

**Issue # 70 April 2010**

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**2-Apr-10 1:04pm 76°**

I am still suffering from hay fever or something. I went outside a little while ago and I feel worse. I guess I will have to wait it out if the drugs don’t help.

I see I have some more seed pushed their little heads out of the ground in my started pots. There are a few turnips and beets. I started some seedlings for things you might not normally start from seeds in the house. I

like to watch them grow. Maybe they will be fine if I transplant them. We’ll see.

I am almost out of food stuffs. I may have to go shopping one of these days that or start eating out more.

**Quote for Today**

*“If you want to make God laugh, tell him your future plans,” said Woody Allen.*

**4-Apr-10 9:37am 57°**

### **Birthdays**

Today is Lucy's birthday. I haven't seen her in a long time. Someone said she is working at McDonald's. I haven't seen her when I've been there so I not sure. If you see her somewhere wish her a Happy Birthday for me.

### **Happy Easter!**

I woke up this morning after a good night's sleep. I looked outside and there was no rain. Then I looked at the temperature and it was about 46°. I thought it would be a nice day for a walk. I thought; "Where to go?" I remembered that Violca starts work around eight o'clock on Sundays at Town & Country. I figured I would start out around 7:30 and I could get there around eight.

So I head out walking down Clay Street with the wind and sun in my face. Before I got to Newell Street I was cold and wasn't sure I was going to go all the way. By the time I got to Church Street I was warmed up and figured I would be just fine. I stopped at Dick Tracy Park for a mini break and a drink of water then continued.

When I got near the Three Brothers I was think I should walk through the back parking lot because it might be shorter. Also they wouldn't see me and give me a hard time for not stopping in. When I got near I saw it would be shorter to walk in front of the restaurant. I figured if they see me they could invite me in for coffee or I would just say "Hi!" and keep walling.

Down the road a spell I was thinking I haven't found anything to pick up yet. I always find something to pick up on along the path. I have found a lot of thing that do not belong and need to be saved by me. Then I spotted something somewhere between Three Brother and Town & Country was two paver bricks just waiting for me. I think they were in from of Bull Valley Ford.

Well I thought about picking them up and carrying them with me. I said I thought about picking them up. I thought for only about two seconds then declined the idea. It is too far to carry them and what would I do with them? They were interlocking paver bricks of a design I had not seen before and they wouldn't fit in my box of found items. Yes, I have a box for items I have found while walking. That is another whole story.

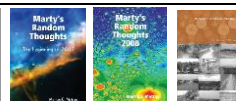
So after forty minutes I arrived at Town & Country and was greeted by Anila who asked; "Did you walk?" I guess my face was all red from the cold wind blowing in it.

Violca said that she and her dad saw me walking and her dad wanted to give me a ride and she told him; "No! Marty wants to walk."

I told her that you could have just beeped the horn and waved. She said they did and I didn't hear it. I must been in the walking zone and tuning then out.

Then I saw Lily was working too. She said it is good for me to walk.

Anile must have been just passing through because she was there and left shortly.



Bob and Shirley came in and joined me. We visited for a while and when they were ready to leave they asked if I wanted a ride home. I didn't even blink an eye when I said; "YES!" When I stood up my legs were stiff already. I am out of shape! Thanks for the ride Boy & Shirley!

Oh I forgot to stop and pick those bricks maybe next time.

I think I have it figured out for one of my walks. I could walk up to Starbuck's and have a cup of coffee. Then go to Angelo's and get a bite to eat. Then head out to Vaughan's for a coffee break. By then it would be about lunch time and I could head over to The Three Brothers. Well I would be too far from home so I would have to head to Town & Country for another coffee break. Now I am a real long ways from home. On the way home I could stop at Three Brothers again to rest up a little. Maybe have a snack. Still a ways to go before I am home I could go by Vaughan's on the way home. It would be nice to just walk by without stopping and saying; "Hi!" From there I could stop at McDonald's if they haven't tore down the building yet. Then if I head down the street and maybe stop at Scoop's and get a hot dog or something to drink. By then I will have to head home because I have drank way too much coffee!

**5-Apr-10 12:06 pm 68°**

### **Big News!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Heather and Marc got married!!!  
I just found out today!  
Congratulations Heather and Marc!

## **Garden Update**

### Seedlings

If you remember most of the seed I planted for my garden was about 12 years old. Well the Brussels Sprout, Okra, Peppers and Kohlrabi seed never came up so as far as I am concerned those are done and I have thrown them out.

In that first batch I planted the Egg Plant, Cauliflower, Cabbage, and Tomato seed are also 11 or 12 years old and they came up and are doing just fine. We will have to see how they are doing in a couple weeks when I plant them outside.

I planted some other seeds on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Only the Turnips and one Beet came up so far. It has only been 9 days so I will give them another week before I give up on them.

### Outdoor Plantings

#### The sixth day report:

Pot #1 has Peas & Spinach seed in it. On the Spinach part of the pot is one green thing sticking up. Nothing is visible yet and this is 1998 seed.

