

The curtamous page

February 2012 Archived Notes

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February 26, 2012 - Jak se maj! Howdy all! Coming to you on the last Sunday of February. Pretty good weekend so far, but feeling a little tired today... Wonder why...

Oh yeah! Our annual Fish Camp meeting was last night and I got pretty toasty. I didn't really notice it until after I cleaned up and then went inside. Maybe it was the cold air, but all of a sudden I was feeling it... Didn't think I drank too much, but maybe it was the Barber's famous plum wine that finally kicked in. Anyway, I'll live...

The meeting went really well and was one of the better attended in recent memory. We even had the next generation attend for the first time as Little George Thompson was on hand to help bartend. He sure is a cute little dude. The SEC-W/M also brought his future brother-in-law with and he fit right in. On the business side of things, we did set Fish Camp 2012 for opening weekend. The only drawback to that date is that The President won't be able to attend due to scheduling conflicts, but from the sounds of things, everyone else is free... The menu is more or less set and pretty much identical to last year. When things are REALLY great, why change 'em? So in roughly 2 months and seven days, Fish Camp will be here!

Other REALLY big news is that the SEC-F'Fence announced his engagement! He popped the question last week and as shocking as it sounds, his future bride said "Yes". So, in his urgency to wrap this up before she comes to her senses, they are planning a fall wedding. So that'll make FOUR Nelson weddings this year. Should be a blast. So to the next future couple, CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Kinda tough to top those two events, but I had another come in a close third. Ash Wednesday I made it out to the Eagles Club with the FDA Chair, Uncle Lloyd, and cousins Mike and Andrew for the annual Eagles Club Smelt Fry. The SEC-State and Barber were cooking and waitressing and a FINE job they did. Best Smelt Fry I've had in a long time. Reminded me of Ma Nelson's fried smelt, they were that good. A big, cheap and fast meal with great company. Can't be beat... If fact, I may even look into attending one of their liver or spaghetti dinners. We shall see...

On to less interesting news...

The new TV is pretty great... It's got a WAY better picture and fits into the room so much nicer than the old tank... Speaking of the old tank, it's still in the corner of the dining room... Working on that though...

Leap Day is coming up this week. Been four years, so you better enjoy this one as the next will be four years away... I suggest an all-day bar hopping event. Me? I'll be working, but let me know how yours turns out...

Work has been crazy busy again, and will be throughout the next month at least... Maybe longer... But good busy as the projects we're working on are cool and at the end of the day you

can really see your accomplishments. That's always a nice way to do business...

Well, we're into Lent, and while I'm not on the wagon, I am taking it easy. But for you pagans, here's this week's Drink Specials...

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.**

That Leap Year cocktail sounds interesting... But I have none of the ingredients, so I'm safe there. Next Sunday should be a National Holiday in my mind. If Icelanders are smart enough to have a National Beer Day, why don't we commemorate the first tavern here in America? Get on that Obama...

Well, I think I need to deal with Pandora's Box that I opened up after I'm done with the update. My beautiful bride is after me to do more online dress shopping. Since it's my own fault for doing it the first time, I may have to bend and make this happen. I'm such an idiot...

Good news this week! It's Zumbo's birthday!!! Last night at our Fish Camp meeting I gave him his present from last year, so I think I won't have to give him this year's present until 2014 or so... Anyway, if you see Zumbo this week, wish him a great day and buy him a drink. Happy Birthday Zumbo!

Didn't get to see The President last night as he was in the wild north fishing somewhere. But, he was busy this week in his shop making new kitchen chairs...



That Bob... He's a funny guy...

So that's it... All I have... Well, except in closing, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"To speak frankly, I am not in favor of long engagements. They give people the opportunity of finding out each other's character before marriage, which I think is never advisable." ~ Oscar Wilde

Oscar is a smart man...

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

curtamous

February 19, 2012 - Jak se maj! Hi everyone and Happy Sunday! Fine day here at the Nelson household. Nice sunny winter-ish day and only \$450 more in depth than when I started today...

Not sure how many I've mentioned this to, but our TV has been going on the fritz for a couple weeks. It worked fine, but only after a struggle getting it turned on. It would try to turn on and then turn itself right off again. Over and over and over... For the most part, it eventually came on. I checked it out and it's a well known issue with an IC in the power module. Minimally \$200 if "I" fix it, probably more like \$400 to get someone that knows what they are doing to fix it. So I've been resigned to a new TV and have been on the lookout...

Well today it would NOT turn on at all so I got fed up. If it didn't weight 300lbs (literally) I would have thrown it out the door. So I checked out the ads in the paper and was surprised to see some decent deals on some 40" LCD HDTV's. Pretty much what I was looking for and in the right price range. So I had three options, and if you know me at all, I bought a new Toshiba 40" 1080pi LCD HDTV at the first stop I made. I was home in almost an hour.

