

The curtamous page

August 2011 Archived Notes

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September 5, 2011 - ***Jak se maj!***

Can't leave without some words of wisdom for the junior members...

"If all the cars in the United States were placed end to end, it would probably be Labor Day Weekend" ~ Doug Larsen

Keep your stick on the ice...

curtamous

August 21, 2011 - Jak se maj! Happy Sunday evening... I hope all is well out there... It sure was a beautiful day today! Not too hot and not too cold, mostly sunny with a sprinkle or two here in Denville. Been outside most of the day (more on that later) and I couldn't be much better... I'm even on call this weekend and it hasn't been bad... Hope that doesn't jinx it! On to the update... A full one this week I hope...

Well, the Dells trip went off early this week without much of a hitch... Actually, it was fantastic other than the incredible draw on my bank account hosted by my beautiful bride. Oh well, no chance of me taking any money with me, that's for sure! So my lovely bride and the Chief headed to Beertown Sunday night and then they and the weatherman and his sidekick head over to the Dells...

Me? I hung around home and got some work done Monday morning and then at noon I hopped on the bike to head down. First of all, we had perfect weather. The ride was completely awesome! I took 151 down to Fonddulac, then west on Hwy 23 all the way to the Dells. I had a couple detours, but nothing major. GORGEOUS countryside and some really neat little towns. Took me about 3 and a half hours with a short stop in Rosendale and the bike ran beautifully. But I will admit, I was a little tired after the ride...

The family was already at the hotel so we had a beer while they got cleaned up after a day at the water park. We ended up going out to eat (average food but pricey!) and took a walk on the downtown strip... Nothing earth shattering, but a nice time... OH YEAH! We stopped and had one of those wild west photos taken of the clan. Actually, it was a gangster photo, but it turned out to be pretty fun and really not all that expensive. Good time and a nice memento... After the strip we headed back to the hotel and the kids swam a bit and then we crashed. Everyone was kinda tired from the various activities, so it was kinda lame, but much needed...

Tuesday we were up early and took advantage of a better than average hotel breakfast and then I packed up to hit the road. (The rest of the family hung out and then headed to Madison for the

day) I had decided to take another route back home. I headed north from The Dells on 13, then east on HWY's 21, 22, and 54... Then east on S through Freedom and then to Wrightstown and home... Took me a little longer, maybe 3 hours and 45 minutes, but still a great ride. Perfect weather again and slightly different but still wonderful countryside. REALLY REALLY REALLY great ride!

Tuesday night I had to myself as the family went back to Beertown for the evening, so that was nice too... The only thing that concerned me was that the rides did kinda tire me out, and now I'm wondering if an all day trip to Lake Superior is such a great idea. Oh, I have no doubt I can make it safely, but if it isn't a total blast, what's the point? Gotta think this one through a bit... Maybe making an option of a two day trip makes the most sense... We'll see... Anyway, I had a great two day vacation! Thanks to my great family and my great bike!

Not much else going on this week other than Mass out at our little church on thursday, but it sure was a pretty good weekend... Yesterday (Saturday) I got a bunch of yard work and cleaning done. I even got out to the church to trim the bushes by the graves, assisted by the Chief Inspector (Thanks Jake!). I decided against chopping them down this year, but it a definite option for next year. I'll see if we can get any consensus in the family on that. I also fished re-reading an old but good book in the evening, so overall, a great day!

Oh yeah... I also order a bonus tag for deer management unit 49B on Saturday as well... They went on sale at noon and I logged in a minute later and scooped one up. No, I have no plans on using it, but you never know when you might "need" one... Not a big deal other than it reminds me that 1) Summer is pretty much over, and 2) DEER CAMP 2011 is right around the corner! Yeah!!!

Today we got up early and headed to 8am Mass in Kellnersville to spend some time in Bohemian country. From there we headed home for the big project of the weekend... Smoking fish! I had thawed the salmon that I caught with Skipper over the 4th of July holiday yesterday and marinated them overnight in fairly basic brine. When I got home I got them out, rinsed and let them dry to form the "pellicle" they need before smoking. (It works too! But I should have left dry them even longer... Next time.) While drying I fired up the smoker and got everything ready... I had them on the smoker by 10:15...

