

The curtamous page

February 2011 Archived Notes

[[Home](#)] [[OCT13](#)] [[SEPI3](#)] [[AUG13](#)] [[JUL13](#)] [[JUN13](#)] [[MAY13](#)] [[APRI3](#)] [[MARI3](#)] [[FEB13](#)] [[JAN13](#)] [[DEC12](#)] [[NOV12](#)] [[OCT12](#)] [[SEPI2](#)] [[AUG12](#)] [[JUL12](#)] [[JUN12](#)] [[MAY12](#)] [[APRI2](#)] [[MARI2](#)] [[FEB12](#)] [[JAN12](#)] [[2002_Notes](#)] [[2003_Notes](#)] [[2004_Notes](#)] [[2005_Notes](#)] [[2006_Notes](#)] [[2007_Notes](#)] [[2008_Notes](#)] [[2009_Notes](#)] [[2010_Notes](#)] [[2011_Notes](#)]

[Feb 13, 2011](#)

[Feb 20, 2011](#)

[Feb 27, 2011](#)

February 27, 2011 - **Dateline: Denmark, WI - ZUMBO TURNS 60!!!**

Jak se maj! Hey all! Yes, it's true! If you haven't been paying attention to recent events or caught the local news, the venerable Zumbo has reached a new milestone... Today he is indeed 60, and still acts like he's 18!!! Just ask The President to re-tell his "turkey hunting episode" and you'll know Zumbo is just officially 60, but that he's still as excitable and crazy as he every was! Of course, that's the way it should be! Zumbo, I hope you have a great day!!!

Other than that big news, not much else going on in this "dead of winter" time of year...

I did have a little excitement this week and now am the proud owner of a new used-but-upgraded snow blower. Yes, I've UPGRADED!!! Well, after the big snowstorm last weekend, my old snow blower did its job as always and we blew through all that nasty white stuff Mother Nature deposited. However, I went out on Monday night to clean up some of the drifting, not much really, but all of a sudden "SNAP! CRACKLE!! POP!!!" and oil began pouring out of the crankcase like it had been shot... I didn't even bother looking at it as I knew it was dead, done, a goner... I thanked it for all the good times and hard work it provided, and parked it in the garage. I was now on the hunt for a replacement... Which of course, as it is with most of my life, didn't go all that well. I had a few leads, but nothing solid...

So, with snow in the forecast for the weekend, I headed out to do some serious "shopping" at lunch on Friday... Stopped a few places, and even the new stuff was junk. Finally stopped over at DeGreef's (on a solid recommendation from the SEC-State) and the old guy had a whole showcase of used snow blowers lined up, just for me! Well, two of them caught my eye, as they were Airens, just like the old one, and looked about the same (But around 10 years newer, which actually, is still is pretty old). Anyway, he started them up, and the smaller 7Hp "sounded just like the old girl" so I told him I'd take her... Went back after work and picked her up... He even gave me a little cash for the old one, so she'll be put to good use....

But, as nature would have it, we really didn't get much snow this weekend, but I did get out with it and do a little and cleaned up those couple inches of fluffy stuff we got. But "I DID" have to clean up some old stuff, and let me tell you, the new girl has some "snot"... LOTS more power than the old one, so I'm pretty happy... So now I'm just waiting for snow... So if we get NONE, you all owe me a cold beer...

I did get the kids taxes done this weekend... Not too bad, but a little bit more than I had hoped for, especially the Weatherman's... I spent enough time on them though, so I'm pretty sure I got them right... So they should have their checks soon, I hope... Mine? Well I've gotta wait for my special small business stuff to get done, and then I can tackle them... THAT will not be fun...

Not much else going on... I really haven't even gotten any good jokes lately... Jack/Ass sent a couple, one being a pretty funny video that's too big to post, but let me know if you're interested and I'll forward it along... Oh yeah... They sent me this too:



Kind of original and not something I've seen before... Pretty good...

Well, since it's the dead of winter and there's nothing else to do, let's have a drink!!!

27 Runic Half-Month of Tyr begins. That's according to the cosmic pillar.

Any Reason to Drink Cocktail

1 oz vodka

1 oz gin

1 oz rum

Sprite

Lime slice

Mix the liquor, top with Sprite, garnish with lime.

