

# The curtamous page

## January 2014 Archived Notes

[ [Home](#) ] [ [Notes](#) ] [ [PICs](#) ] [ [Stuff](#) ] [ [Beer Page](#) ] [ [Links](#) ]

[Jan. 26, 2014](#)

[Jan. 19, 2014](#)

[Jan. 12, 2014](#)

[Jan. 05, 2014](#)

**January 26, 2014** - *Jak se maj! Hi everyone and Happy Sunday! Kinda of a "blah" day today and I've been trying to catch up after a busy week... Lots of good stuff so let's get started!*

***Welcome Aboard Baby Violet!***

***Violet Cynthia made her debut and joined the Nelson/Larsen/Simonar families on the 22nd of January. Violet and Mom (and Dad) are doing well! Another beautiful addition to the family. I can't WAIT to meet her! Here she is:***



***Congrats to Mom, Dad, Grandparents, Aunt, Uncles, and various assorted family and friends!!! Keep 'em coming!***

***More good news from Jenny Penny who stopped over with the Librarian while running errands. Still some issues but she looks great and they plan on heading south at the end of the week for their cruise vacation. They are very excited! I hope all goes well and they enjoy themselves... Have a blast!!!***

***I mentioned a hectic week and it was work as usual until my trip to Philly kicked off. We had to be in Valley Forge (just north of Philly) for meetings Thursday and Friday so we were scheduled to fly in and out of Milwaukee and the flight out was Wednesday at 7pm. Of course it had to snow so I left work early and had a long but fairly uneventful drive to the airport... Only to find out our flights were pretty severely delayed. We left Milwaukee about 90 minutes late and then the next flight was another 2 hours late. We arrived at our hotel in Valley Forge at 4am. It was a long day even though we started late... Friday was a bit cool but beautiful in Philly but when we arrived at the airport we found our flight home canceled followed by another delay. We ended up on a direct flight but not until 10:45pm... We landed in Milwaukee at midnight and by 12:30am I was on the road home... In MORE snow! THAT was a long drive but I made it home in less than 3 hours. But that made for ANOTHER long day on Saturday. Other than some work stuff I got done, it was a blurr...***

*I did watch a movie though... Considering my brain dead state it was a pretty good option. It was "Rise of the Planet of the Apes". I thought it was pretty good and well done. In the original Planet of the Apes movies they got pretty bad after the first one, but in the remakes, I think this was maybe a little better than the first one. Anyway, it was fun...*

*One interesting note from the trip home from Milwaukee "early" Saturday morning. On the north side of Milwaukee I got behind a truck and a couple cars going 45 or so. Not bad speed considering the conditions but a few of us wanted to go a little faster. But that truck WOULD NOT let anyone pass. For the most part he ran the middle of the road straddling the center line. Once in a while he'd go to the left or right lane but if anyone tried to pass, and 4 or 5 did try but he would cut them off... Rather dangerously in my opinion. The only place anyone got around him was south of Port Washington where it was 3 lanes. I backed off and followed watching the whole way until he turned off in Sheboygan. The roads got better by then but still icy. Weird though in that it seem pretty obvious the trucker DID NOT want anyone passing him. Not sure why or if anyone has ever seen that before... But it kept me alert and awake for that part of the trip... ?*

*Today I spent some time putting up new smoke detectors and a new carbon monoxide detector. Not sure what made me finally do it as I've been meaning to for a couple years (they supposedly only last 10 years and mine are from 1998) but I saw a deal on Amazon and got them. I put them up today and they look good... Hope I never need them!!!*

*Oh yeah, good news on the plumbing front in the Nelson abode! I called around for plumbers and I found that there are plumbers that now specialize. The plumber I called here in Denville doesn't do "clean outs" so he recommended someone else who could "twirl" my sewer and then send a camera down to find the break. Well the guy came on Tuesday and he just twirled it and had zero issues with it so it was just plugged and the old tile was leaking back up through the connections. I guess this is relatively normal in old houses. He recommended a yearly clean out. We'll see...*

