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1-Mar-2008 10:20am 26°

Well things are moving right along this morning. I have been out for breakfast and I'm working on my second load of laundry. Dorlene left me a note in the mail box that she found her glasses but not one of the lenses when she fell on the ice on Thursday night. I spread some salt in the area where the glasses were found. Maybe with the salt and with the warm weather the lenses will show up. It is one of those lenses that turn dark in the sun. It might be easier to find it if it is in the sun lying on the snow. It might not be near where the glasses were found because it was on Thursday night and I used the blower Friday morning. We can only hope that the lens is not broken or 50 feet away from where the glasses were found. Later I will go out and look some more.

There is more I have baked a batch of cookies too. I just removed them from the oven. It is time to remove them from the pan before they stick.... Well some of them look a litter over cooked. These cookies do not like it when you change thing in them. The receipt for these cookies works without modifications. I tried bread flour this time in stead of all purpose flour. It did make a difference. There taste different. The texture is different and they over cooked. Hummm... I think I have a receipt that I can't play with. I will make one more batch to the receipt and see how they come out. If they come out fine I will have to stick to it.

Now I have to go to Elgin then fold clothes, and maybe go and help Bill with his computer. Oh, then go over that taxes stuff and see if it looks ok and get it in the mail. Then I have to look for the lens too. And I am sure some where along the way I will have to go for coffee once or twice.

Birthday

Jenae has a birthday. After the 18th I can't tell any one until you get to be 100. Happy Birthday Jenae!

03-March-2008 9:53am 30°

Yesterday I was retired for one full year. Wow, where did the year go? Now I think maybe I should start working on the next one. There was a lot of thing I was going to do when I retired. Some of them I started and some them I didn't get around to yet.

I did get to Germany to see Mike and Petra. I wrote a book though it is not finished yet. I retired my pickup. I didn't go any where with the motorhome. I have been keeping up with this newsletter. I got my teeth fixed. And of course I got to play in the snow this winter.

I guess if I was working those thing could have happened. Because I am retired I do them on my time schedule. Now I need a couple dry days so I can remove the cover from the motorhome. Then I can get it ready for a field trip.

Lens in the snow

How do you find glasses lens from in the snow. Some one lost the glasses in the snow in from of my house last Thursday. Remember it snowed over night and Friday morning I removed the snow with the blower. Friday Dorlene's son found the glasses but not one of the lenses. She said they found the glasses because the sun was shining and the lenses were dark because they were the kind the go dark in the sun. With all the melting the last few days I have been looking in the area where she thought they were. So far I have not seen them. Then it snowed the morning to slow the process. The snow blower may have picked it up and blew it. The lens and it could be almost anywhere. Any ideas how to look for a lens in the snow or grass? I will keep looking to see what I can find. If you need to fun time come over and help. Keep off of the *glass*

Family Tree

I got an email from Pamela Metras asking about relations. I guess she married a relative I didn't know. She is working on the family tree. I guess her father-in-law and my dad didn't keep up on what was happing in the families, so she is just getting started.

4-Mar-2008 10:23am 26°

Last night around 4:30 I was leaving the driveway and saw something shinny out of the corner of my eye on the blacktop. Yes, it was Dorlene's lens! It was no where near where I thought it should have been. The snow blower must have put it there. This morning I returned it to her. She is still happy to see it. And me too!

Beer

This morning about 7:30 some guy orders a beer to have with his breakfast. I wonder if he knows that beer is not just a breakfast drink any more.

We do strange things

Who ever came up the idea to wash off beans and then drink the wash water? Isn't that what us coffee drinker does?

Handycap

You know a long time a handy cap was one of those hats that held two cans beer with hoses so could drink hands free.

**Osmosis, Infusion, Confusion**

What does this mean?

Infusion: a solution obtained by steeping or soaking a substance (usually in water)

Confusion: a mental state characterized by a lack of clear and orderly thought and behavior; "a confusion of impressions"

Osmosis: The diffusion of water through a membrane.

I guess you use osmosis to make tea by the use of infusion and get confusion if you make it from the wrong stuff.

Heard on the Radio

A Lady was at the bus stop a man hit her for some reason. An older man, 85, jumped in to help and was hit by the man's blue folder. The man who did the hitting dropped his folder and ran away. They looked in the folder and it was a man's homework. The homework had his name and address and the homework it was from his anger management class. Funny stuff!

