

The curtamous page

March 2011 Archived Notes

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April 25, 2011 - *Jak se maj! Happy Easter everyone! Sorry, but no time for a real update this week... Easter Sunday was too busy (not really) and I had no time today... But a few quick notes...*

Congratulations to the Busch's and Larsen's on the arrival of young Miss Adalyn... Little Adalyn arrived last Wednesday the 20th healthy and happy and Mom and Dad (and Grandma and Grandpa) are tickled pink! Congrats to all and can't wait to meet her in person!

Here she is!



Cute little thing ain't she!

Been busy on other fronts...

Downloaded the Weatherman videos, edited them for just the forecast, and have them posted [here](#)... feel free to check them out... Not sure how well they will work on this old website, but feel free to let me know if there are issues...

Fish Camp 2011 is on and the menu and assorted lists are posted [here](#)... Check them out...

Had a great Easter... Hit all the major services and had a GREAT meal on Easter Sunday... Can't ask for more than that...

Well, that's all I have time for... Hope to have a full update next week in anticipation of Fish Camp 2011!!!

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!

curtamous

April 17, 2011 - *Jak se maj! Hi all... How's everyone enjoying our return to winter? I should have known that as soon as I got the bike out and for a ride it would start snowing. So much for spring... Well, it is Wisconsin, so just wait a few hours and the weather will change...*

Again... I sure hope so, because I really would have enjoyed a ride today...

Had a pretty good weekend overall though, which is pretty much always the case when you get a chance to head up north... I actually got out of the office a bit early Friday, but instead of heading north right from there, I had to go home and get ready... Mostly due to truck issues, but more on that later... Anyway, I was home and packed up and on the road north by 4pm. Stopped for gas, ice, and other items and I pulled into the cabin on A around 5:30. The President had just gotten in from "cleaning the outhouse" so I timed that PERFECTLY!

We made plans for the night and next day and headed off on a WATER RUN! Yes, we had to make a water run as the pump wasn't primed yet. Met the SEC-State and FDA Chairman at the watering hole, but overall we pretty much behaved. Then had an EXCELLENT meal of fried fish at the cabin, compliments of The President and fried by the best chef I know, the FDA Chairman... I'd say the four of us ate about 6 lbs of fish... IT.. WAS... AWESOME...! Food was followed by cards and a few libations... GREAT time was had by all, despite a documented case of mauering...

Saturday we woke (barely) to cold and snow, but after the SEC-W/M arrived, The President fed us and got us out into the snow and cutting trees... After erecting The President's timber influencing devices (cabling, pulleys and winches to make sure the tree falls the way WE want it to fall) we dropped three good size pines, all pretty much right where we wanted them. The snow and cold were bad, but the worst part was my throbbing head every time I bent over to cut... Ouch...

From there we chopped, piled and cleaned up and had a couple celebratory beverages. I had to head home from there, and as always, I was very sad to be leaving the guys behind on their own, but based on a couple text messages I received much later, they did just fine without me...

Obviously, the trip north was the highlight of the week... The lowlight? My truck puked... Went to start it last Monday morning to head to work and it turned over just fine, but would NOT fire... That was the start of my week... I figured it was condensation from the funky weather last Sunday (my garage was literally dripping wet EVERYWHERE) and the plug wires and distributor cap got wet. I was pretty sure of that Monday night when it started, but Tuesday morning was more of the same... By Wednesday, I gave up, but my mechanic wasn't able to get it until Thursday, so by that time the weekend trip was a little iffy... But it got done by Thursday night so I was on my way... \$200 poorer due to bad wiring (but the plug wires and cap were pretty bad anyway and he changed those too) but at least its back in shape... Hope it stays that way for a bit...

Otherwise I had a pretty good week... I had some FABULOUS eating this week, that is for sure... I mentioned the Friday night Fish Fry up at Bob's, plus on Wednesday we had a "business" dinner down at Lombardi's in Appleton... It's a pretty upscale place, but the food is fabulous... Saturday night I came home early from up north as the weatherman was home and we headed to the Redwood Inn and had their incredible pork chops... WOW! To top it all off, the weatherman and I stopped at the K-Cafe after church this morning for an awesome breakfast... Pretty much right in the same league as Lena's cafe... Good stuff! Well, I think any weight I lost over Lent is back on after this week... Even the Goulash my beautiful bride made tonight was great... Haven't eaten this well since Deer Camp...

Speaking of the weatherman, he had another [forecast last week](#) and predicted snow, so I was pretty disappointed in him... Didn't he realize we were heading up north? Jeez... He's off for a week of forecasting but then should be back on the week after next...