*The weather has been very Wisconsin-ish... Funny talking to the people in Philly complaining about their weather while we thought it was pretty darn nice in the 20's. You can really notice the days getting longer now, but we are at least another month away from expecting any real change for the better... Then the end may be in sight, but the way the year is going, it may be a LONG way to spring!*

*Not much news on the website other than its slow. Turns out the upgrade isn't what it was supposed to be so I can either wait for the server to be fixed or I can "migrate it" to another host which would take it down for 72 hours... What a bunch of crapola... I'm gonna keep bugging them but I doubt it will get fixed soon. We'll see...*

*Speaking of seeing, let's see what is on this week's drink menu!*

*27 Water Conservation Day. "I never drink water because fish screw in it." ~W.C. Fields.  
**Hard liquor, neat.***

*28 National Kazoo Day. Bring one to the bar to entertain your friends!  
**Three Stages of Friendship**  
**1/3 oz Jack Daniels**  
**1/3 oz tequila**  
**1/3 oz Bacardi 151**  
**Mix and shoot before they shoot you.***

*29 W.C. Fields Birthday (1880). "Tw was a woman who drove me to drink, and I never had the courtesy to thank her." **Gimlet***

**30 Franklin D. Roosevelt's Birthday (1882). Raise one to the drunkard who whipped up on Prohibition, the Depression and the Nazis. *Wet gin martinis with a lemon twist.***

**31 National Brandy Alexander Day. Think the brandy distillers had anything to do with this one?**

***Brandy Alexander***

***1 1/2 oz brandy***

***1 oz dark creme de cacao***

***1 oz half-and-half***

***1/4 tsp grated nutmeg***

***Shake the brandy, creme de cacao, and half-and-half with ice. Strain, garnish with nutmeg.***

**1 Boris Yeltsin's Birthday (1931). Doing multiple shots of vodka on stage was one of his populist campaign tricks. *Chilled double Stolis.***

**2 Groundhog Day. If he sees his shadow, get loaded. If he doesn't see his shadow, get loaded.**

***The Shadow Knows***

***1 oz black sambuca***

***1 oz Bailey's Irish Cream***

***1/2 oz Bacardi 151 Rum***

***Layer Bailey's over sambuca. Top with Bacardi.***

**Not much of interest there, but Groundhog's Day already!!! Holy Catfish! If I had Sambuca I'd mix up a "Shadow Knows" on the 2nd... Well, I'd also need Irish Cream and 161 Rum, but otherwise I'd be all set!**

**Computer just locked up and I lost the last paragraph... Oh well, could have lost everything!!!**

**Just checked out the Pro Bowl while my PC was rebooting... It literally bored me that fast... Bunch of drama between Jerry Rice and Deon Sanders as if it meant anything to any of them...**

**Busy week ahead work-wise, but not much else. I HAD been scheduled to go to Duluth next weekend, but that has been delayed at least 2 weeks and probably 3. Very GLAD about that delay, but it'll come eventually. Otherwise a lot of work resulting from my trip as well as catchup from being gone. Never a dull moment.**

**Other than getting going on the Fish Camp meeting, I don't think there is much up... So I'm gonna sign off...**

**But before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...**

**"People say there's delays on flights. Delays, really? New York to California in five hours, that used to take 30 years, a bunch of people used to die on the way there, have a baby, you would end up with a whole different group of people by the time you got there. Now you watch a movie and [go to the toilet] and you're home." ~Louis C.K.**

**Yeah, we complain WAY TOO much these days.**

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

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**January 19, 2014** - Jak se maj! Hi everyone and Happy January 19th! I hope all is going well in your day! Some of you have a long weekend... (For you retirees, longer than most!) Tomorrow is MLK Day. In the old days (Pre-SRC) I had MLK Day off and would often go bunny hunting... Now I don't have it off so I don't go bunny hunting... Just as well, as I'm too old to be that ambitious and would probably find a reason not to go anyway... But for everyone out there, Happy MLK Day!!!