Pot # 2 is filled with radishes and 80% 1998 seed. There are 5 different kinds of radishes. It looks like about half of the seeds are up.

#### Planted 5 days ago:

Pot # 3 is all 1998 seed this one is 75% Lettuce and 25% Radishes. There is nothing showing in this pot yet. It is a little early for the Lettuce. Wait this one is only 5 days old. It is early!

Pot #4 This pot is all Yellow Onion sets. I planted 36 in the pot there are about 6 that have grown through the soil in 5 days.

Other plantings

I am trying to grow some plants for ground cover from cuttings. I have some English Ivy, Periwinkle, and Pachysandra that are growing real good outside. I am trying to get some more plants started and see if I can fill in some bare spots in the landscape.

These I just cut them off and stick them in moist soil and wait a couple weeks and the will root. I did it yesterday now I have to wait a couple weeks and see what happens.

More Pots

I screened some of my compost and mixed up some more potting soil and filed 4 more pots. If my seedlings make is a couple more weeks I will plant them in those pots.

I will have to set some pots with flowers too. I like flowers too. I have some old flower seed to plant. I will mix old seed with new and plant them in lat April of first of May. That should be when we are finished with the frost for this spring.

Other things

Tulips are up. That ground cover that I planted last summer looks like it survived the winter.

And those spring flowers that look like little clumps of grass that keep forgetting to move are coming up in the lawn. Maybe I will get them moved this year. They have nice little white flowers that are star shaped. I wonder what they are called.

Last year I planted some dark green grass with wide leaves that I do not think it lived through the winter. It looks

dead but I will wait and see. It is too early in the season to give up yet. It is too early for the other thing to report on yet.

**6-Apr-10 9:22am 44°**

**Computer Help**

*For my reader that do not have or want a computer we are talking about de-cluttering your computer and you do not need to read this.*

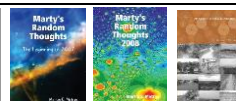
A few days ago Kim's computer was going very slow and she found how to fix is and told me about something I had forgotten. It seems her internet history was too full.

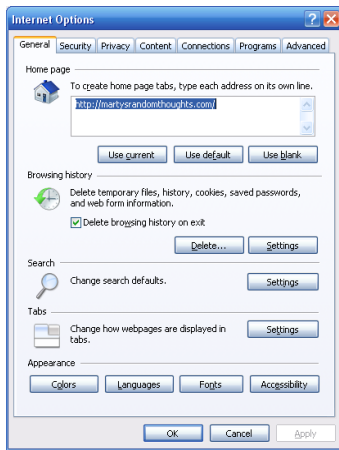
Internet history is a list of all the places you have ever been on the internet. The file can have every place you have ever been on the internet since the computer was new up until the hard drive gets full. It can be a massive amount of data. This was the case for Kim and it slowed her computer.

Resetting Internet History

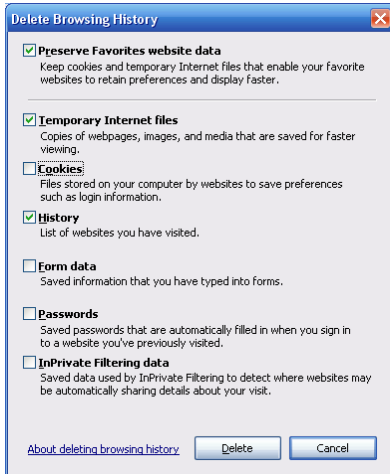
You first need to know where to find the settings. This will show you on Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) version 8.0. On the older version of IE the idea is the same you may have to look for the settings.

On the menu bar at the top click on "Tools" and select "Internet Options" and make you are in the tap [General]. Look for where it says "Browsing History"

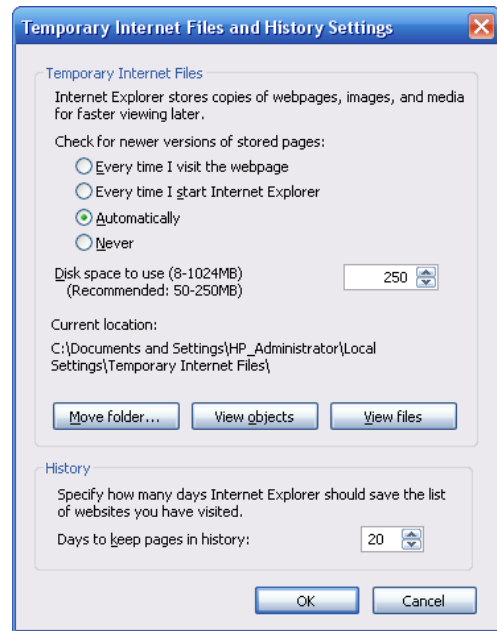




See the check box that says “Delete browsing history on exit.” This will empty the history file when you close the browser. I do this because I don’t use history. I don’t care where my browser has been. You may want some. In that case you do not one to have this checked. Next is the “Delete” box.



