

The curtamous page

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Mar. 29, 2010 - Jak se maj!!! Howdy folks... Well, it's been another two week hiatus from the old diatribe, so this week I'm getting started early! It's Sunday night and I'm typing away at the old 'puter! I apologize for the lack of an update last week, but it's the old good news/bad news deal... The good news is business is good and I'm pretty busy at work. The bad news is that the updates don't get done and my 4 readers are disappointed... Ha! Anyway, I'm going to try to change my schedule around and start this over the weekend now and we'll see how that works!

So what's been going on? Well, last weekend I had great luck and got my new starter in my bike. Got everything all prepped on Friday night and on Saturday morning I was under the bike and getting the parts swapped out. It went pretty darn good too! The new starter was just a shade longer so I had to "persuade" it into palace, but otherwise everything went into place and the starter turned right over. Awesome! The bad news... It still wouldn't start...

It would turn over and kinda catch but never really fire... Then the battery would die, so I'd recharge it and start all over again... No go... So off to my motorcycle online forum to do some research. Well, it seems that these older Goldwings are not really fond of cold weather and if they sit for a while and get cold they don't want to run. The answer? Warm that engine block up... Well, I have a pretty good little block heater that has a big magnet on it and you just stick it on and let it sit for an hour and you're all set. I've used it on my cars and even the snow blower... Well, the Goldwing block is aluminum... So much for the magnet heater... So I just ended up running a small space heater under the block for 2 hours while the battery was charging and it fired right up! YES!!!

So off I went for my first trip of the year. I took a spin around town and then came back and did some maintenance checks, like tires, oil, coolant, etc. Made some tweaks and headed out again... My destination? The President's garage!

As I reported two weeks ago, the President has been working on his garage shop. Well, he has the wall done and it looks pretty darn good too! The door is kinda short, but he had to work with the sheets of plywood he had, so that'll be fine. Actually, it's perfect if you are a midget, so the AG is thrilled! Other than that The President plied me with a few beverages and he edified me in a few new Presidential initiatives, but otherwise it was all good. I got out of there relatively unscathed...

That was pretty much it that weekend... The Wisconsin roundballers lost in the NCAA, so that suddenly got boring, but there was a lot of good high school ball going on. The boy's tournament was on TV and there were some pretty good games I caught. Plus, the local girl's sectionals were on and The Chief's squeeze was playing and won the sectional semi on Thursday over a tough Freedom team so they were on to the sectional final on Saturday against Winneconne in Seymour. I had time to go so I headed to the game... Unfortunately, I jinxed them and they got beat. It was one of those games where they played a little below average and the

opponent played way above. But that's sports... It was also pretty weird rooting for LC, but I got over it. Congrats Kelsey... Great year!

Oh yea, two Mondays ago we headed out to celebrate the FDA Chairman's birthday with the traditional dinner. We went to Fratellos, which is a pretty nice place (read upscale) on the Fox River in Green Bay. Good food and drink, and we all had a really good time. But it seemed to take forever! Not that it was long or we had bad service, but the next thing you knew it was 9pm, and I had to be up at 3:30am the next day to head to a work meeting at 7:30am in Milwaukee. Like I said, work is busy, and that's a GOOD thing! Little George was there and really enjoyed the beer, soup, bread and dessert, so that added to the entertainment for sure! Anyway, we had a good time... Happy Birthday Carl!

Not much else going on the last two work weeks so we'll head into this last weekend. Saturday was a big day! Taxes and birthdays! I started out in the morning determined to get my taxes done. I have both kids' returns done, but mine is a pain with some stuff involving my work situation, so I had to get disciplined and get at it. So at it I went and by 11am I was pretty much done, at least as far as I could get. I have to go back and check stuff and ask some questions, but I think I should be OK. I may show up at the Sausage Stuffers some evening with a case of beer to have him review, but we'll see. Good to have that pretty much done anyway.

