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3-Jul-2008 8:29am 60°

We got a little rain yesterday. I show we have about ½ inch already this month. We ended up with 3.82 in June. That is 1.2 inches more than the average since 2004. The weather people say that is going be nice for the next few days. I'll take it!

JUST FOR GRINS

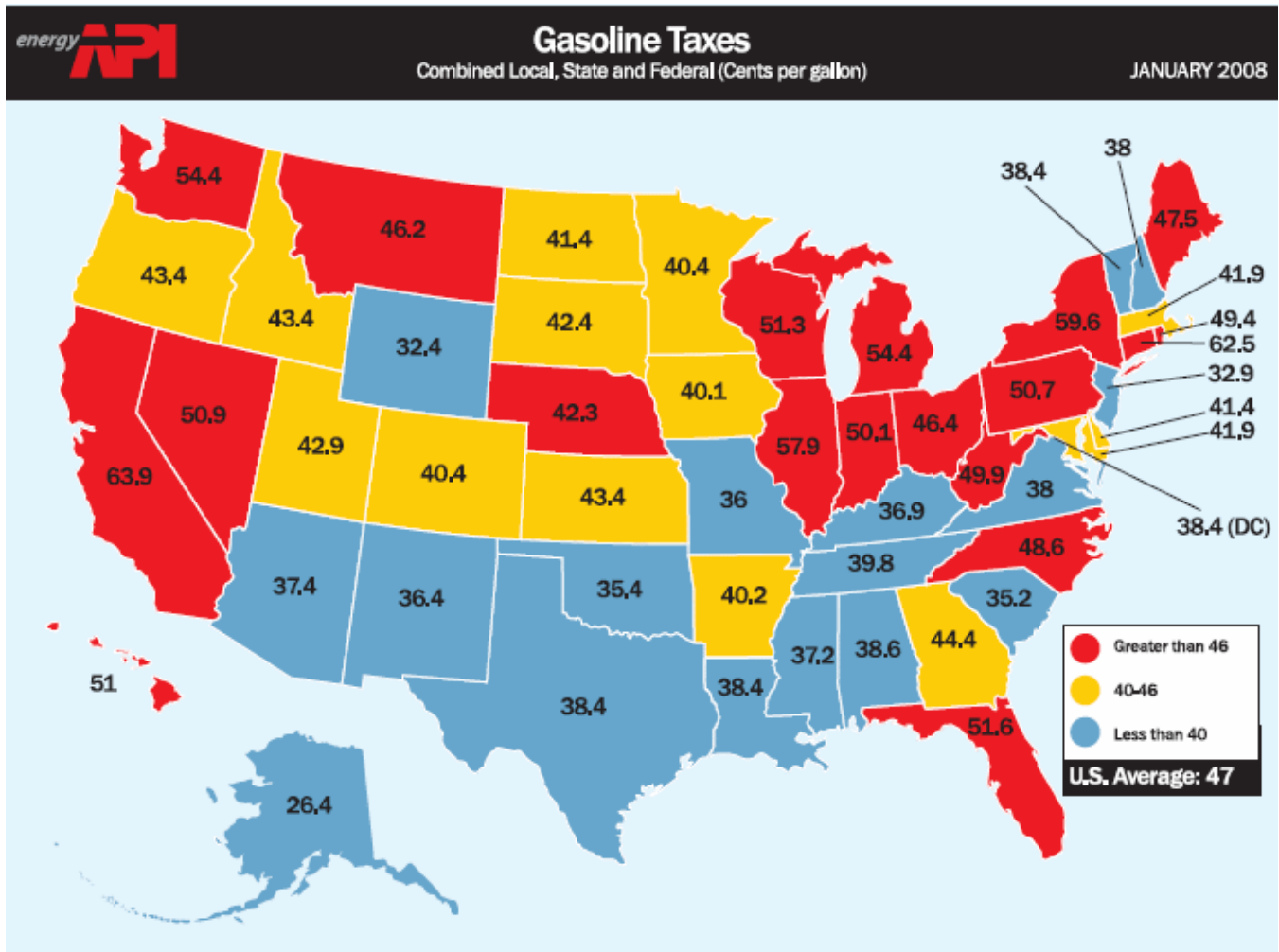
If white wine goes with fish, do white grapes go with sushi?

--George Carlin (1937 - 2008)

Source: E. C. Kraus, HOME WINE MAKING NEWSLETTER

Gas taxes

One of the reason gasoline costs us what it does is because of the taxes. There is a map I found with the taxes. Note this was January 2008



Source: http://www.illinoisgasprices.com/USA_Tax_Map.aspx

4-Jul-2008 8:02am 58°

Winter is back. I show that it got down to 48° this morning. Maybe January it trying to get even. We have a January thaw so why not a July freezes?

I started to print the newsletter and the power went out. I have to change paper and restart it printing and then go eat breakfast. It should go fine unless the power fails again. Not to worry too much the computer and printer are hooked to the backup power source.

