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The theme in this issue seems to be the Garage Siding Project.

Ad

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



17-Sep-2008 9:35am 62°

There was is heavy dew this morning. But I still washed a load of close hand hung them out to dry. After saving fifty bucks on my electric bill last month I will keep doing hinging them out as long as I can. I have to rethink how I will do this when the snow is 2 foot thick out be the clothesline.

Birthday

Today is the date my dad was born. If he was living he would be 97 today. When I start thinking about him I remember all the things he did that I do that are similar. He hung out in bars, me in restaurants. My dad liked to grow things. I say; "My dad was a farmer. He could plant a broken chair leg and grow a tree. Sometimes I even think it could be a wrought iron chair."

I remember one time my brother Mike asked dad to plant a red pepper plant for him. And it didn't do so good. The next year Mike asked again. Same thing again, nothing! The following year my dad planted a whole row of red peppers. That year he had a bumper crop. I remember Mike had drying the extra red peppers and stored them. I think he was eating them for years.

Happy Birthday Dad, I miss you!

Yesterday

I proofed issue 39 and got it ready to print. I decide to try to keep the size of the newsletter down. Too many pages become a hazel when I try to print them. Maybe after I find the right printer it will be a little easier to print. Even the one I took back wasn't what I think I needed. The newsletter was a bit too much of the color printer I am going to replace. For only printing 10 copies I am not ready to go out and buy a new one yet. That reminds me I should go buy a lottery ticket.

Fall is here

I think that fall is upon us. My squirrelly friends are out collecting nuts this morning. I snapped this picture of one carrying away a black walnut.

I have found walnuts sitting around where you know they couldn't get there unless someone or something put them there. I saw one on the windowsill behind the storm window. The screen was up and that is where that one was. Last year I found one in the mailbox. I have found ears of corn in the yard. I guess the squirrels know the food is safe with me. This one in the picture was looking up under the motor home. I guess he is thinking; "If Marty isn't using the motor home I can store my winter food on it."



He is getting ready for winter.

Printing with Wet Paper

I wonder if leaving the window open in the computer room is affecting the newsletter paper. The edges of the paper are rolling up after it goes through the printer.

There it goes again. When I turn the paper over the edges are rolled up and it jams once in a while. It is easy to fix but it cost one copy of the newsletter.

This is the laser printer. It uses heat to dry the ink and it dries one side of the paper making it curl.

It is kind of putting your guest check on top of a coffee cup when you are finished. You think the cup is empty but there is just enough heat in the cup and to expand one side of the guest check so it curls.

Printers like flat paper. And I bet you are glad I told you this!

Garage Project

Well I got those 2 rotten boards replaced that the dirt was piled up on. And I got the story board created. The story board is just a board that you mark the location of the top and bottom of all the windows doors. It is better to have all this information in one spot

when you are putting up siding. You don't have to go back and measure things over and over. You use this stick as a guide so the siding matches all the way around the garage.

I need to get some pea gravel later before I put the fence back. I will put it a long the back of the garage to help with the draining. I may help to keep it dry back there. After that rain we had I noticed it was wet for 3 days. Because of the trees out back there is little air moving and no sun so it tends to stay wet longer than other places. I worked on the garage enough for today. Tomorrow is another day. Friday the siding should be in. I need to make a place to store it until we are ready to start installing.

Newsletter

I have printed issue 39 and it is ready. While I cool down from working outside I will post it on the internet for others to see.

18-Sep-2008 2:06pm 74°

Birthday

My youngest sister Edie lives in Kansas and is having a birthday today. I was able to visit with her and her family this spring while traveling to Arizona this spring. I spent a long time there and never thought to take any pictures. Maybe next time! Happy Birthday Edit!

Busy Morning

I spent a lot time running around this morning things for the garage projects and other errands. Just got home and Aunt Annie asked if I would go to Fox Garden lunch. I still had the picture of Kiki to give to her. I still have the front lawn to mow and then there is that stuff to install on the garage that I just bought.

I wonder why I am sitting here in front of the computer. Oh, you should not do a lot exercising just after eating! That reason will do for now.

Garage Project

I think I have everything I need for the garage siding except for the siding. I asked while at Menard's if it would be in tomorrow as scheduled. They told me it is there and I could pick it up any time. I didn't have my receipts with me and I need a helper when I pick it up. My pickup has a six foot box and the boxes of siding are over twelve and half feet long. This means I need to put them on top of the pickup. It is better to take some one along when you have something that long and don't have a rack to tie it to. It isn't that the siding is heavy, just that it is long. The siding can stay on the pickup until we are ready to use it. It would be a good place to store until we are ready to nail it to the garage. At that point it can be stored on the outside of the garage nailed in place. There is could stay for 20-30 years. ☺ Maybe I should go and cut the grass now. ☺

19-Sep-2008 7:29am 55°

Up a little early this morning. I drove the pickup to breakfast then to pickup the siding before coming home but forgot the paper work. After thinking about I figured I would wait until the earlier morning traffic dies down a little. With the siding being 12'6"

long and my pickup box only 6' I need to drive slowly because I don't have to stop along the road and pick it off the road.

