

The curtamous page

October 2009 Archived Notes

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Oct 19, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Howdy folks... another late start to the diatribe... Better late than never!!! Things are going good at work. Lot's to do, and a new employee started today, so in theory we are growing. YEAH!!! Plus, we had muffins to celebrate his first day, so it's a double bonus... I must say, I sure like working here!

Got a note from the FM on last week's diatribe. A pretty positive message considering what a cantankerous old battle ax he is, so the diatribe must have been OK. Old or not, he's got a mind like a steel trap. He remembered the quote of the day from the World Booyah Cookoff...

"It's never a good idea to eat on an empty stomach, is it?"

Guess who? (See below...)

Nothing real grand went on last week... Took Friday afternoon off and got some items checked off my list... Cleaned out the garden, picked up some wood at Zumbo's and split it, straightened up the basement and garage, did some winterizing, etc. The highlight was likely the setup of my new (to me) router table. Can't remember if I mentioned it, but the local tech school threw out some old homemade router tables, pretty much like I was thinking about... So you know what they say, "Renew, reuse, recycle", so into the dumpster I went. The issue I had was getting longer screws that would fit my router, which is a cheap "Tool Shop" type brand. Finally found some and it worked out great. So now it's on to building a big bench to mount it on along with the chop saw and maybe a drill press or bandsaw. Probably a spring project...

Spent an inordinate amount of time Saturday cutting wood... More specifically, splitting wood... Well, to start off, we went out with the in-laws Friday night. Had a nice fish dinner and a few drinks, but nothing out of hand. But I woke up with a killer hangover. Weird... anyway, got busy, and it went right away, so that was good... The cutting went well too... So I hauled a big load home and got to splitting. Turns out these two trees were the stringiest, knottiest wood I ever saw. Took me FIVE hours to get it split and stacked. It was AWFUL!!! But now that it's done, I will REALLY enjoy burning that wood...

Got the wood out at Zumbo's ranch, so I also got to help out a little with his new deer stands. Pretty nice little 4x4' fully enclosed stands with windows. Pretty slick. Helped scout a location for one, unload another, and ponder over some solutions for windows. (Found a good idea on the internet for that)... Gave me a good idea for a stand up at the cabin on A... We will see...

Worked on the SEC-Transportation's PC last week after work one night and it went pretty well. Got everything working with no major issues... Even found a slick solution for the problem I was having... Then, my beautiful bride offers up my services to someone else! Go figure! Turns out to be Skipper's lovely mother, so she dropped off her PC last night, so I'll have that to

grapple with over the next few weeks... More than happy to do it though. Had a lot of good times with her eldest boy... LOL!

Had a nice dinner for Cherie's birthday last week. Hit a local pizza joint and had a good meal and great conversation... Hope you had a great birthday sis!!!

Less than stellar week on the football front... Well, the mighty Denville 11 got smoked on Friday night for their homecoming... So bad it didn't even make the newspaper the next day and I had to look it up online... Ouch! Then the Badgers played a good half of football followed by a bad half of football and got beat by the Hawkeyed's... At least I got to listen to that while I split wood on Saturday... Sunday was better with the Packers drilling the hapless Liuns, but even that was less than stellar... They should have beaten them by 40... But a win is a win...

After the game I spent some time on the bike... Lubed up the tach again and took it for a spin... No go... Still got problems, so I'll likely take it to my bike mechanic and get it done so it's ready in spring...

No real news on the new car front either. Still waiting on the "packet" from the insurance company so I can turn it around, get them the title and stuff so they can turn around and send me a check. No real hardship as we still have the rental, but I'd like to get moving on this... I'll keep you posted...

The weatherman was home again this weekend... But lately when he's home we see very little of him... Spends a lot of time with his girlfriend... Enjoy it while you can!!!

Last night I spent the evening, alone again, which is nice, cutting and drying parsley... Reminded me of the times Ma Nelson and I would do that... Nice memories!

Well, it's hunting season, even if I'm not doing much in the way of hunting... Got this from the Jack/Ass team... Seems they are interested in spending more time with their wives and came up with this...

My sweet husband invited me to go hunting with him this year.

I couldn't believe it... the first time ever!

I never thought he'd be willing to share his 'guy time' with me and being the thoughtful man that he is, he even gave me an opening day present.

He calls it 'The First Timers Lucky Hat'.

I'm so fortunate to be married to him.

I have attached a picture of me in my lucky hat below....



Bad, bad men...

With that, on to this week's schedule!