This window will open and let delete all that is checked. Whatever you want to delete right now you should check when you click [Delete]. What is showing is what I use. Click delete or cancel and return to the last window and select “Settings”



This is my settings. The less disk space you use you use the less temporary files are saved. At the bottom you can see that only 20 days of internet history files would be saved. If you go a lot of places on the internet make this less. Remember if you are saving a list of every web page you go to and this list can be huge. In my case I delete the history when I close the browser so this setting means nothing.

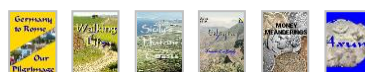
Remember if you don’t care who when where using this browser then delete the history files when you exit the browser. If you want some of the history set change the number of day or the amount of space to use.

**Note:**

I’ll bet that I never did this before on this PC before I rebuilt it and that is why it was so slow. I used to tune this way down in the past. I guess even I can learn something.

Kim thanks for the reminder!

**Today in History**



In 1992 Bill Murray was at the Three Brother.

**8-Apr-10 8:17am 34°**

### iPad

On the radio this morning I heard that the internet in general may be slow today. This was because that everyone would be downloading the new iPad software. Since I am a Windows and Linux user I have had little interest in the Apple products. I may change! I have always thought that the Apple PC's were fine machines for the people who have them but they were not for me. I had a few Radio Shack computers in the beginning. Then I went to Microsoft Windows based PCs. When I started to learn more about the internet and computer I added Linux servers to host email and my web site. I am about half Windows and half Linux now. Even my new cell phone is has a Windows operating system.

I just looked at all the things you could do with Apples iPad. I like what it can do.

My new cell phone can do some the things that the iPad can do. My laptop can do some of what it can do too. I think they cost too much for the iPad right now. This may be because it just came out last week and many people think they need to be first. Wait that used to be me! Well it kind of still is. I have learned a little restraint. I just got my fancy cell phone and my laptop sits in the case most of the time.

The iPad looks to be small enough for me to carry around in those big inside

pockets in my blue jean jacket. I have always thought I would like to have a tablet PC about that size that I could carry around.

I will keep the iPad in mind for later. Right now the price it too high. I remember the iPhone was over \$600.00 when they first came out and now I think they are under a hundred bucks. The iPod was the same. It cost an arm and a leg when it first hit the market and you might be able to buy it for just a little cash now.

I am sure in a year or so the price will be down around a couple hundred dollars for the iPad. I may look at them again.

### Snowing!

While returning from my coffee break I got caught in a blizzard. Well it wasn't really a blizzard but it was a lot of snow falling from the sky. Not so much now. I am glad I took the time to cover up my garden yesterday afternoon. I wouldn't like those poor little plants to freeze before they have a change to grow up so I can eat them.

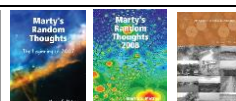
It is the time of the year we could have a snow storm. Hay I wonder if they have my snow blower fixed yet?

**9-Apr-10 8:37am 32°**

Well I had to scrape frost this morning. And I see it is on 32° right now. Do you think this might be the last of the cold? If not maybe I could go to Arizona and wait it out. At least I covered my plants the other day.

**10-Apr-10 8:03pm 59°**

SS



Happy Birthday Fatima!

### Today in History

Back in 1942 Mom and Dad were married. Wow that would be sixty-eight years ago. I am glad they got together or else I would be here to tell you about it. Happy Anniversary Mom and Dad where ever you are.

Cassie and her husband stood up for them at the wedding. Cassie goes to lunch with Aunt Annie and the bunch once in a while.

### 11-Apr-10 7:33am 46°

It looks like we might have a nice day today. Little hazy right now but I know it will be a nice day.

### The Pilgrims

Yesterday Mike posted that he was in Burgos. Burgos as you may remember is where I spent some time wondering around trying to find my way when I walked in Spain in 2007. It was around June eighth when I arrived in Burgos. You can read about my adventure in Burgos in my book. Contact me if you would like a copy.

I keep thinking I need another adventure.

### Birthdays

We have two birthdays today that I know about. There is Roxanne I haven't seen here is 11 years. Most of the people that I know that knew here haven't seen her either I wonder what became of her. If you know anything let me know. Maybe she is in hiding. Anyway Happy Birthday Roxanne where ever you are.

Heather too is having a birthday. Her and Marc just got married just month or so ago That makes is about there first anniversary too. Today is Heather's day. Happy Birthday Heather!

### 12-Apr-10 9:06am 54°

When I put the day down I have been putting the time and temperature too. I think the time is because it is a point in time entry. Kind of like a journal. A long time ago I started putting in the temperature. I was just wondering while I do that and the weather like clear or sunny or something like that? Maybe that isn't the temperature but my temperament. Oh well!

### Geocaching

Yesterday I had a need to go for a walk with a purpose. I decided to check out a couple of the caches I put out there to see how they were holding up. One cache I checked out was just fine. Someone had moves it a little and I had to look around somewhat. It did very well for lying in a very damp area for a year. I checked it out and placed it back and went on my way.