*I have football on the boob-tube right now... Denver just won and the 2nd game of the day is getting under way...No big deal, but about 4 weeks from now I'll be going through withdrawal and wishing there was some sort of football to watch... Better enjoy it while I can...*

*I'm slowly processing a few platefuls of Suster's chicken now as we celebrated my blonde sister's birthday today. Her birthday isn't until Tuesday, but today worked out for many involved so a lot were able to come (27 I heard) and we had a great meal! Always such a nice time to get together with the family and having the next generation of rugrats running around is awesome! Thanks to all and best wishes to big sis! Happy Birthday Connie!!!*

*Good news on Jenny Penny! She was at the birthday festivities today and looked good! There are still issues and today was a "good day" but still that is progress and things seem to be improving. We'll keep her and her parents in our prayers!*

*Last week's Nelson household issue was the ice damns on my southern roof... Those are taken care, but with the new snow you never know when the next batch will develop... New this weekend is a leaking basement floor... Not a big deal as my basement floor as leaked since well before we lived here... The difference now is it's leaking "up" through cracks in the floor... AFTER we flush the toilet... THAT is NOT good! It's been happening since that big freeze but we just put the pieces together today. I my lovely wife washes clothes and then flushes, there is enough water backed up to cause the issue... Pretty bad combination... I plan on ignoring it for today but I think I will call a plumber tomorrow to see what is up and what the ramifications are. More updates next week... I hope...*

*Anyone have a canoe? My lovely bride thinks she wants to go canoeing. Sounds good to me, but the water is a little "hard" right now... :-) Actually, it's probably just a bit of winter cabin fever, but I think its great idea! Perhaps it is a surprise, but I have never been in a canoe. I assume it's no big deal, but you never know... Rowing looks easy too but it's pretty easy to go in a circle doing it! I tell you what though, if it gets me outside on a lake or river, I'm all for it!*



*No idea what that picture means, but it sure seems funny to me!!!*

*Been trying to get some work done on the website and I am making progress... 2011 Notes are done, but that leaves me with 10 years of Old Notes to go... Part of the issue is the website is SO SLOW lately so I've been doing some checking in it and it IS ABNORMALLY slow... I finally pinned the hosting company down and they admitted it. They are offering an upgrade but I'll*

lose all access to the "old curtamous" site pages... I have them all backed up, but I'm still a little leery of losing them... But the alternative is to try to convert 10 years on a slow server... So anyway, I may upgrade, so if you have any issues, please feel free to let me know...

So with that, let's see what is on this week's drink menu...

**20 International Hat Day. Your chance to finally wear that fedora in public.**

**Mad Hatter**

**1 oz vodka**

**1 oz peach schnapps**

**1 oz lemonade**

**1 oz Coca-Cola**

**Shake with ice, strain.**

**21 National Hugging Day. Don't forget to hug your toilet at the end of the night. Get acquainted with the liquor you hate the most.**

**22 Lord Byron's Birthday (1788). "Man, being reasonable, must get drunk; the best of life is but intoxication." Brandy.**

**23 Humphrey Bogart's Birthday (1899). Last words: "I never should have switched from scotch to martinis." Scotch rocks.**

**24 First canned beer sold (1935). Science occasionally comes up with something useful. Twelver of your choice.**

**25 Nut's Day (Egyptian). Nut was an Egyptian goddess, but you can interpret it anyway you like. Samuel Smith's Nut Brown Ale.**

**26 Anniversary of the Australian Rum Rebellion (1808). Armed drunkards responded to oppressive liquor laws by overthrowing the government. Fosters.**

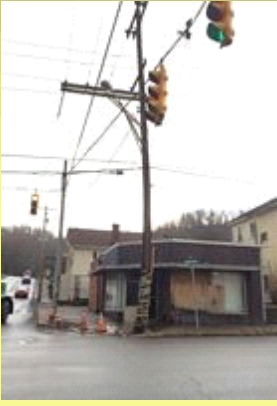
**Hey, next Sunday we setup with some Fosters! I need to pick up a sixer of Oil Cans and get blasted!!!**

