigged a rope to a higher branch so the cut one would fall away from the wires. That was pretty cool. I suggested another rope so I could pull it away from him where he was going to saw and not swing over and knock him silly. We put up my extension ladder and Wes sawed the branch off while I pulled a rope to guide the branch away from him.*

*That worked but the branch hung up on the wires. He tight roped on a nearby branch to lop the narrower part near the wires and he got it off. He lost balance and jumped down without getting hurt. There was one more to cut and somehow we got it down. That one required more Wes acrobatics. Success! Job done, and no one injured.*

*When I got home mom was talking gibberish and seemed like she was in a trance. We got her to the table and she ate. I called Wes to come over and look at her and she was fine. Somehow she got back to her normal self. Maybe the act of eating somehow got her focus back. It was very very weird. I hope tomorrow goes smoother.*

#### *November 8 2013*

*Hard frost this morning but the sun melted it off quickly. Weird day though. Got 1/2 way to the course then had to turn around and go home to get my clubs. Played the 3d hole, then had to go back to the 1<sup>st</sup> green and pick up my wedge. Talk about brain dead.*

*Played the first 4 holes in even par, then finished the next 5 in 6 over for a 41 Poor play continued and I finished with 42. I did have 2 birdies though. As for the slight curving putts, I was 1 for 8. Mel had a few birdie chances but came up empty and shot 100, Dick was up and down all day and shot 90.*

#### *November 7 2013*

*Guess Dick is reading challenged. He misunderstood my golf email yesterday. I still*

*need 6 rounds to catch Bro-in-law for the year. Looks iffy given it may snow next Wednesday. Supposed to play tomorrow, weather permitting.*

*Got 6 bags of leaves raked and bagged this am. Took 4 to yard recycle site. Rest of the day looks mind numbing. Therapist will be here for mom around noon and then she heads out to the hairdresser.*

*Been playing bad chess to pass the time. OMG, when I say bad, I mean bad. My rating is down to around 1200 falling rapidly from the 1320s. Given a rating of about 1000 is brain dead, that is not good. At 1200, I must have a few brain cells left.*

#### November 6 2013

*Where was Dick this am? Thought he was going to play? Anyway I zoomed around in 1:30 and shot 83. Lots of pars, 0/3 on birdies, 1 water penalty, 1 shank, and 2 doubles. Was quite balmy. Best thing is I made it around in time for Mary to bowl.*

*Rest of the day is mom watching. Doc thinks her stomach is still distended and wants us to see gastro guy next week. Joy, another doctor trip!*

#### November 5 2013

*Dentist's Laser wasn't working this am. She got out the old tech and finished the job. Got home and cut down the tall grass. Hopefully grandson Jacob will be over later to haul it to the yard recycle. Sure is much warmer today. That's a good thing.*

*About time to take mom to doctor. She is recovering fine, except for the eating. Gonna try to cut down the pill list, as she is more reluctant to take them each day. Hope you all have a good day.*

*With yesterday's golf I am at 1377 holes. Bro-in-law in Buffalo hung them up with 1499. I don't think the weather will hold up long enough for me to catch him. Need 7 rounds to get to 1503 holes.*

#### November 4 2013

*Twas freezing this am. 28 degrees and 32 at tee time. The front was cold but we warmed up on the back nine. I shot 44-45 with one birdie while Dick went 48-42. I was erratic; 2 in the water, a 7 while in a green side bunker in 2, and several missed short putts. We played in 3 hrs which is nice. Hope it is warmer Thursday or Friday.*

*Got some leaves off to yard recycle. Now at 9 bags of leaves. Mom is doing OK but she needs to eat more. We have been pushing extra boost when she doesn't eat much. Dentist for me tomorrow, then take mom for a follow up appt. Busy mind numbing day tomorrow.*

#### November 3 2013

**Wow! In case you didn't know, it is now Christmas Season. The ads are starting to show up. I think Walmart is in the lead for Christmas gift ads but the others are ramping up.**

**OMG, the Bills are on TV today. I get to watch them lose live!**

**Mom is tired after Carolyn gave her a shower. I hope she gets some energy back for the physical therapy person who is supposed to come at 3pm today. Sister Sue headed home after 2 days. Her help is appreciated.**

**Going to be cold for golf tomorrow. Supposed to start at 28 degrees and hit 35 by 9am for tee off. A frost delay could be in the cards.**

#### **November 2 2013**

**WZIP FM gave Mary a shout out for her Birthday. Carolyn brought steaks and cupcakes for the party and it worked out well. The grand kids were full of mucus and worse, so they stayed home. Sister Sue was the designated butt wiper for mom yesterday. It was an on and off rainy day.**

#### **November 1 2013**

**Windy and sloppy at Mayfair. I made 2 of 3 birdie ops on the front, shooting 37. The back 9 was a brutal 47. Mel and Dick pretty much sucked shooting 98 and 101.**

**Mom seemed better today and went off to the hair dresser with Mary. Sister Sue is coming for the weekend to help out, and Mary's birthday is tomorrow. She will be 39 again this year.**

#### **October 31 2013**

**Mom still tired today. Hardly ate today, but we did get liquids in her today. It was a yawner watching her. Visiting nurse stopped by.**

**Lots of Halloween movies and scary stories on tonight. Then if you are really brave, there is Fox News.**

**Looks very iffy for gold tomorrow. They may have the course closed.**

#### **October 30 2013**

**Mom was very tired today. Hardly ate or drank anything her first day back. Lots of dozing off everywhere she was. I was on mom watch while Mary went bowling. Sister Catherine went home this am. She was a God send, spending 12 hrs in the hospital all day for the duration. That gave us a chance to get a few things done at home.**

#### **October 29 2013**

***Mom is on her way home today. Should be here around 12:30pm. Guess she did a good poop last night and cleared out the bowels. TMI? I stayed home and cut the grass and did some leaf raking.***

#### **October 28 2013**

***Bummer. Things were looking good for mom's hospital escape. She is back to normal but doctor noticed distended belly. X ray shows bowels inflamed, maybe worse than last x ray. They are going to try laxative and figure that should work. They think she should be using them regularly at home, since they don't seem to be working properly. Also we should stop one pill for Alzheimer's which has constipation as a side effect.***

***I got home at 5pm and got out and raked some leaves just to get a bit of exercise. Picked up some fallen branches as well.***

#### **October 27 2013**

***Spent the morning 8:30am up to 1:30pm with mom and then headed home for a little more sleep. Mary went to keep mom and Catherine company around 5pm. I did talk to the doctor around 12:30pm and she authorized soft food. Mom did eat better for the soft dinner and made a bathroom trip. Looking good for getting out tomorrow as long as the food doesn't cause problems.***

***I am kind of surprised how diss-functional I became with a bit of sleep deprivation. After getting only 3.5hrs Thursday, 10hrs Friday, and maybe 5 last night, I was very tired, groggy, and foggy. Guess I ain't as young and resilient as I once was.***

#### **October 26 2013**

***Rough couple of days, so missed yesterday's blog. Took mom to Akron General where they said she has diverticulitis. Got 4 hrs sleep Friday night. Much more last night, but still feel sleep deprived. She should be back tomorrow if all goes well. My sister Catherine came from Buffalo and has spent a lot of time with her at the hospital, giving us a much needed break.***

***Off to grandson's birthday party then back to the hospital later on.***

#### **October 24 2013**

***OMG! 39 degrees this morning with another light frost. Doesn't bode well for golf tomorrow morning. There will be a frost delay. BTW, it snowed 5" up in the snow belt where George lives.***

***Another mom watching day ahead. Saint Mary and friend are taking one of the sew and go ladies out to lunch. This lady has Alzheimer's and it came on quickly. Dreamed strange last night. Putting up a fence and one of the people couldn't find his feet. Turns out we buried his feet and they were sticking up out of the ground.***

**How weird.**

**October 23 2013**

***It's early today and it is watch mom day. Maybe I will finally get to sorting the 40 years of blankets. Need something to keep me busy today.***

***I did sort the blankets! Tossed 4 ratty pillows and a couple blankets and set aside 7 or 8 for Mary to look at, then send off to the thrift store.***

**October 22 2013**

***Busy busy day. Teeth cleaning for me; one filling to fix. Mary went to the doctor. When she got back, I helped Wes go pick up a new dresser. At 210lbs, we had to take the drawers out before we could get it up his stairs.***

***We had to rent the home depot truck to pick it up, saving about \$50. Funny thing was when we were ready to head over to pick up the truck, the furniture store van passed by right in front of his house.***

**October 21 2013**

***Maybe the last nice day for awhile. Played Sanctuary and shot 46-41. Was off to a slow start before hitting the ball well later on. Very poor putting. I made a couple but missed five short ones. On #10, I threw a wedge in there that went down in the hole and spun out 6 feet. Would have been an eagle, even a birdie if I had made the putt. Rimmed the 66 footer out and made 5.***

***Finished painting my posts, so I got that done yesterday. Even scored a short 30min nap today. Sweet!***

**October 20 2013**

***Got the grass cut before the rain yesterday. Watched grand daughter Jenna and friend Makayla last night while daughter had her Halloween extravaganza at night. She does it up big with lots of decorations, campfire, and mucho beer and such. Wonder how many are still sleeping it off at her place. They probably had to carry a couple in off the ground.***

***Planning to take a shopping trip later today. Bills and Browns are big underdogs today, so no need to watch those games. The Bills are never on TV anyway. I am down a game plus a one game spot on my wager. Sure is cooling down out there.***

**October 19 2013**

***Played Glenmore CC with George starting yesterday. It's a beautiful course and clubhouse. The outing was set up for the tees at 6300yd, so I knew I was going to get***



*beat up. The 2 days of rain meant no roll and I figure this made it equivalent to 6600yds. I always felt 6000yds was good for bogey golfers, so I wasn't optimistic. Cart path only as well. I figure I walked at least 4 miles, and was toast the last 3-4 holes.*

*My driver was working well with only one or two misfires, but my iron play was poor, and the short game was on and off. Even with that, I managed 1 birdie, 1 par, and 12 bogeys. Not bad, eh? Too bad my other 4 holes were 8 8 8 7. I won't go into those other except to say there were 6 lost strokes over water, 1 OB, and 1 four putt.*

*George played well, shooting 89 and won \$70 which was nice since he bought dinner with it. He had 2 birdies, one was a classic. On one of the par 3s over water, he bladed it low. It skipped off the water the last 3 yards and ran 10 yds over the green. He popped up a very short sided chip which took one bounce right into the cup.*

#### October 18 2013

*Gorgeous day for golf. Going to tackle Glenmore CC with George starting at 1pm. I hope his guys play quickly or we will be finishing in the dark. The course looks like it has a lot of hazards so I will need some of my usual lucky bounces.*

*Got some more caulk this am and touched up what the rain destroyed. Was sure to get the quick drying kind.*

#### October 17 2013

*Looks like a nice day. Got to take mom to her eye doctor appt this afternoon. Maybe watching the little ones around dinner time. Looking fwd to playing Glenmore CC tomorrow. Looks like a tough course with lots of bunkers and hazards. I will need to do some risk management to keep my score down.*

*Looks like my caulking didn't set up properly before the rain came and I will have to redo some of it before painting. Must have been too cold. I will have to look at the caulks at the store to make sure I get one that dries quicker in cool temps. Weather says cold is on the way.*

#### October 16 2013

*Rainy day. Ran out and got a haircut and watched the drizzle. Watched the market jump up when the idiots in Washington finally settled. Took profits. I am going to sit on the sidelines for the time being and watch for good day trading opportunities. The market is so high I got to believe it has to come down.*

#### October 15 2013

*Foggy and misty today. Carolyn came over and helped me screw down the post framing. I caulked around and now need to wait 24 hrs for it to dry before I paint. Rain expected tonight, so that may have to wait.*

***Other than that, a boring day. Oh yeah, George's buddies moved the Glenmore round to Friday cause rain is predicted. Seems like a waste since it never rains (well maybe a little) if I am on the course. Gonna be colder Friday and 3 minutes less daylight.***

#### **October 14 2013**

***Nice day today. I played well at Maplecrest shooting 42-40 =82. An OB on #18 cost me 2 and I duck hooked one OB but it came back in bounds on #15. Made a couple of putts but left several around the hole. Dick has a great score 41-44. The key was he forgot his golf shoes and was playing in sneakers with no tread. He slipped and fell on his ass on #3 tee, then scaled his swing back. I told him not to forget his shoes next time.***

***Cut the grass yesterday. Stopped once when it sprinkled, then went back out. After a little while it began sprinkling again and then a little harder. I got soaked but carried on. I was cold when I got in.***

#### **October 13 2013**

***Weather is chilly. Not much planned today. Maybe listen to Bills-Bengals game. Got the post boards ready. Carolyn will help screw them together some time next week.***

***My goodness, once you donate to something they never forget. My mom got a letter from the Buffalo Mission, who does good work feeding the poor in my ex-home city. The letter says on the address label that they haven't heard from her since 1999. Now that is being persistent.***

#### **October 12 2013**

***Weather continues to be fabulous. The muscle pain from working on the 2 posts is subsiding, so maybe I will work on getting the other 2 ready today. Seems like anytime I do work that requires movement with little used muscles, they always are hurting for a couple of days. Another drawback from aging.***

***Got my USGA Christmas cards today. A clever card with little birdies hanging around the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. Birdies are good! Wish I could make some more. This year so far, I have a reasonable birdie opportunity every 10 holes or so. By reasonable, I am counting putts of 12 feet or less, excepting the crazy curvy ones. Those, I am lucky to make 10% of. Of 134 chances I have made 47 or 35%. My goal would be to hit on 50% but that may be a bit unrealistic.***

#### **October 11 2013**

***Chilly start this morning. Started off with an 8 on a par 5 and struggled for a few more holes before recovering to shoot 84. Had 4 birdie ops and made 2. Not so good since they were all under 5 foot. Everyone else struggled. Neil had 97, Dick 98, and Mel 102.***

*I got the bases sawed for 2 porch posts yesterday. Two more to go but my wrists are tired and hurting today. Mom got her flu shot and has no soreness, so that is good.*

#### October 10 2013

*The weather continues to be pleasant. I guess I better get busy and complete any outside work. I bought some pressure treated wood to re-frame the porch posts but have been procrastinating. Better get to it today.*

#### October 9 2013

*Oops. Missed a day on my blog. Not much happening. Cut the grass and watched mom.*

*Watched the stock market plunge thanks to the tea party. I say string them up. I guess on the plus side I got to pick up more FB and a couple of my other stocks. FB made a recovery but my others continued to spin downward. I am hoping this crap gets resolved soon. Makes one nervous.*

#### October 7 2013

*Chilly day. With all the rain it was cart path only. Dick, Neil, and I played. Three others canceled because walking would be too much for them. That tells you something about the health of these 3. Anyway, I had a stellar day shooting 78 with one penalty and 2 cup rimmers. Many other putts came oh so close. I owe it to the restricted swing I have to use when I am all bundled up.*

*Bad day for the pocketbook though. Furnace blower motor went out due to it inhaling insulation from inside the furnace. The theory is it got wet from the improper drain install and got sucked loose. \$1300 worth of pain.*

#### October 6 2013

*Turned out to be a nice day. Watched the Presidents Cup early, then it was off the air? When it came on it was tape delayed. That sucked, so I didn't watch anymore.*

*Finished cutting the grass today. Got ½ yesterday before the rain chased me inside.*

*Golfing Glen Eagles in Twinsburg tomorrow. Guess I will have to swing by the Hilton to see if I can recover the 2 jackets we left in the closet Friday. Not the first time I did that.*

#### October 5 2013

*Back to normal today after 4 days of being mom free. Nothing much planned.*

*Watched the Browns beat the Bills Thursday night. They didn't look too awful. The secondary, supposed to be horrible, was just a step slow, requiring a perfect pass*

*which Weeden provided. The punter couldn't get a high punt off and it resulted in 2 crushing returns. They fired the punter the next day, which is a good move. I guess the Browns should win their Division, while the Bills should win maybe 6 games. Their 3d string QB is awful and they will never win with him. Injuries have really set the Bills back so it looks like 6 wins will be a stretch. Oh well, maybe next year.*

#### October 4 2013

*Picked up mom in Grove City. We drove there from the hotel early and Mary scored many items at the outlet mall.*

*Yesterday, we hit the zoo, Aurora Farms Outlets, the pool, and the hot tub. Tried to find 2 restaurants for dinner with out of date GPS maps and they were both closed. We went to an Irish Pub for dinner. It was fairly quiet there and relaxing; a lucky choice.*

*I skipped friday golf. I guess the rain held off long enough for a nice day.*

*[No blog planned for Oct 3d, back on the 4<sup>th</sup>](#)*

#### October 2 2013

*Busy day today. Off to Mary's doctor for a bone scan at 6:30, breakfast at IHOP, a short break, then babysitting till 7:15. Mary bowled between all of that so she was really running.*

*IHOP is awesome, I had eggs and bacon and they threw in a french toast with peaches and whipped cream on top. I set aside the home fries so I would have room for the french toast. Mmmm. Lots of sugary stuff.*

*No blog tomorrow. Mary and I are off to the zoo, then the Hilton Garden Inn for the pool and hot tub. Should be back on the blog Friday.*

#### October 1 2013

*We had fun today. Stopped at home depot to pick up a few items, then to a movie, then dinner. We are the Millers ( R rated ) was funny. Jennifer Aniston looks great as a stripper.*

#### Sept 30 2013

*Sable Creek this morning. Supposed to be mid 60s and cloudy. I will update later. Neil said he would be out late and wouldn't make it? Say what? I fail to understand why you can't make a 9:30 tee time!*

*I shot 84 with a poor short game. Should have been closer to 80. Dang, it was a chilly*

*day. I put my ski cap on during the back 9. Dick played better by screwed up the last 2 par 4s taking 19 OMG strokes for an overall 104.*

**Sept 29 2013**

*We survived yesterday and the kids were great. The little one (6mo) did a lot of crying and I guess missed her mommy.*

*Dropped mom off with my sisters. We are free as a bird till Friday. We started it with dinner at the Texas Roadhouse, one of our favorites.*

*Went over to the neighbors for desert. Odd walking back across the street at twilight. Mary saw a bat, and I saw a toad. Guess she is always looking up and I am always looking down.*

**Sept 28 2013**

*Going to be a busy day. The lawn will be aerated today. Never had that done before. That can get messy but there is no rain in the forecast.*

*The 2 older grandkids will spend the night, so we will be busy. The 2 younger ones will be here as well for a couple of hours. Should be a madhouse.*

**Sept 27 2013**

*Promises to be a wonderful weather Saturday today. Playing Sable Creek and have high hopes. I'll update when I get back. We should have 5 today.*

*Dang. Played poorly and made zero putts to score 86. John whipped me by 3 saying I had thrown down the gauntlet bragging I was on fire. Neil shot 92 with an almost great back nine (5 over the last 2), Mel shot 94 with a sparkling back nine, and Dick struggled coming back from his kidney stone with a 110.*

*Not much yesterday, just mom watching and watching the market. Took some profits and bought back the stocks when they went lower. Decent day trading. Figured I made \$400 this week.*

**Sept 26 2013**

*Been married for a long time now. When you been around a long time, you accumulate blankets. Big ones, little ones, throws, electric, comforters, wool ones, polyester, cotton, decorative, heavy one, light ones, and in between ones. You always figure someone else can use it or you can use it for a picnic or something, but you never do. We must have 20-30 blankets I gotta purge. Man, some of them are pretty ratty. Why are they still here? I don't think I can toss them at the same time. My dumpster isn't big enough.*

**Sept 25 2013**

***Mom watch today as Mary was bowling, Caught chippy #25 yesterday and saw another peering in my patio door today. He will be next.***

***Spent the day watching the market. Bought/sold \$40K worth of stock and made \$400. Now that made it a good day.***

**Sept 24 2013**

***Taking mom to the doctors today and maybe stopping for Strickland's ice cream on the way home. I did email them that their employees handle both the cones and the money with the same hands. Wonder what kind of response I will get? They responded and said the sleeve on the cone keeps any hand germs off the cone.***

**Sept 23 2013**

***OMG, it's fall. We are losing 3 minutes a day of daylight which means later tee times. I guess my prediction of snow in September was wrong, as this week is predicted to be good.***

***Played well at Mayfair Friday. Thinking about it, I just got up and hit the ball with no drama and no heroic shots. The quick play definitely helped. No waiting around. I also did a quick adjust hitting one more iron than usual since the air was heavy and the ground softer. I hope I can play smart again today.***

***Chenoweth golf today. Played smart except for brain death on the first hole. They were aerating 1-3, so we started on the 90 yd par 3 #4. Bladed it into the bunker, out over the green, chunked 2 chips, chipped on and missed to take a 7. Got back on track and shot 83, Should have been another sub 80 round.***

**Sept 22 2013**

***Nothing much happening with us all being under the weather with this virus. Carolyn was over to give my mom her shower, She has been such a help. Did some flower bed clean up and caught chippy #24 yesterday. No plans other than watch football and rest today.***

**Sept 21 2013**

***Watched the kids last night. Kalix is starting to crawl now. She goes a couple of feet.***

*Pretty soon she will be on the move. Caught chippy #23 as well.*

*Should be another slow day but you never know. We all have some kind of bug. I was the last to get it. Mom has had it for 2 days, Mary 1, and now me. It's been a very long time since I have caught a virus so I guess I have been lucky. Not this time.*

*Sept 20 2013*

*Played Mayfair with Mel today. I played great. Long drives, a bit of a hook on my irons, and I made at least 3 long putts. Shot 79 while Mel had a 92. Mel played well and should have been at 89 or 90. He threw a couple away but not many. Picked up the potting soil on the way home and we got that done.*

*Yesterday was boring again, Just mom watching most of the day again. Did pull out the last of the tomato plants and dug some holes in the island for Mary to plant. She was out shopping but forgot the potting soil so the planting didn't get done. I did get over to Wes' and set a couple of mole traps. We couldn't see the straight runs, so I am not sure they will work.*