The second one I had to walk through water on the trail until I got to its location. I am not talking about a lot of water. I just got my feet a little wet. There was very low and soggy on some areas of the trail.

When I got to the cache I had forgotten exactly where I had placed it and had to look around for a while. It took about five minutes when I saw something blue. It was covered up with

some tree bark to help camouflage it a little.

As soon as I picked it up I saw the lid was cracked I figured it had to be wet inside. There was about an eighth inch of in the bottom. The plastic bag with the log book had leaked. The log book was only damp but needed to be replaced. The other things that people had put in there were soaked but not damaged because of being plastic. I had nothing with me to dry this out so I just replaced the whole thing.

I got a new plastic bag and log book and I sharpened the pencil. I dried some of the things people put in the cache and put them in a new water tight cache box. Then put it back and verified the GPS location and headed back to the car.

I tried another path out of the park but came to knee high water and no easy way around it. I turned back to return the way I came in and there must have another trail where I turned right instead of left because I found more water that not there before. I back tracked a little it was a nice day for a walk. I finally got back to the car with only my shoes and pans cuff wet.

The things in the cache can be most anything. You never put food or harmful things in them. Sometimes you put track able items in the cache called travel bugs.

A travel bug goes from one cache to another with a mission. You might attach a travel bug to a toy car with a note saying I want to go to Las Vegas. Someone would see this and move to a

cache that is west of Woodstock a few miles. Someone else might know they are going through Rockford and doing some Geocaching and pick it up and move it. Someone else would move it to another cache.

With each move you log where you put it at [www.Geocaching.com](http://www.Geocaching.com). Then you can watch where your toy car has traveled.

I have a three Travel Bugs out there. They have traveled 31 miles, 287 miles, and 683 miles. They were last reported to be in... Well the first one at 31 miles is lost, it does not report it location. Last report was in Aug 2009.

The 287 mile traveler was last reported in Indiana on 8/28/2009. It may be resting. The third one at 683 miles has been sitting in Maryland since 10/11/2009. It may be lost because the cache is marked "temporarily unavailable." The note says it came up missing. That means that my traveler is most likely gone too.

They say that traveler have shown up after 2 years of inactive. Sometimes people pick them up and forget to log them then they become inactive in Geocaching and start up again and say "Oh, I still have this Travel Bug!" You may remember I have been inactive for a long time.

### Where's George

Where's George is something like Geotracking. The difference is you don't have to go look for George because he finds you. You just log the serial number at [WheresGeorge.com](http://WheresGeorge.com) and spend the





dollar somewhere. To make a little easier you stamp “wheresgeorge.com” on your dollar bills and when someone see it they go to the web site to see what it is all about.

Both Geocaching.com and WheresGeorge.com are free. You only pay if you want some of the other things are available on their website. I use the free part mostly. Once in a while I pay for a month to see if there is anything I might want to pay for. Mostly I am a free loader.

### **13-Apr-10 8:13am 48°**

Looks like another nice day for us in the works even though we had a little rain last night. You did know it did rain last night. I saw a wet parking lot just before I went to bed. It did not show on the rain gauge so it must have awful thin rain.

#### **Garden**

Yesterday I uncovered my garden because I think the frost is done for spring. I see all of the Onions, Radishes, and Spanish have sprouted. There are a few of the Peas and none of the Lettuces. I will have to get some new Lettuces seed and plant some more Peas.

I can't believe none of the Lettuce seed germinated. Wait, all of the Lettuce seed was marked for use in 1998. It was planted on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Germination should be 4 to 14 days depending on verity. Maybe it is just slow coming up. I wait before I replant it.

The Peas didn't do so well before so I will plant some new seed. The 1998 seed maybe they just want some new

seed to visit with. Wait, I only planted 8 seeds out there I should count and see how many came up.

I think I will go count to see how many of those small plants germinated. I didn't plant rows of seeds I planted them one seed at a time and logged how many. Maybe I am not doing that bad. I'll go do that now and let you know.

#### **Garden Update**

Most of the seeds I planted inside are doing very good. There are a few that have not survived being cooped inside those seed packs for 12 years. All in all I am happy with what I have.

As for the seed I planted outside in those I am please with the yield too.

In the first pot, out of 8 Peas seeds have popped their heads up. The others may by just slow starts. I planted only 9 Spanish seeds but I see 16 plants. Maybe some were twins.

In the second pot, I think all of the radishes are up except for about ½ of the White Icicle Radishes. These are the long white ones.

In the pot that has the Lettuce seed I see a few seedlings that have come up. Three of them look like Radishes. Woops I must have spilled some in there. The other seedlings I am not sure they are Lettuce. They don't looks like the pictures. I'll have to wait and see what they are. I planted some Radishes in there too but they haven't come up where I thought I planted them.

