

The curtamous page

November 2011 Archived Notes

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November 27, 2011 - Jak se maj! I'm back! Coming to you on a Sunday afternoon, and it's been a great, fantastic, wonderful, and incredible two weeks! Deer Camp 2011 has come and gone, we've enjoyed our Thanksgiving holiday, and gone through numerous birthdays. It's been really a fine time, but it also comes with the reality that it's back to work tomorrow... Oh well!

Deer Camp 2011 came off without any major issues and I must say we had a great time as usual. We didn't see any deer at the BBC despite quite a few hours in the woods, which was a real downer, but we did manage to spy one on Monday up near the Debroux camp. No shooting, but at least we had one sighting. Other than the lack of deer seen, we ate and drank well and shared a lot of good times and experiences together. I can't say enough about it, but unfortunately the "North of 64" guidelines prevent me from further stories. Let's just say, I can't wait until next year!

Despite our lack of deer sightings at the BBC, the "Boys up the Road" did score opening morning with a nice buck as Tom connected to re-establish their dominance in the Darwin Award records. Congrats Tom. Zumbo also was successful in the Denville area and now has venison in the freezer. He was even good enough to share some of his bounty so he's not the only one that will be enjoying venison over the coming months. Other than that, there aren't many success stories. I didn't even get out in the woods around home as I've been catching up with work. Hopefully I'll get out in the woods more next year...

One major positive involving Deer Camp is the [2010 BBC Newsletter](#) is complete and posted! It is our 10th anniversary edition and I hope everyone enjoys! It took a long time, much longer than usual, but certainly worth the effort.

On a side note, the SEC-Transportation is up by 4 over the FM... They know what I mean...

Cameras are pretty strictly forbidden in the BBC, but I did snap a few outdoor shots.. (Click on any of them for a larger view...)

Here are two from opening morning... Before the snow... These are from "Greg's Stand"...



Here are two from Day 2, after the snow we had opening afternoon... These are from my stand...



And here are two of some tracks in the snow on Day 2... BEAR tracks... We noticed them on the way to my stand and obviously they happened the evening before... They went withing 25 yards of my stand... Pretty cool...



As happens every year, upon return from deer camp, the Thanksgiving holiday was immediately on us. I returned home Tuesday, and after helping Zumbo with his deer, I began preparations for the traditional Ma Nelson dressing. I did my shopping and cooked up the meat and giblets. Those giblets take FOREVER to get done, but by bedtime, they were ready. Wednesday morning I was up early chopping up the giblets and fresh veggies and by 9am Uncle Lloyd and the SEC-State arrived for assembly. As usual, it went fast and extremely well and we came up with a good batch. At least I think so, and we were ready for the holiday.

Thursday morning I was up early to get the dressing cooking and to get ready for the day. All went well and we arrived onsite at 11am ready for the feast. The family began arriving to hugs and well wishes, but just before dinner we were incredibly surprised when Captain Chuck and his new sidekick Lauren arrived un-expectantly. Haven't seen my blonde sister so shook up in my life. What a great Thanksgiving gift for all! Even more impressive was Captain Chuck's Thanksgiving prayer before we ate. I sincerely doubt I was the only one with chills running down my spine...

So after what can only be described as a heavenly feast, we rested a bit and caught up on old and news times with as many as possible, but my little family had to cruise to other destinations and left at halftime of the game. It was a short, but very very sweet time with the Nelson family!

Next up? Birthdays! November is a birthday mecca for the Nelsons. I celebrated page 45 up at Deer Camp on Monday. Tuesday was the weatherman's birthday as well as the SEC-State's youngest, Alicia. Wednesday was the weatherman's sidekick's birthday, and on Monday my lovely bride will numerically be older than me once again. That's a pretty wild week in my book! "Official" birthday celebrations started last night with the Nelson 6 heading out to celebrate my lovely brides B-day at the PQ in Green Bay and grill your own steaks. They were really good (and expensive), but I expertly grilled mine to perfection, but WAY too soon and it ended up getting well done. It was still good, but needed a lathering of butter to counteract the dryness. I think everyone else really enjoyed theirs and then we stopped on the way home at an old haunt downtown and then headed home relatively early. Tonight we head up the hill for pizza and beer to celebrate my 45 years with the Nelson clan. That should be fun as well... Anyway, HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all!

