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01-Apr-2008 7:37am 34°

First Robin

I saw my first Robin today. I almost hit him with the car over there on Newell street.

New Sales Tax

New sales tax came out today. We now have to pay 7% on what we buy. That means only another nickel taxes on each \$10.00. It is still a whole lot better than the 19% I paid some places in Europe.

How to Figure Taxes

The general tax is figured like this: Subtotal time 0.07 equals the tax to add. Or you could use the sub total by multiplying it by 1.07 to get the total to pay. Sorry, I did not make you pay this new tax.

Income tax

I was going to do my income tax today but the pile of other stuff on my desk was too big. Maybe I will get to it tomorrow.

Aunt Annie's Car

Aunt Annie took here car back in to get fixed yesterday. They didn't get it finished. They it would be around mid day today. We'll see.

02-Apr-2007 03:26pm 54°

Income tax

I have my income tax filled. I won't be paying in as much as I thought. I will be getting a little back. I will only be getting enough for a diner and a bottle of wine for two. Still, that is better than paying more taxes.

Birthday list

I updated the May birthday list. I see there are only two on my list. Don't people get born in May? Look it over and let me know if I missed some one. April too!

Issue # 31

I have the newsletter printer sitting there waiting to give out. I need to email you telling it is ready. Maybe I could do that now... It's done. Did you see it yet?

Aunt Annie's car

They called Aunt Annie yesterday and gave her the bad news about her car. It was the slider pins on the front breaks (part of the disc brakes), the emergence brake cable was bad, and the bushing on one of the tie rods or something like that. This meant a front end alignment because of the tie rods. They had given her a price on Friday. I think it was more than you might want to pay but still a lot less than a new car.

There is more to this story. When they called the car was sitting in the parking lot all ready. They said that some one hit it with a truck and smashed a fender. She said it wouldn't be ready until Friday. Remember, yesterday was All Fools Day. I asked her if it was an April Fools joke. Nope, the real thing! So Aunt Annie is driving a 2007 Taurus for now. We have to help her learn to drive all over again. She has been diving that Escort for so long, I think even I would have to be retrained. The Taurus is a nice car.

Itchy Feet

Now that I have some of those things out of the way I think I will start get the motorhome ready for a trip to Arizona. Taxes are finished, computers are working, Aunt Annie almost a has a new car, Jim & Cathy and Jeremy & Tonya are back from vacation, and it is April. I like to vacation in early spring before it gets too warm. The motor home has been sitting too long. I am start get itchy feet to travel some for a while. I'm thinking about going on a trip for 3 weeks. I do not plan on going on a long, long trip all over the USA this trip. Maybe spend a few days in Arizona, California, and sight see along the way. For now I have to ready the motorhome.

03-Par-2008 10:42am***JUST FOR GRINS***

Homer Simpson:

"Oh, and how is 'education' supposed to make me feel smarter?"

Besides, every time I learn something new it pushes some old stuff out of my brain. Remember when I took that home wine making course and I forgot how to drive?"

Marge:

"That's because you were drunk!"

Source: Wine Making Newsletter from eckraus.com

Thanks Mary

Mary told me about a new Electric car made by Tesla Motors. I like this sports car! It gets get about 135 MPG. Well not really gallons because it is electric. It says it will go about 220 miles on a charge. This is my kind of electric car. The price is still quite high. Maybe when they have made a few thousand of then the price will come down. Here is what it look like. And here is the website where you can get the information. <http://www.teslamotors.com/>
Thanks Mary!



04-Apr-2008 9:32am 41°

Birthday

Lucy's birthday was today. I haven't heard from Lucy in a very long time. Has any one else? Happy Birthday Lucy where ever you are.