28 St. Oswald of York's Day. He was also known as St. Oswald of Worcester. Everybody loved that goddamn monk. Old English Malt Liquor.

29 Leap Year Day. In Estonia it's traditional to jump over a wicker chair. Those kooky, fun-loving Estonians sure know how to party.

Leap Year Cocktail

1 1/4 oz gin

1/2 oz Grand Marnier

1/2 oz sweet vermouth

1/4 tsp lemon juice

Shake ingredients with ice, strain.

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

Not too much of interest there... Even with Leap Day thrown in or today's holiday! I think I'll stick with the 3/1/11 "National Beer Day"... Isn't EVERYDAY National Beer Day?

Wow... That means it's almost March... THAT is hard to believe... Well, that much closer to spring... And getting the bike out!!!

Speaking of beer, any of you remember this picture:



Pretty sure it's one of my nephews when they were little...

Pretty sure this is one of my nieces...



Those girls take after their mothers... First one to guess who is who gets a free Rolling Rock on Zumbo...

Spring ALSO brings us closer to the fishing season opener, so this week we're having our annual Fish Camp Meeting... Check your mail for invites, and make sure you RSVP... Of don't... Either way is fine... So we'll have most of the crew up in the shop Friday night and have a few beers, make a few plans, and generally talk smart... Should be a GREAT time! Can't wait...

Hope none of you are caught up in or seriously affected by the craziness in Madtown... Personally, I'm a little leery of anyone that takes it a little too far "either" way... I can understand if you are directly affected, but to be honest, no matter what happens, most of us are going to get screwed one way or the other... I mean seriously, you're dealing with politicians... Dem or Rep, they are all crooked... Almost worse than a viper pit of lawyers... My answer to the mess? Have a beer...

No progress on the newsletter... But I did get another submission... Hee... Hee... Hee...

That should be it for today... Hope you enjoyed... As is always the case, before I go, a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members...

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies." ~ Groucho Marx

"The enemy isn't conservatism. The enemy isn't liberalism. The enemy is bullshit." ~ Lars-Erik Nelson, political columnist

OK, you get two for the price of one this week... They were both so good and so on target, I couldn't choose... Just enjoy...

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

curtamous

February 20, 2011 - Jak se maj! Happy snowy Sunday everyone! Well, I hope everyone is glad to have winter back with us after the brief, but beautiful, hiatus... Doesn't look as bad out as they had been projecting, but it sure isn't nice. The wind will no doubt make things ugly by morning... Oh well... Gotta love Wisconsin!!! All I know is I hope I don't get hit with any more ICE DAMNS!!!

Speaking of Wisconsin, which side of the great Wisconsin Budget Issue do you reside on? As always, I try to see both sides of the issue, but I know I lean pretty much in one direction... I won't be sharing my opinions in this public forum, especially since there is no way for opposing opinions to articulate their arguments, but if you know me, you can probably guess how I feel about the whole thing... Feel free to [email](#) me if you want "your" opinion posted...

Personally, I would have much rather had more sturgeon spearing coverage on TV instead of all the political rhetoric we've had to see... But that's just me...

Kind of a boring week and not a lot to report on, so don't expect much of an update... My lovely bride did take off for the weekend, providing us both with vacations... She went to see the weatherman and his sidekick down in Brewtown... I assume they had a good time, but not so much fun trying to drive home through the storm... As always, alongwith the good there is usually the bad...

Had a good week at work, and was hoping to log fewer hours than normal, but then I had a boatload of stuff to get done yesterday and little of it went well... I was working until 10pm last night, but at least at the end of it all, things came together... So I got that going for me...

Didn't do too much today other than get caught up on my church website work and did a little with the weatherman's taxes. Both went well, but it still seemed like a pretty blah Sunday... That's pretty much how Sundays are after football season is over and before spring really hits... CAN'T WAIT to get on the motorcycle again...

If anyone is interested, one of my buddies at work found a neat tool called "dropbox" which allows for up to 2GB of "free" online storage... It's setup as a regular folder on your PC and you can install the interface on any PC or even your phone (if it's supported). I do a lot of work on my work PC, my home PC, and my phone, so I put a bunch of stuff out there that I need to get to from all three... VERY handy, at least in my situation... If anyone is interested in it, please let

me know... I can get free extra storage for referrals...

