

**Issue # 69 Mar. 2010 *cont***

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**Continuing 14-Mar-10**

Aunt Annie came by and she, Marge and I went over to Fox Garden for dinner. While there we decided to go to Round The Clock for desert. While there I suggested we could come back to Woodstock and stop at Dairy Queen before we went home. Good thing no one else wanted to because I too was stuffed.

**16-Mar-10 9:12am 42°**

**Birthdays**

Happy Birthday Marcia! My sister is having another birthday today. Born in Woodstock and moved around a little and then settled down in Kansas with her husband Dan. Happy Birthday Marcia!

**Walking**

I walked outside a couple hours ago and was going to walk to the Three Brothers for breakfast. I saw all that frost on the car and felt the chill in the air. So I got in the car and now I am home. Maybe I will walk out to see Mary in a little bit. It is break time again.

**My Computer Project**

Sometimes I forget that I was telling the things I go through when I am working on a project. Well I have finished up rebuilding my PC and it is working great now. It is running as fast as it was when it was new and the internet speed is fast and it is very quite.

Some of the things I fixed along the way I could have done before and still now.

**Network Settings**

One of the network settings was set to auto set the connection speed. In my environment that makes it slow down. I need it to be fixed at 100 bps. With is set to auto it tries 10 the 100 each time it tries to do something. All of my stuff it set to be 100 bps so it does not have to do checking. Most people need an auto setting. I do not!

**Hard Drive**

The hard drive had worked so much over the last few years I think it was wearing out. It was getting noisy. In Some cases when they start getting noisy it is the first signs of a failure.

It could also be a cast of very, very heavy fragmentation. In my case I just replaced the drive. I am happy with what I have now.

I only cloned the old drive. I still sound like it needed to be wiped clean and started over. I may still do that at a later date. It is always handy to have a spare ready to install when you have a failure.

### My Firewall

I have a firewall between my DSL modem and my network. It is made out of an old PC. That is all you really need for my kind of operation. The firewall helps to keep the bad guys from getting anywhere on my personal network. Note I said "helps..." You can't stop someone if he really wants in.

Any way I thought this was getting a little flaky too. I had another one of these ready to replace it in case of a failure. It too is a very old PC. I using a PC from the mid 1990's for this. It is all you really need. It seemed to make thing run a little faster when I replaced it. I guess it was the third thing that was causing a slow down.

### File Server

Oh it is coffee time! I'll be back... My File server seems to be a little slow too. I use a file server like most of you use a hard drive on your PC. I have my data stores on another box where it handles a lot more data than you may have on one PC. For me because I am doing it this way because I am maintaining 5 web sites and I have better control of it this way.

Lately it has been getting slower and it may just need a new hard drive or the network connection is getting slower. I still have to work on that. Changing the network card it the easiest but the hard drive could be getting old too. I will work on that later.

### **2010 Census**

I received my Census from yesterday and had it filled and back in the mail within an hour. So I know there at lease one person living in Woodstock.

Thinking about the Census, do you know how many people they think live here in the

USA now? In 1990 they counted 248,709,873. In 2000 they counted 281,421,906 people and in 2009 the population estimates 307,006,550. Now when they get finished counting all of us I wonder what they will get for a count.

On this web site I found for the Census I found that in 2000 there 27,526 people in the 60098 zip code. In 2008 there were 23,930 of us in Woodstock, IL.

I remember back when we first lived in Woodstock that the sign on the edge of town was 7,200 people. I'm not sure when that was. It was just the first I remember looking at the sign and knowing what in meant. It was some time in the 1950's. In the last 50 years many people have moved into and out of Woodstock.

Anila, here is a piece of information for you. In Woodstock they are 2641 never married women and 978 divorced women. Maybe you still have a chance for you to find one for me. There are about the same amount of men and women in Woodstock.

As for education I see there are 2,945 with Bachelor degrees. In my case I am just a bachelor.

There is a lot of neat information on the Census web site. Take a look and see for yourself. <http://factfinder.census.gov> .