The smoking went well, but it got a little hotter than I normally like (Up to 200 degrees) but it didn't seem to bother them. This is actually a pretty good activity if you're stuck around home (on-call) but need something to putz with. I'd check the fire every 30 minutes or so and to add charcoal, wood chips and wood chunks as needed... In about 4 and a half hours the bigger pieces were done (and the little ones REALLY done, but I like 'em that way too). I cleaned everything up and then had a sample. They turned out pretty good! Not great or fantastic or anything, but a very passible smoked fish that I wouldn't be afraid to serve anyone... Even my lovely bride liked it!!! Next time I might go a little wilder on the brine, maybe more sugar or salt or even spice, but not too much as I don't want to mess them up either.

I called Skipper to see if he was in town and wanted a sample but haven't heard back from him all day... So, if anyone is curious, feel free to stop by for a sample... I doubt they'll last beyond Wednesday though!

After the fish were done and everything was cleaned up I jumped on the bike and took a short ride, just to make sure she's still running good. Nice 30 mile trip around the countryside and home to the computer to get to work on this update... Overall, a really great weekend!!!

It's been a while, so let's see if there's anything interesting on this week's drink menu!

22 Dorothy Parker's Birthday (1893). "I like to have a martini, two at the very most.

*After three I'm under the table, after four I'm under my host." **At least four martinis***

*23 Anniversary of the Death of William "Braveheart" Wallace. When they cruelly drag you out of the pub, make sure you roar, "Freedom! Freedom!" **Scotch.***

*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.***

Martini Tuesday "and" Martini Thursday, but otherwise nothing too outlandish... I'll stick to beer the other days, but a martini "does" sound kinda good right about now... especially if you have the right host!

Here's an interesting pic...



Not sure if I'd put that in the "Bob" category or the "Crazy Ideas Seen at FishCamp" category... Since The President is usually "at" Fish Camp, perhaps both fit!

As usual, been busy at work... We are moving into our new office building on or around October 1st, so we have that added (but exciting) work piled on top of everything else...

This coming week will be an interesting one... Sunday is the annual church picnic, and you know what that means... (I am behaving THIS year!) The FDA Chairman and head church guy will be cooking booyah on Saturday this year (it just gets too hectic for him to run the whole place AND cook everything too, but you'd think he'd be used to it), so that makes it a TWO day party this year... The church picnic and meeting is always one of the more fun times of the year, so I am looking forward to it very much...

But I do intend on behaving this year as next Monday I'll be heading out to Valley Forge, PA for work so I do NOT want to be feeling "under the weather" for the trip. I could handle that stuff when I was young (barely) but not so much now... Out there for 3 days and will be back on Thursday if all goes well...

So that pretty much eliminates any chance of an update next week... The week after is Labor Day weekend, so there is a "slight" chance for a 3 week layoff... But I doubt it as I'm on call Labor Day weekend and will likely be around home, so I might as well get an update done... But it could be a day late and perhaps a dollar short...

So, I think that's it... Not too much, but not too bad either... So I'll be back in two or three weeks, but before I sail off, here are a few words of wisdom for the junior members...

"Four wheels move the body. Two wheels move the soul." ~ Author Unknown

I don't know why, but that is very true... At least for me and my bike... Here's a bonus for those of you that worry about bikers...

"Most motorcycle problems are caused by the nut that connects the handlebars to the saddle." ~ Author Unknown

That also, is very true...

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

curtamous

August 14, 2011 - Jak se maj! Hey everyone... Coming to you on a Sunday evening and it's gonna be a quick update...

Well, tomorrow it's August 15th, and that means August is half done and the summer is waning. The days are getting noticeably shorter and the evenings are again cool enough to sleep and need a blanket. Where has the summer gone? Well, luckily, fall is right around the corner and THAT'S the best time of the year!

Not much to report from the last week except a lot of work... I did get out to Zumbo's yesterday and he and I made up a bit of wood and he played on his skid steer and cleaned up a bunch of brush down at "Christine's". I tell you what... There's more wood down there than I can ever make, but it sure is pretty down there and great to be out in the woods...

Word is my favorite god-daughter had her baby shower yesterday... I hadn't heard and was wondering why I wasn't invited... lol!!! My sister's acted like they were shocked I wasn't gonna be there... HA! But I hope (and I'm sure) they had a good time...