*Sept 19 2013*

*Yesterday was boring, Just mom watching most of the day. Plan to dig some holes so Mary can plant the new outdoor island. Been waiting till the tree trimming was over, so now is the time.*

*They are talking rain for our golf Friday. John is working the greek festival, Dick is out with the kidney stone, so it's just Mel and I. This week is snakebit.*

*I am expecting to head over to Wes' to set up my two mole traps. Guess they are running wild over there.*

*Sept 18 2013*

*Caught chippy #22 for the year yesterday and moved it out of the neighborhood. Maybe my house looked like a free place to hang around. Picked up some birdseed so the squirrels will be snooping near my big trap. I will probably get a few this fall. Just mom watching and a haircut yesterday. Slow day.*

*The tree guys came and took down the other 2 limbs I wanted done Monday while I was at golf. Now I can see some of the sky to the north. Time to put some of the plants in for the new island around that tree. Signed up for lawn aeration for the late fall. That should do it for the yard makeover.*

Sept 17 2013

*I paged thru the blog the other day and found some section breaks that shouldn't be. I recovered the blog after my crash using PDF Converter, It was nice enough to add these randomly. Found some other issues as well. So, I tried to fix what I found, but there could still be some weird stuff down below. I know the font seems to randomly change, but I am not smart enough about word processors to fix it.*

*Sunday we went to the mall. Its been a long time since I was there. What I saw didn't bode well for the economy. There were 3 big stores. Sears was very empty and devoid of sales associates. Macy's was very empty. Dillard's was very empty. Saw a couple of Dillard's employees tossing a ball back and forth to relieve the boredom. Pretty much all the other stores were for the young adults and they were empty as well.*

*We ate in the food court. Mom was amazed to see a girl with pink hair at a table over. You should have seen the look on her face when she first saw her. I was shocked when I saw a girl walking thru the food court wearing cream colored tights. You could see she had on black underwear since they were so thin. Who lets their kids go out like that? Nothing else of note.*

Sept 16 2013

*Caught another chippy the other day but the trap malfunctioned. Being mechanically challenged, it took me about 20 minutes to find the right place to twist with the pliers. Back in business. Too bad it didn't work? Lost another one so another repair is in order.*

*Played Chippawa today. It was a bit chilly but OK. Went 45-39 which isn't bad. The back 9 is tougher and I could have shot par if I had putted and chipped better. Was Ob and behind too many trees off the tee. The three 3 putts didn't help either. Neil was up and down and shot 94. Dick stayed home with his kidney stone again.*

Sept 15 2013

*Got the grass cut yesterday. Grass under tree shade was quite tall while that with full sun had little growth at all. Just pattered around the house all day. Big day today for the Bills and Browns. They actually have a chance of winning today. We shall see.*

*Had flashback dreams last night about walking the neighborhoods in Buffalo. I am not sure why this dream randomly popped into my head. Maybe it wasn't a dream cause I was just remembering it rather than living it over again.*



*I did a lot of walking back then since I did not have a car. The scariest walk of all was from Military Rd down under the RR viaduct on Skillen Ave. It was mostly industrial and not very far, but there was a junkyard down near the bridge. They locked it up at night and it was patrolled by two vicious dogs. The fence was maybe 10 yards from the sidewalk. Not scary during the day, it was terrifying to walk by there at night not knowing when the dogs would be viciously barking at the fence. That is one stretch I really dreaded to walk in the dark. Sometimes I was lucky and got to walk by in the middle of the street if no traffic was coming.*

**Sept 14 2013**

*This "should" be another day of rest. Didn't get motivated yesterday so maybe cut the grass today. Looking into the cost of aerating the lawn later this fall. It's never been done and I have a few areas in the front and back that are really compacted over the 40 yrs the house has been here.*

*Had to turn on the heat for mom. House was at 70 which is too chilly for her, so I set it at 74.*

**Sept 13 2013**

*This "should" be a day of rest. I guess the grass needs cut if I get motivated. Golfed yesterday so some rest is in order.*

*Looks like it is going to cool down as fall approaches.*

**Sept 12 2013**

*Posted this last night. May update after golf if I have a chance. Playing Little Mountain if the weather allows. Gazillion bunkers there. Rain rain go away.*

*Gawd we got wet. It poured for 3 holes. I took 4 shots in a wet bunker to start off an 11 bunker shot round. I sucked in the rain but did OK when it stopped. Shot 53-41, Mel was 57-48, and Dick 53-48. Too bad we aren't mudders. Mel and Dick only had 4 or 5 bunker shots.*

*Well I figure I have about 6hrs into recovering on my computer. That sucks. Did some mom watching yesterday while I worked on the dang thing. Helped daughter put in new car door handles. She researched it on youtube and it went quickly. Kinda beat yesterday. Watched the little ones for 5 hrs the night before and they wore us out.*

**Sept 11 2013**

***Another computer crash last night. I am not a happy camper. Said I lost the system configuration files and I had to go back to square zero. I have 3 hrs into recovering so far and I will let you know how it goes. I figure I may be 60% recovered? Of course, that doesn't cover the lost files, email, and address book.***

**Sept 10 2013**

***I was pounding my drives again at Oak Knolls, about 230-250 yesterday. Been driving the ball well for 3 rounds now. Offsetting that is my wedges. Can't seem to get one on the green. End result was 14 over 84 yesterday. That was pretty sad for being so close to the green on most tee shots. Next up is Little Mountain with it's zillion bunkers.***

***John and Ginny left for Texas yesterday. We ended up the evening hosting Kaetchen's birthday party with burgers and cake and ice cream. It was a surprise to us as we found out an hr before the party was to start. Sometimes you have to go with the flow, eh?***

***Maybe today we can recover from our trip. The internet went out last night so I don't know when I will be able to post this.***

**Sept 9 2013**

***I got back last night and wrote this blog entry 10:30pm ish.***

***Well, we got into town Thursday night and played the scramble Friday. Someone stole our 4<sup>th</sup>, so we played 3 (john, Dennis, and I) and one of us hit a forth shot.***

***It was slow and we managed to get to 3 under. The best we could have done I think is 6 under. I blew one hole for us with a bogey (I took all the extra 4<sup>th</sup> ball shots and let the team down). We also had 2 holes where I drove it close but we hit poor chip shots and couldn't birdie. Didn't really matter since the winner was 14 under. Everyone contributed some good shots. I think Dennis was the hero, making 3 long putts.***

***Played with my brother Jim, Jim Jr, and Dennis Saturday. Funny: Dennis ripped his jeans 8 " in the back and played the entire round with a drafty rear end. We walked close behind him when we ate in Tully's after the round. Damned if he didn't make another couple of long putts. Jr and I tied with 91, Jim had 96, and Dennis 107. John drove out to meet us and play Rothland Saturday afternoon, but the weather***

*turned ugly with rain, so he made the drive for nothing.*

*Saw bro-in-law David, recovering from a kidney stone at a nice Haddock fish fry Saturday. It was mmm mmm good. John and Ginny are staying the night before their long trek back to Texas. I hope they have a good trip.*

**Notice: The Blog was silent for a couple of days while we were in Buffalo.**

**Sept 4 2013**

*Turned on the heat this morning. It was 66 and mom wasn't going to like it. Oh well. Taking her to the doctor at noon to recheck blood flow in her legs. She is more wobbly the last couple of months, probably due to reduced activity. She does complain about her foot once in awhile, but you never know for sure with her.*

*Heading to Buffalo to play in a scramble. I hope we can break par by one or two. Hope my driver works or we will be in a heap of trouble.*

*As I will be traveling, there won't be any blog updates till Sunday or Monday.*

**Sept 3 2013**

*So much for summer? I was freezing playing golf in my sweatshirt and shorts. I guess the shorts were not a great idea. Marvelous front 9 at 3 over 38, followed by a stinker back 9 of 47 (5 penalties and 2 short putts missed). I think the cold got to me. Everything tightened up.*

**Sept 2 2013**

*Slow day watching all the golf on TV yesterday. John and I went over to the range and I tried out a few things on John. His biggest problem is keeping his head still. Not unusual for a typical 100 shooter. Worked with him on getting his right foot back vs his usual open stance. Really straightened his slice out. He hit about 10 drives in a 30yd circle after he got the hang of it. But tomorrow is another day and another swing as we all know.*

*Should be a quiet day today with nothing much going on. Playing Ellsworth tomorrow. Hope I can break 90 there.*

**Sept 1 2013**

*Oops. Missed another day on my blog. Yesterday we had a night out and dined at Macaroni Grill with John and Ginny while Carolyn and the grandkids did mom watching. John bought dinner and it was very tasty. Thank you John. After the meal we went over to Carolyn's so John could see all the redecorating we had done over there. Carolyn gave us a 8:30pm curfew so she could get her kids to bed. LOL. What goes around comes around, eh? Not sure what's planned for today.*

*Received the mole trap I ordered from MolePro and set it up. Didn't see any activity near it yesterday or this morning. Can't wait to destroy the little bugger and say goodbye to his digging.*

*Aug 30 2013*

*Oops. Missed a day on my blog. Yesterday was more of getting ready for visitors. We looked at Carolyn's brakes and they were fine. The one rotor seems a bit wobbly but looked OK Company made it here a little before 10pm so it was a short visit last night.*

*Brother-in-law John played with Mel and I at Tam-o-Shanter Dales. I "should have broke 80" but took a triple on 18 to shoot 81. I could have been somebody. Golf was slow for some reason? Mel shot 97 with 1 birdie and John an even 100. John and Mary's sister Ginny from Fort Worth Texas will be here till Monday morning.*

*Dick was under the weather with significant discomfort with a kidney stone.*

*Aug 28 2013*

*Busy day getting ready for visitors. Vacuumed, cut grass, weed whacked, weeded, and watched mom.*

*Dick has kidney stones and is feeling very poorly. I feel bad for him. He is going to skip golf tomorrow. My bro-in-law will be here and can fill in. They should be here sometime tomorrow.*

*Daughter is coming over early to look at her brakes. I hope I don't whack my finger again. It is just starting to feel OK*

*Aug 27 2013*

*Slow rainy day. Mom watched in the morning. Not much doing today. Sit and watch the rain I guess.*

*Aug 26 2013*

*I was thinking last night I had better correct my error. Been calling my wife Saint Mary cause she does so much for me, the kids, mom, the neighbors, and everyone else. My sisters and brother have been calling her that for years just for putting up with me. Anyway, I failed to realize that St. Mary is already taken, so it would be much more appropriate to call her St. Mary of Buffalo. I think that name is open.*

*Sanctuary in a few hours. I may update today's blog later. Update: Shot 83 and missed all 4 of my makeable birdies. Two rimmers and one right in front of the hole.*

*Aug 25 2013*

*Wow, another great weather day. Lots of weird dreams last night. Dreamed I was on a train in Toronto on a narrow bridge. Maybe I been playing too much Thomas the Train with the younger grandson.*

*Ordered a mole trap to see if I can nab a pesky mole that's been digging around. Trapper Bob is expanding his horizons, eh?*

*The rug silicon backing worked out great, Guess I will do the other today. Not much else planned today.*

*Aug 24 2013*

*Wow, another great weather day. Not much going on today.*

*Sat the 2 youngest grand kids yesterday. Little sister was really watching and learning from the boy who will be 3 in October. It was interesting to see him begin to play by himself. I'd give him a suggestion like here is how the horses jump over the fence, then he would be off and doing stuff with the horses for 10 minutes. Their minds are sponges.*

*Got my white paint touch up done this morning. Also put pliable silicon sealant on the back of an area rug we made with extra carpet. It's supposed to be an el-cheapo solution to making it non-slip. I'll let you know how it works out.*

*Aug 23 2013*

*Great weather at Riverview. I was going to walk but my wrist hurt last night and this am. Alevé did the trick and I played well. 81 with a 4 putt and a couple of 3 putts. Couldn't get the ball up the green slopes far enough. Mel, on steroids shot 83 and threatened to win again. Dick tagged along and shot 92.*

*Aug 22 2013*

---

*Sweet! We are planning to go to the Pittsburgh Holiday Do Wop show again this year. They have a good line up with one of my favorite songs. "Oh won't you stay, just a little bit longer". Can't wait. December 19," seems a long ways away right now.*

*Did some mom watching, fan cleaning, and haircut. Slow day.*

*Aug 21 2013*

*Got the grass cut yesterday. It may be slowing down finally. Maybe I will get a week off if it stays dry like it has.*

*Finished painting the hall walls. Took longer than I thought cause I was careful not to get brown on the ceiling. All that is left is some white touch up, maybe an hours worth of work. Time now to mom watch while Mary is out.*

*Awesome day out there today!*

*Aug 20 2013*

*Busy morning. I decided I would have to repaint the hall ceiling. Man, that went slow. Had to keep checking to see where I missed. That small ceiling took 2 and a half hours by brush. I had to clean up the floor drips even though I used a drop cloth. Caulked a few spots I had missed as well. Still need to touch up the molding and doors and the walls. I figure to be finished tomorrow or Thursday depending on what else is going on around here.*

*Habitat for Humanity came to pick up an old kitchen table and chairs and they took the 6 old doors I had replaced. I was glad they took them because they would have been a pain to get rid of myself.*

*Aug 19 2013*

*Ugly golf today. I started out so good then tanked. Denny was really struggling starting out with a 9 and then throwing in a 12 on #8. Play was slow and I think that got to me. I don't know what was going on so I figured I should quit and stop grooving a bad swing and commit it to memory. I had 48 on the front, then hit a wrong ball and took a 7 on #11. Horrible day. Took 4:45 for the round. Some guy had hit a yellow ball close to where I was and I was playing a yellow ball,,,,,,,,,,,,,*

*Aug 18 2013*

*Got my painting done the am. I figure it took 9 hrs all together. Glad that's done. Still got to go back and do touch up. Got some of the white on the brown walls and some of the brown on the white ceiling. I don't know about you, but it seems I got to do 2 rounds of touch up. I do touch up and it causes me to need more touch up.*

*Don't know about the ceiling though. Might need more than a touch up, then I will have to touch up where I get ceiling paint on the walls, lol. A few spots need more caulk too. Should get to it mid week.*

*Seven ills tomorrow. Hope I hit the straight ball or have my punch through the trees onto the green down.*

*Aug 17 2013*

*Still licking my wounds from Mel beating me yesterday at Zoar. Oh well. Got first coat of paint on 3 of my new doors and their moldings. Hopefully the doors only need 1 coat. I know the molding will need 2. Three more to go.*

*Mom watching now while Mary heads to church to help with a funeral and then church later. Maybe I can get back to painting at 6pm and for sure tomorrow morning.*

*Aug 16 2013*

*OMG. Mel edged me by 1 today. I should have been paying attention but I wasn't, so I went 6/3putts on the last hole while Mel went 4/2putts. Ouch! It was his career round at 82, while I scored 85, John 83 and Dick 93. I was pounding my drives but my short game was poor today. Oh well.*

*Aug 15 2013*

*Up early for Ironwood. Scored 88 with 1 birdie. This was better than I played, but my short game was pretty darned good today. It was chilly. The way this weather is I think it might snow in September.*

*Aug 14 2013*

*Did my 2<sup>nd</sup> wall patch today, then watched mom while Mary was out. She was bowling today. Went over to 7 hills to try to straighten out my tee ball. My slice was so bad the last couple of outings I put my driver away. Anyway, I got to the range and pounded all the balls in the small bucket straight away and long. Couple of pushes and one hook. What a game? I tried to lock in that set up and swing and hope it shows up tomorrow when I play Ironwood with the Cisco guys. That course is tight and long. We shall see.*

*Aug 13 2013*

*Did my caulking today, then watched mom while Mary was out.*

*Celebrated son Wes birthday at 3pm. Cookout, cake, ice cream and play. The kids were climbing my trees and were a little too high up for my comfort level. Everyone had a good time and it didn't wrap up till 8pm. Birthdays are always good celebrations around here.*

*Aug 12 2013*

*Went 39-44 at Fox Den today. Scored 3 birdies one of which was amazing.*

*#6 is a shot uphill par 4 with the green tucked right back near OB. I sliced my drive over toward the tall grass, so I hit a provisional that headed over there too, so I hit a 3d. My driver was terrible and I left it in the bag most of the round. Anyway, my first shot was OK but I had to hit it high to keep it from running out to the OB. I hit it way short right at the pine guarding the green. The ball came down on a cart path, bounced 40 ft up in the air, over the pine, hit short of the green, then ran out to 8 inches from the cup. Easy tap in was conceded for my birdie.*

*Aug 11 2013*

*Not much doing today. Mom's shower day. Did a little hole patching on the down hall. Will maybe paint a little.*

*Mary is going to calling hours later today for he bowling partner's spouse.*

*Aug 10 2013*

*Got my last 2 doors in this morning by 11am. Went pretty smooth. What a relief to get that done. Guess I will patch the walls down there so I can do some caulking and painting.*

*Next up was mowing the darn lawn shooting up with all that rain we got. Too bad the battery wasn't agreeable. It's on charge, so maybe in a couple of hours.*



Aug 9 2013

*Boring day Mom watching yesterday. I did get another door mounted but it misses by a little at the top corner. I will have to shim it this weekend then get to my last door.*

*Playing Tam-o-Shanter today. Hit the ball well but had a couple oops holes. Shot 83, Mel an excellent 89, Neil 91, and Dick 92.*

Aug 8 2013

*Did a bunch of day trades yesterday morning, then off to retiree lunch. Had a good time talking about the old days and the people there. We had some strange ones working there.*

*Didn't get motivated to battle the doors yesterday, Maybe today, although I have to mom watch while Mary goes over and babysits the grandson. Guess we are babysitters most of these days.*

Aug 7 2013

*Horrible 9 at Ellsworth last night. 2 pars, 4 bogeys, and a 7 7 8 mid round. Real ugly! Nice night though.*

*Finished installing one door and completed a second yesterday. Still have 2 to go. Hopefully I can finish them by Thursday and can get to fixing and painting the hall walls this weekend.*

Aug 6 2013

*Last night after I blogged, I went down and finally got a trouble making door in. I found the door didn't even fit at the bottom with the frame as wide as I could get it. Further inspection showed there was a 2x4 keeping the frame from moving wider. It was about 3/8 in my way. I got my saw in there to clear that out, then saw there was some piece of concrete in the way at the bottom of the frame. I got out my Dremmel and cut the bottom of the frame up. That did the trick and I got the door in.*

*Funny thing though. The Dremmel I bought was acting very weak. For some reason I saw at the bottom end of the tool a power adjust. I cranked it up and it worked fine. What a dufus! I guess there is something to reading the manual or the 15<sup>+</sup> time used is the charm. I hope to get another door or two in today. I have 3 in and 3 to go.*

Aug 5 2013

*Nice cool and comfortable day. I scored well today, shooting 80 at Tannenhauf. I*

*was scrambling well and saving par with a good chip and putt. Most drives faded, most irons hooked so it wasn't pretty. Missed all 3 birdie putts I had. Dick shot 87 and he was happy except for 1 OB.*

*Ken Houle played in the first group and recorded his 4<sup>th</sup> Ace. There sure was a lot of hooting and hollering going on. Good for Ken. He suffered a stroke last year and is finally getting his game back. He aced #13, the 105 yd downhill par 3 with a 7 iron. He has lost a fair amount of distance due to the stroke. I saw where his ball hit when we played it. It wasn't fixed, so I fixed it. My shot there was right at the pin but 8 foot short. Missed the putt of course.*

#### Aug 4 2013

*Watching the grand kids went well. The 2 oldest really helped out with the little ones. I watched Thomas the Train CD and was humming the tune for hours. Thankfully, I lost the tune before retiring for the night. Today will be recovery day. Cookout at the neighbors later this afternoon. Weather promises to be great today.*

*Got to cut the grass soon. I cut it Thursday and it was ready to be cut again on Saturday. Dang that rain.*

*I see congress is taking a break, the president too. They must be exhausted after doing absolutely nothing for 7 months this year,*

#### Aug 3 2013

*Went and purchased my last 3 doors from Lowes this am. Tried to install 1 door but still working to shim it properly. This one is a b\*tch. I had to set that aside till tomorrow. The 2 youngest grand kids are coming at 2pm so mom and dad can go car shopping and the older 2 will be coming at 5pm so my daughter can go to a poker tournament with her husband. So, with mom, we will be watching 5 kids at some point today. OMG. Wish me luck.*

#### Aug 2 2013

*Up very early for a 7:20 tee time at Sleepy Hollow. I was beat before I started. Greens are nasty and fast there. No way I could chip or putt long enough on the uphillers. I went back to back 4 putts today as well. The course gave us all a sound whipping. Bob 92, John 94, Neil 95, Mel 104.*

#### Aug 1 2013

*At lunch between 18s Saturday for the DST Eaglesticks I asked Tom if he was*

*divorced again, I had heard him talking about he girlfriend earlier which surprised me since last I knew he was married. Indeed he was, This was wife #3.*

*I looked around at the 9 golfers and realized I may have been the only one married to wife #1. Jr corrected me. After all, he has been married only 2 years now. Thinking back, Mary has put up with a lot and has kept me. I shall try very hard to not disappoint her again.*

#### *July 31 2013*

*Took mom to the doctor yesterday. He didn't see anything of concern.*

*Spent most of yesterday afternoon supervising the tree trimming. I had 7 trees trimmed for \$1000. Three of them were quite extensive and the others were pretty simple trims. I figured I got a reasonable deal. They cleaned up everything and the place looks fine. Will have quite a bit of new light coming through in the mornings.*

*Watched the grand kids yesterday from 4- 7:30. Now that truly wore me out.*

*I figure to get back to my downstairs renovation work today.*

#### *July 30 2013*

*I am posting this early cause I have a busy day tomorrow and am a bit sleep deprived the last couple of days. Doctor's for mom at 11:15 today.*

