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**This month's theme is on Electricity saving**

**1-Aug-2008 11:14pm 70°**

### **I hate computers**

Well I get frustrated sometimes. I think my color printer has given up. I have been flaky for a while. I have been babying it for a couple issues now. It is dying while I was printing the last two issues. You who get a printed copy may have noticed the last two issues have been printed in black on my laser printer. I have done about all I can to get the software working. This time I think it is the printer has given up. I will mess it for a while and see what I can do. Then since it might cost more to fix then it cost, it may be time to out it in the recycle pile.

I like the new scanner printers. This is a "HP Photosmart 7350" and that last time there was any update for the software was in 2003. I am guessing this printer is 6 years.

I just looked the laser printer and it may be over 15 years old. It is old but it still works. It too is an HP printer. It is a "HP LaserJet 4M Plus."

To give you an idea how old the color printer is, I printed these 2 pictures on this printer. It may be just time to get a new one.



**Heather at the Sunshine Café  
Dillon, CO 11/2002**



**Oak Creek at Cathedral Rock  
Sedona, AZ 10/2003**

### **Birthday**

Trent's birthday is today. I haven't seen him in a long time. Wonder what he is up to. Happy Birthday Trent!

**2-Aug-2008 10:52am 75°**

Nice morning! After breakfast I went out and trimmed that tree in the front yard that blocks the view when you back out of the drive. It needed it for longer than I can remember. There are some in the back yard that need some trimming too. They can wait for another day.

After trimming I stacked the brush on the tree bank. Do you think some one will take it? After that I cut the grass and did some trimming and edging until the battery gave out on the trimmer.

### **Solar Panel**

I hooked the grass trimmer up to the Solar Panel to recharger. I am not ready for the weather station to be running on solar yet. I haven't decided how I am going get it hooked to the network yet.

I talked to my nephew, Jeremy about the right way to run the wires if I run them underground. Now that I know how to do it I need to decide the best way to get it done. Right now it looks like I need to dig a trench from the garage to the house. If I have to do that I may as well put in a new electrical

service from the house to the garage at the same time. That will be a big expense. And since I don't do have a lot of have a heavy electric user in the garage I may just let that wait.

What I can do it run the 12 VDC power from solar panels system in the garage to the house. That way I can use the DC power to run SolarOne without changing the network or weather station wiring.

I think I just talked myself in to that. It will cost the less and should be the easiest.

Oh, SolarOne is what I have named my Weather Station PC that will run on solar power.

Now that I have that figured out I need to put SolarOne back in service until I am ready to switch to solar. It uses only 18 watt of power and the old one may be using 180 watt. I forgot what it was using. In any case it will save power by using it now.

### **SolarOne**

My solar power weather station computer is not a fast powerful PC. It is just a small computer to do a job. It is running Windows XP and has all of the extra stuff on it. But I uninstalled all the extra software that wasn't need. For a hard drive I changed it to a 16GB compact flash (CF) memory card that uses 2 to 3 watts less power. I set it up so I could run it remotely over the network. After I had the thing up and running I removed the CD drive, monitor, mouse and keyboard.

The power usage went from 27 watts down to less than 18. After I remove the 110v AC power supply and go to 12v DC I will save a wee bit more power.

After I get this up and running I can start thinking about other power saving things I might be able to do with my other computers.

### **Birthday**

Today is Pat's birthday. If you see her at Wal-Mart, say "Hi!" Happy Birthday Pat!

### **Surprise at Lunch**

Tammy, my niece, joined us for lunch today. I haven't seen Tammy for a long time. It was good to see her. She was telling that her oldest, Devyn, will be a senior this year. Wow, time flies!

Anila had a birthday party for Aunt Annie a Diane today too.

I now have proof that some one is reading my newsletter too. I took this picture today. Boy is Anila tan!



**Tammy being funny**



**Anila reading my newsletter**

### **05-Aur-2008 1:20pm 83°**

I just got finished updating the horoscope on Melody's web site. Oh, I never told you about that, did I? Check it out if you like at [www.Americas-Best-Psychics.com](http://www.Americas-Best-Psychics.com) .

I am Melody's technical advisor. Each month she writes a horoscope and I post it on the web site for her.

### **Pickup**

I finally got a notice on the part I ordered for the pickup. They tell me they are shipping the latch tomorrow. I only have been waiting for 10 days to find out if I was going to get a part. They tell me they were having trouble to find the part. So Now I have to wait and see if they real ship it tomorrow.

I want to get this back together before I forget how to reassemble it.

### **Air Conditioner**

Well the A/C in the house has been working fine since Tom put in the duct work it needed to increase the air flow. I talked to Tom about making a small change so I can start boxing in all of the ducts. I started doing it but one duct need to be moved a little. This will make it look better when it is closed in.

### **Solar Panel**

The solar panel is working just fine. I have been using it to keep the string trimmer. It is 12 volts same as the battery so it made it easy. I didn't have to use the charger that came with it. This basically just makes it an extension of the battery hat is being charged by the solar panel.

SolarOne

My lower power PC is taking care of the weather station. I have in running on 110vot house current for now. I haven't figured an easy to get the weather station and networking wiring to the garage where I have the battery on the solar panel. I could just run the battery power back to the house but that is just as much of an issue as running the weather station and network wiring.

Moving the solar panel and battery to the house is one idea. And moving the weather station to the garage is another. I will come up with something.

### **Sweet Corn**

Bill brought me some sweet corn tonight. Now corn isn't one of my favorite foods but I thought I would try this. After all Bill was telling me how good this sweet corn was. I never cooked corn on the cob, never! I looked up how to cook it and it isn't hard. You just remove the husk and put it in a big pan of cold and bring it to a boil. When it is boiling really well, you stop. It is ready!

This is really good! Maybe it is like a lot of foods I don't care for. They are not cooked very well. Maybe it is where I have been eating that has turned me off to some food.

In any case this sweet corn I had tonight was good!

### **From The INBOX**

#### **Natural Laws**



#### **Law of Mechanical Repair**

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.



#### **Law of Gravity**

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.



#### **Law of Probability**

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.



#### **Law of Random Numbers**

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.



#### **Law of the Alibi**

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.



#### **Variation Law**



If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).



### Law of the Bath

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.



### Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.



### Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.



### Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.



### Law of the Theater

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.



### Law of Logical Argument

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.



### Brown's Law of Physical Appearance

If the shoe fits, it's ugly.



### Oliver's Law of Public Speaking

A closed mouth gathers no feet.



### Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.



### Doctors' Law

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

Source: Email from Arlene

## **06-Aug-2008 7:35pm 75°**

It has been nice all day. The first thing this morning after coffee with Bill and Steve at Star Bucks and then breakfast with Cork at Vaughan's I hung clothes out to dry.

### **Electric Bill**

I just got an electric bill and it is a little less than last month. It is about 10 less kWh per day less than last month and about \$10 less. I have been running the A/C more but it is working better and I have been using the dryer less. And there is the new low powered PC I am using on the weather station. The electric company says that the average temperature is 2° higher too. So I have started to save. Next month will tell me more. I hope to have a much lower bill in 30 days. I am hoping for \$50 less. We'll see.

### **I am pooped**

I have been trimming trees all day. I started that the other day. I put the brush on the tree bank hoping it would just disappear. No such luck. The City sent me a letter telling me there is an ordinance about not having brush piled on the tree bank. Not only that you can not be able to see the brush from

the street. So I called then and told them I was still working on the trimming and it would be gone in a few days. They gave me 10 days.

So all day I have been trimming trees and around 2:30 this afternoon my body told me "You're Done! I have no more to give you." I just hit that wall when I got pooped and could all most do no more. I had two branches to cut and I was done. I think it took me 20 minutes to saw those last two branches.

So I finished them and put everything away. I cleaned up and sat on the porch waiting for Aunt Annie to pick me to go to supper. Right know I am starting to feel where my muscles are located.

Oh, just as I got done putting things away it started to sprinkle and I had a line full of clothes. I quickly took them in. They were dry so it wasn't to bad. And they are all folded and put away.

Know can I sit down and watch T-V with my eyes closed? ☺

### **Pickup Part**

I got the part for the pickup today too. I hope I done hurt too bad tomorrow so I can install it.

### **08-Aug-08 2:54pm 68°**

Well that brush is gone. Dan came over and removed it a couple hours ago. Now the City will leave me alone for a while.

