

The curtamous page

September 2012 Archived Notes

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September 30 , 2012 - ***Jak se maj! Howdy folks! BUSY BUSY BUSY day, so this should be a quick update...***

Starting off with the biggest news of the last two weeks... In chronological order...

Ella Vivian Bush has finally joined us!!! Little Ella arrived on September 17th and with a full head of beautiful dark hair to boot! (No jealousy here!) Mom, dad, and big sister are all thrilled and doing well, and we've begun receiving the first in a long line of "monkey" pictures. They are pretty fun watching grow from that perspective! Congrats to Mom, dad, and big sister and of course grandparents! Welcome aboard little Ella Vivian!

Just Friday we had another addition as our little Ric married and brought Haley into the fold. Fantastic time and a beautiful wedding! My highlight of the day? Definitely the video by Woodchuck productions. Lots of nice stuff and Chuck did a GREAT job on it as always, but the scenes with old Rick were particularly emotional for me. I think I kinda forgot how much I missed him, but the tears in my eyes reminded me, and also that he was with us Friday and no doubt VERY proud! Congrats to Ric and Haley! Best wishes of a long a loving life together!!!

To top it all off, I received news yesterday that Captain Chuck is now betrothed! No news on details, but Loren will soon be part of the Nelson clan as well. Can't wait to have her on the team! Congrats Chuck and Loren, and of course mom and dad too!

With all the news shared, I need to get back to my busy day... The weatherman and sidekick took my lovely wife back home to Brewtown yesterday, so today I need to go pick her up, so I'm gonna head down and watch the game with them. Should be fun... This morning the Chief and I had "RCIA" class at church, so the morning's been pretty much booked, and I got my motorcycle back Friday so I want to get a quick ride in to make sure all is well with the two wheeler...

So my day is packed...

Oh yeah, a shout out to Jack and Ass who made the Ric and Haley's wedding. GREAT to see those guys... Hard to believe, but once a year isn't enough! It's HARD to get all those insults in over a single weekend!!! Seriously, good to see you guys, especially with your wives. Makes you look nearly respectable!!!

Anything else? Lots of wood made, but a bit more to go... New tooth is GREAT! Works been busy, but that's nothing new...

I think that's it... In honor of the new husband, I don't want to miss his favorite section. What's to drink???

1 *The Tonight Show* starring Johnny Carson and world-class drunkard Ed McMahon debuted (1962). Hi-yooooo! **Bourbon in a coffee cup.**

2 Groucho Marx's Birthday (1890). "I don't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members." **Country Club Malt Liquor.**

3 St. Dionysus Day. The drunk monk, not the wine god. **Chimay Ale.**

4 Vodka Day. "Vodka is our enemy, so we must utterly consume it!"—Russian idiom in response to Soviet anti-vodka campaign. **The enemy.**

5 Monty Python's *Flying Circus* debuts (1969). "American Beer is a lot like making love in a row boat—it's fucking close to water." —Eric Idle. **Holy Grail Ale.**

6 National German-American Day. Their beer tastes so much better when they're not shooting at us. **Bourbon and schnapps.**

7 The Budweiser (Czech version) brewery begins operations (1895). You guys wanna trade? **Czech Budweiser.**

Tomorrow is October already?!?!? Wow! Good thing there a good Bohemian beer on this list. Go have a few Czechvars (Czech Budweiser) and enjoy the month!

Plans are pretty well set for the last weekend in October up at The President's cabin. Itinerary is in the works, but it should be a good time regardless of what we do...

LOTS more to cover, but I'm out of time... But before I leave a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"All marriages are happy. It's the living together afterward that causes all the trouble!" ~ Raymond Hull

Just kidding... RIGHT!

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

curtamous

September 16, 2012 - Jak se maj! Hi all, and SO sorry for another week off with no update last week. It's getting to be a habit, but I had a REALLY good reason last week... Well, two of them to be honest...

Last weekend was the SEC-W/M's bachelor party. Saturday night we headed out to celebrate the last of your Ric' single-hood. To set the stage, The Skipper was over on Saturday and he agreed to be my chaperone for the evening... Bad move!!! Both of us left with the best of intentions as we both had stuff to do the next day. We did pretty good too, until about midnight when all plans fell apart... I think it was mostly Skipper's affinity for Tequila shots that did it... But we had a great time, even got to see the Gutzman boys, and sent young Master Ric off in style...

But I did feel pretty rough the next day... We really didn't get that bad, but I am just not able to bounce back like the old days... Then that dratted football game was on, and I was not happy or in the mood to do an update... That's my story, and I'm sticking to it...

Sadly, the biggest news of the past two weeks (at least in my life) is that the Monster TV is FINALLY gone!!! That's right; I put it in the truck and dropped it off during my lunch hour at the

"Re-Store". They do electronic recycling and only charge \$5 for "ANY" TV... So off it went, along with two old computer monitors. Hard to believe how much space they take up, but I'm glad to have that stuff back...