My plans for a trip north to Lake Superior fell through to the weather. Forecast said 80% chance of rain so I gave up by Thursday. Of course, we had almost zero rain, but there was quite a bit up north, so it's a good thing I gave up. Maybe later in the year...

I did take the bike into work one day and I also got out on a nice ride today, but the big news is I'll get to make a real trip on it tomorrow and Tuesday...

As I mentioned last week, the family wanted to go down to the Dells. Well, they decided on just Monday and Tuesday, but the Chief and my beautiful bride headed down to Beertown today to spend the night with the weatherman and his sidekick. They will head to the Dells early

tomorrow...

I plan on dealing with the dog in the morning and then jumping on the bike and heading down to meet them tomorrow afternoon. I have a nice route planned down there (except for some bothersome construction) and then we'll go get something to eat and check out the strip. Tuesday we'll have some breakfast and then I'm heading back. I have another router planned back that should be equally nice. (Weather is "supposed" to be good, but you know how that goes...) The rest of the family will spend the day there, head back to Milwaukee for the evening and then back home on Wednesday. So not only do I get a great bike trip, but I also get a couple evening off and a short work week... SWEET!!!

So, like I said... A short update... No lists or jokes or anything... But I should be back next week... Until then, I leave the junior members with a few words of wisdom...

"From the chin up, whatever you have two of, keep open. Whatever you have one of keep shut." ~ Edward Dickerson

So incredibly true! I think THAT makes up for the short update...

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

curtamous

August 8, 2011 - Jak se maj! Hi all... Coming to you on a Monday early AM as I TOTALLY forgot about the update last night... That means a REALLY quick update... Which shouldn't be a problem, as there's not a lot going on...

Slow weekend as I was on call and my beautiful bride gave me the day off on Saturday by heading down to Beertown to visit the Weatherman and his sidekick to go to the state fair. Nice day for both of us... I got some yard work done and the bills paid... Since "on-call" has been so crazy lately, I waited all weekend for the "shoe to drop" and it never did... Very strange... But a very nice strange...

Got a little work done on the bike... Changed the oil on Saturday, which it really needed, and over the course of the week I fixed the radio... Well, I didn't really fix it as it was never broken. Some weird "feature" that requires you to press a reset button when it's disconnected from power for some period of time. Found it, reset it, and now it works fine... Not that I use it a lot, but I do like it to work. Got a couple short rides in, including one day to work and a ride down to Fleet Farm in Manty on Sunday to pick up some of that magic elixir Seafoam... Good bike week for the most part, but I still need to get that darn trunk rack done...

I also need to get out and make some wood... Probably this fall...

Here's a little something from the Jack/Ass team... How perfect!

Opinions

Readers' Views

Objection from a former sailor

To the Editor:

I object and take exception to everyone saying that Obama and Congress are spending money like a drunken sailor. As a former drunken sailor, I quit when I ran out of money.

Bruce L. Hargraves
USN Retired
Worland

Family camping was this past weekend and I didn't get up there at all... Kinda sucks on my part... That's always a nice leisurely weekend... Need to re-prioritize my life don't I...?

Big shout out to the SEC-W/M who celebrates his 33rd (I think... Can he be that old???) birthday tomorrow... Happy birthday Ric!!!

Busy busy busy week coming up at work, but that's nothing new... The "family" wants to head down to the Dells next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, but it's pretty iffy for me due to work conflicts. My question is, why can't my family come up with a destination that isn't so freaking expensive? I am not a fan of the Dells for that reason alone, but it would be nice to spend a few days with my family... We'll see what happens...

I've also got a thought in my head to take a bike trip north to Lake Superior... I'm pretty sure I've never seen the waters of Lake Gitche Gumee, even from a plane, so I'd like to do that... I've got a plan that I think I can handle in a day's worth of riding, heading straight north to Marquette via Escanaba and then home via Niagara. I figure about 8 hours on the bike round trip plus various stops... Not sure if I'll pull the trigger on that or not, but I'll keep you posted...

That's all I have for today... short and sweet... No idea if I'll have an update next week... Probably not, but you never know...

How about a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members before I sign off?

The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down

***of the big lake they call "Gitche Gumee."
"Superior," they said, "never gives up her dead
when the gales of November come early!"***

~ From the "Wreck Of The Edmund Fitzgerald" by Gordon Lightfoot...

Great song... but sad...

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

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