*My nephew, Jim Jr, was in town for the Eaglesticks trip and I was impressed with his vocabulary. He floored the 3 of us old timers in the car with 2 words, Neither of us knew the words he spoke. The first was "gentrification", which he used in describing Harlem, NY. He goes every year for a Metallica concert someplace nearby. The second word used was "vitriolic", when describing one of his co-workers. After hearing that definition, I figured my picture should be next to it in the dictionary. Anyway, if you want to expand your vocabulary, you can look up these words so you can converse with Jr.*

#### *July 29 2013*

*Was going to golf Wilkshire this am, but need to take mom to the doctors today. I don't know what brought up the subject, but I remembered the first time I saw color TV. My neighbor got one in the 50s I think and invited us over to watch a show. We were mesmerized by it. I asked Mary if she remembered her first time and she did too. I was at her Aunts house.*

*I asked my brother and he did too. It was at our uncle's place. In fact he remembered it as even more extraordinary as my uncle had a remote. He said if you pushed the button, it would advance the channel. In those days the channel*

*knob was mechanical. It was round and you twisted it to the right to get the next channel. There were 13 channels on the early TVs. This remote prompted the mechanical knob to click once to the right! I don't remember seeing anything like it at all.*

*The only thing I can conclude from all this is 1) Color TV was a memorable game changer, and 2) I must be old.*

### July 28 2013

*There was no blog yesterday as I was on an all day golf event at Eaglesticks. We left the house at 5:45 and returned at 9:30.*

*Brother Jim and Jim Jr were here to participate along with George, TK, and 4 of TK's buddies. Kirk was a no show for some unknown reason. We had some sprinkles all day and it rained for only 10 min. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. I shot 89-84 with very poor putting. Jr was at 97-86, brother Jim struggled with a pair of 102s, and George whipped us with a 78-90.*

*The winner was at 166, so George missed by 2. George was spectacular the first nine, shooting a 3 under 32! I only made 2 puts the whole day and they were for birdies! That got me \$25 in skin money, so I went home \$12.50 to the good side. Jr picked up \$15 in skin money with 2 birdies. It was a great day for sure.*

### July 26 2013

*Oops. I missed a day on my blog. Yesterday we were busy. Got the guest room ready for the weekend and put away my construction tools. Then doctors appts in the afternoon. Daughter in law made the mistake of braking hard for a dog and got rear ended. It may be totaled cause there is lots of damage. Everyone is fine though, which is of utmost importance. I am glad my son bought her a tank to ferry their precious children around. The old Toyota they had would have really been crushed. Take my advice...never brake hard for stupid animals. It's natural selection at work. Started golfing poorly today, but came on very strong. 42-38 for an 80. Dick (one who backed out of his commitment to play Saturday) shot 86, Neil came back on the back nine to shoot 87. Mel and John struggled shooting 102 and 93. What do you think about a guy who shrugs off his commitments?*

### July 24 2013

*Did all I hoped to yesterday. Today progress is slow. I picked up 3 doors and was home before 8am. The first door took 3 hrs to put hinges on, rip off the molding,*

*reshim the door to fit, put back the molding and put on the door handles. Maybe I can do one more today.*

*The new fridge wasn't dispensing ice. I looked into it and called their help line. I can see there is a part missing. There is a drive shaft behind the ice drawer that is supposed to have a 2 prong flinkey to turn the screw drive in the ice drawer. It isn't there. Manufacturing at it's finest, eh? They are going to fed-ex a part so I can fix it.*

*Never a dull moment for us homeowners. Looks like my furnace drain line was leaking sometime last night. Can't rightly tell but it is the only water source around where the water is. I will have to take a look.*

*July 23 2013*

*Busy day today. Hope to put in the transition strips. Also have to get a water line kit for new fridge. Brother Jim and Jim Jr are coming Friday and I have lots to do to get ready. The grass is getting long as well but there is rain in the forecast.*

*July 22 2013*

*Played well today. 80 at Chenoweth with 11 GIRs. Hit my 4 iron to the back of 10 and just missed my long eagle putt. Dick played well except for one hole, Neil had chipping issues again. Off to doctor appt.*

*July 21 2013*

*Grand kids stayed over last night. Jacob helped out nicely, sawing all the new baseboards and nailing them in. I finished the last 2 floor tiles and did a little caulking in the closet so we can move stuff back in tonight. Still doors and more caulk to do plus the transition strips. Also had to remove my stair railings so they can bring the new refrigerator in tomorrow.*

*Tomorrow is golf then a doctor appt.*

*July 20 2013*

*Finally things are cooling down. Will work on my remodeling. Not quite sure what I will do cause my wrists are a bit stressed from the earlier work plus golf yesterday. May try to work the transition strips. Got to drill holes in the concrete floor, put in anchors and saw the metal strips. Never did this before so it should be interesting.*

July 19 2013

*Another hot one at Flying B. They have a spectacular clubhouse there. John played a nice front nine in 41 but finished with 86. I started out poorly, then shot a nice 38 on the back for 85. Mel had issues shooting 109, Dick as well with 97. Unbelievably, Mel was the dot winner with 10 dots. He did earn 1/2 a dot with his play.*

July 18 2013

*Busy day planned. Do some more flooring in the morning and take mom to the doctor in the afternoon.*

*The hard part will be putting in the transition strips in the doorways. A suggested method is to drill into the concrete floor, put in a plastic anchor and screw the transition strips into the anchors. Sounds easy. Bet it is not. I'll get good advice once I head over to the Hartville Hardware I hope.*

July 17 2013

*Got 1/2 the down hall tiled with daughter's help yesterday, got the lawn cut before the afternoon rain, and was off to sub in the Cisco league.*

*Hit the ball well but couldn't make any putts. Shot 45, bogey golf. Odd one on the first hole, a par 5. I hit a weak iron off the tee, then crushed a low 4 iron. It was going to run to about 130 yds out, but it hit the stupid 200yd post they have in the middle of the fairway and rocketed straight right. What a way to start. I did save a bogey though.*

July 16 2013

*Roasted on Sable Creek, then roasted more at WingedFoot Lake at a family picnic. Started the front par, birdie, then went 11 over on the last 7. Started the back par, par, then not so good for a 90. Hit the par 4 green with a 4iron and 3 putted my eagle put. So it went. Great seeing the family at the picnic, but I was fried from the golf heat and the air wasn't moving at all at the park. The cold shower I took when we got home was much needed.*

July 15 2013

*Busy day today. Sable Creek golf then a family picnic at Wingfoot Lake.*

*Grandson Jacob got his nose broken with a softball yesterday. I told him it was no*

*biggie, but thatch got to hurt. Probably have some headaches for awhile. Probably will have some doctor reset his nose this week.*

#### July 14 2013

*Oh my. Pulled a muscle rolling over last night while sleeping. Intense pain for a couple of minutes then it settled down. It still hurts if I take a deep breath. Still a dull pain and I have to be careful how I move. So it goes when you are old.*

*I go to the Lockheed retiree lunches the first Wednesday of each month. The guy who runs it always has everyone applaud the guys with perfect attendance. I always figured these guys with perfect attendance had no life. Well, at the July lunch, I was one of the ones called out for perfect attendance so far this year.*

*What does that say about me? I am sure I will miss one when we get a nice winter day that's good for golf. On the other hand I hear they are selling Edgewood for the land, so they ain't going to be open in the winter.*

#### July 13 2013

*Darn good golf at Mayfair yesterday. John and I had a shootout. I went 36-42 for a 78 while John went 39-40 for a 79. I hit 11 greens in regulation but only cashed in 1 birdie, while John only hit 5 greens but cashed in on 3 birdies. What's up with that? Mel added a birdie as well. He is becoming a birdie machine. Neil had 92, Dick 93, and Mel 100. I hope I can keep my hot streak going.*

*Played RidgeTop this am. 47 for 9 holes. Should have been a 42, but I had new course blunders. Couple of great chips and putts ended up 1/2 way to the hole. Three 3 putts, an OB, and slow uphill greens did me in. Was nice to see Bob though.*

#### July 12 2013

*Learning, learning, learning all the time. I got my mower fixed a week or two ago and I sent in my weed whacker cause I couldn't start it. Still couldn't start it. Finally took it back to see what was wrong. Turns out you have to switch it On before you try to start it. Oops. I had thought the thing was always on and that switch was a kill switch to turn it off. Not so. I left with my tail between my legs but a little wiser. A \$35 lesson, but I did get a new fuel filter and the carb cleaned out.*

*Took Mom to get her Ohio Non Driver ID renewed. Good till 2017. She will be 98 in 2017*

#### July 11 2013

***Finally sunshine in the forecast! Been a long time. Tornado warning yesterday. We spent 1/2 hr in the lower level. We had 2 minutes of hail. It came down in chunks of about quarter size stuff; not round hail. No damage, just a lot of little sticks to pick up. Maybe get the grass cut today.***

**July 10 2013**

***Lots of thunderstorms rolled through last night and this morning. Up at 5am so a bit tired.***

***Cashed in another Pick 4 at Presque Isle Downs. Netted \$550 for the day. This makes 2 good days in a row at this track. It's a bit odd since I have tried this track a few times the past few years without much luck. Looks like the bettors focus heavily on the favorites because the payoffs are larger than expected for pick 4's with a favorite and a couple of 7-1 winners. The winnings will pay for 1/2 of my tree trimming. Sweet!***

**July 9 2013**

***Got my down stairs done with daughters help this morning. Need to get some trim and caulk to finish. Doesn't look like Cisco needs a sub tonight, so I have the night off.***

***Did good wagering last night. Cashed in a Pick 4 that was big enough to pay for my new fridge and the flooring for the downstairs hall. Sweet!***

**July 8 2013**

***I was on fire at Brookledge for 7 holes. Finished the front with a double and a bogey for 41. Back started terrible with 4 doubles in 5 holes, then finished bogey birdie, par, bogey for 44. That backside had a lot of trouble. Dick found all of it to shoot 110 and Neil found some as well to finish at 94.***

**July 7 2013**

***Got the grass done with a few sprinkles. Went out and had to get a new fridge to keep up with the Jones. Got to have crushed ice and cold water or your not in with the in crowd. Couldn't have that.***

***Playing Brookledge tomorrow. I hope it isn't slow like the last time we played there on Monday. Tough course, Need to hit it straight and the greens are lightning fast. I will have to give some thought to course management or I will be in trouble.***



July 6 2013

*Was busy early. Mixed up some bleach and water and scrubbed the north siding and the back deck to get off the green mold that grows there slowly. I see a lot of houses we see on our walks have the same problem on the north side siding. I guess mold grows on the north side that never gets any sun to dry up the moisture.*

*Not sure why it wants to grow on composite decking? I looked on the internet and it seems to be a common issue with the composites. Then again, it's easier to scrub a deck than paint wood and fix the rot. I'll take it any day over the wood.*

*The rest of the day should be slow,*

July 5 2013

*We dodged all the rain today and finished before it hit. I hit the ball really well except for 3 or 4 shots; two cost me penalties. Chipping and putting was an issue today. They were either good or bad, nothing in between. John had an 86, I was at 88, and Mel at 96. Melvin chipped 2 in from 15 yds off the green impressively with a lofted shot. They hit, took a couple bounces, ran up to the cup, did a 360 and dropped. Wow!*

July 4 2013

*Since everyday is Saturday when you are retired, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is on a Saturday this year and forever more. Snagged another squirrel. It's Squirrel #5 for the year. Going to be a quiet 4<sup>th</sup>. Will cook out some steaks today.*

*No songs in my head last night. That's a good thing.*

July 3 2013

*Shot 43 at Ellsworth last night. Two 3putts didn't help. Saw a tick there so I sprayed up. Retiree lunch today was fun.*

*Damnest thing last night. Went to bed and woke up 1/2hr later singing the All in the Family theme in my head. Haven't seen a rerun of that for 5-10 years. Archie and Edith and Meathead were there. After doing more of the same for 20 minutes, I got up and watched TV for 1/2 hr. Then I was OK to sleep.*

*Got the carpet and pad cut for my 6 stairs and ready to go when my daughter can make it over to help.*

July 2 2013

*Did some minor painting. Slow day. Mower is fixed and should be back tomorrow. Guy said he would give me a 13% discount for cash instead of a check. Somehow I don't believe he will be declaring this job on his income tax. Just a guess.*

*Going to sub in the Cisco slow league tonight. My finger is still swollen from the brake job but for some reason I have been playing much better since I hurt it. I pointed that out to the Monday guys. They suggested I throw a hammer in my bag and whack it some more if I started to play poorly.*

*Oh yeah, playing Monday, I found a strange 7 iron in my bag. It was Mel's. Must have picked it up off the green last Friday when we played. I will return it so he isn't playing crippled tomorrow night in his league.*

#### *July 1 2013*

*Good round today at 80. All we got was a slight sprinkle when I thought we would get an hr of rain. Granddaughter 9<sup>th</sup> Bday today, so party tonight. Time flies, eh?*

#### *June 30 2013*

*Wow. Been running on my blog for 6 months now. How time flies. Another slow day. Watched the Indians win and Inbee Park win her 3d major this year in a walk away. Ripped off the rug and got the lower flight of stairs ready to carpet. Guess I have been watching too much DIY TV.*

#### *June 29 2013*

*My sister Sue came in to watch mom for 1/2 a day, so we got to go out and pick up a sewing machine being tuned up, buy paint for the guest bedroom, pick up a rug remnant for my lower stairs, pick up an Azelia bush for the yard, and have a quiet lunch at Applebees. Was a great break. Thank you Sue.*

#### *June 28 2013*

*Golf at Wilkshire today. I played well with a nice 78. John was at 79, Neil was at 85, and Mel shot a lifetime low of 89. Hats off to Mel.*

*Sent Direct TV another email. They have outdone themselves again in offensive commercials. This time they have one where you get someone sent to jail and when they get out, they blow up your house. Geeze! I emailed them a year or two ago about their commercial where the restaurant did something to a guys food for some reason. They pulled it shortly after that, I hope they pull this one pretty quick.*

June 27 2013

*Slept in till 8:45 this AM, I don't remember when I slept that late. I was awake at 4:15 as usual, turned over and woke up that late. Wow, wow, wow. It was supposed to be a quiet day, but we wound up watching the grand kids as Wes and Kaetchen celebrated their 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I got to set up Thomas the Train again.*

*Looking fwd to golf tomorrow, but we may get stormed out.*

June 26 2013

*Subbed in the Cisco league at Ellsworth last night. Talk about a window! Got there at 5:30 as the storm was just passing the golf course. We got the round in before all the storming that started evening around 9. It really cooled down after the rain. We had an open nine since the leagues ahead canceled out. I hit the ball well, but had some bad luck ending directly behind a tree, bouncing one into the weeds off the cart path, and chunking into the lake. Shot 46 with one chip in birdie.*

June 25 2013

*Didn't sleep well and it showed at golf yesterday. Shot 88 at Chippawa. I went bogey, par, bogey thru the triangle so that was good. Problem areas were the par 3's where I averaged double bogey, and the 3 bunkers I hit and skulled it out over the green. Well, I guess I had my 10 minutes of fame last time out.*

*Got an estimate for tree pruning last night. The estimate was less than expected so I am good to go. They should be by in about 2 weeks.*

June 24 2013

*Rejoice! Twinkies are back, I was never a big fan of Twinkies. I liked the Hostess chocolate cupcakes with the cream in the middle. We use to eat them often but eventually got away from them for more healthier treats. What can be better than scarfing down a treat loaded sugar and grease?*

*I remember when there was a big to do about your cholesterol. Everybody was running out and getting tested. They had free clinics every now and then to test you. It wasn't standard at the Dr. Office like today. I watched it for a couple of years and decided my numbers followed my weight, Tried home made oat bran muffins to get my numbers down. Didn't help. That's probably when we started cutting out Twinkies and hostess cupcakes. Now-a-day, you just take a pill and eat all the crap you want.*

*Thank you Big Pharma! Here's to eating surgery greasy crap! Maybe I will grab a cream doughnut on the way to golf today.*

June 23 2013

*Borrowed the neighbor's mower and got the job done. Man, it's hot and humid. Glad we start early on Monday for Golf.*

June 22 2013

*Slow day. Mower wouldn't start. Starter spins but doesn't engage. They will pick it up Wednesday, so I am going to have some long grass to cut when they fix the dang thing. Nothing much happening till Monday golf at Chippawa.*

June 21 2013 WOW

*Awesome round yesterday at Reserve Run! I played good on the front, but shot 44 with 1 OB, 1 in the lake, and a 4 putt on #9. Then I was on fire. Went birdie-birdie on #10 and #11. On #11 I hit a 7iron 3" short of the cup. Dang! Bogie on #12 after trying to bomb it past the lake with a 230 carry. On #13 dogleg, I cut the corner and landed 5 foot short of the green, then chipped in for an eagle. I finished with 3 straight pars, a birdie, and a bogie on 18. I had a par putt of 12 feet on #18, but chose to lag up to save an amazing 3 under 32 on the back nine for a 76 six over par round.*

*John managed a nice 85, Mel a 92, and Neil a 94 (with 2 nines on the card- ouch). I was very happy with my iron play, hitting them all solid like I did this winter. The key was to keep my head over the ball and not move it all around.*

June 20 2013

*Obesity is a disease, eh? What will the definition be? 20% overweight? I have no clue. Maybe these people will have to wear a wristband and McD cant sell you a Big Mac, nor Burger King a Whopper. Maybe they will have to have a picture and a warning like tobacco on the whopper box? I don't know why alcohol doesn't have a warning and a picture of a down and out bum or a diseased liver? No rhyme or reason. Tis crazy*

June 19 2013

*Huh. Looks like I had two June 18ths in my blog, so I fixed them as I remember them. Went for a liver ultrasound yesterday. Doc didn't like something from my blood test results. Probably will be changing a med soon. Called later and said everything was normal and he has some more blood tests to run.*

*Sister was going to a viewing last night. I told her to poke the body a few times and make sure they were really gone. You know how those Baptists are always*

*pulling practical jokes.*

**June 18 2013**

*I played better at Seven Hills yesterday and shot an 89. Neil was around 91. We just finished before it started raining. Got half the grass cut and the rest this morning.*

*I set up the Eaglesticks Open for July 27. Should be a good time. Hope it isn't 95 like last year. We only played 18 due to the heat. Bill quit after 13 cause he couldn't cool down even after dousing himself with water.*

**June 17 2013**

*The highlight of my round at Windmill yesterday was I found 6 tees on the tee boxes. George shot around 90 and trounced me.*

**June 16 2013**

*Father's Day. I hope to get to play Windmill Lakes with George. Haven't played with him this year. Thunderstorms are threatening the round. I hope we dodge it. How about Hunter Mahan at the open yesterday? He had gray pants, red shirt, and an ugly turquoise hat and matching belt. The hat looked too big for his head. Gawd it was an ugly outfit. Looked like something I would wear.*

**June 15 2013**

*Beautiful day! Watching mom and the US Open. Been a strange open. With the rain delays who knows who is winning? Went to a neighbors 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party. I told him he could stay up past his bedtime.*

**June 14 2013**

*Our 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We celebrated by playing golf (me anyway) and going to a birthday party in the evening. Neil and Sandy also celebrate 39 years.*

*My Focus install injury was worse than thought. My scraped finger turned purple, so I iced it for 4 hrs last night. It hurt for 2 holes today then was OK. It's still sensitive and purple though. I played fairly well but couldn't chip good enough to get it down. Didn't make many putts either. Did shoot 86, Neil 89, Dick 91, John 93, and Mel a stellar 94. Nary a birdie among us.*

*Dick and I missed easy ones with Mel putting the hex on me for that one. I got Mel*

*some caffeine tablets so he can stay awake while driving. I hope he chokes on one.*

**June 13 2013**

*The weather reports had me going around shouting "Auntie Em, Auntie Em". All we got here was 10 min of rain and one big Boom at 2:47am. Looks like less than 1/2 inch of rain came down. Didn't even knock any leaves off the tree. Quite a non event at least in Uniontown. I guess we missed the bad parts of the storm.*

*Did the front pads on my Focus. Figured 66,000 mi was enough. Was pretty easy. Took about 1.5hrs and \$35 for the pads. Only 1 knuckle scrape to deal with.*

**June 12 2013**

*We got rained on for 2 holes Tuesday, then it was pleasant. We all played well. Bob 82, Neil 84, Dick 84. Birdies galore with 2, 3, and 2 respectively. I drove the short par 4 #12 on the back but my eagle putt slid right; not enough speed. Neil was in a spot impossible to get close on the top (right) side of the #13 par 3. He chipped it too hard but it clanged the pin and went in. You got to love the senior (ladies) tees. Not much going today, blood draw day for me and my mom.*

**June 11 2013**

*Weather looks like rain for the back nine so I got a time Tuesday and will stay dry. So far, it*

**June 10 2013**

*Weather looks like rain for the back nine so I got a time Tuesday and will stay dry. So far, it hasn't been too wet. Maybe I should have played?*

**June 9 2013**

*I did catch a \$50 exacta, but zippo the rest of the way. One of the 5 Todd Pletcher horses won, just not the one I figured. Oh well. I better take a month off horse racing because my handicapping sucks lately. No chippys today. Maybe I got them all?*

*The Republicans are still harping on Bengazzi! They should get a life!*

**June 8 2013**

*No chippys in the trap yet but it's early. Going to be another lazy day, whatever*

*day of the week it is. Belmont Stakes today. Going to be squishy with the storm that went up the coast. Maybe it will dry out by racetime. Todd Pletcher has 5 horses in and has grabbed all the big money jockeys except for Rosario who rides Orb. I think he will hit with one of them. Should be interesting.*