Onion sets is all that I plant in the fourth pot. I planted 36 set and I counted 32 that have come out into the sun. Since

some are just up I think I may see the other 4 soon. Some of them are quite tall.

Remember I had 100 sets to start. I gave away the other 64 of them. I wonder if they are doing that good too.

I started those cuttings a week ago though I can't tell looking at the Pachysandra and Periwinkle have rooted the English Ivy is growing new leaves already.

Yesterday I planted 72 starter pots with Gold Dust seed. This is a ground plant. They say it most likely will not grow outside from seed. I bought only one package of seed. I can only plant 72 at a time. With 5000 seeds in the package it will have many, many seeds. I have to wait six to eight weeks before I can plant them outside. That means I have enough seed for then 90 years or so. Well maybe 75.

This is making me tired. I think I should go for coffee.

## **14-Apr-10 10:22am 64°**

### **Birthdays**

Jeremy is having a birthday today. I don't remember if I wished him a happy birthday last Saturday when I saw him. So I will wish him one here. Happy Birthday Jeremy!

### **Another Birthday**

I show it is Sally's birthday today too. Sally is Diane's mom. I didn't remember this so I called Cork and asked. I'm wrong it was last Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>. So Happy Birthday last Monday Sally! I will go fix my calendar now.

Ok the calendar is updated and republished.

## **15-Apr-10 3:26pm 81°**

Oh, that why I was sweating when I was working on my water garden. 81°, does that mean summer is here?

### **Water Garden**

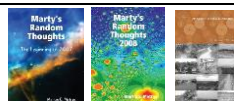
I just came in from getting my water garden up and running. I never got that flag stone I was looking for last year or was that 2 years ago. I guess I will have to go to the quarry and dig my own. I only need three or four pieces about 18" wide and one to two inched thick. I could carry them in the trunk of the car.

### **Solar/Wind Energy**

I added two batteries for the wind generator to charge. If these batteries get charged the extra will spill over into the battery for the solar panel. The battery for the solar panel is what I use to charge all of my 12 Volt stuff. That is like the lawn mower, string trimmer, power drill, camera battery, and anything else I can find that can be charged with 12 Volts DC. If there is still more than I can use I feed it in to the power lines and use it in the house. For now I do not have enough that you could use it at your house. I keep thinking about that.

### **Garden**

Tomorrow I will plant some more seeds in garden. The Farmer's Almanac said the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> were not good days to plant seeds or to dig in the dirt. They have been telling farmers what to do for over 200 years so I will yield to their wisdom. Besides I feel lazy anyway.



**17-Apr-10 12:15pm 52°**

It has been too windy and a little cold this morning to work on the garden so I worked on the electronics for the solar and wind generators.

So far I have just been making it work. I have not had any over load protection or gauges hooked so if something went wrong it would have just burnt off a wire. I now have a circuit break on the wind generator that will blow if to starts producing too much current when the batteries are fully charged. The voltage regulator built into the wind turbine should shut down if that happens. Now if there is an overload it will blow the breaker and stop the electricity. The solar panel has its own controller with a fuse to protect it.

I also added ammeter and volt meters so I could see what is happening by just looking. The circuit breaker, ammeter, and volt meter are leftovers from when I used to work on cars. Though old these will work just fine for now. It gives me an idea what is happening and verifies to me that things are happening.

I checked the Watt Hour meter yesterday and it verifies that I am sending some of the energy from the sun and wind back in the power lines and am using some it right now to run this PC. I am not making enough for you to use yet but it could be getting out there for you.

The amount I have been sending back is so small right now that based on my last bill it will take 38 years to give me enough electricity for a month.

To help this I need to move the Wind turbine up onto the tower where is can catch more wind. And it may help to move the Solar panel to the other side of the yard or somewhere else where it will get sun for more of the day. This will all come in time.

**The Pilgrims**

I just checked and the last posting for Mike & Petra's location was in Azofra, Spain on the 15<sup>th</sup>. By now they could clear to Lagroño or Larosono by now. Check out [WalkingEast.com](http://WalkingEast.com) for all the details.

**18-Apr-10 8:03am 36°****Birthdays**

Petra's birthday is today her and Mike Torres del Rio, Spain today. Happy Birthday Petra!

**24-Apr-10 11:02am 51°**

I am a little behind on my newsletter. It has been week since I entered any of my thoughts. Let me try and catch up.

**Greenhouse**

I thought about buying a greenhouse. I checked and found I could buy a nice one for less than four-hundred dollars. Then I thought about building one and figured it would take too much time and cost more than one of the readymade greenhouses.

I decided to see how to make my own greenhouse anyway just in case I was wrong. I wasn't wrong but I was surprised what I found. I find many sites on the internet that were showing how to make big green houses out of PVC pipes.

After viewing a few sites I remembered I had a greenhouse a few years ago. Remember the garden I had in the back of the pickup a few years ago.

Well I had the Plexiglas that covered the pickup box that acted like a mini green house. All I need to do is make a frame out of PVC pipe and I had my greenhouse.