Editor

Heather is working too much I think editing **Marty's Random Thoughts** is job number 5 I think. Heather you have been doing a great job. I remember what work it like. I tried it once. Maybe I could help you with something.

I think I will try to be my own editor for a while. Maybe over this last year I have learned something. Thanks again Heather.

Mike and Petra

Mike and Petra are now California residents. New mailing address, new driver's licenses and all of that makes it official. I will carry their new address and phone number around with me for a while so if you need it, just asks.

New Motorhome

I have been thinking my motorhome is a little big. Maybe I need this one. If I can get this kid to take his hands off the car that comes with it. What will they do next? I know



a helicopter blade on top would be nice to get around traffic. For now this would be a nice way to carry you spare ride.

I saw this a while back. Arlene sent me a whole photo spread on this. That is me with my hand on the kid's shoulder. Thank Arlene for remind me that I need to win the lottery.

Newsletter Feedback

Marty,

Some things from reading the newsletter.

- Thanks for Arlene's words on what we endured.
- It is a "sump-pump" now a sum-pump.
- Add Petra's birthday 18 April.
- I have a copy of the family tree that mom did. Thought I made one for you while I was in Germany.
- You keep "thinking about" Arizona and California every other day. When are you going to do it?

Thanks for the break.

From Mike

03/05/08 12:28pm 29°

Busy couple days. I have been helping a couple fix a couple computer problems. I think both of they are working ok now. I'll wait a few days and see what happens. Some times the problems come back. This means you just think you have fixed it.

Gossip

A man who was caught in some gossip was told he had to go to see a monk and do whatever the monk told him to do.

The man did as he was told and reported to the monk. The monk gave the man 30 feathers and told him that as his punishment he was to take the feathers and place them on 30 doorsteps throughout the nearby village and then return back the next day for the balance of his punishment.

The man, again, did as he was told, reporting back to the monk on the next day. The monk then told the man that he was to go back to the doorsteps where he had placed the feathers and bring them back to the monk.

The man left, but upon returning, told the monk that he was only able to find two of the feathers. The rest must have blown away. "So it is with gossip," the monk said. "Once you pass gossip on, true or untrue, it is impossible to get it all back. Some always remains."

(Author unknown)

Source: Received from Cork

06-Mar-2008 1:26pm 24°

Birthday

My younger sister, Marie, who was born before me is having another birthday today. I am having a nice sunny day for you today. Come and enjoy it. Happy Birthday Marie!

Tire

Aunt Annie finally got her tire fixed today. I think it has a slow leak for years. She let me ride along with her. While we were out running around, we only went for coffee twice. ☺

07-Mar-2008 8:15am 13°

I see the some of my weather data missing where I upload it to Weather Underground. I am correcting that now. It does not seem to be uploading any data. Where it is finished is a few minutes I will have to see if I even have any of the data to send. I hope it is just a delay and not lost data.

Oh, it takes all the data before it post it. No missing data now.

I like it when you go to Weather Underground and ask for Woodstock's weather and "Midtown, Woodstock, Illinois" shows up on the list first. That's me! There are 3 other weather stations in Woodstock posting weather there too. It is nice to be number one. It is neat to see that the temperature is 3-4° different among the 4 weather reporting locations. There locations are Lamb Road, Lily Pond Road, Dean Street, Westwood Trail, and mine near Clay Street School. Wait, that's five. Yes, that's right. They must have just connected their station.

Woodstock Weather

I modified my Weather page to show the temperatures for all 5 Woodstock reporting stations. I did this because I know how. Those of us who leave our computer turner own all of the time can post you weather too. You need a weather that is connected to your computer and some software. I am using an older weather station by Davis that does the trick. It wasn't too difficult for me to set up. One of these days I have to move it to another computer because this one is going to die. I think I have been saying that for 2 years now. Maybe I should do it soon.

Well, I did it. I moved the weather station program to another PC. It is this PC that I am using for the newsletter. I will see how that works out. It only took an hour to do this. I had to make very little modifications when moving it from a Windows 2000 to a Windows XP computer. None of the changes were because of the operation systems. They were all because of my configuration. I didn't even loose 1° of temperature over it. ☺ Oh, I upgraded the software too!