In the afternoon we headed to the west side of Green Bay for a surprise birthday party for my Uncle Lloyd. (Note to all travelers: DO NOT follow my sisters when they do not know where they are going!) He turned 80, and is going on 17... Uncle Lloyd is a great guy, with a great name (Says Curtis Lloyd Nelson!) and he was pretty surprised! Nice crowd there and had a chance to sit down and talk with my cousins for a while, which was pretty nice. Unfortunately, I had to head out a little early due to work stuff, but at least I could be there for a while. Happy 80th Uncle Lloyd!!!

Today (Sunday) I didn't get too much accomplished, but I did get out on the bike again and took a bit of a spin around the countryside. It didn't warm up nearly as much as the weathermen said (idiots!) but I dressed warm and it was just fine. I headed out to Waymor Park and made sure the river is still there and then headed east to Shea's Lake to make sure the ice was off and it was. Mission accomplished! The bike ran well but it did moan and groan a bit from the cold, but at least this time I didn't have to "warm her up"! With the warm weather forecast for this week, maybe I'll get it out after work some night... Hoping!

On the sports front, the Badger hockey team had a great weekend and is headed to the Frozen Four after two big NCAA regional wins over Vermont and St. Cloud State. The scores were close but the Badgers are really playing well. Luck was not on their side this weekend and they still dominated. Let's hope they keep playing well and get some luck and bring another NCAA Championship back to Madison in two weeks!

Heard from Tom (the other half of the Jack/Ass team) all the way from Swaziland in the south of Africa. He dropped me a note to complain about the lack of an update. Can you believe that? I actually felt the tiniest bit bad, which may be why I'm at my computer on a Sunday night... anyway, he is there and more or less settled and getting into the swing of things. He has a web portal where he will be entering journals and posting pics, so if anyone is interested, please email me and I'll get you connected. He doesn't have a lot of time for it, so the updates will likely be spotty, but very interesting to say the least. Good to hear from you Tom! Take care down there and keep us posted!

Not much else is going on... Still Lent, so I'm trying to behave myself, but the end is in sight!

Got this from Zumbo the other day... I think he should have given this to the FDA Chair for his birthday!



After seeing the FDA Chair's cats, he may need an industrial strength carrier!

Here's another reason why you may be fat... I keep getting these, and they keep looking better and better and better...



Deep Fried Stout Beer Cupcakes

How can something like that be fattening???

Lent is nearing its end, but this week is Holy Week, so I'll be behaving, but for you heathens, here's what's to drink!

29 Expulsion of the Demons of Bad Luck Festival (Tibet). Demonic possession is bad enough, but bad luck demons? Believe me, you don't want 'em.

Exorcism By Fire

1 1/2 oz Pernod

1 lemon wedge

6 dashes Tabasco Sauce

Coat the lemon wedge with sugar. Douse the lemon wedge with the 6 dashes of Tabasco. Shoot the Pernod and suck the lemon.

30 Doctor's Day. Me, I prefer to follow Dr. Hunter S. Thompson's advice. **Apple schnapps.**

31 Tater Day. Potato growers are notoriously informal. **Potato vodka.**

1 April Fool's Day. AKA The Day of Abject Cruelty Posing as Good Natured Hijinks. **Zima. (Gotcha!)**

2 Anniversary of Battle of the Flowers (French). Only the French would fight over flowers. **Fernet Branca.**

3 Festival of Min (Egyptian). Min was the god of wheat and sex. **Wheat beer in a sexy glass.**

4 First home phone installed (1877). Making it ridiculously easy for the hungover masses to call in sick. **Bloody Mary.**

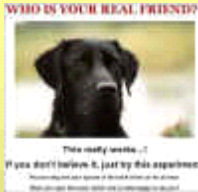
Hey, Bloody Mary's on Easter! That is a definite plan!!!

Hey, after looking at the schedule, I see it's gonna be April this week! AWESOME!!! You know what that means, Fish Camp 2010 is only a month away! I cannot wait!!!

