

The curtamous page

August 2009 Archived Notes

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August 31, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Good morning all! What a beautiful, but cool, morning we have here! Nothing like starting fall a little early! Had a nice, if un-productive weekend here. I think the rain on Saturday kinda put a lot of people in "dormant" mode and it was hard to get out of it yesterday. Well, the fact that we went to Pott's after church yesterday and pigged out probably had something to do with that... But a slow weekend isn't so bad...

Really not much going on the past week. Work has been keeping me pretty busy. I've been averaging one page a night the past couple weeks, so that kinda puts a damper on the old energy meter. There's nothing like getting paged at 2am for nothing, having it wake you completely, and then trying to get back to sleep... Which usually happens about 15 minutes before the alarm goes off. Better than unemployment though, isn't it?

Last weekend the SEC-Transportation was at the annual church picnic and told us that he had borrowed his race car out the night before. One of his buddies crashed, and since T-Bone isn't racing, called him to borrow his car for the rest of the races that night. He ended up winning the feature, and now word is, the story hit the local papers... Good deal! Not even racing and he's winning trophies... Next thing you know, he'll have Little George out there with the checkered flag....

Didn't get much else done the past week, but I did get out on the bike some. Got out one night after work, took it to work one day, and then took a nice spin yesterday. Took the road along the Fox River southbound yesterday, and that's a really nice little ride. There are some REALLY incredible houses on the river, especially between Depere and Wrongstown. But even so, it's beautiful, but really not developed that nicely. You'd think there would be more stop offs and pull overs or parks on the way, but really, there's not much. Still, a good day for a spin... I'm hoping to sign up for the Motorcycle Rider course at NWTC in two weeks... That'll be a long weekend, but I hope I will finally have it done with...

Tried to track down The President, but he's been pretty elusive... No word from him lately...

Got a lead on a transmission for my truck last week. Used/rebuilt for \$650... Now I gotta see what it would cost to get it in... Think it'll cost more than \$100?

Got the antlerless hunting tag I applied for in the mail already, so we have at least "one" doe tag for Deer Camp... Yes, I said it... Deer Camp!!! Tomorrow is September 1, so were only one more month away from November (the BEST month of the year) and in November is my favorite time of the year... Deer Camp!!! Actually, I'm trying to fire myself up for hunting season... By now I should have the "bug" pretty bad... But nothing... Gotta get those old Outdoor life magazines out...

Tomorrow I have the day off... of work... We are moving the weatherman back to school... UW-Milwaukee is our destination. I have no idea of the schedule, and I doubt that there is more than a little bit packed up and ready to go. I don't want to label the boy a procrastinator, but he certainly likes to wait for the last minute, no, last second to get stuff ready. At certain tasks, I am the same way, so the apple doesn't fall far... Should be a good day, and much less driving than all the way to Iowa State. I hope he likes it and does well...

Speaking of heading back, Captain Chuck headed to his new digs this weekend. His destination? Upstate New York... I'm guessing it will be a little nicer than the cramped quarters of an aircraft carrier. Best of luck Chuck!

Football season is nearly upon us and the Packers sure do look good. Well, the first stringers do at least. If the injury bug doesn't hit too hard, they should do pretty good, but if those 2nd and 3rd stringers have to play, and they play like they did the second half on Friday, it will be another long season...

So, who is this Brent Farver chick everyone keeps talking about?

What's on "tap" this week?

31 Snake Dance Festival (Hopi). Best performed after falling off a barstool. **King Cobra Malt Liquor.**

1 "A person can work up a mean mean thirst after a hard day of nothin' much."
—Replacements.

Working Man's Zinfandel

2 oz tequila

2 oz scotch

1 oz cinnamon schnapps

1 oz peach schnapps

Sprite

Mix liquor with ice, top with Sprite.

2 World War II ends (1945). Drunks save the free world from tyrannical teetotaler.

Victory Collins

1 1/2 oz Vodka

3 oz lemon juice

3 oz grape juice, unsweetened

1 tsp powdered sugar

1 slice orange

Shake with ice, strain into a Collins glass over ice cubes. Garnish with orange slice.

3 Lost Day. Good day to start a bender. **Pint of rye.**

4 Looking For the Boundaries Day (Cuchumatán Indians, Guatemala Highlands).

Test the boundaries of last call. **Mescal.**

5 On the Road published. Barhop like Cassady and Kerouac. **Cheap beer.**

6 Read a Book Day. See if they have a bartender's bible behind the bar. **Flop the guide open and see what you get.**

7 Keith Moon overdosed on drugs prescribed to combat his alcohol problem (1978). Well, it cured his drinking. **Booze, hold the drugs.**

Mescal... It's never a bad week when Mescal is being served... I included an extra day, as next Monday is Labor Day. Don't expect an update next Monday... Not sure if I have much going on... I know we have a wedding on Saturday... The SEC-Transportation's sidekick is getting hitched and we're invited. If Timmy is serving chicken, we are there!