From My Notes to You

"1-2-3 Magic", a book for Anila. Don't ask me Anila, it was in my notes.
"Helping Me Help Myself"
"Ask what you want. You might get it."
"We really need portable missile launchers on out public airlines. Don't we?"
All of this was in my note book. Not sure what it all means. Maybe it is something you said or I heard it on the radio.
Notes: from my notes

Main Streets and the Bricks

I went to the barber shop on Main Street this morning. There was a parking place right in front of the door! I don't think I got a parking spot that good since I got my hair cut at Nolen's on Benton Street five year ago. When I came of out, there was no cars on the street. I thought it must be closed or Sunday or something. Wait, even on Sundays there are cars on Main Street. Hummm... Wonder what that is all about?

I left and want up around The Square and I see a lot places where the bricks are missing. These areas were blocked off. I see they are putting in more islands surrounded by curbs. At first I thought maybe they ran out of bricks and they were putting in the islands so they could reclaim the bricks. This is not the case. They are building these things to make the square look better. Yah right! Don't we have enough shortage of parking and isn't it hard enough for them to plow the snow? We need more flower on the square. They say we are not loosing any parking. Maybe so! Those corners they are taking away are where the deliver trucks parked so they didn't block all the car parking and other traffic. And with the new curbed islands it will be harder for the snow removal. I am thinking I may have to make it to one of those planning commission meetings to see what the thinking was when thy decided to do this.

Running for Office

You may remember I was running for office. Maybe if I went to the meeting once in a while I might know some of the thing that are happening before they start spending our taxes on our parking. I think I need to go to the barber shop and find out what is going on in the town I have lived in for 50 years. Wow! Has it been 50 years? Yup, I think it was June 1953 when we moved to town. We lived over the White House. Not that White House! I lived on Wheeler, McHenry, East Jackson, and 3 places on Clay Street in this town since 1953. I lived in Harvard for a month and a few years on the farm. So I guess I have been in Woodstock for 50 years. Wow!

Since I have not been campaigning very much of office I think I need to start. Maybe I'll do that when I return from vacation. Wait, I am always on vacation so lest call this a "get away" or a "field trip." Being retired isn't quite like being on vacation all the time because you're are at home. It is almost though.

I will have to look and see what I didn't promise before I start campaigning. I have to be careful when I run for office I don't run the other way. And I have to make sure Aunt Annie can handle the pressure of being a political figure. As far as that goes can I handle the pressure?

Q & A

This was part of something that Mike sent me the other day. I thought you might want to see it.

SOME POINTERS about questions and answers:

- 1.) Don't assume there is only one right answer to the questions you ask. Our culture is very addicted to the idea of "right."**
- 2.) Remember that questions about subjective matters, such as feelings and thoughts, are not likely to have "right answers."**
- 3.) Contrary to popular opinion, it is perfectly acceptable to ask "why" questions. Be sure you are really asking a question though, and that you are really willing to hear an answer. Sometimes if we don't like an answer or find it inadequate, we just ask the question again.**
- 4.) Avoid questions that are designed solely to get people to agree with you. Be brave and risk asking questions without predictable answers. Live on the "questionable edge."**

Does this make sense? Do you think it is worth a try? What have you got to lose?

Source: Email from Mike, See <http://www.thomrutledge.com/>

God Is Like

They say you can not mix the Church and the State. Well, I'm running for office so I am going to mix a little God with the T-V. I got this form cork and thought is should be reprinted.

A fifth grade teacher asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God.

Here are some of the results:.

God is like

...BAYER ASPIRIN	He works miracles.
...a FORD	He's got a better idea.
...COKE !	He's the real thing.
...HALLMARK CARDS	He cares enough to send His very best.
...TIDE	He gets the stains out that others leave behind.
...GENERAL ELECTRIC	He brings good things to life.