### **08-08-08**

I have had three people remind me now that today is 08-08-08. So I must be something special.

### **Mike's Electric Bill**

Mike said he saw that I was using a lot of electricity. He sent me this:

08/08/08

Hi Marty,

Your random thoughts speaks again of your power bills. Here are ours from March through July: \$16.02, \$12.38, \$12.27, \$11.72, \$15.03. I cannot complain. You can put that in your Random Thoughts. Something isn't so expensive in CA.

But waste here is 25.26 a month and we only use a tiny fraction of capacity of the boxes. We could put the cans out once every three weeks and still have room for more..... It is a major rip-off.

Peace and joy,

Mike

Source: Email from Mike

Since there is 2 of them using that electricity I must be using more than my share of electricity. Later he said; "avg cost per kwh both: \$0.1158." My bill comes out \$0.1154 per kWh. So it is a usage thing.

### **Illinois Renewable Energy Assoc.**

The seventh annual Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair will be held on Saturday, August 9th and Sunday, August 10th at the Ogle County Fairgrounds, in Oregon, IL.

I am going to this. Maybe I will learn how to save some energy. For now I have to go and turn off some lights.

### **Birthday**

Today I found out is was Lulu's birthday. Happy Birthday Lulu!

### **The Day the Lights Came On**

Today 20 years ago is the day the lights came on in Wriggly Field for the first time ever. If I remember right the game was call because of rain. Go figure. The Cubs won today 3 to 2.

### **For the Cubs Fans**

*Wrigley Field is a baseball stadium in Chicago, Illinois, United States that has served as the home ballpark of the Chicago Cubs since 1916. It was built in 1914 as **Weeghman Park** for the Chicago*

*Federal League baseball team, the Chicago Whales. It was also the home of the Chicago Bears of the National Football League from 1921-1970. It was also called **Cubs Park** from 1920 to 1926 before finally being renamed for then Cubs team owner and chewing gum magnate William Wrigley Jr.. Located in the residential neighborhood of Lakeview, Wrigley Field sits on an irregular block bounded by Clark and Addison Streets and Waveland and Sheffield Avenues. The area surrounding the ballpark contains bars, restaurants and other establishments and is typically referred to as Wrigleyville. The ballpark's mailing address is 1060 W. Addison Street. During Cubs games, fans will often stand outside the park on Waveland Avenue, waiting for home run balls hit over the wall and out of the park. However, as a tradition, Cubs fans inside and sometimes even outside the park will promptly throw any home run ball hit by an opposing player back onto the field of play, a ritual depicted in the 1977 stage play, *Bleacher Bums*, and in the 1993 film, *Rookie of the Year*. Wrigley Field is nicknamed *The Friendly Confines*, a phrase popularized by "Mr. Cub", Hall of Famer Ernie Banks. Since 2006, its capacity has been 41,118, making Wrigley Field the fourth-smallest and most actively used ballpark in 2006. It is the second oldest active major league ballpark (after Fenway Park), and the only remaining Federal League park. When opened in 1914, Wrigley Field had a seating capacity of 14,000 and cost \$250,000 to build.*

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wrigley\\_Field](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wrigley_Field)

## **09-Aug-2008**

### **Birthday**

Happy Birthday Tammy! If you see my Tammy at Star-Bucks at Lake-in-the-Hills or some where, wish her a Happy Birthday.

## **10-Aug-2008 8:42am 56°**

56°! Winter is back. Well that will save energy running the A/C.

### **At the Energy Fair**

Yesterday I went to Oregon, IL to the Illinois Renewable Energy Fair. This is a small fair where there a people showing what they have to help you save energy. I have been here three different times. There are not a lot of people selling things but there enough. Most of what they have are workshops telling how you can save energy. Or as most them are doing is to save you money and that will save energy and help save the earth. All of the seminars/workshops were free,

There were over 60 workshops with names like "Geothermal Systems – Eqpmt. Applic, Install", "Natural Medicine", "Solar PV System for Your Home", "Global Warming Believers Vs Skeptics" and the one I went to was about how to make your own home more energy efficient.

In this workshop it reinforced many of the things I have already started to do and things I had not thoughts about. They talked about the may not save very much money like replacing your windows with the supper high tech energy saving windows. But calking around the windows to stop the air leaks will save a lot more than it cost.

What I wrote in my note book was that a replacing refrig over 10-15 years old will pay for itself because of the changes made in the in the last 5-7 years. Mike has been telling me a smaller one would save a lot of energy too. They said that too.

I also learned about a book names "Home Energy Audit". It tells you how to do your own energy audit in great detail. David told us that if you have someone do an energy audit on your house you could find out where all the energy leaks and then you would know what you would get the best return on the cost and what you could do and what you might want to hire out.

This workshop was given by David Kozlowski of Little Green Houses. I found out after the workshop he was from Woodstock. Go figure, I drove 60 miles to listen to my neighbor. It was a good seminar. Thanks David!

### **My Energy Audit**

I have been monitoring the electric usage at different points in the house for a few days at a time. Since I can only do one spot at a time it is slow going. What I have been doing is to find where I can save energy. Saving energy is what I am doing but like most of you I am really trying to save money.

Remember when looking at this information that my last electric bill was \$136 for a month using 1186 kWh of electric. These numbers are what I have checked so far.

So far I have found I use 230 watts an hour 24 a day on my computer servers. This includes the battery backup system. I use these for my web site, the firewall and to backup my data. The usage per month is about \$20 a month or 166 kWh. That is about 14% of the total.

SolarOne has replaced a older the older PC the old PC used 11.18kWh in 200 hours where SolarOne is using 1.87kWh in 104 hours that is already saving some electricity. PC was using 3.4% and SolarOne only used 1.1% of over all.

I am monitoring all the power the TV stuff is using. I just hooked it up so it is a little early tell what is happening there yet. One thing I noticed was that I had everything turned off and it is drawing 55 watts. Yes that is 55 watts while turned off. This is phantom power. This is what just having the stuff plugged into the wall. This is the TV, VCR, DVD, and the Direct TV turner. They were all turned off. I will be checking that out because that comes out to 3.3% of the monthly usage while turned off.

You might remember I stopped using the dryer and went to the clothesline. I think may be a big saving because first estimates my next bill to be only about \$95.00. That is only 10 days into the billing cycle so still have time to get that down even more.

I have to work on this phantom power usage. Those are all those battery chargers that are plugged into the wall that are not charging any thing. Things that can be unplugged when not in use can be put on power strips with switches. After seeing that 55 watt drain on the TV things I have a better idea how much power those phantom use. This reminds me of the pilot light on the stove. It is a phantom gas user.

### **\*JUST FOR GRINS\***

I told my wife that a husband is like a fine wine; he gets better with age. The next day, she locked me in the cellar. -- Anonymous

Source: E. C. Kraus HOME WINE MAKING NEWSLETTER

## **11-Aug-2008 12:30pm 72°**

### **Missing Pension**

Well this morning I went to the unemployment office. Well it is now called IDES or Illinois Department of Employment Services. No, I am not filing for unemployment funds.

I talked to Honeywell Friday about my pension that is missing. Remember Honeywell is handling the pension for Woodstock Die Casting. I have been working trying to get this for 2-1/2 years now. They tell me for them to reopen my case for another search I need to send them some more information.

The reason I went to IDES today was to see if they had any documents about a layoff back in 1971. This is where there is a gap in my Social Security earnings and Honeywell has denied pension benefits. I figured they might have some kind of documents that show the reason for the layoff.



The man at the counter was very helpful. After he understood I wasn't there for the normal reason most were standing in line. He went in back and talked to someone and the returned and told me they didn't have those records and gave me address of document control at the IDES office in Chicago.

So I have sent a letter to them to see what I can find out. Maybe with any luck I will get a pension before I have reincarnated in the next life time.

### **Nice day**

I see it is a nice day so I should go enjoy it by mowing the lawn. Wait I need to go mail this letter first.

### **More from Mike**

Mike asked me some questions about my energy usage after me asking him about their electric bill being less than \$20.00 a month. I still think this is tough to believe but it is possible knowing Mike and Petra. This is the question he asked me.