The FM sent out an email this weekend... The 12th annual World Championship Booyah Cookoff is on! Now he is claiming that he is entering (he claimed that he was entering last year too, but you know how he is) and is challenging the world famous bohemian master chef, your one and only FDA Chairman. The FM says he has a secret weapon and head chef lined up. I hope its someone that can cook! I'd hate to see him actually enter and then have poor innocents get sick from that Belgian swill of his... Anyway, no idea if the FDA Chair is back in the lineup this year, but either way, it's a great event for a great cause. It's scheduled for the Packer bye week, Sunday October 11th. Hope to see you there!

Watched a NatGeo program yesterday about Stephen Hawking and his life and incredible achievements... Funny, I had a weird kinda dream about it too... String theory... WEIRD stuff... I wonder if "Hawk" still reads this drivel...

I'm sure there's more, but that's all I have time for... I hope everyone has a safe and fun Labor Day... Before I go, I have something a little different for you... No words of wisdom, but a little poem... Supposedly based on a true story...

POEM THAT GIVES YOU GOOSEBUMPS...

**A drunk man in an Oldsmobile
They said had run the light
That caused the six-car pileup
On 109 that night...**

**When broken bodies lay about
And blood was everywhere,
The sirens screamed out eulogies,
For death was in the air.**

**A mother, trapped inside her car,
Was heard above the noise;
Her plaintive plea near split the air:
Oh, God, please spare my boys!**

**She fought to loosen her pinned hands;
She struggled to get free,
But mangled metal held her fast
In grim captivity...**

**Her frightened eyes then focused
On where the back seat once had been,
But all she saw was broken glass and
Two children's seats crushed in.**

**Her twins were nowhere to be seen;
She did not hear them cry,
And then she prayed they'd been thrown free,**

Oh, God, don't let them die!

*Then firemen came and cut her loose,
But when they searched the back,
They found therein no little boys,
But the seat belts were intact.*

*They thought the woman had gone mad
And was traveling alone,
But when they turned to question her,
They discovered she was gone.*

*Policemen saw her running wild
And screaming above the noise
In beseeching supplication,
Please help me find my boys!*

*They're four years old and wear blue shirts;
Their jeans are blue to match.
One cop spoke up, They're in my car,
And they don't have a scratch.*

*They said their daddy put them there
And gave them each a cone,
Then told them both to wait for Mom
To come and take them home.*

*I've searched the area high and low,
But I can't find their dad.
He must have fled the scene,
I guess, and that is very bad.*

*The mother hugged the twins and said,
While wiping at a tear,
He could not flee the scene, you see,
For he's been dead a year.*

*The cop just looked confused and asked,
Now, how can that be true?
The boys said, Mommy, Daddy came
And left a kiss for you.*

*He told us not to worry
And that you would be all right,
And then he put us in this car with
The pretty, flashing light.*

*We wanted him to stay with us,
Because we miss him so,*

***But Mommy, he just hugged us tight
And said he had to go.***

***He said someday we'd understand
And told us not to fuss,
And he said to tell you, Mommy,
He's watching over us.***

***The mother knew without a doubt
That what they spoke was true,
For she recalled their dad's last words,
I will watch over you.***

***The firemen's notes could not explain
The twisted, mangled car,
And how the three of them escaped
Without a single scar.***

***But on the cop's report was scribed,
In print so very fine,
An angel walked the beat tonight
On Highway 109.***

Yeah... Goosebumps alright... Have a great week!!!

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

curtamous

August 24, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Howdy folks! Sorry for the two week hiatus on updates, but things got crazy last week and I didn't get any free time... Things have been crazy this morning too, but I'm trying to prioritize things better, and the update tops the list... So what's been up?

Feeling a little "tired" this morning as we had our annual church picnic yesterday. I'm not as tired as past years, but I still was the last one one at the party. We started at 7am making the FDA Chairman's world famous booyah. Bloody Marys were on the breakfast menu and we had good help. The SEC-Transportation showed up with his sidekick and proclaimed themselves "Head-Chefs"! They did a great job! Mass was at noon, and we ate afterward. GREAT stuff! Had our meeting, and then the beer began to flow... Great time as always! Looking forward to next year already!

