

# The curtamous page

## May 2012 Archived Notes

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**May 27, 2012** - *Jak se maj! Happy Memorial Day everyone! It's been a pretty great weekend here, especially since I've been on call. Work hasn't been too bad and I got lots done around the place. I never as much done as I had hoped or planned, but I didn't do too bad...*

*Saturday was a work day... Spent most of the day working on an issue for a client in Chicago... Other than that, I got the dog walked, watched a little TV, and after I got my work done, I had a nice big cocktail to celebrate. Not only did I deserve that cocktail, but I HAD to have it, as the Kingsbury Kottage crew were texting me to keep up with their festivities. Wish I was there with them...*

*Sunday was a good day. Went to church, walked the dog, and then made sure all the stuff I fixed on Saturday for work were still working... They were... Then I got the motorcycle ready for the year. I finally emptied that first tank of gas so it was time for an oil change and new plugs, and other assorted checks. Everything went well and she's working great. Even took her for a nice spin out to Two Creeks and checked out Lake Michigan. It's still there... I also got a little work done on the garden, and got another coat of finish on Skipper's planer boards. More on that later... I also got a bit of the garage straightened up, so that was good too... Overall, a great day!*

*Today was the day to deal with the Maple tree whirly birds. Took most of the morning, but I got 'em pretty cleaned up. Also have the roof and gutters cleaned out, and even trimmed some branches off the Maple that were dragging on the roof. Everything is cleaned up and looks good.*

*After lunch and a short break, I headed up to the shop to finish Skipper's planer boards. That's right, they are done. Saturday I put the "last" coat of finish on and put some red paint on some of the hardware to make it look pretty. Today I put them all together and they look pretty nice... Here's the left one... (Click on it for a full size version)*



*I just hope they work well. I went WAY overboard on paint, trim, and finishing, so they do look pretty nice, but if they don't work well, I'll be pretty disappointed... Hopefully Skipper picks them up soon and I get to find out. If I'm lucky, maybe I can go out on Michigan with him on their maiden voyage...*

*I mentioned I got some work done on the garden, but to be honest, I'm not sure what I'll do with it this year. The last couple years its grown well and I like messing with it, but I sure don't use much out of it. Dill grows like crap, but the parsley is good and I use that, but the beans, onions,*

*and tomatoes that I've grown have kinda went to waste... I'll see what I come up with. Maybe I'll just put a bunch of herbs in there and see what comes of it...*

*Memorial Day weekend is usually a TV weekend for me... I almost always watch some WWII flics like Midway and Tora Tora Tora and I never fail to catch at least some of the NCAA Lacrosse Championship. Well, I caught a "little" bit of Midway, which is a pretty good movie, but that was it... I did see some of the semis of the Lacrosse Championship on Saturday and about half of today's final. Good stuff... I like lacrosse... I hope it catches on around here. I'd like to see more of it...*

*So, as you see, a pretty great weekend... The only thing I didn't get done was cleaning the carpets... That'll wait though... Now my lovely bride has some ribs in the oven and I'm gonna put them on the grill for a bit to finish them off... Gonna make some red beans and rice to go with 'em... My mouth is watering already... Should be good!*

*Should I have a cocktail with dinner to cap the weekend? Let's see what's on the menu this week...*

**28 Ian Fleming's Birthday (1908). Bond creator had more effect on U.S. drinking habits than all the prohibitionists in the world. *Martini, shaken not stirred.***

**29 Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas unleashed on the reading public. "What? No! We can't stop here! This is bat country!" *Barcardi Rum.***

**30 Feast of the Queen of the Underworld Begins (Roman). You may have a date with her later, so you best suck up now.**

***Hell Mary***

**1 oz aquavit**

**1/2 oz tequila**

**2 oz Spicy V-8**

**Dash bitters**

**Dash Tabasco Sauce**

**Dash horseradish sauce**

***Shake vigorously, add black pepper to taste and garnish with celery and lemon wedge. Serve in Collins glass filled with ice.***

**31 Clint Eastwood's Birthday (1930). The question is, do you feel thirsty, punk? Well, do you? *Magnum Malt Liquor.***

**1 Latrobe Brewing Co. founded (1939). The "33" on Rolling Rock bottles is an homage to a copywriting typo. *Rolling Rock.***

**2 Vandals sack Rome (477). Rally your tribe and invade a snooty wine bar.**

***Fall of Rome***

**2 oz Dry vermouth**

**1 oz Brandy**

**Dash Sherry**

**Dash Rose's Lime Juice**

**Orange juice**

***Pour vermouth and brandy into glass, add lime, fill with orange juice, stir. Splash brandy on top, serve with straw.***