Garage Projects

After getting the siding for the garage, I think it is the last thing I need to get for this project. I think I will have everything I need. It will be a case of just putting it all together. I am guessing by the end of the month I the siding project should be finished.

Task List

I had a task list all made out for the newsletter but I removed it. I figured it would bore you since it is near two pages long. Instead I made the list and stapled it to the side of the garage. It makes it seem to go faster when I can just draw a line through a task as it gets finished. I think I will just bore you with what gets done.

Today I got the window in the back boarded close, removed the corner boards, and swept the old loose paint off the walls.

Now that I have the corner pieces I know the corner boards will be in the way. They cut up nice to use to close up the window in the back.

Tomorrow will be 'Prime day.' All the rest of the trim needs to needs to be primed and then the finish paint can be applied.

Other things

When you order siding you should order it in to be delivered in dry sealed cartons. The siding was in wet carton that fell apart when we put in on the pickup the cartons fell apart. This doesn't hurt the siding any but it is a pain to haul it. I spent an hour tying it down so it wouldn't be all over the road driving home. I thought I had it tied well the first time. I got the pickup up to 10 mph and stopped. Yes the siding almost passed me. So I tied it some more. If the cartons were solid I would have had three cartons to tie down. Instead I had 60 pieces of siding to anchor down to keep it secure from the wind and my driving. Well I made it, but it was fun!

Talk like a Pirate Day

I forgot, today be International Talk like a Pirate Day. I be put'n this on yar list so'n I rememberz next time. There be yan official site: <http://www.talklikeapirate.com/>

I don't know why I waste me time with this. But since I just remembered it I just have t' do somethin'. This web site goes on and on and it even has a translators.

Arrr! I be leaving this now me beauties. Avast! It be time for Grog!

Energy Usages

I just read my electric meter and it looks like the next bill will be around eighty dollars. I have checked this PC and it looks to be about 6% of the total. Now that does not include the printers. I will switch my Kill-A-Watt meter to the printers after I shut this PC down for the night.

I want to get a reading on the printers. Thinking about the laser printer kind of scares me a little. I think of it as a toaster. They use a lot of energy but it is not used much. The laser print is hot most of the time. So I want to know how much it users. The

other printer is the color printer that doesn't work most of the time so it is turned off most of the time.

20-Sep-2008 2:42pm 81°

I got off to an earlier start this morning. I ate breakfast and made a run to Menards before breakfast, then I started setting up to work on the garage.

Garage Project

Bill came over to help today. Bill started off by priming the fascia and soffit while I nailed some of the old boards that looked loose. We finished that and brushed off a lot of the loose paint on the old siding so it would fall down and bunch up and make lumps under the new siding. When I got done caulking around the windows and doors Bill was done with painting.

Then we tackled the Typar®. What is Typar®?

"Typar® spunbonded polypropylene is a versatile nonwoven material developed by DuPont as a primary backing for tufted carpets."

Source: http://www2.dupont.com/Carpet_Backing/en_US/products/ap/ap_what_is_it.html

Woops, that is not what I used for, is it?

Here is the Typar® house wrap. "From the roof to the foundation, Typar® House Wrap creates a building envelope that protects your home from the damaging impact of moisture penetration."

Source: <http://www.typar.com/homeowner/wps/index.html?bl=main-wps&it=main-wps>

Basically you wrap the building with Typar® to help keep the moisture and wind from going through the walls.

It comes in and roll that is 9 foot by 100 feet long. It is just big enough that it requires more than one person to install it. It is a big sheet and you just roll it out and staple it to the outside wall. Sounds easy enough, doesn't it?

I would have been easier if my stapler wouldn't have kept jamming up. After we got it hanging I was going around stapling while Bill was cutting off the extra. The garage is about 92 inches and the Typar® was 108 inches. So Bill had to go all the way around and cut off the extra. I think I stopped to fix the stapler 50 or more times. Once I would get through 200 staples before it would jam, most of the times it was 20.

I bought this stapler back in the '70s or '80s and I wasn't ready to shell out money to buy another one just to do the garage. I don't think I have used it in 10 or 15 years. Maybe the last time was when I put siding on the house in '94.

So I just keep fixing it until I had enough staples planted to help keep the wind from blowing the wrap off the garage and down the street. ☺

When I finally finished it was lunch time. Now back from lunch I put things away for today. Tomorrow I will go back at it.

Thanks for your help Bill!

In the News

This morning the head lines in the newspaper said that we are going to spend 500 billion dollars to bail out the U.S. financial system. That is **500 BILLION DOLLARS** kids!

I went to the Census people to see how many people there are in the USA. There are only about 305,208,484 people in the US. So this \$500,000,000,000 is going to cost each of us about **\$1,638.22 per person**.

The population of the world is only about 6,724,878,539. Who did the loan all of that money to?