19 Reptile Awareness Day. Hold your heads up high, lounge lizards. *Rum and Coke.*

20 National Brandied Fruit Day. In a pinch, you can mix brandy with a can of fruit cocktail. *You heard me.*

21 Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar (1805). Grog guzzlers trounce the wine snobs. *Navy Rum neat.*

22 National Nut Day. You know who you are. *Nut Brown Ale.*

**23 Hungarian Independence Day. So long vodka; hello sweet, sweet freedom.
*The Mad Hungarian
4oz shots Rum
12 oz Root beer
Pour rum over ice in a beer mug. Top with root beer.***

24 United Nations Day. Unite the liquors of the world into one body—yours. *Long Island Ice Tea.*

25 Anniversary of the Charge of the Light Brigade (1854). "Their's not to reason why, their's but to do and die." *Light beer.*

Wow... Too much rum for me!!! In a Long Island Iced Tea, it's a KILLER!!! I can handle the Light beer on Sunday...

Big plans this week... Not really... I get to take out my Minnehaha buddy for lunch on Friday to pay off our bet on the last Packer/ViQueen game... Torby's a good guy, but having to pay off debts bites... It was a lot more fun in the old days when I would win and could dress him up in Packer gear... Payback's a b\$#%&...

Next weekend I hope to head north to the cabin on A for a little R&R... Not sure what the plans are because my beautiful bride has scheduled a trip to Minnehaha so I will have to work around that if possible... I'm considering the crazy idea of heading up Friday, coming back for Saturday night (when the wife is gone) and then heading back up Sunday morning and staying until Monday... Kinda nuts, but it keeps everyone happy, and I likely avoid a Sunday morning hangover! We will see...

That's all I got for now... Off to get the oil changed in the truck soon, so I better shut 'er down. As always, a few words of wisdom for our junior members before I go... Along with an answer to the question above...

"It's never a good idea to eat on an empty stomach, is it?" ~ The President

Words to live by... Along with The President's "It's never a good idea to start cocktail hour on an empty stomach. Grab me a beer..."

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

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Oct 12, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Happy Columbus Day! Hope everyone is having a great day and celebrating Chris's big discovery... Yeah... I'm at work like everyone else, not including government workers, and pretty much forgot about it... But, I do know there won't be any mail today... :-)

Starting the diatribe a little late today, but I hope to have it done before tomorrow... Busy at work again this morning, which is a fantastic thing! Also have a busy week ahead of me so I am just as happy as a clam... But really, how happy can a clam be? Or unhappy?

Big news of the weekend. The FM, with secret weapon on staff, wins an award at the World Championship Booyah Cookoff! Now he'll actually be MORE insufferable than normal!!! All I can say is, look at the award winners...

Actually, we had a really good time, but it was DARN cold when we started out at 5:30 am and got colder before it warmed up. Luckily the FM was fully prepared in his snowmobile suit ensemble, so his antics helped keep us warm. The constant insults being traded between the teams also helped keep the teams on track. The FDA Chair was as usual well on his game. One small issue with getting the fire going (put the kettle in a little too soon) was really the only misfire of the day. The BBC was well undermanned however with only the FDA Chair and SEC-Transportation (and myself) on staff, but to the FDA Chair's credit, he had all the veggies cut up upon arrival. The FM had his offspring in tow and ready to help though and they were surprisingly good assistants. Of course, he had his "secret" weapon, The President... So with the BBC on one side and the FM's Rahr's Brewery Booyah on the other, I've never seen The President more perplexed. Almost as much as the time the drop of water ran down his barrel and hit him in the eye! But he did a good job keeping the peace and he was able to salvage that Belgian swill and turn it into an award winner with his "Dinty Moore" treatment. I will admit, of the booyah I sampled (the Mayor was on a mission of espionage), his was probably the second best I had. Not a fan of the shredded chicken, but it did have good flavor. Much better booyah flavor than his fellow award winning soup. So congrats to the FM and his "Major Award"!

On my way home, after a few libations with the crews and the lovely First Lady and FM's beautiful bride, I realized that I was very blessed to grow up on good booyah. Ma Nelson's recipe is certainly a good one and the FDA Chair has done nothing to mar it, but there's really to explain each individual's booyah tastes. One man's booyah is another man's swill, and there's really very little middle ground. That, and there's no explaining the number of stupid people walking around... Can't wait for next year!

Oh yeah, proceeds from the event went to a young man named John, lacking legs and arms, who will be participating in the Special Olympics at a National level. Great kid in the midst of all the banter of the cookoff, met all the participants, and even did the award announcing. This event will help sponsor his trip and with all the competition and fun, you couldn't help but walk out of there with a warm feeling. Congrats John and good luck. I think you gave everyone there as much as you received!