No good news on the motorcycle front. It's STILL in the shop. No bad news, at least that I've heard of, it's just that my mechanic is REALLY behind. He hopes to have it done this week. Like I told him, I'd rather have it done right than to have him rush it... So I hope it's back in good shape soon. I must admit though, that I really miss it. Even today I was thinking, "What a beautiful day for a ride", but I have no wheels... Oh well, patience is a virtue....

Got my hair cut at The Barber last week. Big deal huh? Well, I just happen to really enjoy getting my hair cut. Actually, the cut is hardly noticed. I just like spending some time with The Barber. He's a pretty special guy. I got my cut at the end of his day so we some time to just sit and talk... Very nice, and next thing you know another half hour went past. Best part of stops there? I ALWAYS learn something... Some of it isn't PG enough for this page, but it's always something good!!!

Another funny hair related story... I was out at Zumbo's today and we stopped in to say "Hi" to my blonde sister, and she greeted me by pointing out that my beard is coming in very gray. I told her that it's because I'm old, but what does that make her??? HA!!! But she responded that since I'm the baby of the family, I can't be old... Funny, but even at 45 my siblings think of me as the baby... I can live with that...

That salmon I smoked two weeks ago? Just finishing it up... Just had some for supper... YUM!!!

Speaking of eating, I got my new tooth last week and it's awesome! I know everyone talks about the "old days", and it IS fun to reminisce, but in the old-old days, back dentistry must have made the world a tough place to be... I can't imagine dealing with tooth problems constantly... Just for a short while it can be terribly distracting. Despite all the issues we live with, the world we're in is pretty sweet...

Turned 200K miles on the old Dodge truck last week... Wheeeee!!!!

A shout out to the Sausage Stuff who celebrated another birthday last week, but still isn't retired. Anyway, he's got it made. For his birthday, his lovely bride takes him to Canada for a 12 day fishing trip. Can you imagine? I can't... But hats off to you and a Happy Birthday!

Football news... After that debacle last Sunday, the Packers mad up for it with a nice win against the arch rival Bares. Good thing too, as I know quite a few guys in FIB-Land, and they were ALL talking smack... That fake field goal certainly showed that they were a bit desperate to win, but who cares. Hope they get their act together and get on a roll soon...

In non-football news, the Badgers are not playing Wisconsin football, and it's difficult to watch right now. If they hadn't been talked up as a top ten team, which we've become a little used to, and had instead been portrayed as rebuilding, which they are, it would be a bit more tolerable. They are 2-1, but a very ugly 2-1. In Denville, they don't play football either... They got whacked again this weekend on the gridiron...

My boys have been a bit quiet lately... The weatherman didn't come up for the party last weekend, and I haven't seen him in weeks... Haven't seen his lovely fiancé either... But they are busy with school, work, selling books, and Toby-T, so I assume they are doing well. Should see them in a couple weeks when wedding season resumes. The Chief has been busy lately too with school and work, so even though I see him often, he's pretty quiet. Mostly tired I guess, and knowing his schedule, I understand... Nothing like the schedule "I HAD" when I was his age, but he's doing well... :-)

I actually took a day off on Friday. I have quite a bit of vacation left, so I figured I better get using it. I didn't make any real plans and that turned out to be a good/bad move as I ended up working from home half the day anyway due to some issues in Brazil we're having with a client. It was good since I ended up working anyway, but bad in that maybe I could have avoided the whole thing if I was busy... But that's life...

Spent a good amount of time the past two weekends making wood... My aching muscles can prove it! Spent a good half day last weekend and a half day yesterday and again today. Yesterday Zumbo and I took down a big elm out on one of his fence lines. That was a big job, but we got it down and brushed and ready to be split. Zumbo even treated me to a great meal of grilled Angus burgers with a side of beans. It was AWESOME!!! Not only was the food great, but the company was too. I can listen to Zumbo tell hunting tales for hours... Thanks Zumbo! Today I enlisted The President to assist me. That's right, THE PRESIDENT!!! Mostly he came over to play with the new splitter, but it was really great to have his help. We headed to Zumbo's (stopped to have my beard disparaged) and split up that elm we cut yesterday. Well, most of it. The new splitter ran well (may need some carb adjustment though) but that green wet elm was REALLY hard to get split. Elm that big has some nasty stringy heart wood in the middle, and it was rough to get into decent pieces. So when I say we split most of it, we did leave the last 6 huge pieces to dry a bit before I try to split them again. We took one load home and I probably have at least two more loads from that one tree to haul. By the end of that I should have my wood shed 3/4 full!

Here's a pic of the splitter and a mess of elm from last weekend...