In the minutes it took to look this up the Census people say that there are more people. This means that they must be taking out bad loans right off the bat when there are born. Here is the new population: U.S. 305,208,552 and World 6,724,879,300

I better get a job so I can pay taxes to help pay for this. I wonder how this will all play out.

The source of the numbers: <http://www.census.gov/>

More Useless Information

Housing Units in the US Less than 240,000,000 (2000 Census)

If each one of those housing units had to pay some of that \$500B then each housing unit would pay \$2083.

How bad is it?

In the giveaway section of the ads some one had to give away their artificial Christmas tree. And if that wasn't enough it already had the light on it. Things must be getting bad. I need a nap!

Later

I went out for dinner about 5 and stayed until almost 7 just visiting. Normally that is a problem or unusual for me. This time I had all my bedding hanging on the clothesline to dry. And it was dry when I left but I needed to leave and figured I would take it down when I returned. This was a small mistake. I knew when the sun goes down that the dew comes out. Yes my clothes were damp. I took them down and put them in the dryer to de-damp them. So now I have to see how I did on my energy savings.

Energy usage

I don't like this because my average usage says my bill will be about \$83. That is only a three dollar less than last month. Since I was working thinking a bigger savings I best get going. There is less than two weeks to get it down.

Well the laser printer didn't use any in the last 23 hours. It's turned off. That is something. The house used 36 kWh in the last 23 hours. Dryer maybe, can't be the washer. I think it was 2 loads for 0.2 kWh. Even if that was for only one it would be less than this PC. The washer uses very little energy! But the dryer is another story.

21-Sep-2008 11:01am 66°

Happy first day of autumn! Or was that yesterday? No matter, it is fall anyway by now. Only 66° but it is humid today 77% is a little high for 66°. Maybe it has something to do with that fog this morning.

Sunday not Monday or Tuesday

I went up town for breakfast thing it was Monday. I saw that there were streets blocked and it looked like they were having the Farmers Market on the Square. I was wondering why they were doing it on a Monday because it is usually on Tuesday and Saturday. I thought; "Oh well maybe they changed." I should have walked because I ended up parking way over in the parking lot next to where Wards old auto service store use to be. That is next to the old Woodstock Daily Sentinel building. Oh, for you new timers that is the parking lot at the corner of Jefferson and east Calhoun. ☺

At the restaurant Carol told me it was Fall Dilly or something. I asked; "Why on a Monday? That is a Sunday thing." She told me to wake up because it was Sunday.

After that I thought and thought trying to figure out what even made me think it was Monday in the first place. I still have no idea. But I have reset my internal clock and I know it is Sunday now.

So I went to Jewel/Osco and got some drugs (medication). I should help reset my body to the right day of the week.

Is today the first day of autumn? NO! I just found out different. The first day of autumn will occur on the morning of September 22, 2008 at 11:55 am central time.

I guess I don't even know what season it is today. Maybe I should take some of those meds. ☺

22-Sep-2008 3:26pm 80°

Well it is the real Monday. Yesterday ended up as a Sunday so I guess I got my internal clock reset.

Garage Project

I have been working on the garage project off and on today. My body does not bend like it used to. Or maybe there is just too much behind my belt that gets in the way. I have been putting on the starter pieces for the siding. I have to do a lot of bending over to make that happen. Putting in a couple hundred nail standing on my head is not one of the thing I would put near the top of my things I like to do.

Anyway, all of the starters are on the bottom of the garage. This will help keep the Tyvar from getting air under it and blowing off. I have also snapped chalk lines for the corners. I also searched through the garage and found all the left over siding from the house. Looks like the enough to do the front. I have 7 full pieces and a mess of small ones. The garage is 92" tall and the two 21' walls are and one is 20' and the garage door side is 20'. I should have enough siding to do three full sized with the new siding.

Let's see, each piece covers 10" of the 92" high. And the siding is 12' long and you only overlap about 1". To make this easier to figure I will use 11-1/2'. And I have 2 sides to cover. $20' + 21' + 21' = 62$ feet got each row divided 11.5' siding = 5.3 pieces of siding per row. And there are nine 10" rows. So 9 times 5.3 = about 48 pieces of siding. And then 6 pieces to go around the top for that last 2" that makes a total of 56 pieces. I have 60 pieces of the new siding. Looks like I should do just fine.

I think I am headed for the Dairy Queen now!

23-Sep-2008 11:25am 75°



I was out working on the garage and I see these big holes at top in the outside corners where I removed the corner boards. The new corners wouldn't fit with the boards on the corners. I just figured the siding corners would cover them up. Yesterday I was think there had to be an easy way to fill them. I could just paint over them with a LOT of paint and it would not show.

Today I bought a can of the expanding foam. I figured I would fill the gap and I could cut it smooth and then just paint over it. I have done this other times so I figured that maybe it would work here too. What I forgot is that it takes 8 hours before it gets cures enough to be able to cut it. I read the can too quickly. On the label is says; "Dries tack-free in 15 minutes." And that is all I read. It also says; "Cures completely in about 8 hours." This means that I won't get the ready today. It will be almost dark in 8 hours.