As I write this the Rollins will likely be on the road home from Rochester, MN where they spent the Thanksgiving holiday weekend at Alicia's. They are planning on being home in time for pizza and beer tonight, so that will be nice as we obviously missed them over the holiday. Also, Captain Chuck and his sidekick are in town through tomorrow, so I am hoping they will be in attendance as well. Should be a nice time for sure...

Pretty good football the last two weeks with the Packers taking the battle of the Bays and then taking the "Suh" out of the Lions. Despite them playing a bit more human, there's no reason to believe they can't beat every team left on their schedule and through the playoffs. But it only takes a bump in the road to change all that, so here's to smooth pavement. The Badgers

wrapped up the Big Ten Leaders (or is it Legends?) division by beating the tar outta Penn State yesterday. Pretty sweet victory and it sends them to the Big Ten Championship this weekend. I think we'll have reps at the game but I'll get confirmation on that tonight...

Other tidbits... The weatherman, sidekick and little Toby were home for the weekend, obviously. Didn't see a lot of them, but the dogs got along fine while they were here. I think they are heading home this afternoon and will miss out on beer and pizza... The Chief has been helping out the SEC-Transportation at the shop but also ran into a computer issue that I got involved in. Never did figure it out, and we're on to plan "B", but the SEC-Transportation is off to Minnehaha for a job for a couple weeks, so who knows when we'll get back to it...

I know I've had plenty of "fluids" over the past two weeks, but let's see what's on tap and if anything is of interest...

27 Bruce Lee's Birthday (1940). Rent Enter the Dragon and take a drink every time Lee's feet leave the ground. **Forty of Midnight Dragon.**

28 William Blake's Birthday (1757). "The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom." **One for the road.**

29 Ice discovered on the Moon (1996). As soon as they discover scotch, I'm building my rocket ship. **Red Rocket Ale.**

30 Winston Churchill's birthday (1874). "I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me." **Churchill Martini (pour the gin and glare across the room at a bottle of vermouth.)**

1 Festival of Poseidon (Greek). Let the Sea God drown your sorrows. **Sea Breeze.**

2 St. Bibiana's Day. Patron saint of hangovers. **Bloody Mary.**

3 Cold War officially ends (1989). The dawn of the New World Disorder. The spoils of war—**vodka.**

Hmmm... December 3rd... Bloody Mary's... That might be good...

Well, with deer season pretty much over, it's on to the Christmas holiday. Seems like every year the four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas go by in warp speed. Very hard to get things done at that pace, but somehow we always do. Hope you all enjoy it before that is over too...

For me, it's back to work tomorrow. Actually, in some ways I am looking forward to getting back... In others, especially considering the work load that will greet me, I am dreading it. But hopefully by Tuesday I will be re-acclimated and into the swing again. Should be fun if nothing else...

Hard to believe, but I think that's all I have for now... Nothing else (that I can share) comes to mind, so I'm off and running... Hope to get the hunting gear packed away and guns cleaned today before heading up the hill... More than likely a nap will interfere, but that's OK to... But as always, before I go, a few words of wisdom for the junior members...

"If it's not fun, you're not doing it right." ~ Bob Basso

That is the essence of Deer Camp! (But I think this guy "might" have been referring to something else...)

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

curtamous

November 13, 2011 - *Jak se maj! Well folks, it's here! Deer Camp 2011 upon us and I couldn't be happier! I come to you on a Sunday evening on a non-Packer "weekend" and pretty much having a great day thinking about what we're about to enjoy. Can't wait for Thursday! I know it will be infinitely better than yesterday, but more on that later. On with the update!*

Pretty busy work week behind me. Lots of stuff going on and the trip to Philly went very well, but it surely didn't help me get caught up! The snow we had on Wednesday had me a bit worried about my trip as I had to drive to Milwaukee to fly out, but the roads were only a little slushy in places and I made it in plenty of time and had no issues with the flight out. Landed on time, met up with the boss and had a fantastic dinner. The next day also went really well and I really enjoy working with the guys out there. I work with "Mitch" the most and he's a great guy, so even though its work, it makes the time fun... We actually were done a little early Thursday so we headed to the airport only to find our flight was delayed. We were pretty nervous about it, but it was only an hour late and we had no other issues. The drive home from Milwaukee was pretty long though, but I made it safe and encounter no deer...