Coming events

I see in the Sidetracks section of the Northwest News Group newspaper there are some coming events in Woodstock. I am going to list them even though some the events will most likely be over when you read this issue. None-the-less I will tell you about them any way.

When	Event	Location	Information
July 4 th , at dusk	Forth of July Fireworks	Emricson Park	(815) 338-4300
July 20	Woodstock Folk Festival	Woodstock Square	(815) 479-9933 www.woodstockfolkmusic.com/folkfestival
July30 – Aug 3	McHenry	McHenry County	(815) 338-5315

	Country Fair	Fairgrounds	www.mchenrycountyfair.com
Aug 2-3, 9-10, 16-17	Woodstock Mozart Festival	Woodstock Opera House	(815) 338-5300 www.mozartfest.org
Aug-22-24	Woodstock Jazz On The Square Festival	Woodstock Square	(847) 340-8319 www.jazzonthesquare.net

Source: Northwest Herald newspaper July 4th, 2007

More Events

When	What	Where	Information
July 17	Woodstock Dolphin Relays	Woodstock Water Works	(815)334-7696 www.eteamz.com/wdst
July 15	Woodstock City Council	City Hall (I Guess)	(815) 338-4301 citymanager@woodstockil.gov
July 19	Gavers Barn Dance	Emricson Park	
July 25 - 26	Sidewalk Sale Days		
July 25 to 27	High School Musical	Woodstock Opera House	(815) 338-5300
Aug 16	YSB/Kroozers Car Show	Woodstock square	(815) 338-7360
Aug 22 -23	Bands of Gold	Woodstock Opera House	815) 338-5300
Aug 22	Movies in the Park	Emricson Park	

Source: <http://www.woodstock-il.com>

5-Jul 2008 3:31pm 87°

The air conditioner is keeping up today. Tom isn't quite finished making the changes yet but it is keeping up. We still have to put in a return line in my server room. The server room is where I keep all my computer stuff. I also call it the windowed porch. It is the warmest room in the house in the summer. This makes it the best room in the house to add a return line in.

In the winter the warmest room is my office. It sits right over the furnace so I get the heat through the floor.

Part of my house is over 100 years old and there have been 3 or 4 additions made it since the 50's. I was thinking about adding on to but I decided not. With all of these additions it makes it hard to redo the duct works for the heating & air condition system.

We need to run the return line yet. Because of the layout of the house we have changed where we were going to route the return. Today I think I found even a better route.

Our last path was up the corner on my computer room through the closet into the dining room and across the wall above the door and through the wall into the windowed porch. After I box it in it will leave me a shelf in the dinning room to display stuff. And I will have to box in the corner in the computer room.

Today I found a better route. There is a path in the basement where we can come through the floor in the dining room in the corner. From there we can go up the corner and through the wall in to the windowed porch. Then I only have one corner to box in. On top of the boxed in corner I can install the door bell that has been waiting for me to hookup for 10 or 15 years.

Solar Power

I would love to install a whole lot of solar panels and a wind generator but I can't afford it. I had a 22 watt solar panel for years so I bought a battery for it to charge. I put the pair out in the sun to get some electricity. It really needs to mount them on the roof so it can get sun earlier in the morning.

I also have three solar panels configured to 45 watts along with a regulator for charging a battery. All total I can produce about 67 watts an hour. In May in this area of the country they claim I should get 6 to 7 hours of sun light a day. This means I should be able to get 0.067 kilowatt hours (KWH) for each hour the sun shines on the solar panels. That comes out to about 12 KWH a per month. That is a long ways from the 1207 kWh I used last month. I need 100 times as much and/or conversion more power.



22 watt panel on the left and three 15 watt on the cart

I am using an average of 43 kWh per day. Part of that was the A/C not working. Another part of it is the clothes dryer. I have a clothesline. I just have to install it and use it. And there is all of that computer stuff I have running all day and all night.

I'll have to work on this because it dose not only save energy, it save money!

6-Jul-2008 6:15am 86°

Boy has it been a hot one today! It went from 58° to 92° today. It is down to 86°. We are getting some of the July weather. It looks like a fifty percent chance thunder storms Monday and Tuesday then Sunny again. Of coarse that is today's forecast. It could call change before we get up tomorrow. The weather is like that.

I look at weather forecasting about as easy as forecasting a drop of water's path in in a pot of boiling water. It ain't easy! ☺

Clothesline

I got a couple four by fours to put up a clothesline today. I need to dig holes in the backyard to hold them. When I noticed it was 90° I decided that maybe today would not be the day to dig any holes in the ground. That is if there isn't any thunder storms. After last year on July 7th there weren't any rain.

Solar Panel

On one of the poles for the Clothesline I will mount the solar panel I was talking about earlier. As near as I can figure it may produce enough power for my weather

station. If it looks like it will supply enough power I will move the weather station and the PC into the garage. I have a watt hour meter to see how much power the PC is using. If it looks like it is able to do it will happen.

Water for Gas

I have been using my HHO generator on the pickup for a few days now. It seems to be running just fine. It is too early to report any gas mileages. I have an appointment on the 14th to get the gas tank leak fixed. After that I can start checking the progress. For now I am just making sure the thing is working.