I measured up a best guess of the parts I would need and headed to Menard's. I spent less than \$17.00 for the first batch of parts.

I then measured up the parts and cut them and put it to gathers before gluing them together. I missed and found I need to make it one inch smaller on all sides. I need the Plexiglas to lie on top and not in between. This was an easy fix.

When I placed the Plexiglas on top it didn't hold it up. This was a little too heavy for the PVC to support it. So I went back to the drawing board. I cut the PVC again and added some bracing. This was much better. I tried to place the Plexiglas on it again but because it was not glued yet it came apart. Not a problem I still need some minor changes yet. I needed to make a way to hook the two places together. I will make these changes and then refit it to try again.

Woops I missed. Somehow I had measured wrong or couldn't read my own writing. I was making a dome on top 72" with a cross piece about 60" across the bottom. The 60" was how wide the pickup bed is so if I wanted it there later I could just move it and not have to redesign anything.

I the 72" parts were only 60" and my Plexiglas 72". I had to cut a bunch of pieces of PVC to make them longer. Laugh out loud for a while! 😊

I made some changes but I really could do much because they don't make a PVC stretcher any more than a board stretcher. I need some more PVC pipe. I figured I needed three more ten foot pieces of PVC pipe.

I needed to get the glue too and because of a redesign I needed some more Tee fittings.

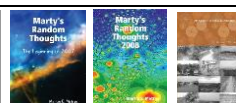
Two nice things happened when I got to the car I was I still had one pipe in the car. And the pipes are under two dollars each.

After getting home I made all the repairs. This time I didn't make the second one until after the first one was glue together and would do what I had planned for it. Well I made one more trip to Menard's after that.

Right now I have half a green house and I really have the parts to make the other half. I'll go out later and take a picture. The cost of all the parts including the mistake parts I had to buy twice was only \$36.00. The plastic, chicken wire and Plexiglas I already had left over from other projects.

When I build the other half I will have kind of have a greenhouse that is five by six feet.

I am using the half as we speak for all those seeds I started. And for the last 3 days they have been happy to be outside instead of being cooped up in the house with me.



## Computer Repair and Maint.

For the last couple of weeks I have been trying to talk a couple of friends through their problems to fix their computers. I avoid going there in person mostly because a lot of the time there are minor issues that I can just tell them to try this or that and they learn a little. I learn a little when I guess wrong. Yes, I guess wrong a lot.

Well in this case we were not guessing so well. Wednesday I spent all day on one of them. This one I trying to figure out what was making it so slow. It was so slow I could have turned on the computer and walked back to town and had coffee with Mary then Kim then Anila and the walked back and it might have been ready for me to look at it to see what the problem was. Well it was slow!

Anyway I installed a couple anti spyware programs and let one run all night to see what it found. This one found something like 300 pieces of spyware and parts from Trojans on the PC. The program I run it the same one I used back in February to get the Trojan off this PC.

The next day I installed a freeware program that does mostly the same thing but it is FREE. This was Spybot Search and Destroy and I also installed Ad-Aware. Sometimes these two programs conflict with each. You have to shut down one and sometimes uninstall it before running the other. I had to do this on this PC.

After running Spybot and removing those spyware and Trojans I installed Ad-Aware and found 6 more pieces of spyware to remove.

The Trojans are what caused most of the slow down on this PC. There were a whole lot of programs that run in the background that they didn't use that I removed or at lease stopped them from running in the back ground.

There were other things I found before I left Thursday night. Now I will give this a couple days to see how it is doing before I go back. For now it is running a lot faster.

### The Second PC

Friday morning I committed to check out the second PC. I feel good about this one. They hired someone to come in and fix this one and in about two weeks couldn't make it stay fixed. I spent less than two hours. I hope I don't break my arm patting myself on the back. 😊

After looking at this for a while it looked like that same Trojan that I had on my PC back in February.

It called itself "Win 7 Anti Melware 2010." The one I had called itself "Internet Security 2010." All kinds of windows popped up looking like it was going to help you with some kind of security but wouldn't really do anything except stopping you from working. Every time a program tried to get online it would pop up with this message that says it is going to save you.

I went to another PC and looked up to see what this was and it told me to Use Spyware Doctor and it would take it out. That is what I used in February. It

cost about fifty dollars but I feel it was worth it in this case.

After messing around trying to avoid the Trojan to get the program running it removed it right away and I was out of there and sitting in Vaughan's on time at 9:30 having coffee with Mary.

### **For your Computer**

There are a few FREE programs I feel are great for basic security for the home PCs. These programs are FREE for home use and I have been using them for years.

#### Antivirus

**AVG** is an antivirus program that updates itself and scans your emails before letting you open them and before it lets you send them.

Search "free AVG" and only download the basic version. The full version has a lot of other security things in it I don't use you decide which you want.

Another antivirus I use it called ClamAV. I use this on my Linux mail server. I am not sure it is available for Windows. I also use this on my Portable Apps on my memory stick so there has to be a Windows version.

Just search "Clam antivirus" on the internet.