In any case you can check the Woodstock weather out at:
<http://www.doerofthings.com/weather/index.htm>

08-Mar-2008 9:49am 17°

Why does is feel so cold outside? Maybe it is because I need some spring weather. It was down below 8° this morning. Burrrrrr!

Weather Station

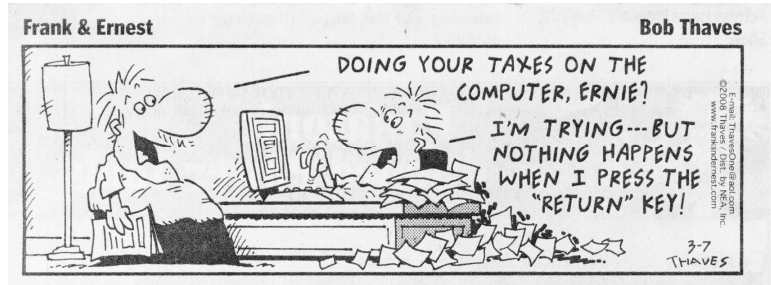
The weather station is working just fine after the big move yesterday. It only took 2 years to get that 1 hour project completed. I am glad I do not rush in to these things.

Birthdays today

We have 2 birthday today. There is my cousin, Bruce, who I haven't seen for years and years and Taylor who turned 18 today who I saw yesterday are having birthdays today. Happy Birthday you all!

Income Taxes

I have to go over my income taxes again and see if I did them right. When I did it a couple weeks ago it said I had to pay in a bunch. I think it might be right but still want to go over it again to make sure it is correct. I wouldn't want to have to give the IRS too much. I do not always agree with the way they spend it.

**New PC**

I still have a couple programs to move off the old PC before I can rebuild it. I need to load the scanner software and get it to work so I can scan jokes like this one once in a while. And there is the program that I use to get stock quotes. I need this just in case the market starts to go up some day. I have a license that need to be moved with this program so it will work.

09-Mar-2008 1:33pm**Birthday**

Sandi's birthday is today. If you see her I think this is a big one. If you see her at the Three Brother wish her a happy birthday. Happy Birthday Sandi!

10-Mar-2008 12:20pm 30°

I see the snow we got last night is melting even though it is a little below freezing. It is nice in the Sun. For now I will take all of the sun has to give us. It may be a different story next summer. Before I go out and enjoy the summer's sun I need to pay some bills.

**12-Mar-2008 11:59am 43°**

43°? Does this mean that spring is coming?

13-Mar-2008 9:25pm 37°

I'm having a bad day so I have been watching T-V the last hour or so. And you know what I just found out? LEGO has made 60 bricks for every man, woman, and child on earth. Wow!

TEQUILA AND SALT

and some words of wisdom worth thinking about

This should probably be taped to your bathroom mirror where one could read it every day. You may not realize it, but it's 100% true.

- 1. There are at least two people in this world that you would die for.**
- 2. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.**
- 3. The only reason anyone would ever hate you is because they want to be just like you.**
- 4. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.**
- 5. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.**
- 6. You mean the world to someone.**
- 7. You are special and unique.**
- 8. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.**
- 9. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.**
- 10. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take another look.**
- 11. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.**

So.....

**If you are a loving friend,
send this to everyone,
including the one that sent it to you.
If you get it back, then they really do love you.**

And always remember.....

**When life hands you lemons,
Ask for Tequila and Salt and call me over!!**

Good friends are like stars.....

**You don't always see them,
But you know they are always there.**

**'Whenever God Closes One Door He Always Opens Another,
Even Though Sometimes It's Hell in the Hallway.'**

I would rather have one rose and a kind word from a friend while I'm here than a whole truck load when I'm gone.

Forward to all your friends.