**3 Cain murdered Abel (Hebrew). Stick your bro with the tab. *Top shelf liquor.***

*Hmm... Today is "Martini" Day... I just may have one...*

*That "Hell Mary' sounds pretty good too... Probably a bit too much for me, but I bet the FDA Chairman and SEC-State would enjoy...*

*Hard to believe it's almost June... Time sure flies... But I like that the menu opens up June 1st with a Rolling Rock... Rock me!!!*

*Not much else going on... work is still busy, but not quite as crazy busy as it's been. I think it's getting back to a sustainable rate, and I hope it stays that way for a bit. I need a bit of a break...*

*Noting else going on that I can think of, so I'm gonna sign off... Have a great week! In parting, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...*

*"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." ~ George S. Patton*

*Solid advice...*

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

*curtamous*

*PS. Monster TV... Still in the garage... I cleaned around it...*

*May 20, 2012 - Jak se maj! Hi all! Welcome to summer! It sure has been a nice couple days... "Almost" too hot, but not quite, just about right. Can't ask for much more than that... Other than that, not much going on to be honest... Could be a quick update...*

*Got out on the motorcycle today and had a great little ride. About 60 miles and I emptied out the first tank of gas so I'm set to change the oil and plugs and do a general tune-up and it should be ready for summer. No problems on the road today (other than it was a bit windy) and the carbs seem to be running fine. But I did avoid that particular road into Denville where I had problems before. Now I'm hoping to get it set to take to work more often and I'm starting to itch for that first long ride of the year. Not sure which direction I'll head... Won't be surprised if it's in the direction of Kingsbury Kottage though... That's always a great trip...*

*I got a lot done on Skipper's planer boards this week. I have his blanks all done! Primed, painted, striped and sealed. They look pretty nice with the red strip I put along the top... I just hope they hold up... I put outdoor polyurethane on to seal 'em, but I just don't know how well that'll hold up... We'll see... I also have the set I'm making him with the new design almost done. I gotta seal 'em and assemble them yet, but they're close. I hope to have 'em done by the weekend... I hope they work!*

*Busy church weekend as a friend in the parish was ordained as a deacon this weekend. Work cooperated and I was able to go to the Ordination Mass which was pretty cool. A pretty "short" two hour service if you know what I mean. Then there was a reception Mass in town that I stopped in at as well. Very nice... Congrats Dave!*

*Otherwise my world is still pretty much work, but I think the end is in sight. This past weekend we transitioned the sites in Europe which is one of the last big phases in the project I'm working on. We have other smaller parts to work through, but I think we've crested the peak and hopefully it gets better from here. There's still a ton of work to be done, but manageable. The last time I said something like this I got hit with another massive project, so I better be careful... We'll keep you posted...*

You know, I don't think I had a drink all weekend... Let's see what's on the scheduled and I'll see if anything looks good enough to have after the update is done...

21 National Waitstaff Day. Dig deep for the drink slingers. **A shot of Gran Ma in the walk-in.**

22 American astronauts walk on Mars (1962). According to that kook in the film Slackers.

**Fuzzy Astronaut**

**1/2 tsp Tang, powdered**

**1 oz vodka**

**1 oz shot peach schnapps.**

**Shake and shoot.**

23 Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i). Bab was the heralder of the Beer Bellied One (Buddha). **Full calorie beer.**

24 International Jazz Day. Booze it up with the be-bop. **Wine-spidodi.**

25 National Wine Day. The only day of the year men can drink wine in a bar without feeling all sissified. **House wine.**

26 John Wayne's birthday (1907). "He drank enough whiskey to float a PT boat."—Ronald Reagan. **Shot of redeye in a dirty glass.**

27 Throw the Bastards Out Day. Don't bring this up at last call. **Arrogant Bastard Ale.**

Hmm... I think I'll play Buddha and have a full caloried beer when I'm done...

I just checked my schedule and it looks pretty clear, but I am in the middle of a two week stretch of "on-call". Kinda sucks, but it could be worse...

Actually, I just looked at the calendar a little closer and it looks like next weekend is Memorial Day weekend! Wee! Three day weekend coming! Since I'm on call I still won't do much, but perhaps I can get some stuff done around home. I have all sorts of stuff to finish for "spring" like fertilizing the lawn, and it does appear to be an easier year on "whirly-birds" from our maple tree, but I'm sure I'll still have to shovel up a drift or two... Plus my project list if long... I'm sure I'll stay busy...

So with that, I'm gonna sign off... But I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

**"A man says a lot of things in summer he doesn't mean in winter." ~ Patricia Briggs**

Not quite sure what that means... But it sure sounds true...