### **Some of the questions**

Hi Marty,

This has started a discussion on this end. We have some thoughts you probably already have thought about yourself. We'll pass them on anyway:

- Is your AC set at 78 or above? When we use ours, we set it to 82.
- Do you still have that huge frig? With a freezer? Think small. You could help both the usage and yourself if you bought your ice cream when you want to eat it and didn't have it stored making it so handy.
- Do you really need all those computers for your server--maybe a bit less back-up?
- How many fans do you use? Maybe a couple less? Maybe only one in the room where you are?
- How often do you use the clothes washer? Can you consolidate and use it less often? Maybe wash socks by hand? We use ours once or twice a week.
- What about all the electronic things that are on "stand-by" so they start more quickly? Over a year's time they eat a significant bit of power for that tiny convenience. And besides they make heat that your AC has to get rid of. Unplug them if you cannot turn off the stand-by--or plug them into a power strip you can turn off.
- What power is your fountain taking?
- Does your TV really take that much juice? But I know every watt counts and it is on standby.
- One final thought ... check to see if your neighbor is plugged into one of your outlets or has a wire under the ground.

Is this list something for your Random Thoughts??? We'll all get you de-juiced little by little.

Peace and joy,

Mike Metras

*Source: email from Mike*

### **Some of my answers**

AC: A/C is set to 78° and some times at 75° but not turned on when humidity is low even when temperature it up to as much as 85° outside. The heat doesn't bother me much, the hot and humidity does. But when it cools down outside I turn off the A/C and open the windows until I can't stand it any more.

Frig: The frig I have had for a long time. I keep it full with water that helps to hold the temperature. And yes it is too big but and it is on the list but it isn't an energy hog. It was one of the energy star models at the time I bought it. For now I have to live with it being too big.

Computers: I do not need all of the computers running that I do. I have monitored the energy usage and it is high and I am thinking how I can start lowering this energy.

Fans: I run one ceiling fan in the dining room. I use one other fan after I come in after mowing the lawn until I cool down. Now that that I have the A/C tuned so it is working the way it should it doesn't run much either. I use to have 5 or six fans running all the time before I central A/C This A/C is using much less power than all of those fans were using. Anyone want some fans?

Washer: I have enough clothes that I only have 2 loads a week. I use cold water. And I stopped using the dryer. I have only used it once since I put up the clothesline and that is because I waited too long before doing the laundry and it was raining. I think I am doing good using the clothesline.

I covered stand-by power a couple days ago. I call it phantom power users. I haven't got all of them on power strips but I will soon.

I thought about the fountain I just didn't get to it yet. I will later because it is small compared to other things I am dealing with.

The TV is on right now and it is using 143 watts. I see the TV, DirecTV tuner are in use. And the VCR and Laser Disc player are plugged in and DVD player it turned on. Yes, I did say Laser Disk player! Why is that plugged in? It won't be in a few minutes. That is a phantom I never use. I may have not used it in 5 years. The DVD and VCR are not used much either. They will be moved to a power strip a few minutes later. I do not care about the clock in them I do not record any things. And while I am putting them on a power strip maybe the TV and the DirecTV turned can be turned off too. No reason to have them on stand-by either.

And there is no hooked to my power that I can find. Only one outlet on the outside of the house and I drive but that when I leave the driveway when I should be walking ☺

Thanks for the boost Mike.

### **Before I go to bed**

I unplugged the Laser Disk Player and to Charger modules that were not hooked to any thing on those power strips with the TV stuff. It went from 55 watts of phantom power usages to 23 watts. Wow! Then I put the TV and the Direct TV turned on one power strip and the VCR and DVD player in the other and turned them off. Not the phantom power usage at the TV stuff is a big ZERO.

Now when I wake up in the morning I should have saved about 440 watt. In a day it will be about \$4.50 a month if I never watch TV. And this is just from this one power phantom leak.

I will go read the power meter before I turn in for the night. Oh, I estimate that my next bill will be around \$90.00 now. That would make the bill 34% less. Good night all!

### **12-Aug-2008 9:56am 69°**

Before I went for coffee I thought I would check my email. I going to late because this one is a little funny.

### **Smart Ass Answers**

*It was mealtime during a flight on Hooters Airline. "Would you like dinner?" the flight attendant asked John, seated in front. "What are my choices?" John asked. "Yes or no," she replied.*

*A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."*

*The cop got out of his car and the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said. The kid replied,*

*"Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could." When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.*

*A blonde goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?"*

*The clerk says, "What denomination?" The blonde says, "God help us. Has it come to this? Well, then, give me 6 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 Baptists."*

*Source: email from Arlene*

### **Theory of Victimology Explained**

*If a man cuts his finger off while slicing salami at work, he blames the restaurant.*

*If you smoke three packs a day for 40 years & die of lung cancer, Your family blames the tobacco company.*

*If your neighbor crashes into a tree while driving home drunk, he blames the bartender. If your grandchildren are brats without manners, you blame television.*

*If your friend is shot by a deranged madman, you blame the gun manufacturer*

*And if a crazed person breaks into the cockpit & tries to kill the pilot at 35,000 feet, & the passengers kill him instead, the mother of the crazed deceased blames the airline.*

*I must have lived too long to understand the world as it is anymore.*

*So, if I die while my old, wrinkled ass is parked in front of this computer, I want all of you to blame Bill Gates!*

*Source: Email from Arlene*

### **Power at TV**

I am glad to say I used zero power from any of the T-V stuff in the last 13 hours. And I only used about 80 cents total electricity since I went to bed last night. I'm getting there!

### **Weeds and the Lawn**

I just finished cutting the grass. Or should I say the weeds. For now let's call it the lawn. There are a lot of weeds in my lawn. Since I am unsure how to deal with the weeds I just mow then along with the grass. Yes I could just go out and get some Weed-N-Feed® and spread it all over the place. If I did that I would have any lawn.

I decided to see what kind of organic weed control was out here. I went to this site that kind of is guiding me in that direction. My first quest was about lawn in general.

Here is a brief history of Lawn

#### **Lawn History**

*a). Americans love lawns - its in our blood/genes. Lawn care is the most popular gardening activity in the country, outpacing vegetables, flowers, fruit and houseplants. More people tend lawns than read books, go to movies, or watch sporting events on TV. There are 5 million acres of HOME lawns in the USA (150 trillion grass plants under cultivation). Americans spend \$6 BILLION a year to keep them looking good.*

*b). A well maintained yard (including lawns) can add 15% to your home's value. Lawns help muffle noise, moderate temperatures, reduce dust and pollen, control erosion, improve soil, improve air quality by reducing CO2 levels, cushions the legs, and , though some may disagree, helps keep dirt out of the home.*

*c). In Medieval times, lawns were called "flowery medes", because short stemmed plants were used more than grasses (chamomile). One can actually find references to "grassy garden carpets" back in the Persian Empire, but lawns as we know it is a more "recent" invention. In Europe, the lawn was born due to pasturing animals that grazed too close to the home (safety area). Then the Medieval lawns took on a new form; sod was dug from pastures, planted on estates, and "mowed" by hand with scythes. Only*

*the rich could afford this lawn. It wasn't until the 19th century that lawns came to most homes. Edward Budding made it possible with his invention, the lawn mower. He worked in a textile factory, and in 1830, he watched the blades of the textile machines cut fabric, and figured the same action could be used to cut grass. When his 19" wide lawnmower (reel mower) went on the market, he described mowing as "amusing, useful and healthful for everyone", but today, that is not the case.*

Source: <http://www.members.tripod.com/~Gardeningguru/index-11.html>

This in no means all of what I have read. If you want to know about lawns and Lawn carry this is interesting. Check out these links for more information.