Big week coming up with Holy week and Easter. Last week we also got approval to move

forward with our parish's web site project, so I have that on my plate as well. All good stuff, and it all piles on top of a pretty busy work schedule. As they say, sleep when you're dead!

Here's a very late Monday morning addition... Well, it's Monday morning here, but in the South of Africa, where Mr. Anderson is, it's probably already Happy Hour. Anyway, here's a good experiment. Let me know how it works out for you... First one to respond with your results gets a free Cat Carrier from Zumbo's garage...



Pretty good update, and I hope my four faithful readers enjoy! It is time to sign off, but before I head out, a few words of wisdom for our junior membership...

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." ~ Anne Bradstreet

How VERY VERY true is that!

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

curtamous

Mar. 15, 2010 - Jak se maj!!! Good morning everyone! Seems like it's been WEEKS since the last update... Oh yeah, it HAS been weeks! Sorry about the lack of an update last week. Between work being pretty hectic and getting a filling done last Monday, time just ran out. So, you'll get a double dose this morning. FAIR WARNING!

Lots of stuff going on around the world. My little world has been busy too! The week before last I bought a new car. Finally got the check from the insurance company and we pulled the trigger. But it was an iffy deal. The car we bought had more miles than I liked (111K) but has a good engine, so I hope it lasts. When we test drove it, first it had mushy brakes and the check engine light went on. Strikes one and two. They "fixed" both so I took it for another drive. All went well until I tried the passenger window. It got stuck open. Strike three, right? Well, the Chief "really" liked the car (it has a sun roof) so I told him OK. They fixed the window and gave me a decent price, so I wrote the check. Well, on the day we bought it, about two hours after taking it home, the check engine light came back on! Holy cow! Well, they stood behind it and fixed the "knock sensor" so everything is good now. Hopefully we are good to go!

More transportation issues. Beautiful weather yesterday and the temps rose to over 50 degrees, so it was time to get the bike out. I had already gotten the fairing and seat back on the bike, so I was all set. Got the basics done and tried to fire it up. As expected, it was sluggish and would fire but not catch. Watched the starter as I didn't want to over tax it and burn it out when I noticed it was SMOKING!!! OH NO! Well, on inspection, it was the starter cable getting hot and causing a rubber hood to melt and smoke. . Looked at the actual connection and it looked REALLY corroded, so I said to myself, "Self, you can clean that up while the starter cools down." Turns out that was a bad move...

So I grabbed two wrenches and tried to get the nut off so I could clean up the connector and post. Well, it turns out the whole post turned, which didn't phase me at the time. I cleaned up the connections some and put it back on. The post turning kinda threw me, but I got it back on

snug. Tried the starter and got nothing but clicks... Checked the connection and it looked ok but still nothing. Trying to figure it out I got it to catch just for a second and then clicks again. By wiggling it I got it to do that once more, but that's it. So off to the internet to figure out what I did... After a lot of searching I found two places that pretty much say I broke it when that post started turning. Pretty crappy design if you ask me... So, I need to get the starter fixed/replaced. Working on that...

Two weekends ago Captain Chuck was home so we had a little get together to catch up and have some fun. Had a fantastic Friday fish meal at Sisters in downtown Denville and then hit a few of the local hotspots. Captain Chuck is doing well and has gotten through the first major qualifications so he won't be shipped back to the boat anytime soon, assuming he keeps his nose clean. He seems to like the area he is in, has a bunch of toys to play with when he's not working, and sounds like he has his life and goals in order. Good to hear and it was great to see him... Even if I didn't feel too good the next day!

Staying with the military, I also got word on GI Joe. Here's a note from his old man the FM:

Joe Graduates! (Highly doubtful GI Joe will be around for Fish Camp weekend. He graduates next week. Then, he should be home for 2-3 weeks, but that is still yet to be determined for sure (gotta love the US Military). Then he's off to parts unknown to protect the rest of the American public (as scary as that sounds!)