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

**curtamous**

**PS. Monster TV... Still in the garage...**

May 13, 2012 - Howdy everyone! It's been a long couple of weeks since my last real post and I've been a very busy little beaver! Been to Philly and back, attended Fish Camp 2012, and

probably worked a zillion hours... Other than that, not much to report!

First off, HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!!! To all you mothers out there, I hope you've had a great day. There are a few somewhat manufactured holidays out there, but this one is much deserved!

Next up is Fish Camp 2012! As always, IT WAS AWESOME! The weekend started Friday and I was up early, did my grocery shopping, packed up and hit the road. When I pulled into Kingsbury Kottage a little after 10am, the owners had just arrived. You could tell they just got there, because they didn't have a beer yet. But we rectified that shortly and then got camp ready... Slowly but surely the rest of the crew arrived and the arrivals and departures kept up pretty much all weekend. The crew was pretty much the same, but there were some notable additions including a couple sons-in-law and a future brother-in-law. It was a great bunch!

The weather was pretty decent Friday and Saturday, but Sunday and Monday were not so hot... Pretty much affected the fishing adversely, but that didn't matter. The cocktail hours certainly made up for that! The highlight of the weekend was pretty much the food. Fish Camp has become a culinary extravaganza! Friday night's Fish Boil and Saturday night's Prime Rib rank right at the top of the best meals of the year. Others may compete, but as far as pure food enjoyment, both nights are pretty hard to beat. In fact, I still can't decide which of the two is better! To top it off, the breakfast fare by none other than the FDA Chairman cannot be beat. No one makes better biscuits and gravy and Egg's Bob is one of a kind! I think I'm still full...

The only bad part of Fish Camp (much like Deer Camp) is shutting down. It's always a little sad pulling out of the driveway and taking the long drive home thinking it'll be another year before we get to do it again. But the memories live on... Thanks to all that attended or contributed in some way. It was great, and I can't wait until next year! Well, at least after Deer Camp... :-)

Since the fishing up north was spotty, I did head out to Way-Mor Park a couple times this week to try for some Northerns. My expectations were VERY low based on the strange spring we've had coupled with the recent heavy rains. My expectations were met... The water looked OK and I didn't see a single carp, but I caught zero fish and had zero bites both times out... But it is a time honored tradition and I really enjoy it for some reason. I had the added pleasure of my lovely bride attending and maybe that's what jinxed the fishing... Doubt it, but you never know...

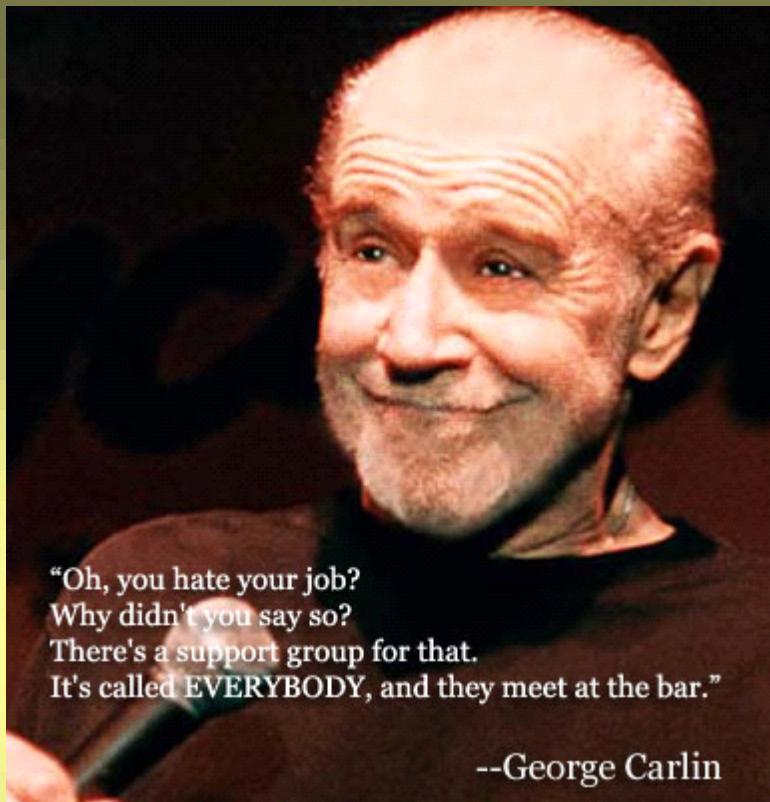
Made some progress the last few weeks on Skipper's planer boards. I've got 4 coats of paint on them, but I think I'll put on one more just to be sure. Then I'm gonna try painting one set with a red stripe across the top and for the other set I have a reflector strip I'll try. Before they are done I'm gonna try sealing them with outdoor polyurethane and see if that helps them hold up. At the pace I'm going, they should be done in the fall of 2014...