I checked and it was tack-free but it is a long way from being cured! So much for getting that that part ready! And it rain maybe tomorrow.

Maybe I should just take a day off from the garage.

24-Sep-2008 9:34am 68°

Good morning all. After taking most of yesterday off and doing nothing I am ready to do something today.

700 Billion Dollars

First is the \$500 billion dollars of out tax money they want to give away. The other day it was \$500B now it is \$700 Billion Dollars. And the way I hear it is with no strings attached. And they don't even have to pay it back.

I got an email from Mike that kind of sums it up. Please read it.

Mike's Email

Hi everyone,

Hope you all are ok. We are. This is an open request from someone who doesn't mess in politics much. But this time I must.

*This financial mess we're in bothers me a lot. **I think it's** outrageous. Bush wants taxpayers to give his administration a \$700 billion check with no strings attached, which they'll hand over to the Wall Street firms that got us into this financial mess.*

Would it help families struggling to keep their homes? NO. Do taxpayers get any share of the firms we're bailing out, so we can benefit from any eventual profit? NO. Would the firms we're bailing out be required to stop paying their executives multimillion-dollar salaries? NO. This is a pure giveaway. Let them fail. A new stronger economy will grow out of the crisis after a lot of big heads that have messed it up in the first place roll and we all suffer a little. Suffering can help us grow.

I signed a petition urging Congress to put Main Street before Wall Street, and to not give Bush a blank check. Can you join me at the link below?

http://pol.moveon.org/wallstreet/?r_by=-8348991-4PuY4dx&rc=confemail

Thanks!
Peace and joy,
Mike

Source: email from Mike

Email Fraud

Since I watch my email very well for SPAM, I have been seeing some emails that are most likely fraud. I know banks do not send emails out asking you to load software. I got this one that looks like it is from "Bank of America" and another one that looks like it is from "Wachovia". Both of them are exactly the same except the names. These two companies are competitors so it is most like they would not send emails that look exactly the same.

Here is what they look like:

WACHOVIA CORPORATION NOTICE.

*At Wachovia we've re-imagined what's possible for online cash management.
The next step in the transformation of Wachovia Connection is access through a new Wachovia Security Plus Certificate.
This will allow you to access securely the Wachovia Connection and other online services.
All users will be notified and must manually install the Wachovia Security Plus Certificate.
Installation takes about two minutes.*

Start installation process now>> (I removed this link.)

*Sincerely, Bobbie Shipman.
2008 Wachovia Corporation.
All rights reserved.*

What I do when I find these kinds of emails I look up the company's website and find their email address and/or phone number and forward the email to them so they can check it out. In most cases it is an email like abuse@wachovia.com in this case. Most companies have an abuse email account to handle fraud emails.

I have found that banks do not send out emails asking you to install software and they do not ask you your password. It just isn't done. Do not ever give it to anyone. It is the quickest way to lose all your money.

In fact if someone calls you on the phone and your personal information, don't give it to them unless you really know who they are. Just because they sound like they are someone from the bank check them out. Ask them who they are and get their phone number and tell them you will call them back. They may be just trying to get your personal information. You could be giving them your money.

Just look up the bank's phone number and call them and verify that the person that called you is real and verify the phone number is one that the bank uses. If it checks out

most likely is safe. If not report what you know to the bank official. And do not call the caller back.

People have lost their life saving just from a simple phone call they receive.

If you are not sure call them and don't use the phone number in the email. You should have their real email.

We must work together to stop this abuse.

Garage Project

Well I did some of the painting. The soffit and fascia should also be painted before I do any of the corners. If paint gets dripped on the siding parts it will be no fun getting that off of it. I think it is better in the long run to get the painting done first.

On This Day in 1869

Financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk tried to corner the gold market, sending Wall Street into a panic and leaving thousands of investors in financial ruin.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/index.html>

Those Were the Days

MUPPETEER DAY

There's a fictional neighborhood where some of the residents are named Kermit, Big Bird, Bert & Ernie, Miss Piggy, and Oscar the Grouch. It's called Sesame Street.

The creator of the lifelike characters, Jim Henson, was born on this day in 1936. The puppeteer first named his puppets, Muppets, in 1954 when he was working as a producer of the Washington, D.C. TV show, Sam and Friends.

Henson moved his Muppets to network TV in 1969. Children of all ages were able to enjoy the Muppets' antics on the educational, yet entertaining Sesame Street. The Muppets then got their own show, The Muppet Show; which generated The Muppet Movie and other films, like The Muppets Take Manhattan and The Great Muppet Caper.

And Jim Henson got the awards: 18 Emmys, 17 Grammys, 4 Peabody Awards and 5 ACE Awards (National Cable Television Association).

The premier muppeteer, and voice of Kermit the Frog, died suddenly in May of 1990. Jim Henson lives on through his Muppets.