Then came the swap out. That old Sony is a BEAST! But my lovely bride and I got it off the stand and into the corner followed by a pretty simple setup of the new one. IT IS SWEET!!! Great picture and about an eighth of the weight of the old one... Looks great and I even watched a movie on it... Now comes the REALLY hard part... Getting rid of the old one. Sounds like I hafta get it to the county recycling center. Somehow... Odds are it'll still be in the corner of the living room come the summer solstice...

So that was my excitement for today... As I mentioned, I did watch a movie too. The other night I caught a few parts of the new Star Trek movie that came out a couple years ago on one of the cable stations. The boys had gotten me the DVD for Christmas when it came out, which I am guessing was two years ago. But the parts I caught the other night just didn't ring a bell, so I found my DVD, popped it in, and watched. It's really weird, because it was like watching it for the first time. I KNOW I watched, but I hardly recalled any of it. Which was kinda cool actually. Fun movie... Not bad at all...

In other news, the Fish Camp meeting is set for this Saturday, the 25th in my shop. We'll have the usual agenda... A few cocktails, some beers, snacks, and a lot of BS. If it's like any other year, we'll actually talk Fish Camp around the time the guys start heading out. Should be fun though cause it always is...

Good news on the hunting front! Can't believe I forgot this last week, but I got my turkey permit! I have second season in Zone 2, which is around here. Talked to Zumbo, and he's getting fired up, so it should be a good hunt. Hopefully better than what happened last year... The turkey hunt is now by far my favorite "hunting" hunt of the year. Of course it pales in comparison to the Deer Camp experience, but for just pure hunting, I now like it the best. Probably because I actually SEE turkeys, unlike deer hunting the past 10 or so years, but it's also a neat time to get out in the woods. Can't wait for spring now!

Last Thursday we had Mass for Ma, Pa, and the boys out at our little church and then headed over to the Sausage Stuffer and Librarian's for boiled shrimp. Good stuff and a great time was had by all. Even got home relatively early, which was nice... Hope that becomes a yearly event!

Wasn't sure I was going to include this, but what the heck... I actually just got done "dress shopping" with my beautiful bride. Online of course... With the weddings this year she is in a tizzy about what to wear, so he constant "comments" (yes, I was going to use another description) finally wore me down and she showed me what she was looking for on the net. Well, that went over like the proverbial lead balloon as expected. Nothing was decided other than that I am a big jerk... Hard to believe... Anyway, I think I've opened Pandora's Box on this one and I will most likely live to regret it. In fact, it may become a weekly subject for the diatribe... We'll see...

With that behind me, it's time for a drink!!!

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.**

Nothing even interests me... I'm going to get a beer... Be right back...

Ahhh!!! That's better!

Here's one from the SEC-W/M... Yep, I can just about see little Ricky over at Main Street Market with Little Greg in the wagon..

Two young boys walked into a pharmacy one day, picked out a box of tampons and proceeded to the checkout counter.

The man at the counter asked the older boy, "Son, how old are you?"

"Eight," the boy replied.

The man continued, "Do you know what these are used for?"

The boy replied, "not exactly, but they aren't for me. They're for him. He's my brother. He's four. We saw on TV that if you use these you would be able to swim and ride a bike. Right now, he can't do either."

...and THAT'S how Greg learned to ride a bike!!!

Thought I had something from the Jack/Ass team too, but I can't find it... So here's one from my old buddy Denny...

Today I admitted I am Old. I was sitting outside drinking my coffee; my wife was inside do a few things around the house.

She came to the back door and told me she needed "a really long screw!"

Without a thought, I walked out down to my shop looking for one!

Yep... That's me! I old too!!!

Well, Ash Wednesday is this week and with that comes the season of Lent. None of the "no drinking for me" stuff, but I will hopefully be behaving better and being kinder and more generous to my fellow man. For me, should be pretty easy as I probably can't be much worse...

Otherwise not much going on other than work which is going pretty darn good. I also have some stuff going on with our church website this week that should help keep my busy. We're trying to roll out a new calendaring application for the site to keep track of and communicate events in the linkage. We've been talking about it literally for a year and we're first getting around to rolling it out now. Kinda feel bad about that, but you can only do what you can do... Hopefully this will be a nice change and it'll spur some new interest...

So I think that's it... Gonna clean this mess up and hopefully get it posted before 9pm. Got a show I wanna watch and it should be even BETTER on my new TV. I have two shows I kinda follow lately and I can't wait for their seasons to be over so I stop doing that... Friday nights I watch Goldrush... It is hopelessly stupid and moronic, but I still end up watching it every Friday night. Sunday nights are now "Bigfoot" nights as I watch another crew of knuckleheads chase after Sasquatch and act like idiots. Sorry, but I can't help myself... Could be worse I guess... It could be that Jersey Shore crap...