**Saw The President at Suster's today... He was holding court with a group of locals, so I goosed him a good one and ran into the crowd and hid... (He's been smiling ever since...)**

**Talking to Zumbo today at the celebration and asked if he'd be interested in hosting the Annual Fish Camp meeting out at the cabin. He was, and he keeps it plowed, so we'll have to check on a date and get back to everyone... I'll keep you posted...**

**Busy at work as I've mentioned and this week will be a long one... Tomorrow I have to head to Stevens Point for the first part of the day and then on Wednesday afternoon I head to Philly and get home late Friday evening. Considering my basement leak, it may turn into a REALLY crazy week!**

**OK, I am a believer in Duct tape, but this is ridiculous!**



*On that note, I am out of here...But before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...*

***"The problem with a canoe is that it's got a big hole on top that lets in the water and limits the paddler's ability to avoid sinking." ~ FreeWine***

*You got that right!*

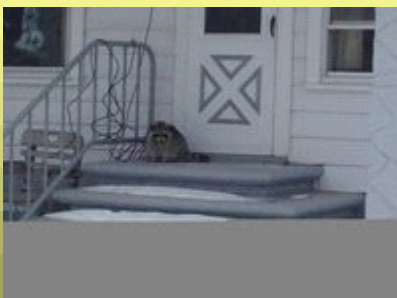
*As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice"!*

*curtamous*

***January 12, 2014*** - *Jak se maj! Howdy all! How is it out there in the world today? I hope all is well! An hour or so ago I got done on the roof here in Denville... More Ice Dams! I have been pretty diligent with keeping the snow off the roof and STILL I have issues. Last night I went to bed to see dripping in my bedroom! So I stuck a pail under the drip and went to sleep. I had very little water in the pail, so I doubt it leaked much. It probably started to freeze and leaked a bit until it completely froze, but this morning I was up early salting the ice and chipping off chunks. Been there before so it's not a big deal (and it was a nice day) but I'm not quite sure what to do about it now... Probably just live with it, huh... Anyway, on with the update...*

*I just talked to the Librarian to get an update on Jenny Penny and there are ups and there are downs, but overall there is progress, albeit slow... Today they had a visit from a PT (one of the Sausage Stuffers (ex) buddies if you can imagine) and had a pretty great experience. Lots of what would appear to be small tricks but seem to really make a difference. We all hope that the progress continues and things get easier as the days go by. They are all in my prayers and I ask you to keep them in yours too!*

*The biggest excitement of the week was a call this morning from the SEC-Transportation. Seems the Mayor had a visitor and he was on the hunt...*



So the SEC call to ask if I had a "large caliber pellet" gun. I kinda laughed as I've had experience with coons and they are tough buggers... Especially ones the size he was dealing with. Well a few hours later I got this...



### **A BEER ON THE KILL!**

He also sent a picture of his trophy, but it probably was a bit rough for this audience... But I must say it was a job well done cause that coon was almost as big as he was!

Got football on the tube right now and it looks like the home team is going to win three of the four games this weekend. That is pretty much the way it is every year... Too bad it wasn't arrange a little different though as I'm not a big fan of the 49er's. Not a fan of the Seahawks either... Well, more so not a fan of either team's coaches as I think both are pretty much jerks, but that's kinda what football is turning into. A little too much like "All-Star Wrestling" for my tastes, but maybe I'm just getting old and grouchy. Crawling around on roofs in the middle of winter will do that...

Not too much in the way of feedback on the new website other than the Librarian DOES like the new larger font. I like it too... :-)

Hey, I got something from the Jack/Ass team. It was SO appropriate for the type of day I was having when I got it. Too funny!