(Funny thing... It was kinda hard writing about the whole booyah specatular... We were in such fine form trading barbs yesterday, I had a hard time not burying the FM in a flurry of insults that he had no way to respond too... Hope this came off OK...)

Not much else going that can match Sunday... However I did get a short ride on the bike Sunday and I'm pretty sure I've isolated my weird "engine" noise. I think I've got a bad tachometer or cable. Before I left I thought I heard the noise from the tach, and the noise changed when I wiggled it. Got about 4 miles out and the noise got significantly worse and the needle started bouncing. Turned around to head home, and by the time I pulled into the garage it was pretty bad and defiantly coming from the tach. So, now I'm looking at a new cable if I'm lucky. I'll try to grease it first and see if it improves and go from there. With snow today, I doubt

I'll have many more riding days left anyway...

Saturday was a busy work day and I even got some more wood split and put up. Did I mention I LOVE The President's new wood splitter??? There is no WAY I would have this much wood done, and in this good of shape if I didn't have that. What a great deal!

Pretty lousy football week... I don't even want to get into the Monday Night Debacle... My only thought is, how can one of the teams in this matchup always play so poorly and the other so well yet the scores are usually pretty close? Weird stuff... Brent was even more insufferable than our own FM after, so it will be nice when that whole soap opera is over. At least The Pack had a bye week so more suffering is postponed for a week. The Denville 11 got crushed again Friday night, and the Badgers followed suit on Saturday. Actually, IMO, the Badgers outplayed the Buckeyeds, but they certainly missed opportunities and gave up some really big plays. And now they are on to Iowa, and that could be worse...

Got this from the SEC-W/M. It's intended as a joke, but I could certainly see it happening...

CORPORATE SHAKE-UP

If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting the facts and thinking things through, you will love this!

Arcelor Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?"

The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

Not sure if you've been exposed to the corporate CEO types, but I have a few times. The good ones I've met would NEVER do anything like this, but the bad ones I've met, the ones with the huge egos, I could certainly see this from... Too funny...

So what's on tap? Yesterday morning's bloody mary's were excellent, so let's see if they can be matched!

*12 Columbus Day. Explore new bars and libations. **Cutty Sark.***

*13 Sammy Hagar's Birthday (1947). "Once I tasted really good tequila I became a new man." **Cabo Wabo Tequila.***

*14 Mega Kenka Matsui (Japan). Rough house festival in which shrine palanquins jostle each other. Yes! **Sapporo Beer.***

15 UB40's Red Red Wine reached top of U.S. charts (1988). Suddenly drinking vino seemed kind of cool. **Red, red wine.**

16 Oscar Wilde's Birthday (1854). "Work is the curse of the drinking classes."
Absinthe.

17 Anniversary of the First Oktoberfest (1810). Over a million gallons of beer were guzzled at Prince Ludwig's wedding. **Beck's .**

18 Persons Day (Canada). Celebrates the day women were recognized as "persons." **Pink Lady.**

*Absinthe? Now that will put a little hair on your chest... Man OR woman... I sure wish I had been invited to Prince Ludwig's wedding. That's a story no one could top! Oh, I hope my eldest sister and tell us what a "shrine palanquin" is... Perhaps she'll have to look it up... I'll buy her a **Pink Lady** for her efforts...*

Bad news last week... The car is totaled... So we are on the search for a replacement. So we took a ride around on Saturday to check out what's for sale. I thought car shopping with my beautiful bride was tough... Try it with a 19 year old! The Beemers and Baretta's caught his eye, but most of what was reasonable was the wrong color... Just kidding... It wasn't that bad at all... Had a good time in fact... The boy doesn't give me much of his time so it was nice to spend a few hours together... So, we have a list started and hopefully we can narrow it down and get something lined up while the insurance company finalizes the deal... We'll keep you posted...

Big birthday week coming up! Of course, we remember Mr. Rick who would have celebrated this week... Thought of him a couple times yesterday while cooking booyah. I think he would have had a good time! Wednesday we celebrate my youngest sister's birthday (a day early) who I am sure is 39 or 29 again... I forget which one... Anyway, if you see Cherie this week, be sure to wish her a Happy Birthday!!!

I think that's about it... Can't think of anything else coming or going, so it's time to sign off... It's snowing outside, so as always, a few words of wisdom for our junior members before I go...

"Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart." ~ Victor Hugo

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

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Oct 5, 2009 - *Jak se maj!!! Good afternoon all! I tell ya, if work gets any busier, I'll soon be greeting you "Good Evening!" Busy is good though, so I cannot complain... Since my readership has likely dwindled into the negatives, I doubt anyone else will complain either...*

Big weekend behind me... We headed north to prepare for Deer Camp this past weekend, and The President, SEC-State, FDA Chair, SEC-Transportation (with 4-wheeler) and myself spent the weekend working hard and playing hard. Friday night we feasted on The President's new stew recipe and the FDA Chair's world famous kraut. Despite all the food, we spent the rest of the evening (and into the morning) playing cards. That set the stage for a rough day on Saturday. Despite the ills of the crew, we cut a LOT of wood. We lucked out on the weather front and had no rain, and we ended up filling the wood shed plus some. The SEC-State and FDA Chair also left with truck loads for Kingsbury Kottage, so we really did a lot of work on the day. We ended the day with another feast with smoked chicken leg/thigh quarters and baked potatoes. Due to the hard work and full bellies, we did NOT stay up as late... Sunday had us sleeping in followed

by a large breakfast and we broke camp. The President and I took a walk in the woods to check out the logging situation and found little disturbing our section as of yet. Then we headed home... Had an excellent time and got a lot of work done. Thanks to the crew from The President and the VP...

The time up north and the fall weather finally has the hunting bug in me going... But of course, Zumbo has already scored... He dropped a very nice 8 pointer the week before last. Here he is:



Congrats Zumbo!!! I hope to get out in the woods soon!!!

Got out on the bike once last week... The fall weather makes it a little cool to be out and about, but I got a nice ride in. However, I've got a weird noise going on in the front end. I hope to get that isolated before I have to store it away... I certainly hope that doesn't include another run to the shop!

The Chief Inspector got into a big of a fender bender the week before last, so my tribe has been down one vehicle. Finally got the insurance process started today though, so we might have us a rental until we get it fixed/junked... I'll keep you posted on the progress of that fiasco...

50/50 on the weekend so far football-wise.... The mighty Denville 11 took it on the china again on Friday, but the Badgers were able to maintain possession of the Ax from hated Minnehaha. We didn't get to see/hear much of the Badger game as we were REALY busy making wood, but it sounded like a good game. As long as we get a win, who cares...? The Badgers are in the Top 25 now, so let's hope they can stay there... Big Game next weekend!!!

Props out to my buddy Jack the Cat down in the Carolinas. He called me this morning and we shot the shit for a bit. Really good to hear from him... He is one unique character!!!

The President has been busy inventing and fixing lately... We heard a "few" stories over the weekend, but I thought I'd include some examples...



Well, is there any wonder why HE is The President???

Not that I'm thirsty yet after this weekend, but we might as well check out what's on tap this week!

5 Monty Python's Flying Circus debuts (1969). American Beer is a lot like making love in a row boat—it's fucking close to water.” —Eric Idle. Holy Grail Ale.

6 National German-American Day. Their beer tastes so much better when they're not shooting at us. Bourbon and schnapps.

7 The Budweiser (Czech version) brewery begins operations (1895). You guys wanna trade? Czech Budweiser.

8 Anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire (1871). Started by a sober cow. White Russian.

9 St. Denis' Day. Patron saint against frenzies and headaches, in that order. Hair of the dog that mauled you.

10 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor remarried (1975). Reuniting the century's finest husband/wife drinking team. Flat champagne.

11 Vinalia (Roman). The biggest Roman wine shindig of the year. Flagons of wine.

THE ORIGINAL BUDWEISER on Wednesday??? The Bohemian Brew is one of my favorites... Followed by White Russians on Thursday... Could be a tough week!

Big day today!!! It's the Mayor's birthday!!! We are heading out to the thriving metropolis of Kolb's Corners tonight to celebrate. If you run into my dear sister, please wish her a great day! Happy Birthday Cindy!!!

Next weekend we have the big showdown! The World Championship Booyah Cookoff!!! Word has it the FM is breaking away from the BBC and will be trying to serve his Belgian Swill to the masses... He also claims that he has brought The President in with him, but The President has claimed innocence... should be a very interesting contest. I would expect some sort of dastardly deed on the part of the FM... We'll be watching him!!! But it's for a good cause, so we hope to have all you booyah eaters out there at Circle Tap at 11am to fill your bowls, kettles, and barrels...

Tonight is the BIG GAME... Here's hoping for a BIG Packer victory! Go Pack Go!!!

Well, that's all I got for the time I have... As always, a few words of wisdom for our junior members before I go...

"People love chopping wood. In this activity one immediately sees results." ~ Albert Einstein

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

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