

The curtamous page

June 2010 Archived Notes

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June 28, 2010 - ***Jak se maj!!! Happy Monday everyone! It's a beautiful day here in NE Wisconsin! I think we got more rain last night, which isn't too shocking, but it sure is nice out this morning! Sorry about the two week hiatus (again) but I pretty much completely forgot about the update last week. I'm not even sure what made me forget... Probably Fathers Day, but it never even crossed my mind until late in the week... Go figure... Getting old I guess...***

Father's Day weekend was pretty nice. Saturday the FDA Chair and SEC-State whipped up a batch of their world famous booyah up at Kingsbury Kottage. I jumped on the bike and headed up for the afternoon and it was a sweet ride and the booyah was fantastic. They are getting so good at it I pretty much rate every batch they make a "Top 5". Can't tell you what batch gets knocked out each time, but who cares... Being on the bike though and having to drive home, I stopped at 3 bowls instead of the customary 6... Yum Yum!

Father's Day itself we started out at 8am church in Kellnersville and the Chief Inspector even attended. Probably the best gift of the day! Then we walked across the street to the K-City Diner for a really scrumptious breakfast... Then it was home and I played around with my smoker all day trying to smoke up some wild turkey legs. They didn't turn out that great... They "tasted" terrific, but they were really tough and not too pleasant to work with. Not sure if I needed more heat or what, but I had even thrown them in the oven for two hours at the end and that didn't even help. Back to the drawing board... :-)

The weatherman and his lovely sidekick spent the afternoon at our place on Father's Day and that was really nice. We haven't seen them for a few weeks, so it's good to catch up. We had steaks for supper and the Chief and HIS lovely sidekick were also in attendance. Good stuff and a really nice day... Thanks everyone...

Been spending some time on the bike lately, but not quite as much as I'd like. I'm kinda over and done with exploring all the local side roads since I've been on them "all", within a 25 mile radius of home at least once if not ten times. Kinda like to explore out a little bit more now to see some more of the local sites, but that takes a little more time. But that's OK... This past week we took a ride north and explored some areas at the base of the peninsula. Not allowed to disclose locations however... Secret stuff... But it's amazing the beautiful countryside we have around here, especially this time of year, and most people either don't know about it, don't care, or just don't appreciate it. Too bad... Personally, I suggest you pick a direction, head that way, and as MacQuarrie would say, "Get lost a'purpose...". Don't worry about where you're going and how you'll get home, just enjoy what's around you... There are some really gorgeous areas around here...

Working on a small project for the bike, something to combat the "monkey-butt" syndrome... You see, after sitting on a motorcycle seat for an hour or two, you get what is commonly called "monkey-butt". I can't really explain it, but it's a pretty apt name for it. Anyway, one suggestion

out on the "net" is to get some of those old fashioned beaded seat covers for the bike. Well, to get ones that fit, they cost anywhere from \$25 to \$100. Too much for this cheapskate... So I picked up a cheap one via Wally World that fits a full sized car seat and I cut it down. Kinda of a pain in the butt (pun intended) to do but they turned out REALLY nice... Now I am working on a way to get them attached to the bike so they don't slide around too much. Maybe those small bungee cords will work, or maybe I'll have to get something custom made. We'll see...

But after getting it all cut down, I have about 100 left over beads... Anyone need any???

Work has been REALLY busy and we've got some change going on as well. Lori is leaving our little family this week. This is just not her "cup of tea" and even though she loves the group we have, she pretty much hates the work, so she's moving on... We will REALLY miss you here Lori! Also, last week we hired a new part time person to help out with my network stuff, so we're working with her to get up to speed and on line. Welcome aboard Mary! Other than that, it's just busy...

Making some progress on our "church web site" project... I spent about 4 hours yesterday on it plugging through various tasks and updates and emails and documentation and planning and stuff... I made a LOT of progress, but I have a LOT to get done yet... Pretty much all we can do is keep at it and get 'er done when we get 'er done... When it's done I'll be sure to give you a link to the finished product...

Here's a little something I saw on the web today...

NOT FROM PAUL HARVEY, BUT WORTH READING...

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for them to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches. I really would.

I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated.

I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car.

And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

Hey, how freaking true is THAT??? But being a father, it sure is a fine to tread between trying to teach your kids lessons and trying to help them out, but I think the lessons, especially the hard ones, are the best thing you can provide for your kids...

