

Issue 102 June-July 2012

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28-June 9:09am 85°

So I am home from Walking the Walk on the Camino de Santiago. I returned home last Friday evening around 6:45. I have been mostly playing catching up with things since I have returned.

The toughest thing has been jet-leg. My body kept thinking it was 7 hours ago up until today. I have been gaining about an hour and a quarter each day. Today something woke me up at 5:20 in the morning. A couple days ago I would have been still sleeping.

These few days since I have been back I have been around talking to people telling some of my stories of what went on the Camino.

I will tell you some this as the days go on. For now I will say it was fantastic and I met a lot of great people.

It is great to go away but there is no place like home!

Journal notes

I kept a written journal and emailed some people and also posted some thing on my blog "Walking the Walk." I am working on

getting all of this together and may or may not be updating **Marty's Random Thoughts** much while I am doing this.

I have over 131 hand written notes in my notebook. I am sure there are many thought that will come to mind while I start entering them into the computer.

First person

The first person I met when I started to Walking the Walk was Henry from Holland. I walked out the door to start my walk and there he was walking by. He stopped and said;"Hi!" I asked him if the time was now to start the walk.

We walked to the edge of town, St. Jean Pied-de-Port, and took each others with each other camera so we would have our own picture. I guess you need a picture of yourself when you start so you can go back and see that you did in deer really start way back in the beginning.



May 4th: Starting to Walk my Walk.

I went to my left which I think was west. You may notice it looks to be up hill. It was something like 1,500 meters. Oh that is about 5000 feet. It was the toughest day I walked

Later in the morning I met Henry again right after he returned to the Camino after missing his corner and went a half hour out of his way before turning back. Yes, he walked much faster me to get an hour ahead of me by then. He walked much faster than me. I don't remember ever seeing him after that day.

4-July 3:23pm 105°

Happy Birthday USA

105° outside is one of the reason I celebrate the nation's birthday inside today. I love you USA but 105°! Come on I thing 83° inside is enough for me. Maybe after sundown I will stand on the front porch and watch the fireworks out in the park. I was going to set a few "whoosh, bangs" of my own this year but it is a little dry and I don't want to remember this as the Independence Day I burnt down Woodstock.



Back in the Grove

After being out of the country and having a completely different routine it has taking me a while to get things in order. I am not talking becoming normal again. Normal for me is somewhat random.

I had trouble with my car because is sit so long. I see the "check engine" light still on and require servicing.

I need to drive the motor home to use up the old fuel in it. Yesterday I went out to see if it ran and found a bird nest on the main battery and it was stuck solid. I am sure that drained the battery. Cork told me he had removed one from it while I was in Spain. I have it charging today.

It bird nest had three baby Robbins in it. Not to worry, they are safe and the mother has been feeding them.

I have been transcribing my journal trip notes. As I do this I am finding I have left out many things. Many of you have heard some of my stories. I put page numbers in my note books I can tell I am only about 15% complete. I'm trying to do a little each day.

I started exercising again since I returned. Monday I did a whole hour and I am still sore. Even Michelle told me to take it easy the first few times. And know I know why you should do some stretching before exercising. 😊

I have the bills paid. I only found one I missed. Most those I prepaid before I went to Europe.

The other thing I am trying to get use to is coffee. While in Spain I was drinking

Coffee con Lethe. The closest think I can get so far is Café latte from Starbucks if I put in an extra shot of Espresso in it. As I said it is near it. I will try 3 shots of Espresso the next time. ☺

I think I will go get one of them now.

5-Jul 4:10pm 106°

HOT!!!!!!!!!!

I didn't get that shot of coffee yesterday but I did just return from getting one of those ice coffees with an extra shot of coffee in it. It did cool me down a little. Just before I went up town I saw my outside thermometer say it was 110°. That is just way too hot for me. It makes me want to go out and start up the motorhome and move into it.

If I just startup the generator and burn the gas out of it and turn on the A/C I won't have to drive it anywhere. I will get the old gas out of it and stay cool at the same time.

I just remembered that Netflix should have sent me a couple of movies by now so I could sit out there and watch them when they show up. I could take the laptop and a couple of beers and just stay there for a couple of days.

It would be like being on a vacation of sorts. I even could make it a working vacation. I could work on transcribing my Camino journal notes and drink beer or something. I need to put the insurance back on it if I am going to drive it but I could just live in it for a while.