So, all this typing is making me thirsty! What's on tap?

*17 M.A.S.H. debuts (1972). "Swill gin? Sir, I have sipped, lapped, and taken gin intravenously but I have never swilled." —Hawkeye. **Gin martini, Sahara dry.***

18 Captain Nelson discovered Jeannie in a bottle (1965). Was only slightly disappointed she wasn't bourbon.

Jeannie's Dream

4 oz Malibu Rum

2 oz sloe gin

2 oz orange juice

2 oz pineapple juice

2 oz 7-Up

Mix Malibu, juices and 7-Up. Gently top with sloe gin.

*19 Feast of Thoth (Egyptian). The god purported to have taught the Egyptians how to make beer. **Pyramid Pale Ale.***

20 Alexander the Great's Birthday (256 BC). Conquered the world while on a bender.

Tequila Alexander.

*21 Swiss National Yodeling Festival. You never know until you try. **Longneck bottled beer (to defend yourself).***

*22 National Wine Week begins. Week-long bender! **MD 20/20.***

23 John Paul Jones victorious (1779). Declare, "I have not yet begun to drink!" at last call and see how far it gets you. **Boston Lager.**

Kicked off with a martini, Captain Nelson on Tuesday and Mad Dog 20/20 on Saturday! A little tequila mixed in there and a Boston Lager to end with. WHAT A WEEK! There should be a national holiday in honor of MD 20/20. No one would remember what happened, and it would have to be on a Friday cause everyone would need the next day off, but I still think it's a good idea...

So wedding season resumes... One nephew gets hitched in less than two weeks and then the next 3 weeks after... Just so you know, I have a "chance" of doing updates those weeks, as the celebrations are on Friday, which may give me sufficient time to recuperate...

Talking to The President today (We only had one beer by the way, can you imagine?) and it looks like we are set to head north on the last weekend of October. Not sure if anyone else can make it, but he plans on being up there most of the week, and I hope to be up there Thursday through Saturday. Sounds like it'll get to be a regular work/play weekend, with nothing special planned. He does want to get his shed up and wants to seal the deck. I'm sure we'll also make some wood, if nothing else to make sure Kingsbury Kottage is supplied, as the cabin has plenty. I'm sure we'll get in a little hunting too, and maybe a road trip or six... If anyone is interested and can make it up there with us, let us know!!!

Seems like a lot more has happened since I last wrote, but that is all that comes to mind... So off I go, but not before I leave a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, FLOOR." ~ George Carlin

Sorry, but that ALWAYS cracks me up...

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

curtamous

PS. Monster TV... GONE!!!

September 03 , 2012 - Jak se maj! Hello everyone and happy Labor Day! Coming to you a day late after a two week hiatus, but after checking things out, I'm sure you'll agree there's really not all that much going on...

Missed the update last week due to the annual church meeting and picnic. Not surprising, but not for the reason you are assuming... Had a great time and as always, looking forward to next year, but we hope to be a bit wiser in our plans. We cooked booyah on Saturday over at the Mayor's because it just makes Sunday so much easier and nicer. As always, Mr. Maz and Mr. Lac were on hand to help out the FDA Chairman, Mr. Maz being in charge of refreshments. Well, let me just say that Mr. Maz makes a REALLY good Bloody Mary and he's darn good at screwdrivers too. BUT A WORD TO THE WISE... Do NOT try to hydrate yourself on a hot sunny day in that manner... All four of us were pretty "happy" by the time the booyah was done. But we did manage to get everything completed and the picnic came off without a hitch. Thank God... Literally...

The only issue was we left the booyah kettle in the mayor's garage with some wash water in it... It didn't smell too great on Tuesday when she called me over to clean it up. No big deal... Considering what shape we were in on Saturday, it's a wonder we didn't mess up more...

The Little League World Series is over after a nice tournament. I didn't catch the championship

due to the church picnic, but the US final was a wild one on Saturday... At least what I can remember of it. I don't have a "bucket list" of any sort, but someday I would like to go to Williamsport for that...

Interesting development with the motorcycle. As I mentioned two weeks ago, I had some issues with the brakes... Well, I dropped the bike off at my mechanic and he crawls under it to take a peek and asks, "Say is your rear caliper supposed to be hanging off like that?" Well, it certainly explains everything, but I can't believe I didn't notice that when I looked at it in my garage. Anyway, when it fell off (why we don't know yet) it scraped some rubber off the NEW tire and caused the smoking... He swears he torched when he put it on, but he'll take care of it. Since it was in there anyway, I decided to bite the bullet and have the carbs rebuilt as well... It's still there, but I hope to get it back later this week...