### **Screamer**

The other day at Town & Country a family came in with a screamer. It looked like a grandma, grandpa, a father and two of his daughters. The one girl was whine and screaming for what seemed forever. One couple asked them to see if they could control her and the father got mad and said...well let's say some unfriendly words. The couple got up and left and told Viollca they were not mad at her and would back another time.

### **17-Mar-10 9:37am 42°**

Top of the morning to you! Yes it be Saint Patrick's Day. Here is what St. Patty is all about to some people.

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most



widely known figures. But for all his celebrity, his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

So who was he? I know you have to wear green on St. Patrick's Day. And every restaurant serves corn beef & cabbage. And if you spot a rain bow you are told there is a pot of gold at the end.

I remember once in Arizona there was a wonderful double rainbow over Bell Rock when I was driving from Oak Creek to Sedona. I reached for my camera and it was back at the motel. So I didn't get good picture or even find the pot of gold. I still remember that rainbow!

### **The Pilgrim**

Today I see the pilgrim is at Portomarin, Pension Arenas in Spain.

### **Nice Day**

I spent a lot of time outside today. I had the truck out for a drive. My new snow thrower is leaking fuel so I took that out to be fixed. I went up on the roof and cleared away all the things that held my star on the roof. Then I walked up town and mailed some letters and stopped at Starbucks on the way home. Then I sat on the front porch and finished reading that book I started a long time ago. Then I went out there again and started reading another book. This one is about Square Foot Gardening.

Now I am resting up so I can take a break before I can take nap before I go to bed.  
☺ Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

### **18-Mar-10 9:30am 45°**

So far today nothing has happened. That being the case I think I will head out for coffee before it snows.

### **20-Mar-10 8:03pm 29°**

#### **Birthdays**

Today is the birthday of Victoria at IHOP. Happy Birthday Vicky!

### **21-Mar-10 11:41am 27°**

I guess spring started yesterday this year. Anila and a group of her customers were trying to balance an egg on end. They say you can do that on the first day of spring and fall. That is something I was going to try some day and haven't done yet.

Anyway I don't think they were having any luck. After a while it was getting out of hand and I saw Julio trying to break it in his hands. Then he was working on have Anile do the same. I just wanted to get out of the way in case it broke. Neither one of them broke it.

Except for the snow that is about all the fun I had yesterday.

#### **Harvard Restaurant**

A little later Aunt Annie, Marge, and I are going up to Harvard to check out the Other Town & Country Family Restaurant. The one in Woodstock in Number Two and the one in Harvard is Number One. They are both owned by the Pineda family.

The one in Harvard is on Ayer Street somewhere. I have never been there and haven't been on Ayer Street for years and years.

#### **Outside**

I just looked outside and see that that snow we got yesterday is melting. It is 39° on the north side of the house and the wind is blowing at a good clip. That should make short work of that snow. It may even be gone when we get back from Harvard.

#### **Pickup**

Thinking about the wind reminds me of the pickup. It was holding the windmill up but now the car is so I can't use it unless I move the windmill again.

When I back the truck out of the driveway I have trouble seeing because the cap on the bed is hard to see through. I am trying to decide if I will ever need the cap on the pickup. It seems to only be in the way when I haul anything. It blocks my view when I backup. If I

put a garden in it like in the past it will block the sun. I just do not like it.

Ok I decided it must go. Do you know any one that needs a pickup cap for a 6 foot box that fits a Ford Ranger? I have no idea of its value right now. I guess I could look it up on the internet and see.

### Birthdays

Happy Birthday John!

### 22-Mar-10 8:36am 32°

Good morning everyone. I have returned from breakfast to wait for the phone company. I am changing my DSL back to a static connection. I am guessing they will be here around ten o'clock. This will make it easier to control my computer network and servers from a remote location and update my web site. After changing to a dynamic connection a while back I need to go back to a static connection. The dynamic connection meant my IP address changed often. There are services that handle the changes that in normal cases would be ok. In my case it was getting to be a hassle to make sure it would update on a timely basis. It was just annoying me to have to mess with it all the time.