...SEARS	He has everything.
...ALKA-SELTZER	Try Him, you'll like Him
...SCOTCH TAPE	You can't see Him, but you know He's there.
...DELTA	He's ready when you are.
...ALLSTATE	You're in good hands with Him.
...VO-5 Hair Spray	He holds through all kinds of weather.
...DIAL SOAP	Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?
...the U.S. POST OFFICE	Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.
...Chevrolet	The heart beat of America
...Maxwell House	Good to the very last drop
...B o u n t y	He is the quicker picker upper . . can handle the tough jobs . . and He won't fall apart on you

Source: Email from Cork

05-Apr-2008 11:40am 55°

Wow, Fifty-Five degrees! Spring has arrived. It's getting too warm for me now. I think I will have to get on the road and starting seeing the rest of the country. Yes, sometime next week I am going to head southwest. Today my plan is to be in Arizona around the 18th of April. Being that I do not really have much of a schedule. I need to be back the first week of May for some commitments. And they could be rescheduled too. Who know when you will be seeing me again?

I still haven't decided if I am going to tow the car. Right now I am thinking not. If I need a car I can always rent one.

For the next few days I will be loading up the motorhome with those think I think I can not live without. You know all those things you take with you that you never use. Maybe I should pack like when I went hiked in Spain. If I can't carry it on my back for 500 miles I don't need it. I could do that. I would add the laptop to the list, but still take a paper and pencil. Since I might cook once in a while I should take a couple pots and pans. And then take along some food to eat. Maybe a couple more changed of clothes so I don't need to stop and do laundry so often. And take some DVDs so I can watch a movie once in a while. And there a couple books I want to read, a chair to sit on outside, a lamp to read by, soap, towels, silverware, tent, sleeping bag, and etc, etc, etc. You see the list could go on and on. I could almost live in the motorhome. I think I will try to not take too much stuff with me. I do like the idea of having stuff just in case I need it.

Maybe I should start working on this so I can get to Arizona by the 18th.

RV-Travel Newsletter

The newest sport: motorhome racing

Yes motorhome racing! If you have seven minutes to spare, check out this program from the BBC about racing motorhomes. It's a giant spoof. . . but what a total hoot! You will laugh hard at this one, we guarantee. Watch it all the way through -- the best part is in the last two minutes. This is for the Internet prople:

<http://rvvideos.blogspot.com/>

[Bumper Snicker](#)

I Need Someone Really Bad. Are You Really Bad?

[Worth Pondering](#)

Life is tough, and if you have the ability to laugh at it you have the ability to enjoy it. -- Salma Hayek

Worth Pondering

Christmas at my house is always at least six or seven times more pleasant than anywhere else. We start drinking early. And while everyone else is seeing only one Santa Claus, we'll be seeing six or seven. --W.C. Fields

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue321.shtml> Or #320

07-Apt-2008 9:24am 40°

I hope I'm over it

Yesterday I had a few people tell me I was crabby. Before I knew it is starting believing it and then I was. To all those people I was crabby to yesterday, I am sorry.

It is amazing that I let that happen. I learned something from this. A long time ago I was told that if you repeat something to a child long enough, in time they start to believe it. If you keep calling you kid a dummy long enough they will believe it. And pretty soon the will becoming a dummy. I have a cousin like this. His mother kept telling him he could do things because it was too hard for him. Now he is over 40 and never had a job in his life because he believes he can't. How do you help these people?

Back to me being crabby, I didn't know you could do that to grown ups. I let people talk me in to being crabby. I have the right to believe what I want. I learned a long time ago that you should let those negative thought flow right through with out sticking. I need to turn off those buttons that people push. You do not need to be crabby just because people tell you.

Once I noticed I was snapping at people I went home and stayed away from people until I got over it. This morning I think I am over it so I am going up town and have some breakfast and see how I act.

08-Apr-2008 9:17am 39°

I got a check list of what you may want to have when going on a motorhome trip. After looking at it I am tired. I may have only 5% of the things they think I might need. And all this time I thought I took too much stuff.

This list does not cover the stuff I have already loaded. I think it is all the stuff I have in the house and then some. It is a good guide line. Maybe I should make my own list. I should have the things I use and the things I forget. And another list of the things I took that I never use.. I think if I use the motorhome vary much I would come up with some kind of list that would be good for me.