Well, I think we have a date for the annual Fish Camp meeting... We're scheduled for 3/4 up in the shop... If you didn't get an invite, you're probably not invited... If you want to come anyway, let me know... I'll flip a coin and see what comes up... Kinda looking forward to it... Always fun to talk about "spring" stuff in the winter... Not that March is really in the middle of winter, but so far it still seems that way...

The nice thing about this year's meeting is that it WON'T be held during Lent, but I am cutting it close... Since I can drink, let's discuss this week's drinking options...

20 Northern Hemisphere Hoodie-Hoo Day. At high noon everyone yells "Hoodie-Hoo" to chase away winter and usher in spring.

Crazy Swede

1 oz ouzo

1 oz vodka

1 tblsp cinnamon schnapps

Shake with ice, strain, shout Hoodie-Hoo and shoot.

21 Polaroid Camera introduced (1947). Drunken foolishness now readily transferable to bar walls. **Shot of Beam while flipping the bird.**

22 National Margarita Day. Gee, what shall we drink? **Margarita.**

23 Terminalia (Roman). Celebration of the Roman God of Boundaries, superceding the Feast of That God Who Collected Oddly Shaped Rocks.

The Terminator

1 1/2 oz Rurple Minze

1 1/2 oz black sambuca

Half fill shot glass with Rurple, top off with sambuca.

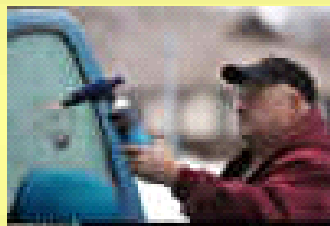
24 Flight of Kings Feast (Roman). Chase your boss down the street with a stick. **Little Kings Cream Ale.**

25 International Quiet Day. Oh, yeah? Who's gonna enforce it? The U.N.? Those guys are wussies! **Loud mouth soup (Dewar's neat).**

26 Jackie Gleason (1916) and Johnny Cash's Birthday (1932). And awaaaay we go to the bar. **Scotch served neat in a teacup.**

Seriously... The TERMINATOR? Who in their right mind would drink that? That sounds like a heart attack and heartburn all rolled into one... No thanks... and the "Crazy Swede"? What self respecting Swede, and there are very few of them, would have anything to do with Ouzo? OK, that's it, I'm sticking with Miller this week...

OK, here are a couple pics to comment on... (Yeah, click on them to see them full size...)



OK, the first one looks a little too much like The President not to think that's where that guy got

the idea... The second one? Well, if those don't look like the SEC-STATE's boots I don't know what they look like... What do you think?

Tomorrow night I'm going to head over to the SEC-Transportation's place to hook them up with a new PC. Theirs is kinda on their last legs and again having virus issues... It's older than I thought, so maybe it is time for a new one... I'm gonna go over and walk through some options and maybe help them place an order. We'll see... Hopefully I don't break anything else for them...

FINALLY started on the [newsletter](#)... Going is slow, especially with the lack of submissions, but I've come up with some ideas... It may be a while before I actually get it published, and it won't be the "usual" newsletter, but I think everyone will like it. If you don't, I'll try to hook you up with someone that cares...

I think that's all I have for today... After I spell check this and get it posted, I'm gonna go out and see how bad the snow is... Or, maybe I won't, but right now I have good intentions... So "Adios" for now... But before I go, a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members...

"Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be." ~ Abraham Lincoln

Have I used that one before? I ask because I find that to be the incredibly true... If I did, it's probably OK, as we all need to be reminded of that... Abe was a good guy...

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

curtamous

February 13, 2011 - Jak se maj! Hi all! After a two week hiatus, I have GREAT news! The Lombardi Trophy is back in Green Bay! Well, you may have already heard that one... Yeah, it was a great game and a definite microcosm of their whole year. Even a week later, it still doesn't seem quite real. As was the case with most people, there wasn't the huge expectation this year, especially as the year progressed, to get that far. I was kinda always waiting for the other shoe to fall... Luckily it didn't... and after much celebration, we can sit back and enjoy the win for months to come... Maybe longer if the idiot owners and players union can't get together and agree to a deal...

