

Marty's Random Thoughts

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WHATEVER'S ON MY MIND WHEN MY FINGERS HIT THE KEYBOARD

14th Year

Woodstock, Illinois, USA, Earth

Marty Metras

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2-Apr-13 6:34am *\$

I looked out my front door just before I came up here this morning and I did see any snow. I guess spring is beginning. It is time to think of putting in a garden. Maybe start some more seedlings. To get me outside more this year I need some outside actives. Having a garden is one of those ways. What other things is there?

I could install my windmill that I was going to do last year. I could clear the junk out of the garage. I think I could fill a big pickup with stuff that is not needed any more. This might give me room to park the car in there. Maybe I could get to the table saw and build a couple of bookshelves. Somehow I keep getting more and more books.

I could do some more of the landscaping I have thought about for years. I wanted to plant ground cover along the driveway so I don't have to mow the 3 foot strip of grass. Maybe I could plant raspberries along there. It would be ground cover and food at the same time. I wonder what else might grow there I could eat and I wouldn't have to replant it each year. Let's see, Asparagus, Rhubarb, Herbs, and Flowers. I could plant spring flowers. That way they

would come up and I would have to mow there until later in the season. I think I may do all of the above.

For outside I could work on my car and camper. They don't need too much work but I could wash and wax them once in a while.

I could go for a walk once in a while too. I could see what there is to see in Woodstock instead of just going for a walk for the sake of walking. Maybe walk east, west, north, and south to the city limits and see if there is a line to stop me from leaving town. Maybe I'll find myself in Hebron, Huntley, McHenry, or even Belvedere if I lose track of time. I guess if I go west too far it would be Rockford. ☺

I guess there are many things I could do outside when I get started. □

I think I should get off my backside and head home and get started. ☺

Catching up a Little

I haven't published one issue of Marty's Random Thoughts this year. I have my PC running again and need to get started on editing the first 90 days.

Then I have my story about Walking the Walk last year. I just got it back from my editor and I

need to see how well I did with my draft. Thanks Cork!

I think it is time now to head home. Now, Marty!

4-Apr-13 6:18am *\$



Wilde donkeys on US 66 on the road

Good morning world!

I am only on day 16 of my book "7 Ancient Keys to Happiness" It is a 90 day how to workbook of sorts. I have been reading at it for a long time. Today's lesson is about letting people in to help when you are hurting. Be it physical or emotional pain. Letting people help is good for you and good for them. Most people feel happier when helping or receive help. Give it a go either giving or receiving help.

This book was a free Kindle book from amazon.com It is also available in paperback. Even though I have not by any means finished it, it

has given me a lot to think about and I am happier because of it. And no I am not going to be finished in 90 days.

Scrambled Thoughts

That said I am having random thoughts that are not flowing into just a single thought. Is that what confusion is about. I always have random thought but they all stick together for long enough to form something I can write about or get me started process with my hands or my mouth. This morning they are not sticking together except for what I have just started typing here. I have a mess of things I have started since I returned from California that have started to fix but only started. Then I went to Farm & Fleet and bought some flowers to plant along the driveway. Well it is still too cold to plant them. And there is the camper that needs to be cleaned up. Again it is too cold this morning to start spraying water around. Well I have a blood test this morning around ten but it isn't even seven yet. I have a new battery for the camper I could install it and see if it works.

Wait first there is a need to do it get another cup of coffee.

The Coffee isn't helping

Maybe Coffee isn't so much "The Think Drink" today. Still my thoughts are not more than a scrambled mess. Maybe if I stop dwell on the mess of goo my thoughts are they will separate into something useful. Or maybe even it is designed to work that way today. Just maybe there is to one random thoughts plan for me to work on today.