Here is some more:

### **The good and bad of mowing**

*When the mower cuts of those tips, the plant undergoes a lot of changes. Mowing is the violent, physical removal of living tissue, causing a severe shock to the plant itself. The shock is due to the reduction of the food available to the plant. Grass lives mostly on the food produced in the leaves rather than drawn up by the roots. The leaf areas are where the plant's photosynthesis takes place. Cut those blades and you reduce the availability of the plant to produce food. The food manufactured by the leaves is used for topgrowth and root growth. The longer the topgrowth, the longer the root growth. If you cut your lawn short, your roots will only be by the surface area and not down deep where the nutrients and water are. When you cut more than 40% of the leaf surface, the roots stop growing all together. The closer you cut, the longer it takes for the roots to begin growing again. Also, every time you cut the grass (especially if the lawn mower blade is dull), you are creating ports of entry for diseases. Close cutting also allows the sunlight to penetrate the soil and dry out the soil while encouraging weed seeds to germinate. These are the bad things that happen when mowing. When properly done, mowing can thicken a lawn and make it more weed-resistant. Like every other plant, its main purpose is to set seed and reproduce. When you cut the lawn, you are interrupting this process by cutting the seed heads, and the plant responds by producing more plants asexually, by tillering. The result is a thicker lawn, and with a thicker lawn the weeds seeds cannot germinate and there is no room for them to grow. Cut your lawn at a higher height instead of a lower height, and cut more frequently than once a week.*

*Mowing heights (Here are the best mowing heights, in inches, by species. The mower deck should be raised in hot weather or shade, and lowered for the last mow of the year.)*

*Grass Type Cool Weather Hot Weather Last mow Kentucky Blue 3 4 3 Fine Fescue 1 1/2 2 1/2 1 Tall Fescue 2 1/2 4 2 Perennial Rye 1 1/2 2 1/2 1*

Source: [http://gardeningguru.tripod.com/index-11\\_1.html](http://gardeningguru.tripod.com/index-11_1.html)

And there is this about weeds

### **Chemical-Free Warfare**

#### **CHEMICAL-FREE WEED WARFARE**

*You can have a good looking, virtually weed free lawn without the use of chemicals. You can have a good looking, virtually weed free lawn without the use of chemicals. Now that I have hypnotized you into believing this, you must understand the laws of the lawn. 1). What is a weed? A weed is, terminology wise, a plant that is out of place or in the wrong place. On a putting green at a golf course, Kentucky Bluegrass would be a weed, whereas on your home lawn, bentgrass is the weed. Society's perception of a weed has changed over the years. Clover was soft to walk on, mows well, smothers other weeds as well as fixing nitrogen from the air. It was sold by the tons and mixed into lawns. It wasn't until a company came along and said that clover didn't fit into a "modern" lawn did it fall from grace. By the way, the company also sold a chemical that would kill the clover. What about dandelions? Are they weeds? Not to the kid blowing puffballs, or the old man making dandelion wine or the farmers in Vineland, New Jersey. They grow dandelions in neat little rows for their tasty greens that are sold up and down the east coast. On those farms, turfgrass is the weed. The most important question you can ask*

yourself is, "Can I stand a few weeds in my lawn?" As my father always told me, weeds stay green all summer long and your lawn looks green from the road, so they can't be all that bad. If you must remove the weeds, do so with cultural methods, such as the dandelion fork. To keep future weeds out, the best defense is a healthy, thick lawn. If the lawn is thick and vigorous, there won't be any room for the weeds to elbow their way in. Keeping your lawn 1/2" higher in the summer will not only keep the roots long, but will also shade out the newly emerging weeds. If you have a weedy lawn, good grass care will eventually force the weeds out, but this will take time. You can quicken this time by doing the elbow grease of pulling, chopping and cutting the weeds. This will not be as easy as spraying the lawn with herbicides, but there are plenty of reasons to avoid using chemicals. Chemicals are poisons, plain and simple. And as I have stated earlier, chemicals can slow down the biological processes that strengthen the grass plants, decompose thatch, and discourages diseases. There are several bad management practices that can lead to weeds; 1). You are growing the wrong type of grass for the area. 2). Your soil is compacted 3). Heavy use 4). Improper fertilization 5). Drought or improper watering habits 6). Mowing too closely 7). You shouldn't grow grass in that area.

Source: [http://gardeningguru.tripod.com/index-11\\_1.html](http://gardeningguru.tripod.com/index-11_1.html)

There are 3 big pages of information on lawn care. I will cut to the summary. You can read this in detail on the internet. There is the bottom line.

#### **Healthy Lawn in a Nutshell**

##### **Tips for a Healthy Lawn in a Nutshell**

- 1). Makes sure the water drains properly through your lawn. Improve drainage if necessary.
- 2). Trim and/or remove trees and shrubs to increase air flow and sunlight.
- 3). Add organic matter!
- 4). Test your soil for fertility and pH. Make adjustments as needed.
- 5). Check for thatch, soil compaction. Thoroughly rake and aerate to improve.
- 6). Establish and stick to a fertilizer schedule.
- 7). Stop using chemicals!
- 8). Choose the right grass seed for your specific location.
- 9). Mow when the grass needs it, and mow at a reasonable height.
- 10). Water thoroughly and only when needed, never after 3:00 p.m.
- 11). Remove weeds.
- 12). Check your lawn regularly for disease and insect problems.

Source: [http://gardeningguru.tripod.com/index-11\\_2.html](http://gardeningguru.tripod.com/index-11_2.html)

That is enough about my grassy knoll.

### **13-Aug-2008 10:49am 73°**

Another nice day bestowed upon us today. Use it wisely.

#### **Tire Pressure**

Did you know having the proper pressure in you tires can save you some money? Too much air pressure will cause the tires to wear in the center. Too little pressure will cause them to wear faster on the sides. Way too low can cause the rims to wear through the sides walls. Way to much can cause blow outs on a weak tire. The proper pressure will give you the best ride and the best wear for you tires.

Somewhere in your vehicle is a sticker that shows the proper pressure for the tires. It should also show the proper size for the vehicle. Most of the times it is on one the door jams. On my car it is on the door jam and the pickup it is on the door. Tires are marked on the side for the maximum prices on the side.

A little more extra pressure will giver you a rougher ride are less road contact which isn't good in the rain and snow. It will also give you a couple more miles to your tank of gas.

A little lower pressure give you a little smoother ride but will also make your handling a little mushy. It also will cut down on your gas mileage. And make your tires wear faster.

What I know for sure because I have been there. On my car I jacked up my tire pressure to 45psi. The sticker said 28 to 32 psi. The tire said maximum of 56. I wanted to squeeze as many miles out of a tank of fuel as possible. I got 15,000 less miles out of the tires and last winter I had no tractions causing less gas mileages. I saved nothing! I now keep the tire pressure 35psi.

This morning Cork and I checked the tire pressure his van and both my car and pickup. All three were a little low. We put then all a little on the high side for the gas mileage. I just don't get crazy and just go for a little over what they call for.

The bottom line is the proper pressure is the safest way to go. Safety is first!

### **14-Aug-2008 8:55pm 67°**

The middle of the month will be here in a few hours. I guess that crept right up on us this month. I can't wait to see what the rest of the month brings us. What about you?

#### **Remodeling**

Now that Tom has all of the duct work for the A/C finished I started to box it in. I am glad I have worked in construction. My first paying job was pushing nails with a hammer. I worked for a general contractor and worked as a laborer. This meant I did almost everything for about 6 months. That was in 1964. It is amazing how much you remember. Wow, I was about 18 years old!

Anyway I created built the frame in the driveway and just got it bolted to the wall. I saw it was after 8 o'clock. It is anchored so it won't fall so I figured it would wait until tomorrow. I must have done something right because it fit right into the place. So I figured I could take the rest of then night off.

### **15-Aug-2008 12:04pm 76°**

Here it is again. It is today again!

### **16-Aug-2008 10:20am 60°**

Yesterday I got the framing up for the box to cover the duct work. Today if I get time I will make sure I didn't forget any nails any where. I don't need it to come down in the middle of some night and wake me up. I need all the sleep I can get.

#### **Car Usage**

A while back I started writing down the mile on the odometer for the car ever day. I only did this to see how many miles I drive each day. I just compile these numbers and I was surprised that I have been doing it off and on since the end of September last year. This gave me a bunch of number to compile. These numbers opened my eyes to my normal driving pattern.

In 327 days I drove 3,869 miles that is less than 12 miles a day. Now this is only the Honda, my primary car.

70 times I logged the mileages for days back-to-back. Meaning I have actual mileage driven in one day. 87% of those days I drove less than 40 miles in one day. And 67% were less then 15 miles per day. And 37% was less than 7 miles. Since a round trip to The Three Brother and Vaughan's is only 3-1/2 miles it I am going to the restaurants on these short drives.

I used 40 miles because that is about the maximum ranged of the urban electric cars (UEV) per day. This means for most of my driving an electric car would do just fine. But let me crunch some numbers.

I logged mileage 123 times and 93% of the logs showed an average of less than 40 miles a day. And only 45% were average less than 7 miles a day. This means that on 7% of the time I would have



had to charge an electric car twice in one day. Even those get 25 miles on a charge. 87% of the time they would do.

