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This issues is a lot about the siding the garage project

01-Sep-2008 4:21pm 91°

It is four in the afternoon and it is September, shouldn't it be a little cooler? It got a little much for me so on went the A/C!

Birthday

Today it is Bob's birthday. Happy Birthday Bob!

Printer

I am trying to print the previous newsletter while I am typing this line. I don't know if it is going to complete. It keeps making a crunching sound. Maybe it will die dead before it finishes that page. I hope it holds up for a while. Hold your breath everyone!

It stopped making noise but I am going to stop it anyway. I will switch it over to the laser printer. At sometime I will have to buy a new printer.

I only use the color printer for pictures and this newsletter. Pictures can be printed at Wal-Mart or Walgreens. And the newsletter can be printed in grayscale or viewed online.

I think I will work on the garage and wait for a rainy day and then get a new printer.

2-Sep-2008 10:19am 80°

Ten o'clock and already 80°! I guess it isn't fall yet. I have been out removing the rain gutters from the garage so I can replace some of the fascia boards and paint is before I do the siding. The 10:00 o'clock siren went off so I thought it must be break time. So I

am sitting here in front of the fan cooling before I go out and finish this part. Today it is get the rain gutter down day. Only a little at a time until it is ready.

Tuesday not Monday

Some of you may have thought this was Monday because yesterday was not Sunday it was a holiday. Yesterday was Labor Day. Even I was thinking yesterday was Sunday all day. But I did remember today was Tuesday. Then when that siren went I know it was the first Tuesday of the month. And break time. I am not going for coffee yet. If I do I won't get that last piece of rain gutted down before it rains. Yes, I said rain. Many of the time when a hurricane hits land down in the Gulf we get rain in 2 of 3 days after. The map looks like tomorrow maybe.

Garage Siding Project

Well all of the rain gutters are off and the new fascia boards are primed. And it is way too hot to do any more out side today. I am showing it got up to 95° around 3:30pm. Yup, I have the A/C on and I am inside! Tomorrow is another day.

5-Sep-2008 6:54pm 63°

It was a little damp outside this morning. I figured it would dry out later so I did some laundry and hung it out to dry after breakfast. Then I decided to start working on replacing those bad fascia boards on the garage.

Garage siding Project

You would think with 1400 pounds of nails and other fasteners left over from different projects that I would have just a few of the right size. No! I still had to go to the store and get some. I don't really have 1400 pounds of nails but I may have more than 14 different kinds. And still not the right kind.



Most of my nails are straighter than these in the pictures

So I got the fascia fixed on the South side. Tomorrow I think I will start scraping paint. I still have to block of the window in the back, remove the shutters and replace one board on the southwest corner.

I was checking out the back where I have to move the fence. It doesn't look like it is going to be the easiest part of this project. The bottom of the fence is covered with dirt and there is a tree leaning on the corner pushing out and that dirt is piled up on the siding. This means that I may have some rotten boards on the bottom. I will need to dig that dirt out of the way as some point before I do any siding. When that get cleared out, I have to figure out how to deal with that so it doesn't happen again.

Electric Bill

I haven't received my next electric bill yet so I don't know how I did yet.

I did use the dryer for a while today. It was damp today and the wind didn't blow much. The clothes were still wrinkled and still damp so I through them in the dryer to fluff them up and dry them. So I had to use a little extra electricity. I wonder what I am going to do this winter. Hummm, we'll see.

Spam Control

I just checked my email and I show that I have blocked 46407 spam emails in the last 200 days. That is an average of 232 per day. And in one day have blocked as many as 400 spam emails

Because of this I have made a couple of change that may or may not help stop some of the spam later. I have raised the spam level from 3 to 10 and started to bounce the email back to the sender. What this means is that I am a little more spam through. At the same time I am bouncing the spam back to whoever is sending it to me as if I do not even exist. That is if I understand what they are telling me it means. So I am kind of hiding from the spammers.

I will do this for about 30 days to see if it helps. If not, I will have to rethink how I am controlling my spam. Can you imagine how much paper that would be if I was getting all of the spam from the post office as paper mail? Wow!

6-Sep-2008 3:04pm 74°

Bill was over this morning to helped scrap the paint on the garage and ended up doing all the work. Seemed what I was doing didn't work for me. I had to go get another scraper and when I returned Bill had half the garage finished.