I got a subsequent message from the FM that we shouldn't count out GI Joe from attending Fish Camp 2010 as he "could" be home around that time. Turns out he will be staying in Ft. Benning after graduation to attend "Airborne School". GI Joe? Airborne School? Is he sure they don't just want him to jump out of an airplane... Once? Well, either way, good luck Joe! We're thinking of you and keep you in our prayers!

Been in touch with The President the last two weeks. Two weeks ago he called me about more TV issues at his mother's. He went out and got a new flat screen TV for her and was having issues with the digital "dot" channels. You know, the 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 channels you get on over the air digital TV. Well, the remote didn't have a "dash" or a "dot" key, so they had to use the channel up/down buttons which is a pain. Plus, he couldn't go right to 2 or 5 for some reason. Turns out the 2 or 5 issue was he had to hit "02" or "05". Go figure... And that TV remote doesn't have a "dash" key, so they are stuck there. But I hear she likes her TV so that's cool.

I stopped over at The President's yesterday to see what was up and he was busy working on his garage shop "wall". He was actually making progress too!!! Personally, I would have done it a little different, but he has a good plan going and it should work out. He's also checking to see if his nephews are still game to knock down some trees up at the cabin this weekend, so you might hear more about that this week too. Scary, as he still wants to knock down some of those trees that are "leaning" over the cabin... We might have some good stories next week!

The President mentioned yesterday that he put something on the website's guestbook... I said, "Bob, I shut that down about 5 years ago because of spam..." To which he replied, "Well no wonder no one responded!" Only The President...

BIG HUGE WEEK for birthdays. The FM and SEC-D'Fence both had birthdays yesterday. I thought the FM might be the BIG-50, but it turns out he was 50 LAST YEAR! Who knew? Looking at him I would have guessed 60, but some things are surprising! So if you see either of these boys, wish them a Happy Birthday!

The reason I thought maybe the FM was turning 50 is because the FDA Chairman is FIFTY YEARS OLD TODAY!!! Yep, he is officially an old man! To celebrate the event, we showed up at his domicile Saturday night and had a surprise party for him. He was in his jami's, so we

obviously surprised him! Had a really great time and he got some pretty hilarious gifts. Good food, good drinks, and a lot of laughs! So if you see the old man any time soon, please wish him a Happy Birthday!

So, with Carl turning 50, that makes me the last remaining youngster in our family... Its gonna be hard dealing with all these geriatrics for the next 20, 30, 40 years... :-)

Not much real exciting going on in the world of sports, but great stuff is coming with the NCAA March Madness and the Hockey Frozen Four right around the corner. This weekend the Badger hockey team swept Alaska in the 1st round of the WCHA tournament, so they are on to the WCHA Final 5 this weekend. They will definitely get a birth in the NCAA hockey tournament regardless of how they do. The NCAA brackets were announced yesterday for basketball and no big surprises there. Should be fun watching.

Local prep basketball news as the dreaded LC Spartans beat the Denville cagers in girl's basketball this weekend. I mention it because of the matchup, but also because the Chief's main squeeze plays for LC and had a really great game with 4 three's and 18 points. She's a great girl with a fantastic family (which is rare in LC) so I didn't even mind having them beat Denville too much. They go on to sectionals this weekend, so Good Luck Kelsey!

Funny, but I got the following joke from couple different sources, most notable from the FM and the left half of the Jack/ASS team:

The guys were all at a deer camp. No one wanted to room with Bob, because he snored so badly.. They decided it wasn't fair to make one of them stay with him the whole time, so they voted to take turns.

The first guy slept with Bob and comes to breakfast the next morning with his hair a mess and his eyes all bloodshot. They said, "Man, what happened to you? He said, "Bob snored so loudly, I just sat up and watched him all night."