#### Firewall

On my PC I use the free version of **Zone Alarm** for a firewall. In computer terms a firewall stops program from the outside to get to your computer and programs on the inside get out to the internet.

Zone Alarm blocks any program on your computer to access the internet unless you let it. It ask you if it is ok or

not for it to go to the internet. You can tell it is always ok or never ok or even just this time.

Example would be AVG goes out to update for new viruses to look for. I set this to go out any time it wants because I trust it. I don't want to say each time it is ok to check.

Search for "Free Zone Alarm" and look for the free version not the free trial version. It is only free for 30 days.

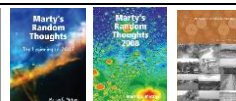
I also use SmoothWall for a firewall. I have a PC setup as a hardware firewall between my DSL modem and my network to stop everybody from getting on my network unless they are coming in to view my web pages (port 80) or to deliver receive emails. (Ports 25 & 110) And even then they are redirected to only place, the place I want it to go.

#### Spyware

I have also two different spyware programs running to help stop the compute from letting the outside snoops knowing my personal information.

The first is the FREE version of **Spybot Search and Destroy** and the free version of **Ad-Aware**. No program is perfect so I run both of these at the same time. They monitor the data and programs on the PC for program that spy and inform people what I use my computer for to see what kind of ads to email me and put in those pesky popup windows. Some of them get allful snooply and are real personal and steal the name and address from your address book.

These two programs work very well and I can run both with conflict. If I could only run one I would run Spybot



Search and Destroy. I run both because they both only get about 90% of the spyware then the other will get the other 10%. Both are good programs to have and they are both free for the basic version.

#### Why so Many Programs

As I have told you earlier no program will 100% protect you. I was running all of these and still got that Trojan a few months ago. The Trojan slipped through the cracks of mine and those other 2 computer a few days ago.

You can buy all of the fancy programs and something can still slip through the crakes and get you. I have someone every once in a while get past my Smoothwall firewall and try to log into my mail server. In the log shows their IP address and I block it. I put there IP in the block list and then I think keeps them out. Of course they might change their IP address and try again. If they didn't get a connection they move on to some else and forget about me.

The idea I use is to make them have to work a little to get into my stuff. I think these guys that do this are lazy and will just move to some ones else PC until they find an easy one to break into.

If I was a bank or a credit card company I would have to do a lot more to stop those people. It would cost me a lot more money and time because those hacker are out to break in and get things of a lot more value than the pictures of my garden and windmill.

So I just do what I can to irritate them and they move on to some place else.

Wow, four pages on computer stuff. I hope some of that helps you. I hope you non-computer people are not too bored. I feel better talking that all out.

#### **Albania**

Do you know where Albania is related to Greece? Well Albania is north of it on the west side. I am not going to tell you who besides me didn't know.

#### **Restaurant List**

I went to all that work to create a restaurant list a couple months ago and haven't updated it until today.

Check out the updated list at [doerofthings.com/lists/restaurants](http://doerofthings.com/lists/restaurants).

#### **Birthdays**

I see I missed a few birthdays in the last week or so. Dave C. on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Dave S. on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Carol's on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Happy Birthday to all of you! I am sorry I am late. Now I have until Monday to remember the next one.

Oh wait I have a new one of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Phill's Birthday. This is Bill's Mom. Happy Birthday Mom! You can check out the birthday calendar at [www.MartysRandomThoughts.com](http://www.MartysRandomThoughts.com).

#### **Pictures**

I think I should show you some of the since I was in Rockford a month ago.



*This is one of those Smart cars hooked to this little trailed at Sunny Island RV. It almost like you could use the trail as a garage for the car.*



*This it the first spring flower from the ground cover on the north side of house. I am trying to grow more from cuttings.*



*This is part of the Westwood nature Area out in the area of town where Bill & Kim live. I have one of my caches placed in*

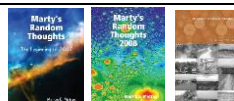
*this nature park. I had to back track because this was over the trail and I didn't want to get my feet wet.*



**Violca** said to show you this picture of Aunt Annie and me.



*Violca* wanted me to take a picture showing how smart se was reading the newspaper. You do see she is checking up on the neighbors.







*A year and half ago Bill and I sided the garage. Last week I installed the thermometer and it got very hot shortly after that.*



*While at Kim & Bill's Mickey got up on me. Kim had to take this picture because she thinks I hate dogs. What do you think?*



*Well I told you my green house was one half of 72" x 60". I never said it had walls. This is big enough for now. What you are seeing is about 3' x 5'.*



*You can see by looking inside there is a lot of room for the size of the plants I have for it right now.*



*This is my garden plants from foreground to the forth pot Peas, Spinach, Radishes, and Onions. The last 4 pots are waiting for it to warm a little more.*

### **25-Apr-10 9:45am 57°**

It is a little warmer today and it looks a lot brighter right now but it still looks like we will get more rain before the day is over.