The list should show where I put the thing so I could find it if I need it. And group it by the type of thing it is. Like, food, clothing, cleanup supplies, cooking tools, motorhome tools, and etc. you get the ideo. In time I will figure it out and be able refer to a list and get ready quicker. Or I could just get two of everything and leave it loaded in the motorhome. Then I could just jump in and go in a snap.

Well I have to get packing. I want to head out tomorrow or the next day.

Lost & Found

Have you ever lost your wallet or purse? I heard about one that got lost this weekend. It was noticed missing and for hours it was searched for. Not being found where it was known to be used and the search returned no results, the search was called off. Then the process of getting new driver licenses, IDs, Insurance credit cards, and all of those membership cards to Jewel, Barnes & Noble's, Hancock Fabrics or whatever needed to be replaces. You start the process of getting all of the information. Before you start all of this, you sit down and have a glass of beer or wine to relax. If it was me I would go for coffee.

Then you hear someone rapping one the door. You wonder who that could be this time of the day. You look out the window and there is a motorcycle parked at the curb. Not having any idea who it might be, you answer the door. The visitor ask if you are who they are looking for and you say; "Yes!"

Then the visitor hands it to you. The visitor says that he was behind you when it fell off the roof of you car. After picking it up and seeing the ID it was it was returned. I didn't get the rest of the story.

I left names out of this because I did not want to embarrass anyone. I am sure a reward was offered and all were happy. Maybe they even shared a beer or two.

Little Baby Day

Was this little baby day? Seemed like every where I went today I saw some one with a little baby. Even when it was raining I saw two. I am not talking about little kids here. I am talking little babies two or three months old. I think I must have seen a half dozen. Maybe I have been looking and just started seeing them today. In any case I saw more than I have in a long time.

My Trip

Since I will be going on vacation for as, my dad would have said, "a couple three" weeks, I will not be printing this issue. It will be available online at the normal place. Those of you who can print this please print a copy for those who can't. If you don't know who needs it printed someone else will. I hand out 8 copies and most of you could print your own. I think you know how or who to ask to help if you can't. Please help each other. I will be back after the first of the month.

If you need to contact me call me on the cell phone or leave me a message at home and I will get it when I get home.

If you are out driving around and near my house, take a look and see that everything looks ok. No one will be cutting the grass for me this year. I will be doing that after I return home. I might be a foot high and all cover with Dandelion flowers and Creeping Charles. This isn't all bad. I can make Dandelion Wine. I need 7 cups of Dandelion petals to make a gallon of wine.

If you see the Dandelion yellow petals are fully opened I just need about 8 cups. And only the ones that have not been sprayed with weed killer or anything else. No green parts or stems that will make it bitter. If you are going to gather them for me and you are not sure, please freeze what you have done and I will share the wine when I get around to make the wine. Maybe we could throw a Dandelion wine party.

Wait, I am getting off the subject. My plan is to leave tomorrow or Thursday. Right now it looks like it might even be Friday or Saturday. I am getting behind on getting ready. Maybe not behind, but over doing the getting ready.



Trip Plan

The trip plan is to make an overnight stop in Lyons, KS, visit with Marcia & Dan. Then off to Sedona, AZ, and spend the weekend of the 18th. Then head to Paso Robles, CA, maybe getting there around 23rd. Visit with Mike and Petra for a while. After leaving CA, I'll toward to Yellowstone and maybe check it out. I think that will do it for this trip. So I will be on the way home from there.

Trip Summary

I plotted the trip using "Trailer Life Directory Campground Navigator 2008". It says if I leave on the 9th It will take 12 days. It tells me ever corner to turn and where to camp and when to get gas. It is good but...I only am using as guide line.

I plan on going to this general route:

Day 1. Home to Macon, MO

Stop and visit: The guys the helped me when I broke down 3 years ago.