Now let's forget about a car and think about walking. When I was in Spain last year I was hiking say 16 km (10 miles) per day. I was carrying a 20 pound back pack. I did a couple 20 mile days but that is just not normal. So say I averaged the 10 miles a day. If I walked those 10 miles it would be about 60% of the miles on a daily drive. You know I put this in here for MiKe and Peter. Don't you?

What it looks like is that I could walk more and get an electric car. Walking I can do, an electric car is going to wait for now.

### **Birthday**

I see from my list there are 2 birthdays one yesterday and another today. That is Russ and Scott. I am sorry but I don't remember who you are. I am sure that someone gave me your birthdays because I don't remember you. Happy Birthday anyway! Who are you?

### **Spam Issue**

I am still getting a lot of spam that is being blocked. In the last 180 days I have blocked over 40,000 emails and there is more and more each day. Below is a chart of what has been blocked in the last 180 days.

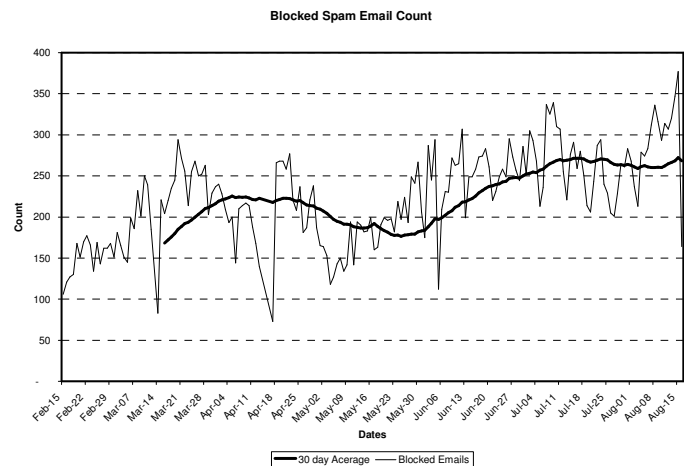
You may ask why I am telling you this. It is because you may be sending me email and you may not think I am seeing it. If you got blocked for some reason because the program is so tight you can send me an email through my web site at [www.martysthoughts.com](http://www.martysthoughts.com).

If you have been sending me email and I have been answering them it should be ok. Another way is to go to my Doer of Things web site and fill out the form. This form is designed to not show the email address to anyone but me.

This helps to keep some smart assed spammer from getting yours or my email address. The link for this form is [http://www.doerofthings.com/forms/form\\_request\\_missing\\_email\\_check.html](http://www.doerofthings.com/forms/form_request_missing_email_check.html).

Both of these forms have been set up to help stop spammers. Therefore you should be safe for you. These are new on my web sites so even if you are not having any problems, try them out so I know they are working.

I just see that the server blocked 377 spam emails yesterday. That is a record for one day. So anything I can do to help stop spam I will try. That as long as it doesn't cost too much.



### **17-Aug-2008**

#### **Birthday**

Today was Mom's Birthday. She was born in 1917 so she would have been 91 this year. Happy Birthday Mom!

Kim reminded me that the other day that today is Mickey's birthday today too.

### **18-Aug-2008 9:28am 70°**

Yesterday was a strange day. I can't say that everything I touched out wrong, but there are a lot of things I would have wished went differently.

## **Pickup**

I put all of the covers back on under the dashboard after working on that door ajar switch. I was tracing out the wiring for that. I decided to leave it as it was. I couldn't get the one panel to align right to get the screws back in the hole. After a while I took it a part and saw I left a socked on one of the bolts, it was in the way. I needed a different wrench and got interrupted on the way to get it and forgot about it. After that it all went back together fairly easily.

I saw that I need a "T-20" screw driver to put the screw in the handle to open and close the window. A "T-20" is for those screws that look like this (\*). Since I didn't have one I was going to Ace to get one. I wanted to drive the pickup anyway. It had been sitting too long.

I put all the other tools away adjusted the seat and tried to start the engine. It sat for 3 weeks so I wasn't surprised too much when it turned over slowly as if the battery was about dead. I had been working on the electrical things so much I could have run the battery low.

When it first started there was this load squeal. The squeal stopped after a few seconds. It sounded like a loose belt. Right after that a cloud of blue smoke came off from under the hood. I stopped the engine and went out to investigate. After opening the hood and looking around I saw nothing wrong. Usually you can see something wrong. I thought a burnt wire around the HHO generator. I looked at many things and saw nothing. The squeal had stopped so I got back in and restarted the engine and it sounded ok. I closed the hood and decided to go to Ace.

I put it in to gear and started to turn the steering wheel and it turned very hard. Right then I guessed it must have been the power steering belt that broke and that would explain the squeal and the blue smoke. After I open the hood I saw the broken belt.

I checked the power steering pump and it turned easily. Then the water pump it turned too. When I got to the alternator it wouldn't move. On this pickup there is only belt for everything. So I was going to drive it nowhere until I replaced the belt.

The alternator was seized up. I put a big wrench on it and it wouldn't move. That made my day!

After lunch I decided to remove it so I could get a replacement. Little did I know this was the start of a chain reaction. While taking off the alternator I moved the heater hose a little and I saw antifreeze dripping. By the time I had the alternator removed, I saw the pipe coming out of the thermostat housing was rusted to almost nothing. I thought maybe I could patch it. That was not the case. It was as thin as tissue paper and rust through and soggy. It was rotten! It was not an easy task to remove it either.

After finally getting it off I saw the thermostat was broken so it needs to be replaced too. So this morning I need to start looking for some parts. I have a big pile to replace. That is an alternator, thermostat housing, a belt, a thermostat, and a bunch of gaskets.

Well I best get started!

## **Parts**

I got some of the parts to fix the pickup this morning. I got the alternator and the belt. Oh, I picked that T-20 screw driver too. So I will be able to roll up the window a little easier. It is starting to cool down a little so it will be a little nicer working outside. Tomorrow I should have the rest of the parts I need. And then I can finish it. At this rate I may have an almost new used pick 'm up truck.

## **Later**

Ok, so the alternator and the belt are installed. That wasn't too hard at all but it wasn't that cool outside. Hopefully the rest of the parts are available tomorrow so I can get his finished.

## **Donations**

Purple Heart will be here in the morning. I have to get some stuff on the porch for then to pick up it tonight because they tend to get here before I get up in the morning. I keep finding things for them. Someday I will start head strong in to de-cluttering and I will find a bunch of stuff for them.

**19-Aug-2008 8:34am 66°**

I went to breakfast and was going to stop and see if my parts for the pickup were ready to pickup. Hummm, "pickup, pickup parts" ☺ Anyway I forgot. So hear I sit writing in the newsletter. I guess I have waited this long so I will wait until I go for a coffee break. I have some RV Travel newsletters to read first.

**RV Travel Newsletter**Racing an RV skeleton

Somehow we think the guy at the wheel of this burned out motorhome won't need his helmet. This baby ain't goin' nowhere. Do we agree on that?

posted by Chuck Woodbury at 10:10 PM

Bumper Snicker

To err is human; to blame it on somebody else shows management potential.

Worth Pondering

If a turtle does not have a shell is he homeless or naked? – Anon

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue338.shtml>

Old tires

Your car or RV tires may be ticking time bombs, ready to explode even though they look brand new. Did you know that even when you buy a brand new tire -- from places like Sears, Wal-Mart, Goodyear or other reputable stores -- the tires may be old and dangerous, even though they have never been driven a single mile? An ABC News report shows how widespread the practice is of selling old (and deadly) tires, and how you can determine the age of your own tires (there is a secret, hard-to-understand code on each one). The fact is, once a tire is six or seven years old, it is dangerous -- no matter how much tread remains. In a second its tread could peel right off the tire -- sending your car out of control. But what this startling report shows is that some tires that old -- and even older -- are being sold every day at stores as "brand new." Take 10 minutes to watch this disturbing report. It may save your life or the one of someone you love. (video is at: <http://rvvideos.blogspot.com/2008/07/your-new-car-or-rv-tires-could-kill-you.html> )

posted by Chuck Woodbury at 7/31/2008 08:55:00 AM

Trivia

Robert McCulloch, the founder of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, paid \$2.46 million for the London Bridge in 1968 and relocated its 22 million pounds of granite in 10,276 pieces to his city where it was reassembled and dedicated in 1971. In the process it was declared an antique to avoid import taxes, making it the world's largest official antique.

Bumper Snicker

On the journey of life, I choose the psycho path.