I just looked outside a see a "Wet Paint" sign. I always call then a "Touch Me" sign. Most people do! And Yes I will! ☺

Is it possible I learned how to spell? I see that all day while typing these words not once has the spell checker laughed at me. If these are one of the side effects on having scrambled thoughts then maybe I could leave them scrambled for a day or so. I must learn from this and see if I survive. It would be a little scary if I could correct my own spelling. I think I should send this to Word and see if it is me or the computer that has changed. Hum...

Yup it is time to email this to the other computer and check it with Word. Or is this a miracle

Oh, I got that spelling thing figured out. I added those graphics for the smiley face and it can't spell check them so it spells checks nothing. ☺ So I turned it off and I still can't spell worth a dam. And this is bleeding with red marks that I have to fix! ☺ Wow 14 words!

So my thoughts are random and not scrambled again. I can get on with my life now. ☺

TC Again

Yup it is my second trip here already and it is only 9:30 in the morning. I was on the way home to see what time my blood test was because I forgot to remind myself before I left home and I got a call so here I am waiting to have a break. It took about 15 minutes for the round trip. This will be one of those many trips to my break areas day. ☺ It isn't much different than any other day except for my breaks are in different places. I am always telling people I am resting up so I am not too tired for my breaks and little do they know that I mean it. ☺

6-Apr-13 6:38am *\$

Here it is Saturday and now what? What does God and man have waiting for me this day? I guess if I hang around I will find out. It can only be good things. I hope I have what I need to see these gifts when they are presented to me. Sometimes we don't see the good when it is right in front of us.

I have had it pretty good for a long time and plan on lot more good times. Yes there are things that happen that some would say are bad. I look at almost of them as things that are not as good as I would like them to be. Even my trip to California had many things go bad. But were they bad? Most of the things that broke, meaning 4 tires, complete exhaust system, battery, etc were worn out when I left home. We were not stranded out in the cold when those things failed. This is a good thing. Yes I didn't like this to happen but it was not completely unexpected. Another good thing is that I could afford to get it fixed and not towed home with my tail between my legs. There always the positive side of a not so good situation. Even if you get hit by

car, the guy that hit you might learn a lesson about paying attention when he drives. It may hurt like hell getting hit by a car but you may learn to look both ways before stepping off the curb. Being pissed at the driver of the car only adds stress. You should go over and hug the driver and thanking him for not hitting you any harder. Yes, I am getting carried away here but you get the idea.

Dwelling on the negative side of things just makes you sad and I want to be as happy to the point someone may think I should be in a funny farm. Wait maybe you already think that. ☺

10-Apr-13 8:38am Honda, CL

Good morning!

Today is the day Mom & Dad were married. It was 71 years ago. Yes, it was seventy-one years ago! Wow that makes Mike, my older brother, 70.

Auto Service

Honda's computer called me and told my answering machine to tell me my car needed an oil change and I had an appointment at 9:00am. Well I usually laugh at these calls. I don't need an oil change just yet.

This time I needed to have my car checked out. My check engine is on as well as my IMA light. When I came back from California the battery was dead on the car. This happens after it is sitting for a long time without using it. The check engine would come on for a few days and then go off after things settle down. The IMA light is part of the electrical system for the Hybrid part of the drive train. I have no idea why that light is on. So here I am telling my sob story and waiting to see what they fine.

Why sitting here I will be editing at editing MRT for the first quarter for and maybe you will get to see it before the Christmas letter comes out.

16-Apr-13 6:05am *\$

Sunday I started to walk again. That is more than from the house to the car. I walked up here for my morning coffee. Then yesterday I walked out to EWT for my morning training. That was a little rough because I haven't been walking since I

returned from Spain last June. Wow that was 10 months ago! I guess I should be getting out of the car and move around a little.

After walking over 500 miles across Spain last year I just did not feel much like walking anywhere. Walking around town on the cement is not my idea of much fun. Cement is hard to walk on. Asphalt is much better but the motor traffic uses that and you become a target on the busy streets. I prefer gravel or dirt trails. I know you cannot always find the perfect path to walk even through life there are no perfect paths to live. You need some rough paths to appreciate to good times.