*June 7 2013*

*Chippy #20 in the trap this morning. I must be clearing out the whole neighborhood. Chilly day at Brookside. I shot 41-43 and had many good shots missing many 4-10 footers with 2 penalties as well. Should have broken 80. John T matched my 84, while Dick and Neil were around 90. Looking fwd to hitting more good shots on Monday. The key seems to be sliding the club down smoothly as opposed to jerking it down quickly. Today anyway.*

*June 6 2013*

*I was thinking back to the wedding we attended over the weekend. I am glad we went. It was good to see many relatives, mostly on their good behavior. It was obvious many of them had put away their troubles and were enjoying the moment. Life is full of obligations, work, petty disagreements, problems, and issues. When an opportunity comes along to set them all aside, it's a breath of fresh air. We should all make our own moments like this and not have to wait for a big event.*

*There was one couple on the dance floor married 59 years. How great is that. Those of us that are long time married (#44 anniversary is approaching June 14), have it worked out. Not a one of us is perfect (although I come close lol), but we have learned to both tolerate the rough spots, and work them out. For better or for worse don't you know. Having a long time love and partner is what it's about.*

*How's that for a sappy blog.*

*June 5 2013*

*Back to the grind. Grass cut and captured chipmunk #16. Getting a good night's sleep is awesome. There is no place like home!*

*Retiree lunch today. Get to see more old people.*

*June 4 2013*

*Back from a cold weekend in Buffalo. We visited family, went to nephew David's wedding, and I played a little golf.*

*Everyone was fine there. Very nice wedding in Gasport, NY in some Vineyard. The*

*service was short, the food good, and they played some good tunes for the dance floor. I danced a couple with my wife. Niece Robin dragged me up to do Jump Around, which she had remembered at my son Wes' wedding. I must have made a good impression then (IE. Made a fool out of myself). This time my knees only made it thru 1/2 the song before I had to leave the dance floor.*

*Golf was good Saturday: 43-43=86. Played Monday am in my shorts since I didn't bring jeans (fool). It started cold at 49 degrees. I was a bit sleep deprived at 6am, but played well till I hit the wall on #14. Shot 43-45=88 as I struggled in walking.*

*Hope everyone had a good weekend.*

*May 30 2013*

*Got the grass cut, helped move a dresser, and caught my 15<sup>th</sup> chipmunk.*

*Shuffling off to Buffalo, no blogs till Tuesday June 4.*

*May 29 2013*

*Went over to Wes' house and cleaned up broken glass from the patio table the wind blew over. Made \$200 on a couple of day trades with the market bouncing on a down day. More Mom watching as the ladies are out to the crap stores.*

*After reaching a peak in my chess ratings about 1340, I am now on my way down. Currently 1305 or so.*

*May 28 2013*

*Trapped 2 more chipmunks today. Mary's sister is in town for 2 weeks so I will be doing a lot of Mom sitting. Going to be a very slow week.*

*May 27 2013*

*Memorial Day in Hartville. Neighbor around the block has 100 flags surrounding her flower beds. The local farmers have their John Deers lined up like soldiers and one in front of them holding the flag. Th roads are awash with a gazllion people heading to the Hartville Flea Market. Cheap stuff will be bought by all. We are all heading over for a rib cookout at my daughter's.*

*May 26 2013*

*Someone on the news was pleading for a lung transplant for their kid and their priority in the queue. I believe when it's time for you to go, it's time for you to go, and you shouldn't be standing around hoping someone else dies so you can live. For that reason, I am not a donor. Besides, I don't have any useful organs anyway.*

*I guess I am semi OK with pig valves and artificial hearts and limbs. It's kind of*



*like buying something at the grocery or hardware store. Nobody has to die and get ripped apart.*

*May 25 2013*

*The mind is a funny thing. Last night while getting the coffee pot set up for the morning, I was concerned we were running out of coffee filters. I got them out and counted them to see just how bad things were. One, two, three, four, five. I then started putting the coffee in. One two, three, four.....wait a minute. I was counting to five of course. Since I knew I never put in more than 3 scoops, I caught the error.*

*Monday at golf, Lynn asked where his tee shot went. I pointed to the right and said "Left rough". When I hit my second shot I was surprised to see them looking for a ball. Those dummies were actually looking on the left side rough when I had properly pointed to the right. What were they thinking?*

*May 24 2013*

*Playing Mayfair this morning. Not a good course for the cold since they don't have windshields on the carts. Will update later below. Trapped my 9<sup>th</sup> chipmunk yesterday. I think I cleared out all of mine and the latest must be a visitor from the neighbors. My goodness, they must have been running rampant.*

*It was a cold cold breezy day at Mayfair. I started poorly before I adapted to the cold, then took quite awhile to hit a good tee shot. I shot 87, John, who said he used poor judgment in coming today, had a 92 with several penalties. Lyle was hot and cold for 89, and we had to stick a fork in Dick early with a 103.*

*May 23 2013*

*Got my old toaster out and tried to fix it. It's a wedding gift from my aunt and uncle from 1969 and was the only surviving gift we had at the time it got set aside, I couldn't bear to toss it. After all, I am a sentimental kind of guy. Turns out the plug got hot on my test run. I headed over to Hartville Hardware and picked up an appliance cord and a couple of slide on lugs it used to connect in the cord. When it comes to odd hardware pieces, you can't beat this place.*

*I got it all put back together. It looks shiny and beautiful. They sure made them better back in the day. It works fine with the exception of the release. When the toast is supposed to pop, you can hear the electromagnet trying to pull in the mechanical release but it doesn't quite get the job done. Not sure what to do. I guess I will have to take another look with the top off. It seems the magnet is farther away from the metal release than it should be.*

May 22 2013

*The latest joke (really not a joke) on CNBC is to say the likely hood of anything getting through congress is nil. %\*! Republicans. I was thinking maybe I should vote Republican in the next election just so things can move along somewhere. After coming to my senses, I realized they would just move us more toward going down the drain and heading backwards.*

May 21 2013

*Great iron play yesterday at Oak Knolls. A hook snuck in a couple of times though. Ground was real hard and my chipping suffered. Couldn't adjust the whole way around. Made 2 putts, one for a birdie but missed many by inches. My reading of the breaks was dreadful. Scored an 86 which is an improvement but the course is real short from the senior tees. Oh well. I will tee it up again Friday at Mayfair and give it another go.*

*Last Thursday, buddy Mel dropped me off after golf and when he got on his street, dozed off and maimed his car. He was OK though. Geeze. How can you doze off within spitting distance to your house? He did say he didn't sleep more than 5 hrs the night before. Moral of the story is get a good night's sleep.*

*Trapped my 6<sup>th</sup> chipmunk the other day. I still see at least one more dashing around in the flower beds. I shall not rest till I get them all.*

May 20 2013

*I was thinking I never would want a phone with Google's Android system on it. My goodness. Google serves me ads based on what I searched and clicked on. They also have a record of all the YouTube videos you ever watched. You can get in and delete them but I am sure they keep the records for themselves. If you have an Android phone, I wouldn't be surprised that they are able to get a hold of those records as well. And those that use Gmail, OMG I bet the search through your email text for interesting stuff. Big brother Google is watching.*

May 19 2013

*Channel 8 has lots of old clips of Wilma Smith they run cause her last day is Wednesday. I don't recall my retirement being celebrated with all that fanfare. I believe I did get a cake and an opportunity for a speech. I remember thanking everyone, wishing them well, and that I would miss them. I told everyone I was going to be golfing, working on home projects, and trying to find a job as a Doo Wop backup singer. Well, I have been golfing and doing home projects anyway.*

*What do I miss in retrospective? I do miss getting on their cases when I thought hey could be better. The good people anyway. So, if I gave you a hard time it was because you were talented and had a brighter future. If I didn't, you probably were not going anywhere. There were some exceptions of course. Those that were operating at peak with enormous talent, there was nothing to be said. I just sat back and watched them in awe.*

*May 18 2013*

*Won a few bucks on the Pimlico Preakness preps yesterday. Enough to fund some wagers today. I didn't do too well Derby day. I'll let you know how it turns out later. Shot craps. Nada.*

*May 17 2013*

*They had the congressional hearings on the IRS debacle on today on CNBC. It was sickening. Basically these congressman sit on their perch and spout what they want to and ask questions and basically call the fired IRS Miller guy a liar every few minutes. One congressman spent 8 minutes spouting off without ever asking a question. When Miller stated he answered the previous questions at earlier meetings truthfully, one congressman called him uncooperative. I think if it was me under that abuse, I might have told a couple of them various unkind things to do.*

*I would pay to see some of these congressman face the same nasty rude grilling in hearings. Talk about not answering questions, these guys take the cake. I am sure this has been going on for many a year, but watching it made me sick. I really don't know why people vote for these guys.*

*May 16 2013*

*My my my. I hit some great irons at Sugarbush today. It's been a struggle with them. Well, that's the good news. The bad news is I sliced every drive, could not chip and couldn't putt. Prime example: took a 7 on the #17 par 5 after being in the greenside bunker in 2. OMG!*

*Neil was red hot and then cold and got hot again for an 87, Bob shot 91, Mel 98, and Dick 106 (we put a fork in him halfway up #17). Dick was begging for putts on 16 and 17 to save his 8 and 9.*

*John was a no show? Maybe he will show up tomorrow at the course thinking we were playing on a Friday.*

*May 15 2013*

***Hope at last. I hit a bucket and figured out I need to keep my head still. Played in the Cisco league and shot 45. Missed several tricky short ones, so I am happy and looking forward to playing Sugarbush Thursday.***

**May 14 2013**

***Played like crap at Chenoweth 50-47. On #9 par5, I was 175 away from the green and took an 8. On #18 par3, I was 3 ft off the fringe and took a 5. And so it went. I did hit some good irons, drives and putts though. Drove two OB and one in the lake.***

***Going to sub in Cisco league tonight. I hope I play better.***

**May 13 2013**

***Mothers Day feast was awesome. I have the highest regards for mothers. They are mothers for life and always put their kids first. If it was up to guys to have kids, we would be extinct.***

***Going to be cold tomorrow. Bundled up, I should play better. Can Sergio choke or what! My goodness. He has a long way to go to catch Furyk's performance last year.***

**May 12 2013**

***Mothers Day. The family is coming over plus sister from Pittsburgh. Got some big T-bones to grill out and knaw on plus some ribs and shrooms. Yum! More food than you can shake a stick at. At moments like this, my dad use to say "Wonder what the poor people are eating today". With food stamps, they might be eating just as high on the hog.***

***Pretty darn cool out. Guess I will have to get my jeans back out and mow the lawn.***

**May 11 2013**

***Mother's day cookout scheduled for tomorrow. Got to get ready, otherwise nothing new going on.***

***Saw guy walking his dog this morning. Looks like he has a dog just like our old one. I am going to have to check out this dog one of these days. Our dog was a good friend and was always protective. It was very sad when we had to put her asleep. I guess it's that way for everyone. Cats would be easy. The only good cat is a dead one. Never heard of anyone being sad doing in a cat.***

May 10 2013

*The rain passed by early enough so we got the round in at Windmill Lakes. I hit my irons better on the back nine but missed at least 6 five footers for a 91. The Neil 99, Rudy 101, Mel 103, Dick 108. Rudy played the Whites. Looking forward to playing Chenoweth Monday.*

May 9 2013

*Was supposed to be another quiet day yesterday. Cut the lawn then was thinking of doing my paint job, but the grandson was coming over to tire us out. While we were outside mom got a nasty nosebleed. If you are eating breakfast, don't read any further, We tried to stop it for 30 min, then decided to hear to the ER. They cauterized it with Silver Nitrate and we were on our way. After they fixed her up, a major gross out came when mom spit out a glob of blood clot about the size of a walnut. She is fine now.*

May 8 2013

*Quiet day yesterday. Did our morning walk at 7am. Put some goop on the ceiling to finish my patch. Guy at hardware store said just use joint compound and water it down till it gets almost drippy. Seemed to work. I'll paint it today and see how it looks. Don't forget it is Mother's Day Sunday.*

*Amazing news coverage on the rescued girls. They showed the barricade across the street and every 10 ft there was a network set up with cameras. I bet they time share those spots as well. Maybe I will get a haircut this morning and run up there and get on TV. I am going to keep away from Anderson Cooper though. I wonder if Lara Spencer is in town? On second thought, maybe I should dress like the trash hauler and claim I have picked up their trash for years.*

May 7 2013

*Another ugly round yesterday. Shot 94 with 3 penalties. Neil shot 96. Ellsworth greens gave us a whipping. I wasn't happy. I left an hr early to hit some balls, but the range was closed for maintenance cutting. Mr9wood was off to some Lotus show for people that have money.*

May 6 2013

*Looks like another great day. Playing Ellsworth today. Tough course, long, with sloped greens and lots of trouble. My Cisco hdcp from the white tees is 18. They don't have senior tees either. Bogey golf at 89 would be a good score for me there.*

*Think I will go early and try to repair my iron swing, which has been dismal of late.*

*Saw the Battle of the Magicians yesterday with Mel and JoAnn at the Palace. Great entertainment and very skilled magicians. Dined at Bonefish Grill. Their shrimp appetizer is awesome. It was nice to get out. Thx to daughter Carolyn for watching mom for the evening! Mom is very much out of it these days. She tires out quickly and does a lot of napping. I was shocked that I hit the pick 3 for races 9,10,11 at the Derby. First time ever! I slyly turned my \$25 pick 3 into a return of \$18.50, so I only lost \$6.50. Oh well. I enjoyed handicapping. Never cashed a ticket the first 8 races, so a dismal wagering performance. The early races had pools of \$2M. By race 6, the pools were \$6-9M each race. The pool for the Derby race was a whopping \$125M. Amazing.*

*Great day yesterday, but the wind was a little chilly. Walked the usual 1.8miles in the morning 59 degree chill. Grass was cut and looks great.*

#### *May 4 2013*

*Kentucky Derby day. I am amazed at all the money wagered on Derby Day. The betting pool is enormous. I will throw some in once again. It's more like throwing it away, as I never have been able to figure it out. I am playing a pick 3 this year and will let you know how it turns out tomorrow.*

*I remember one of our golfers, Chuck, always going to it since he was from there. Mint Juleps were his choice of course. There are parties everywhere. One year, he never did make it to the track as he was too trashed to make it over there,*

*Lawn needs done. I also need to get over and hit some golf balls and get my iron swing fixed. It will be most good for my blood pressure.*

#### *May 3 2013*

*Oh did I play bad today. Shot 94 and I was so disgusted I didn't even get the other scores. Mel had a birdie and just missed a second. Neil said he had 86. I drove to the fringe on 18, but the grass slowed my putter and I cam up way short. 4 putted from there for a 6.*

*Never did get to my ceiling patch. Ended up putting out the table, chairs, and swing outdoors. It was fabulous out there. Joyce Peltz came by to do my lawn fertilizer and crab control. She has been doing it for many years now. Lazy day but I felt like I was busy.*

#### *May 2 2013*

*Plan to get out and walk this morning. Out of shape. I was thinking that last year we were pretty active. Myrtle Beach beach walks and tourist attraction walks got things started and we were active all spring. With no MB this year, we never got moving. Guess I better get to finishing my ceiling patch. It's been ready to work on for about a week now.*

*Oh, BTW, I found a shiny penny on the floor at the retiree lunch yesterday. It's going to be my lucky penny.*

*May 1 2013*

*Huh! I was mowing the lawn yesterday and I passed by the tree in the back. Next pass I was approaching the tree again and there was a fairly heavy branch fallen under it since I had passed by there. Was I just lucky or was it some kind of warning?*

*I was surprised the Monday guys couldn't play at Chippawa. It was closed because it was too wet. Glad I was in Buffalo. No rainouts there. Subbed in the Cisco league last night. It was still pretty wet. I hacked my way to a 47 after starting out with an 8.*

*April 30 2013*

*I don't get these gay announcements. I really don't give a sh\*t. Maybe it's the way I evolved or religion. As I mentioned previously I am a live and let live kinda guy. But someone telling me they are gay most certainly makes me think less of them. Why would they want millions of people to think less of them? I don't get it.*

*I played early morning golf all 3 days I was in Buffalo. Shot 89-94-87 The short game and the lonnnnnng 430 par 4s got to me. The greens were still sandy from the fall and the wet sandy greens made for everything coming up short. The weather this week looks awesome!*

*No Blogs till Tuesday – Shuffling off to Buffalo*

*April 26 2013*

*Soggy Mayfair brought us to our knees. Very poor play. John 95, Bob 96, Neil 97, Dick 100, Mel 113.*

*April 25 2013*

*there. Dropped him off the the school soccer field.*

*Had mom to the doctors late afternoon and we stopped at Parrason's for dinner since we had not been there for 20 years. We always took our visitors there cause it was so cheap. Well, the menu is still pretty much the same as is the layout and furniture, Prices are much higher, \$32 for 3 meals. You can beat that at numerous places these days, so not so much a good value anymore. I told our waiter that my daughter use to work here. He asked what her name was and I told him that was 24 years ago. He might have been 24. Amazing how long the place has survived.*

*On another note, we sure are a screwed up society. Latest woman's deodorant add claims you can go sleeveless after 5 days. I guess clogging up your sweat glands is now a good thing?*

*April 24 2013*

*Had a reasonably good round at Ellsworth. Drove the ball decent with only 2 banana balls. Putting wasn't bad although I missed 2 short putts. One was a slick downhill, so I just tapped it lightly. It hit a ridge from a footprint and spun left along the ridge. I didn't see it otherwise I would have firmed it more. Not sure what I did on the other short miss. I did run in 3 five footers, and had some nice long lag ups. Also curled a 5 iron too far left and it took the slope down into the lake on #17. Shot 43 but it could have been a stellar 40. Should have could have again.*

*With a 5:45 tee time and a slow league in front, we finished nearly in the dark at 8:30. Two hrs and 45min is painful. I rode again. My wrists are too sore to pull the cart lately and I need to get walking more with Mary to get my legs in shape. This crummy weather has kept us from walking. Played 243 holes vs 459 last spring, so the weather has really impacted play.*

*April 23 2013*

*Looks like a good day to sub in the Cisco league. Supposed to be pretty warm. I usually walk nine, but my wrists are aching again. Hope I putt better this evening.*

*Bummer. My hands are getting calloused after all these years. I always had soft hands. It goes back to my childhood when I had to do dishes a lot. Whomever was bad that day had to do the dinner dishes. Needless to say, most of the time that was me. Then I had an easy life as an engineer, although I did get a few callouses from pushing the pencil. Now, with all these home work projects, too many callouses. Oh well.*

*It was ugly today for me at Sable Creek. Many missed short putts, and threw in a 4 putt for good measure. I just couldn't get the breaks right. Missed 2 birdie putts*



*under 4'. So I did shoot 86 but I should have been around 80. Dick shot 50-42, Neil had issues at 103, Denny 92 and Dan 92. Neil hit 3 laterals on #10 (maroon #1).*

*April 21 2013*

*We headed out to see the movie Olympus has Fallen last night, but I had another senior moment. We got to Tinseltown and I saw Oblivion on the list of movies. That didn't seem right so I scanned again and found Olympus. I was relieved and went right up to the booth and ordered Oblivion tickets. We were 1/2 way to movie 13 when I realized I screwed up. LOL. I had no idea what the show was going to be about and was hoping it wasn't an animated kids film. Fortunately, it was a good movie and we both enjoyed it. Such is senior life.*

*We went thru an OVI checkpoint on Applegrove twice. On the way back, I told them they got me going the other way, so he just waved us thru. They are out there my friends.*

*Have a good day today. Not sure what day of the week it is, lol.*

*April 20 2013*

*Supposed to be a cold day today. Sure seems like one of the lousiest springs in a long time. Anyway, I was wondering just why the heck I played golf twice in the cold windy rain last week. Isn't that crazy?*

*Well, the first time I was on the hook to sub for my old Cisco buddy Larry. I told them we were nuts to play, but the other 7 said "Let's go." So, in this case, I played because I gave my word. I guess that was an honorable decision on my part. On the negative side, it's the people I hang out that are nuts.*

*The second day, we all thought the rain would pass shortly. We had already talked about not playing in the rain, but the weather fooled us. I suppose we could have quit, but we were already wet, so what the heck.*

*Bottom line is I am totally normal. It's my buddies that are crazy. That's a relief.*

*April 19 2013*

*We went out to play Brookledge today right after the sky cleared. There was a monsoon on the second hole we waited out. It stopped and we moved ahead pretty dry with a slight drizzle on the back 9. The wind picked up, the temp dropped, and we were cold! The last 2 were right into the wind. I had a good round considering I 4 putted #12. I shot an 80, Dick was 89, Neil 91, and Mel 96.*

[\*See April 17 2013 Update on Rudi\*](#)

*April 18 2013*

*I want to tell you, I have great ideas all the time. Sometimes I amaze myself. Well, would you believe once in awhile? Here is the problem:*

*All guys must have some of the same DNA. I was at the barbers yesterday and I see this senior gentleman do the exact same thing I find myself doing. He parks his car and starts walking toward the shop, when he does a zipper check. Us seniors know it is rough to remember to zip up after going. And most times before we go out of the house, we make a precautionary pit stop. That means most of the time we are at risk to forget and be embarrassed. If we are lucky, we remember that we don't remember so good, so we had better check before entering the store. Nothing worse than shopping and sometime after you exit the store you find your zipper down.*

*The solution: What about zipper assemblies with a motion sensor and an alarm? If the motion sensor senses movement for say 10 seconds when the zipper is in the down position, an alarm sounds. It would need one of them small watch batteries, because AA's would be a bit awkward. The idea needs more work because there are times it needs to be down while there is motion, say in going to the bathroom. Perhaps all bathrooms can send out a alarm kill signal so when you are in any bathroom the alarm stays silent. I can see I will have to think this through and make sure I cover all the possibilities before applying for my patent.*