Work has been busy and quite hectic. Plenty to do, which is good, and its turned into an around the clock job. I got paged in the middle of the night 3 times last week, which is NOT so pleasant, especially when you have a full day planned the next day. But all is good, and no complaints here!

The President called me last week looking for the place we got his new/used stove at because he has a bad burner on it. Seems there was an issue with heading water too quickly... I tried to track him down on Saturday to get details on his Canadian trip, but never caught up to him. Looking forward to the stories! I'll keep you posted!

Been out on the bike a little but between work stuff and iffy weather, I haven't been out as much

as I would like. Hard to believe that summer is almost over and the snow will soon be flying, so I do want to get out as much as I can. Gotta get my license too, so that's another issue I have to deal with... Too much to do with too little time... :-)

The garden is looking good! Got the rest of my beans off and dried up some parsley, so I am enjoying the fruits of my labors. There's also some tomatoes ripening, and even though I don't really like them, it's always fun to see them grow... The cukes aren't turning out so well though... Not sure if they are getting too much or not enough water... Of maybe something else... Hmmm...

Got the youngest, the Chief Inspector, back at school now, so that's a good thing. He's going to NWTC, so I should be able to keep an eye on him. Right! The eldest is scheduled to head back to school (UW-M) on 9/1/09, so I gotta work that into my schedule. I think he's looking forward to getting back out of the house as well.

With school starting back, you KNOW hunting is right around the corner. I sure hope I get out in the woods a little more this year. I need to get the bow out and get some practicing in so I'm ready. We'll see how THAT goes... On that note, antlerless tags went on sale yesterday, so if you're interested, you need to get on that right away. I ordered one last night for deer camp (Unit 49B), so I hope I am successful so we have at least one tag "just in case". I got my order in online, and it was pretty easy...

Finally got around to having my transmission looked at. I wanted to get a second opinion on it so I took it to a place close to work. They took a look and figured a total rebuild would be needed as the "slip clutch" on overdrive is likely bad. They figured to get it done would "start" at \$2K. Ouch! But at least the estimate didn't cost anything, so I gave the guy a \$20 for beer. Now I'm checking around on the internet to see if there's anything used or rebuilt out there and what it would cost. I like the truck and would love to keep it, but it's not worth \$2000. Worse case I can drive it as a 3-speed or sell it... We will see...

Some random thoughts...

-In just two days from now, tomorrow will be yesterday.

-A bartender is just a pharmacist with a limited inventory

-The statement below is true.

-The statement above is false.

-I may be schizophrenic... But at least I have each other.

Here's a good one I got on that story that just won't go away...

POOR PINNOCHIO

Pinocchio, Snow White, and Superman are out for a stroll in town one day. As they walk, they come across a sign: "Contest: Looking for the most beautiful woman in the world."

"I'm entering!" said Snow White. After the contest she comes out and they ask her, "Well, how'd ya do?" "First Place!" said Snow White.

They continue walking and they see a sign: "Contest: Looking for the strongest man in the world." "I'm entering," says Superman. After the contest he returns and they ask him, "How did you make out?" "First Place," answers Superman. "Was there any doubt?"

They continue walking until they see yet another sign: "Contest! Who is the greatest liar in the world?" Naturally, Pinocchio enters. After the contest he returns with tears in his eyes. "What happened?" they asked. "I came in 2nd; who the hell is this Brett Favre, anyway?" asked Pinocchio.

All I can say is, "Brent who?" This "Cash-for-Clunkers" thing is getting out of hand...

So what's on this week's schedule... Not that I need anything right now...

24 Festival of Vulcan and the Nymphs (Roman). Vulcan was a forerunner of Hef. *Jello shot.*

25 Sean Connery's Birthday (1930). The one true Bond. *Martini.*

26 Woman's Equality Day. Let the ladies pick up the tab. *Top shelf.*

27 Feast of Incandescent Rebellion (China). Light up a dim dive with your sparkling personality. *Flaming drinks.*

28 St. Augustine of Hippo's Day. Patron saint of brewers wrote that God didn't mind the occasional bender. *Trappist ale.*

29 Pardon the Sea Day (British). Damned polite of them, considering all the sailors they've lost. *Grog.*

30 Aga-Ou Festival (Voodoo). Top notch voodoo elephant festival. *Voodoo Spiced Rum.*

Tuesday Martini's and Flaming Drinks on Thursday! How can you beat that...? But I'm not so sure about the "Woman's Equality Day" thing... You'll find very few women who agree with this whole equality concept... Most find themselves vastly superior... :-)

The Sausage Stuffer got a new boat... And a very NICE one it is! If I was thinking I would have snapped a picture or two for your approval. Hope he gets out on it and enjoys it as much as he should...