07-Jul-2008 8:40pm 80°

What happened to big storm that was forecasted today? Nothing happened. We just got some heat and wind today. Oh yes we did have a few clouds early this morning. But that was it.

I just looked at the weather radar. It looks like we might get a storm before midnight. To me it looks to be just a short burst of storm if it doesn't peter out before it does get here.

Birthday

Annette's Mom's birthday is today. Happy Birthday Doris!

8-Jul-2008 8:52pm 74°

After I slept in this morning I went out and finished mounting the platform on top of the clothesline pole for the solar panel. After the rain I finished it. Before coming in for the night I installed the solar panels and the battery. It is now charging the battery. Well not now, it is dark outside.

In time I will start using the power from the sun. One idea is to run the PC that monitors the weather station. I am checking how much power the PC requires. After I see if this is doable then I will do it. My first look at this is that PC I am using might be using too much power. If this is the case I will see what I can do so it uses less. Right now I am not sure how to reduce the power usage.

If I figure out how to lower the power requirements of one PC then I may be able to saving some energy on others.

9-Jul-2008 9:10am 69°

Well I didn't sleep in this morning. I got up when at the sound of the alarm. Well, it was the telephone ringing. Non-the-less I am up and doing things already.

Solar Panel and not a Clothesline

I have the solar panel hooked to the battery though it is not getting any sun yet this morning. I still have to attach a cross member to make it in to a clothesline. I should get to that tomorrow. I will report on this project more in a couple of days.

Plans

I have noticed over the last few years that when I plan to do things that many times something happens that is doesn't go as planed. If I tell someone I am thinking about doing something, I may just be thinking about and may never do it. I keep hearing people asking if it is done yet even when it was just a thought I had and it is one of those random thought I had the was just random spark that had already burnt out.

I am much better at just doing things. I have started some many projects that have never come to pass. Today I am working on the HHO generator on the pickup that is on hold because of the gas leak. I have the solar panel and clothesline project that is on hole because I need to buy another 2x4. I am working with Tom getting this duct work in so my A/C works better. Then I need to box in this duct work which means installing drywall plaster and painting. And then there is this motor home that I want to sell. And the list goes on and on and one.

Do you feel sorry for me yet? Don't, I am sure all of you have projects that you are working on and it seems like you are getting overwhelmed with what you are trying to do.

I think it time to finish projects instead of starting them. Or just go fishing. ☺

I heard a story a log time ago about farmers. Farmers always are busy. Some time they have so much to do they don't know where to start. So the first thing they do is to go fishing.

Many people think that is not the first thing to do. The idea is to take a little time off to relax and get your mind off of all those projects. This helps to clear your mind and when you come back from the break you will have a clear head. It is always good to start projects with a fresh mind. I think that is one of there reason we need to sleep at night. Our bodies could get by with breaks throughout the day. Our mind can't go too long with out a break. I tend to go for coffee for a few mini breaks.

I guess what I am saying is to not be afraid to have a break once in a while, if it be a coffee break or to go fishing. Do whatever works for you.

Woops

Did you ever delete a picture and think it is was lost forever? Well some times you can recover it. I just download the program called "FreeUndelete". It is easy to use and it is FREE! Here is the link to the web site: <http://ref.officerecovery.com/freeundelete/index.htm>

They have many Office recovery products too. And they all look like they are free. Here is the link to their other products: <http://ref.officerecovery.com/products.htm>

Birthday

Diane's birthday was today and I missed it. I am sorry Diane. I didn't have you on my list and I know the date and forgot. Happy Birthday Diane!



Solar Pole w/o Clothesline and w/o Sun

10-July-2008 2:49pm 72° Rainy

Yesterday I went to Melody's to help her with her computer things. It became one of those days! I was so disorganized that if I could have forgotten to do one thing before another, I did. It seemed like this was a fun day. Even my laptop wouldn't let me get on the internet. We did get a lot of our planned projects finished. I think that both of us started to laugh when weren't going as planned.

We went to the library to use their computers and Wi-Fi because I was having trouble with mine. We used one of the rooms there so we could talk out loud without disturbing the other people. When we needed to get on the internet for something we went out of the room and used one of the 50 that were in the other room. We were trying to get somethings done and I was trying to get my laptop working.

To give you an idea how much my head screwed on wrong yesterday, I was sitting with my back to a PC that was setup like the 50 in the other room. I noticed that about the time our allotted time ran out for us to use the room.

I think that was when we decided that it was a fun day. Both of us were having one of those days. And both of us had list of what we wanted to get done. We kind of just let things happen after that. That is about all you can do when you have one of those days.

What works, works and what doesn't can wait for another day.

Fishing

While I was helping Melody yesterday Tom was at my house finishing up the duct work for my A/C. It looked like he's finished. He was talking about going finishing in Canada this week if he got caught up with things. I called and got his answering machine. I wanted to thank him and verify he is finished. It looks finished.