Then while I was working on another part my electric drill burnt up. So by the time I finished that Bill was almost finished with all the scrapping. So I guess all I did was save a little electricity by burning up my drill. Not the best way to save electricity.

Thanks for all your help Bill!

Then next step is priming and getting a new drill.

Birthday

Jack's birthday is today. Jack is of my paper suppliers for my newsletter. Happy Birthday Jack!

Electric Bill

I got my electric bill today. I guessed I would use 711kWh. So the bill was for 723 kWh.

What does all of this mean? I paid \$136 last month. This month it was only \$86. I saved **FIFTY BUCKS**! That means my bill was 37% less! Wow! And that wasn't that hard to do.

The big changes were fixing the air conditioner, using the clothesline, and turning off the computer and T-V stuff over night. There were some smaller things I did that helped too.

I have to check my data and see how many more things I can do that may reduce the next bill. I will see if I can shave another 200 kWh of usage on the next bill. That

would be about \$23.75. What the hay, lets shoot for less than 500 kWh that will be a bill of less than \$60.00.

I just noticed I am paying more for electricity this month. On last month's Bill an average Kwh cost \$0.1149 this month is cost \$0.1174. That is an increase of over 2% in just in just month. So even those I saved 37% in dollars I saved 38% in electricity.

So much for that! I will turn the lights off now and get some sleep. And deal with it tomorrow.

9-Sep-2008 8:15am 46°

Winter is back! It got down to 42° last night. I can't wait until I can get out there and shovel snow! ☹ Yes I can wait!

Garage Project

After sleeping in Sunday, I went out yesterday and started to prime the trim on the garage yesterday. That is until Bob from next door came over and started to visit. He told me it was going to rain and the rain was already in Rockford. I think he was wrong because it must have been at the city park. It started to rain shortly after he told me. So I didn't get much done. This morning it is too wet to start and it is too cold to paint. Maybe this afternoon I can start again.

I did replace my hand drill. It was cheaper to buy a new one than have the old one repaired. I guess we are still just throw things away and buy new!

News Flash

The city just removed the "No Parking" sign out of the ground in front of my house. I wonder what that means. I don't remember for sure what it said. I think it was "No Parking This Side of the Street" or something. I wait and see if they replace it with another sign.

Oh, they fixed that hole in the street at the end of my driveway on Friday too!

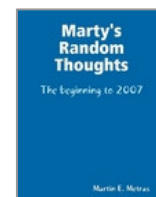
Ad

Yes this is an ad! I have put the beginning years of Marty's Random Thoughts in to a book format. It is for sale. There are 3 versions available. I have it available in black & white, in color and an electronic version. I have priced then for about the same price as it would cost you to print them. I have been refilling the used ink cartridges and I can not print them for what it cost me to have it made into a book. So here are my thoughts.

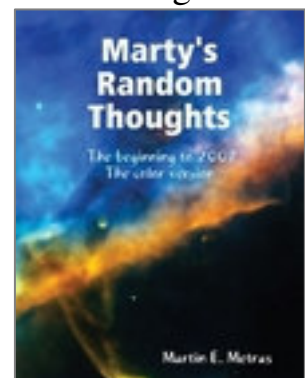
Book one

The book is all of the issues from the beginning to the end of 2007. They were published as 8-1/2' x 11" paperback books and 198 pages. The books are available in black & white and color.

Electronic Book One



The cover of the
Black & White version



Book 1 Cover
the color version

The electronic version is also in color and you could read it on you computer or print it out on paper if you like. I must remind you it should be easier to and cheaper to buy the book than download it and print it yourself.

Where to buy Book 1

You can buy "Marty's Random Thoughts Book 1, the beginning to 2007" by going to my web site www.martysthoughts.info and click on the link to get to my store. The link will get you direct access to my first book.

Garage Project

Today I finished priming the windows and door. I wanted to get them primed because there was a lot of bare wood and I wanted to protect it as soon as I could. The soffit and fascia can wait be because they aren't so bad and the soffit doesn't get rained on.

I also checked out that fence in the back. I need to move it out of the way to get at the back of the garage. I did some digging and it looks like it isn't going to be too bad to move and put up a small wall to keep the dirt off the siding. It also looks like there was a sidewalk out here once upon at time. I started to unhook the fence and even that wasn't too much of a project. I left one wire on each post so it looks like it is still sitting there.