So I'm gonna shove off... See ya! But as always, here are a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"I think Bigfoot is blurry, that's the problem. It's not the photographer's fault." ~ Comedian Mitch Hedburg

That would certainly explain it!

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

curtamous

February 12, 2012 - Jak se maj! Hi everyone! How are you? I hope you are well... Things are "seriously" slow around here... With no football, we're in that time of winter where the most interesting thing going on is reading about the sturgeon spearing season on Winnebago. Pretty quiet... But let's see what I can come up with...

Well, I got to see The President this weekend... Yes, as I mentioned last week he had plans to head north with Whitey to make some wood and do some wiring. I seriously considered going along as my beautiful bride decided to head down to Beertown to visit the weatherman and sidekick without me, but I had a lot of work stuff to catch up on along with a network change to do tonight, so I skipped it. Plus, it's nice and quiet here today, so I got that going for me...

*Anyway, I have dog walking duties on the weekend (I claim to hate it, but don't really mind and actually kinda enjoy it), so I was out early Saturday and as I'm coming up to Main Street from the park I see The President's truck. I couldn't tell who was with him, but I assume it was Whitey. So I'm waving and jumping up and down and the dog is barking and he just goes **RIGHT BY!** Doesn't even acknowledge me. Well, I was bundled up pretty snug, so maybe he didn't recognize me, but I'm going to go with the story that somehow he didn't see me. So anyway, that was the highlight of the weekend...*

Boring, huh?

Other than that, I spent quite a few hours working yesterday, then I took my lovely bride to church, out for a bite to eat, and then to run some errands... After that I crashed... Today I walked the dog, did some more work, cooked up the last of Zumbo's venison cheesy kielbasa with some red beans and rice (YUM!!!) and watched a little "This Old House"... Tonight I have a maintenance window to do some network changes for a client in Detroit...

Did I mention boring?

Well, for a little excitement I "finally" sent out my Fish Camp meeting invitation. Been meaning to do that ALL WEEK but never got around to it. So we're probably looking at the Friday or Saturday night of the weekends of 2/25 or 3/2. Hope to get a good response! When you look at the fact I'm already planning stuff out into March, it doesn't seem so bad. For the winter season, the light is at the end of the tunnel... Or is that a train? Anyway, if you got an invite, let me know your schedule. If you didn't get one, invite yourself...

Looking at the calendar and what a mild winter we've had, I think it's realistic I could get the motorcycle out in 8 weeks... That's about Easter, which is in early April, and if the warm winter trend continues, we could be seeing 70 degrees by then...

Wanna bet that jinxed it? OK by me... I wanna use my snow blower some more...

Ok, I've got some "Bob-isms" for you this week... A freaking bonanza! Everyone one of these reminded me of The President... The spatula and radio I think I've actually seen him do... Click on 'em for full size...



Lent starts a week from Wednesday... Kinda right in the middle as far as early/late Easter goes... Better start cleaning up my act. Haven't done the "no drinking" for a couple years and probably won't again. Been focusing on some other things the last few years and seems to have a better "feel" about it. Plus I keep it kinda personal... With the drinking thing it was something everyone seemed to know about, which isn't really the idea... So, I'll see how this year goes...

So, might as well misbehave a little before Lent arrives... So let's see what's to drink!

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.**

Nothing really seems to even temp me on that list... But you guys? You're animals! Let me know how that works out...

This week seems to be pretty mild as well... Got a meeting Monday night... But Thursday we have Mass at the little church and after we're going to head over to the Sausage Stuffer and Librarian's for beer and shrimp leftover from Christmas. Celebrating Chuck and Chris's birthday, and since they can't be with us, in body at least, we'll have a beer on them... Should be fun!

With that, I got nothing else... So I'll shove off... But before I ride off into the sunset, here are a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"The four most important words in any marriage... 'I'll do the dishes.'" ~ Anonymous

Happy St. Valentine's Day everyone!!!

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

curtamous

February 05, 2012 - Jak se maj! Welcome to Super Bowl Sunday! Bah humbug! I could care less, but as it's the last football we'll see for quite some time, I will watch... They say kickoff is 5:30, so I'm assuming the actual foot meeting the ball will be about 6:15. Hopefully it's entertaining. Hard to root for either team, but I think I like the Patsies less than the Gi-Ants, but that could change depending on how the game unfolds...

With the Packers done, it REALLY is the dead of winter, even though we're really not having a winter yet. I've pretty much got nothing going on expect work. But I'm trying... I just built a fire in the basement to help stave off those nasty public service bills and I hope to have a visitor over soon. The President just called and he's stopping over... SHOULD be interesting... I'll take a break when he arrives...