Hummm...I think I might do that. I'll move in after breakfast.

8-Jul-12 1:24pm 81°

Thanks Marcia!



Source: From Marcia's Facebook

10-Jul-12 9:21am 73°

Well yesterday I decided to ride my bike out to the EW Training to do my work-out. Last week I had aired the tires and made sure the thing worked. I don't think I have used it in 5 years. I remember when I bought it I was al gong-ho to go riding but for somehow I got over it.

Well I got on the bike and only got about 20 feet before I ran into the motor home and scraped the skin off my arm. Well it isn't that bad!

I was riding is and tried to get between a space that was to narrow for someone out of practice. I tried to peddle backwards to stop before I remembered that I had hand breaks. So I bandaged up my arm and put the bike back in the garage for another day.

I think I need to go over next door in the parking lot when no one is there and practice some before I go out in the street. I'm not worry about hurting myself but I don't want to run over someone else.

So I wait for a nice morning when no one it over there when I can make use of the big open space.

Check out the back page for the latest offers.

Let them know you saw that name in **Marty's Random Thoughts**.

My arm is healing fine.

Camino Journal

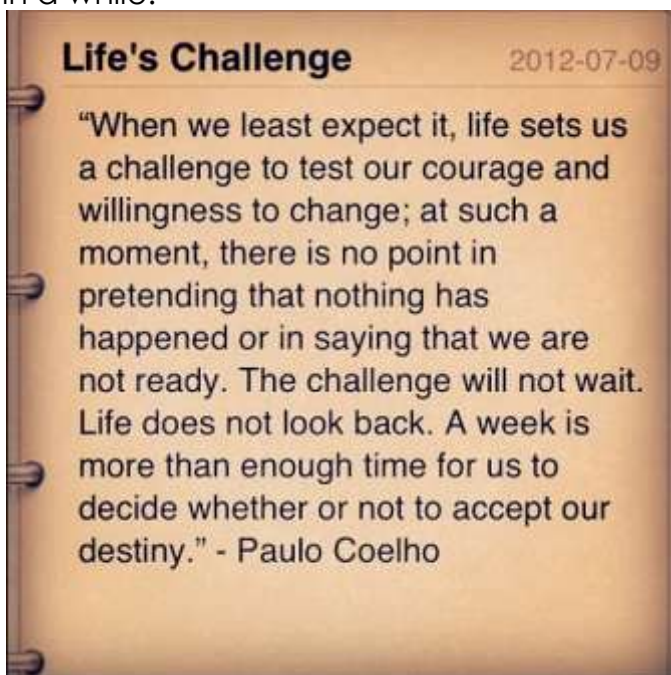
I have been transcribing my journal and it is coming along slowly. I forgot how much goes in to doing that. As I read the journal many other things come to mind. I am only on page 29 in the journal notes. It has only made 15 pages in the computer so far but it is 6400+ words. There are over 130 pages in the hand written journal I wonder if that means there will be 75 typed pages and 16,000+ words.

Wait I am scaring myself! I can only type one letter at a time. Like when I was climbing those big hills on the Camino, I could only go one step at a time. I did get to Santiago only one step at a time.

I think I will work on that for a while and let the coffee break wait.

Life's Challenge

I saw this on APOC of Facebook posted by Trudy Tucker who copied it from someone else. Yes I go to Facebook once in a while.



Source:

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=4136418010328&set=o.57453722347&type=1&theater>

12-Jul-12 11:44am 83°

Well today is better. No I don't mean the other days were bad! The last week or so I have been getting the motor home ready to take it for drive. I want to burn the old gas out of it and fill it with fresh.

Gasoline goes bad after a while. And since I think the gas in the motor home is quit old I figure I would go somewhere for coffee and back just to use it up. After all it is only about a fourth of a tank.

Well the battery was dead probably because of the bird nest that was shorting the batter. Yup a Bobbin had built a nest on to of the engine battery. It had three live birds so I was careful not to disturb them. The mother found the nest and was sitting on it the next morning. The birds have since left the nest and I am sure they are thinking about creating their own family next year hopefully not on my battery.

In a couple of days I had the engine and the house batteries charged and got the thing running. I backed it out of it storage spot next to the fence then put it back in the drive. Later I went out and it wouldn't start again. The engine battery was dead again. I hit the switch to start it from the house battery and it just started. When I shut it off it wouldn't start again even with the house battery.

