

The curtamous page

May 2009 Archived Notes

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May 18, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Good morning everyone! Welcome to a beautiful Monday! Big week behind us and another big week ahead of us! Well, not really "big", but you gotta live for the moment, right! Let's see what's going on...

Well, there actually WAS "big", "huge", "incredible" news out of Denville this weekend. The Thompson's of upper Pine Street now have a census value of three! Little George (named Noah Richard, but forever known to us as George) was born on Saturday and from all reports Mom, Dad, and baby are doing well. It sure sounds like things went well as the word is they went in Saturday morning (5am-ish) and little George arrived after noon. Tall strapping boy... Over 8 lbs and more than 21 inches tall... He'll be able to leave the hospital only "slightly" shorter than mom and dad! Haven't had a chance to meet little George yet (I'm sure his great-aunts have mobbed him) but I hope to make my acquaintance soon. I wonder if he was born with a stock car helmet? Ouch! I hope not! Anyway, congrats to Mom, Dad, Grandma and everyone who has so looked forward to the next generation!

Word out of Oshkosh is that the SEC-W/M was so anxious and squirrely about little George's arrival that he canceled all his appointments that day and headed up to the hospital to make sure the doctor knew which way was up and understood the correct extraction procedures... My guess is they gave him a laxative and locked the restroom door... That way anymore talking would have "explosive" consequences... Congrats Uncle Ric!

Compared that that big news, nothing really important happened...

Got some more work done on my work bench in the shop. First four drawers are pretty much done, other than finishing, and I've started on the next set of 4. This drawer building isn't too tough or anything, but it is kinda tedious and you gotta get everything done in the right order without screwing it up too much in the process. Other than one dado that got a little too wide, the first 4 went pretty well. Hopefully I don't get too confident and screw up the next 4...

Spent quite a bit of time on the motorcycle last week... The new pipes sound "sweet"! Took a trip to Fleet and put together a nice little road tool kit and luckily didn't have to use it at all. Had it out on the road on Thursday for a bit and two trips on Sunday. Even got my beautiful bride out on the back of it yesterday. Had some nice trips... I've pretty much traveled every road in a 50 mile radius, so now I'm checking out parks. Yesterday I checked out Two Creeks (Very nice and right on Lake Michigan), Shoto (couldn't actually find a park), Way-Morr, and Neshoto... You know the weird thing about parks now? The playground equipment sucks... There's some neat plastic stuff, but not much of it... All the cool old swings, slides, merry-go-rounds, and teeter-totters are gone. I suppose it's a sign of the times... All the old stuff we used to play on is gone so kids don't get hurt and their parents file a law suit. No wonder kids are fat and spend all their time in front of the TV. The world is too "dangerous" to go out and play... Little Johnny might get

hurt... Now they grow up stupid... They never get to learn that jumping off a 20 foot swing or slide or a merry-go-round going 80 mph can cause injury, so by the time they're 18, they're still fearless... that's not good... Anyway, just an observation...

Didn't make it up to Canada last week after all... Turns out you DO NEED a passport to get into Canada... IF YOU FLY! When I checked I read all the stuff about not needing one until June 1st, but that was just in regards to driving over the border. Passport requirements for flying into Canada went into affect a year or two ago... Figures... A co-worker had to go in my place... That sucked... But I did get the passport process started and hope to have one by the first week of June... We'll see... It's a government thing, so it could be August before I get one...

Built a second flower bed/garden this weekend too... The first one got too crowded, especially with tomatoes, so I build another one... Not too hard... Just 4 landscape timbers, a couple cuts, some screws, and a little digging. This time I didn't take all the old grass out, mostly cause it's a pain in the butt, so we'll see how that goes... The frost warnings kinda kept any itch to plant stuff at bay, but with Memorial Day right around the corner, it's getting to be that time!

Saturday I went to my cousin's daughter's college graduation party... I think that would make Christie my 2nd cousin... Or something like that... Nice to get to see the aunts and uncles and cousins... They made booyah as well... Not the FDA chairman's booyah, but it was pretty darn good. Good enough that I had it for an appetizer, the main course, and dessert. Comparatively, it was more tomatoey and the chicken probably got over cooked a little and looked shredded, but it had really good flavor, which is what really counts. Good stuff! Anyway, congrats to Christie!

Took another trip out to Way-Morr last week to try some more fishing... Even soaked a dough ball (carp bait) to go along with the spinner action for northerns, but still no luck... Kinda doubt I'll get out again this week, so it looks like this year will result in a big ZERO out there... There's always next year!

Late birthday wishes to last week's birthday boys... If you didn't get a chance to wish Jake and Tony Happy Birthday, there's still time!!!

So, with all that, let's celebrate! Here's the schedule...