MY Super bowl was not all that great... Well, it was a great win, but I got paged on a major issue at work just after lunch (The Weatherman and SEC-W/M and their girls were over for lunch and THAT was cool), and was stuck on it all day (and night) and through the next day. I actually worked on it all week and the issue still isn't closed... THAT really put a damper on the whole day. I did get to see pretty much the whole game, but I was back and forth between the computer and TV constantly. I did miss the mistake in the anthem, but pretty much everything else I saw live or on replay. It was SWEET!!! But I sure would have enjoyed a relaxing afternoon /night watching instead, but I will CERTAINLY remember where I was 10 years from now! Well, there's next year!

I "was" disappointed Rodgers showed up for the game clean shaven instead of sporting a "porn-stache"...

Otherwise things are going well. Work has tamed a bit and not quite as hectic overall (except for the on call paging issues), so that helps. Trying to get back into the swing of a normal life and not working 60, 70, 80 hours a week... That was getting old, but I now find myself not knowing what to do with myself, because for the past couple months I've been so busy... Well, today that got taken care of...



I was sitting in the living this afternoon, taking a break after lunch watching some TV when I heard that horrid "drip, drip, drip" noise... Hmmm? I wondered what that could be... Well the damn ceiling was dripping water, right in the middle!!! Great... Now what??? So I checked outside and everything looked OK, so I figured I better check the attic, since leaks can start pretty much ANYWHERE... Got the little tiny door off the north attic and sure enough, right above where it was leaking in the living room, it was leaking through the room... ICE DAMN!!! Yeah, I spelled that correctly... Anyone that leaves the "N" off never dealt with one... So up on the roof I went, I dug through a 3 foot drift on top the porch to get to the middle of the roof, and sure enough right where the dormer was when the house was built, was a drift and a 2 inch thick sheet of ice. Great... Just freaking great!

So I shoveled off all the snow and then went to work on the ice. Used lots of salt and three different shovels, but within a couple hours I was down to shingles and the leak had stopped. But I gotta admit, I'm kinda sore typing right now... So last year I had a DOOSEY ice damn on the south roof of the house (which I watched closely this year and had no issues) and now this year I get a nasty one on the north side... Been in the house 13 years this summer and never had an issue, and the last two years I got busted twice. So much for global warming... Gotta admit though, working in 38 degree temps and sunshine this year was MUCH better than last year when I was working in a 32 degree rain storm... NEXT YEAR? Gonna shovel them BOTH!

So I survived that... Otherwise it was a pretty cold week, so the nice warm temps this weekend sure was nice. Let's see if it's a precursor to spring or just a short warm up before more winter. Kinda hope we get a little more snow, but we don't need anything crazy... Kinda was wishing I was out on Lake Winnebago this weekend, but I bet the guys that are can't be happy about the rain on its way... That's gonna be a mess...

I was thinking about going bunny hunting this weekend, but other "stuff" got in the way... TAXES!!! The weatherman asked if I could start his so he can get his student aid going, so I tackled them Saturday morning... Went OK, as I didn't have to call the Sausage Stuffer until later in the afternoon... There's ALWAYS something different to deal with... This year it was Homestead Credit and Rent Certificates... Anyway, I pretty much got his done other than that, got the Chief's done, and I got mine started... My situation at work complicates mine ALOT, so mine will be a while before it's done... Just LOVE tax season...

Funny story from Wednesday night... I setup a time to have the SEC-Transportation come over to "sweat pipes" and get my plumbing done. We got all the copper clean and he did a GREAT job soldering... Looks very professional... Got everything in and we came to the moment of truth... I connected the hoses for the washing machine and the laundry basin, and.... WATER SPRAYED EVERYWHERE!!! What the heck...? So as I'm trying to tighten them better, the SEC-Transportation looks at me and says "Say, did you get 3/4" pipe thread fittings or 3/4" Garden hose fittings?" My response of course was, "Is there a difference?" which says it all... Luckily, the shutoff valves worked GREAT, so I could turn the house water on at least... To make a long story short, they make adapters (Which the lady at the Man's Mall said is a VERY common request) so I got some the next day and all is well... I still have some tiny drips, but I hope those seal up on their own so I don't have to crawl back there and crank them any tighter... Moral of the story? Live and learn...