**[April 17 2013 Update](#)**

***Old buddy Rudi passed away last night, He was one of a kind. RIP.***

**[April 17 2013](#)**

*Subbed in the Cisco league last night. I told them they were nuts and the storm would be here by 6:15. I was right about the rain but the nasty lightning went to the far south. Anyway, we played the last 3 holes in the cold rain and got pretty much soaked. I played well with my sweatshirt and jacket on, shooting 41 with 1 birdie. I guess I will have to wear my sweatshirt and jacket all summer. and you could hear the static from the storm. I was surprised the batteries had lasted so long. I put it in there Sunday at noon. If you don't slide the switch all the way over to off it goes to the AM setting. You can't make this stuff up.*

**[April 16 2013](#)**

*Off to the dentist this morning.*

*Golf was ugly. I shot 90, Neil was at 93, Dick 95, and Denny 89. Must have topped the ball 6 times. I did roll in a 2 foot birdie and chipped in on the last hole for a par, but didn't have very many good shots. What happened to that swing I had a*

*couple of weeks earlier?*

*Trapped squirrel #4, I call him Big Red. Been trying to catch this one for 4 years now. It's the end of an era.*

**April 15 2013**

*Trapped squirrel #3 yesterday. Also put a drywall patch in the ceiling with my daughter's help. Got to build it up with drywall mud. It's a little uneven at the moment. Will take several layers, some sanding, and some ceiling goop. The mower is out and the grass cut for the first time.*

*Looks like a great day for golf at Tannenhau at 10am.*

**April 14 2013**

*Up early enough to watch the TV Mass this morning. Watched the replay of Tiger Woods 2 penalty strokes assessed the day after at the Masters. Quite a fiasco all around. Yeah, they made a mistake clearing him at the time. I think they just made it worse by changing the ruling the day after. Geez, isn't there a time limit? Can we go back a couple of years and take someone's Masters trophy away after watching tape and looking for violations?*

**April 13 2013**

*Put the battery back in the mower and cut about 25% of my lawn. Too cold out there to do more.*

*Will work on repairing a small section of my ceiling tomorrow. I patched around the roof vent pipe last week and it seems to have stopped any leaking. I guess that patch stuff cracks and should be re-patched every 3-5 years. The heat and cold tend to crack it over time. Put some mesh around the pipe and coated it with this black stuff.*

*I'll cut a piece of drywall and set it in the ceiling. always have trouble getting the white textured stuff to stick up there, I suppose I will have the same problems again this time.*

*Having lunch with an old buddy that's going to visit Rudi in the hospital today. He drives in from Mars, PA one or twice a month. Mars is a strange name for a town.*

**April 12 2013**

*Ouch. No carts today, so we walked. I did OK for 12 holes, then a long uphill climb on a par 4 put the hurt on me. The last 6 holes were painful as my legs tightened up after a 100 yd walk. I made it thru though and bogeyed my way in to shoot 87. Neil did 92 and was smoking his drives, Mel shot 98 and Dick 99. We had mist for 3*

*or 4 holes. I couldn't make any putts, nor could anyone else. Mel and Neil did make a couple of long ones on #4 for pars.*

*I am whipped.*

*April 11 2013*

*Looks like the storms should be done tonight, so golf is going to be OK, maybe a little sloppy. Stopped and visited Rudi in the hospital. He is still kicking on 500cal/day of liquids. He only has 15% heart function, so his next heart issue surely will be his last. Trapped squirrel #2 today.*

*April 10 2013*

*Squirrel season opened today. I trapped a little one and sent him off to Quail Hollow. Played a few ponies without much luck. The good news is my horses came in first in the Pick4, the bad news is one of them didn't have a rider. Spilled him off right out of the gate,*

*April 9 2013*

*Not much today. Enjoyed the nice weather and played with my 2.5 yr old grandson. Nothing much planned for tomorrow, so I doubt I will post anything, but I might.*

*Bad news this evening. Another co-worker, Jane, visited Rudi in the hospital, He is in Hospice care and the feeding tube is now removed. I hope to say goodbye to him on Thursday.*

*April 8 2013*

*Looks like golf is on today, 10am at Seven Hills. I am hoping to shoot somewhere around 85, which is possible if I can play smart and stay out of the trees. I will update this post later on today.*

*Oops. Shot 92. Didn't have that sweet swing today and the greens were lightning fast. We were all trying to lag even the 4 footers. Ken Houle played. He had a stroke last summer and is working his way back. He hit the ball OK but had no touch on these severe greens.*

*April 7 2013*

*Happy birthday to me, happy birthday to me, happy birthday, happy birthday, happy birthday to me.*

*Now for an important finding. I am sure you have heard that everyone puts their*

*pants on one leg at a time. But when you get older it gets a little tougher. I spent some time analyzing this activity and have discovered it is easier to put my pants on by starting with the left leg. Experimenting with both legs, I find it difficult to pull them on with the right leg first. Here is how I figure. Being right handed I have more dexterity on the right side. So pulling on the left leg as it is unencumbered is relatively easy. Then, pulling on the right leg, I have more dexterity to pull it on even though my left is partially covered with a pant leg. If I start with the right leg, as I normally do, putting on the left is more difficult to insert the left leg properly because the partially covered right pant leg restricts movement on the left side and I lack the dexterity to ease the pant leg on the left. Who would have thought? This works for both pants AND underwear! Anyway, my tip for an easier life is to put on pants using the leg opposite of your strong side. Left for righties, and right first for lefties.*

*I am sure you will all want to thank me for revealing this fabulous tip for an easier life for us seniors. I am proud my problem solving skills are still as sharp as ever.*

*April 6 2013*

*Not much doing. Finished caulking the stairs and another coat of paint on the railing. Looking forward to my birthday cake tomorrow. Made it to 65 and cheap medical care saving me a bundle. Also looking forward to Seven Hills Monday to see if I can keep up my stellar play.*

*April 5 2013*

*ON FIRE! Nice day to shoot 6 over 77 at Maplecrest today. 2 tap in birdies and 10 pars. A lot of tap in short chips as well. Dick hit too many trees and finished with 93 with a chip in birdie on #18. We went the back nine to skip around some older fellows and a first tee delay and finished in 2hrs and 30 minutes.*

*April 4 2013*

*Late post today. Went out and got some paint for my stair railings and painted them today. Needs another coat. Was busy nonstop all day, wrapping up helping my son clean out his car so he could move to a new vehicle.*

*Toyota's are amazing. His 1998 with 151,000 miles is good for \$1200. My daughter may buy it. Her 2001 has 160,000 miles and is sputtering a bit and leaking oil. He is buying a used Rav4 for somewhere around \$10K with 80,000 mi to make room for their 2<sup>nd</sup> kid.*

***Off to Maplecrest tomorrow for a far and few between golf round. Mel says Mayfair is open but they are just cutting up the plugs from the fall so it should be a bit messy there.***

***My buddy Rudi suffered another heart attack while recovering and is now in Hospice. Not good.***

**April 3 2013**

***Living without Microsoft Office. It is difficult but I am living without it. Open Office is free and it handles spreadsheets and word type documents. You have to go in and set some preferences to open Microsoft files with Open Office, which is a pain. I don't remember where I did it but you can search help and find out how. It has a few quirks, but it is OK.***

***For email, Thunderbird is free and there is a calendar add on that gets it to work just like Outlook. For pictures I had to download Adobe Photoshop. It is really slow and doesn't have the nice compression that Picture Manager does. You can compress but it's usually 175KB for the minimum. They have a page that opens and gives you all the authors, most of which are from India. Like who really cares? I tried a few other "free" picture managers, but you get a bunch of junk that tags along, so I ditched those.***

***Looking forward to Friday golf at Maplecrest if we don't get snowed on again. Retiree brunch in an hour or two.***

***Finished my stairs with my daughter's help. A nice carpet on each stair stapled in and a nice white board on the back risers. Looks pretty awesome. After she left I put on the finishing touch with a 1/2 reverse round just under the carpet at the bullnose on each stair. Of the 34 nails I put in to hold these, fully 20 were perfect and nicely set. A stellar 59% success rate. The other 14 look like crap. I hope some caulk will cover up my shortcomings. Hammering is not one of my strong skills.***

**April 1 2013**

***Cruel April Fools joke to snow out my golf round. Called the course and they said there was snow on the ground. It cleared up for afternoon play but it was windy and I had to watch mom.***

***The TV Mass I watched the other day used to be called Mass for the Shut-ins. I am glad they changed the name so I don't feel like a shut-in watching it. I ate to much***

*ham, potato, green beans, rutabaga, pie, and ice cream yesterday, but it was good.*

**Mar 31 2013**

*A very Holy day today. I watched the TV Mass on Channel 8 this morning. Give it a try. You don't have to deal with the crowds, the parking, the offering plate, and don't have to shake a bunch of strangers hands. May the Lord be with you.*

**Mar 30 2013**

*I am pumped! Shot 42-36 at Sable Creek yesterday. I had a nice tempo going the back nine and putted well. 3 cups rimmed on the front. 11 pars, the rest bogeys. Mel played well (5 pars) 51-44 while Dick struggled (2 pars) with many penalty strokes 52-44. Dick had lent me his Little Red Book and I picked up a couple of good tips. The key one for me is to never hit an "easy" iron. Harvey said swing hard every time and it worked for me. One thing was missing though. No one's bag fell off the cart this time.*

*Neil went to the ?gym? with his wife. I am not a fan of those filthy germ infested facilities. Last time I looked at one, all the people looked like rats on a treadmill. Geez, take a walk around the block. Good scenery and it usually smells a lot better.*

**Mar 29 2013**

*What a busy week. Mary has been helping out at my son's all week while the baby stuff was going on, Mom's medical tests, getting material for my stairs, and visiting the new baby girl Kalix. I am mentally whipped.*

*Golf at 10am. Not sure my head will be in it, but I will come around. Not sure who is coming. Neil may chicken out due to the cold and Mel may be on jury duty. Dick should be there though, so the game will go on. I'll report the scores tomorrow.*

**Mar 28 2013**

*Bob's a grandpa again. Baby girl Parker was 7 lbs 9 oz and 19 inches long I hear. For the life of me I don't know why they supply that information. Seems pretty useless stuff to me. Grandma Mary is all smiles.*

*Well, the snow melt has progressed to 90%. We will give it a go Friday.*

*Mom scored a CT and Ultrasound yesterday. More dollars for Ohio. I was waiting outside one of the radiology room doors and I noticed that all the room numbers*

*had the number in braille as well. I suppose if they had a blind Radiologist they would be all set. How stupid is that?*

*Mar 27 2013*

*Got material for my stairs. The last of my spring remodeling. There will be a rug on the top of the stair and the riser will have a nice shiny white board on it. The risers needed something since they are not quality wood and full of staple holes and nail holes. Hope to finish this week.*

*Went to visit Rudi (81) in the hospital yesterday. He is looking pretty bad and was very vocal about his treatment. They put in a connector into his neck for incubating. He said it is choking him. Boy, can you imagine going thru they day and night feeling you are choking? I got the idea someone else is calling the shots, otherwise he would tell them to remove it. I am not sure why he can't call the shots. I would think as long as he is thinking clearly he should be making his own decisions, eh? Something doesn't seem right.*

*His birthday is May 6. He doubts he will be around to see it. A doctor stopped in to listen to his heart. After he left, Rudi called him a fake doctor and called him worthless. Other than that, he was in good spirits(not).*

*Mar 26 2013*

*OMG. Somehow the TV was on the wrong channel and Ellen came on. She was dancing up a storm shaking her stuff and the whole audience of women was up and cheering. She thinks she is really something. I guess the studio is full of women who are of her persuasion as well. Enough to make me puke and retch. She disgusts me. You don't see Anderson Cooper doing this kind of crap. I say live and let live, just don't be pushing it on National TV. When did this kind of crap become acceptable on TV anyway?*

*Mar 25 2013*

*Nasty snow. Real heavy stuff. I shoveled and survived but it was a lot of work. Dish network was off for an hr this morning, came back on, and is now back off again. It is pretty unusual for it to be off more than 5-10 minutes.*

*Hope this snow gets to melting quickly so our Monday golf kickoff can proceed as planned. Fox Den Monday. Will be good to see the group after 5 winter months. The Cisco league is supposed to start tomorrow. They may need snowmobiles and orange golf balls.*



*How about that Cypress deal. I hate to see anyone lose money, but the consolation is they are screwing the Ruskies. Couldn't happen to a nicer bunch.*

*Mar 24 2013*

*Sigh. Another storm is coming. I spent the day painting the entrance way Urban Putty. It's kind of a light brown gray. Maybe it's my fault we got all this crappy weather. I better hurry up and get this project done and then we will get some better weather.*

*I took my shot at the power ball lotto. The odds are 175M to 1 or something like that. Of course I got zero numbers right. With 59 balls I think the odds of at least getting 1 number right is  $5/59 + 1/35 = 11\%$ . That shows how good my luck is. I suppose if I bought 10 tickets, I could bask in the glory of at least getting 1 number right.*

*Mar 23 2013*

*Yeah baby! Mom scored 2 medical tests for Wednesday. More big bucks for Ohio.*

*Today was the last lenten fish fry. I am going to miss them. Almost took my mind off the crappy weather.*

*Mar 22 2013*

*I got to thinking for a change last night about these Dr. appointments. I say go for it. Take your seniors and go yourself. Get some of them medicaid dollars flowing in Ohio. The taxes on them doctors will be good for the state coffers. Why should all the money be wasted down in Florida and Arizona? The Florida people can't even punch a hole through their vote ticket, and them Arizonians keep worrying more about them illegals and building fences in the desert than themselves. I say to hell with that. Let's get some dollars flowing in Ohio.*

*Mar 21 2013*

*More snow and cold. Killed the day taking mom to the hand doctor. It's a cyst that's bothering her. Left at 12:30, back at 4pm. Will leave it alone unless it flares up and they can cut it out. What a way to kill the day. At least we did support the local economy. We will do another Dr. appointment tomorrow. I can't wait.*

*Mar 20 2013*

*What the heck! Weather says snow snow and more snow, not to mention the wind*

*chill. What is this? Buffalo or something?*

*Mar 19 2013*

*Up at 6am and off to the hardware store to pick up a few things before Mary left for sewing circle. Geez, there is always something else that needs repair once you start looking around. I'll be mom watching today.*

*I'll tell you, I am really getting sick of this crappy weather. The Cisco golf league is supposed to start Tuesday, lol. Not playing this year but I may sub now and then to get some "free golf". Free, eh? It's \$4-5 in gas to get to Hudson and back. First day of spring is tomorrow I think. What's up with that?*

*Mar 18 2013*

*Being a person of science, 10 years or so back I came up with a new theory. I call it the Law of Conservation of Pain. You see, I suspect there is only so much pain in the world. There are those that are pain free, and those that take up the [slack. Net](#) pain remains a constant. For that reason, one should be careful about wishing others recover quickly. That pain has to go somewhere. Along that line, I always thanked those in pain who were absorbing some of mine. So, next time you talk with someone in pain, give them a hearty thank you.*

*Mar 17 2013*

*Wow, I must be boring everyone. Usually get 7-10 looks at the blog, now I am down to 3-4 the last few days. Can't blame you; as I do lead a pretty boring life these days. Finished installing and painting the baseboards in the down bathroom. Ripped out the TP holder and need to fix the wall tomorrow, then that is done.*

*Magic show is coming up at the Palace in May. I have been going for years and will go again this year. I was lucky enough to visit the Magic Castle in LA in the 80s. I sat no more than 10 ft from a magician doing table magic and never saw any of it coming. He made a glass appear from under a cloth napkin among other things. I watched very closely and never could figure out how he did some amazing things. It's all very entertaining. If you enjoy magic, you should go.*

*Another thing I enjoy is the Doo Wop shows. Some of the old songs are just awesome. We went to the one in Pittsburgh in November and it was very enjoyable. I told people when I retired I was going to look for a gig as a backup singer. I always thought that was a great job. All you had to do was get the shoo-b-do's and the ooh-wa's in the right place. I could certainly manage that but I would fail*

*miserably at the dance moves like right foot right, drag left foot over and so on. Too much for me.*

*Mar 16 2013*

*OMG it was chilly at golf. Mel shot 97, Dick 92, and I had 88. Could have done without the 2 triple bogies. Was putting real well. On the cold days I get sore all over from muscle tension from tensing up in the cold.*

*Dream the other night was wild. Can't remember the first part but towards the end I ended up stuck very very high in a tree. After awhile a truck pulled up to rescue me. The let out 3 monkeys who scurried up the tree with bananas and food for me. I looked down at the truck and it said Barnum and Bailey on the side. I was wondering why the Circus was sent to rescue me. Then I woke up.*

*Mar 15 2013*

*Finished off the bathroom and headed over to see Rudi. It's been 5 weeks now since his heart attack. I saw them do PT. They worked on his arm reach, ankle movement, leg movement, and bending back and forward. From what I saw, he won't be walking for at least 3 weeks. He still can't sit up on his own, but was sitting on the edge of the bed. They were moving him to a chair as I was leaving. Very weak and thin still and has a feeding tube because he still needs to be hooked up to ventilator now and then. I guess there is something in his throat. It was all very sad and I kept thinking I was looking at my future.*

*He was glad to see me and likes visitors cause there really isn't anything else.*

*Mar 14 2013*

*Finished painting the hallway doors yesterday. Today I should finish painting the up bathroom; door, closet door, door molding, and new baseboards. Maybe I will go visit Rudi recovering from his heart attack. It's been 6 weeks now and latest I heard he was still bed ridden.*

*Mar 13 2013*

*The mind is a funny thing. Some days good, some not so good. I play chess on the Fics site. I have gravitated to 3 min games. Each player gets 3 minutes on his clock and if it runs out, they lose. Once you make a move, the other players clock runs. Of course you can mate or be mated in that time, or resign if it is hopeless. Well, my chess rating swings from 1230 up to 1340 over the course of a couple weeks. Some days I am sharp and fast and win all my games, some I am dull and sluggish and lose or get timed out. It seems to go in streaks. I have gotten to the point if I play 1 or 2 games poorly, I call it a day. If I am hot, I keep on playing. I don't want to say which streaks last longer, but you can probably guess.*

*In golf, you never know what to expect. Case in point. At Glen Eagles last year I shot my normal 86. Ho hum you say? It was a 51-36, even par on the back. How does this kind of stuff happen? Looking forward to some more erratic rounds this year.*

*Mar 12 2013*

*You can't make this stuff up..... Thank God for the 10 second rule. Yesterday I got out my Chinese Honey Chicken leftovers for dinner and was digging the rice out of one of them paper boxes they send you off with. The rice came out with a little struggle and the box pulled back and knocked the plastic plate of honey chicken off the counter. The floor was pretty clean, so I invoked the 10 second rule. Good thing I have no pets or I would have tossed it all.*

*Worked on my stairs but had to stop and adjust. Rather than use a waterfall carpet approach, I decided to just carpet the top of each step. The top of the step is carpeted and I was going to have a clean white board covering the riser and hiding the rug junctions. Unfortunately, the board takes away too much of the step which is a bad idea for old people for safety reasons. I have to look for something 1" to put at the top of the riser to hide the rug junction and something ) 0.5 " at the bottom of the riser to keep the rug down and hide that junction. I am thinking a reverse half round at the top and some type of 0.5"metal right angle at the bottom. Also will have to clean up the riser and paint it. If you have a better idea, shoot me an email. I don't want to hear "don't quit your day job" either. Too late for that. BTW, the honey chicken went down well without incident. Golf was a rainout; or a chickening out if you prefer.*

*Mar 11 2013*

*Another great day on Sunday. I finished installing my last door and am now an expert at shimming them. I figure you can't get the hinges in exactly flat as they were on the old door and that is why I had to change the shims.*

*Had a little excitement burning my tall grass. It was cut in the fall but I was going to burn the 6 inch stalks. Guess there was too many leaves around. I ran for the water bucket and doused it out before it it spread too far. Gets your heart pumping.*

*Hoped that the storm would go around us this morning so I can get some golf in but that didn't happen.*

*Mar 10 2013*

*What a great day Saturday was. Very balmy with sunshine to boot. If you're still doing 9-5 during the week, you should have been golfing. Weather for the week looks poor, but I am sure to get in a round or two.*

*I spent my day buying and cutting baseboards, prepping to do my stairs, cleaning up, pitching project trash, and hanging one more door. Did 3 doors so far and I had to pull the molding and re shim every time to get a good fit. What a pain. Maybe the last one will be the charm. Should get that done today.*

**Mar 9 2013**

*Wow that wind was cold yesterday at the season opener. Dick was frozen and it affected his game shooting 92 (3 pars). His face looked like a rose after 18. Mel was up and down with a 96 but had 5 pars! I played so so and shot 86 (9 pars). 3 shots in the bunker on the Maroon #1 were costly.*

*Mel opened the season by having his bag fall off the cart before we got to the first tee. Later on he hit a fairway shot about 2 feet. Maximum entertainment! Dick pop fouled his first tee shot into the lake on the Gold nine and was a big winner on Gold #8. He pulled his second over the fence on the left, went over to look for his ball and came out with 12 good looking golf balls.*

**Mar 8 2013**

*Posting this one the evening of March 7. With any luck we will be first off at Sable Creek today. The course says they will open at 11 am. Hope we don't get too much snow overnight. Let the season begin!*

*Finished the downstairs bathroom floor and put in a new toilet March 7. Daughter did all of the floor cutting and put the toilet in mostly, some drilling and cutting molding. She is a worker! Son Wes chipped in with some nailing and carried out the old toilet. What great kids. I am blessed with 2 good kids and am a proud papa.*

**Mar 7 2013**

*I was pondering my long term idea for additional tax revenues. I had long thought the government might get around to taxing one's air intake. They could make it a yearly event. I would propose you are taxed based on your weight. Bigger people use more air and probably pollute with more methane, so their yearly tax would be higher. I would also suggest there be an adder or discount based on air quality. If you live where the air is dirty, you get a tax discount. If you live near fresher cleaner air, you pay a premium. What do you think of my idea? Maybe I should*

*work for a think tank coming up with revenue ideas to balance the budget.*

**Mar 6 2013**

*Retiree brunch today. Will get to see the old and I mean old guys. Rudi missed this last month with his stroke. He is still bedridden and hasn't made much progress in a month. I feel bad I haven't visited him yet. Hopefully I will soon. Another trip to the hardware store after lunch. I still need 2 doors, 8 hinges, and some other miscellaneous stuff.*

**Mar 5 2013**

*Went to see Sylvester Stallone in Bullet to the Head Sunday. He is getting up there at 67 and looks fit but old. Movie was an entertaining action movie of course.*

*Will on baseboards today. They are all in now ready to caulk and paint while the snow melts. Hear we get more tonight. Nice to see the sun yesterday. Sign at Sanctuary says to dust off your clubs the season is near.*

**Mar 4 2013**

*Geez this is a late spring. I was looking at last years scores and it looks like my Friday group started playing March 16 at Sable Creek, the Monday group April 2 at Fox Den. So waking up to 1.5 inches of snow Sunday kind of sucked. It does look like we will be getting into a warming trend but the morning weather said another 2 weeks of cold. I guess the delay could be a good thing considering my winter play indicates I have a lot of swing flaws. That is an understatement considering I only have executed 3-4 good shots a 9 hole round this winter. I better come around fast or I will be losing mucho \$1 bills.*

**Mar 3 2013**

*Chowed down at the Texas Roadhouse yesterday. My favorite for ribs and pulled pork. The rolls are awesome with the cinnamon butter they serve. They keep them coming too. Salad, baked potato, pulled pork and all the peanuts you can eat. Bill for the 2 of us was \$26, so the price is right. I'll have a second meal with my leftovers brought home. They are always sending me coupons for free appetizers but that would be too much food.*

*Interesting chain. We ate in Alliance and there is very little competition nearby except for Applebee. Oh, I forgot there is Sheetz in Alliance as well. I know of two others and both are situated in areas where there is limited competition. No*

wonder they do such a good business. Lots of college girl servers there. Our server Sarah was from Pittsburg. I felt bad for her.