Maybe tomorrow after I get some more paint and some rebar and some wire I think I will remove the fence. Then I can get that dirt out of the way and see how the boards are on the bottom where the dirt is piled on them. Then I will know how I will have to deal with that.

The rebar is to anchor the retention wall to keep the dirt out of the way after installing the siding. The wire it to put the fence back. I think the wire I bought is way too heavy. I will try a piece tomorrow and then go from there. I wonder what I did with that wire. I guess I will see it when I go back out to the garage. It was a big spool. It is most likely sitting right where I left it. ☹

10-Sep-2008 8:15am 45°

It is another cold morning. I had to put my jacket on this morning. It got down to 41° this morning about midnight. I think I will stop thinking about this for a while.

Spam

I see that there is more spam leaking through. This morning I am going to scan my whole web site to make sure that my email address in not showing up in the clear. What we see when we look at on the screen is not always in the clear for the spammers. You and I can see it but the search engines can not always see it. If I can't fix this I have another way so the emails address dose not show up in the clear that I know will fix this part of the problem. It requires me changing my email address all where used and replacing with a new one. I will have to think on this for a while before I do this. It should keep my email address out of site for the spammers. Well, it will make then have to work to get it.

Because of the spam my email address will no longer be put on my newsletter. This does not mean I don't want you to know my email address. It just means that you have to go to my web site to contact me if you are a spammer. It is at the bottom of these pages. Most of you already know it because I send most of you emails.

I just spent an hour removing my email address from my www.MartysThought.info web site. I think I found 25 places where my email address was in the clear. I think I fixed all of those spots. Now I can go shopping for my garage project. Oh, and stop for coffee. I can work on this more later.

Garage Project

I got the fence moved out of the way and most of the dirt out of the way. I see the bottom board of the old siding is rotten and need to be replaced. I have the retention walk figured out and most of the pieces are fabricated.

The fence wasn't very easy to move. Once I had all the fastener removed the fence just collapsed. I forgot how loose chain link gets when it isn't supported. It is hard to handle and much heavier than I would have thought. But I got it moved out of the way and made it safe to work around.

Moving the dirt out of the way revealed another surprise. The fence was only 10 or 12 inches from the back of the garage. While starting to dig in the dirt and I ran in a slab of cement that looked like there might have been a sidewalk or a patio behind the garage. Either could be the case because the playground used to be part of the property with the house. Bob, my neighbor, said at one time the school owned this property and it went back another 50 feet or so.

It is kind of like being an archeologist when I am digging behind the garage. I haven't found anything but roots, broken glass and that slab of cement, but I am not finished yet. Maybe I will find something before I am done. Maybe there is a treasure there to be dug up yet.

Energy Usage

It is too early for a real guess on the electric usage for this billing cycle but it looks like \$10 less after 8 days. They said that the electric company wants to raise rates 6 to 10 percent. This will make it hard for me to save money. It means that I can try to save energy so maybe I can stay even. So I guess I should go turn off something to save some electric.

11-Sep-2008 12:28pm 75°

Oh, it is lunch time. And I'm hungry. I think I will write something later!

Later

I can't think of anything to write now either. Maybe something will come to mind at a later, later.

And Even Later

Garage project

I worked on the garage some more. I started to remove a mini stump that had grown up next to the garage and was right tight up to the foundation and it's in my way. It was a mulberry tree stump with roots going every which way. The thing was just big enough to be hard to deal with. I used a mini pruning saw but there was very little room to move. After spending an half hour and getting little done, I thought and thought until remembered that I had a skill saw might be able to cut it faster. After running the power cord out there and trying to use it, I found it was still there. I went back to the hand saw.

Then Bob came over to his fence and said; "What are you doing?" He came over and I showed him. He went home and got a sledge hammer, an ax, and a pick. After about twenty minutes we got the stump out.

I would have never thought such a small stump would be such a pain to get out. If I knew it was going to be that much trouble I would have gotten some dynamite. Of course I would have had to build a new garage then.

Tomorrow I will work on that rotten board!

And Even Still Later

Doctor Visit.

After returning from the doctor from getting my meds adjusted. I called Aunt Annie and we went out to have an evening snack.

I went to the doctor because when I was working around the house the last month or so I felt over medicated. My life style is changing so I figured my medication needed to change too. I use to sit around in front of the computer all day and not that I am doing things more physical I haven't had the energy I used to. I figured I should see the doctor and not change my meds on my own. So for the next 2 weeks I am trying something new.