## **Adult Truths**

- 1. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.**
- 2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.**
- 3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.**
- 4. There is great need for a sarcasm font.**
- 5. How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?**
- 6. Was learning cursive really necessary?**
- 7. Map Quest really needs to start their directions on # 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.**
- 8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.**
- 9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind-of tired.**
- 10. Bad decisions make good stories.**
- 11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.**
- 12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blu-ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection... again.**
- 13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.**

14. I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
15. I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
16. I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Light than Kay.
17. I wish Google Maps had an "Avoid Ghetto" routing option.
18. I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.
19. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
20. I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!
21. Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Pants? Pants never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.
22. Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.
23. The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.

Ok, #2 nailed me this week... #16 should be a "golden" rule... and can anyone tell me #19 shouldn't be named the Darwin Rule?

So what's to drink this week?

13 Blame Someone Else Day. Shift that accumulated shame elsewhere. **Your roommate's good scotch.**

14 Sanford & Son debuted (1972). When you get your bar tab, pretend to have a heart attack. **Ripple.**

15 Feast of the Ass (Roman). We're 90% sure they were talking about a donkey.

**Jamaican Ass-Kicker**

**2 oz Barcardi 151 Rum**

**6 oz chilled Jolt Cola**

**Pour the rum over ice, top with cola.**

16 US Prohibition begins (1920). AKA What the Hell Were We Thinking Day. **Rum Runner.**

17 Benjamin Franklin's Birthday (1706). "Beer is proof that God loves us." **Anchor Liberty Ale.**

18 Festival of Women as Cultivators (Persian). Bet the ladies were excited about this one.

**Farmer's Cocktail**

**1/2 oz dry vermouth**

**1/2 oz sweet vermouth**

**1 oz gin**

**2 dashes bitters**

**Stir ingredients with ice, strain.**

19 Neon advertising sign patented (1889). Never again would drunks wonder, "Is that a bar?" **The first alcohol you see advertised in neon.**



*Not sure about the 15th, but I'm interested in the 18th... Sounds goofy, but something that goofy must have something going for it... Maybe later...*

*Another slow week ahead, but the Comptroller is celebrating a birthday on the 16th. I think there's something else on the 16th, but maybe I'm thinking of Ma and Pa Nelson's anniversary (Happy Anniversary Ma and Pa!). Anyway, have a VERY Happy Birthday Adam!!!*

*With the new year in full swing work is CRAZY busy once again. Of course that is a good thing, but I am not looking forward to so long hours in the near future. Plus I have trips scheduled to Philly and Duluth coming up in the next month, so not only will that cut into my personal life (What little personal life I have) but also makes the work schedule even tighter. But, that is part of getting a pay check, right?*

*Hopefully the weather settles a bit for a week or two. It was nice not shoveling snow, but I spent a lot of time chipping and shoveling ice the last two days. That bitter cold wasn't fun either but not as bad as I thought it would be. Part of life in Wisconsin...*

*If you have any issues or tough times this week, just hope that your life never gets quite bad enough to try this...*



*That is below even The President's standards!*

*That's it... Nothing else to comment on, so I'm out... But before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...*

***"Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one." ~ Bruce Lee***

*Profound!*

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

*curtamous*

***January 05, 2014*** - *Jak se maj! Hi all and welcome to 2014! But it has been a rough week and start to the new year but certainly more so for some others than for me...*

*On Monday we got a call that Jenny Penny fell at work, had to be rushed to the hospital, and that the Librarian and Sausage-Stuffer(ex) were there with her. Turns out that when she fell she hit her head VERY hard and that there was significant bleeding on the brain. Being a bleeder, that is not a good scenario, and there was a lot of concern. Turns out she did not an episode that caused the fall, but that instead the fall caused the damage. Since Monday she has had pretty extreme dizziness, nausea, and headaches. A day or two ago she also developed very sore thigh muscles (think charlie horses) to compound things. But for such a little thing, she*

sure is one tough cookie and has been progressing a little each day. She got out of the ICU and is now in an "intermediate care" room and up and walking and eating, but all of it's a struggle. But in today's update they are already talking about the trip planned for the end of the month, so if there's anything that will get Jenny rolling, it's a cruise ship. So please keep your positive thoughts and prayers coming!