Mar 2 2013

Looked at new doors yesterday. Found some nice ones at Loews. Just bought the smaller 28 inch door. I need three 30 inch doors also but wanted to make sure I could transport them in my Focus. Looks like they will fit. Took me an hr and a phone call to figure out how the safety unlock worked and I installed door hardware. Put the hinges on; another hour. Of course I erred in mounting the hinges. Looks like the critical dimension is the screw to the edge of the door. Mine is too far away, so the door hits the center strip on the hinge side and it won't close. I will move it closer today and I should be good.

Mar 1 2013

Floors are done! Toughest part was removing and replacing the toilet to get the tile under it. My back is a bit sore. Next up find 4 doors and some molding, then the baseboards. The finish the stairs. A good bit of work is left. Mom is off to my sisters so we have 3 free time days.

I told my daughter that I dread pulling toilets out because I always have problems setting it down on the bolts. It's because you cant see the bolts when the toilet is over them and you have to somehow see the bolt come under the bolt hole in the ceramic base. All the while holding up the heavy toilet. No problem she says. She goes over and draws a line with a pencil extending out from the bolts about 10 inches. Huh! Now I know where the bolts are since you can see the line extending out where you can see. Geez, been struggling with that for 50 years and it's so simple. Holy crap. Well, one of my favorite philosophers, Benny Hill always said: "Learning, learning, learning, learning all the time."

Feb 28. 2013

Oh my this is bad. I have exchanged a few emails with Neil and he is getting serious. New driver, new putter grip, and now he is talking to some pro about new irons. Stiff or regular. Not only that, he is talking about getting chipping lessons. Say it ain't so! OMG. My only advantage over Neil is he struggles with his chipping. If you haven't seen us play together (their have been hundred of rounds dating back to the 70s) you know I use that to my advantage. I may be a little brutal at times, but when he hits it within 50 yards of the green, I tell him I have him just where I want him! It is not unusual for him to chilly dip several of those during a round, so I pour it on. I always make sure he is in earshot when others are in that range and I tell them I wish Neil had that shot, or not to pull an Adams. OK, it looks bad when I write this down so maybe I am a bit cruel.

Feb 27 2013

*Worked on putting down my tile floor yesterday and finished the hallway and closet. My daughter helped and made everything go quicker. It is a slow go around all the doorways, as there are many cuts and measurements. Off to take Mom to the doctor again today. Her index finger is swelling and the antibiotic are slow given they started a week ago. Perhaps circulation problems inhibit dispersal to the needed site. It sucks to be old.*

Feb 26 2013

*Mel, Dick, and I hacked another 9 at Edgewood. I caught Mel on the last hole to tie with a 44 while Dick choked on the last to squander his 2 stroke lead and shoot 45. I hit a few good drives but my irons and putting were horrible. Was a real nice day though.*

Feb 25 2013

*OK, I am going to ramble this morning. I have to confess I have become a news junkie. I'd rather watch news than all that other drivel they have on TV. During the week, I usually start the day off watching Bloomberg TV to see where the market is headed. Around 9, I switch over to CNBC. I can't stand the CNBC anchors that are on from 6 to 9. If I am not doing anything that day, CNBC is on till the market closes at which time I switch to the local news since Mary has had more than enough of the market news for the day.*

*The weekend presents a challenge, as there is no useful financial news to view. So it's either local news of Today. I can't stomach Today for long. Geez, Sunday morning they had segments on Lester Holt's childhood. What's is up with that, I don't give a shit about Lester's childhood. They do other useless stuff such as showing how one of the women anchor does her morning workouts. These people have huge egos to think the viewers care about their comings and goings. I'd rather get a sharp stick in the eye.*

*The local news isn't much better. Stories about a stinking cat getting rescued from a lake, drain pipe, tree, or animal abuse are on the top of my useless list. The only thing worse than the cat stories are people fund raising for animals. With people starving and suffering disasters all over the world, why the hell would I give a nickle to feed animals nobody wants. If no one wants these creatures, put them to sleep for God's sake.*

Feb 24 2013



*Hacked 9 holes at Edgewood by myself Saturday. Perhaps another 9 this coming Monday. Didn't hit too many good shots. One good 7 iron I threaded thru the tree and a couple of good hybrids. Missed my only birdie try when it curled left an inch in front of the hole. I had bladed an 8 iron to 9 feet left of the hole on the sloping #4 par 3 green. Never got any chips close enough to save par. There was a little snow here and there. I hit two just on the edge of the snow. It was hard to find the ball but I had no choice since I left my cart in line with the next tee box, quite a ways away. Three pars and 6 bogies.*

*Feb 23 2013*

*I was thinking the other night what a change retirement has been. After retiring, I still was on top of what was happening at work and how my two loyals, Jane and Bob, and my crew were doing. I was always keeping up. Both Jane and Bob left for greener pastures and I kept up on how they were doing at the new job. Turns out they are both doing fine and are excited and love their new jobs. I closely followed them for 2 years after and was interested in the work going on. Over the last year, my urge to keep track work things has waned. I didn't realize it till the other night when it dawned on me that I couldn't care less about the project happenings at work anymore. I still miss the day to day interaction with the people and sincerely hope they do well, but that's about it. All this was pretty surprising given I lived and breathed projects all those years. I guess on the plus side, I am looking forward and not back so much anymore. In couple more years I believe work will be a very distant memory. Seems all a bit weird to me.*

*Feb 22 2013*

*The Bionic Brit says he is good to go. His back surgery and hip replacement are done and is clearing his work schedule for Monday and Friday play. We shall see if a pain free Neal can reinvigorate his game.*

*Mr Pingtwo also reports he is ready to go first of April. All is good with the world. Now if we can just get some warm weather going.*

*Feb 21 2013*

*Took out the rug and baseboards today. Put my daughter to work since she owed me a bit of labor from her redecorate. I checked on my tile shipment. It has traveled from Garland TX to TN and Cincinnati OH and is on it's way here. All this is nice, but I would much rather be in Myrtle Beach playing golf with Denny. Doesn't look like much golf will be played here for awhile.*

*Wonder how the Bionic Brit is doing after his hip replacement? He has threatened*

*to be back to take my \$1. Hope Houle is doing well; I will need his dollar to pay the Brit with.*

**Feb 20 2013**

*Tough day! Had to take mom to see the doc cause her finger was swollen and sore for 4 days. Doc said it was Cellulitis and I had to make 2 trips to the drugstore. On top of that, the furnace was acting up. I was lucky to get A to Zoff to come. Furnace guy cleaned the burner sensor with sandpaper. It was crudded up after 5 yrs and the furnace shut off the burner and gas cause they don't want the gas on if the burner isn't heating the sensor properly. \$239 for a few swipes with sandpaper and a bit of specific knowledge. Tomorrow is ripping up the hallway rug day.*

**Feb 19 2013**

*I have a few predictions and other ideas to lay out for you today. I always amaze, or amuse, myself when I come up with these brilliant ideas, Regarding the silly law syndrome (again), I predict within a few years (less than 10) the following laws will be enacted. First, you will be subject to smoke alarm inspections. The inspector will knock on your door and come in and test your smoke detectors. If your battery is dead, you will be fined. If you don't have any, lookout!.*

*The second silly law will also be invasive. Once a week, the school will have a weigh in day for the kids. If they are overweight, you will be fined and given warnings and a reasonable time to correct the situation. At some point, they will take your overweight kid away. They already take kids away, so you shouldn't be surprised by this one.*

*I also have an idea to save SS. How it works is when you apply for SS, they give you a lump sum, say \$150,000 tbd and send you off to a 3d world country or somewhere where the cost of living is cheap. China, Africa, or even Alabama for example. Maybe the backwood mountains of WV where you can live on squirrel or something :-). No, Brimfield or Alliance doesn't qualify. Of course, you will get to choose your relocation and citizenship. This will ease the burden on medicare, as you won't be hanging around any good hospitals in the states. Those that don't want to leave the country or go to Alabama or WV, will just have to keep working till they die. Don't worry, there will be a grandfather clause for those of us already collecting.*

**Feb 18 2013**

*Dang it was cold out yesterday. Where is global warming when you need it? It's just a minor blip anyway. I agree with George Carlin:*

*"The planet has been through a lot worse than us. Been through earthquakes,*

*volcanoes, plate tectonics, continental drift, solar flares, sun spots, magnetic storms, the magnetic reversal of the poles ... hundreds of thousands of years of bombardment by comets and asteroids and meteors, worldwide floods, tidal waves, worldwide fires, erosion, cosmic rays, recurring ice ages ... And we think some plastic bags and some aluminum cans are going to make a difference? The planet isn't going anywhere. WE are! We're going away. Pack your shit, folks. We're going away. And we won't leave much of a trace, either. Maybe a little Styrofoam ... The planet'll be here and we'll be long gone."*

*Feb 17 2013*

*Now that my daughter, the boss, is done with her downstairs painting and flooring, it's my turn for payback. Going to tile the up hallway, bathroom, and entrance way with the same tile used in the kitchen floor I redid a couple years back. Got to pull up the old rug, prep the floors, and get the tile down. I'm going to put her to work, and this time I am the boss. About 160 sq ft. The Allure tile goes down easy, but there will be a lot of tile cutting around a lot of edges. The tile should be here in a week or so.*

*On an odd note, Yusef found the kishka. If you listen to the song, it sounds more like Yaa-shu. Just thought you might want to know.*

*Feb 16 2013*

*Should have golfed yesterday. It was pretty balmy. We had a flock of hundreds of blackbirds in the neighborhood yesterday. Spring soon? The day before, 6 deer ran through followed closely by a bow and arrow guy. Season is over though. Don't know what he was thinking. Maybe just out for a morning walk.*

*Lent is here and you can finally get a good fish fry at many churches. Mary's church uses Haddock which fry up best. I never miss. Have never found a good fish fry around here since I moved to Ohio 44 years ago. Tim's is OK and so is John's grill, but the church fry is much better. We went to Eadie's Fish House in North Canton once. It's a joke.*

*Go out and support you local church fry, even if they do waste your money on useless pretty stuff to decorate the church and have gazillions of dollars. Oops, I better not start on that, cause I would fill up many pages.*

*Feb 15 2013*

*Strange goings on in Canton. Last week, they gave up on the mayor appointing a guy to coroner who didn't know which orifice the thermometer went in. This week,*

*they are challenging the mayor's Sheriff appointment of another fellow who doesn't have the qualifications. Could it be that people are sick of the political nepotism the mayor is trying to pull off? My goodness, what a refreshing change. Must be more politics involved, you think?*

*Feb 14 2013*

*Another nice but chilly day for golf yesterday. Dick was up one going into #8. He was making putts right and left all day to keep me down. He chipped poorly twice on #8 and gave me a 1 stroke lead. We pushed #9 and I came away with the win 43-44. Mel joined us today. He hit the ball well, but couldn't adjust to the ice hard greens. He was chipping back and forth, and kept putting halfway to the hole. He finally broke through on the last hole to record his first par of 2013.*

*Feb 13 2013*

*I have had this poster in my garage for many years now. It's titled "Golf with your friends". It's a poster of Curly, Larry, and Moe holding a golf club on the tee. Believe me, sometimes I feel like this is what's going on. It is especially appropriate if you have ever golfed in a league. In a league, you don't have the luxury of picking who you play with. Sometimes you end up playing a round that could have been right out of a Stooges movie.*

*I remember playing at Seven Hills league one year. I got there and couldn't get the trunk open in this junker I driving, unable to get out my clubs. I was scheduled to play with Ed Bose, a scratch golfer. For years he played in the Summit County amateur tournaments. A giant of a man, yet very gentle, Ed said come on along and play out of my bag. I was relieved but a little wary. I didn't want to screw up Ed's game. Well, off we went. I want to tell you, Ed's clubs looked like they were something found at the thrift store. Omg, they were old and beat up.*

*I had a miserable round hacking it all over the course. And here was this Giant Ed Bose, following me pulling his golf cart all around the course so I could choose a club. Over to the weeds, over in the trees, over to the creek. We looked more like Laurel and Hardy than the Stooges. I felt 2 feet tall, and very sorry for Ed. Every time I see my poster I think about this round.*

*I see Ed at the retiree lunches. I will have to ask him if he remembers too.*

*Feb 12 2013*

*The Golf Gods were good to us yesterday. Dick an I played 9 at Edgewood in monsoon winds and he edged me by 1 stoke 42-43 for his first win of the year. He*

*had 3 pars to my 2. Unfortunately he is sucking the luck out of my game. He drove it into the trees twice, and ended up smack in the middle of the fairway. I did the same twice and the ball dropped straight down. That is NOT right. I had my chance to tie on #9 but my par putt lipped out. He 2 putted from 3 feet for the win.*

*Feb 11 2013*

*Time to air my long term gripe; stupid laws. My God there are a lot of stupid laws and they are getting worse. The seat belt and helmet laws are prime examples. We never had seat belts growing up and we survived. Perhaps our parents were a little more cautious when driving. And if the motorcycle nuts want to tempt fate, have at it.*

*Couple laws a few years ago drew my ire. Some nuts with their cars were stranded out on the ice. All of a sudden people were campaigning for a law against this. They should pay if they have to be rescued they said. Well, I think the cat owners who call about their stuck cat should as well. What about those stupid deer on the ice rescues. They should charge the deer big time. Awhile back there was an outrage over an old person being mugged in NYC. People wanted to make it a felony to mug someone over a certain age. I can just see old people reminding their muggers – “Don't mess with me, I am over 70”. I could go on and on. Let the laws be for important things. Common sense should rule otherwise.*

*Feb 10 2013*

*I always looked at everything in life as a competition when I was younger. Always tried to excel in school. If you did good, you got a silver star pasted on your chart, a glowing comment on your report card, or an award. Oh, how I liked those silver stars; or maybe they were gold stars?*

*One always was competing. Fall short and you don't get the girl, the wife, or the job. When you have them, you can't relax. There is always someone who wants your girl, wife, job, or promotion. You have to keep improving either to get that raise or perhaps even keep your job.*

*Once you retire, all the work competition goes away. That's why many retirees play golf. It keeps us sharp and competitive. It's that dollar you could win if you play well. Mostly though it's for the bragging rights. Unfortunately, they only last till the next golf round.*

*I would advise you to teach your kids and grand kids this. Don't fall for that everyone's a winner stuff. If you haven't noticed, there is a whole hoard of foreign students focused on excelling in academics, or any other field for that matter,*

*ready to eat their lunch. If they don't compete intensely, they WILL be losing out.*

**Feb 9 2013**

*Friend Rudi Faiss from Lockheed had a heart attack either Tuesday or Wednesday and is still hanging by a thread as far as I know. His family history was such he never thought he would make it past 60. Well he did and is in his early 80s. He is in AGMC and was unresponsive since being rushed in. They induced a coma and will be checking brain response, I think tomorrow.*

*A few years back, I gave my daughter the power to pull my plug. I figured she would be less emotional about it than my wife. I am sure the plug would have been pulled by now if it was me. At least I hope so. I gave that some deep thought, Funny thing is when I was pondering it, several of my co-workers quickly volunteered to be the designate. Ain't it great to have friends?*

**Feb 7 2013**

*Don't know if I ever mentioned it, but my retirement hobby is trapping squirrels, taking them over to Quail Hollow State Park, and releasing them the past couple of years. I guess I have caught around 15 squirrels, 5 or 6 chipmunks, and 1 opossum. The possum was all bloodied up as he tried to scratch his way through the capture trap during the night. What a mess.*

*Anyway, my neighbor caught a squirrel. I took his picture holding the trap. I saved a page from the online Canton paper and went into the html source and phoned up a story about Dwain, a rookie squirrel trapper, getting his first squirrel. I did a PDF of it and sent it to him. Of course he sent it to all his friends here and in Florida. He got a lot of phone calls from people who said they looked all thru the paper and couldn't find the story. I told him to say that maybe they publish local copies for the different areas. Some say I have too much time on my hands.*

**Feb 6 2013**

*We were remembering old stuff at the retiree lunch today; we always do. So here is the memory that stood out -my first computer program.*

*Back in the day, we did "wiggle-waggle" to see who bought coffee. Each person put 0-3 coins in their hand and held them out closed fist. Everyone guessed a total and after all the guesses, everyone opened their hand. If you got the closest to the total you were out. This went on till there were just 2 left, and the loser bought. Well, it was taking too long with the group of 8 that were playing on company time.*

*I was learning computer programming, so I wrote a program to pick a winner. I put all the names in a list. When you typed Start, 100, the program would start at 8 and count to zero and then recycle through until you hit the keyboard key, which stopped the counter. The person assigned the number the counter stopped at was printed out on the teletype terminal and had to buy coffee. I showed it to them all, and they were impressed. Later on, I fixed it so John Franks name would always come up. The next 2 days, he was pissed and claimed foul. I went back in and let it be random again for the first 3 key touches and on the 4<sup>th</sup>, his name was going to come up. Next day I showed him it wasn't fixed by 3 key tries. Then we played for real and of course he lost on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Well, no one wanted to use my program anymore. I wasn't to be trusted? Kinda fits for all programmers, eh?*

*By the way. The way I programmed it was to use the front panel and use switches to designate the start address, and then I had to use the switches to put in the codes for each instruction, one after another. Circa 1972? It's a lot easier today.*

**Feb 5 2013**

*Well, I guess I have mostly got my computer back and running. I guess the lost data was the most aggravating, especially the emails from old buddies, and the lost email addresses.*

*My sister picked me up a little. She mailed us a basket of seashells. Now we can hide the seashells around the house and pick them up as we walk around in the morning. Wash them off and put them in a jar just like we did on our morning beach walks in Myrtle Beach. We will pretend we are down on the beach for the rest of the month.*

*On the golf broadcast this weekend, Arnold urged us all to cherish our swing. Although it may be "different" it's all ours. What a nice thought!*

**Feb 4 2013**

*#\*&% February! The 49ers lost, but as expected, since I was rooting for them.*

*Also on the BS side of things, my laptop wouldn't boot, so I had to start from factory settings from 2009. Everything since my last backup on Jan 3 was lost. Been working on it since 7am and am 75% back. The laptop has a handy Microsoft sticker on the back with the product key for office. Too bad it is too worn to read. #\*&%! Anyway, I recovered this file using Nuance PDF converter. Since office is*

*gone, I am trying Thunderbird email (I lost my address book) and open office, which I am now editing with. I will let you know how it goes. I am not spending \$150 for office 2007, that's for sure. Now I have to reinstall a PDF Printer #@\*&%!*

**Feb 3 2013**

*It's cold and snowy; February sucks. We are going to have my Steve and his daughter Kathy over for the Super Bowl. We have been getting together for many years and both suffered the Bills 4 losses. Steve and I grew up in Buffalo, about two blocks away. He moved there and entered the 7th grade at PS#65 the same year they moved me up a grade. We were both strangers entering a class of kids we didn't know, so we bonded and became good friends. We were the brightest kids in the*

*school by far, even if I have to say so myself.*

*I didn't know it then but Steve is a true genius, I don't think he ever got less than an A. Steve went on to get his PHD in Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, profess somewhere at Michigan State and at Texas, A&M, and settle down with tenure at Kent State. I could never do that abstract stuff he does. I made a good living at engineering, but my hourly pay never came close to that of University Professors.*

*Anyway, our Super Bowl tradition will continue. We missed the last 2, as I was in Myrtle Beach watching with Denny. Did I tell you I miss Myrtle Beach yet? Oh well. By the way, for some dang reason, it seems like the team I root for always loses. This year I am pulling for the 49ers. You can take that to the bank.*

**Feb 2 2013**

*For the month of January, I counted that I was out after dark exactly twice. The first time was to go to calling hours, and the second to drop Mom off with my sister. Now days, I see more of the dark at 6am when I get the paper. There was a time not long ago when I was out late hours a couple times a week. How things change, eh?*