The benefits of walking are so much better than sitting in the car. Many of the short trips are even faster than driving. I have driven here to Starbucks and time from my back door to walking in the door was 20 minutes. Walking is 10 minutes from door to door. Hay I think I will start timing that for a while. Maybe I will surprise myself of the real time savings.

Thinking about saving, I remember a while back I was wondering it having an Electric car would make sense. Meaning the small urban electric car that get only 25 mile driving range. But if it is the 25 mile range I could almost walk that.

At one time I figured how many miles I drove on an average day. I don't remember the details but I seemed to remember 96% of the time it was less than 40 miles in a day. In the last 10 year I have driven about 75,000 miles comes out to about 20 miles a day. So if that is all I drive on an average day it means that an Electric car is a do able thing.

Yes I have gone on a few road trips in those 75,000 miles so I real average local driving could be a lot less. And I know I would need to have a different ride if I was going to go on a road trip.

17-Apr-13 12:53pm Harvard

This morning I was working on the computer at EWT and Michelle said she had to go to Harvard to teach a class. I asked her if I could tag along. Here I am. I am just hanging out and messing with my iPad. Well, I did help setup.

Electric Car

Last time I talked a little about driving an electric car. After reading what I wrote I will be going out to the internet and seeing what are available that want me to have in my driveway.

18-Apr-13 7:17am *\$

It rains! It has been raining for two days now. It has been kind of dry for the last few springs. Not this year. The rain gauge for my weather station says we only have 0.03". Since it's on the roof I can't get up there to see if it is plugged with stuff. This morning I remembered I have a rain gauge in the back next to the solar panel. Wouldn't you know it, it leaks. It showed about 1/2". I fixed it and came up here for coffee.

Things not going well

You ever had something you do all the time that you just cannot seem to make it work? Well I am going through this the last few weeks. One of those, well today as it seems, are giving me fits. My PC would take Windows. Most of this is because it is old and the updates are not installing right. The PC is a 2005 and I installed the recovery disc is the original. I thought this would be the easiest and fastest way to rebuild. I knew there would be many, many updates to apply. There are only time consuming but that is mostly computer time and not mine. I just start the process and go do something else. Well somewhere in the process things got screwed up and it didn't show up until late in the process. Grrr! I need to start over.

The next step was to load Linux which never has failed me. So I loaded it and it gave a few problems. I think I come to find out that there is some kind of problem with the PC itself. Hardware issues usually just break and you replace them. Well this one is one of those intermittent issues that have me frustrated. So I walked away from it because I don't need that stress.

I had a laptop I had to build from scratch. I installed Fedora Linux and got it up and running for what is was going to be used for. Meaning this laptop's job in life was going to be client check-in. Well it has a very big hard drive that could be used

for backup server too. This mean I just install Samba (file server software) and a little security and map a drive to it and done. It is easier than using one of those USB flash drives.

So I installed Samba and the admin tool Swat. I set up the server keep the service running and then I just create some directories. I have done this a hundred times in the past. You find a typo or two as you are troubleshooting. If anything goes wrong it takes an hour from the thought to finish. Yes it is that easy! Well, not this time! So here I am venting on you. Sorry!!!!

Rain Gauge

Maybe I'll go up on the roof later and check it out. It is not the only thing wrong with the weather station right now. The outside temperature on the console showed 145° the other day. This morning it was only 130° or something way out of whack. I just looked and I see it is not even posting on Weather Underground. They must have seen it and cut me off. I'll have to check this out. Maybe now that I have had it for over 9 years it is time to replace it. I wonder what they cost now days.

Infrastructure failure

Thinking about the Weather Station replacement, there are other things I have to think about replacing. Here are some of the things I have that need to checked out that may need to be replaced in near time.

