

The curtamous page

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March 27, 2011 - Jak se maj! *Hi everyone... Sorry I took last week off, but I just couldn't get around to an update... Sometimes, that's just how it is... but that means I "should" have a lot to cover this week, but you never know... The update could be as droll as ever... We'll see...*

We do have more BIG news out of the Nelson family as the SEC-STATE and his lovely bride will be grandparents! My God-Daughter is with child and will be carrying on the family tradition of "not always doing things in order"... But she is a sweet, bright, strong, and wonderful young woman and will do great and I couldn't be happier for her. Next Christmas at the Nelson's is shaping up to be an expanded and incredibly fun event! Can't wait! Congrats to Amber and the new Grandma and Grandpa!

No way to top that big news, but we did head out for the FDA Chairman's birthday this past week and had a great time and meal at the Redwood Inn. They are in a new building just up the road, and it's the first time I've been there. More room, which is really nice, and the food is as spectacular as ever. Had the pork chops, and THEY... WERE... PHENOMINAL!!! Had a nice time with the family as always... Happy Birthday Carl!

The vacation crew got home from their Florida trip last weekend and report having a great time! I didn't get all the details, but I am sure that they enjoyed themselves as always... Welcome home!!!

Big week for basketball with all sorts of March Madness going on... On a sad note, the Badgers were bumped after a pretty poor effort against Butler. But as we've seen, Butler is going on to the Final Four, so maybe it had a little more to do with them than we thought...

The Chief's main squeeze made it down to Madison for the D2 Wisconsin Girls Championship with her LC teammates and after winning in the semi's on Friday, we made the trip down yesterday for the Championship game against New London. They had beaten them twice during the season, so I had high hopes, but it wasn't too be... (I'm terribly afraid I jinxed her as I saw them loose the sectional final last year live too.... oh oh...) They played pretty well, but New London play GREAT and seemed to get all the bounces and more than their fair share of calls, so it was an uphill battle the whole way, and after getting within 3, they ran out of gas. But they had a great year, and if you're going to lose one to a hot team, that's the one to lose... Congrats to Kelsey and her teammates! (You don't hear that from me to an LC team too often...)

We sure had quite the snowstorm last week didn't we? I was happy to get the new/used snow blower out and running, but it wasn't quite what I was expecting. With Green bay getting over 17 inches, I am sure we weren't far behind, and with that wet sloppy snow, it wasn't easy going. But the new blower cut through it with little difficulty. I did have some issues with the carb though, and I'm not sure what to do about it. Likely I will forget about it until after summer and

then get stuck during the first snow next winter... That is, unless we get hit again... Which could be!

Got a bunch of work done the week before last on the Chief's computer. Finally dedicated some time to it and had to completely rebuild the whole thing. Kinda tricky getting the data off and back on after the rebuild, but I got it done and its working a LOT better now. I got no credit for it, but that's nothing new...

Also been doing a bit of plumbing the last two weeks... Started off with the bathroom faucet aerator getting plugged... No big deal, right? Well, after cleaning it, it wouldn't go back on (must have gotten stripped) so I had to go buy a new faucet last weekend. Went in pretty good, but the darn thing has been dripping under the vanity all week. I think it may be the shutoff valves. WHAT NEXT??? Well, I hope I got that taken care of today, but then during the week the toilet kept sticking and not shutting off. Jeez! So I went through that today, cleaned everything, and found a clip that was hopefully blocking the flapper. Also, it was pretty cruddy (the water here in Denville is pretty hard) so I am hoping the cleaning helped too. We shall see...

Skipper was over yesterday with a project for his boat. We started off with coffee and old times and then got to work. Basically it was new boards to mount his down riggers on so we had to cut them to fit and then run dado grooves down the edges to run LED lights in. From the looks of things, I think it turned out pretty darn good, so I hope it works out for him. I also VERY MUCH hope to get out on the lake with him, but we'll see what summer brings. As always, it's always good to see Skipper... Even when we're not just drinking...

No progress on taxes and it's getting to be crunch time. Our business's tax guy was out so our paperwork is behind schedule, which is nice, as it give me an excuse for not having them done yet other than me being lazy and procrastinating. Hate taxes, and really hate them now with the business side of it to complicate things even more... But there's a good chance we'll see them this week, or the next at the latest... Then it WILL BE crunch time...