Here's one from the Jack/Ass team for our junior members...

Have You Ever Danced?

An old prospector shuffled into town leading an old tired mule.

The old man headed straight for the only saloon to clear his parched throat.

He walked up and tied his old mule to the hitch rail. As he stood there, brushing some of the dust from his face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other.

The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, have you ever danced?"

The old man looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No, I never did dance... never really wanted to."

A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said, "Well, you old fool, you're gonna dance now," and started shooting at the old man's feet.

The old prospector --not wanting to get a toe blown off-- started hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet. Everybody was laughing, fit to be tied.

When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon.

The old man turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barreled shotgun, and cocked both hammers.

The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd stopped laughing immediately.

The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and he turned around very slowly. The silence was almost deafening.

The crowd watched as the young gunman stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin barrels.

The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old man's hands, as he quietly said, "Son, have you ever licked a mule's ass?"

The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir..... but... I've always wanted to."

There are a few lessons for us all here:

Never be arrogant.

Don't waste ammunition.

Whiskey makes you think you're smarter than you are.

Always, always make sure you know who has the power.

Don't mess with old men, they didn't get old by being stupid.

Ahh... So VERY VERY TRUE!!!

And finally, another from the Jack/Ass team...

A man on his Goldwing was riding along a California beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, God said, 'Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish.'

The biker pulled over and said, 'Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want.'

God replied, 'Your request is materialistic; think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind.'

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, 'God, I wish that I, and all men, could understand women; I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make a woman truly happy.'

God replied: 'You want two lanes or four on that bridge?'

Another truism...

The list is long, but let's take one off the top and see why you're fat...



Pulled Pork & Mashed Potato Parfait

(submitted by Ann Whatever via [Porky's BBQ](#))

I "think" I've posted that one before, but its a dandy... The SEC-Transportation's FAVORITE!

Since you're fat anyway, let's see this week's methods for forgetting about it...

28 Paul Bunyan Day. Imagine that poor bastard's bar tabs. Beer, straight from the pitcher.

29 St. Peter's Day. Patron saint of clockmakers, fishermen, Russia; against fever, foot trouble and wolves. Red Wolf Red Ale.

30 Superman debuted in print (1938). Booze 'til you're bulletproof.

Kryptonite

1 oz Midori melon liqueur

1/2 oz Rurple Minze

1/2 oz Goldschlager

1 oz shot Bacardi 151

Pour into shot glass, layer with 151.

1 The Feast of the Most Precious Blood. Creepy Catholic celebration celebrates Christ bleeding. Rusty Nail.

2 National Literacy Day. Attempt to write the Great American Novel on bar napkins—one drink at a time. Booker's Bourbon.

3 International Civil Disobedience Day. No, I will not show you my ID! Screwdrivers at home.

4 Independence Day (USA). Celebrate our freedom to drink crappy American beer. *Bud.*

5 Peace and Unity Day (Rwanda). Seethe irony and sarcasm. *Virgin Bloody Mary, except with vodka.*

Wow, not a bad list, but it's amazing how it takes us RIGHT into July! Where did June go? Well, I tell you one thing, I'm skipping the Bud on Independence Day, but I will stick with some other crappy American beer... How about some Busch Light?

Yesterday we headed into town with the in-laws and celebrated my nephew's birthday. Happy Birthday Jay! Also this week, Jenny Penny is celebrating HER birthday and has actually invited everyone over for a party. NO ONE will miss this one... Especially if Jen is buying!!! Should be a good time!

With June ending, we're looking at July and another holiday weekend. Here we're officially taking off on Monday the 5th, but I am sure that it will be a pretty sparse crew here on Friday as well. I know I'm looking forward to another long weekend, and I sure hope work cooperates! I hope to get out and maybe fish a little, get out on the bike and put on a few miles, and maybe get out to Zumbo's ranch and make some wood. I am WAY behind on getting wood made!!!

Well, looking over the update, I'd rate it a 4... A little too rushed and poorly thought out... But you get what you pay for... Don't expect an update next week, but you never know...

As always, before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty." ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy quotes

I wonder if we, as a country, truly believe that anymore...