Worth Pondering

Old friends are the great blessing of one's later years. . . They have a memory of the same events and have the same mode of thinking. -- *Horace Walpole*

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue339.shtml>

Another Stupid RV Trick: Exploding RV

This a video. See it at <http://rvvideos.blogspot.com/2008/07/another-stupid-rv-trick-exploding-rv.html>

Trivia

Yellowstone National Park is the world's oldest national park, having been created by congress in 1872 when Ulysses S. Grant was president. It covers 2,221,773 acres in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, but mostly Wyoming.

Bumper Snicker

I'm not gaining weight, I'm retaining food!

Worth Pondering

To live only for some future goal is shallow. It's the sides of the mountain that sustain life, not the top. --

*Robert M. Pirsig*

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue340.shtml>

That is enough RV traveling for today. I need to go get those parts for the pickup so I can move it out of the way so I can move the motorhome out of the driveway. But I should go have coffee with Mary.

### **Pickup Parts**

Yesterday when I order those parts the phone lines were down. That meant that they were having problems looking up my parts because no phone lines; no computer. We thought the right part was ordered. It looked like it was right when I picked it up. I got home and it looked like it was going to fit. Nope, didn't fit!

This time I took to old part along and we now think I will have the right part tomorrow. It is not a stocked part any more because it is 14 year old truck. Mark, I think was his name, called and had the person on the other end get the part and look at and tell what it looked link. You get two things when you do this. If it sounds like what you need when described to you then you have a good bet it is the right parts. And if they have it in there hand it is a good because then you know they really have one in stock.

Sorry Mary, I ran out of time I will see you another time.

### **Saving Electricity**

As you may know by now I have been monitoring my power usage this billing cycle and figure where I can save some. With the second largest electric bill I have ever got I need to cut back when it make sense to do so. I just read my electric meter to see how I am doing. Now 19 days in to this billing cycle it looks like I will be using about 675 kWh. Last bill I used 1186 kWh that is 43% of last month.

I still have 11 days left to make it better. But on the other hand I think I will be using the A/C later today. It is starting to get humid in the house and it needs to dry out, but may not. We'll see how it goes.

### **Monitored Usage**

After monitoring the power usage at different point through out the house, I see my computer servers are consuming about 24% of all the electricity. And my weather station PC is only about 2%. The old Weather PC was 6%. The T-V stuff was at 10% but it is down to less than 5%. Turning the power off when not watching TV is a lot better than leaving this stuff on standby. This would even be better if I would watch TV with my eyes open. I don't really need the TV on while I sleep in the chair. Maybe I need to invent a switch that turns off the TV when I nod off. ☺

When I first started doing this, I monitored the frig but I can't find where I wrote down the stats.

For now I have to work on the computer servers to see what I can do with this. I may be able to lower that some and still do what I do now.

### **20-Aug-2008 8:38am 67°**

Good morning! I got up too late to have coffee with Steve and Bill but I did get to see Mary this morning. While sitting there checking out the paper Bob and Shirley stopped and they joined me. Bob was taking Shirley to work at IHOP in Crystal Lake.

By now Jenae has started college. I forgot where. I didn't get to see her before she left so I will have to wish her luck from here. Good luck Jenae! Email me and tell me how you are doing.

I have noticed that ~~My~~<sup>My</sup>~~rt~~<sup>rt</sup>~~y's~~<sup>'s</sup> ~~R~~<sup>R</sup>~~and~~<sup>and</sup>~~om~~<sup>om</sup> ~~T~~<sup>T</sup>~~h~~<sup>h</sup>~~ough~~<sup>ough</sup>~~ts~~<sup>ts</sup> has turned into a journal of sorts. It looks like I have been having a lot of random thoughts. It seems every time I have a thought between doing other things I have to come to the computer and type something. I guess that is what I am doing now. Maybe that is better than talking to myself. I don't want to talk to myself because I don't always listen. Maybe you don't listen when I talk you either. ☺

I have to see if I can find more smiley faces. I only have these 3 right now. ☺ ☹ ☠ There must be others that I can type in right from the key board like ;- ) or :-o or some of the other ones that I can think of right now.

Here is some: 😊

Now that was fun. Now I need to remember I have this font and use it for something. How about I can type ":U)" and get a "☺" or type a ":~|" and get a "☹". I guess it will be fun for a while. ☺

Quit playing Marty and go do something! ☹️

*I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener. I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think.*

*You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.*

*I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!*

*I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'*

*I thought about making a fitness movie, for folks my age, and call it 'Pumping Rust.'*

*I have gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!*

*I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?'*

*Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'*

*Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency. 'I think you should write, 'A Good Doctor!''*

*Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do... write to these men?*

*Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they deliver the mail? Or better yet, arrest them while they are taking their pictures!*

*I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me, they were cramming for their finals.*

Source: email from Arlene

Oh, I was going to do something. I forgot.

After breakfast I took that last part I got for the pickup and installed it. I only had one minor coolant leak. A quick turn of a sparkplug wrench on the temperature sensor fixed that. Yes, you can use a sparkplug wrench for things other than sparkplugs!

## **Pickup Status**

Yes Bill, I have an almost new used pickup now. There is a lot of new stuff bolted to it now. There is a new filler neck and mounting straps on the gas tank. And a new alternator, thermostat and housing for it. Oh, and the temperature sensor. And there is that new door latch, door ajar switch a key assembly.

What else? Hummm...Oh, there it that hinge for the spare tire mount lying there waiting for me to install it. I lubed the tail gate today so I can open it easier to get that hinge out when I am ready to install it. It would have been installed by now but I had the pickup backed up to close to the motor home and I could get at the back. Today's reason is that the driveway is wet from washing the tree sap off the pickup. I wonder where all that tree sap came from. The pickup was not under a tree. Maybe it was something else. Anyway I still have to install the hinge latch thing for the spare tire.

## **All Those Babies**

When I took the pickup out for a drive to make sure it worked ok after installing all those new parts I stopped at Vaughan's to see what was happening. I got to meet Lillian for the first time. Remember Lillian is Tristan and David first born. She is almost 4 weeks already.

And before I left Sadie and Olivia came in with their mother Heather. Sadie is almost 7 weeks old. I asked Olivia if I could take her picture. She wanted no part of it.

No picture this time. You will have to wait until you see them in person.

It looks like all the mothers and there young ones are doing just fine.

## **From The INBOX**

### **Farmer John and his chickens**

John was in the fertilized egg business. He had several hundred young layers (hens), called 'pullets', and ten roosters, whose job it was to fertilize the eggs.

The farmer kept records and any rooster that didn't perform went into the soup pot and was replaced. That took an awful lot of his time, so he bought a set of tiny bells and attached them to his roosters. Each bell had a different tone so John could tell from a distance, which rooster was performing. Now he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report simply by listening to the bells.

The farmer's favorite rooster was old Butch, a very fine specimen he was, too. But on this particular morning John noticed old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all! John went to investigate. The other roosters were chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing. The pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover.

But to Farmer John's amazement, old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one. John was so proud of old Butch, he entered him in the Renfrew County Fair and he became an overnight sensation among the judges.

The result...The judges not only awarded old Butch the No Bell Piece Prize but they awarded him the Pulletsurprise as well.

Source: email from Mike

## **Pickup**

I have taken the pickup out for a drive around the outside of Woodstock. It has been sitting for a month because I was either waiting for parts or just waiting until I got around to installing them. I have installed the ScanGauge® I bought a long time ago. I wasn't sure it would work on the pickup because it a 1995 and they claim you need at least a 1996 for the standard On Board Diagnosis (OBD-2) device plug for the ScanGauge® to work. It seems to be working for gas mileage. In the first 9.8 miles since I installed the gauge I am getting 23.8 MPG. This is my first test to see if I can get this up to the gas mileage check since I got the gas leak fixed. I am not sure how accurate the ScanGauge® is because it is relying on the computer that runs the pickup. It will be a good reference until I have to fill the gas tank.



**22-Aug-2008 12:19pm 80°**

Well it has been humid for 3 days now. I don't like high humidity! There is not much I can do about it, so I will move around less and stay indoors in the A/C.

**Pickup project**

I needed an 18mm socket to change the latch hinge bracket for the spare tire mount on the pickup. I was all setup in the driveway with the jack, air compressor and all the tools I thought I would need to fix this. The bracket had 2 nuts and one bolt holding it on.