Speaking of taxes, can you believe it's almost April? Wow!!! Time is sure flying... Which reminds me... No progress on the newsletter... Oh well...

We're in the thick of Lent here, and to be honest, it's not going as well as I'd like. I'm usually more focused on it, and that usually leads to good things, but that's not the case this year. At least not yet... Better get my stuff together, if you know what I mean...

For those of you still drinking as if it weren't Lent, here's your schedule for the week...

27 The corkscrew is patented (1860). Making it no longer necessary to push the cork down into the bottle with a stick. **Decent wine.**

28 Festival of the Sacrifice at the Tombs (Roman). Graveyard party! Woo-hoo! **Zombie.**

29 Expulsion of the Demons of Bad Luck Festival (Tibet). Demonic possession is bad enough, but bad luck demons? Believe me, you don't want 'em.

Exorcism By Fire

1 1/2 oz Pernod

1 lemon wedge

6 dashes Tabasco Sauce

Coat the lemon wedge with sugar. Douse the lemon wedge with the 6 dashes of Tabasco. Shoot the Pernod and suck the lemon.

30 Doctor's Day. Me, I prefer to follow Dr. Hunter S. Thompson's advice. **Apple**

schnapps.

31 Tater Day. Potato growers are notoriously informal. **Potato vodka.**

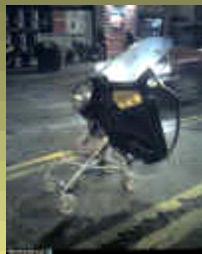
1 April Fool's Day. AKA **The Day of Abject Cruelty Posing as Good Natured Hijinks.** **Zima. (Gotcha!)**

2 Anniversary of Battle of the Flowers (French). Only the French would fight over flowers. **Fernet Branca.**

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

Nothing too interesting, but here's a shot of Apple Schnapps to the 3 doctors in our family... PROST!

OK, it is still possible that "someday" I too will be a grandparent... If I do, I'm picking up the SEC-Transportation, we're heading over to The President's, and we're making one of these...



Speaking of The President, he's set a date for a work weekend up at the cabin. The weekend of April 16/17 we're "hopefully" heading up and doing some wiring and other assorted jobs. We hope by then the snow will be gone but it won't be too warm yet for all the creepy crawlies to be out so we can crawl around the attic and under the floor. Hope to add some more circuits and plugs to various areas as well as run permanent power out to the bunkhouse. Should be easy enough, so that should jinx it for sure. Worse case, we'll have fun...

Here's one from the FDA Chair... CRACKED ME UP!

A man is sitting at home on the couch with his wife and he says, "I love you."

She asks, "Is that you or the beer talking?"

He replies, "It's me, talking to the beer."

Still cracks me up...

Pretty busy at work, but last week was pretty reasonable, other than one late night... Plenty to keep me out of trouble though... Other than that, I think that's about it... Nothing else comes to mind, but I think it's been an "ok" update... Nothing spectacular though... So away I go, but as is the habit, a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members before I do...

"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together." Verna M. Kelly

Now THOSE are words of wisdom!

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

curtamous

March 13, 2011 - Jak se maj! Howdy all! Been a busy day and weekend here in the Wisconsin "Dead of Winter"... But spring is fast approaching and we could even "smell it" in the air this past week, and it sounds like this week's weather forecast has more warm weather in store, so we should be feeling the start of spring fever soon!

Today we took a short road trip down to Beertown to visit the weatherman and his sidekick. They needed some help running some cable TV to another location and I had the goods and materials to help out. That went very well! Plus, I haven't been down to visit them since they moved in, so it was about time I made the trip. We had a really nice visit and not only got some work done, but we also took a nice walk on the lake front and also had some great pizza for late lunch. They seem to have their act together and things are going well, so it was a really nice time. Hope to do it again soon!

BIG BIG BIG news this week on the family front, and I'm not "sure" where to start, but I think the answer is obvious... NETTY IS GETTING MARRIED!!! My blonde sister reports (and it has been confirmed via text direct from the source) that we'll be adding a "Luxemburg-ite" to the family. Luke requested the hand of Lynette this week and she said YES, so it looks like we'll be adding three "little ones" and now three "big ones" to the clan. Congrats to the happy couple and future husband and wife as well as the happy parents. Should be another great party and start to a great and productive life together!