Word on the street is that turkey permits are starting to arrive. The President and AG both got theirs and a buddy I work with out of Milwaukee got his. I'm guessing no one in my family got the mail this week, so mine could be in the box. I sure hope so! Kinda fun thinking of that... Also thinking about Fish Camp 2012 and I need to get an email out about that so we get a meeting setup. I'm thinking the 17th or 18th... I'm on call, but that at least means I'm around home. We'll see what the crew says...

Bob says he's heading north next weekend to make some wood and to do some wiring. He asked if I can come but there was talk about heading to Milwaukee next weekend. Kinda puts a cabash on that idea, but with wildly fluctuating moods around here, you just never know.

Last night I headed out to the shop and got to work on Skipper's planer boards. I got the first set of blanks cut out based on Skipper's current design. Gotta sand 'em and I think I'll paint them for him too... But I found another set of plans online that I'm also gonna give a try. Those I'm gonna build out all the way and see how he likes them. That way he'll have at least two new set of boards for the coming summer and he can go with what he likes best. Right now I'm going with some 1x8 pine stock that Skipper dropped off, but pine's gonna need quite a bit of priming so that it doesn't water log and sink. If he likes the new design, I'll find some good (but light) hardwood to use. Maybe redwood, mahogany, or even cedar. We'll see what I come up with...

Work's been busy, but good. Our new network engineer Jason started this week and I think he's gonna work out great. The guy is as sharp as a tack and good to get along with. So much to do though that I spent four hours at the office yesterday to get a bunch of equipment ready for an install in Illinouz coming up. That'll be a weekend trip, so hopefully we schedule that decently... and it doesn't mess with what little I have of a life.

Also got a trip to Philly coming up, but likely not for at least another month or maybe two. Our "global network project" is also coming along nicely, but as with any other project, it's full of hiccups and "challenges". Kinda fun working with people all over the world, but those time zone differences can be hard to handle at times as well. Part of the job though...

Well, The President isn't here yet, so let's see what's on the drink menu... Maybe he'll like what's on tap today...

6 Babe Ruth's Birthday (1895). Contrary to popular belief, he wasn't really pointing to where he was going to hit the ball. He was just trying to get a beer vendor's attention. **Overpriced crappy beer in a plastic cup.**

7 National Hangover Awareness Day. Some of us 'celebrate' this 'holiday' every morning.

Hair of the Dog

1/2 oz. tequila

1/2 oz. whiskey

1/4 oz. Tabasco Sauce

1/4 oz. salt

Pour Tabasco, tequila and whiskey into a shot glass. Lay salt on top.

8 Mass for Broken Needles (Japanese). The bane of seamstresses and DJs alike. Sake.

9 Feast Day of Apollo (Greek). The Sun God must be appeased! **Tequila Sunrise.**

10 Creation Day (Mayan). On this day in 3641 B.C. the Mayans reckoned Tepeu and Gucumatz created the world.

God's Great Creation

2 1/2 oz whiskey

1 oz peach schnapps

5 tblsp orange-banana fruit punch (frozen)

Juice of one lemon

Pepsi

Pour whiskey and peach schnapps over ice cubes in a highball glass. Add frozen punch (no water). Squeeze in lemon juice and top with Pepsi. Stir well.

11 Empire Day (Japan). Yeah, maybe next time, Tojo. **Kamikaze.**

12 Charles Darwin's Birthday (1809). Celebrate the genius who made monkeys of us all..

Dirty Monkey

1 1/2 oz Irish cream

1 oz Dark rum

1 1/2 oz Cognac

Mix in order. Do not stir. Serve in brandy snifter.

Wouldn't it be more appropriate if "National Hangover Awareness Day" was tomorrow after the Super Bowl instead of Tuesday? I guess if you still have a hangover Tuesday, you did it right! Those Dirty Monkey's sound OK... Too bad I don't have any of the ingredients... Or maybe that's a GOOD thing!!!

The President is always prepared... Here's his new "Quick Get-Away" boat... aka James Bond!



This week would have been my brother Chris's birthday... Would he have been 54? Wow... Hard to believe... Well, if there's beer in heaven, it's Kingsbury, and I'm sure he'll be having one this week... I'll be toasting him as well, but with a lesser class of brew... Raise your glasses, bottles, or cans!

Not much else going on, and The President has not yet arrived, so I'm gonna shut 'err down... But before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"Don't wake me for the end of the world unless it has very good special effects." ~ Roger Sleazy

Just waiting for The President to arrive made me think of Armageddon...

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

curtamous

PS. Bob just left... Got here just as I was bout to post the update... He liked what was on tap... Busch Light in bottle... I'm ready for a nap before the game... I learned a lot today though!

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