Source: <http://www.440.com/twid/today.html>



24-Sep-2008 9:44am 66°

Later today I am going to help some one with their fractions. Things like $(1/3 + 4/5 = x)$ and $(3/4 : 1/2 = y)$ and $(1/8 \text{ times } 1/4 = z)$ and maybe some $(3/4 - 5/8 = w)$. This is going to be interesting because I haven't done this in a while. I have to re-learn how to do it. I think I understand how to get the answers but I have to teach someone how to do it so they can do it by themselves. Doing it is the easy part, teaching is the hard part.

So the garage will wait for now. I have to learn how to teach first!

I can do these fairly easy. Here are the answers: $x=3/5$, $y=3/8$, $z=1/32$, and $w = 1/8$.

Now how do I teach it?

It is Very Hard

It is very hard to teach when there are many interruptions. It is hard to learn and teach at the same time. How do teachers do it?

Energy usage

Yesterday I had a power outage; it may have been out for an hour. The cause was unknown. I went to diner and when I returned the power was back. The nice thing about is my battery back worked so I could shut down my PC with out losing my newsletter. And I saved some power at the same time.

My watt meter that I have been using to check usage shut off so I do not have a reading for what my laser printer was using for a couple of days. I have to start new reading to get a feel for what that is using.

Ok, I just read the electric meter. I haven't saved any electric yet this month. I had turned on the dehumidifier in the basement after that rain and forgot. That sucked up a lot of electricity. I don't remember anything else I left on that was a big user. Just the other things I have talked about. There are 7 more days left before the 30 days of this billing cycle. Maybe I can make some changes before then.

It still looks like my computer servers are using the most of what I have measured so far. That group is at 23%. Of the 23%, 4.6% was the firewall and 7.1% was the backup server. That leaves 11.35 is the battery backup and the Web/Mail server and the routers.

Now that I have this broken down I will see what I can do to lower it.

26-Sep-2008 9:05am 60°

Sixty degrees is a little to cool to go out and doing any painting on the garage. I need to get that paint on the garage before it starts getting too cold this fall. Paint doesn't like cold when it is applied. I will have to wait an hour or so before I work on this.

Yesterday

I have found in the past it is hard to teach friends and family to drive. I am guessing the case is the same with fractions. After a short review I remembered how to add and subtract fractions. And with a little more work I could multiply and divide.

After a shout time I remembered if there are a lot of distractions it is not easy to teach or learn some thing you already do not understand.

After a couple of hours we decided that we need a quite place to study. For now we need to find that place.

In the Mean Time

I think I will start working on setting up a virtual server for the server room. A virtual server is one computer that works like it is many. Meaning I will be able to replace 2 or 3 servers in my server room with one that works as if it is 2 or 3.

This will take a while but if I can get it working I can replace one or two servers and save half the energy they are using. Best get started.

10:13am and 68°

Warmer now! By the time I get ready to paint it should be 70° so it should be fine for painting.

Garage Project

I was out painting trim on the garage until my arm gave out. It was the overhead paint that was doing in my arm. I have 2 sides of the soffit to touchup yet and the fascia. There always are some parts that the rolled misses or you can't do with the roller.

After taking a break to have lunch I thought my arm would come back. It is even sore typing this. I guess it will wait until tomorrow.

After the soffit is finished I could start working on the parts of the siding. The under sill and the "J" channel around the doors and windows parts could be installed. Oh, and the corner pieces. I should really finish the painting first. I'll give my arm a couple more hours to recover.

27-Sep-2008

Fractions

I was really struggled trying to teach my student how to do those fractions. I was greeted with a request to give some problems to resolve. I am glad to tell you my student has learned. I don't know if it was my help or if it was the "Eureka Effect" when all of what you learned just takes hold. What ever the case I am happy for my student.

Birthday

Pam's birthday is today. How many of you remember Pam. Pam was my first editor's birthday. I haven't seen her in years and years. Pam I Annette's is sister. Well Happy Birthday Pam where ever you are!

Spam Control

Looks like I still have some work to do with my spam control. I had another good email get rejected. I cannot have that! I want all my friends that send me email to be able to get to me. This one got dumped so I didn't see it. This is not a good thing. I like getting email from you people.

Here is what I think happened. I disabled my "marty" account because I haven't used it in over 2 years. And sure enough some one sent me an email using it.

There was another one on September 22nd that got rejected after I told the software to stop saving the spam emails. I was only saving them so I could count them and just in case some one got quarantined that shouldn't. Well with 2 hours the third email in over a year got sent to quarantine. Well since I had told it to stop saving them. I got nothing.

I have loosened the screws a little so I will be watching for your emails. If you have sent me an email and I don't respond please go to www.martysthoughts.info and go to the contact me link and send me an email. Maybe you should just do it so I know it works. There is almost no spam filters there at all. If I don't get that email I got bigger issues.

Spam Stats

My server has blocked 9946 spam emails in the last 30 days and 52928 in the last 221 days. It looks like 99.54% are sent to two of my users accounts. Maybe I should get rid of those two accounts.