The next night it was a different guy's turn. In the morning, same thing, hair all standing up, eyes all bloodshot. They said, "Man, what happened to you? You look awful! He said, 'Man, that Bob shakes the roof with his snoring. I watched him all night."

The third night was Fred's turn. Fred was a tanned, older guy, a man's man. The next morning he came to breakfast bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. "Good morning!" he said. They couldn't believe it. They said, "Man, what happened?"

He said, "Well, we got ready for bed. I went and tucked Bob into bed, patted him on the butt, and kissed him good night. Bob sat up and watched me all night..."

Now it's funny as the FM is spending significant amounts of time in South America, and the left half of the Jack/Ass team is in South Africa right now. Obviously, this joke originated at Bob's Buck Camp back in the 70's. And it's just reaching South America and Africa!!! Go figure...

After the incredible spread at the FDA Chairman's birthday party, I have a pretty good idea of how people get fat, but here's another contributor:

The Cheddar Pour

Two burger paddies topped with an oversized layer of cheddar cheese.

Looks like a cheesburger any Thompson would LOVE!!!

Lent is half over, but for those of you still imbibing at will, here are some ideas for the week!

15 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor marry for the first time (1964). Forming the greatest husband/wife drinking team of the century. **Vodka tonic and champagne.**

16 Bacchus Day. Christmas for drunkards. **Flagons and flagons of wine.**

17 St. Patrick's Day. Chase the snakes out of your mind. **Green beer.**

18 Sheelah's Day (Ireland). Honors the woman who historians reckon was either the mother or wife of St. Patrick.

Forbidden Taboo Cocktail

1 oz white rum

1 oz Midori Melon Liqueur

1 oz pineapple juice

2 tsps lemon juice

2 drops grenadine

Combine in blender with crushed ice. Blend until smooth.

19 Minerva's Day (Roman). Celebrates Roman Goddess of Crafts, Trades — and War. Just in case you were thinking about frontin'. **Warsteiner Beer.**

20 Martini Season begins. The triumphant return of the Stemmed Glass Satan. **Martini.**

21 End of the World Day (Iran). Better drink up while you can.

End of the World

1 oz Bacardi 151

1 oz Wild Turkey 101

1 oz vodka

Serve warm in a shot glass.

Hey! Martini's on Saturday! Wish it wasn't Lent!!! I wasn't even aware there WAS a martini season! maybe it just starts and ends on 3/20? But if you look closely at the 21st and that "End of the World" cocktail, you could see why you would want it to be the end if you had to drink that...

Lots of stuff going on... Gotta get back to my taxes soon... Gotta fix the bike... College hockey and basketball playoffs... Lots of work and church stuff going on... Maybe heading to the cabin this weekend... Oh, and did I mention?

CARL TURNS 50 TODAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

To "further" celebrate, we'll be taking the old man out to eat tonight. Heading to a spot on the Fox River... I planned it early enough that the old guy won't fall asleep at the table, but you never know...

Well, not the worst update ever, but I'm sure I missed a lot of stuff... Oh well... But before I say goodbye, a few words of wisdom for our junior membership...

"I will never be an old man. To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am." ~ Francis Bacon

Sounds like the FDA Chair... AND like his older sisters...

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

curtamous

Mar. 1, 2010 - Jak se maj!!! Happy March everyone!!! March is a pretty good month as far as months go... Pretty much the end of winter and signs of spring start appearing. Yeah, we will most likely still get a bunch of crappy winter weather, but you know what? The end is in sight. The days are longer. It's a little bit warmer. The snow is more likely to be melting on any given day. Yeah, March is alright...

Despite some questionable birthdays this month... You know who you are...

Busy bees at work these days, which is a great thing. Spent some time up in Marinette last week, and we installed a new client on Friday. Lots of other projects going on, and our annual shareholders meeting is this Friday. With spring in the air, it's pretty much all good... Except for those "STUPID" users...