Remember what happened last year when I returned from Europe with out taking my meds at all for six weeks. Bam! Stroke! I don't need that again. ☹

12-Sep-2008 11:19am 69°

The temperature is nice but the fog and misting makes it hard to do any thing outside today. So I guess nothing is going to happen outside for today. So I guess I will do some computer stuff.

RV Travel Newsletter

Motorhome erupts in flames

Some of these fires are scary. Note: About 2-1/2 minutes in to this 5 minute video you can hear the safety blow. Wow!

<http://motorhomesonfire.com/?q=content/owner-watches-his-motorhome-burn-amazing-footage>

How to prevent your RV from catching fire

RV fire safety is something most RVers don't think about or discuss very often, but is a topic that deserves serious attention. Do you know that there are about 20,000 reported RV fires each year? Do you know what to do in the event of a fire in or



around your RV? If you said no, don't feel bad; a lot of other people don't know either. A large percentage of RV fires are transmission-related on motor homes. Leaking automatic transmission fluid can ignite and quickly spread if it contacts any portion of the exhaust system. Before traveling in your RV or tow vehicle inspect the underside for any signs of fluid leaking. Have any potential leaks checked and repaired immediately.

Read more: http://rvtravel.com/rvarticles/rv_fires-polk.shtml

Trivia

The earth's surface is 70.8% water and only 29.2% land.

Bumper Snicker

Driver does not carry cash. He is married.

Worth Pondering

It's a bad plan that cannot be changed. --*Publilius Strus*

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue342.shtml>

Bumper Snicker

Not a bumper sticker, this is the license number of an old hearse: U21DAY.

Worth Pondering

I look back on my life like a good day's work; it is done and I am satisfied with it. --

Grandma Moses

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue343.shtml>



Yucky Day






What to do on a yucky, rainy, misty, foggy day? I was sitting here messing on the computer then I called Mike. I think I ran him out of cell phone minutes. I know I talked until his battery went dead. Then he called me and we talked some more.

Mike and Petra are doing fine. Petra flew to Germany to get her mother and help her take her first ever plane ride. She is going to California to visit with Mike and Petra. Petra's mom is 78 and it is her first time to the US and her first ever plane ride.

Aunt Annie, if Petra's mom can fly you could too!

13-Sep-2008 7:54am 65° and Raining

Since I am up already I thought I would check the weather before I have breakfast. As most of you know it has been raining mostly for 2 days now. And it is the same today. From the looks of this it will be doing it for a couple more days.

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
				
76° F 59° F	70° F 54° F	65° F 50° F	72° F 52° F	76° F 52° F
T-storms 90% chance of precipitation	Rain Showers 70% chance of precipitation	Partly Cloudy	Clear	Partly Cloudy

Source: <http://www.wunderground.com/US/IL/Woodstock.html?bannertypeclick=bigtemp> on 09/13/08 8:05am

Last month we got less than one inch of rain and last year in August we had almost eleven inches. I show about 2.19 inches this month and 1.19 was in the last 2 days.

This is slowing down getting the garage sided. Oh well, it waited 15 years another week or two or so can't hurt.

I have to go eat breakfast now. I have to keep up my strength so I can sit around and watch it rain.

Birthday

Today is Denis's, Anila and Arben's oldest birthday. Happy birthday Denis!

14-Sep-2008 10:08 am 60° Raining

Rainfall

Yes it is still raining. My weather station shows only another two-tenths. I thought it would have been more than that. Let me go see the rain gauge back by the solar panel. I'll be right back...it was almost full at 4-5/8 inches. That would be all of this rain. The weather station showed 2.38 inches. Hummm, I better put a glass out in the yard and measure it a thirds way. One of them is way off. I'll be back...ok that's done. Now let's see what happens. The weather station shows 0.21 inches right now.

For the month from www.WeatherUnderground.com the Westwood station shows 5.44", Northwest of Town station show 4.60", MesoWest Ridgefield station shows nothing, and mine shows...woops! "Zero"! Well another problem!

I just checked and I show no rain on Weather Underground. I have contacted them and Davis for support to help figure this out. Maybe it has not really rained here? ☺

Later Rain fall

I went up on the roof and checked the rain gauge. It wasn't raining that much. I opened the rain gauge and check the part that that measures the rain fall. It was dirty so I cleaned it. I have to start over with my glass now to see how much rain is falling.