**And don't tell me you're too busy for this..
Don't you know the phrase 'stop and smell the flowers'?
See how many 'bouquets' you end up with!**

**Happiness keeps You Sweet,
Trials keep You Strong,
Sorrows keep You Human,
Failures keeps You Humble,
Success keeps You Glowing,
But Only
God keeps You Going**

Source: Email from Mike

Problems Later

I see I started putting things in the newsletters a couple hours ago. Well, my email isn't working and I'm stuck and it is 11:30pm. I am not seeing what changed that would cause it to fail the way it has failed. I thought it was the computer, so I tried another. I thought it was the server, so I tried another. I thought it was the internet service, it wasn't that either. I have thought and thought and I can not think of anything I have changed. Normally when things are working then they stop it is something that has changed. If you can figure what have changed and unchanged it you can make it work again. Sometime some thing breaks and that is a change. Some times you fix something and when putting something back together you get it wrong and can't believe you did it wrong so you do not check so it does not work until you find it. Some time you get help and one of you are not paying attention and one of you mess up and the other doesn't catch it either. So since it is almost midnight and I have no idea yet I am just thinking with my fingers.

What is Happening

When I send an email it goes nowhere. If someone sends me an email I never get it. It I am on the mail server sending and email to the same server nothing happens. That would normally tell me it is the mail server that is failing. Wait... On another server I can email on that server to itself. Hummm... That was server #87. Server #30 can send to itself to. Hummm... Well #87 cannot send to itself. #87 is my main mail server. I never tried to see it could send to itself. If I did I don't remember it wasn't working. Ok it is that server that has the problem of eating the email and nothing happens.

I am rambling now. It is helping me think. So if you do not want to read this I can understand.

I replaced the firewall server #6 with #187. # 187 had the newer version of the software on it. Then I rebuild #6 to have the new software too. This made no difference. No new problems just the email not working.

At this point I do not think the problem is the firewall because all of the PC and servers and my web site go through the firewall. This is server #6. Note: the number of the server or PC it just and ID number it is not how many I have. I do have a lot of computer but not 187.

Ok so the firewall is fine. #30 and #87 will send and receiver email to themselves. What about to each other?...

Well I can't send email between 2 internal servers. I didn't think that was going to wok because I never set my internal network to work that way. I talk to myself enough as it is. I do not need to email to myself or have my computer email to each other. Then next thing you know they will start talking about me behind my back.

So it looks like the problem in all on #51 the main server. I think I will sleep on it. Maybe I can dream up what I changed. If not I will have to move every thing to another server and make it work. Things were working so well yesterday. Wait, it is tomorrow, that means things were working so wall the day before yesterday. Well goodnight!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

14-Mar-2006 9:13am 38°

Well I have had a good night sleep except for showing Aunt Annie what a die casting machine looked like in my dreams.

I have eaten breakfast, looked over the newspaper, and taken my medication. I guess I am about ready to work on the mail server problem. Before starting let me explain why this is important to me.

How to stop the panic

Some times when you walk through a mud puddle you need to stop walking so the mud can settle out of the water so you see through the water to make sure you are not going to step in a big hole and drown.

Non-Geek

For those of you who do not understand the problem let me tell you about it without computer talk first.

Say you have a 55 gallon barrow sitting next to you front porch with a fire burning in it. This just keeps burning and you think it is just fine. You are drawing heat from it and it is keeping you warm. This is good! Now after a few days you notice you are not getting any mail in you mail box. You decide to check around and you see the people next door are getting their mail. So you go to the post office to see if they have been trying to deliver it. Well the post office is closed. So you can't get there during open hours so you try calling on the phone, but nobody answers. After a while you notice that the mail you are sending is not going any where either.

Now you start to panic and think that the postman is putting the mail in that barrow with the fire. And you put the fire out and look inside and there are no ashes other than stuff put in there. So where is the mail? One or 2 days without mail once in a while is normal. This is about where I am now,

Game Plan

Back to the problem at hand, I need a game plan.

The first thing will be to shutdown and restart all of the Computers on the network. I have seen one flaky computer on the network cause problem that will make thing not work on others. This is an easiest thing to do and I can make coffee while the computers are rebooting. Yes, once in a while I make and drink coffee at home.

Before I start that, I must make a list of steps to do after that coffee is sitting here next to me.

I need to check all the log files on the mail server to make sure I did not miss something yesterday in my state of panic. I wish I was at a picnic instead.

Then I need to go through all the steps that make the email work. There are many programs that must work together.

Sendmail, Dovecot, CalmAV, SpamAssassin, MailScanner, Perl, Smoothwall, SquirrelMail, and others I can't think of right now. Maybe I need to start shutting down computers and make that coffee now.