The "real" work issue of the week was Friday night and Saturday. We had an issue that turned into hourly pages and phone calls all Friday night and then at 5am Saturday, we added another major issue affecting both our office and one of our larger clients... That dragged on and on until 5:30 Saturday afternoon when it finally cleared up... THAT was a long day! But I sure was glad when it was all done and everything was working...

So my lovely bride was going out Saturday night with her friend, so I figured I'd have a nice quiet evening and crash early... That is until Skipper called and said he was on his way over. Luckily, he was tired too so we just had a few beers (well, a few for Skipper and me) and watched the hockey game... Actually, had a great time even though the Badgers lost. I always say "I can sleep when I'm dead" and this was one of those times...

The weatherman, sidekick and "little dog too" were over today and we cleaned up on homemade potato soup, Susters chicken and the weatherman's favorite dessert. (It's one of my favorites too, but don't tell my lovely bride that!) Had a great day, including a short visit by the SEC-State, lovely wife, beautiful eldest daughter and the stunning 3rd generation Madison (She sure is cute!). The schedule kinda meant I got nothing done today either, but it sure was a great day...

Speaking of the weatherman, I have another [video posted from Panthervision](#), but he also has a new web blog called [ReelWeather](#). Nothing earth shattering, but pretty cool. He mentioned that he posted his connection to last week's weather to the "Great Storm of 1913" on Chicago WGN weatherman's website and the head guy there, a "legend" according to the weatherman, actually responded... Pretty cool...

Tonight I sent out the [final update](#) to the Deer Camp crew, but I'm sure there will be a few tweaks here and there this week. Actually, I've already had two since I sent it out... Anyway, Have I mentioned I'm pretty fired up?

Badgers rolled yesterday and now are in the driver's seat to get to the Big Ten Championship game. Let's hope they don't mess it up... (And no, I'm not commenting on the whole Penn State atrocity) With the Packers playing Monday night, it meant another Packer-Free weekend, which can be kinda nice... Let's hope they stomp the ViQueens tomorrow!

With the work fiasco yesterday and the visitors today, I certainly didn't get much done on my "to-do" list this weekend. Things like washing the hunting clothes, sighting in guns, cooking some extra goodies, and general preparation will just have to be skipped this year. I also had hoped to make a run up north today to work on deer stands, but obviously that failed as well. I guess all I really need is my gun, license, blaze orange and cash... The rest I'll figure out...

On a sad note, we have a new guy "Max" at work that's onboard sorta contracting. He actually worked for a couple of our customers before, so I know him really well, and he is out on his own now and was willing to help out and give us some hours. So far he's been a great help and to make things even better, he is a REALLY great guy... Anyway, his father passed away over the weekend and he'll be heading back to Texas for the funeral... I know none of you know him, but maybe say a little prayer for him and his family anyway...

Back to the fun stuff... The holidays are coming up, and this is a great mix of Deer Camp and Christmas... [Check this out from years past](#)... It cracks me up EVERY SINGLE TIME!!!

Well, the Deer Camp menu is posted, but let's see what's on the bartender list for the next two weeks!

14 Moccas' Day (Celtic). Pig goddess festival. **Blind Pig Ale.**

15 National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day. Make sure you load it with beer before you begin. **As much beer as you can cram in your refrigerator.**

16 W.C. Handy's Birthday (1873). "I think a guy who's had just the right amount of booze can sing the blues a hell of a lot better than a guy who is stone sober."—Charlie Rich. **Bourbon, neat.**

17 Penance Day (Germany). Now, what would the Germans have to be penitent about? **War All the Time**

2 1/2 oz vodka

1 oz Aftershock

3 oz tequila

2 oz beer

1 can frozen lemonade

Pour all into a blender. Blend until smooth.