He needs to go fishing too! Thanks Tom have a good time. I will see you when you are back.

11-Jul-2008 10:26am 76°**Microsoft Patch problem**

Let me start out with a problem. Back a couple of nights ago, I installed Microsoft patches as I always do. They tend to keep my computer up to date and running smooth. In the last 10 years or so I have only had a problem once before this patch. Microsoft patch Kb951748 and Zone Alarm have incompatibility issues.

The problem is that after installing this patch you can not get on the internet. It took me a while to figure out it was the patch that caused this. Posted here later is what I found on this. I am only telling you this in my newsletter because you may not know about it and if you read this you could fix your computer.

Removing MS Patch

If you are not having a problem, then you may not have to do this.

Before you start this close all of your other program you might have open. This is a big patch so give it some time. And you will need to restart your computer when it is finished.

If you are reading this and you are still not getting on the internet you can just uninstall Microsoft's patch # Kb951748. You do this by going to Start, Control Panel, Add and Remove Programs, then scroll down the list and look for the "KN951748" patch.

If you have kept up with the updates you could sort the list by date to find it easier. Once you find it the just select it and click on remove.

The Problem

Solutions for Kb951748 and Zone Alarm Incompatibility Issue

New DNS Security Update from Microsoft Renders Computers Unable to Reach the Internet

Computers around the world have been shut off from the internet by Microsoft's latest security update kb951748. Microsoft has issued kb951748 as an update to fix a DNS (Domain Name System) security flaw on computers running Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, and the client side of Windows 2000 Server. However, Microsoft security update kb951748 does not play nicely with the popular firewall security program Zone Alarm. Zone Alarm is a highly regarded internet security program designed to protect computers from unauthorized access, viruses, and other malware that may be encountered on the web. Zone Alarm has become popular in part because Zone Labs, its creator, offers a basic version for [free](http://zonealarm.com) at zonealarm.com.

Makers of Zone Alarm say uninstall kb951748

Zone Labs, the maker of Zone Alarm, recommends completely uninstalling Microsoft's kb951748 until the problem is corrected. Unfortunately, if you have this problem, you have no internet access to find out about this solution. Other users report that shifting their Zone Alarm firewall setting from High to Medium restores access to the internet. However, lowering the security setting on the Zone Alarm firewall increases the chances of your computer being subjected to a security breach.

Microsoft to gain Firewall Market share?

Windows does have its own built-in firewall and computers running the Windows firewall instead of the one from Zone Alarm, have not had similar issues with the kb951748 update. As a result, Microsoft may end up damaging an important internet security competitor through this inadvertent compatibility issue between the Windows DNS update and Zone Alarm's firewall program. If users remove the Zone Alarm firewall and start using the built-in windows firewall, then Microsoft stands to gain market share at Zone Alarm's expense.

While we like to believe that the incompatibility of Microsoft's DNS security update kb951748 with Zone Alarm is entirely unintended and accidental, it is certainly suspicious. Microsoft in recent years has been found guilty in American and European courts of numerous fair trade practice violations designed to increase Microsoft's market share by using its near-monopoly in PC operating systems to take market share from competitor's PC products such as web browsers and media players.

kb951748/ Zone Alarm incompatibility Solutions

If you have been affected by the kb951748 and Zone Alarm incompatibility issue, there are a few known ways to restore your computer's ability to reach the internet.

1) Follow the Zone Labs recommendation to uninstall the kb951748 update. This leaves the previously existing DNS security flaw open and exploitable on your computer. Your risk is probably low since this is a recently discovered flaw.

2) Lower the security setting on your Zone Alarm firewall from the High setting to Medium. This

increases your risk from internet-based attacks somewhat, but at least you can reach the internet. While at this setting, visit only reputable websites that have a lower risk of embedded malware.

3) Disable the Zone Alarm firewall and use the Windows firewall. This offers full firewall protection and can be set to the High security setting without affecting your ability to reach the internet.

Source: http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/867671/solutions_for_kb951748_and_zone_alarm.html?cat=3

Keep Updated

Even with this minor set back I will keep updating my PC. I am still using the free versions of Zone Alarm and AVG for my firewall and antivirus programs. Having a problem only twice in about ten years is very good for all the time I have been using these products.

Keep you computer updated with the latest upgrades saves a lot of problems. Every program I have that has an automatic update is turned to let me know when there is an update. AVG and Zone Alarm keep bad things out and Microsoft update keep thing running.

Notes from the Notebook

Every once in a while I add a note to my note book of something I think I should tell you. Then I forget I even wrote it. When I remember I go through the notebook and let you have it. That is what I am doing now.

Killer Tomatoes

On June 10 the news people were reporting that it wasn't the tomatoes that were causing the salmonella it was something else. Come on people I saw that movie "The Attract of the Killer Tomatoes" from the '70s. If memory serves, wasn't there a squall "Return of the Killer Tomatoes" in the late '80s? Now we have the salmonella with those tomatoes. Maybe those killer tomatoes are still hiding out there in a landfill just waiting to come back and get us.