Prices have changed and I can get a static IP connection for \$10.00 less than I am paying now. I just have to have them make the change at the phone company. After that is done I only have to change a couple thing here and I am ready. Live will be easier and one less thing to maintain. So now I wait.

### 23-Mar-10 8:53pm 40°

It is Star Date 63690.9. Yes I just got finishing watching Star Trek IV, The Voyage Home and I was wondering the Star Date so I found it and there you have it.

### Birthdays

Nancy's birthday is today. Marge, Aunt Annie and I went to Nancy's party. Nancy could not make it so we never had to sing to her. Happy Birthday Nancy!

### Internet Service

Remember yesterday I was waiting for the tech from ATT to show up to change over my DNS from dynamic to static. He showed up around one o'clock and left about two.

This morning I called and asked for some help to finish setting it up the way I wanted it to work. In short time I was a happy camper. I just missed one little part when I tried to do it myself.

Now I can connect and operate my server from anywhere in the world again. I can even control many parts of it from my cell phone.

I remember my first computer. It was a Radio Shack TRS-80 Model I. I bought it in 1978. I have learned so much in the last 32 years. That computer didn't even have a hard drive. It had two 5-1/4" floppy drives. Those floppies could only store 150K bytes of data. That is about a 150 page book. A single sided DVD would hold about 4,700,000 times ore data.

You know that new hard drive I just put in this PC. It is a 1,000 gigabyte drive. If I was just saving single page documents I could save about one-thousand million pages. I guess I best start writing.

### Garden

Today I stopped and picked up some vermiculite and peat moss for my soil mix for my flower pots. This along with the compost from last year is enough to get me started.

If the weather and my schedule allows I should get started mixing it. In a week or two I need to start planting. I guess in the mean time I could figure out what I want to grow.

### 24-Mar-10 11:55am 54°

Well the computer stuff is working fine. I'm not hungry. No bill to pay right now. I guess I should go outside and work on my garden.

Hummm, have you had one of those days when you didn't have a chore that had to be done right now? Well I should turn off this PC and get going. Yup right now. Bye!

### Garden



I spent some time outside getting ready to for the garden. I was checking out my compost pile and I found that it wasn't. That is it wasn't compost. I found the leaves in the compost were not dry and looked just like they did when they fell off the trees. A lot of the grass in there looked just like dry grass clippings. And there were parts of it that were still frozen.

I think the problem is that I made the pile too big. It is about four feet in diameter and was about two and a half feet tall. Also I may have not been turning it enough.

I removed the sides and started a new pile from part of this compost pile. Since making compost isn't that hard I think I just didn't do any of the things I needed to do.

Basic compost is just decomposed plant matter. You just put it in a pile and wait. To speed up the process you turn it once in a while to let some air get to when is inside the pile. A little water helps but not too much.

I think my pile was too big and got too much water and never got turned. So I am basically starting over.

Add for my garden I will have to see in some of this is compost down in the pile. If not I will have to get some compost elsewhere.

## **26-Mar-10 10:03am 29°**

I tried out my new Klean Kanteen® today. I bought one of those insulated bottles for coffee made by Klean Kanteen®. I have the 20 ounce size. They say it will keep the coffee hot for hours and hours or cold stuff for hours and hours. I got coffee at six-thirty this morning and it was still hot a few minutes when I spilled it all over the floor. I got two lids. One screws on tight the other screws on but is called a Café Cap for drinking you coffee from. I found if you drop the container and you leave it laying there the coffee runs out that hole your whole drink runs out of and makes a big mess on the floor.

I Know the screw on caps don't leak because I use them for water bottles and store them on the side. Maybe you should not store coffee on its side.

Any having 20 ounce cup of hot coffee in my pocket will work if I use the tight cap. I know it stays hot for four hours.

Being theses are made from stainless steel they be easy to clean and last forever unlike the aluminum containers that are coated and chip.



Source:  
[www.kleankanteen.com](http://www.kleankanteen.com)

The 20 ounce insulated Klean Kanteen® look like this. This shows the two different caps you can get for them. I am going to make some tea and put it in the small one and see how it stays hot.

If you see me ask how it did.