While I charged both sets of batteries again I looked up the cost of new batteries. Since these batteries have been in the motor home since I bought it they could be six maybe seven years or older. I have always had good luck with battery life but not when they sit unused so long.

I figured the best price I could do is about \$350.00. But I was not sure that was the only problem. Machines are made to be used and if you leave them sit all kinds of things can go wrong.

Look at the problems I had with my car after only sitting for 7 weeks.

The number one thing on anything I drive is that it must start so this needs to get fixed. So I took the motor home down to General RV in Huntley to check it out. I now in a couple of days I will find what the problem is and go from there.

Boy does the driveway look empty with that big motor home gone!

In the mean time I checked out the camper and it started and the thing ran just fine and I took it on a short drive about six miles. It seems to be ok.

The fuel in it is only last from last fall so it should be fine.

Friday-the-13th July 2012

Let's start out with I slept in today. I missed my Friday work-out. I guess I started our today easier than normal.

The motor home has one new battery and General RV will be trying to sell it for me this week during their RV show.

If you are looking for a motor home go down and take a good look at it. I am sure we can make a deal if you can't with them. If you go down to look at it, ask for Bill Rogers. He is a good guy. I don't know any of the other sales people.

While eating breakfast this morning I was looking through the pictures I took while on the Camino. I have to cut down the album somewhat. Right now there are 744 pictures in the iPad. If I show you all of them you may fall asleep. I did! I started with about 900. I will be working on this over the next few weeks.

For now I have to work on transcribing the journal notes. This too will take time.

Now I can't work on it all day because Aunt Annie just called and invited me to lunch and I said yes.

From the IN-Box

I received an email from Mike that contained the following;

Some words to live by. for those who understand, no explanation is needed.

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak & the strong; because, someday in life you will have been all of these".

I am going to live until I die, so I am going to enjoy what time I have left and too Hell with the Dr's and all the pill pushers.

For those who understand, no explanation is needed.

For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.

One day I had lunch with some friends. Jim, a short, balding golfer type about 80 years old came along with them---all in all, a pleasant bunch.

When the menus were presented, we ordered salads, sandwiches, and soups, except for Jim who said, "Ice Cream, please. Two scoops, chocolate." I wasn't sure my ears heard right, and the others were aghast. "Along with heated apple pie," Jim added, completely unabashed.

We tried to act quite nonchalant, as if people did this all the time... But when our orders were brought out, I didn't enjoy mine.

I couldn't take my eyes off Jim as his pie a-la-mode went down. The other guys couldn't believe it. They ate their lunches silently and grinned.

The next time I went out to eat, I called and invited Jim. I lunched on white meat tuna. He ordered a parfait. I smiled. He asked if he amused me I answered, "Yes, you do, but also you consume me."

How come you order rich desserts, while I feel I must be sensible? He laughed and said "I'm tasting all that is possible. I try to eat the food I need, and do the things I should. But life's so short, my friend, I hate missing out on something good."

This year I realized how old I was. (He grinned) I haven't been this old before."

"So, before I die, I've got to try those things that for years I had ignored. I haven't smelled all the flowers yet. There are too many trout streams I haven't fished. There are more fudge sundaes to wolf down and kites to be flown overhead."

There are too many golf courses I haven't played. I've not laughed at all the jokes. I've missed a lot of sporting events and potato chips and cokes.

I want to wade again in water and feel ocean spray on

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my face. I want to sit in a country church once more and thank God for His grace.

I want peanut butter every day spread on my morning toast. I want un-timed long distance calls to the folks I love the most.

I haven't cried at all the movies yet, or walked in the morning rain. I need to feel wind on my face. I want to be in love again.

So, if I choose to have dessert, instead of having dinner, then should I die before night fall, I'd say I died a winner, because I missed out on nothing. I filled my heart's desire. I had that final chocolate mousse before my life expired."

With that, I called the waitress over... "I've changed my mind," I said. "I want what he is having; only add some more whipped cream!"

This is my gift to you -We need an annual Friends Day! If you get this twice, then you have more than one friend. Live well, love much & laugh often - Be happy.

SHARE THIS WITH YOUR FRIENDS including me if I'm lucky enough to be counted among them.

Be mindful that happiness isn't based on possessions, power, or prestige, but on relationships with people we like and respect. Remember that while money talks, CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM SINGS!

Source: Email from Mike

I thought I would share this with all of my friends who read **MRTV**. Thanks Mike!