Siren

On June 13th the Siren went off again. Air-Raid maybe? This was Friday-the-13th!

Long Time Married

On June 14 Mary's Mom and dad had been married for 59 years. That means I was about 2 when they got married.

Real Coffee Day

On June 24th I declared it to be "Drink Real Coffee Day" I have been drinking decaf for 10 years. Every once in a while I have regular coffee. Today every one was giving me real coffee so I declared it a Decaf Holiday

Stuff in the Garage

On June 25th I tried to find something in the garage. There is too much stuff in there. If you're looking for something send me an email. I may have it. In many case I



might even deliver it. So what do you need? Now wait a minute! Don't ask me, "What do I have!" That list is too long.

Fires in California

On July 2nd I just wrote "Fires in Calif." I remember Mike saying something about it is only hot weather where he is, but no fires. But you can smell the smoke in the air.

Note from Today

Do you know your cell phone number? I know a lot of people who don't. Most of you don't call yourself on the phone when you are going to talk to yourself. Well, I don't think you do! ☺

Grass needs Mowing

I went out to and had lunch with Kim. I told her I needed to cut the grass. She told me I should because it was going to rain again. After coming home it was a little hot outside, but I thought I might do it anyway. The phone rang just in time. It was Aunt Annie. She had an hour to spare. Yes, I just got back from going for coffee.

Now it is too hot to cut the grass. No, 82° is not t-o-o hot! But there is not a cloud in the sky and the humidity has risen from 49% to 51% in the last half hour. Well, that works for me. I will do the grass at another time.

12-Jul-2006 8:34pm 69°

Rumors

Last night at diner I heard a rumor from the person who is head of rumor control. This is was a good one. Since I am trying to not spread rumors I am going to check it out and I will let you know if it is a repeatable one later.

Rain

In the mean time it rained last night. Yes it did! We got almost an inch and a half. This brings us up to 2-3/4" this month and 17-1/2" for the year. I guess that is as good of any reason to go for coffee.

Rumor Update

Well I did some checking on the rumor and though it may be true, is not confirmed by the people involved. You will need to wait a little longer.

RV Travel newsletter

New website:

Burning motorhome!

*This is the ugliest website you will ever see -- one video after another of motorhome going up in flames. It's ugly. It's sad, and it's all at **MotorhomesOnFire.com**. But it's a huge reminder to all of us that our homes on wheels burn easily, and when they do, they burn fast. Return to this website often for a refresher dose of the importance of being fire safe. Buy a couple more fire extinguishers, service the ones you have every year, and have a family meeting about what you would do in the unlikely case that your RV should catch fire.*

Visit MotorhomesOnFire.com now. (I checked this out. It is scary!)

Trivia



Some motorists believe that they can be ticketed for driving barefoot. Not true! No state regulates proper footwear for operating a motor vehicle except Alabama where it is prohibited to drive a motorcycle while barefoot. Several states, though, explicitly recommend, but do not mandate the use of shoes while driving.

RV JOKE

A young, pregnant RVer named Sally was involved in a traffic accident, but because she was riding in a sturdy Winnebago, she survived, although she was left in a coma. When she awoke a few days later in the hospital she was no longer pregnant! She asked her doctor, "What happened?" He replied, "Sally, you had twins -- a boy and a girl. Your brother named them for you." "Oh, no!" shrieked Sally. "Not my brother! His elevator doesn't go to the top floor, if you know what I mean!" The doctor replied, "Well, Sally, your brother named your daughter Denise." "Whew, that's not so bad," she replied, looking very relieved. Then, hesitantly, she asked, "What's the boy's name?" "Denephew," he said.

from RVjokes.com

Bumper Snicker Being

"Over the hill" is much better than being under it!

Worth Pondering

A man's got to believe in something. I believe I'll have another drink. -- *W.C. Fields*

From: Issue 334 of RV Travel

Bumper Snicker Being

Every time you open your mouth, some idiot starts talking.

Worth Pondering

Friendship is like money, easier made than kept. -- *Samuel Butle*

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue335.shtml> and issue 334

13-Jul 2003 10:56am 70°

Looks like a nice day outside. There is a nice cool breeze coming through the window. Maybe I should go out and enjoy it. I should do something like cut my hay field. Well it is grass, but very long grass.

Rumor update 2

I am sorry I am keeping this rumor in the dark. But sometimes you must be careful what you repeat.

Last night at diner I got another update on this rumor. I have heard it from 3 people now. Though one of them has never been wrong and another has been prone to repeat thing without doing any verifying and the rumor may have started from a very unreliable source. I think it is a very true rumor this time. But I wait until Tuesday so I can ask the source.

5:26pm

It turned out to be a nice day today.

14-Jul-2008 8:31am 67°

The Rumor

The rumor it true. Heather had her baby on Saturday, a little girl. More details later. Yes, I saw a picture. Mary said she would email me more information when se gets home. The rest of you will have to wait in line.