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

curtamous

June 14, 2010 - Jak se maj!!! Happy Sunday evening everyone! Kinda of a "dreary" weekend with the rain we had late in the week and the cool cloudy weather, but personally, I prefer that to the hot humid stuff. For me, it was nice to get home...

Yeah, I made the trip to Detroit last week and it was a good one. Work wise, it went "OK"... I put in over 40 hours Monday to Wednesday, not counting any travel, so I had a lot to do and got a lot done, but a few of the technical items went a little haywire, so I had issue to deal with. But over all, it all went well...

Detroit itself was OK... The hotel was in a nice area, but the plant was in a pretty run down industrial type area. Not a place I'd walk around at 2am, but nothing too bad. The hours were long so I didn't do too much else, but I did find a place that had a really good gyro call Parthenon Coney Island. Weird name, but I figured with the "Parthenon" in it, it couldn't be all bad. So I got a gyro/fry/pepsi, and at first I didn't like the sauce at all... Spoiled by the Madison Parthenon no doubt. But after a couple bites it really grew on me. It was a subtle creamy sauce that had almost a silky texture to it. By the end of the gyro, and I ate the whole thing, I was sold. If they had better onions, it might come close to a tie, but even so a close second to Madison's

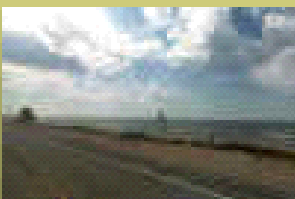
variety... It was so good I went back the next night and had another... with extra sauce... Probably the highlight of the stay.

The trip was a story all in itself. I took the "south" router there and left at noon on Sunday. Got a nice Jeep Cherokee as a rental, so that made it pretty sweet. I've made the trip to Chicago many times, so that was uneventful, but getting south of Chicago took longer than I realized. It's a big city! Then I headed east toward Indiana, and I tell you what... It stinks there... It is truly like an armpit. I80 is pretty much an asphalt jungle, and not at all pleasant. But from there I turned north into Michigan and then east toward Detroit, and I was truly shocked at how nice a drive it was. The countryside is not at all like Wisconsin. Very little farmland like we have and mostly rolling hills through forested areas... I couldn't have enjoyed it much more. Got to my hotel earlier than expected a little after 8pm EDT, so the trip with a bathroom break, a gas stop, and a dinner stop took just over 7 hours. Not too bad at all...

I decided to take the "north" route home even though it was quite a bit longer. Headed west and then pretty much due north. I actually "considered" heading further west to say Hi to Jack/Ass in St. Johns, but figured I had enough driving ahead of me... I was right...

Again, very nice countryside and not at all like Wisconsin. I could count the dairy farms on one hand. Otherwise it was really pretty country and a neat drive through "lower Michigan". Then I got to "the bridge". The Mackinaw Bridge. I heard stories about it being a big deal and all but couldn't understand all the fuss. Well it is a big bridge for around here, but I've been on bigger. Well as I got on it, I realized the deal... It doesn't really have sides like every other bridge like that I've been on. Usually you have concrete sides you can just see over so it's like being on any highway. Not this one... Metal railing on the side you can see right through, so it seems like you're right on the edge. To top it off, the middle lanes are metal grating, so you can see the water underneath you. So between the two, it was pretty un-nerving. I got over just fine though, but I could see it being a mental challenge going over on a motorcycle... (I hope to try that some day!)

So then I was in the UP on gorgeous Highway 2. And I mean literally gorgeous! After a few miles you kick out almost right onto the sand beaches of Lake Michigan. They literally have signs warning you about blowing sand... Here's a picture off Goggle Maps to give you an idea...



So you have that, and tons of National Forest and quant little towns and just a really neat trip. It was a two lane highway so it wasn't super fast, but I never got caught behind anyone going less than 55 and the passing lanes every ten miles or so too care of them too. But I will admit it as a LONG way across the top of the lake. Seemed to take an awful long time to get to Escanaba... From there I took 35 south to Marinette and THAT is a very pretty drive too... Then it was back to 4 lane 41 and home. Just over 9 hours with a breakfast stop, gas stop, and lunch stop. Not bad, but 9 hours is a pretty long time... Went through pretty much my whole playlist on my MP3 player. I am definitely glad I drove and took those routes. Probably a once in a lifetime thing...