Just so you know I never see these emails. This is automated. Who ever is controlling your email may be doing that for you so you do not have to. I am just doing mine myself because I can.

Up Coming Election

I am not sure who I should vote for. McCain wants to be the oldest president. Palin would get you the first woman vice president. Obama wants to be the first black president. Biden, well, I don't know anything about him.

I may be missing some things but I don't think there is any one telling us what they might be going do to for us. All I hear is that they are telling us how bad the other candidate or their party is messing up. It seems like it is all about making the other candidate look bad and maybe you will vote for us.

So we all get confused and vote for the lady or the black guy or maybe the old guy.

My Campaign

I am Marty Metras and I am running for office. For now it looks like I don't have a running mate.

My motto: *If you don't like the other guy*

VOTE METRAS

A vote for Marty is a vote for nobody

My party: Smarty Marty Party

Platform: Orange Crate

Promises: There is none!

Register to vote.

If you do not like who is running for office. Vote for some one else. If enough people vote for some one else they might not be voted in to office. If you are not registered you cannot help keep them out. You know you do not have to tell any one how or why you vote. If you like some one because the hair is red, you can vote for that reason. If you do not like any of the other write in you own name on the line. It is just saying you do not want anyone that is running for office. It is up to you how you vote. You even can vote for me if you do not like any of the others. You don't want me to be elected? Vote for some one else.

Voting Registration ends October 7th

Register In Person to Vote
Office of McHenry County Clerk
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Room 107
Woodstock, IL 60098
Hours: *Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm*
Only properly registered electors may vote in an Election, as provided by the Permanent Registration of Electors Law of Illinois.

The law requires Registered Voters to keep their name and address current. You **CANNOT VOTE** for Local Candidates if you are not properly registered. You **CANNOT VOTE** on any local propositions if you are not properly registered. Please contact the County Clerk's office at 815-334-4242, if you have changed your name and/or address and have not yet notified the County Clerk's office.

Remember, It Is Your Right To Vote!

PLEASE DO NOT FORFEIT THAT RIGHT!

McHenry County **REGISTERED VOTERS** who do not have a voter's registration card, or who have a question regarding their registration, should contact the County Clerk's Office at: 815-334-4242.

Source: <http://co.mchenry.il.us/common/CountyDpt/courtyclerk/>

Some Presidential Candidates

I went out and tried to find some other candidates. Here are some I found. This is by no means complete nor do I endorse any of them. It is just part of the list I found.

REPUBLICAN PARTY



US Senator John McCain (Arizona)
Presidential Nominee



Governor Sarah Palin (Alaska)
Vice Presidential Nominee

DEMOCRATIC PARTY



US Senator Barack Obama (Illinois)
Presidential Nominee



US Senator Joe Biden (Delaware)
Vice Presidential Nominee

BOSTON TEA PARTY / PERSONAL CHOICE PARTY



Charles Jay (Florida)
Presidential Nominee



Tom Knapp (Missouri)
Vice Presidential Nominee

CONSTITUTION PARTY



Charles O. "Chuck" Baldwin (Florida)
Presidential Nominee



Darrell L. Castle (Tennessee)
Vice Presidential Nominee

GREEN PARTY



Former Georgia Congresswoman
Cynthia McKinney (California)
Presidential Nominee



Rosa Clemente (New York)
Vice Presidential Nominee

INDEPENDENT / AMERICA'S
INDEPENDENT PARTY /
AMERICAN INDEPENDENT
PARTY



Former Ambassador Alan L. Keyes
(Maryland)
Presidential Nominee



Wiley Drake (California)
Vice Presidential Nominee

INDEPENDENT /
INDEPENDENT-ECOLOGY
PARTY / PEACE & FREEDOM
PARTY / NATURAL LAW
PARTY



Ralph Nader (Connecticut)
Presidential Nominee



Matt Gonzalez (California)
Vice Presidential Nominee

LIBERTARIAN PARTY



Former Congressman Robert L. "Bob"
Barr (Georgia)
Presidential Nominee



Wayne Allyn Root (Nevada)
Vice Presidential Nominee

PARTY OF SOCIALISM AND
LIBERATION



Gloria E. LaRiva (California)
Presidential Nominee



Eugene Puryear (District of
Columbia)
Vice Presidential Nominee

PROHIBITION PARTY



Gene Amondson (Washington)
Presidential Nominee



Leroy Pletten (Michigan)
Vice Presidential Nominee

REFORM PARTY



Ted Weill (Mississippi)
Presidential Nominee



Frank McEnulty (California)
Vice Presidential Nominee

SOCIALIST PARTY USA



Brian P. Moore (Florida)
Presidential Nominee



Stewart Alexander (California)
Vice Presidential Nominee

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY



Róger Calero (New York)



Alyson Kennedy (New Jersey)

Presidential Nominee

Vice Presidential Nominee

Source: <http://www.politics1.com/p2008.htm>

National Alpaca Farm Days

Heather tells me that September 27 & 28 is National Alpaca Farm Days. In case you didn't know there are two Alpaca farms listed for Woodstock. One on Pheasant Lane and the other is on McCauley Road.