Oh, Journal Notes...

14-Jul-12 2:46pm 74°

Did you see that today, we had rain! There was 0.29" when I last looked.

17-Jul-12 1:37pm 93°

I don't know about you but I have had about enough of this hot weather!

I came back from Spain 4 weeks ago where I had a hot day was 82°. I don't remember a day near that cool since I came home. I guess I am making myself miserable because I keep looking the weather in Europe and it is still nice and cool there. So I think it time for me to start thinking cool things.

Cool

Here goes...

I went out and did an image search with Google and here are some of the pictures that I thought were cool.



Yes, you should be cool!



Cool Shoes?



Cool Car!



If I am not mistaken this is Joe Cool.



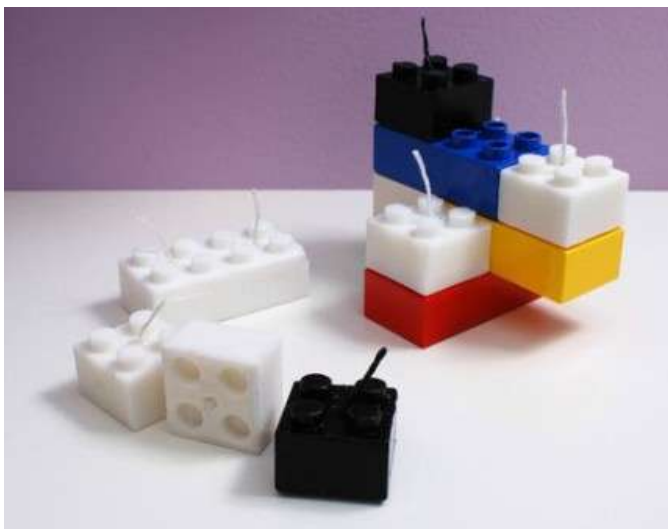
This would be cool to have. Well if it was mine!



And Mister Cool.



This is just a cool Picture!



Cool Candles, Hay!



Equal rights to the not so cool

Well I hope this helps even it doesn't make you cool. The one picture makes my put a couple bottles of my wine in the fridge. I remembered the Strawberry Mist

wine was very good when chilled.
Yammers! ☺



One more cooling pictures:

Symptoms of Inter Pease

Many of you know I don't spend a lot of time on Facebook. Yes I do go there from time to time and spend time looking over what people are saying. This was one of those times. I thought you might like to see this.

Sorry I can't post a link to the posting because someone has already removed it.

SYMPTOMS OF INNER PEACE

Watch for signs of Inner Peace. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to it, and it seems likely that we could find our society experiencing it in epidemic proportions. Some signs and symptoms of Inner Peace.

1. Tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than from fear based on past experiences.
2. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
3. Loss of interest in judging other people.
4. Loss of interest in judging self.
5. Loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
6. Loss of interest in conflict.
7. Loss of ability to worry. [A very serious symptom]
8. Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
9. Contented feelings of connectedness with others and Nature.
10. Frequent attacks of smiling through the eyes from the heart.
11. Increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
12. Increased susceptibility to Love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

If you have all or even most of the above symptoms, please be advised that your condition may be too far advanced to turn back. If you are exposed to anyone exhibiting several of these symptoms, remain exposed at your own risk, this condition of Inner Peace is likely well into its infectious stage. BE FOREWARNED

Source: Faisebook.com

23-Jul-12 12:49pm 85°

Well it is forecasted to be hot again today! I am thinking you don't need me to tell you about that. You might have figured it out on your own. I will talk about other things.

Side effects

I know you have heard about side effects of meds. Have you heard this one yet?



Source: Heart to Heart Newsletter

27-Jul-12 2:46pm 83°

Dead PC

Well two days ago my PC crashed and I was pretty sure it was the power supply. So I searched through my old PC parts that I never get around to trashing. I figured one of them would have a power supply that still have some life left in it. Well I didn't find one with a 24 pin cable that I needed. I found three with the 4 pin cable on it that I also needed. All of them were the older ones where cables had only 20 pins.

So I looked up a new power supply and find they are a low as \$40.00. So I went for coffee and let it sit while I thought about it.

While taking my break I thought about this and was not sure it was the power supply so I thought I would pull the hard drive and see if I could hook it to my laptop and read the data. Yes I have one of those cables that let me hook a hard drive to work like those USB Flash drive, but where it is.