Right now the glass has about 1/4 inch and the rain gauge by the solar panel shows 1/4 inch and I just emptied both of them. So now they are empty and the weather station shows 0.57"

After cleaning the rain gauge mechanism, it has read 0.01 ever 5 minutes. Maybe the dirty mechanism is why it was reading low. I wonder how long that has needed to be cleaned.

Well I will let it go and see how it matched the glass and the other rain gauge.

As for the rain data not getting to Weather Underground, I don't know yet.

Rain Fall Update

It is about ready to stop raining soon. Let's see how things are going. The weather station says 0.83" for today. It said 0.57" when I emptied the glass and the rain gauge. So that is about 1/4 inch more. I'll go check on the other two. Wait right here...there is a 1/4" in the glass and 5/8" in the rain gauge. So I don't know any more now.

Maybe it is the location. The Weather Station's rain gauge is on the peak of the house in the clear away from trees. The Glass is on the patio behind the house. It is also in the clear. And the Rain Gauge is out by the solar panel in the clear. They are all within fifty feet of each other. Could the rain fall be that different? If we had a lot of wind I would think they could be different. But the wind hasn't been blowing that much. I show

less about 1-1/4 mph with a couple gust of 15 mph whith the wind generally out of the north. So there isn't any trees to blow there water into the rain gauges.

I guess I will have to wait and see what support has to say.

15-Sep-2008 10:18am 54°

Well it looks like the sky finally ran out of water. For the time being it isn't raining. It kind of stopped raining about the time I thought I had the rain gauges all synced to read about then same. With no rain to check it with, I will have to wait until it rains again and check them again. Hopefully that wound is a long while. I have to get working on the garage.

Birthdays

We have two people sharing birthdays today my younger birthday Corky and my good friend Anila. I can't forget these because on of them reminds me ever other time I see her. Happy Birthday Cork and Anila!

11:37am

The sun is finally out! Maybe I will be able to mow the grass tomorrow

From My Note book

On Sep. 10, I wrote "Who changed the newspaper?" Did you notice the Northwest Herald newspaper changed their format? It is smaller and things are missing and other things are not where they used to be. I guess with the new smaller format they save on paper and ink. And they no longer have Frank and Ernest!



Source: <http://frankandernest.com/>

On Sep. 12th I wrote "Google Earth, Nazca Lines" *The Nazca lines are a series of geoglyphs located in the Nazca Desert, a high arid plateau that stretches more than 80 km (50 miles) between the towns of Nazca and Palpa on the Pampas de Jumana in Peru.*

On Sep. 13th I wrote "When I use one of my pictures I should put in the whole store about it." Heather told me Mark saw the picture of Heather in issue 38. They thought I might have a feature story about what that picture was all about. What was my mind set as Heather put it.

I think that is a good idea. I will have to dwell on it for a while.

Later I over heard some one talking about not using the word "No!" It is like telling some to put plugs in their ears. Example might be one of your children and messing with the DVD player and you think they might break something. If you say "No!" they most likely will not hear any thing else you say. Try something else like "Woops!" then you might get their attention. Then explain that you thought was going to happen.

I didn't over hear all of what was going but I got enough to understand the concept. Try it some time and let me know if this is something that works out for you.

It will wait

I just took out the trash and I see the grass if dry enough to mow. The problem it is dark now. I think the grass can wait for tomorrow.

How about a Picture or so

It has been a while since I have put a whole page of pictures. I will try to do it here.



Kiki was walking around the restaurant, Fox Garden, with her camera. We asked her if she was going to take our picture. She said; "You want?" Before she had time to say no I took her picture. I should give her a copy of this picture.



Remember that pot hole at the end of the driveway? Well, it got fixed a couple weeks ago



Some would think that we don't always get our spot at Vaughan's. You will see this is Arlene, Aunt Annie Me, and Bill in our spots!



Remember that pile of brush the City told me I could have on the tree bank? Well, take a look. And then look how big it ended up to be before I had it hauled away.

Ad

Remember you can get the beginning years of Marty's Random Thoughts by ordering it on like. Start by going to <http://www.martysthoughts.info/store/index.html>. If you have any problems then just contact me.



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	Bill & Kim's Anniversary(1992)	Sep 15	Anila
Aug 16	Scott	Sep 29	Cork & Diane's Anniversary
Aug 17	Mom's (My Mom)	Sep. 17	Dad's (My Dad)
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>

That all for now folks!

See you next time

Marty