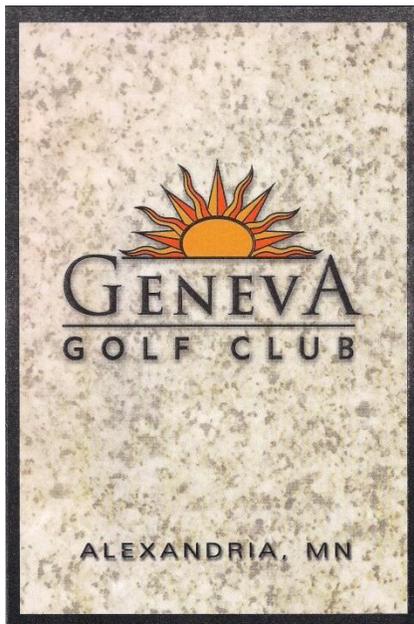
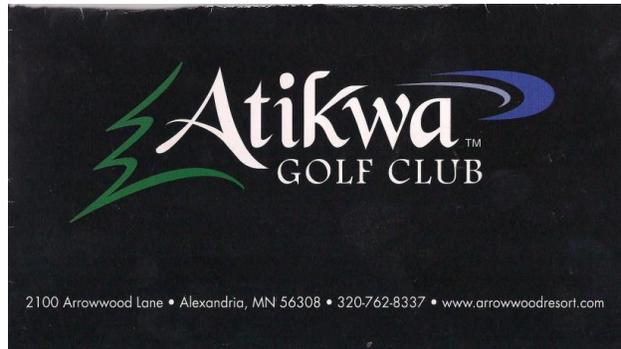


Minnesota lays claim to being the Land of 10,000 lakes. Someone tried to explain the difference between lakes and ponds which had something to do with some kind of residence being part of the properties waterfront. Don't know where I'm going with this, but according to me there are closer to a gazillion lakes in the state. After typing in accommodations Alexandria, Minnesota, voila, cabins up the gazillerator, our cabin was on Lake Darling, the experience was so great, we'll be going back. There were more courses in the vicinity of Alexandria than we could play in a week. Next time we'll be trying the Brainerd area. The drive from the old homestead in Waterloo, Iowa precluded any golf.

DAY 1 Atikwa Golf Course is part of the Arrowhead Resort. Today the heat and humidity were particularly uncomfortable, so much so that the starter got everyone going on both the front and back nine. I'm sure some thought was given to balance the impact this would have on refreshment sales versus the discomfort of the patrons. Incredibly smart on his part, as I wouldn't particularly want to give an old geezer like me C.P.R. either! Spent the afternoon wallowing in the lake, which was not cold by any means, partaking of the occasional beer, and cruising the lake aboard our hosts' pontoon boat.



DAY 2 After our round of golf at the Geneva Golf Club, which weather wise was very pleasant, the time had arrived to begin doing the touristy thing. Bought the obligatory postcards and refrigerator magnets at the visitor center book store and invested in a paperback book about the history of the Runestone. Postcards, which as everyone knows, can only be filled out when the creative writing feeling overwhelms oneself, and that only seems to happen after the consumption of an adequate amount of alcohol.

DAY 3 The starter at the Minnewaska Golf Club gave us the weekday special, which may or may not have anything to do with having a friend in common, or most probably just because of my good looks. The mower guy had stopped by the tee box while we were waiting for the girls to hit. "Are you and your daughters enjoying your vacation here in Glenwood?" So he supposes the wife and her sister to be my kids, man I must really look old. In any event if he gets fired that'd be okay with me. We revisited the museum for a tour and more postcards, also the liquor store for more inspiration.