After spending a day with The President, I sure feel inspired... You hear about his latest idea for the bunk house? Here it is...



The ceiling in the bunkhouse isn't quite that high, so I don't know how he'll pull this off, but I'm sure he'll find a way... Maybe he'll get midget couches from the AG and SEC-Transportation... If you look close, the guy on top almost looks like the AG... Or the Sturgeon General... One of the two...

Here's this week's schedule...

*18 Paul Revere makes his midnight ride (1775). Make your own ride before the liquor stores close. **White Horse Scotch.***

*19 Homer Simpson makes his first appearance on television. "Woo-hoo!" **Sweet, sweet beer.***

*20 National Karaoke Week begins. Ever notice how getting drunk makes you sound like Sinatra and everyone else sound like retard? **Shot of courage.***

*21 Alferd G. Packer Day. University of Colorado's cafeteria is named after the famous cannibal. **Dead Guy Ale.***

*22 Jack Nicholson's Birthday (1937). Heeeeeee's Johnny! **Johnny Walker Black.***

*23 The Reinheitsgebot is adopted (1516). German purity law demands that beer only be made of malt, yeast, hops and water. **Good German beer.***

*24 National Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity To Man Day. Atone for your barroom behavior. **Solemn shots of tequila***

Wow... That's quite a line up for Holy Week... Obviously the guy that publishes this is not Catholic... Well, at least not a real good one, considering he has Tequila scheduled for Easter Sunday... at least they are "solemn"...

Yes, this week is Holy Week, which means Lent is almost over and Easter is a week away... Definitely my favorite "church" time of the year... The Triduum is pretty powerful once you start to understand a little... Even makes me behave a little better... For a while...

Other than Easter, not much else going on except work... I also need to get back to the newsletter and get that finished, but that may have to wait a bit... I may be having a bit of an issue with the website sooner than later so I'm looking at options to "upgrade" it... I've been using a "very" old piece of software to publish it, pretty much since the beginning.. WHICH IS 9 YEARS AGO!!! I just looked it up... Been doing this more or less for 9 years!!! Holy Cow! Anyway, I'm using 9 year old software, actually more like 12 since the copyright is 1999, and it took my quite a bit to get it to work on my current PC when I got it new a couple years ago, and I am slated to get another new one this summer, so by then I need a new interface or something... So instead of using new software, I'm looking at a CMS system (same one we're using for our church web site), but I'll need to convert the whole freaking thing over, which will NOT be fun... But a necessary evil... When I get to the point of a possible decision I'll let you know and perhaps I can ask a few of you to do some simple testing for me before I port

everything...

But you know me, it'll be a while...

Also, the Nelson clan's baby arrival parade should be starting "any minute now" but no word from Colorado yet... Hope for good news any hour now... and once it starts, we'll be having baby news pretty regularly...

That's about it... At least it's all that comes to mind right now... I'm outta here, but before I go, a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members...

"TIMBER!!" ~ Paul Bunyan

That's what you yell when you cut a tree down...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!

curtaceous

[April 10, 2011](#) - *Jak se maj! How is everyone enjoying our first day of summer weather? I hope everyone got out and enjoyed it a bit along with the interesting storms going through right now... Just like summertime, that's for sure!*

Well, it must be almost summer as I got the bike out yesterday and put my first 40 miles on it. It ran GREAT!!! I spent quite a bit of time on it this week getting it ready to go. Basic stuff, plus I finished the work on the seat and I even got my cigarette lighter installed. The installation went MUCH better than expected even though I had to remove the false tank, which turned out to be a breeze. The power even worked as I added a bit of air to the back tire with the old dependable 12v tire pump connected to it. It started a bit rough but after it got going it was fine. It'll start rough until it really warms up, but for now it's going good.

I even got the bike a present this past week. I've been keeping my eye out for a trunk rack for it, and finally scored on a cheap one on eBay. It showed up Thursday and looks about as rough as I expected (considering what I paid), but I've already started the polishing and the areas I have done shine like a mirror. Once the polishing is done, I'll look to start the installation. I need to reinforce the trunk lid (or it's bound to crack) so I have a procedure off a Goldwing website to weld molded ABS on the inside to help give it a solid base. Should be an interesting project...

With spring finally arriving, I finished my taxes today... YAY!!! I got my final forms last week and entered all the data, and everything looked ok, but today I did the final review and it all looks good, at least comparing them to last year, so I submitted them. With the government not shutting down, I hope to get my money back in a couple weeks. We'll see...