Car	\$25,000	(new)
Battery	\$3,000	
Exhaust sys	\$1,700	
Clutch	\$1,500	
PC	\$700	(new)
WS	\$1,000	(Weather Station)
Roof	\$5,000	(include gutters)
A/C	\$1,000	(A/C in the Camper)

I'm leaving this subject because I am getting depressed. ☹

I still think on this. \$7,500 repairs or a new car? New PC or more frustration? Do I really need a new Weather station? Roof can wait another year it was installed in 1993-94 making it only 20 year old.

And for the A/C in the Camper, Well It isn't summer yet.

I think I will go check on the rain gauge on the roof now.

Update continued on page 9 or so

19-Apr-18 11:03am *\$

I was sitting here and I looked out the window and it snows! Not so much but snow none the less. The last couple days we had a bunch of rain. I look it up because my rain gauges are broken for now. Well the weather station at Westwood says 6.16" this month and theirs is offline too. I guess we best get them fixed or we can't have any weather for a while. ☹

Well the sun is out now. I guess if we have no weather stations in Woodstock the weather will be strange for a while.

I am still reporting the wind on my web site. It is all that is working. ☹

21-Apr-13 6:59am *\$

Happy Birthday Michelle!

Morning thoughts, Nothing much in there yet. Here it comes...The sun shines.

I received an email from Marvin. Marvin is the retired priest I walked with on the Camino last year. He going back to walk the Camino the end of the month. He asked me about backpack advice. That is something I did not think I would be asked. Well lately asking me for advice would surprise me. With all of the things I have falling apart the last few weeks I am not sure I know anything anymore.

Maybe if I sit back and think about the things that are broken it may be just that they are all at the end of their live cycle and it just happens that they are all ending at the same time and it isn't me. My stuff doesn't break down that often. I may be just time for them to bunch up on me. I may be just getting over whelmed because I don't know where to start. I need to think on this for a few days and work on just one at a time.

I just had a random thought. Talking/typing about this is helping relieve the stress and helping

me think how I will fix all the stuff that needs fixing and what should be replaced or just get rid of it.

Maybe I should make a list of what needs to get done. I have never been much of a list person. I have made list in the past and almost never look at them. I would find that years later and find that almost of the things were completed. I usually just do things when it is time. Maybe I will go home now and make a task list and see what there is to do.

Wait, didn't I do that a while back? I remember there were 51 things on it. I think number 51 was to take a break. Maybe that is what I am doing now. Ok, I'll go home now!

23-Apr-13 6:56am *\$

Yesterday was Earth Day! I missed that. Sunday I planted 80 flower bulbs and 6 asparagus roots. So I was a day early. I also cleaned up the yard a little and used some of my compost when I planted those things. I guess I observed Earth Day even though I forgot.

Project works

Yesterday I got the backup server working. I have been working is for a week and I was stuck. This is one for those easy things I have done in the past many times. It had been a while but the setup to do this is pretty easy. When I couldn't get going the first day I decided to let sit and come back. I took my old laptop and set it up to work the same as the server I was having trouble with and make it work then go back to the backup server. As you might think I still missed something.

At this point I checked every little setting one by one. Still something was amiss. Finally after two hours and thirty-three minutes the light came on. Ah! "Did I turn the firewall off?" I usually turn it off when I first setup a new server until everything else is working. Well I checked and there it was and the check box was checked. I unchecked it and all was just fine. I double checked by rebooting the server and all was good.

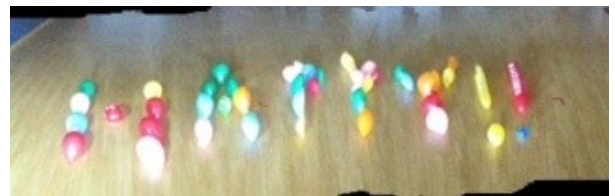
It was from the internet where I learned all the different things that can be set which could cause things to not work as expected. Other than a few

typos I was doing just fine. I don't think I found that the firewall was blocking this.