I haven't heard from the Pilgrims in a few days. There a traveling in a area where the internet is a little sparse. I am guessing they will wait for a good strong connection to update us. I remember when I was in that area 3 years ago the internet was kind of random. It may be the case now too.

### Three Years Ago

I remembered that three years ago I was walking across Spain. That is not true! I started the Walk on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Yes it was almost three years ago. In August last year I published my book about my trip. Have any of you read it? I have a few copies available at home is someone is looking to get one.

I have it available online at <http://stores.lulu.com/mstras3>

Thinking about books I have not published last year's Marty's Random Thoughts newsletter yet. That could be something to working on while I want to stay inside and keep dry today.

Maybe I could do that right after I finish the laundry.

### 26-Apr-10 10:22am 56°

I just got my electric bill and I see it is a little higher. After looking at it is because I used a hundred more kWh than last month. On the other hand it is an estimated reading so maybe I have not used that much more.

Maybe I will need to put my own meter out there so I know what I am using. I thought I was using less energy.

Anyway with the estimate high my cost was only about five dollars higher. And the overall code was about 1¢ less per kWh.

Maybe with this new meter reading the cost per hours they have the interfere structure to bill it that way yet to bill it without estimating the statement.

### Birthdays

Happy Birthday Jannet B!

### 27-Apr-10 1:29pm 55°

They are calling for spotty frost tonight. Have you got you Tomatoes covered up? Mine are in my new greenhouse. Maybe I will be ok. We'll see.

### My Car

I remembered I have had my car just short of 8 years now. I have been thinking I need a change. I have also thinking I don't want to spend the money. I don't need a new car just for a change.

The warranty ran out about 5 years ago except of the traction battery for the hybrid part. I thought I might try to get them to change that next month.

I went out to the internet to see how the batteries have been holding up since they first came out with the hybrid cars. It looks like of the first batch of hybrids less than one percent have had their traction batteries replaced. That is in 10 years. That is something like 1 in 40,000 cars. So I am not going to think about it too much until the time it fails.

If it fails I will not get strained because the car runs on gas first the batter drive just assist during a load.

It looks like the traction battery cost around \$3000 and maybe \$500 at a salvage yard. From the salvage yard you need to reconfigure the battery. The traction battery is a pack not just one battery. Reconfiguring the battery is something I could do. Well I'll deal with that a few years from now.



**28-Apr-10 10:09am 48°**

I had so much frost on my car this morning I had to walk up to Star Bucks for my morning coffee. It was a nice walk though it was a little cool. I logged a low temperature of 30.8° between 5:30 and 6:00 this morning. I am glad I covered up my garden. This is the second day we have had frost this month. The other day was on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The Pilgrims**

The pilgrims just reported they were on a river bank on the Irati River below a dam between Liedena and Sanguesa in Navarra, Spain, resting till the afternoon sun let up a little.

**30-Apr-10 4:16am 59°**

Why am I up so early! I guess I just woke up and was awake and had enough sleep. I hope this does not become a habit!

That was some wind yesterday blowing up that nice warm weather. We got Frost one day and 80° the next. You would think we would get use to it by now. As they say; "If you don't like the weather around here wait fifteen minutes it'll change!"

**Birthdays**

Today is Janet's birthday. If you see her around town wish her a good day. I worked with her many years at Knaack. Happy Birthday Janet!

**Wind Generator**

I don't know if I should call that thing a wind mill, wind turbine, or a wind generator. It is not a mill because a mill grinds grain. And it isn't a wind

generator because it does not generate wind it collects wind.

I guess it must be a wind turbine because the word turbine is "*rotary engine in which the kinetic energy of a moving fluid is converted into mechanical energy by causing a bladed rotor to rotate*" or something like that.

I guess I could refer to it as that thing on top of the pole that spins in the wind and make electricity.

I think I will just call it a windmill!

Anyway what I started to talk about it that it making electricity and I have to get it moved to the tower so it can catch more wind. In most of that wind yesterday it did not spin.

Most of the wind was from the south-east and the trees blocked it. When it came from the south-south-east more got the windmill and when it turned to the south there was a direct path and it spun like crazy making me enough electricity to run this PC for a while this morning.

Later this morning I will go out and mow the grass with the energy I stored in the batteries of my electric mower. At this rate maybe in fifty years or so it will pay for it.

Oh the sun was shining too so the solar panels were supplying me with electricity too.

Move Ed Bagley and Bill Nye I am going to catch up with you!

**May Birthdays and Events**

Date	Event
May 2	Cathy S

## Marty's Random Thoughts

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May 4	Linda (Angelo's)
May 7	Bill Mc
May 18	Arlene
May 18	Shcrifa G
May 21	I bought my house (1988)
May 23	Kevin C
May 24	Holly (Mary's Sister)
May 25	Sofije
May 26	Marge P.

May 26	Gramma Jan
May 28	Arianna B
May 31	Getti H

This page is full and it time to edit it and get it published.

Have a Happy May,  
Marty