HHO Generator Project

Today I will be getting the Gas leak on the pickup fixed. Remember this is a safety issue. I also will be able to get a gas mileage check after that so I can see if the HHO gas

is helping the gas mileage. Since I am only on the first tank full I have no idea what my gas mileage is on the pickup anyway. I better get going so it get there so they can order parts and get my pickup back to me. And I also have to put gas in the car before the price of gas goes up. ☺

Old Neighborhood

I dropped off the pickup and walked home. Since I could walk through my old neighborhood on East Jackson where I lived a very long time ago, I did. I see the old house where I lived has changed some. There are new porches and decks on the back and the front. I had stairs inside to get to my apartment. There outside now. On the other hand, that metal building I had out in the corner of the lot is still there. Even the big yellow thermometer is still on it, too. The bur oak tree I planted at noon on July 4th, 1976 has been long gown. That was 200 years after of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Well that tree is gone!

Other than that the neighborhood looks much the same.

Rumor is No Longer

You might get the idea I have been dying to tell you this one. I was!

Sadie was born to Heather and Marc on Saturday, July 12th, 2008. As near as I can find out right it was after lunch. I heard this from the prod grand parents Mary and Marty. This is not me, the other Marty. Yes, there is more then one Marty.

Here is a picture of our new Sadie.

Birthday

Sharon has a birthday today. Happy Birthday Sharon!



**Looks like the first car ride.
Sadie is one day old.**

15-Jul-2008 2:17pm 91°

I thought it was warm outside. I went out and mowed the front lawn this morning and it didn't feel too bad. I think it was around 75° then. The humidity is low now, only 39%. This almost makes it a dry heat. ☺ No not like Arizona. Just hot! Here is what is happing in the other Woodstock's around the country.

<i>Place</i>	<i>Temp.</i>	<i>Hum.</i>	<i>Press.</i>	<i>Conditions</i>	<i>Wind</i>
Woodstock, Alabama	91.6 °F	31%	29.98 in	Clear	North at 3.0 mph
Woodstock, Connecticut	83.6 °F	43%	30.00 in	Partly Cloudy	NNW at 1.0 mph
Woodstock, Florida	78.4 °F	90%	29.97 in	Light Rain	SSE at 5.0 mph
Woodstock, Georgia	86.9 °F	62%	29.91 in	Scattered Clouds	ENE at 1.0 mph
Woodstock, Illinois	91.5 °F	40%	30.05 in	Clear	SW at 5.0 mph
Woodstock, Maine	80.2 °F	12%	30.02 in	Scattered Clouds	Calm
Woodstock, Maryland	86.1 °F	42%	29.72 in	Scattered Clouds	Calm
Woodstock, Minnesota	88.0 °F	49%	29.97 in	Clear	ESE at 4 mph
Woodstock, New Hampshire	85.3 °F	43%	29.32 in	Scattered Clouds	West at 2.7 mph
Woodstock, New York	89.0 °F	23%	29.71 in	Clear	Calm

Woodstock, Ohio	83.8 °F	51%	30.10 in	Scattered Clouds	WSW at 4.0 mph
Woodstock, Oregon	73.6 °F	47%	29.98 in	Partly Cloudy	Calm
Woodstock, Tennessee	87.6 °F	39%	30.08 in	Clear	Calm
Woodstock, Vermont	80.7 °F	44%	30.04 in	Scattered Clouds	NW at 3.0 mph
Woodstock, Virginia	85.7 °F	46%	30.03 in	Mostly Cloudy	ENE at 4.0 mph

Source: <http://www.wunderground.com/>

Woodstock, Florida is humid, Woodstock, Oregon is cool, and I am here! That is enough of this.

Old Friends

I have seen more old friends at the dentist office that I haven't seen in the last 10 years. I saw Bill today. I think I have only seen him 2 or 3 times since I left the Auto-Lite (Woodstock Die Casting). I left there in 1982. A month earlier I saw Ray. I also worked with him at the Auto-Lite. I also have seen Dave. I see him off and on at Vaughan's.

Thinking about Vaughan's, I didn't get there today. I hope they made it through the day without me. ☺

Weather Station Power

As I have said before I was monitoring the power the PC uses that controls the weather station. I am monitoring it so I can see if I could make it fully solar powers.

My initial study was for 200 hours and it used 11.18 kWh. Right now that makes me think I am about 1.1 KWh short per day

Right now I have 45 watts per hours and 6 hours per day, or 270 watts per day. If I hook up the other 22 watt panel I will have about 67 watts an hour for 6 hours or 400 watts per day. This will make me about 935 watts short per day.

This is not exact but it gives me an idea I need to use a lot less power to make this work. It looks like I need to get the power usage down to about 16.77 watts per hour. That is about 1.2% of what it is using now. This is going to be a challenge!

16-Jul-2008 7:31am 72°

Good morning! It looks like it will be another nice day. Sun is shining and there is a light breeze. I won't even look at the forecast. Sunny, light breeze and 72° is enough for me.