Once I got in to it I saw I would have to remove the bumper to do this. There was no way you could get at the two nuts even if you had it up on a hoist. It would be nice to have a hoist. I if even pulled the tailgate, I couldn't do it easier. So I checked and there were only 4 bolts holding bumper, but they were big ones. I checked and 3/4" socket was a little large and 11/16" was too small. So with the impact wrench I tried the 3/4" and removed one bolt. It got stuck in the socket because it was too large none the less one bolt came off.

Knowing it had to put back together I went to the store to get the right size. When using sloppy fitting socket with the impact wrench you can destroy the head of the bolt and make it almost impossible to reuse. I think I went to 3 parts stores before I found 18mm. I had 17mm and 19mm wrenched but I do not own anything in 18mm. I guess it is an odd size. That is unless you need one then no one has one.

I had put the big tool away for safety before I left to go to the store. There wasn't anyone around to make sure no one would get hurt if they messed with my tools. So I always put them away. Maybe some day I will clear out the garage then I could work in there and just close and lock the door.

By the time I got home it was just too humid for lying under the truck to do all of this. So I let it go for the day.

**23-Aug-2008 11:15am 80°****Birthday**

Today it is Mary's birthday. I remembered but thought other wouldn't. So, I made up a sign and put it on the front door. After having breakfast I went home and finished up the pickup. I got finished early with the pickup so I headed back to Vaughan's to see how Mary was doing with her birthday.

Anila came in and told me off for not telling her it was Mary's birthday. I told her she needs to read the newsletter and she would know. I know it has been in every issue since July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mary was standing there so I asked Anila; "Didn't you even see the big sign on the door?" Mary said; "What sign?" as she headed for the front door. Then she told me that she wondered why so many people remembered.

Happy Birthday Mary!

We have another birthday today too. It is also Taryn's. Happy Birthday Taryn!

**Pickup Project**

So I think I have all the broken things I know about fixed on it now. Maybe now I can start using it for a pickup! I need some drywall to finish covering up that duct work. And there is the siding for the garage. And some lumber that goes along with that project. And then there is the HHO generator I started working on for the pickup. I'm getting tired just thinking about this.

**RV Travel Newsletter****Why an RV trip is more affordable than traveling another way**

In this entertaining six-minute promotional video from Coachmen, see why traveling by RV is still a whole lot more affordable than traveling by other means. This video makes a case for the continued appeal of RV travel, even with today's high fuel prices. You'll enjoy this.

The video is at: <http://www.rvvideos.com/>

posted by Chuck Woodbury at 8/15/2008 12:16:00 AM

**Trivia**

Alaska has more active glaciers than the rest of the inhabited world. It has an estimated 100,000, which cover almost five percent of the state. The state also has 80 percent of the active volcanoes in the United States and more than 3 million lakes.

**Worth Pondering**

"To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life." -- Robert Louis Stevenson

**Bumper Snicker Being**

The original point and click interface was a Smith & Wesson.

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue341.shtml>

Maybe I have some catching up to do. I see RV Travel is on issue # 341. **Marty's Random Thoughts** is only on # 38. Well I did never think I was racing with any one but myself

**24-Aug-2008 5:31pm 74°****Dragging Day**

I have been dragging all day. I had to drag myself out of bed this morning. I tried to drag myself out to go for breakfast and that didn't work. I just had a bowl of cereal. Then I had to drag myself out of the chair to go out and put away the rest of the tools I used to rebuild the pickup. Oh bill, I have a brand new used pick'm up truck now. Then I put in a DVD and watched a movie, "Half Nelson". Then Aunt Annie called and went out for lunch and visited with Anila. I almost had to drag myself out to the car. So we went to Walgreen's and I got some vitamins. Maybe they will help to drag me out of the draggys. Is "draggys" even a word? Now I am sitting here typing non-sense. I think I will drag myself away from the computer and just go watch T-V until this wears off. Tomorrow is another day!

**25-Aug-2008 11:19am 70°**

I checked in with Mike and he is very busy working on getting his book finished. He says he is on the last draft. I should get back to mine.

**Birthday**

It is Betsy's is birthday. With her new job in Huntley I don't see as much. Happy Birthday Betsy!

**Energy usage**

I haven't taken my electric reading the last few days. Maybe it is because I know it would be a little higher that is was. With the hot humid weather the last few days I have been running the AC. It has been nice in the house with the AC turned on. It is working just fine since the duct work changes. Thanks to Tom. Thanks Tom!

I just read the watt meter hooked to the frig. it is using less than 4% of this month's usage. And I read the electric meter and if I am reading thing correctly my bill will be 40% less than the last month. That would be a savings of about \$55.

I need to do some laundry so I will check on the washer next.

It is amazing how easy you can save some energy once you start to see where it is going.

**26-Aug-2008 4:58pm 73°**

Another day has gone by without the clothes drier. Well I used my solar clothes drier, clothesline that is. It is a lot easier than I would have had thought it would have been. Start a load in the washers before breakfast. But only when it looks like the wind might blow a little. Then after breakfast you hang them out on the line. First thing you know you have nice fresh clothes to wear for the next week or two.

## **Printer**

Remember the last couple of issues I was having more trouble with my color printer. Well I have replaced it. After 5 or 6 years it finally gave up. It was one of the printers that would print pictures with out having it hooked to the printer. Well it doesn't even do that.

The new is hooked up and I needed to finish checking out all of it's to features. I hope to have it ready to print this newsletter before the end of the month. I will fill you in what it will let me do.

Unlike most things I am going to look at the manual before I get too deep in to using it.

## **27-Aug-2008 1:38pm 82°**

I was just going to go mow the grass and thought I would check the weather to see if I could talk myself out of it.

I found a chart on the website that shows me how solar energy is hitting my head while I am outside. Well, it is says: "Calculated the clean electricity you can generate from the Sun." The Chart won't re print so I will just tell you that for August the Average daily energy by month (in kWhr/m2/day) is 5.27.

That means if I had solar panels that would let me get all of that energy I would need an array about 50x50 feet for an average day. Or only 9x9 feet for the best the sun could do.

Forget that for now, I have to cut the grass or I'll have it bail it for hay.

## **Later**

Well the grass is cut! It wasn't that bad. I did have to put an edge on the blade. I noticed that it was just lopping off the grass and that is hard on the grass. I also noticed how dry it was. My grass needs some rain. The last time we got any real rain was on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I wonder how the farm crops are doing. Anyone heard?



## **28-Aug-2008 9:59am 64°**

## **Printer Be Gone**

Remember that printer I bought the other day. Well it is no longer there. Most things worked on it but not all. I was only looking for 4 features on my wish list. The printer needed to print in color, print on legal size paper, print on both sides of the paper automatically, and be able to be on the network.

The printer I choose was a HP L7590 that clamed to do all of these things. Well after I tested it I found the printer only printed in duplex (both sides) on letter size paper. This meant when I do the newsletter I would still have to do it manually. I could live with that. The other thing is that the network interface was not working. I wanted it on the network so I could use it from any PC or server on my network and then my PC did not have to be turned on to use it. This would save some electricity.

Since when I bought the printer it was an out-of-the-box model, I did not want to just exchange it for the other out-of-the-box printer of the same kind. I wanted them to show me that the network interface was working before I exchanged it. It is too much of a hassle to bring another printer home and hook it up that may have the same problem. So I asked for my money back and got it. So that is a day out of my live.

I guess I will have to look around some more and do without color for a while longer.

## **Rain**

We are getting a nice rain. I show only 4/100 inch so far this morning. A nice gentle rain like now would be fine for today. Then maybe the holiday people will have a nice weekend.

**29-Aug-2008 9:10am 64°**

**Alert, Alert, Alert!!!!!!!**

I just got an email from my sister Marcia. It seems that she might very well be our next President. She sent me a link to the news release. Go to this link and check out this video.

<http://www.inews3.com/play.php?first=Marcia&last=Grubb>

I knew she was looking for a job, but President. Way to go Marcia!

I wonder if she has her running mate yet. I am sorry Aunt Annie. If Marcia chooses me as her number two I am going to take the job. I can be her "Yes Man ." ☺

You must check out this video! <http://www.inews3.com/play.php?first=Marcia&last=Grubb>  
By now you should have seen my email I sent out today. If you want to know how to get a news clip with out passing your email address all over the internet, just go to my contact page and send me an email and I will let you know how you too can get your own news clip. It isn't very hard.