*Have I told you I hate February? Goes back to Lockheed where they finally finished the year's budget. More often or not it meant we had to do lay-offs, never a crowd pleaser. This Feb started off bad as usual, Mom has a bladder infection, a trip to the doctor today and the resulting unpleasant clean ups. I was able to get away from the bad the last 2 Febs in Myrtle Beach. This year Mom wasn't up to it. Oh well. I miss you Denny! I wonder what is next for this crappy month?*

**Feb 1 2013**



### ***Playing golf with Dave***

***Dave is another Monday regular. One of the low handicappers; he has to be on to collect money in this cutthroat group. He wields a big drive and long fairway woods, often hitting the driver off the deck and going for those par 5s in two. He is a good player, but seems snake bit on the greens. I don't think I have ever seen someone all over the cup and not going in. It has to get on one's nerves a bit. He had some surgery at season's end. I hope he has recovered well and I look forward to watching more near misses on the greens this spring.***

**Jan 31 2013**

### ***Playing golf with Lynn***

***Lynn is another Monday regular. His swing is limited due to physical limitations from and accident years ago. He always gets a hdcp flag for the cart when they have them. He is the highest handicapper in the group. My goodness, he often gets 2 strokes on the par 3s. When he is on, he cards a lot of net aces on those par3s and pockets a bit of skin money. The handicaps are a great equalizer and he records the scores and figures them out. You always wonder about the handicap keepers. For some reason, Monday group member Dave always seems to come out on the short end of the stick on handicaps. I guess Dave must be in Lynn's dog house. I think Houle and I are the***

***most consistent of the group, shooting in a narrow range. Somehow, Houle always seems to edge me out for that dollar.***

***When Lynn is on, he can drive the ball right up there with Houle; occasionally edging him out. Lynn is always good natured and loves to play. He always gets in a few jibes during the round.***

***Because of his short length, he plays a lot of woods. He can be hot and cold with the putter. When he is playing well, the group is very silent on his short putts. He ends up putting some very short ones, especially on the holes where he gets 2 strokes.***

**Jan 30 2013**

### ***Playing golf with Darrell***

***I never know how to spell his name, so I don't know if that's right. Anyway, Darrell is a Monday regular and doesn't let the elements bother him. Year before last we did Oak Knolls in the rain. Everyone else packed it up and went home. A good man I say! He can whack that ball off the tee box. He has hit some long ones for sure. Some snap to the left, some to the right. He has all the shots. I saw his fairway shot roll up an in for an eagle at Chenoweth #10. This is before he had his eyes fixed; couldn't see a thing. Now he has 20/20 vision.***

***Darrell can shoot low 80s to high 90s. Occasionally, his other brother Darrell shows up. He can't play for sh\*t. If he shows up it can go above 100 and then some. Witch ever shows up, I enjoy playing with him, especially when I win a dollar from him.***

**Jan 29 2013**

***Playing golf with Joe Spatafore***

***I don't believe any of you have played with the likes of Joe. I hope not. Joe was an engineer at Goodyear/Loral and we played Monday night out at Seven Hills. Talk about slow. OMG. He played slowly on most of the holes, but when there was trouble, he was really slow. Joe never met a golf ball he didn't like. Always on the lookout for a lost ball, he would scan every pond and walk along the rough hoping to find a stray ball. I remember playing the bridge hole there. I drove right of the creek up by the tee. Joe chunked it into the tall weeds short of the bridge and in the creek. As I walked up to my ball, he was searching already. When I got to my ball, I had no shot, so I chipped across the creek. Joe is still looking. I walked back to the bridge, crossed over and up to my ball. Joe is still looking. The green was clear, so after a couple practice swings, hit a wedge up and onto the green. Joe is still looking. Sat down on my bag and waited for him to catch up, while doing a slow burn.***

***His behavior was well known. My God, if you saw the yellowed, nicked balls he***

***would play, you would be amazed. Towards the end of the season, one of the guys had a great idea. I believe it was Mark Vitale, a very quick player, who came up with it. How quick was Vitale? If you were his opponent and he had you beat on a hole, he would concede your next putt. Didn't matter if it was a 50ft putt, it was good. A little embarrassing? Yes it was indeed. Anyway, Vitale brought a bag of scrub balls, played just in front of Joe and proceeded to drop the scrub balls all over the course. When Joe came in after the round he was beaming and happy as hell. I don't think he ever caught on.***

**Jan 28 2013**

***Playing golf with Brother-in-Law John***

***John grew up in Lancaster NY near Buffalo. He married my Sister-in-Law and they both moved to Burlison, Tx. Many of his family eventually moved there as well. John worked in land development for county and municipal governments and is recently retired. We have been in Texas visiting a handful of times and have enjoyed the fall temps and experienced the 100+ temps in summer. What surprised me there is everyone seems to have a fence on some part of their property. I guess they have to keep the livestock fenced in or the riff raff fenced out.***

***John took up golf a couple year's back. My first round with him was at a fundraiser scramble in Lancaster. He did a lot of dribbling that day. This past summer, we played in the 100+ heat in Texas. We were down for his daughter's wedding. He showed vast***

*improvement as he has been playing more with his new Son-in-Law. I look forward to more play and watching his rapid improvement. A great guy and pleasant playing companion, I do have one suggestion for him. John, those golf balls are not made of gold or platinum. When they go off in the weeds, give them up and play another ball.*

Jan 27 2013

*Amazing  
stuff*

*For those that follow horse racing: Jockey Russell Baze rode his 50,000th thoroughbred race atop Finish Rich in NYC at Golden Gate Fields in Albany, Calif., on Friday, Jan. 25, 2013. Baze, who had 49,994 mounts and won 11,836 races in his Hall of Fame career, rode in races one through six and finished third on his 50,000th race. Baze, born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada is North America's winning est jockey. Since January 1, 1976, Baze's races total 343,354 furlongs which equals 42,919 1/4 miles and the total time elapsed for those is 1,144 1/2 hours equals nearly 49 days.*

*I was on a west coast trip and on Dec 1, 2006 was lucky to see: Russell Baze became racing's winning est jockey Friday when he broke Laffit Pincay Jr.'s record with a victory aboard Butterfly Belle at Bay Meadows.*

*horse on his hunting trip last year and he was sore all over. 50,000, oh my.*

Jan 26 2013

*Times continue to change*

*Not for the good either I would say. When my dad was a kid, he headed over to the city pool all summer long, pretty much on his own. Him and his buddy Howard would row out and spend the weekend on isolated Navy Island out in the Niagara River. Rowing out and back on the river is a scary proposition.*

*As for myself, I would leave the house and play pick up baseball all day at an empty field 1/4 mile away. I would also bike over to my cousin's house 4 miles away and bike back at the end of the day. My brother Jim would head over to the city park with George and play pickup basketball all day at the city park 1/2 mile away. We all learned early who the bully's were. We kept away from them and certainly didn't cross them.*

*Stuff like that ain't happening anymore. Parents are unlikely to let a kid off on their own. They are protective and there isn't much learning the hard way. Now they have to worry some aggravated kid is going to shoot up their school. It isn't good. What the hell happened?*

Jan 25 2013

*How I met my wife*

*It was 1964 and quite simply love at first sight. This tells it all:*

<http://www.youtube.com/watchv=T0EDCAVsEDM>

Jan 24 2013

*golfing*

*with Dad*

*Dad mostly played on Sunday morning with his old high school buddy Howard. When I was around 13, Dad took me to the city 9 hole course, South Park; we usually played 9. Brother Jim joined in when he was about that age. I don't remember much about the course other than there was a long walk around a lake to another tee. My goal of course was to eventually beat Dad. It eventually happened but I don't remember when.*

*Howard moved to Pinehurst and began making and selling putters. I still have 2 or 3 of them; Houle nicknamed me Firewood one winter. He said I ought to burn that thing, referring to my erratic putting I suppose. Once Howard moved, Dad, Jim, and I played, mostly on Sundays. We mostly played at Whirlpool in Canada, and there were a couple other courses up there we played. We also played Beaver Island State Park and another on Grand Island whose name escapes me. I will tell you we are real lucky in Ohio. I remember many rounds taking 5:30 to 6 hrs. Too many golfers and not enough golf courses. Uncle Frank played occasionally, and George also. I remember Uncle Frank expressing his fear when the local Sheridan 6800+ yd course was brought up. I can still hear and see him shaking his head and groaning ohhhhhh nooooooo. We started a family tournament. Dad won most of the early ones, then Jim and I most of the latter.*

*There were some real closes ones over the years. I bet you can guess what Dad's tee shot looked like. Yes, it was indeed a fade. Jim and I learned it and took up where he left off. Dad would shoot mid 90s. He was an excellent putter. We marveled at some of the 60-80 foot putts he either made or ran up for tap ins. Dad would quit playing in his late 50s. The old blood pressure medicines made you extremely sensitive to the sun, and it was too dangerous for him at that point. He still had some good golf ahead; what a shame. Jim, George, and I will be forever grateful to him for introducing us to the game and getting us started.*

Jan 23 2013

*Aces and more.--I have been fortunate to score 5 Aces throughout my playing days. It's a good time to write them down before I forget the details.*

*#1 It was on the DST, the years we played Mayfair every Saturday. Hole #11 used to be around 135 across the lake. I hit a nice 8 iron that hit the front of the green, rolled up and dropped. I was elated, but for the next 2 holes the excitement had me shaking*

*inside so bad, I couldn't make a good swing. I probably shot 50 on the back nine that day. I don't remember who I played with that day, but I think Tom and Neil were there. The first is always an awesome experience.*

*#2 Was somewhere in the north central PA mountains with Brother Jim and George. Jim's group had an outing there and we tagged along. It was another 8 iron played to the front of the green that was a running toward the pin. We couldn't see it go in but I expected it would be close. Those 2 claim it was a scrape, but that low runner is exactly how I played it. To this day they don't believe me. I put on a show on that hole, I think we played 3 rounds there and I was close to nailing the pin the other 2 times as well. Other than hole, my play sucked that week. George thrashed us both.*

*#3 The most unlikely ace was at the Pit on one of our Pinehurst trips. #13 is a 149 yd shot to an island green. I can't count the number of golf balls I have put in the lake there, either from the tee or from the drop area up near the green. I was determined to hit one on the green and not use the drop area. Given my past history, I uttered some bad things and grabbed about 8 golf balls and threw them up on the tee fully expecting to use at least a couple of them. Amazingly my 8# found the green and rolled into the cup. Barry was really excited and was yelling loudly. Willy was there too. We were playing greenies, so I left a marker tee floating in the water filled cup for the guys behind.*

*#4 Hawks Nest #8 has a lake left side guarded by bunkers but open on the right. I nailed a low running 5 iron from the elevated tee right at the pin. We lost track of it. I was walking to the back of the green where I usually ended up. Neil walked up to the pin and uttered some profanity about me being the luckiest guy. For Neil, he got to see a second ace of mine.*

*#5 was over at Tam-o-Shanter Dales. I was playing with Brother Jim. The # ? hole is a downhill par 3 along the road with a high screen along the left by the road to keep the ball from hitting cars. Kirk was sitting in his cart greenside marking scores and I figured he would begin moving out soon. I grabbed my 8 iron and hit a beauty. The ball came down, took out the front of the cup and lodged in the hole. It kind of disappeared; we were not sure it was in. Sure enough it was my 5<sup>th</sup>. Kirk said later he heard something, but was too but still marking his card. Kirk is Kirk. Willy and Jim got to see a second of my aces.*

*There you go. Four 8 irons and a 5 iron. If you were there and witnessed my incredible luck/skill, email me and I can fix this write up.*

Jan 22 2013

Memories of

Dad

*Dad passed away in 1996; seems like a long time ago. Memories fade, but I can remember as a little tike giving him his lunch bag and thermos as he went out the door to work in the morning. He was good with our kids. He played marching band with them and went on short walks down the street building "Indian signs", a small pile of rocks along the way.*

*Remembering back, he had a few sayings I will recall and our family will always remember. If someone did something bad, Dad would give them a "901". A 901 is a bad report, something he probably handed out at work as a supervisor at Sylvania. Another term was a "holiday". A holiday is a spot where you missed painting, presumably taking time off from work. The other term I remember is "flinky". That's what he always called something he either didn't know the name of or had momentarily forgotten. My kids all remember these terms, and they are still in use.*

*One of the most interesting saying he used was to shrug off problems. When a problem arose, he would always say "Into each life some rain will fall". Not everything is always going to go well for you, so don't be surprised. Not to worry, it's just rain and is bound to stop shortly. I'll save golfing with Dad for another day.*

Jan 21 2013

*Playing golf with Mike B*

*Mike is one of the DST charter members and a good buddy of TK. He is a jovial guy and always has fun. Mike is another salesman like TK and has traveled all over the world selling stuff. I remember Mike and Tom always proposing an engineer vs. salesman match when we got together. Well, Bill, George, and I were engineers, but Neil was a mathematician. They always considered Neil an engineer for some reason. I guess to them, anyone, unlike salesman, who had to use a small portion of their brain to make a living, had to be an engineer~. One time at Wilkshire, he brought along a pair of his girlfriends high heels. I guess he thought it would be a distraction, but Neil and I gave those salesmen a thrashing that day.*

*Mike was another golf nut like Tom. I remember them playing extra nines even the pouring rain. Mike was a bogey golfer like the rest of us. Somewhere along the line he took some lessons and cured the wild slice he originally had. He ran the first several years of the Pinehurst trip but was always getting us lost in the circles of Pinehurst the first year. We all have our ups and downs. Speaking of ups and downs, don't ask him about Rocking Robin tweet a lee deet.*

*I haven't golfed with Mike in quite awhile. He has remarried and is quite happy. Maybe he doesn't want to get thrashed on the golf course and destroy his happy mood.*

Jan 20 2013

***What is it about purple?***

***About 3 yrs ago, I painted the front pillars on the house light gray. The paint sample looked good in the store, so I bought it. I remember looking at the samples for about 2 minutes. When I painted, the color was a gray with a definite magenta hue. I am not sure what magenta is, but it gave the grey a slight purple tint. I thought it looked great. I was going for a little contrast to the white and that's what I got. Well, the neighbors saw those posts and everyone around was wondering what I was thinking. I really enjoyed them, but after 3 years, repainted them white to match the siding this year. That quieted the neighbors for now.***

***Anyway, my daughter is doing some updating on her home. She pulled off her wallpaper and went for a gray paint. She must have spent weeks looking at samples and holding them up in her house. She finally picked a color and I helped her paint. When her husband got home, he said the walls were too purple. There we go with purple again! Well, that effort became the first coat and the second coat was done in another gray they both liked. That's the good thing about paint. You can easily change it if you don't like it. No need to sweat the small stuff.***

***If you noticed, we both had different approaches. I didn't agonize or spend time up front picking a color, and I fixed it when I got around to it. She took a long time up front, but was quick to make corrections. There is probably a happy medium there somewhere. The moral of the story: Don't even think about purple. Not ever.***

***By the way, these are the kind of the earthshaking revelations one thinks about when one is retired.***

**Jan 19 2013**

***Playing golf with Chad.***

***Kirk would bring his nephew along when we had some openings on the DST. They were always sniping at each other on the course. Chad is a big guy. He pounded the ball long, but all over the place. I usually whipped him but that didn't last long. He straightened it all out and became a very low hdcp player. He was fun to watch. He could hit it long, spin the ball on the green, and canned most all of the 5 ft and under putts.***

***He played several years until he and his wife parted ways. I remember going to his wedding and enjoying myself. Once he was on his own, he kept some late hours and couldn't make those early tee times. He played less and less and kept trying to show us horrible pictures on his cell phone. Last I heard, he worked for Verizon up at Chapel Hill.***

***My favorite memory is up at Sugarbush. We were playing #16, a short 300 yard par 4 with a very elevated sloping green. It is a tight driving hole; trees both sides for***

*about 200 yds, and then it opens up. Well, we had another of our group ahead of us and Chad was grumbling about it. We all hit and Chad is waiting and waiting and can't wait any longer. Finally he decided to hit it while they were on the green. So Chad busts it right at the green and right at John. We are all yelling fore, fore, fore. The Ball hit up there somewhere close and John jumped. John was really hot. It was quite an unlikely shot carrying 300yards to an elevated green.*

**Jan 18 2013**

*I had to drive up to Independence today to buy lunch at Red Robin. Their burgers are good. Anyway I have a bet every year as to who wins the most games for the season; Bills or Browns. I won last year but not this year. Bob Muller sucked me into a 2 game spot. The Bills beat Cleveland head to head. George, God love him, had club seats and invited me to tag along. The Bills won handily and there were a lot of Buffalo fans there. Unfortunately, the Bills gave away a couple of other games so I had to buy this year.*

*Bob works at Rockwell with another of my former co-workers Jane. On Monday I figured I had to find some cash to pay for this lunch, so I bought Rockwell on the open and sold it a few minutes later for \$53. I made another trade; this time owned VRNT for 10 minutes and made \$200. I want to thank Bob for the right incentives this week. I didn't even groan when the check came.*

*The Browns looked like they have some young talent for next year. With Norv Turner coaching the offense, I figure I will need a 2 game spot next year. The Bills will suck again next year.*

**Jan 17 2013**

***Playing golf with Dennis***

*Dennis is my Brother-in-law living in Buffalo. He took up the game a few years back to play to get his granddaughter interested in golf, but that didn't work out. He kept at it and we played a few times the first couple of years. He was in need of major improvement. I remember he was in town a few years back. He joined us at Little Mountain for a round. There are about a gazillion bunkers there and I think he found a half a gazillion of them.*

*He signed up for the Town golf course, Brighton and plays as much as he wants for under \$300/yr. What a deal! I believe he is in 2 senior leagues and plays 9 or 18 most of the other days. He hits the course at sunrise. The Brighton golf crew isn't the sharpest bunch. I remember tagging along as an extra one day. The guy in the clubhouse said "I don't know if you can get an extra on today, your reservation is only for a twosome. You better check with the starter." We head over to*



*the starter on the first tee and there ain't anybody around at all except another twosome. "Hmm, he says, I don't know. I guess you can follow this twosome." Anyway, he plays a lot of golf, walks, and plays fast! Awesome!*

*He has improved dramatically; Crazy line up though. Looks like he is going to hit it 30 degrees right of target, but the ball comes out on line to where he should be lining up. Couple year's back he bought a new driver and started knocking it straight and long. About a year later, I just had to try this club. Boom, long and straight. From that day on, I kept trying to buy it from him. I eventually gave up and started looking on ebay for one. It's a Taylor Made 2009 with a senior shaft. Mr. 9 Wood tried it and he was impressed. I finally got one, and Dick did as well. Turns out that 3 others*

*in the Monday senior group have the same club too. Small world! When I play a round with Dick, we both hit it the same distance +/- 10 yds and the same direction +/- 20yds. We park the cart in the middle and walk 5 -10 yds to our balls. What a fantastic find, and I owe it all to Dennis!*

*Congrats to Dennis for sticking with the game and walking the course most every weekday. I have just barely edged him out the last 2 years on holes played, only because our season is longer. He wife is happier than hell. I am sure she would pay more than \$300/yr to get him out of the house every day during the summer for a few hrs.*

Jan 16 2013

Update

*First golf in  
2013*

*Mr. 9 Wood and I played nine holes at Edgewood and walked. I shot for the cycle; bird, par, bogey, double, and triple. Damn concrete sand bunkers. I made 1 birdie out of 3 make able opportunities. Par on #9 to edge Dick by one,; 41-42. It was pretty balmy out there.*

Jan 16 2013

*Playing golf with Meusche*

*Bob's and I lived in a rental duplex in Hartville when we were just getting started. The unit was being sold, so we both moved on. He was one of the guys who pitched in on the moving van and moved all my stuff to my current home. We lost track of each other until I ran into him on the ice golf tour at Edgewood.*

*He was a regular on the ice, and we mostly played there in the winter, our groups went their separate ways in the spring and we got together in late fall for some more ice golfing. Bob was and is still is a good player. I believe his strength is his driving. He hits is long and straight, giving him many par and birdie chances. The rest of his game is solid. Most of his struggles were with the putter. I would guess Bob has*

*whipped me 90% of the rounds we have played together. Seems to me he would have been a much better player if he didn't have Houle to drag around the course. Lol. Just kidding Kenny.*

*My favorite round with Bob was the last ice round of 2007 at Fox Den. I had a decent front nine and was ahead by 3 at the turn. I wasn't hitting the ball very well, but kept it in play, and was getting up and down. Bob was struggling with the putter. Oh, the pressure was on now. I played better on the back. Every hole that passed there was added pressure on Bob. He couldn't get the putter going and I crushed him by 4. The weather took a turn for the worse, so I had bragging rights all winter long. In the spring, we didn't seem to hook up for a round, so I kept telling him he feared me. He finally showed up at Tannenhauf on a wet spring day, and thrashed me on the front nine. He quit after nine. Don't blame him as it was real muddy that day. Well, that was the end of my bragging rights.*

*Bob is working at Fox Den now and hasn't hooked up with us for quite some time. I still figure he fears me. BTW, I still have the card and you can see it in the Golf Gallery located on this site. Looks like I had 11 pars that day for a 7 over 79.*

*Jan 15 2013*

*Playing golf with Rudy*

*Rudy is a co-worker at Goodyear/Loral/Lockheed who started designing circuit boards, switched to layout ASICs for me, then back to circuit boards when the ASIC days were over. He was awesome at ASIC layout. Our microchips looked every bit as compact as the big companies like Intel. He is a good friend and still is working there.*

*I don't exactly recall when we started playing together. I believe I talked him into being my partner at the Edgewood golf league. He did join the Saturday DST on occasion, and went on a few Pinehurst trips with his buddy Brian and us. Rudy is a power hitter, taking tremendous swings. In the early years, he was all over the place.*