*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.***

*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 herald 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.*

Hmmm... Margaritas today... HUGE TOO!!! Too much wine for my taste though... I threw in next Monday's as well since your update will be on Tuesday next week... Might as well... Yawn...

Can you believe Cheers has been off the air since 1993??? Wow... am I old...

I'm sure I've put this in before... Well, not sure enough NOT to put it in again I guess...

For those who slept through World History 101..... here is a condensed version.

Humans originally existed as members of small bands of nomadic hunters /gatherers. They lived on deer in the mountains during the summer and would go to the coast and live on fish and lobster in the winter.

The two most important events in all of history were:

- 1. The invention of beer, and*
- 2. The invention of the wheel. The wheel was invented to get man to the beer, and the beer to the man.*

These facts formed the foundation of modern civilization and together were the catalyst for the splitting of humanity into two distinct subgroups:

- 1. Liberals*
- 2. Conservatives.*

Once beer was discovered, it required grain and that was the beginning of agriculture. Neither the glass bottle nor aluminum can were invented yet, so while our early humans were sitting around waiting for them to be invented, they just stayed close to the brewery. That's how villages were formed.

Some men spent their days tracking and killing animals to BBQ at night while they were drinking beer. This was the beginning of what is known as the Conservative movement.

Other men who were weaker and less skilled at hunting learned to live off the conservatives by showing up for the nightly BBQ's and doing the sewing, fetching, and hair dressing. This was the beginning of the Liberal movement.

Some of these liberal men eventually evolved into women. The rest became known as girlie-men.

Some noteworthy liberal achievements include the domestication of cats, the invention of group therapy and group hugs, the evolution of the Hollywood actor, and the concept of democratic voting to decide how to divide all the meat and beer that conservatives provided.

Over the years, Conservatives came to be symbolized by the largest, most powerful land animal on earth, the elephant. Liberals are symbolized by the jackass.

Modern liberals like imported beer (with lime added), but most prefer white wine or imported bottled water. They eat raw fish but like their beef well done. Sushi, tofu, and French food are standard liberal fare. Another interesting evolutionary side note: most of liberal women have higher testosterone levels than their men. Most social workers, personal injury attorneys, journalists, dreamers in Hollywood and group therapists are liberals. Liberals invented the designated hitter rule because it wasn't fair to make the pitcher also bat.

Conservatives drink domestic beer. They eat red meat and still provide for their women. Conservatives are big-game hunters, rodeo cowboys, lumberjacks, construction workers, firemen, medical doctors, police officers, corporate executives, athletes, Marines, and generally anyone who works productively. Conservatives who own companies hire other conservatives who want to work for a living.

Liberals produce little or nothing. They like to govern the producers and decide what to do with the production. Liberals believe Europeans are more enlightened than Americans. That is why most of the liberals remained in Europe when conservatives were coming to America They crept in after the Wild West was tamed and created a business of trying to get more for nothing.

Here ends today's lesson in world history.....

Interesting... Note that current day political parties (Republicans and Democrats) aren't necessarily assigned, even though it's assumed... Learn it! Live it! Love it!

Sports Banquet tonight... should be Jake's last school type function before he graduates... Assuming he graduates... :-) Should be kinda fun... Usually they have a pretty good speaker, so hopefully they don't disappoint...

Big graduation party this weekend up at Kingsbury Kottage. We'll celebrate Amber and Casey's college graduations... (You know, I have two nephews and a niece that are "doctors"? Wow!) The FDA Chair and SEC-State will be whipping up their World Championship booyah and I'm sure more than a few beverages will be had. Looking forward to it, as it should be a great time! To the graduates; Congratulations!!!

Memorial Day next Monday, so be sure to remember all those who have served us so bravely in the past. I usually mark the day by stopping out at the cemetery, watching at least one WWII flick (Midway is probably my favorite), and catching the NCAA College Lacrosse Championships... Strange but true... With the holiday, next week's update will be a day, or perhaps a week late... You never know...

Pretty good update... At least I think so... and that's all that matters...

Off I go... But before I close, a few words of wisdom for our junior members... Another "2 for 1 deal"...

"The first half of our lives is ruined by our parents and the second half by our children." ~ Clarence Day

"Everybody knows how to raise children, except the people who have them." ~ P. J. O'Rourke

Oh, those are SOOOOOOO true!

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

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May 11, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Hi folks! Welcome back! Been two weeks since my last update and it seems like it's been months. Lots of good "going-on's" to cover, so we might as well get right into it all...