Next drive Lyons, KS

Stop and visit: Marcia & Dan

Next drive Drive to Sedona AZ
 April 17 - 21 R & R in Sedona area
 Next drive Sedona and travel to Paso Robles, CA
 Stop and visit: Mike & Petra
 Next drive Paso Robles to Yellowstone
 Check out Maybe Yellowstone. **I'm at 3500 miles now.** Maybe I will just rest here.
 Next drive Optional, Iron Mountain MI Visit with Tim & Iris
 Next Drive To home
 May 5th Dental appointment in Woodstock

This trip is over 5000 miles. I think it will be enough. Back to packing

Wait to the Last Minute

Since I moved the weather station to its own PC, it has been sitting in the dining room. Since I am not going to be here I decided to hurry up and move it in with the web server where it has backup power. If we get a power outage these things will keep running for a while. So I moved it in there trying to do it right and plugged it in and blew out the power supply. I told myself; "Don't forget to flip the switch to 220v. Or you could burn out the thing." Some day I should listen, even when I'm talking to myself. It is changed now and seems to be working with a new power supply. Slow down Marty! I don't think you have any more power supplies. It is 5:35pm now and the last weather updates was 5:33pm. I guess it is working ok. I'll take a break now, thank you!

09-Apr-2008 11:21am 41°

After all of the rain yesterday it is still a little gloomy outside. I'm not gloomy! I am getting more ready to start my road trip. I am going over my list and checking it twice. This makes it easier to forget things. I have found when I check my list too many times I don't even see it any more. So I just check it so I can say I checked it.

The list I was using yesterday was only 5% ready. So I am doing a new list. This list I will start out blank and only put on it the things I know I still need. And I should be doing that now. But now I am typing one the computer....Go do it Marty!

09:43pm

No, I am still here. But I am leaving tomorrow. I need to stop my mail and pick up my meds. Why is this taking so long to get out of here?

10-Apr-2008 9:41am 36°

Good morning! I slept in this morning. I am doing the final packing this morning. I think I might get out of here this morning. I had a few things I needed to do before I go like pack some clothes, fill the water, go eat and get gas. Maybe setup my trip notes program like I had it when I went to see Mike & Petra last year. And I have to send out this newsletter.

Mom & Dad

Mom and Dad were wedded today back in 1942. Aunt Annie's friend Cassie stood up for them. Wow, today would make it 66 years, Miss you Mom and Dad.

Aunt Annie's friend Cassie stood up for them. I wonder how many other people remember this great day.

Trip notes

I will be sending out trip notes like I did last time. If you are on the email for the newsletter you will be getting them. If you didn't get anything and you want to be on the list you need to send me an email at thoughts@doerofthings.com and asked to be added.

On hold for now

Marty's Random Thoughts to be continued later because of a vacation.

IRS

Dear Internal Revenue Service:

Enclosed you will find my 2008 tax return showing that I owe \$3,407.00 in taxes.

Please note the attached article from the USA Today newspaper; dated 12 November, wherein you will see the Pentagon (Department of Defense) is paying \$171.50 per hammer & NASA has paid \$600.00 per toilet seat. I am enclosing four (4) toilet seats (valued @ \$2,400) & six (6) hammers valued @ \$1,029), which I secured at Home Depot, bringing my total remittance to \$3,429.00.

Please apply the overpayment of \$22.00 to the "Presidential Election Fund," as noted on my return.

You can do this inexpensively by sending them one (1) 1.5" Phillips Head screw (see aforementioned article from USA Today newspaper detailing how H.U.D. pays \$22.00 each for 1.5" Phillips Head Screws).

One screw is enclosed for your convenience.

It has been a pleasure to pay my tax bill this year, & I look forward to paying it again next year.

Sincerely,

A Satisfied Taxpayer

Source: Email from Arlene

Birthdays

Apr 4	Lucy	May 2	Cathy S
Apr 11	Heather L	May 7	Bill Mc
Apr 11	Roxanne M		
Apr 14	Jeremy M		
Apr 18	Petra		
Apr 19	Dave S		
Apr 30	Janet J		

If you don't see your 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>