I'm on call for work, so I spent most of the weekend working around home... Saturday I made wood... Yep, I FINALLY got to play with our new wood splitter, and it's AWESOME!!! Headed over to Zumbo's and we got it out of the garage and it fired right up so I hooked up to the truck and headed down to the old homestead to split the two cords I had stacked and it worked like a dream. Only drawback it's a bit heavy to move around, but that's well worth the effortless splitting.

While splitting I contemplated what we should name it. I like to say "her" but I don't think it is... Definitely a "he". Right now I'm thinking either Little George in honor of George Cisler or Big Tim. "Little" Tim has done the bulk of the manual splitting up at deer camp the last two years, and this baby makes me think of the look on his face when he has a tough log to split. Little Tim will grunt, but this splitter doesn't even notice if you challenge it... Once in a while you can get a little grunt if you sneak in a tough piece, but that's about it...

Obviously it works great, but it does need some work on it. Needs an oil change, new safety chains that are longer, maybe a new jack with a wheel, and a few wire cleats. Tires look OK, but probably need to find a spare... Maybe have the wheel bearings checked too... Otherwise, I can't wait for the next stack of wood that needs to be split!

With the wood split I re-stacked my woodshed here at home and it looks pretty good. Got a bunch of other putzy stuff done around home too, and today I'm smoking some salmon. Stop on over if you want a taste! Also hoping to get the deck stained... Needs another coat on the traffic areas, and I have it all pressure washed, but now it looks like there might be some rain on the way... Figured... I have plenty of other stuff to do otherwise...

I had hoped to do my sidewalk project this weekend, but I found some good advice online and got confirmed. Don't try to do it yourself, which was my plan due to lack of assistance. Sounds like you need to mix and pour it pretty quickly or you'll end up with layers that will crack. Two guys should be enough, but alone it would take forever and I'd end up with issues... So I'm looking for help someday and I'll get it scheduled again...

Got my temporary cap on my tooth last week and I'm back to eating ice cream again pain free! In two weeks I'll get the permanent cap installed. It's still a little sore, but it sure is better than it was...

The Packers got through the pre-season and down to their final 53. Looking forward to a good season, but my expectations are WAY below 15-1... Hoping for at least 11-5, which would be fine... Badgers had a bit of an issue in the fourth quarter of their opener against North Iowa... Pretty crazy there for a bit, but a win is a win. Made me go back to the Alvarez days when that seemed to be the norm... We'll see how next week turns out in Oregon...

Took my lovely bride out to Manty last night and feasted on a Top 5 cheeseburger at Friar

Tucks... I wouldn't put it at the top of my list (Nimrod's and Diane's burgers hold those spots) but it was a good 1/2 pound ordeal. Top 5 because ketchup was not needed, which in my mind is the sigh of a great burger... We'll go back again...

Haven't been in the old liquor cabinet much lately due to the booyah ordeal, but let's see what's on the bar to entice me...

*3 Lost Day. Good day to start a bender. **Bottle of rye.***

*4 Looking For the Boundaries Day (Cuchumatan Indians, Guatemala Highlands). Test the boundaries of last call. **Mescal.***

*5 On the Road published. Barhop like Cassady and Kerouac. **Cheap beer.***

*6 Read a Book Day. See if they have a bartender's bible behind the bar. **Flop the guide open and see what you get.***

*7 Keith Moon overdosed on drugs prescribed to combat his alcohol problem (1978). Well, it cured his drinking. **Booze, hold the drugs.***

*8 Star Trek debuts (1966). Kirk and his lusty band of drunks are unleashed on the universe. **Romulan Ale.***

*9 Horned Dance Festival (Pagan). Ah yes, the horned dance. You know the one. **Sex on the Beach.***

Looks like a good week... Who doesn't like Mescal and cheap beer? Not together of course... I'd love to try a Romulan Ale, but they're hard to find these days... and "Sex on the Beach"? Everyone's favorite!!!

Ran into The President a couple times over the last two weeks but have not been waylaid by him. We were supposed to go play with the splitter but he never got back to me and he stopped by at the Mayor's when we were cooking booyah and when I was cleaning the kettle Tuesday night. He was heading north this weekend to the Door, but perhaps he'll stop over today... Never know...

Next weekend is the SEC-W/M's bachelor party. I got an invite, but doubt I'll make it the whole way... Not much for the idea of paintballing, but I'm sure the boys will enjoy. I'll probably meet up with 'em after and drink a few and see what happens... If there's no update next week, you'll KNOW what happened...

I'm sure there's more, but I'm gonna go get my salmon off the smoker so I can clean up before my lovely bride gets home from work. It's never pretty when she sees a mess, no matter if it gets cleaned up or not... So off I go, but not before I leave a few words of wisdom for our junior members...

"Men have a better time than women; for one thing, they marry later; for another thing, they die earlier." ~ H. L. Mencken

Ain't that the truth!

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

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PS. Monster TV... In the way, going on the truck today if I can get some help loading it!

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