At the top of today's big news is the cold spell... It's not nearly as bad as they expected, SO FAR, but they are still talking 20 below zero tomorrow and into Tuesday. Not the 30 below we had back in '96, but pretty darn cold anyway. Stay warm out there!!!

Other less than stellar news involves Wisconsin football. The Badgers fought hard on News Years Day but couldn't overcome the disparity in talent in a 10 point loss. The Packers just wrapped up their season a few minutes ago in another hard fought battle but they too came up on the short end of the stick in a 3 point last second loss. Good year, but a hard way to end it... Can't for next year!!!

The President has a bad tooth... I think that's it for the bad news this week...

New Years was pretty quiet here. The Eve was spent quietly at home, like most years, and I toasted in 2014 with an ice cold beer while watching the ball drop alone. I spent the night watching a movie (I SELDOM watch movies so it was a treat) on Netflix and then hit the hay. A very nice evening. Then on New Year's Day I got my oil changed (yeah, Fleet was open and doing oil changes) and then watched the Badger loss at home. With the holiday on Wednesday it was work the next day so that was it. Quiet but a nice way to ring in the New Year!

Saturday my lovely bride and I took the back roads up to Algoma to visit Matt and Amber's for a holiday treat and to find out the sex of their expected child with the families present. Nice spread of food (especially the bear sausage and sticks) and then the unveiling was done with cupcakes tinted on the inside to indicate the sex of the child. The "blue" coloring means a "Matty Junior" is on the way... :-) Congrats and thanks for the really nice time Matt, Amber and Madison!

Spent some time this week over at the SEC-Transportation's place working on computer stuff. Word is #1 child "wrestled" for the first time this weekend. (I missed it! RATS!!!) I understand he did "ok" and I hope he stays at it... We need a wrestler in the family...

Been really busy at work so not much new on the website. But I WAS hoping/expecting to get some New Year stories to publish, but no dice... So with that, we'll just have to move onto the drinking menu...

**6 Anniversary of Jimmy Carter's encounter with a UFO (1969). Swears he wasn't drunk.  
Crazy Horse Malt Liquor and a bowl of peanuts.**

**7 Flying V guitar invented (1958). Like musicians weren't getting enough chicks already.  
Vodka tonics.**

**8 Elvis Presley's Birthday (1935). Hail to the King.  
Hunka Hunka Burnin' Luv  
6 oz vodka  
6 oz water  
2 tblsp Cherry Kool-Aid  
Combine and shake it like Elvis for 30 seconds.**

**9 Chingay Procession in Honor of Kwan Ying (Chinese). Best Chingay Procession of the year. Trust me.  
Procession of Pink Elephants**

**2 oz vodka**  
**1/2 oz Midori Melon Liqueur**  
**4 oz pink lemonade**  
**Mix, drink fast, wait for the parade.**

**10 National Day of Loneliness. Elvis records Heartbreak Hotel (1956). *Whiskey sour.***

**11 First American discotheque opens (1963). Another gift from the treacherous French. *Harvey Wallbangers.***

**12 Jack London's Birthday (1876). Answer the call of the wild. *Yukon Jack Whiskey.***

***Something about a good Whiskey Sour that's hard to beat... I may have one later...***

***Here's a good New Year's Resolution for all of us!***



***Not much else going on... I checked my calendar and I don't see much on it, so I'll just keep working, contending with the weather, and updating the website...***

***So, I'm out of here... Another below average update, but as I often say (like last week), you get what you pay for... See ya!***

***But before I go, a few words of wisdom for our junior members...***

***"Money will never make you happy. If you have a lot, you may think you're happy, but you're not. ~ Anonymous***

***Strange logic, but actually true...***

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

***curtamous***

***PS. Let me know if you like the larger font size...!***

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[\[ Home \]](#) [\[ Notes \]](#) [\[ PICs \]](#) [\[ Stuff \]](#) [\[ Beer Page \]](#) [\[ Links \]](#)

***Last Updated: January 31, 2014***