Clothesline

The clothesline is up and I have used it 3 times already. You know most of the clothes dry faster on the clothesline. Why did we ever go to clothes dryers? Maybe it was the cold winter days. Shirts and sheets you can hang on the line come in and get more Clothes pins and go back out and they are dry. Pants and towels took a little longer. Maybe you could go out and have coffee and they would be dry when you return. Blankets do take a while. I had two heavy blankets I washed and I think they were dry in 2 hours. I would have taken close to that in the dryer.



The best part of this is that I used no gas or electricity to dry 3 loads of laundry. No lint to remove. And since I folded and put away the clothes right off the line I didn't have to go to the dryer to get a clean shirt to wear this morning.

Got Hot

It isn't as nice as it was before. It is hot and humid now 89° and humidity of 50% and very little wind and it isn't even noon yet! ☺

To give away to a good home

VHS tapes

I have 12 VCR tapes to give away. These are all erased and have been recorded on a couple of times. These are VHS tapes of many brands. I will give them away on a first come first serve bases. You can have one or all of then. So if you have a good home for them just let me know. And I will give then to you.

Just in from Heather

So I am officially the mother of two amazing daughters. My water broke @ 5:30 pm on Friday afternoon and we had Sadie on Saturday, July 12th @ 2:30 pm. Ooooh I just love my girls...and it is true, there is enough love to go around - probably the biggest challenge so far is dearly missing Olivia. It will be interesting once Marc goes back to work on Monday :) Anyways, just wanted to let everyone know we are all doing well!

Love,
Heather

PS - I will never be able to thank my labor coaches enough (Ina, Marc & Mom), I couldn't have done it w/o you :)



What Happened

When I went to diner at 5:00pm the temperature was 91°. Now at 6:30pm it is only 80° and it feels nice!

Email Joke

-----Original Message-----

Subject: old farmer

A Louisiana Highway Department employee stopped at a farm and talked with an old farmer.

He told the farmer, "I need to inspect your farm for a possible new road.

The old farmer said, "OK, but don't get out in that pasture over there.

The Highway Dept.

employee flashed out his identification card and

said, "I have the authority of the State of Louisiana to go any where I want.

See this card? I will go wherever I wish.

So the old farmer went about his farm chores.

It wasn't too much later and the farmer heard loud screams and yelling.

He looked over and saw several Highway Dept.

employees running for

their lives and right behind was the farmer's huge prize bull.

The bull was madder than a hornet's nest and was gaining on the employee at every step.

The old farmer yelled out, "Show him your card, Show him your card!!"

Source: Email from Arlene

Be Careful Guys

-----Original Message-----

Subject: ha ha

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is usually the husband. When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first: the truck, the car, e-mail, and fishing, always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a few minutes. When I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. 'When you finish cutting the grass,' I said, 'you might as well sweep the driveway.'

The doctors say I will walk again, but will always have a limp.

Source: Email from Arlene

17-Jul-2008 3:03pm 92°

Yesterday the weather forecast said that it was going to be 80° today. So this morning I walked out for breakfast. It was already 83° when I got home at 10:30 and it's up to 94° now. Other than sweating a little, it was fine.

From the email

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.' -- Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter) I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalog: 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.' -- Eleanor Roosevelt Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement. -- Mark Twain

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. -- George Burns Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. -- Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. -- Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. -- Socrates

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. -- Groucho Marx

Only Irish coffee provides, in a single glass, all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. -- Alex Levine

A Biker and His Chick

This is what we have to look forward to....?



This is what happens when your kids take away your license and the car keys.

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. -- Bob Hope

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it. -- W.C. Fields

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. -- Will Rogers

Don't worry about avoiding temptation as you grow older, it will avoid you. -- Winston Churchill

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out. -- Phyllis Diller

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. -- Billy Crystal

Source: Email From Kim

Clothesline

I have a new clothesline that is not so stretchy. I have to go out and install it. Then I can do a load a laundry to test it. That's funny! I can't wait to do laundry? ☺

19-July-2008 8:24am 66°

It looks like it stopped raining and it is only 66° I think I will walk out for breakfast. That is if the weather map looks clear. First I have to finish the modification I made to my Spam controls. I still get way too much SPAM.

Spam Summary

In 182 day I have blocked 36439 email spams at the server before they got to my inbox. That is about 200 a day. Now I can go for breakfast!

I'm Back

I went for breakfast and Heather has not returned to work yet. What the hay? It has been almost a week since Sadie was born. ☺

I didn't walk. It looked like it would have rain some more.

That the Brakes

On the way home I think I had to stop quickly 6 times for cars or people getting in front of me in unusual places. In the parking lot and on the square. My car must have been invisible!

Picture Updates

Since it is wet outside I thought I would see what pictures are in the camera I would like to share with you. I remember that pictures are worth 1000 words. Maybe I could trade for them.

At Kim & Bill's

They had a bar-q and invited me. I'm on the other side of the camera.