Top of the list: Fish Camp 2009! As expected, we had a fantastic time! The weather more or less cooperated, fish were caught, gourmet quality food was had, and everyone enjoyed a GREAT time! Festivities kicked off on Friday with a thirsty bunch and we feasted on some really awesome steaks in the evening. Saturday's opened had fishermen out on the water at sun-up (a first in YEARS) and fish in the pail at the end of the day. Personally, I thought Saturday night's fish boil was one of the best meals I've had in a LONG time in ANY venue! Really great stuff! The SEC-State outdid himself. Sunday the crew started to disperse but the remaining hardy folk toured the countryside and sampled a local specialty, the Loon Fart. Quite excellent I might say! Monday brought the close of camp, but not before we helped out the hosts with some yard work. Not a LOT of help, but we did our best in the circumstances. I think everyone had a great time, and our newest guest, Luke Fishstalker, provided ample entertainment. We hope he returns next year! Overall a great time, but now it's on to the long wait for the next big event: Deer Camp 2009!!! Can't wait!!!

Hope everyone had a happy (and "productive") May Day! If you didn't get my annual May Day greeting, let me know and I might add you to next year's distribution list... :-)

Got back from Fish Camp and the next day we took a 13+ hour road trip to Iowa to move the eldest back from college. Left at 6am and returned at roughly 11pm. LOT'S of driving for one day, that's for sure! Nice day for a drive though, so it wasn't TOO terrible, and the boy had things really organized when we got there and was ready to pack up and go, so that worked out pretty good. Kinda weird leaving... I really liked Ames, and I think the boy did too. A shame it's so freaking far away... Right now his plan is not to return and hit the books at UW-M instead, so fare-well Iowa...

Took a trip out to Way-morr Park one evening last week to do the annual Northern fishing thing... It was the only chance I had last week, but I didn't pick a good night to do it. Got there and already I saw the clouds building to the west and a half hour later the thunder was rolling and I headed out soon after, just before the rain drops started. Still, got in almost an hour of fishing, but zero bites. Already LOTS of carp in the water, which is a little unusual for this early in the year. I'm going to try again this week if I get time, and maybe even soak some carp bait just for fun...

Captain Chuck is back in town and we headed out to Zumbo's ranch on Friday evening to see him. He's looking good and is doing well after his extended boat cruise. He even picked up himself a new (used) Harley that he'll be taking back to the base with him. He's on base until late summer when he'll be transferred to up-state New York where he'll be stationed training new mechanics for the big row-boats. Sounds like a pretty good gig... Had a nice time out at Zumbo's but the bottle caps kept disappearing... Weird! Anyway, welcome home Chuck! Good to see you and have a good trip back!

Headed to Milwaukee yesterday for my God-Daughter's graduation... She graduated from Carrol with her Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy in a really nice outdoor ceremony. Those graduations are really pretty long, but this one was OK despite the length, except for the slight rain toward the end. Even that wasn't too bad... Followed up the ceremony with a great Italian meal after and a nice ride home. Great day overall... Congratulations Dr. Amber!

Got the bike out some again last week... Also had it in the shop to get some new pipes on it... Purrs like a kitty now... Sweet!

Holy cow! I almost forgot! **Happy Mother's Day** to all you moms out there! I hope you all had a great day!!!

Not that I really "want" to, but I feel I have to... Brett Favre comment of the day..Please go away! I am sick and tired of it, as I'm sure most are...

With that whole mess in mind, I'm sure we could all use refreshment... What's on the schedule THIS week?

11 Baron von Munchausen's Birthday (1720). German adventurer/storyteller drank his way around the world. **Something adventurous.**

12 International Limerick Day. Revive the lost art of barroom ribaldry. **Irish whiskey.**

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.**

Hmmm... Lots of whiskey references... You should ask the SEC-D'Fence what HE thinks of rail whiskey...

On the topic of libations, I did a little research a couple weekends ago, and based on repeated testing and exhaustive analysis, I have concluded that Schlitz is a beer made for quality enjoyment and not so much for quantity usage... Just thought you'd like to know...

Got this from my buddy in Iowa...

There is a correct way to say Oklahoma. There is a space between the A and the H.

If you don't believe me, then please click [HERE!](#)

The things you learn, huh?

May is kinda "birthday" month for me... Saturday was Amber's birthday, and from reports out of south-east Wisconsin, she celebrated in fine fashion the evening before her graduation! Happy Birthday Amber! This week my youngest celebrates his 19th... Happy Birthday Jake! To wrap it up, last, but certainly not least, the Sturgeon General turns another page on Sunday. Happy Birthday Tony! If you see any or all of them, make sure you wish them well and many more!

This week I head north of the border for a few days for work. Going up to Toronto for an

analysis we're doing for a company up there. Kinda worried... Last time I went north of the border, which was a LONG time ago, I got sick... On the plane... On the way home... After missing my first flight... Ouch... Hope this trip goes better!

You'd think that after two weeks I'd have a bigger update... Oh well... But before I go, some words of wisdom for our junior membership...

"All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his." ~ Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, 1895

That you need to think about...

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

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