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

28-Sep-2008 7:42am 60°

Yes it's Sunday and I am up already. I have been up long enough to have breakfast, Wash a load of laundry, and hang them out one the line to dry. Well from the looks of the sky, I may have hung them out to rinse. ☺

I wanted to get an early start on the garage this morning. Once I get the trim pieces installed the siding should go very quickly. I have all the painting except the fascia done. I can paint that after the siding without getting paint on it.

I have to wait until there is a little more day light before I start. Not so I can see it is because of the mosquitoes. When I was putting the clothes on the line they were attacking me. It was dark enough when I was out there that the solar lights came on. I have a string of solar lights running between the to clothes polls so if some is out there after dark they do not run into the clothesline and hang themselves. They turn on after it gets dark enough. I have been up at four in the morning and have seen that they have been lit up. These run on free energy from the sun. So I just put them out there for safety.

National Alpaca Farm Days #2

There is nothing more to say about this other than it is day 2 of 2.

Weather

Looking out side it looks like it could rain but the weather map shown none. Tomorrow they are calling for a 40% chance of precipitation. At 8:03am, my weather station said; "Current Forecast: Mostly clear and cooler." And the humidity is 81 %. So it is still a little muggy out there.

Garage Project

Well, I have the corners installed. I just came in for a break. It is cool but humid with a light breeze out here and I only saw the sun for a few seconds so far.

Later 4:04pm

Well the garage is all ready to start putting on the siding. All of the "J" channels are installed around the windows and doors. And all of under sill pieces are installed under the windows and soffit.

I have only one pieces of "J" channel to nail. That is the one that is above the garage door. I didn't nail that piece because I don't know how it is going to work. There are only 2 or 3 inches between the top of the garage door and the soffit. I may need something different in that spot. I will wait until I get there with the siding.

I am beat so I think I will sit around do nothing the rest of the day. If is doesn't rain tomorrow maybe I will install some of the siding.

29-Sep-2008 7:50am 51°

Yes I am up early again. I have been out for my morning cup of coffee and have been out working on the garage already. I thought I might be able to start a put a pieces or two of siding. I measured up all the lengths of the shorts pieces around the doors and windows and cut two pieces. It is too damp to start siding this early but I wanted to see how it started. I found out very quickly that starting these long floppy pieces of siding is almost imposable to do alone. I am usually very good at figuring out how to do things alone. This time I stopped and decided to ask for help. If I keep trying to do this alone I will get frustrated, crabby and pissed off at the world. Life is too short! So I will ask for help.

It looks like there is going to be a nice weekend coming up. And I think with two others helping it should take too long. Maybe two people measuring and installing and one cutting and moving materials and tools it wont take long at all.

In the mean time I will cleanup the work area and make it a more pleasant work environment. And besides I let the grass go to long. I might even have to mow it twice. Maybe I can get that done before it rains. And then I can start raking leaves. They are the next thing I will have to do after the siding.

After Breakfast

I intend to mow the grass! I wanted to eat breakfast so I went up to Angelo's and visited with Berry, Linda and Carol. While up there I remembered I was out of gasoline for the mower. So I decided I better get going so I could get this done. When I got the cashier I saw it had already started to rain. Bummer!

From the looks of the weather map the grass won't get cut today. Well I need to pay bill too! I'll do that.

Anniversary

Today's is Cork & Diane's Anniversary. How many years is it now. I know it is between 30 and 40 but I don't remember. They are on vacation so they must be enjoying their self. Happy Anniversary Cork & Diane!

30-Sep-2008 9:00am 48°

It is a cool on this morning. I have been up for a few hours now. Yesterday I set the mower to cut the grass an inch lower and tried to cut some of the grass. It had stopped raining for a while so I thought it was dry enough. It was way too wet. Later today I will try again if it doesn't rain again.

I was reading parts my book about my trip to Europe. I reading when I had walked too much and just reading it was making me tired. Melody is going to proof my book when she gets caught up. She has been busy earning a living.

So I put it a side to go for coffee. But I am typing here so I still need to go for that coffee now.

Wine Making

In the paper this morning I see someone was crushing grapes to make some wine. That reminded me that I need to make more pumpkin wine. I made some last year but I had some problems with it. I tried it before it aged and it tasted good so I bottled it. I was very, very new at this wine making stuff. I don't think I understood why you wanted to stop the yeast before you bottled it. I had put one bottle in the refrigerator to drink later. I put one aside to age and the other one I took with me to Mike and Petra's this spring.

I only got 3 bottles for some reason. I don't remember why. You normally get 4 or 5 bottles to a gallon. I wanted to share a bottle of each of my wines with Mike and Petra so I had 2 bottles of the California Red, 1 of Raison, and the bottle of Pumpkin. I wrapped them up in a big towel and put them in a plastic tote with a lid so they would break for the 2000 mile trip to Paso Robles. When I got there and got out the Tote and opened it I knew something was wrong. The towel was soaked in pumpkin wine. I just figured the thing wasn't corked very well and with the bumpy road trip the cork had come out. I had them on their side so they couldn't fall over and break. We had a good laugh about it and washed the smell from the towel and that was the end of it.