## **Garden**

I am a little closer to planting some garden. I mixed up my soil to get me started. Maybe later this weekend I will get some of the early spring stuff planted. That would be like lettuce, radishes, peas, and maybe some onions. I have 4 of my Earthboxes® setup. I have them covered up so the water can soak through the soil is nice for planting.

I forgot what it felt like to do physical work. I didn't want to do too much the first day 2 or 3 hours is enough for today. Maybe tomorrow I will do some easy stuff and then Sunday try some more.

I see I have 4 more of those Earthboxes® and four of the bigger ones I have had for a long time before I had the Earthboxes®.

The EarthBox® is a self watering. You fill up the bottom of the pot and the soil gets watered naturally. To find more about to the Earthbox® go to [www.earthbox.com](http://www.earthbox.com) .

## **27-Mar-10 3:45pm**

## **28-Mar-10 Noon 48°**

I wonder what happened yesterday. I see I only types in the date and stopped. Oh well!

## **Garden**

Yesterday I started some more seeds. I see the ones I planted the last time are up but looked like they needed more sunlight.

I am kind of limited with my choices of windows. In the kitchen I have one south window where I set some sun until noon then nothing. And there is one in the living where I get some sun from 3 to 4 o'clock.

I have two east windows that I can catch some rays from the sun in the morning. That will go away after the trees start putting on some leaves. In the summer I get more sun on the north side of the house than the south.

If I start too much garden more I will have to start a nursery or get some plant lights.

I saw a small greenhouse at Menards the other day. It looked a little small and it looked like I could make it myself. By the time I made it myself it might just be cheaper to buy a read made one. I will have to look at the prebuilt ones again and see what else is out there. Hay this is another project I am starting.

### **Weather**

I was thinking I might plant some radishes today. I checked the temperature of the ground and it is only 40° at 6". That would mean it could take up to 49 days for the seeds to germination opposed to 11 days at 50°. There is a big jump is the germination time between 40 and 50°.

Next I wondered when is the first day when the low temperature is above 32° I checked my weather data for the last 4 years. And April 17<sup>th</sup> was the last day I recorded. This means that the books that say April 10<sup>th</sup> are very good place to start. In the fall I show about October 1<sup>th</sup> as the first day of frost.

In my garden boxes it showed 45°. Maybe I will plant some stuff next week. They forecast 72° late next week. I will have to think about that greenhouse some more. Maybe a plant light too. On the other hand maybe I could buy a nursery.

Wait If I had a nursery people might start bring over their babies for me to baby sit. Don't get any ideas!

## **30-Mar-10 5:07pm 65°**

### **Garden**

The temperature of the soil in the lawn was still only 40° still too old to plant much there. On the other hand to garden boxes was 50° enough to plant some seeds.

I spent time working on my garden to be. I planted some Peas, Spinach, and Radish seeds in my Garden boxes today. I used only 2 of the pots I set up the other day.

There are plants that can handle the cold weather as long as the soil is warm enough. My problem is the seedlings. The seedlings I started will not be ready to plant outside for a couple weeks. Maybe when I go shopping I might see something I like.

## **31-Mar-10 8:03pm 61°**

I planted more garden today. Well part of it. It is too early to plant some of it. We can still have frost.

I have peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and onions so far. That is if for outside for now. I have a lot of seedlings growing for later.

## **1-Apr-10 7:48pm 72°**

The plants must be doing their thing because I think I have hay fever. Well I have something. I am all stuffed up and have a sore throat. In the past I had to suffer through it. Using only tea with honey and lemon and taking vitamin "C and zinc also helps. I always think it funny when you are stuffed up when your nose runs.

### **April Fool's Day**

I went out to the internet and found this site [museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/](http://museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/) there are The Top 100 April Fool's Day Hoaxes of All Time.

Do you remember



“The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest” in 1957



or

“The Left-Handed Whopper” in 1998



and what about the  
“Flying Penguins” in 2008?



What is your favorite April Fool’s Joke?

It is time to start a new month. March is past now and this page is getting full. Since I do not feel so good I think I am stopping because I am done in.

Bye,  
Marty