For you that don't understand what a firewall on a computer is it is simple. A firewall on your car is that wall between you and the engine. It has holes to let wires and hoses that you want inside but not the noise, heat, and smells in. In a computer it is kind of the same thing. You block bad thing from the internet from getting in to mess up your computer. I had it turned on and was blocking everything. Today I need to punch a hole in my firewall so only the backup can get through then turn it back on.

This is the easy part. I would say it is a five minute projects but in the past I have had my five minute projects last five weeks. :-)

Think Happy Thoughts



Are 42 balloons enough to make you happy?

I am getting behind on reading my book on happiness. The more and more I read it the more I know that nobody but you make you happy.

24-Apr-13 10:00am *\$

I'm sore. I walked out to EWT for my Wednesday morning training. I left home a little late so I decided to walk a little faster than I should shortly after getting out of bed. Even when you are walking you should warm up by walking slow for a while to warm up your walking muscles. Well I pushed to make up five minutes. I am ending up not gaining up any time. Yes I was on time but I am suffering from it now. Our training was different and I found muscles I hadn't been using and they are telling me they want to keep resting.

That is one of the reasons the EWT is so good. You use different muscles each time you workout. I think having a trainer guiding the classes is the best way to go. I think they are confusing your body by using different muscles each time. It's great! Yes I

hurt a little but the soreness will leave. Hay I burned over 1200 calories before breakfast. That is a 5 mile walk and an hour workout.

Yes I am at Starbucks eating breakfast. It would be a healthy egg, muffin, sausage, thinking and a cup of coffee. ☺

Vacation

Well I am thinking I need to get away for a while. I don't need a vacation but maybe a road trip. Like when I first got my car. I drove it to the Black Hills and back. One time I drove to Colorado had coffee and came home. Sometimes you just need to get away for a few days to clean the cobwebs out of your head. I have no idea when or where this might happen but it is bouncing around inside my head.

27-Apr-13 6:00am *\$

I see there is a full moon out this morning. Enjoy the feeling it bring and be a loon if you would.

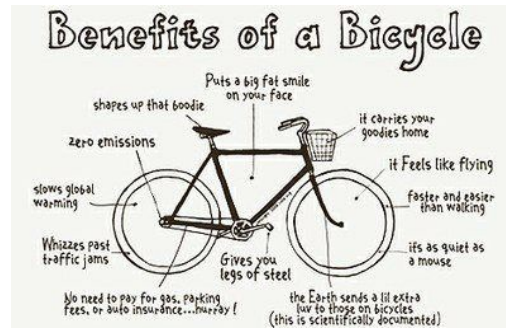
Happiness

If a negative thought come into your head don't think about it. It is like if I tell you to not think about that tree by your house. Try as you might you will keep thinking about that tree. The thing I have found that helps is to think about happy things. The tulips in the yard, the sunset I saw on the beach on the west coast of Spain, having fun with friends, or good book. Pictures help. Soon the bad feeling is out of your head. This not always an easy but it helps to think enjoyable thoughts.

28-Apr-13 7:14am *\$

A while back Roy was interviewed by a reporter at the Northwest Harold and got his picture in the paper. I made a copy of the interview and Roy signed it today. We talked for a while. He also is a Sears repair technician.

The interview can be seen in the Northwest Harold Sunday Paper published on 7-Apr-13



Oh, this is Sunday! It feels like a Monday. I guess I'll wait until tomorrow for Monday. I wonder what Monday

will bring. Well I guess whatever happens will be good. I don't always understand what happens when it does but something will happen.

Roy asked me if I was going to hike the Appalachian Trail. I looked in to that a while back and decided it was not the hiking that I wanted to try.

I just returned from the internet and found the Grand Illinois Trail. It is a 475 mile hike in Illinois. Here is the link to the guide.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/greenway/sandtrails/Documents/gitusersguide.pdf>

It goes through Hebron so if you wanted to start you only need to start from your front door. I think I will look this over and see it is something I would like to try.



Many times when I was on one of my adventures I have wondered what there was to do in my own back yard. This is something to check out.