Not sure if you caught on to last week's "hints" on "T"'s birthday, but we had a surprise party for her last Sunday night at Margarita's in Green Bay. Niece Tara (Who makes the update!) along with some assistance from The Mayor did a GREAT job organizing and surprising "T" and I think she and everyone in attendance had a great time. Happy Birthday "T"!

Another big event last week and (unofficial) National Holiday had The President celebrating his birthday! I just got off the phone with him, and personally, I think he's still celebrating, so I didn't even ask him about it... More on our conversation later...

UMD won the NCAA Men's Hockey Championship this weekend. Not a big fan of UMD normally, but with the Badgers not in it, and the opponent being Michigan, I became a big fan in a hurry... Took it to overtime, and despite some very lackluster play at times in the first three periods, the

Bulldogs just buzzed the Wolverines and got the winning goal early in the extra period. Great game, and congrats to the UM-Duluth Bulldogs on their first championship.

Not so good news last week... I "finally" got an eye appointment scheduled and had my checkup last week. Not great news, but probably not as bad as I thought. My eyes have definitely gotten worse over the last few years and I will likely need bifocals of some sort, but my far vision isn't really much worse than before, but it has affected my close-up vision significantly. So I'll be getting new glasses soon and will have to get used to new "progressive" lenses, which are what they call expensive bifocals these days... I also got new contacts, the regular kind, and they are definitely not going to work as good as the old ones. I see far away EXCELLENT with them, but close up is really bad... So we'll have to see how that works out... Anyway, good report health-wise on the eyes, so that's good...

You know what, I just realized that it's almost summer, and the newsletter isn't done yet... Obviously I've made no progress on it lately, and it's not looking good over the next week or two either, so it may be Deer Camp 2011 before you see it... I hope not, but you never know...

We all know Bob and his love of 5 gallon pails and his propensity to pick them up on the highway, along with barrels and other artifacts, when he's out working. He's mentioned he hasn't seen many lately... Maybe this is why:



(Click on picture for a larger image)

Maybe we can't see any dang deer in the woods cause they're out stealing Bob's pails at night!

With that, we'll move on to this week's schedule...

10 National Alcohol Screening Day. If you don't have a cocktail strainer, you can screen it through your fingers.

Butterfinger

1 1/2 oz butterscotch schnapps

1 1/2 oz Bailey's Irish Cream

2 oz milk

Pour butterscotch schnapps and Bailey's over ice, top with milk, shake it up, screen into glass.

11 Barbershop Quartet Day. Hooch away the horror. *Old Fashioned*.

12 Walk on Your Wild Side Day. Visit a bar that doesn't care for your type. *Wild Turkey 101*.

13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday (1743). Ran up \$100,000 wine tab while in the White House. *American wine*.

14 Anniversary of the Titanic Striking an Iceberg. Actual quote by one of the chaps at the ship's main lounge: "I ordered ice with my drink, but this is ridiculous." *Scotch and soda, hold the ice.*

15 Tax Day. If you ever needed a reason to drink, here it is. *Whatever you can afford.*

16 Kingsley Amis' Birthday (1922). Writer's epitaph saluted him as a "supreme

*clubman, boozer and blimp.” **Fat Bastard Chardonnay.***

That Butterfinger sounds kinda good even if it's kinda lady-like, but tomorrow is 'Old Fashion' Day! Better plan on getting to work late on Tuesday...

OK, I often joke about Bob's "inventions" but I swear I remember him telling me about this idea...



(Click on picture for a larger image)

Actually, that might work...

Easter is creeping up on us in a hurry here, and "next" week will be Holy Week, so Lent will soon be over. I really enjoy this time of year, and with the nice weather (and hopefully staying) it should be even nicer for the holiday...

This coming weekend we are planning on heading north to the cabin on A. As I mentioned, I just talked to The President and we are still on, and have at least 5 volunteers signed up. I "thought" our big job was the electrical work he wanted to get done, but now it sounds like we're dropping trees instead. He's pretty worried about a couple of those pines that are bound to come down this year on their own and on the cabin, so he's pretty fired up on that front. We're heading up Friday and everyone but me is staying until Sunday. I'm heading home Saturday night, but I'm a pretty certain we'll have a great time!!!

Well, I think that's all I have... Yeah, work is busy, but who wants to hear about that... So off I go, but before I do, a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members...

"A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water." ~Carl Reiner

Even I am ready for summer...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!

curtamous

April 3, 2011 - Jak se maj! Howdy, and welcome to April... So much for April showers... Snowing and slushy right now as I come to you on a Sunday afternoon... I have "plans" tonight, so I figured I better get to the update and get 'er posted... My "plans" should be a lot of fun tonight... :-)

Big news of the day is my sister-in-law "T" celebrates her big 5-0 today!!! Happy Birthday Theresa... Hope you have a GREAT day and enjoy your hockey game and post-game festivities!!! LOL!