This newsletter is one of those servers and it works. And the web site is on another and it works too. Wait Marty, go make the coffee!

Coffee is cooking

While the coffee is brewing I will tell you what else is happening beside the email problem.

Camera mount

I am building a shoulder mount of my camera so when I take videos or pictures it will be a little easier on my arm. No I do not normally need any help for a short video or a couple pictures. I was thinking about starting walking again and I want to make a walking video. This video could be used to look at while you are inside on the treadmill when it is raining. You could watch a walking video like you were out in the nice weather. I have heard some may people say how bad the weather is that they could not go for a walk. I don't know how easy or hard this is going to be to enjoy the outdoors while making a video. But the shoulder mound is just about ready to try. I can try it in a week or so.

Run you car on water

The other thing I am working on is a fuel cell to run you car on water, well, kinda. I am building a Hydrogen-Oxygen fuel cell. You basically use electricity to take water apart and use the H₂O in tap water and separate it in to a mix of HHO and burn it in your car. This idea still has some leaks in it so I think I should go check on that coffee.

Email Fix Process

You may not want to read this if you are not a geek. I am putting it here for those of you that might want to know what I am doing to figure it out. I also want to log what I do. It might as well be here. I will keep it generic.

Mail processing programs

First I removed and re-installed "Dovecot" and "Sendmail". These handle the email. Then I checked to make the DNS server on the Internet was pointing to me so the mail could come to me and not that barrow full of fire. That is done and ok.

The logs

The last email that I received and still have has a time-stamp of 03/12 at 50:36pm. In the mail log I see the last incoming email was 3/12 at 7:07pm and the last out going was at 7:14pm. No errors to indicate that there was a problem after that.

The messages (system log) show that it can not resolve the names. This is a DNS issue. It could be causing some problems. I just shutdown 'named' and set resolved back to use my IPS's DNS server. After rebooting after disabling the name server I remembered that I have to reconfigure the Sendmail files after re-installing it or else it ain't a goin' work now anyway. And I notices it is 1:30 and I need to eat something and then come back to this. I'll be back!

Lunch break

So it was EasyMac® for lunch. Ten minute from start to finish. I checked the Mail on the front porch and that is working. So I guess they are not burning it up and the postman is not on strike.

Email Check

Without configuring the new sendmail program it is sending out email. I sent one to my Yahoo account and it works. And I sent it back to me and I didn't get it to the server. So I need to configure the sendmail program.

What else

I configured sendmail, re-installed Clam AV, Spam Assassin, Razor-agents-sdk, Razor2, Dcc, and MailScanner, Then shutdown the services that needed to be stopped and started the one that needed to be running. Now I am going to make a cup of green tea. Wow! It is 3:40 already.

I need a break

I changed my mind I am having mint tea... I guess it is near St. Patty day so both are Irish. So I checked and they are more email in the server's files. So I think it is running. Now can I get them on the PC so I can read them?

The server is getting the emails but there is no emails getting to my PC. Ahhh, I didn't re-install Dovecot. Dovecot is the IMAP part of this thing.

Things be better

I polled the email again and I have emails! Viola! Yes Viola, not Wa La! I even had one junk mail come in. Funny, it came from "Oprah & GreenTea". I see there are a couple more that came in too. I think I will let this sit for a while now and see what happens. I need to make sure the spam and antivirus filter are working before I break it again.

Random Thoughts

I am not sure what was broken. It was easier to just dump the programs and re-install them. Not the best way to fix it but it was something I knew that would work. I do not think the cause was my internal DNS(named) because in the logs back to the first for February was showing it wasn't working. It still needs to be fixed but not right now.

There was this program "exim" that had been installed a short time ago. I removed it. It is a different kind of mail server and it was running as a service. It may have been conflicting with "sendmail". I am not sure why I had installed it. So I will leave it off of there.

I need to go through the logs and see if there any new errors that I caused be doing all of this. As I said I will wait until after dinner. There are 14 emails and 7 are marked as junk mail. So mail is working. I just have to check those Spam and Anti-Virus filters.