I remembered the last time I tried using it; it wouldn't work so I put it in with the recycle stuff. Yes it was still there and it worked. I saved both the adapter cables and the hard drive. My Data was safe!

The last few days I have been looking at that empty spot on my desk wondering what I was going to do. The PC is old and was the power supply the problem?

Today I remembered I was smart enough to just put the hard drive in another PC and see if it would boot up. In the first one I tried it worked. I am about to try another case that runs much quieter and it faster than the first one.

I knew it would notice the hardware is different and ask me for the license keys for some of the software and it did. I will go work on this in a while.

Life in the Day

Just before I started working on my PC I finished watching a movie I started yesterday. It is titled "Life in a Day" directed by Kevin MacDonald.

On the DVD jacket it says;"After thousands of people around the world joined together to record banal and remarkable everyday events on July 24, 2010, director Kevin MacDonald led a team of editors to condense more than 4,500 hours of video in to this picture of life on earth."

To start with I give this a 5 on the MRT scale. Remember the MRT scale only goes

to five. The bonuses on the DVD were great too. Even the out-takes were good.

Well in any case I like this Netflix Movie!
Now I will work on my PC again.

Back to the PC

So I took a break and figured one of my backup servers would work for a PC until I decided I want to part with my money.

I grabbed one and after installed the hard drive I booted it and had to install drivers for the different hardware that was in it. This I expected.

Ok I got it working on the first server when I remembered it was the slower of the two. I am spoiled and if I have to interact with a machine, PC, I don't want to wait for it. I was starting to get faster than my old PC. Yes it was old. Maybe I bought it a couple years before I retired.

So anyway I decided since it wasn't the hard to get it up and running I would switch to the other faster server. I figured a half hour or so and I would be done.

Well things don't always go as planned, do they? To start with the driver for the network wouldn't work. Without that I couldn't automatically go to the internet to get a new one. Then the keyboard stopped working and then the mouse!

Now that I switch back to the first server the keyboard and mouse are working. Well it wasn't the keyboard and mouse after all. It is my KVM switch or its cable that is the problem.

I use one video display, mouse and keyboard for two PCs. Since one is died I don't need that so I removed it.

So as soon as I know that this slower one is working with the old hard drive I will try the faster one again. I think it is waiting for me in there now.

I am venting here. It is one of those days here. So here I go. I'll be back!

28-Jul-12 11:15am 74°

I'm back. Well my PC is back and running. Well, I mean I have a PC again. I am using the faster of the two servers I converted back to a PC and it seems to be working just fine after loading a few drivers.

I guess this means I could go out and mow the lawn. Hummm... I wonder if I remember how to do that. I only did it once since April. Yes, I only did it once since then. I was gone two months and only ran the mower once since I returned to the good old USA.

So if you drive by take a look and see how I did. You may have to retrain me. ☺

Now that I have this working I may go back to working on my Camino journal notes. I see I have only transcribed 49 of the 130 or so pages so far.

So I am off to do it...or take a break. ☺

31-Jul-12 8:36pm 73°

Wow it is only 73°! Maybe I should open the windows tonight and get some fresh air to sleep on.

This afternoon around three o'clock I was sitting on the front porch reading a book. I looked up and the Google map car drove by my house. I don't know if it was mapping but I waves at the car anyway.



Who knows maybe I will get my picture on Google maps showing me sitting on the front porch sometime in the future.

Here is a link that tells a little about Google's Street view.

<http://www.google.com/help/maps/street-view/learn/cars-trikes-and-more.html>

While looking for this link I found this YouTube video I just think it neat! "Google

Earth Weird and Random Stuff" Link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=4Y3v2pBxBas&feature=endscreen>

After looking at that video you might like to search looking for other things people found on Google Earth.

Walking the Walk, Day 2

On day two when I was walking the Camino de Santiago I walked with Marvin from North Dakota and Daniel from Idaho.

Before the day was finished we had our second day of mixed weather. We had rain, snow, hail, sleet, thunder, and lightening. Then later Daniel and I helped get Marvin back to town before night fall because he was having trouble with his backpack and it was giving him back problems.

In the days to follow we became to be the three amigos. We hung out together like we had been friends forever. When they left in Pamplona we hugged and said our good-byes. I think there were a few tears too.

I have been in contact with both of them and both are doing fine.



Marty, Daniel and Marvin at the entry to Pamplona on May 9th