Go to: <http://www.martysthoughts.info/> and click on Contact me. It can be a lot of fun! ☺

**Siding the Garage**

Today I went out and ordered the siding for the garage. I think it was in 1994 when Jeremy and I put siding on the house. Well, mostly Jeremy! I helped a little.

So after 14 years the garage may match the house. It took a little doing because they didn't have the same brand that is on the house. Color is a little different. But I didn't just guess. I asked Jessica and Kim to help me. I guessed the right color match from the samples and they confirmed. At Menards the told me that the pattern different. I told them the garage was detached by 30, so it was close enough.

In about two weeks it should be here. In the mean time I will be busy getting ready. I need to replace some fascia and paint the soffit. And then there is that brush growing around the garage that is in the way. Once I have the garage ready to siding installation should be fairly easy.

The hardest part will be the back. The back is less than a foot from the school fence. I am thinking I could drop the fence while I do the work on the garage. I will see how that goes when I get her rest of the garage ready.

**30-Aug-2008 11:30am 81°**

**Time Matches On**

Here it is near the end of the month, again! Is it me or is time that is moving faster? Who was that invented time anyway. Did he or she know that some times the time moves fast and other times it is very slow. I have heard that time moves faster when you are having fun. I must be having a lot of fun!

Some where alone the way through time someone invented the clock to measure time. And they keep improving them so the ticks get closer together. I think the first clocks clicked of days. You know them as sunrise or sunset. Later someone thought it would be neat to dive the day in 24 pieces or hours. Time must have move very slow back them. Then some one decided thy needed one time and dived the hours in to minutes and then seconds. That must be where that ticking sound came from.

So we went from one click a day to 24 to 1440(minutes) then 86400(seconds in a day. I guess after listening to tick tock 86400 times a day got to be too much for some. Someone invented an electric clock that stopped ticking after a while. Now the clocks tick of in nanoseconds. If my math is right it is one ten-billionth of a second. That is like 864,000,000,000,000 ticks a day.

I guess at this point it is no longer a tick any more. It is more like a ringing in your ear. Anyone else get one of those ringing in you ears once in a while? Is that just a clock?

So is time going faster or are we just counting more pieces of it?

I could be out getting the garage ready for the siding. I just used up some 27,000,000,000,000 of those nanoseconds. I could have used them going for coffee or some other important stuff. Hay I am will only be 19,476,288,000,000,000 nanoseconds old at 14:40pm this afternoon. Electricity could travel

about 26,160,928,433,269 miles in that time. I think electricity travels 11-3/4 inches per nanosecond. (186,000 miles a second)

### **Power usage**

I just checked my electricity meter and I see it reads "6000". That puts me at 720 kWh this month. That is a long way from the 1186 of last month. Of the item I checked this month the computers in the server room used the most at 17% of the total. The next one would have been the TV Stuff at 7% but I changed that so is only about 3% and the frig is 3% too. On the low end if the washing machine at 0.1% and next is the weather station PC at 1.3%

This is by no means all of the electric usages. I have not checked all things yet and I am not able to check everything with what I have to use.

For now I know my computers in the server room use the most. This is my Web, Mail, Backup, and Firewall servers along with the backup battery system and the routes and things that make them work together. I am looking in to a way to change that some way to get it to use less power.

### **The Newsletter**

I see I am already at 25 pages with this newsletter. The record was on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 24 pages. This is a little long so I am going to just finish out the month and cut it off. It takes too long to print it when it gets that long. I think I will go out and work on the garage for a while.

### **Sticktight**

After working to remove the brush growing on one side of the garage back in the corner I had to stop. Within an hour I almost couldn't move there were so many burs stuck to my clothes. I don't mean burdocks I am talking about the little ones that are just only about 1/8 inch wide. They stick tighter than Velcro.

I looked them up and they are called "Jessica sticktight". They look like this picture.

I found a lot of plants that have burs but these look kind of what plants I have. There is another one that I remember when I was a kid and walking down the railroad tracks. Those I think were Sand-burs. Maybe they were the same thing with a different name. In any case they were too many when they started to get under my clothes and started to dig in to my skin.

Tomorrow I will go out and work on the other side. It is mostly Raspberries with a touch of ragweed and some kind of ivy growing up the side of the garage. I think all of the green stuff growing might have kept the sticktight plants at bay. We'll see.



**31-Aug-2008 9:09am 70°**

Today is the end of August and the end of summer for many people. For me it is the end of this issue of the newsletter. I have many things to complete today. I that garage to get cleaned up on the out side to and start getting it today so I can side it. I have to clean out some of the inside so there is a place to store the siding supplies while I am siding outside.

**Marty's Random Thoughts Book One**

Yes I have put together a book for the early issues of Marty's Random Thoughts. It will be copies of all issues from the beginning in 1999, to the end of 2007. I have the draft copy in hand and I see some things I have to cleanup before I make it available to the public. I have me it into a book because I can buy for less than the cost of ink cartridges for the printer. Even if you down load it and print it yourself it would cost you more than if you just buy the book. I don't have my final cost. I should have that in the net issue.

**Garage Brush**

I am sitting in from of the fan cooling down after clearing that brush on the north side of the garage. It is amazing how much that stuff grew since last fall. Even yesterday when I did the south side it was all since last fall. In any case those sides had all the brush and are clear for the most part. The back isn't too bad. It can wait until the last because I will have to move that chain link fence out of the way. I can remove the fence, Clear the brush paint the trim and put the siding up and put the fence back in one day. Well that is if I have some help. If not I will paint the trim with the fence up and wait for help to move the fence, install the siding and replace the fence in one day. Well maybe two.

I should paint all the trim before I start with the siding so I don't get paint splatter on the new siding. But before the painting I need to remove all the old loose old paint. There are those old rotten boards on the south side that need replacing. I have to take down the rain gutters before that. So I guess that will be my September project.

**Energy Usage**

Last month on the 31<sup>st</sup> they read the electric meter for the billing. So I will go read it now and guess what the bill will be when I get the bill. The meter says 6016 now. That means I am guessing my electric bill will be less than \$75.00. That is about 45% less than the last bill. Next month I will try to cut back on the computer in the server room. I have some ideas for that but I have to think on it some more before I do any thing.

I know that my laser printer is an energy hog. I have to try to turn it off more often. And that is sitting right next to me. So unless I am using it, it should be turned off.

The other computer stuff in here with me is set to shut down when I shut my PC off. The Laser printer uses too much power to put it on the same switch. Well that is a later project. I have this garage to work on before winter gets here.



**Fox Garden**

Aunt Annie, Cassie, and I went to Fox Garden for lunch yesterday. On the way home drove through the new high school on Raffel road. The road has been closed all summer so we couldn't check it out before.

This is a big building. The students who attend this school be our leaders of tomorrow.

**From My Note Book**

My not book it getting full. It is time for me to clean it out. Let see what the is you may or may not need to know.

**July 17<sup>th</sup>**

I see there are some lotto numbers here I never played, "1-7-35-42-43-37" and 2-3-5". It also says; "Video tape people" and "running stop sign." I wonder what that means?

**July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Carols Sister's birthday is July 21<sup>st</sup> And her other sister is the 31<sup>st</sup>, and Carols' is the April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Jul 23<sup>rd</sup>**

"What do the Albanian do?" I guess that was for Voviollca while she was over there with her family. I don't think I ever found out much.

**Aug 8<sup>th</sup>**

Lulu's birthday today. Happy birthday!

**Aug 16<sup>th</sup>**

Bill and Kim's Anniversary(yesterday) 1982 it think.

**Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Aunt Annie said she was at Pizza-Hutt for the first time

**Aug 27<sup>th</sup>**

Tomorrow is Alex's birthday

**Aug 29<sup>th</sup>**

"new cash register." Wonder why I wrote that down?

***This is the end of this issue.***

# Bye, Marty

**Birthdays**

Aug 1	Trent	Sep 1	Bob M
Aug 2	Pat	Sep 6	Jack B
Aug 7	Lidia	Sep 13	Denis G
Aug 8	In 1988 The Light went on in Wriggly Field. It was raining on Aug. 8th, 1988 and the game was delayed or maybe not played at all		

Aug 9	Tammy B	Sep 15	Cork
Aug 15	Russ	Sep 15	Anila
Aug 16	Scott	Sep 29	Cork & Diane's Anniversary
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>

Sorry, the color printer has failed me. I will be printing in black and white until printer is fixed or replaces. If you want to see the pictures in color, you will have to view them online. Marty