Steve, Kim, Flo, and Bill looking at Mickey

Car & the Post

This is funny. This is not a person hit by a car. This SUV was jammed tight up against that sign post or it had to have grown there. It had to be slid sideways to be there because there were no scratches on the side of the SUV. There is a tow truck just out of the picture trying to pull it off the post. The person on the ground was looking under the SUV to make sure they didn't bend anything. This was at Menard's



Not a Post-it-Note but a Post-a-SUV

Empty Driveway

My driveway looks very empty with out the RV and pickup in it and the car parked on the side.

This is the day I had the RV in Island Lake to get the gauges fixed. It had a short in the CO sensor. All better now.

I also had just dropped of the pickup to get the Filler neck replaced on the gas tank. Gas cost enough as it is with out pumping it out on the ground. I need a key to start it now. Before I didn't.

The RV & pickup are back in the drive way so you can almost not see the garage from the street.



Boy does the driveway look long when empty

Rescue

When I returned from diner yesterday, the rescue squad was just past my driveway helping someone lying on the sidewalk. I don't know what happened. I over heard part of what was being said and it sound like the person was not sure what happened. I saw that it was a full size person, a Man I



Rescue Team hard at work

think. I didn't get any other details.

Rain gauge Plus

You remember telling about installing the solar panels and the clothesline. Did I tell you I installed a rain gauge too?

Well I did. Here is a picture of the first rain it caught.

It shows 1-1/8 inch of rain. My fancy electronic gauge on my weather station shows only 0.57 inches. I wonder which is correct. Maybe this new one got wet a few days ago when it rained. Hummm! It's empty now. I'll have to check it the next time we get rain. This one is marked with 1/4" marks. The electronic one measures in 0.01" increments. This means I could read the gauge wrong but not three-fourth of an inch. So I hope it rains some more so I can check again.



Solar Panel, Clothesline, and the Rain Gauge's first rain

If I'm going to keep having pictures that show the garage I think I should get it painted or sided. Painting just the door didn't make it look that much better.

21-Jul-2008 1:28pm 83°

WGN-Radio Fund Raiser

Kim and Bill invited me to go with them to the WGN radio's Neediest Kids Fund Raiser at Cantigny Park in Wheaton on Sunday. I got to meet and talk to a lot of the people of the voices I hear on WGN radio. Some of the people look something like I thought. Others I didn't have a clue until they started to talk. Even today I hear the voices and even though I know what they look like I am not sure I am hearing the same person I met yesterday.

All of them were very friendly. You could walk up to them and say "Hi!" and start a conversation with them. Even while they were on-the-air people were walking up to them and they would talk and let you take a picture. And as soon as they were off the air they had tables setup so you could talk more and get a picture that they gladly signed.

Sunday was July 20th. This is 7-20 day and since WGN-radio is 720 on the AM dial they have there Neediest Kids Fund Raiser, a fund of the McCormick Foundation. This year they it was at Cantigny Park. Here is the more about Cantigny.

Cantigny is the country estate home of Colonel Robert R. McCormick who created WGN Radio and established the Foundation that bears his name. In addition to seeing the "Voices" you'll be able to tour

the Robert R. McCormick Museum, visit the First Division Museum and stroll through spectacular gardens. It's a perfect way to spend a Sunday with family and friends.

As the late Wally Phillips, founder of the Neediest Kids Fund back in 1969, so often said, we're about "people helping people." **On 720 Day, please help us honor Wally's commitment to helping and make a donation to the Neediest Kids Fund.** Your gift will support non-profit agencies in their fight against childhood hunger, to help keep kids in school, and prepare them to enter the workforce. The McCormick Foundation matches all donations at fifty cents on the dollar, adding greater impact to your donation. In addition, the Foundation and WGN Radio cover all administrative and campaign expenses. You can be assured that one hundred percent of your donation, plus the match will be granted back into our community.

Source: <http://www.wgnradio.com>

Picture



Kim and Bill at a Cantigny garden



Me sitting in front of a smiley face

On the far left I see Bill and I think it is me next to him. Kim must have stepped to the left 200 far. This is on WGN's web site at

http://wgnradio.com/index.php?option=com_rsgallery2&Itemid=428&page=inline&catid=97&id=1265&limit=1&catid=97&limitstart=20.



David Kaplan, Bill and maybe me

Being that is only picture had any of us it was a good thing I had my camera. I think I will end this issue with some of the pictures that I took.



Me with Lou Manfredini, "Mr. Fix It"



John Williams & Leslie Keiling



I didn't get her name. I just thought she had a nice smile



Spike O'Dell, Dean Richards, and Kim

Birthdays

Jul 7	Annette's Mom	Aug 1	Trent
July 14	Sharon P	Aug 2	Pat
July 30	Aunt Annie	Aug 7	Lidia
Jul 9th	Diane	Aug 8	In 1988 The Light went on in Wiggly Field. It was raining on Aug. 8th, 1988 and the game was delayed or maybe not played at all
Jul 12	Sadie	Aug 9	Tammy B
		Aug 15	Russ
		Aug 16	Scott
		Aug 17	Mom's (My Mom)
		Aug 17	Mickey's
		Aug 23	Mary
		Aug 23	Taryn
		Aug 25	Betsy M

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>