18 Festival of the Nine Lotus Leaves (Chinese). Controlled by the Goddess of Mercy, Guan Yin. **Nine shots of Maotai.**

19 Warlock Day. ([**Opening Day in WI**](#)) According to ancient belief, the first stranger you meet on this day dressed entirely in black will be a warlock. **Demon rum.**

20 Revolution Day (Mexico). Drink until you have your own revolution(s). **Tequila Slammer.**

21 Feast of Hathor (Egyptian). The cow goddess Hathor wanted to destroy mankind, but Ra tricked her into drinking beer and passing out instead. **Delicious, humanity-saving beer.**

22 Anniversary of the Founding of the Friendly Sons of St. Vitus (1915). Pro-drinking not-so-secret society founded by journalists in a ship's lounge. **Cape Cod.**

23 First jukebox installed (1889). Threatening the piano player no longer necessary. **Boilermaker.**

24 Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's Birthday (1864). Raise one to that lovable absinthe-swilling, whoremongering dwarf. **Absinthe.**

25 Women's Merrymaking Day (Wiccan). Live it up, ladies! **Girlie drinks.**

26 Casablanca premiered (1942). Strasser: "What's your nationality?" Rick: "I'm a drunkard." **Gin joint gin.**

27 Bruce Lee's Birthday (1940). Rent Enter the Dragon and take a drink every time Lee's feet leave the ground. **Forty of Midnight Dragon.**

Anyone notice that opening weekend we have "Demon Rum" and then "Tequila Slammers" scheduled? Oh my, it could be a ROUGH weekend!!! Luckily by Monday we're back to beer...

Well, this week is obviously a great one, but busy. I work Monday and Tuesday and need to get about ten days' worth of work done in those two days. A little time-travel would help, but we haven't upgraded to that technology yet. Wednesday I am off/working from home and hope to get all my cooking and prep work done... Then Thursday morning I will finish the grocery shopping and head north. The rest will be a mystery to all of you south of 64....

Hey, just got an "update" from the FM:

Yeah, well, please don't fall out your chair when reading this, but it looks like a slight change of plans. I'm travelling to Hillbilly country this week, and will not be returning home until Sunday afternoon. So, my appearance at BBC appears unlikely, at best. Who knows? The General Mgr may be so used to not having me around by then that she may just say, "Go. Get outta here." Better chance though, that I'll have a two page list and pound and a half of guilt to catch up on. But, the good news is, I'll be piling up a ton of OT....so, I'll have a few extra \$ to add to the "Steak Fund!"

Good Luck and Good Hunting, comrades!!

Well, as he says, I'm not surprised, but a little disappointed. Haven't had much quality time with the FM for a while and it looks like that streak will continue... We'll miss you FM, but certainly look forward to the free steak!

Checked the 10-day weather forecast and it's not looking good. The "iffy" weather that was supposed to hit Thursday/Friday is now set for the opening weekend. Right now it's showing "showers" Saturday through Monday. That would suck... Nothing worse than trying to hunt in the rain. Unless you hunt in a covered blind, and none of us do... Oh well, we'll have fun anyway!

By the way, I "think" we'll have the [2010 BBC Deer Camp newsletter](#) done by Deer Camp!!! Check back here on Thursday to see...

Well, it's getting late... I'll be "up north" next weekend, so no update, but I'm sure I'll be back the following week, God willing... So see ya! But hey, before I go, a few words of wisdom for the junior members...

"If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes." ~ St. Clement of Alexandra

...and I'm hoping for a GREAT Deer Camp 2011!!!

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

curtamous

November 6, 2011 - *Jak se maj! Happy November everyone! It's "almost" time for Deer Camp 2011! I can't wait! The Jack/Ass team sent me a reminder this Thursday and spurred me to get working on preparations... And I've been preparing! I have the email to the group out, the schedule 75% set, and the menu almost done. Now I just have to finalize all that and then get ME ready... But it's usually almost as much fun getting ready and anticipating the good times as it is being there... Almost...*

Had myself another great weekend! Started with the day off on Friday... Well, at least almost half the day as I spent quite a bit of time working at home, but I did get some stuff done outside like the leaves and the lawn winterizing. Also got my snow blower back... I ended up taking it in to DeGreefs where I bought it and he "cleaned out the carb" for \$25. Whatever that is... but it runs like a champ now so who cares... Can't wait for it to snow now! CRAZY, huh!!!