This is also a **REALLY** big week for birthdays as the FM, SEC-D'Fence, AND FDA Chairman all turn another page. If I kept up with drinking to everyone's special day, I'd spend a lot more time hung-over this week (or staying drunk) than anything else, so I think I'll just wish the trio a great day... Happy Birthday Paul, Casey, and Carl!!!

Also big news is a big part of the family has "headed south" for the week... They are vacationing in (hopefully) sunny Florida and should be having a **GREAT** time as I write this. If it's anything like their last trip, everyone is a little tired this morning after spending a long night on the deck /porch/balcony entertaining each other with stories while liberally sharing in a few "libations" last night... I hope everyone feels better by now and that they have a **GREAT** week!

I had a very busy work week, but not quite what I expected... I was scheduled to head to Chicago Monday, but shortly after I finished last week's update, I was paged repeatedly and found that the office I was visiting was experiencing a bit of an issue with smoke... Where's there is smoke, there is "you know what", so my trip was cancelled, but I spent a good portion of the week dealing with related issues... In fact, I will continue that effort this week, so it should be interesting...

Got a bunch more PC work done this week with the SEC-Transportation, but also ran into some issues with my own computers at home... You know how it goes with the shoemaker... But I'll keep on plugging along as best I can... :-)

Despite all the hecticness (is that a word?) I was able to get a little work done on the [newsletter](#)... I had to re-do some of the framework, and I also sketched out my articles as well as came up with a few new ideas, but I didn't do any of my own writing... not feeling the "creative juices" right now, probably due to all the other stuff going on, but I am coming up with ideas, so that's a good start... Hope to get more of my verbiage done and then start folding in the articles I have, and then look for key "items" from past years to include in this "Anniversary" edition... I also have a few "reporters" out in the field gathering some more data, so it should come out ok... We shall see...

This past Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, so Lent is finally here... Good thing too... Let's see what the pagan world is drinking this week...

13 Runic Half-Month of Tyr ends. I was beginning to think that motherfucker was never going to end. **Fat Tire**.

14 Veturius Mamurius (Roman). A festival celebrating armor. Those Romans weren't exactly picky when looking for an excuse to get housed on the vino. **Italian wine**.

15 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor marry for the first time (1964). Forming the greatest husband/wife drinking team of the century. **Vodka tonic and champagne**.

16 Bacchus Day. Christmas for drunkards. **Flagons and flagons of wine**.

17 St. Patrick's Day. Chase the snakes out of your mind. **Green beer**.

18 Sheelah's Day (Ireland). Honors the woman who historians reckon was either the mother or wife of St. Patrick.

Forbidden Taboo Cocktail

1 oz white rum

1 oz Midori Melon Liqueur

1 oz pineapple juice

2 tsps lemon juice

2 drops grenadine

Combine in blender with crushed ice. Blend until smooth.

19 Minerva's Day (Roman). Celebrates Roman Goddess of Crafts, Trades — and War. Just in case you were thinking about frontin'. **Warsteiner Beer**.

My Lenten journey has changed somewhat these past few years and I'm less of a "strict" abstainer and more of a continual work-in-progress abstainer, so you never know, I just may have a green beer this year to celebrate that fine Irish holiday on the 17th... I kinda doubt it, but you never know...

Spent a little bit of time over at the SEC-Transportation's lately, and I was just wondering if you've all seen his new coffee table?



Pretty nice isn't it! If he's not racing, he might as well have his engine close at hand... :-)

So how is everyone dealing with the early daylight savings time change? Seems VERY weird that it's almost 9pm right now... I like it, but that "spring ahead" is always hard to deal with... At least for me...

Not much going on this week that I know of, but I'm sure I'll be plenty busy... Lots of sports to follow with the local high school tournaments under way and March Madness upon us... Not to mention all the news on those idiots in the NFL that can't find a way to share \$9 Billion... Plus, there's always work... Keeps me busy and out of mischief at least...

I think that's it for this week... Not a great update, but all the outstanding news items make this a winner! I'm off and running, but as I often do, here are a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members...

"Strike an average between what a woman thinks of her husband a month before she marries him and what she thinks of him a year afterward, and you will have the truth about him." ~ H.L. Mencken, A Book of Burlesques, 1916

For those about to wed, we salute you!!!