Thinking its fixed

I am thinking it is all better now. It is sending and receiving emails ok. Both form the inside and outside. The logs look clean. I tried to send Steve an email to wish him happy birthday and it failed. So I called him. He had changed email address. I must have talked an hour with him. Good visit!

Happy Birthday yesterday Steve!

I'll let this sit for a while and see how it goes. Thanks for listening to me.

15-Mar-2008 10:56am 33°

Well yesterday is over and things are looking good. Now I have laundry to do. There is always something to do isn't there.

Old Co-workers

While at Vaughan's I saw Glen. Glen left Knaack maybe 5-10 year ago. We caught up a little about old times. Then I saw Russell. Russell used to work at the Auto-Lite a long, long, long time ago. I left there in April of '82. And I don't remember if he was still there then. I see him ever once in a while and he always say "Hi!" He is one of those people that remember names. I only know a few people that see you after 40 years and remember your name and the only heard it once. I think Russ is one of these.

Getting caught up

Is it funny when you get all caught up fixing something like my email system, that you lose 3 days even though is only took a day and a half to get it fixed. Here it is Saturday and I feel like this week hasn't happened yet. Two day got me 3 days behind. This morning I thought it was Sunday and really it should be Wednesday but it is really Saturday. It will come around.

Ides of March

Today is the Ides of March Here is what I found out about that.

In the Roman calendar, the term ides was used for the 15th day of the months of March, May, July, and October, and the 13th day of the other 8 months.

*In modern times, the term **Ides of March** (Latin Idus Martiae) is best known as the date that Julius Caesar was assassinated, in 44 BC, the story of which was famously retold in William Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar. The term has come to be used as a metaphor for impending doom.*

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ides_of_March

Cash and Treasures

There is T-V show on the Travel Channel call *Cash and Treasures*. I like watching it. They take you all over the US and show you how to dig up different thing that could be worth money. Last week they were digging for Turquoise. Turquoise is my birth stone. In a 30 minute show they show that this one piece of Turquoise can make a twelve hundred dollar pendent. And they only used about one-eighth of that rock.

This made me remember that Heather is a geologist. So, I asked her if she would like to go on a field trip to look of valuable minerals. There is gold in that there dirt! I have the motor home. Mark could drive and Heather, Olivia, and I could stay in the back and play. Heather reminded me that she was going to have a baby. I think I said something like it was ok to bring him a long. Please note, I did say "him". I keep telling her she is going to have a boy.

March 10th and 13th

March 9th, 10, and 13th and all special dated for Sandi. Ash her about then when you see her at the Three Brothers.

My Notebook

I am catching up on mm notes in my notebook. I see on March 11th I wrote that that I should write a book on this next coming of the end of the world. The last end of the world was on 12-31-1999 at 11:59:59pm didn't happen on time. And the next one in 2012 on December 21st when the sun and earth line up with the black hole in the center of the Milky Way. This is also the 5th ending of the earth in the Aztec Calendar. Maybe I will wait and see what happens. I haven't finished with my book about my trip to Germany & Spain yet. So I should finish that book first.

The rest of the notes are already in the newsletter. I must not be as far behind as I thought. Well, there is that laundry that I haven't started yet.

As it Stands

I have the Email working. The problem with my DNS server, 'named' was not a problem at all. It was doing what the designed for I just did not understand it. I had a few Minor issues after re-installing all of those programs. It is working fine now so I think I am good to go.

The Random End

This newsletter is going to press with out any more changes. Well, it is going to printer. I hope you enjoy reading about all of my stuff.

Marty

Birthdays

Mar 1	Jenae	Mar 13	Sandi's Anv	Apr 4	Lucy
Mar 6	Marie K	Mar 13	Steve S	Apr 11	Heather L
Mar 8	Bruce M	Mar 16	Marcia G	Apr 11	Roxanne M
Mar 8	Taylor B	Mar 20	Jessica M	Apr 14	Jeremy M
Mar 9	Sandi P	Mar 21	John K	Apr 18	Petra
		Mar 30	Christine P	Apr 19	Dave S
Mar	Victoria	Mar 10	Sandi' other	Apr 30	Janet J
20			Anv.		

Mar 2 I retired

If you don't see you birthday or you want to make sure I have then let me know.

My master list is at <http://www.martysthoughts.info/randomthoughts/html/Birthdays.html>