Not a whole lot else going on... Plenty of works stuff I'm sure... Getting ready for school and hunting... Maybe check off a few more things on my project list... which reminds me... I did get some touch up painting done two weekends ago, which was on my list. I also upgraded some electrical switches and the doorbell for my beautiful bride... However, that required shutting off the power... Shutting off the power led to my cable box breaking... It's dead now... So I have that to deal with too...

I think that's about it for now... As always, before I do, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

**"A good cook is the peculiar gift of the gods. He must be a perfect creature from the brain to the palate, from the palate to the finger's end."
~ Walter Savage Landor**

In honor of our head booyah chefs...

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

curtamous

August 10, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Good morning everyone! Despite my best intentions of getting this completed early, it is almost noon and I'm just starting. Busy is good though isn't it! My new hope is to get this done today... LOL!

Work's been pretty busy which is a good thing. I certainly don't want to sound like I'm complaining and get a nasty-gram from the FM. It's been a good busy but is somewhat tiring. Early mornings followed by long days (that go really fast) and work in the evenings. Hopefully once things get cleaned up in our latest endeavor it will lighten up a little. Then we'll get more business (hopefully) and do it all over again. That's the plan at least...

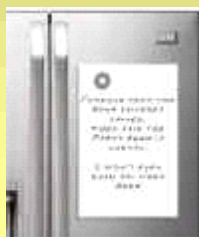
Got some MUCH needed rain this weekend! Reports in from 1.5" to 2", and you can tell it was DRY because it all soaked right in. My grass greened right up and probably loved the sticky weather yesterday too. On the way in you could just about hear the corn sighing... With the wet weather, I was kinda lazy this weekend, but it may be been just tired from the pace at work, but either way, I didn't get shit done... and I'm OK with that...

Did get out on the bike a couple times though. The work week was too busy so I didn't get out at all, but I got out Saturday AND Sunday for a spin, so that was nice. Working GREAT again, so I'm pretty happy about that. Weather this week sounds pretty good so I hope to get out some more...

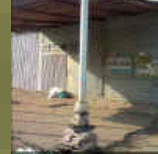
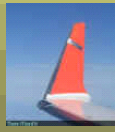
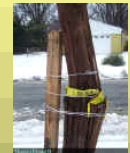
Had my first harvest out of my garden this past week. The beans are ready, and steamed with parsley (also from the garden) and drenched in butter they are OUT OF THIS world!!! Much better than those cukes...

ZERO comments on my [birdhouse](#)... I was expecting to be INUNDATED with orders by now... hmmm...

Got a couple notes from the Jack/Ass team... This first one was a message on their frig... It resulted in the beautiful bride applying a bat to the forehead...



This next set is excellent. As noted in the email, Red Green was most likely involved in ALL of these... Gotta love DUCT tape!



I find the automobile generator/AC installation pretty funny, but the modified vent/defroster is the best... I once did something similar...

With that as inspiration, what's on this week's schedule?

**10 St. Lawrence of Rome's Day. Patron saint of cooks, protector of vineyards.
Cooking sherry.**

**11 Puck Fair (Irish). In Ireland Puck is often blamed for finishing pub-goers drinks.
Your barstool neighbor's drink.**

12 International Youth Day. When they march past the pub, taunt them with your drink. Aged scotch.

**13 Don Ho's Birthday (1930). Patron saint of fat drunk guys in loud Hawaiian shirts.
Tiki drinks.**

14 Trifon Zaresan Festival. Bulgarian wine drinking celebration. Bulgarian wine.

15 Liechtenstein National Day. The populace of this tiny monarchy drink more per capita than anyone on the planet.

**Mighty Mouse
1 oz Vodka
3/4 oz Triple sec
3/4 oz Grenadine
Mix and shoot.**

16 Charles Bukowski's Birthday (1920). Open and close a dive. Thunderbird.

Looks like the kind of week where inspiration is needed... I'll go with the Mighty Mouse!

Missed a HUGE milestone this past week... Our young SEC-W/M celebrated another birthday in his 3rd set of 10... Sorry I missed announcing it, but a very Happy Belated Birthday young master Ric! If you see him, please wish him a great day!!!

Getting a new dryer this week... Old one has a shot motor. A new motor was going to run around \$250 and a new one \$350... Pretty easy call...

Well, it's mid-afternoon and by the time I get this posted it'll be tomorrow... I better run, weak update or not... But as always, before I do, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"O for a lodge in a garden of cucumbers! O for an iceberg or two at control! O for a vale that at midday the dew cumbers! O for a pleasure trip up to the pole!" ~ Rossiter Johnson

\$5 for any junior member that can decipher that...