Later we tried the California Red and I learned why you have to age grape wine. None of us cared for it. I guess it would be called green. I am not sure the proper wine word for it. Maybe it is bitter. Whatever you call it, it wasn't good. We didn't even open the other two bottles.

The Pumpkin Wine

I had stored all of those other bottles of wine I bottled in the stair well to the basement. I stored them with the cork down. I had found out that you store wine on its side so the cork stays wet. If you store them upright the cork dries out and shrinks and then air gets into the bottle and the wine could very easily go bad. Since I had not made a place to store the wine in the basement yet, storing them upside down would be fine because they were in the cartons and staked well.

Here is where the fun starts. I was going to the basement to make a place about two months later when I saw the steps were wet. I traced it back to the cartons where the wine was sitting. I figured one of the bottles was leaking. The first thing I did was to start unpacking them one by one looking for the leaker. There were three 12 bottle cases there with maybe 5 bottles in the top one. When I opened the bottom case I had removed 3 bottles and POP, BANG! One of the bottles blew out of the carton went up to almost the ceiling and crashed to the cement steps and broken to a thousand pieces. I jumped back and started to laugh. There was enough of the label left that I could see it was the pumpkin wine.

After cleaning up the mess I finished moving the other bottles and then wondered about the cause. Laughing again and thinking it was a bottle rocket. This was bottled without stopping the yeast fermenting. Here is what happened. The wine was a little sweet and yeast likes sugar. Me too! When I bottled it wasn't finished and the fermenting process gives off carbon dioxide. The pressure built up and blew the cork. The bottle I

took to California was sealed in that plastic box with the lid and wrapped in the towel. When the cork blew it just leaked out and the towel sucked it up. The one in the boxes had heavy boxes of other bottles sitting on it. The cork pushed out enough to let some wine leak out to show me the leak. When I removed the weight from the top there was enough pressure in the bottle to blow the cork and shout the bottle into the air.

It is funny now but someone could have been hurt. So always make sure the fermentation has ceased and you put in some Campden in the wine to stop the yeast. Campden is really sodium metabisulfite s an inorganic compound of chemical formula $Na_2S_2O_5$. The name is sometimes referred to as *disodium* (metabisulfite, etc). It is used as a disinfectant, antioxidant and preservative agent.

I'll bet you are glad I told you that.

Pumpkin Wine

What I started to say is that I need to make some more Pumpkin wine. But first I have to mow the lawn.

September is done so it is to start a new issue


Birthdays

Sep 1	Bob M	Oct 3	Matt M
Sep 6	Jack B	Oct 18	David P
Sep 13	Denis G	Oct 22	Tristan and David's Anniversary
		Oct 23	Annette C
Sep 15	Cork	Oct 23	Tom P
Sep 15	Anila		
Sep 29	Cork & Diane's Anniversary		
Sep 19 th	International Talk Like A Pirate Day		
Sep 27	Pan Nash		

If you don't see you birthday or you want to make sure I have then let me know.
 My master list is at <http://www.martysthoughts.info/randomthoughts/html/Birthdays.html>

-

How much is 700 billion?

Posted by Neo at 9/25/2008 and is filed under news 
the bold one cracks me up, but seriously \$700 billion? Yall need to go see I.O.U.S.A.

By Zephyr Teachout, 09/22/2008 - 12:18am
Big numbers are hard for people to process. 700 billion can start to sound like 300 billion, or 900 million for that matter. It becomes like sand grains or moon strands, magically big, past the point of counting; an amount you sit with a nephew and contemplate in wonder. Or, if you're rushing through the paper, "a whole lot." But since Congress is seriously considering giving 700 billion to be spent at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, I thought I'd ask for some distributed help on describing this number to other people. Here's what I've come up with so far:

It is one third of the total amount of money received by the federal government in 2007, including social security, income tax, corporate tax, and all other receipts.

It is \$140 billion more than has been spent on the Iraq war since the invasion.

It is \$120 billion more than that spent on social security benefits.

It is almost 3 billion nonrefundable bus fares from Durham to San Francisco, leaving tomorrow.

It is nine times the amount spent on education in 2007.

It could pay for 2,000 McDonalds apple pies for every single American.

It is 35 times the amount spent on all foreign aid in most years.

It is more zeros than the calculator that comes with my computer allows.

It is 7,000 times bigger than the Sierra club's yearly budget.

According to some estimates, it is three times what it would cost, over 10 years, to reduce oil dependency by 20%.

Its over twice the amount of all money given to all charitalbe organizations in the United States in any given year.

It is more than \$100 for every person in the world.

Source: <http://blog.votolatino.org/2008/09/25/how-much-is-700-billion.aspx>



Pay your taxes!