The President called yesterday and stopped by. Seems The President's mother has had ongoing issues with her television set, so I offered to borrow one of the many extra sets we have to the cause. Under the condition of course, that the TV gets stored there permanently after he is done using it. I also performed some consulting services as he is still fighting the windmill called digital TV. All this without even one beer being cracked!!!

The President did report a good time up north on his annual ice fishing weekend. Not a lot of fish caught, but some real dandy sized perch and crappies. I think he needs to teach me how to

ice fish one of these years... Him or Luke Skywalker... One of the two...

The search for a new car has entered the next chapter: The Check is Here So Let's Go Shopping! Yep, the check "finally" arrived Saturday. Earlier in the week I was informed that I didn't "do it right", so it's a darn good thing it finally got here. So the Chief and I went out on Saturday afternoon and looked around. Despite the fact he was a bit "tired", we hit 12 different lots, and I think we found a possible keeper at the 2nd to last one. More work on that today after work (hopefully)...

Got the motorcycle seat project pretty much done... I just have to put the seats back on. It turned out OK. Those cheap vinyl repair kits they sell on TV aren't all they say they are, but I found a way to make it work. You have to heat the vinyl after you put it on, and the little metal tool, that you're supposed to heat with an iron, just didn't seem to work for me. So I used a heat lamp to "cure" the stuff. Worked OK... Yeah, you can defiantly see where the work was done in a BIG way, but the holes are patched and it's functional again, and that's all that matters. Maybe someday I'll get new covers, but not anytime soon...

Anybody catch any hockey this weekend? Well, the Badgers swept the Tech Huskies, so they have home ice wrapped up for the WCHA tournament, which is good. They are in 2nd in the WCHA with a 2 point lead over the 3rd place team, but 5 behind 1st place, which is now out of reach. One week to go and they wrap up the regular season at Minnehaha. They are also ranked 3rd in the nation, so an NCAA berth is pretty much a sure thing... Fun stuff!

Well, I didn't find the Badgers anywhere on TV this weekend, but I did get my hockey fix on Sunday with the Olympic Gold medal game. I was pretty busy with work stuff, so I didn't pick it up until half way through the 3rd period. That worked out great though as I caught the game tying US goal with less than a minute left and then overtime. Canada won, but that was OK. The US did great and you got to see some great hockey.

Hmm... Not much else, so let's move on to another reason why you're fat...

Ham, scrambled eggs and onions over a bed of homefries topped with sausage gravy, bacon, cheddar and Jack cheese!

That looks good enough to eat!!!

Despite Lent going well, you never know when you need a good drink... Here's a list from the "Idea Staff"!

1 National Beer Day (Iceland). Celebrates the end of 75 years of prohibition of beer in 1989. **Ice cold brew.**

2 First Festival of Vesta (Roman). You're going to want to whoop it up on this one, because the second one kinda sucks. **Tuaca.**

3 National Mulled Wine Day. No need to mull over this one.

Bad Pun Punch

3 oz rum

Orange juice

2 tblsp grenadine

Shake and strain.

4 America's first tavern opens (1634). Imagine the line outside the door. **Make a run down the taps.**

5 Failed Coup Day (Equatorial Guinea). At least when you mess up they don't commemorate it with a goddamn national holiday. **Pisco.**

6 Anniversary of the Battle of the Alamo (1836). Whiskey drinkers fight to the death for Texas. **Lone Star Beer.**

7 Switzerland gave women the right to vote (1971). Better late than never, eh, ladies? **Ladies choice.**

Not much of interest, but I did have to check out what the heck "Picso" is... Well, Pisco is a South American liquor distilled from grapes... Basically high octane grape juice from what I can tell... I like grape juice!

Really not much going on this week... Lots of work stuff and I'm still involved in the parish web site project, so that'll keep me busy. Gotta buy a car... Yuck... But that's about it I think...

So, since its already late afternoon, let's call it a day! But before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior membership...

"Truly wonderful, the mind of a child is." ~ Yoda

Very true... Who can't but love a junior member?

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

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