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

curtamous

March 6, 2011 - Jak se maj! Hi everyone! How is everyone doing today? Nothing short of a beautiful weekend here in sunny Wisconsin! Too bad, because that means no snow... No snow means I haven't been able to play with my new (used) snow blower... RATS!!! Oh well, there's snow in the forecast, so I can only hope... That doesn't mean we need two feet of the white stuff, but a couple more storms of the 6 inch variety would be just fine...

Gotta go down to Chicago this week... Heading downtown early in the morning for a two day trip. Hope to get a bunch of stuff done tomorrow night and then head back mid-day on Tuesday before the snow hits... I like snow, but I do not like driving I-43 in that stuff... Not a good road for that... We shall see...

Big disappointment this week as we had "planned" on getting together for Zumbo's birthday, but it was canceled as he was "under the weather"... Not a fun way to spend your 60th birthday, and a major downer for the rest of us too... Well, I hope he is better and that he is enjoying these first few days of his "60's"... Happy Birthday Zumbo!

We did hold the annual Fish Camp meeting on Friday night up in the shop. We were disappointed that The President didn't make it due to work, but we VERY PLEASANTLY surprised that "Clipper" the Barber honored us with his presence... PLUS, he brought some of his "private stock" wine, blackberry this time, so we had that going for us. As always, we enjoyed the evening, and even got some planning done. Due to a "conflict" with Mother's Day, we decided to head up for "the opener" a week late. Pretty much everything else is the same, including the Fish Boil meal that I can't wait for, but we are going to try to pick up some "prime rib" my buddy gets for one of our meals... THAT should be good... If I can pull it off of course... Other than that, it's pretty much par for the course, so now we just have a couple months of anticipation...

Certainly isn't much going on in the sports scene, but we do have "March Madness" approaching. The Badger round-ballers got waxed today, and the Badger hockey team finally won a game last night after going winless over its last seven... Kinda followed the high school wrestling reports the last two weeks, but that's about it... Kinda... BLAH!!!

Did some extra work this past week and got the SEC-Transportation's PC setup and running... Stopped over there today to finish up the rest and took his old one home to "clean up"... We'll see how that goes... I'm backing it up now and then I'm gonna wipe it and reinstall everything... Pretty easy task, so if it does nothing, nothing lost...

Then today the Sausage Stuffer called looking for info on buying a new PC... Basically I told him to go with what the SEC-Transportation got, so he might end up with the same thing... If he needs some help with it, that would be cool... More free beer! The best kind...

Speaking of beer, what's on tap?

6 Anniversary of the Battle of the Alamo (1836). Whiskey drinkers fight to the death for Texas. *Lone Star Beer*.

7 Switzerland gave women the right to vote (1971). Better late than never, eh, ladies? *Ladies choice*.

8 International Women's Day. Hear that, you goddamn Swiss? Who's in charge now? *Foo-foo drinks*.

9 Feast of the 40 Martyrs (Greek). New slang: "I'm gonna get as drunk as 40 Greek martyrs." *Forty of your choice*.

10 Junoalia (Roman). Celebrates Juno, Roman Goddess of Art, Love, Light, Hearth and a buncha other sissy stuff.

Tattooed Love Goddess

1 oz vodka

1 oz vanilla schnapps

1 1/2 oz Godiva Liqueur

1 oz cream

Fill glass with ice, add liqueurs, top with cream, shake well.

11 Hercules' Day (Greek). Hercules was known for whipping up on mutants. *Murphy's Stout*.

12 Jack Kerouac's Birthday (1922). Road trip! *Gas station beer*

Hmmmm, other than the two "ladies" days, lots of good brew... What I ask, is "Gas Station Beer"? Is that "any" beer from a gas station... Cause most of them have a pretty good selection these days... But the best roadie is always a Miller High Life...

Here's a good solution for the "shower" at the cabin...



I think that would work...

Other than my trip this week, I don't think I have much going on... If work cooperates, maybe I'll get some more done on the old [newsletter](#)... I have the framework done, and I "think" I have enough material, so now I have to sit down and put it all together... Kinda hard to get "in the mood" for this in March, but that's my own darn fault... Well, not completely, due to the LACK of article submissions, but you know what I mean... I should have it done by summer...

Pretty lousy update, but you get what you pay for... Thanks for visiting anyway... Both of you... As is the norm, before I go, a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members...

"The gods do not deduct from man's allotted span the hours spent in fishing." ~ Babylonian Proverb

That means I need to get out fishing more!!!

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

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