DAY 4 It is always good to have a backup course in mind for the just incases. The Long Prairie course was having a shotgun when we arrived for our tee time. The starter was very apologetic and arranged for a round at The Greystone Country Club in Sauk Center. Greystone was also having a small tournament, but we were able to get out on the back nine. One of the ponds may be a body dump site for the Amish



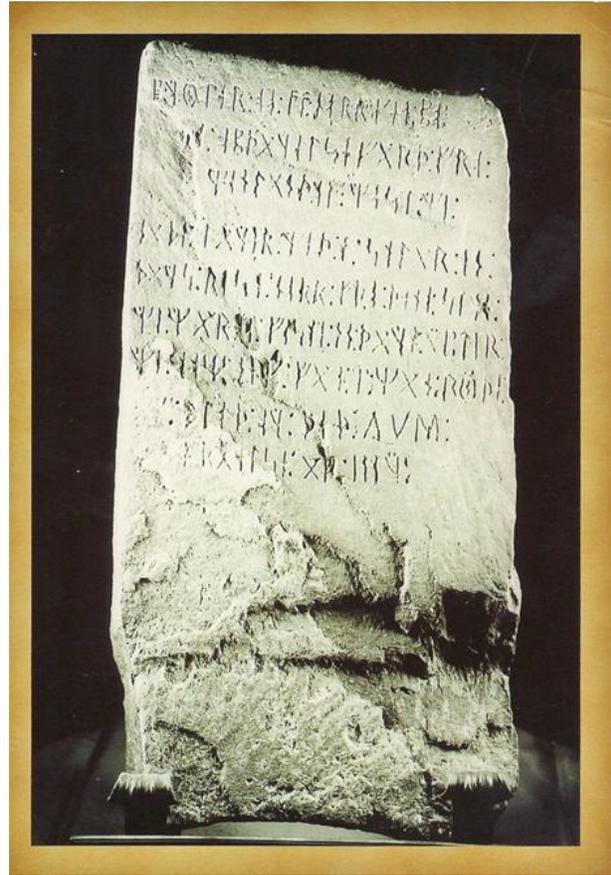
Mafia or more probably there is a deceased deer out there somewhere. Went for a walk down Broadway, the main drag in Alexandria, antiquing, being the good tourist and book store peruser!

DAY 5 Rained out! Drove out to the Meltona Golf Club anyway to check out the club house, but apparently the employees were smart enough to just roll over and go back to sleep. The girls opted for pedicures. This would be the ideal technique to use on me if I were a prisoner of war as these tootsies are extremely sensitive to tickling. Our hosts took us on another pontoon ride through three connected lakes and eventually to the Arrowhead Resort. The patio deck serves the hotel patrons as well as lake residents who pull into their marina whenever the impulse or nights entertainment strikes them. Mama and I tripped the light fantastic, or at least we thought we did. Good thing the kids or grandkids were not here to witness our dancing skills. The singer did a good impression of Puff The Magic Dragon at our request.

DAY 6 The Alexandria Golf Course is a semi-private club and real stickler regarding tee times. After golf her sister insisted we make a visit to the walk in clinic, diagnosis, bronchial infection. It was a good thing her sister was along otherwise, she who never gets sick would probably have succumbed to pneumonia and died before accepting any suggestion concerning her health from he who thinks he's a doctor. It was a very warm and stuffy night as the air conditioner had shut down after someone decided snowflake was the preferred setting.

DAY 7 Pezhekee National Golf Course, also known as Peters Resort, is in a terrific hilly forested location, however the course condition is suffering from lack of sufficient golfers to defer the maintenance expenses. Made a drive by the cabin to see if the air conditioner had thawed out, we shut it off to defrost. Hallelujah! The Carlos Winery has very classy stable theme, but beyond pricey, maybe even expensive. Our host took us on another moonlit ride, the cuisine was excellent, beer and pizza. The

power that looks out for dumb animals and drunks, which might be an oxymoron, was on his toes tonight.



Big Ole needs mentioning! There is a huge statue of Ole the Viking in the downtown park of Alexandria. After reading the History of the Runestone, seeing all the Viking archeological relics in the museum, which have been excavated in this area, it is apparent the Vikings settled in this part of Minnesota centuries before Christopher Columbus' parents had a gleam in their eye. Hence, the Minnesota Viking football team derives its' name from the local history. Big Ole was created as a focal point for local tourism. There is a little history attached to Ole, he has served his apprenticeship of the New York Worlds' Fair, in addition the local kids are constantly augmenting his manhood with the likes of Oscar Meyer wiener blow up advertisements.