*You always felt sorry for the golf course after he left the tee box. He would always take at least 2 practice swings and gouge out a giant divot each time. It took a bit of time to repair those suckers. He put together his own clubs and would buy the biggest bad boy driver head you had ever seen. He had one for a few years that sounded like a tin can when he hit it. All in all, he probably hit as many 300yd drives as anyone I ever played with on a regular basis. It took him a few years to hone that skill. He probably picked it up from Brian.*

*I totally remember playing with Rudy on that damn Tobacco Road #9. Fairly open on the tee shot, you have to hit your approach to a really elevated green. The left side of the green is thick with pines. The right side of the green is a huge sand slope. There is a 10 yd opening in front, but that isn't*

*much. Both Rudy and I were on the sand slope in two or three. We were a couple yds apart for the rest of our strokes. Hit it up, watch it roll back. After 2-3 tries, Rudy was swinging at the ball as it was still rolling down the hill. I broke out laughing, regained my composure, and hit another up and back at me. We both picked up and took the max limit for that hole. Golf is a love/hate kind of game.*

*I haven't played much with Rudy lately. He did a lot of soccer coaching for his kids. And his wife keeps him on a short reign; to say the least. That reminds me of the joke about the guy that fell asleep at his girlfriend's house. He jumped up and told her to go outside and dirty up his golf shoes. His wife was livid when he got home late. "I've got to come clean", he said. "I have been having an affair." "Oh no you don't, I can see you have been golfing again."*

Jan 14 2013

#### *Playing golf with Smitty*

*Smitty is a co-worker at Goodyear/Loral who lived nearby. I believe Mel got him interested in learning the game together. OMG they struggled. There were lots of chunks, tops, and whiffs, but Smitty moved along OK. It was painful to watch him the first year whack the chips back and forth across the green. He gradually improved but was always a 100+ golfer. We had a week long trip to Topsail Island for 2 years that brings to mind a couple of things. One day we were looking at a couple courses to play. Stopping at one, we got out and looked down the first fairway. Condo's all down each side with lots of glass. We got the hell out of there quick. Next day, we played a very wet Topsail course. Smitty borrowed my 2 iron to clear the lake. I got it back in 2 pieces. That was the last 2 iron I would have. Later in the week, we would play Porter's Neck. I loved the course. Well, they warned us about an alligator in a pond on a short par3. Smitty just cleared it. No gator in sight, but he approached cautiously and quickly chipped. As he was walking away, Mel shouted for him to lookout; scared the crap out of him. No gator was seen but Mel had fun. Mel is Mr. port-a-pot banger if you forgot.*

*My favorite Smitty story was when I had gotten a gag putting ball that wobbled all over when you putted. About the 3d hole, I switched it with his ball on the green and he putted it, much to our jovial pleasure. Amazingly, I pulled it off one more time on him later in the round. He wasn't very happy.*

*Smitty moved to AZ, retired, toured the country in a monster RV, then settled down in Green Valley AZ. I looked it up; median age is 71.4 yrs. Wonder who the hell bags the groceries for you?*

Jan 13 2013

*Hey, we got ourselves a nice snow melt. It's going to get cold tomorrow, but it looks*

*playable the rest of the week. I'll see what my obligations are, but I bet I can get a round or two in this week. I am all cricked up from helping my daughter on her wood floor, but that is coming to completion. I wonder what the next winter project might be.*

*Just chilling out today; I will get back to some more golfer stories this week.*

*Jan 12 2013*

*Playing golf with brother in law George*

*George was Brother Jim's best bud and later an in-law. George graduated from West Point and served in Alaska, Oklahoma (?) and lived in PA before moving to the Cleveland area. He eventually retired from the Guard and was the post commander in Wilkes Bare PA. Quite a career. He was added to the DST bunch and mostly had long drives south to play with the group. We paired up well; we shared the propensity to be a little gassy at times, so everyone was glad we rode together. Working in the challenged manufacturing sector, he changed jobs many times but always seemed to enjoy the new job more than the last. He began teaching night courses at Akron U and later on-line courses for Phoenix. He now is a big Kahuna at Phoenix in Cleveland and has a day job too. Whenever I have a mechanical problem, I consult with George.*

*So George played the DST and did go on a couple Pinehurst trips. I remember him eating something that didn't agree with him one morning and spent a couple of days running between the port-a-pots on the course. He survived to eat and play another day.*

*George is a power machine, whacking low rising tee shots and hitting 2 less irons than I usually do. I missed witnessing his best shot, an incredible ace at Oak Shadow #8. I was in the group ahead and they were a bit behind us. Kirk must have been in his foursome. An evil hole, it's a mid range par3 with trees on both sides, and a green that is narrow with severe slope to the right. In fact, a 2 putt from anywhere on that green is a real challenge. I am told he hit a 5 wood to the left side of the green and it was sliding across to the right when it nailed the pin and dropped. How about that? An excellent bull's eye, cause it would have slid off the green for a probable bogey. Who has a 5 wood anyway?*

*As George is still working, we only get together 3 or 4 times a year. He usually makes the Zanesville Eagle Sticks DST extravaganza and plays when my brother comes into town. I can always use a bit of gamesmanship on George if he is ahead of me. All I have to do is bring up Ted's hotdogs and he gets a little distracted. Ted's is a chain in Buffalo, where the hot dogs are to die for. Anyway, I hope to get in more play with George and Jim when we can.*

Jan 11 2013

***Playing golf with brother Jim***

***Playing golf with my brother has always been enjoyable. I started playing with Dad when I was 13. Jim is a bit younger and started playing a few years later. I remember Dad dropping us off on his way to work and picking us up after work on his way home. We played at Delaware Park, a city course and paid 50 cents for the round of 18 holes. Imaging that! Now you are lucky to play for \$1 a hole. We had a ball. The first tee was always nerve wracking; there was usually a gallery waiting to tee off there.***

***We had a family tournament back in the day with Dad, Jim and I. Dad won the early years, I won for a couple, then Jim dominated. George was in there too and enjoyed watching the competition. Eventually, Dad couldn't play anymore, and the three of us got together when we could. The tradition continued, although the matches are less formalized. When Jim Jr. grew up, he joined as well. Now Jr. arranges the matches when he can. Jr. seems to relish picking courses which I struggle on. Those that come to mind are Sheridan (a long long beast), Byrnecliff (where I never ever make a putt), and any other 7000+ yard course. They whip me on those courses, but when in Ohio, I show them a thing or two.***

***Jim plays much like I; lots of sliced drives, good chipping, streak putting. He will surely improve when he gets some 20<sup>th</sup> century clubs. He has a heavy work schedule and rarely plays these days. When we get together, he is usually rusty, and then pulls things together for some solid play.***

***Jim, George, and I are the golfing family, all learned the game from Dad. And Jr. has learned from us. Thanks' Dad! Rest in peace.***

Jan 10 2013

***Playing golf with Kirk***

***Playing golf with Kirk has changed over the years. He was a charter member of the DST back in the day and always played a good game. He would use those spin balls and land them softly on the green. I remember him as being the first guy who thrived on taking skins away from me. Occasionally I was in the driver seat on the green, only to watch him chip one close or even in. Damn! He always had a story to tell about his latest girlfriend which had the rest of us shaking our heads. He was always one of the last to leave the 19<sup>th</sup> hole when those Killian Red pitchers ran dry.***

***He continued to play with the old blade irons. We all marveled at the command he had over them. Kirk had those happy feet and always hung his ring of 20 keys from his belt. We played many a rounds with him and always started right in on him. "Well, we have 6 playing today. We should probably tee off five and one."***

*Kirk hasn't played much lately, spending his time with his kids. That reminds me; I better check up on him and see how he is doing.*

Jan 9 2013

#### *Playing golf with Denny*

*Playing golf with Denny is always quick. He seems to always play well most of the round and throw in a couple of stinkers. He normally runs a streak of pars and birdies and will throw in a couple of snowmen. He can throw in a couple of hot rounds with low rounds here and there too. Speaking of hot, his bad holes can lead to an occasional hot under the collar situation where he begins to yell at his self. "You dummy, why don't you just keep your head down?" Sometime it gets worse.*

*He does drive the ball well, but can get into hooking or slicing at any moment. On the whole, he is a good putter. I have seen him on hot streaks where he drains just about everything. Denny cards a few eagles each year, making the most out of his opportunities. I tend to choke on eagle putts and am lucky to get perhaps one a year by holing out from the fairway. I end up envying his eagle count at year's end.*

*I met Denny when hooking up with Ken and the ice golf crew. It's a small world. Turns out Dick had known Denny many years. Denny was amazingly quick on the ice tour. Most of us walked, and Denny was usually way out ahead of the rest of us by 30 yds or so. He doesn't waste any time on the course, a trait I highly value. After I retired, I joined Denny's Monday group and we play from the senior tees and move it anywhere. It's a very competitive bunch and the golf is handicapped. After the round is over, you pay everyone who beat you on the net score \$1 and throw 2 in the skins pool. I don't particularly like move it anywhere rule, as in the past I had always played "winter rules". It does lower your score, especially when playing from the rough. Instead of hitting a recovery wedge out of the tall grass, the preferred lie often allows your normal shot. It's significant advantage to those who can't put it in the fairway (that would be most all of us, lol).*

*Denny now spends 1/2 the year during the colder months in Myrtle Beach. I joined him the last 2 February's, but Mom is slowing down so I have to pass this year. I really enjoyed playing with Denny down there and was grateful to be away from the snow. Golf can be chilly down there in the mid 40s, but can also be real nice when it's in the 60s.*

Jan 8 2013

#### *Playing golf with Ken*

*Playing golf with Ken is never quiet. He carves the ball left to right without fail. A short hitter at his advanced age, it's driver, 3 wood for him most of the par 4s, driver or 3*

**wood on the par 3s, and driver plus three 3 woods on the par 5s. Grumbling all the way down the fairway, you turn around**

**and he has either tied or beaten you on the hole. When he gets near the green, he is deadly. Although Ken will cry wolf on every shot, there is one shot truly terrorizes him. If he gets on in thick tall grass just off the fringe he begins to come apart**

**Many years ago, I was telling TK I wanted to play longer into the season and he put me in touch with Kenny who played deep into the season at Edgewood. I showed up at Edgewood late fall and played with the group. Holy crap! My ex neighbor Bob M was there. Hadn't seen him in years. Anyway, this group was really into it. We played Edgewood every winter till it was sold. I remember teeing off one Saturday at zero degrees with a minus 5 wind chill. No one could get the tee in the ground, so I used a crumpled up piece of paper I pulled from a trash can as a tee. Ice golf was a hoot. You had to learn to play the frozen ground bounce. There was a cutthroat game of Wolf being played for a dime a point. Any relief had to be granted, not assumed. Often shots were required to be played out on the snow. A dime was at stake you know. Ken loves to tag the players with a nickname. I remember being tagged with Firewood and later Neon. Also, I recall Neil earning the title of Feeder.**

**Ken plays in Denny's Monday group now. We play the senior tees and move it everywhere. He missed 1/2 the season last year suffering from a stroke, but is working to get back onto the Monday senior tour. Maybe all the years of losing money to him will be over and I will get some of it back. At least till his handicap adjusts. See you when you are ready and able Ken.**

**Jan 7 2013**

**Playing golf with Bill**

**Playing golf with William is never ever dull. Here's a guy with a personalized license plate HZLRKT or something like that. If you're reading my blog, you know that stands for hozel rocket. I guess that was easier to code than Shankapodumus or Mr. Shank. Needless to say, never stray ahead of Bill on the course on the right of him more than a yard or two. Any more could be hazardous to your health.**

**Bill began playing with us on the DST and on the Pinehurst trips after a couple of my invitations at Loral. Never dull you say? There are several stories I won't go into: getting a tick on the neck in Santee (aka Tick Head), thoroughly enjoying his sand debacle on 18 at Oak Knolls, and Bill enjoying my Groundhog Mountain fiasco. I guess my favorite is his play one day coming into the Sanctuary #8 over the lake. Our group was thru the hole and waiting on the next tee, which is now #10 I believe. We saw him come up for his short approach and I believe shank one into the water. After the drop, he hozeled another one over the lake and behind the shed right of the**

*green. We couldn't see him behind the shed, but we heard his next shot whack the shed. I am not sure if the next came out either. It was all a blur though my dampened eyes. My eyes were watering up at the time.*

*Bill does have a nice hook off the tee. He is often called the Anti-Bob. The sweetest shot I have seen lately was at the par 5 Windmill #16. He was on the left side for his approach with the pines blocking his path to the green. He pulled out something like a 4 5 or 6 iron and swept that baby out and around the pines and onto the green. I was in awe and think I gave him a high 5. approve of the nurse I thought he should take to Pinehurst on his last trip. Even though Bill likes Neil better we remain good buddies. I certainly hope to get in more rounds with Bill if he ever returns to the dole or retires to a life of leisure.*

Jan 6 2013

*Playing golf with TK*

*I met Tom long long long ago at Mayfair. I played with some neighbors every Saturday there. We always had the first tee time, and Tom and his guys were right behind us. As both groups thinned out, we joined forces. The resulting group was the original Dew Sweeper Tour (named much later on, by Gary I). The group included Neil, Tom, Kirk, Mike B, Hayes, and a few others. Bill H would eventually join in. We played a skin carryover game and often the winnings would go for mucho pitchers of Killian Red later in the clubhouse. Several years in, Tom suggested the annual Pinehurst trek and the tradition began. There are numerous stories about those outings; perhaps another day.*

*TK is both a student of the game and a gritty competitor. He keeps a book of golf swing reminders and has hundreds of clubs. He also has a repertoire of many knockdown shots. Tom has been known to dicker with his putters. Like many of us, the Yips creep in now and then. Most notable, a year or two back, he was trying out a grip the putter real low approach. About the third hole, he was lining up a short 2<sup>nd</sup> one and was waving the putter back and forth with practice strokes at remarkable speed. I couldn't take it any longer and began to laugh with a vengeance. Others joined in. I don't remember if he made the putt but still feel badly about all the laughing. Anyway, he now has a new approach where he takes his eyes off the ball and puts them on a spot a couple inches forward. Last I saw, he was putting lights out. Congrats Tom! You have conquered your demon (well one of them anyway).*

*Tom is a gritty competitor. His name is all over the Pinehurst trophy and earned the right to retire it after our 25<sup>th</sup> year. I don't have memories of Tom's awesome golf shots. I think this is because he has had too many to recall. On a final note, Tom indeed has had the most wives and most relatives of anyone I have ever known. If*



*you play a round with Tom, make sure other members of the group are not one of his relatives or ex-wives husbands before ragging on him. Take it from one who didn't and ended up somewhat embarrassed later.*

Jan 5 2013

*Playing golf with Mel*

*Mel was my boss at Goodyear/Loral before he up and abandoned all of us. Never the less, I owe him big for having me trained in ASIC technology. It gave me a chance take part in an exciting technology, to be a leader, and help me make the big bucks (lol). Even though I never got any respect, I will be forever grateful.*

*Mel was always too busy for golf, but took it up after "retiring" and became addicted to it .He was so bad the first couple of years; I told him I would give up the game if he ever beat me. I remember his low point when he got beat at Shawnee Hills by an 80 something old guy we ended up playing with, complete with several joint replacements and a colostomy bag.*

*Mel has improved quite a bit over the years and is now shooting mid to high 90s. I put a scare into myself early on by taking 16 strokes (don't ask) on Raintree #7, but thank God we still had the back nine to play. He came very very close to winning years later at Tam-o-Shanter. I had a new driver and kept lacing it OB. Unfortunately, my hand locked up on #18 and I wasn't able to finish. It did loosen up later on for a beer in the clubhouse. A few years later at Tammy, he cajoled us into teeing off with a storm looming close by. Was he trying to get even? It was a near death experience with one bolt zipping over my head and landing 100 yds from me. That's never ever going to happen again. I am the first to bail when rumbling storms get close. By the way, he did let me out of the wager, and eventually beat me last year after a horrible round at Ellsworth Meadows.*

*Mel's favorite hole is over at Mayfair, the long par 4 on the back with the lake 200 out on the right. Time after time, he would hit short of the lake, then lash one into the yard of that white house on the left. One day, the lady of the house, in her bathrobe, let loose her dogs when he was wandering around her yard. One final note; if Mel's around be careful. He never passes an opportunity to bang the side of the port a pot if you happen to be in there, so be forewarned. Be careful when you are zipping up!*

Jan 4 2013

*Playing golf with John T*

*John is one of my first golf buddies and co-worker that I played with after moving to Ohio. He played with our bosses and I was able to join now and then when there was*

*an opening. I still remember a round at Turkeyfoot with him and our boss Charlie (RIP). Charlie would get hot when he hit a bad shot. Well Charlie knocked one into the tall weeds, pounded the ground, and said some unpleasant things. We gave up looking and Charlie dropped a ball in the tall grass and took his swing. We all looked but didn't see anything. He had swung right under the ball with the ball staying put. Charlie turned beet red and John was laughing. Charlie took a big score on that one. John has stories of playing with this group while hung over and shooting great scores.*

*John is an awesome putter. It's not unusual for him to take 12 putts on a nine. Sometimes I figure we should just give him those 8 footers. He also has a knack for hitting his approach shots 1 foot short, often on the fringe. He sure knows what he is doing when wagering on least putts.*

*John's famous shot came on Chippewa #15. We both whacked our drives left over onto the big hill. Facing an impossible shot up the hill, over a deep gorge, and over many tall trees, I chipped out to the fairway. John, however, was taking dead aim over that mess. I told him he was nuts. No way could anyone get a 4 iron high up over that trouble. It looked like you needed a cannon. Needless to say, he hit a beauty up and over. I still shake my head thinking about it.*

*John would later become a great boss, taking the reins from Mel, who abandoned us all after a sweet deal was offered him by Loral. We were lost souls, but John led us out of the wilderness.*

Jan 3 2013

*Playing golf with Dick aka Bigdik aka Mr9 Wood*

*I have been playing golf with Dick for several years now. He always told me he was good in high school, but it did take him a bit to get his game back in shape. He is looking pretty good these days. He can smoke his drive now and we usually ends up 10-20 yards apart on the tee shot one way or the other, often identical distances. He started on the Pinehurst trips late in the game, but amazed us all when he thrashed us that first year. Here I was telling him horror stories about the hazards, but none of it bothered him one little bit. He was staking his 9 woods on the pin all week on the par 3s. It was magic.*

*He has another trait. No one, I mean no one plays the game like Dick. Driver 9 wood on most par 4s, 9 woods on all par 3s, driver 3 wood and 9 wood on par 5s. 90% of his approach shots are 9 woods. On top of all that, trouble punch outs with the driver. I ask you, who else plays like that? I suspect he will struggle next year, as he now has an 11 wood in his bag. He will have to decide 9 wood or 11 wood. You got to love it.*

Jan 2 2013

***Playing golf with Neil, the Bionic Brit***

***I have been playing golf with Neil for a long long time starting in the early 70's? We have had many matches, handicapped by a stroke or two one way or the other. Too many stories to capture, but here are a couple of my favorites.***

***In league play at Edgewood, I had him down big (4 or 5 strokes with 2 to play). The son of a gun holed out his approach shot for an eagle 2 on #8. Shocked and dazed, I would choke on #9 and lose the match. Another time on #8, he commented on the tee that I would need a bloody spade to fill the divot I had just made. There was much laughter in the group including myself. Neil also amazed me years later at Mayfair West #15. After he dribbled 80 yds off the tee, he was way out. I asked him what the hell he was waiting for. He was waiting for the green to clear and I verbally scoffed at this. Once the green was clear, he proceeded to hammer a 3 wood onto the green. Ouch.***

***Neil went on our Pinehurst trips for several years. I remember playing with Neil and Bill at Groundhog Mountain on the way down. I entertained them by hitting "several" into the lake on a par 3. Don't ask what "several" means. Needless to say, I lost a lot of Mollies that day. We had it on***

***video too and there was much laughter, ribbing and humiliation. Also, hats off to Neil playing with a bad back in Pinehurst one year. He hurt so bad I had to put his socks on every morning.***

Jan 1 2013

***Happy New***

***Year.***

***Remembering back to when I worked for a living, New Years had some pluses but a lot of minuses. On the plus side, most everyone had taken a nice break over the Holidays and was back fresh and energized. On the minus side, it was often cold and snowy and icy on the roads.***

***At Goodyear/Loral/Lockheed, I always hated January and February. This was the time to wrap up budget planning and get funding for my team. It took forever and often meant layoffs were in the near future. At first I felt really bad about layoffs. Later on in my career, I realized it was a good thing for those to be leaving. Here they were on the bottom of the totem pole, and would get a fresh start somewhere else. At Cisco there were always projects and the New Year wasn't of much significance. At Viasat, it was much the same.***

***Being retired now, New Years is just another Saturday just like all the days. Missing golf already; those Myrtle Beach temperatures look mighty inviting.***

Dec 31 1012

*Well, a new year is ahead. Just took down the tree and Christmas cards I post on out kitchen wall. They always look nice during the Holidays. A lot of people have stopped sending them out the last couple of years. I am fine with that. Many feel the money could be put to better use, but I disagree. I figure a nice card and what will now be a 45 cent stamp is not too much to send a card and basically say "Hi, we still think about you from time to time even though we haven't seen you in many years."*

Dec 30 1012

*Now that golf season is over while the snow lies on the ground, it gets you a thinking. Ever forget where you left your keys? Your glasses? Forget to lock up or close the garage? Me too. Monday is garbage day on my street. It just dawned on me that I never forget to roll out my dumpster on Sunday night. Looking around, neither do any of my neighbors. Could it be that trash is always on our minds?*

*Speaking of trash, the Bills just wrapped up their dismal 6-10 season with a win over the Jets. Their 6 wins were over a bunch of bottom dwellers that averaged 4.5 wins this season. Toughest beaten opponent recorded a whopping 7 wins. Just how can it get worse? At least I have that to ponder till next season starts.*