Got the bike out today for the second time this year. I think temperature-wise, it should be out for good now, but you never know. I was a little worried about the carb before I started it up but it fired right up with no problem. I geared up and hit the road for a nice 50 mile trip. Not a problem on the road. It ran GREAT... Until I hit Denville on the way home. At almost the EXACT same spot it happened last time, the carb kinda fouled. VERY weird... I got home fine but that last mile it ran a little rough. It may just be that first tank of gas that sat over the winter that needs to be burned off, but I'm gonna avoid that stretch of road into Denville from now on anyway...

May is a big birthday month! Last week young Amber Lynn celebrated her birthday. Yesterday the Chief Inspector celebrated his birthday. This week, the Sturgeon General will be celebrating his birthday. Whew!!! Amber, Jake, and Tony, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! I hope you had/have a great day and many, many more!

Well, back to less interesting topics... Work... As always, busy as heck! But it's been good too

despite how hectic it is. The trip to Philly went really well and I arrived home safe and sound and pretty much everything got done. The only bad thing was for some reason I slept really poorly there, so I got home exhausted. (Fish Camp didn't help me catch up either) Then with Fist Camp the next weekend, I had 10 days of work to get done in three days... Dang near did it too... When I returned from Fish Camp, things were just as wild... But this weekend we completed a pretty major milestone and I really hope that means the end is in site... Not of work, just the crazy hectic schedule... But even when these big projects are done, I'm sure there will be more on the horizon... Better busy than out of work...



So on that note, what's to drink?

13 Word “cocktail” first used in print (1806). Replaced the less toothsome term “bittered sling.” **As many different cocktails as you can stand.**

14 Anniversary of Geronimo’s Corn Liquor Rebellion (1885). Apaches rose up against a ban on reservation moonshine. **Firewater.**

15 Las Vegas founded (1905). Took the mob to make it fun. **Ten High Whiskey.**

16 Animal Day. “He who makes a beast of himself gets rid of the pain of being a man.”—Dr. Johnson. **Road Dog Ale.**

17 Anniversary of the first Kentucky Derby (1875). “It's a fantastic scene—thousands of people fainting, crying, copulating, trampling each other and fighting with broken whiskey bottles.”—Hunter S. Thompson. **Mint Julep.**

18 Largest Margarita ever made (7000 gallons) was assembled in Orlando (2001). Stand back, boys, I'm going in. **Huge Margarita. Huge.**

19 Orphan Day (Spain). Provide a nice, warm home for any abandoned drink you come across. **Potluck.**

20 Last episode of “Cheers” airs (1993). Who shall remember our names? **Draft**

beer.

*Yeah, that's a list of eight days. I included today for obvious reasons!!! Funny, as last night after a long day with a lot of work stuff, my lovely bride was out of town in Milwaukee visiting the weatherman and sidekick for Mother's Day, so I poured myself a BOB-sized cocktail... Of course, one wasn't enough, so I had another... Let's just say I slept well... :-)*

*Oh, and the "HUGE MARGARITA" on the 18th? I think the Comptroller was carrying that thing around during his sister's wedding... LOL!*

*Needless to say, The President has been at it again...*



*He is a thinker, isn't he?*

*Well, I just checked out my schedule, and other than work, I have nothing going on. I do see that I go back on call Wednesday for two weeks straight. That should be fun... Otherwise, hopefully things just get back a little closer to normal. I have a LONG list of stuff to get done around the house, so I hope I hope all my time isn't taken up with work stuff. We'll see...*

*Well, you'd think after three weeks, I'd have more to say... I'm sure there's lots more, but a guy can only talk so much... So I'm out... But I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...*

**"Give a man a fish and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend." ~ Zenna Schaffer**

**SOOO TRUE!**

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

*curtaceous*

*PS. Monster TV has been moved to the garage... It may be there a LONG, LONG time!*

**May 1, 2012 - HAPPY MAY DAY!!! May you all enjoy the "Season Opener"!!!**

**Back from Philly in one piece... No update this week... No update next week due to FISH CAMP 2012!!!**

**For those of you interested, the Fish Camp 2012 documents are posted [HERE](#)...**

**I hope you all have a great May Day! See you soon!**

**curtamous...**

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Last Updated: Sunday, June 10, 2012

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