Saturday the Chief and I head down to Madison with the FDA Chairman, met up with the Comptroller, had us a gyro and then on to Camp Randall to see the Badgers wallop the Boilermakers... LOTS of fun! It was a beautiful day for a game and there's nothing quite like the atmosphere in Madison. Lambeau has its mystique, but Camp Randall has something all its own. Thanks to the FDA Chair for a fantastic day!

Here's a quick pic I snapped before the place completely cleared out in the 4th quarter.



Today was a pretty good day too... Headed to church, went out to breakfast after, took a scenic ride with my beautiful bride and gave her a tour of my new office. Then watched a great Packer game, including a few tense moments at the end, which we really haven't had a lot of this year. Great fun... Now I'm getting the update done as well as some other odds and ends work-wise. Overall, a GREAT weekend!!!

One slightly sore spot... I had kinda "hoped" to get out on the bike today "one more" last time... but the schedule was just a little too tight and the weather not up to snuff. But during our scenic tour, we did see a few motorcycles on the road that obviously had the same idea... I was envious... Probably won't get her out again, but you never know...

The weatherman has another [new video](#) from last week... He's looking pretty good up there... Might be hope for him yet!!!

Had a few beers yesterday at the game and it kinda wet my whistle... So let's see what's on tap!

7 Lono's Day (Hawaiian). Party with Hunter S. Thompson's favorite war god. [Blue Hawaiian](#).

8 Abet & Aid Punsters Day Mania Festival (Roman). Like those bastards need our help. [A drunk baseball player \(a pitcher full of beer\)](#).

9 Feast of the Four Crowned Martyrs (Freemason). I sense a conspiracy. [Crown Royal](#).

10 Stanley Found Livingstone, he presumed (1871). Seek out long lost bar buddies.
Gin and tonic.

11 St. Martin's Day. Patron saint of drunkards.

St. Martin Cocktail

1 1/2 oz gin

1 1/2 white rum

1 oz bitter lemon

Dash Angostura Bitters

Pour gin and rum over ice, top with bitter lemon, add angostura, stir.

12 Brotherhood of Fools founded (1381). Haven't you put off your membership long enough? **Old Milwaukee.**

13 Stenia, the Bitching Festival (Wiccans). Let 'em know exactly how you feel.

Bitch On Wheels

2 oz gin

1/2 oz dry vermouth

1/2 oz white creme de menthe

1 tsp Pernod

Stir with ice, strain.

Old Milwaukee? Hmm... I'm thinking about going "old school" for Deer Camp with something like Old Milwaukee, Blatz, Pabst, Old Style, or even Special Export. But I'm not sure I can handle the hang overs from that stuff... We'll see...

Pretty sure someone sent me something funny this week, but I can't remember what it was nor can I find it... So we're going with this... It's The President's new sandwich warmer for the cabin.



Should work OK... Just not in your deer stand...

I've got a busy week ahead... Obviously, I have my preparations for Deer Camp 2011, but I also have a heck of a work week in front of me too. Plus, I have to travel to Philly Wednesday and Thursday, so that'll REALLY make things tough... But I'll get through...

Good news on the [newsletter](#) front as well. It's in final draft and as long as my proof readers don't have too much to fix, I should have it done for Deer Camp. Should be a good one too!

Next week I go back on call for a final week before Deer Camp 2011, but I'm hoping to still get some stuff worked into the schedule. I hope to get out to Zumbo's on Saturday to sight in guns, weather permitting, and if I'm REALLY lucky, head north on Sunday to check deer stands. That might be a tough one to pull off, but The President did call this week and reported numerous deer sightings the weekend before Halloween, so I think we may need to fortify our stands to keep the hordes of deer at bay...

Well, I'm sure there's more to cover... A lot more in fact, but it's getting late and I want to get this posted. I hope to have a final update next week, but with things as hectic as they are, I

make no promises. When the newsletter is done though, I'll post it, but you'll have to [check the page](#) periodically yourself because I'm not going to announce it until AFTER deer camp... Who knows when that will be...

So, with visions of 30 pointers in our heads I will sign off... But before I go, a few words of wisdom for the junior members...

"There is a passion for hunting something deeply implanted in the human breast." ~ Charles Dickens

Yes there is... and I'm in the thick of it...

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

curtamous

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