One nice thing was having the Garmin GPS along. I didn't "really" need it at all, but its kinda fun to have a long and have an updated map right in front of you all the time. I'm a "map" kinda guy and like that kinda stuff, so it's pretty cool not having to pull out a map every time you want to check where you are. Not sure if it's worth \$150, but it sure made that trip nice...

I got home from work Friday to find out we took a lightening hit that day. Some of our cable was

messed up and my computer in the basement wouldn't connect. Turned out in the afternoon Jake was sitting in the living room and saw a HUGE flash and then a gigantic KA-BOOM right in front of our house. I'm not sure where it hit as I didn't see any damage outside, but I had a computer hub fry, 3 ports on my wireless router fry, and the cable booster and phone box dead. Pretty weird how it picks and chooses... Personally, I think we were lucky and could have been much worse. The neighbors lost two TVs... THAT would have made me mad... But we got the cable guy in to fix the booster and the phones and I'll replace the other stuff, so we're not much worse for the wear...

The Mayor got a new computer for herself. Can you believe it? Talked to her for over a half an hour tonight about it... Well, about 3 minutes about the computer and 27 minutes about the rest of the world. I don't talk to ANYONE on the phone that long except customers at work and my dear sisters... :-)

Haven't been on the bike for over a week, so after I cut my hay field (my lawn was REALLY long with all the rain) I took a spin today up to Bayshore Park and back. Didn't hit any rain and had a nice drive. Cool weather and no traffic. Only a few people on the reef at the park but quite a few boat trailers, but not packed. Bike ran good... Knock on wood...

Yesterday my lovely bride and I headed out to downtown Stark for 6pm Mass. (I went there last week too, so two weeks in a row) Then we headed into town to run some errands and we stopped at Gilly's for supper. Good stuff! It's on the corner of Mason and Taylor right by Highway 41. Kinda of an old fashion drive in type of place, and they have really good food and great malts. I recommend it!!!

So, let's see why you're fat...

Two 1/2 pound beef patties, pulled pork BBQ, bacon, 2 slices of cheddar cheese and a fried egg.

I could eat that... There's hardly any fries...

Say, last update we had Rolling Rock featured, but I didn't get any. So, when I got to Detroit I got a 12'er of "The Rock" for my hotel... Hmmmm.... Good stuff! Anyway, a week late is better than never...

So, here's this week's schedule:

14 Che Guevera's (1928) and Donald Trump's (1946) Birthdays. *Pick a fight with yourself. Expensive champagne and cheap tequila.*

15 Waylon Jennings Birthday (1937). Outlaw musician was one of Buddy Holly's Crickets. *Moonshine.*

16 Day of the Rat (Buddhist). "Never rat on a rat."—Rat Pack's official motto. *Whatever you can steal.*

17 Battle for Bunker Hill Day (1775). Defend your barstool to the bitter end.*PBR.*

18 Battle of Waterloo (1815). *Reenact the battle in your stomach with cognac and gin. You heard me.*

19 Miller High Life unleashed on the drinking public (1903). Named after a brand of cigar. *Miller High Life.*

**20 Errol Flynn's Birthday (1909). Raise a stiff one to the swashbuckling souse.
In Like Flynn Cocktail
1 1/2 oz spiced rum
1 1/2 oz Irish Mist
*Mix and shoot.***

HEY!!! It's a Miller High Life Saturday night!!! I didn't know it was named after a cigar... Cool!!! But first I have to get past "moonshine" Tuesday... Mr. SEC-W/M, DO NOT bring me any of yours!

Speaking of the SEC-W/M, I got a text picture from him this morning... A classis too, but for the life of me I can't figure out how to get it off the Cellcom picture view and either on my phone or sent to my email... He may have to email me a copy some other way... Anyway, seems there is some debate related to the Huskers coming into the Big Ten. Can't wait until they do and they take up residence with the 2nd tier of teams... RIGHT below the Badgers! LOL!

Last week the SEC-Transportation celebrated his birthday. Should have turned 26 by my count. Happy birthday Greg! Hope you had a GREAT day!

Well, after a two week hiatus, I don't think that's too bad of an update... But I best be getting this uploaded and off to bed... Another VERY busy week at work coming up...

But as always, before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice". (If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.) ~ Michigan Motto

Much better than the 3000 billboards that say "Pure Michigan"... PLEASE... Whoever came up with that was never in Detroit...

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

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