Anyone catch the Denmark Diaper lately? If you did, you saw the FM and the FM Jr as well as Grandma FM and little baby FM in a 4 generation picture... Also saw the FM Jr's elder brother's wedding announcement. What a GREAT day to be an FM!!! Congrats to all the Lancelles...

Observed my 26th Anniversary this week... Nothing to report...

This last week was Chuck and Chris's birthdays, so if you didn't have a drink on them, you better catch up... I was fighting a cold, so I didn't have one with them on their birthdays like usual, but I did make up for it... Maybe after I'm done with this diatribe I'll make up for it again... Let's see what's on the schedule...

13 Oliver Reed's Birthday (1938). His check still hangs on the wall of the Malta bar where he drank nearly two bottles of rum and 20 pints with British sailors. *Old Navy Rum.*

14 St. Valentine's Day. Patron saint of kidney disease and, uh, romantic stuff. *Champagne at a fancy restaurant or whiskey sours with your cat.*

15 National Sea Monkey Day. I am not making this up. *Brass Monkey.*

16 The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was formed from the The Jolly Corks, a drinking society. If my uncle's behavior is any indication, the only thing they changed was the name. *Jagermeister.*

17 Feast of Fools (Ancient Rome). Take your friends to dinner, then pretend to have forgotten your wallet. *Expensive wine.*

18 Spenta Armaiti (Zoroastrian). Ancient hippy festival. *Jug wine.*

19 Lee Marvin's Birthday (1924). Drink like a man, goddamn you. *Bourbon from the bottle*

Tonight is Navy Rum... I'll pass... Maybe I'll skip to Tuesday, and have a Brass Monkey or two... HEY!!! You see that Thursday is National Junior Member Day, better known as the Feast of Fools! All you junior members, go out and have a GREAT time!!! Yeah sure, Mogan David is "expensive wine"!

Here's one for the President, who by the way, is doing EXCELLENT!



Didn't think Bob drinks Miller Lite... Hey, isn't that one of my sister's washing machines??? NO WONDER they like doing the laundry so much...

Big day tomorrow for all you men... Valentine's Day... What a crock... Just another reason for girlfriends to get another present and married men to get in trouble for getting the wrong one... Sheesh!

Thursday night is Mass out at our little church for Ma and Pa Nelson and Chuck and Chris... Hope to see you there!

Just before I started the diatribe, I sent out a email calling all Fish Camp members to the annual Fish Camp meeting... Looking for "maybe" this weekend, but that's pretty short notice... Probably out a weekend or two, we shall see... Fish Camp is just a short two and a half months away...

Not too much of an update on my "Turkey Hunting Up North" venture... Haven't had time to really do any research, but I am formulating a plan in my mind... I really hope to get someone to go with me, cause I think it would be kinda boring alone, at least the non-hunting part... Anyway, my plan is to get a locater call of some sort... Hawk or owl call, or maybe a gobbler... Then I'll get up at the crack of dawn and walk the back road behind the cabin, slowly, and listen for toms responding to my locater calls... I'll have a portable blind along, and if I hear one, I'll see what I can do about getting a bit closer and setup and see what I can accomplish... If I find a hotspot, I'll have a full blind and a chair back at the cabin and I can pack that in and out each day... If that doesn't work, perhaps I'll head over to the Nelsen cabins for a day and do the same... Let me know what you think...

I think that's about it... Not a bad update... Boring, but at least a lot of boring... As is the norm, a few words of "wisdom" for our junior members before I go...

"You only need to know 2 things to become a plumber. Sh_t runs down hill and payday is on Friday." ~Anonymous

WRONG!!! You also need to know the difference between pipe threads and garden hose threads... Among other things...

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

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[[Home](#)] [[Up](#)] [[DEC11](#)] [[NOV11](#)] [[SEP11](#)] [[OCT11](#)] [[AUG11](#)] [[JUL11](#)] [[JUN11](#)] [[MAY11](#)] [[MAR11](#)] [[APR11](#)]
[[FEB11](#)] [[JAN11](#)]

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Page Hits