Here is the short link the Illinois trails:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>

Hum, I am getting itchy feet to go somewhere. I am just not ready yet but let's think about this. It is less than 500 miles. If I hike it I would have to figure out where I might stay at night. It is a doable thing. I might take a little longer than it did to walk the Camino but still doable. I could drive it first and see how the path looks for places to stay. Being in

my own home state I would be away from home but still be home. Yes I could do this. Hum...Maybe I could go home and check this out.

Maybe I could use a bicycle on this trip. A bike can be your friend. I have talked about getting my bike out on the road and see if it still works. I know last year I almost road it as far as the end of the driveway. ☺

You know I talk a lot about doing things someday and I think I don't know which day of the week is "Someday". I think it is the day between Sunday and Monday. Do you know where it lies in the week?

30-April-13 6:24am *\$

Day in the life of Marty

Just before I left this morning to start my day I thought it would be a good to write down how my day goes. I have done this a few time in the past. It is always interesting to look back and just see what I did for a day. This time you will get to see too.

5:15am:.....

Woke up and remembered I had laundry to finish. There was a load in the dryer and the washer from last night. The load for the dryer was my blue jean jacket and my gym shoes they have been giving out a stink so it was time to wash them. I had forgotten how nosey shoes are in the dryer. Knowing that sometimes the shoes kick the door open I decide to just come up here to Starbucks for coffee.

6:15am:.....

I almost walked here I am typing and watching people. I like watching people. In my head I am making some plans for part of the day. After I finish my coffee I will call Cork and then go to breakfast. I have a project coming up for this weekend and Cork has some tools I don't. He said I could use them. For now I will read some more of my book while drinking coffee and watching people.

7:15am:.....

Read a little then checked out Facebook. I see I was way behind reading the entire thing my friends have put out on Facebook for the world to see. Now

that my coffee is almost too cold to drink, I best give Cork a call and see if he is up for breakfast.

It seems like my morning coffee at Starbucks gets cold many times. Sometimes it is because I am visiting and other times because I am working on the computer and lose focus that I have coffee here just 12" from my right hand.

I just checked a message I received two days ago. I am a great uncle. **Eldon Wayne Zahn, 8 lbs 5 ozs, 19-1/2", 1:15am, 28-Apr-13, somewhere is Kansas.** Amber my youngest sister's youngest is the mother.

9:30am:.....

I spent a couple hours with Cork. I picked up the tools I needed and he showed me what I needed to know to use them. Now home and thinking it might be time for a break.

12:30pm:.....

Went for a road to Lake Geneva and walked around looking in the shop windows and checking out the lake. I forgot how nice it is to just be! I had a good time.

I'm home now and I see my shoes kicked the dryer door open trying to get out. I decide not to put them back in there to get dizzy. Now I remember what color they were once up on a time. They were white once. ☺ (*Update about page 9*)

8:30pm:.....

Well I went out in the garage and cleared off the table saw so I could cut some boards to work on another of those unfinished projects. I got almost finished when the phone rang. It was Dave, the guy who was coming to pick up the motor home. Yes the motor home is sold. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

The last hour and a half I was filling out paper work and helping Dave get hooked up so he could take it to Colorado to the new owner.

This has not been a typical day in the life of Marty but it will do.

Now that I am gear up that the motor home is out of the driveway I think I won't sleep much tonight. I will just finish this issue on this happy thought.

All good things come if you wait long enough.

Marty

5-May-12 Updates

Infrastructure...

Rain and temperature gauges on the weather station are shot. This means that I need to decide if I really need to weather station.

I know I want one but do I really need one.

A/C on camper is shot. If I use it much this summer I think I should get it replaced. The other thing that I now should be fixed is the seals on the skylights. It is wet inside if it rains heavy.

Day in...

Shoes still stink. I will use them to cut grass and not in public places. I have already bought new shoes but they hurt my feet. I will take them back to try different shoes that fit better.

MARTY

The MRT Backer Page



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