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

curtamous

August 3, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Good afternoon all! Wow... 3pm, and I'm first STARTING the update... Work is busy, and that is a GOOD thing! But I hope it doesn't stay so busy I can't get updates done. That would be bad for EVERYONE! Well, at least all THREE of you that read this drivel...

So, where was I last week you ask? I was in Philly again. Late the week before we got word that we'd be heading out for the following week and I had ZERO time to get an update out. We are now in the midst of doing pretty extensive IT services for a company out there and it's quite a challenge. We got in there Monday and secure the business and then spent the rest of the week figuring out what was what and putting out fires. It continues this week. So, not only am I on call 24x7 for this job, but now I'm up to my eyeballs as well. Couldn't be more fun!!! We'll keep you posted...

Philly was 7am to 8-9pm every day, but we did do at least one cool thing and we actually ate OK. We got there early on Sunday (cheaper flights) so we had time to mess around before the you-know-what hit the fan. So, we are actually in Valley Forge, not Philly proper, so where else would you go? Valley Forge National Park, right? It was OK... Not all that cool... BIG place, some stuff to see but not a lot... Probably the high point was the mass of whitetails that live there in peace. Couple of pretty nice bucks too... So that was the one "cool" thing we did... Otherwise, we did find a pretty nice steak joint (even though steak at 9pm isn't that great) and on our last day there we went to a really great cheese-steak place. THAT was awesome... The rest of the week? Work...

Couple weeks ago I mention my "birdhouse" project... Well, here's a couple pics...



So far, I've had pretty good feedback. Now I need to find some time to get some measurements off my prototype and make a couple more... I'll keep you posted...

The REALLY REALLY REALLY big news of the week was family camping/Franke Anniversary party at Kingsbury Kottage this past weekend. Saturday festivities started with cocktails and some most excellent snacks, including some New Orleans baked cheesy oyster things and smoke salmon. Really great! Then it was on to fries and shrimp deep fried to perfection and some incredible New York Strip steak. Amazingly, I wasn't too stuffed to drink! I was none too happy about that fact the next day though. Festivities continued on through the night until midnight... which ushered in their actual anniversary date. Eastern time... and then central time... and mountain time... Shots for each milestone... Ouch! Great time was had by all. Happy Anniversary Charlotte and Larry!!!

The bike is out of the shop... More carb issues... Hopefully they are fixed long term now. It is

working really good again, so I'm a happy camper... Had a happy item on that too. When I got the bike there were marks on the windshield from where some knucklehead "DUCT" taped a For Sale sign on. You know "DUCT" tape... That stuff NEVER comes off, and that was the case here. Plus the windshield is some kind of plastic polycarbonate, so you gotta watch what you put on it. I tried all sorts of stuff. Finally in the checkout at the Man's Mall I was something called "OOPS!". It has a wicked smell, so I was pretty leery about using it. But I figured, could it look any worse than that "DUCT" tape? So I went for it, and it worked like a CHARM. So any, that's my story...

Here's one from Zumbo... Figured The President was involved...



So, what's on the schedule?

3 Feast of Caligo (Roman). All hail the Mother of Chaos! **Mix whatever's on hand in a bucket.**

4 St. Sithney's Day. Patron saint of mad dogs. **Something frothy.**

5 Andy Capp debuted in Britain's Daily Mirror (1957). Best comic strip ever. **As many pints as your lady will buy you.**

6 Robert Mitchum's Birthday (1917). "The only difference between me and my fellow actors is that I've spent more time in jail."

Extended Jail Sentence

1 oz Jack Daniels

1 oz Southern Comfort

1 oz Gold tequila

Flash blend with ice, serve.

7 Customer Appreciation Day. Hip your bartender to this one. **One on the cuff.**

8 Anniversary of the Great Train Robbery (1963). Pub pals make off with \$7 million. **Beer with your more ambitious buddies.**

9 National Polka Day. Doesn't sound so bad if you're really, really drunk. **Steins of beer.**

National Polka Day??? Let's Dance!!!

The President is at this very moment (I assume) out on a boat in the wilderness of Canada. He is on his trip north with his brother's kids and they flew in yesterday. (Assuming the weather allowed.) Today they should be out in pretty cool weather, but that's probably OK... Less bugs and stuff. Hope they have a good time!!!

Sis made some Ous Mous Nous... Gonna have that tonight... Can't wait...

There are more tales, but I gotta run... But before I do, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"Spouse: someone who'll stand by you through all the trouble you wouldn't have had if you'd stayed single." ~ Author Unknown

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

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