Big weekend for basketball, but to tell you the truth, I could hardly care... Had to read the paper this morning to be reminded that the Final Four is even on... Once the local teams were out of it (and even before that) I really had little interest. Next year I gotta get on a bracket so I get into it a little more. Too much fun to ignore...

If you're interested, the Weatherman has a couple new clips out from his weather forecasts... Go to the [Panthervision website](#) and click on the dates on the left... He's on both March newscasts... Feel free to email him with any critiques..

Not much else going on... It's that "almost spring" time of year where the weather is too sloppy to enjoy and it's not quite nice enough to get out... Did get some inside stuff done over the past few... I think I have my plumbing issues resolved as the toilet has been flushing "error free" for a week and the drip under the bathroom sink is "almost" non-existent... Good news...

Also got some work done on the bike this past week as I removed the seat and did some upholstery repair on it... Just used a basic vinyl repair kit thingy... It won't last, but will get me through another summer most likely... I also have plans to install a 12V cigarette plug adapter for running/charging cell phones, GPS, or tire pumps, "just in case" they are needed. Did I mention that two weeks ago, as I was investigating the installation of the plug, I found a cigarette plug adapter inside the false tank housing? Funny, as I never noticed it, but I was tracing wiring to figure out how to plug the new one in, and I traced to wires back to a small unit I "thought" was a regulator or something... I looked closer, and here it's a freaking cigarette power adapter! Weird! Anyway, it's not in a good spot or in good condition, so I'm gonna pull it and replace it with a new one and mount it where I can get to it... Anyway, with the seat off I just need to remove the false tank and install the new one. I "was" gonna do that today, but I am behind schedule as usual... Oh well...

Good news on the tax front... Got my "K-1" form from work for our small business partnership and went to work on the taxes yesterday. Things were just different enough from last year to not be able to copy it exactly, but I think I have it right now. At least the forms looked filled out the same, even though the actual numbers are not... I didn't get a nasty reply from the IRS last year, so I hope I'm good to go... Need to check a few things on my HSA account this week and then I'll review them one last time and file them... Can't wait, as having taxes done is ALWAYS a good thing...

Lent continues on its path, and I've made little progress, but will hope to improve... For you heathens that drink as normal, here's your schedule for the week...

3 Festival of Min (Egyptian). Min was the god of wheat and sex. **Wheat beer in a sexy glass.**

4 First home phone installed (1877). Making it ridiculously easy for the hungover masses to call in sick. **Bloody Mary.**

5 Tomb Sweeping Day (Chinese). Because, you know, those tombs can get awfully dusty. **Tombstone Whiskey.**

6 Merle Haggard's Birthday (1937). Songs included "Whiskey Bent and Hellbound" and "The Whiskey Ain't Working." Hope he was right. **George Dickel Whiskey.**

7 Robert Peary reaches the North Pole (1909). His provisions included a case of Guinness. **Ice cold Guinness.**

8 International Feng Shui Awareness Day. Just think how much your personal energy would improve if you moved the beer in your fridge to your stomach. **A refrigerator of beer.**

9 Hugh Hefner's Birthday. Wear a smoking jacket to the bar. **Champagne.**

Ah... Nothing even appealing there... Guess its good I'm on the wagon, more or less... Maybe tonight I'll have a MARGARITA!!! Happy Birthday Theresa!

Here's one for The President!



Bet he's running the crane and he's got a junior member on the lawnmower...

Speaking of The President, I believe we are still on for the 16-17 of April for a "work-weekend" up at the cabin. Looking at doing some electrical work and perhaps other small jobs depending on the size of the crew and the weather... I'll be getting an email out to "the guys" sometime soon so if you're lucky, you may be invited... Should be a good time as well as productive!

Also, if it's not on your calendar (it's not a National holiday yet) The President will be celebrating another birthday this week... So if you see him, wish him a VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY... If you don't see him, you might just want to touch base and let him know you care... The FM usually sends two dozen roses, but it hasn't gotten him very far, so I don't suggest that... Anyway...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOB!!!

Not much else to report on... Work continues to go well, but no travel expected in the next week at least... Last week was a "low" billing week for me, as I have a bunch of internal stuff going on, but that was kinda nice...

So I think that's it... But before I go, a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members...

"April is a promise that May is bound to keep." ~ Hal Borland quote

I sure hope so...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!

curtamous

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Last Updated: Sunday, May 13, 2012

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