

# Marty's Random Thoughts

Volume 07 Number 08a

Woodstock, IL

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## Table of Contents

<b>BIRTHDAYS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PROBLEMS SOLVED OR NOT ....</b>	<b>1</b>
DSL Service .....	1
07-Aug .....	1
10-Aug .....	1
<b>RANDOM THINGS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Marty's trip notes. ....	2
Old Scrapbooks .....	2
Rain .....	2
Three Brothers .....	2
Basement .....	3
48 hours later .....	3
Saturday .....	3
Cookies .....	3
One of them is gone .....	4
<b>MISSING &amp; FOUND FRIENDS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Ina .....	5
Reunion .....	5
Melanie .....	5
<b>RV TRAVEL STUFF .....</b>	<b>5</b>
By Chuck Woodbury .....	5
Mt Rushmore .....	6
Trivia. ....	6
Bumper Snicker .....	6
<b>SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT</b>	<b>6</b>
Menard's Wisdom .....	6
<b>FEEDBACK .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Newsletter personality .....	6
Feedback on Feedback .....	7
Letter to Marty .....	7
Feed back on letter .....	7
Request .....	7
Request feedback. ....	7
<b>THIS IS ENOUGH .....</b>	<b>7</b>
PS: .....	7
Oops, Puzzle answers are after the pictures. Pictures from the Past .....	7
Pictures from the Past .....	8
<b>LAST WEEKS ANSWERS: .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>OOPZY! .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Names .....	9
<b>RANDOM STUFF .....</b>	<b>9</b>
15-Aug-2007 .....	9
New people .....	9
16-Aug-2007 .....	9
Boss don't know .....	9
17-Aug-2007 8:15am 62°F .....	10
Rainy Weather .....	10
Insurance .....	10
Mom's Birthday .....	10
Rabbits .....	10
Printer quality .....	10
<b>SECOND CLOSING .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## **Birthdays**

August		September		October	
1st	Trent	13th	Dennis	3rd	Matt
3rd	Lidia	15th	Anila	18th	David
9th	Tammy	18th	Edie	23rd	Annette
15th	Kim & Bills 15th Av			23rd	Tom
15th	Russ				
16th	Scott's (50th)				
17th	Mickey's				
22nd	Taryn's (I think)				
23rd	Mary				

I will try to cover 3 months of birthdays. If it is not in here, it most likely is because it is not on my list yet. Tell me and I will add it.

## **Problems solved or not**

### **DSL Service**

Well it has been 24 hours since the DSL Internet connection has been up and running. Yesterday around 2-3:00 pm, the thing wasn't working yet and they told me it would be some time today before I would know it is was fixed. They called today and asked how it was doing because they had worked on it. They never said what the problem was. So tomorrow I will move the modem back to the basement so I stop tripping over these wires. I think it might be fixed now and maybe it will last another 4-1/2 years.

#### 07-Aug

This has been flaky ever since this started. Again the day before yesterday I have been on the phone with AT&T DSL support. At least they are seeing that it is an intermittent problem. Yesterday I waited all day for a DSL tech to show up and they were a "No show". At 8:00 pm they called and said they would not make it.

Later: DSL tech was here and upgraded the firmware for the new DSL modem. So there is a chance that it will fix the problem. The patch was to fix this problem

#### 10-Aug

It has been 3 days now and the DSL Connection has not failed. I guess they got it right now. Thanks AT&T for figuring this out. Now it is back in the basement and still working.

## **Random Things**

### **Marty's trip notes.**

Well, I am still working on my journal notes from my trip to Europe I took a couple months ago. Yes, it has been a couple months already. Where is the time going? I thought I would have all kinds of time after I stopped going in to work everyday. I must be having too much fun. You know they say "Time flies when you are having fun."

I have been going through the first draft to see how bad I type and spell. There are almost 80 pages in the draft copy. I have still not added pictures. It looks like it may be a while before I have a copy for review with the pictures.

### **Old Scrapbooks**

Mike has scanned one of Mom's old scrapbooks from when there were only six. It is about a trip we made in 1956 to the Black Hills of South Dakota. I don't have my copy yet, but here is one of the pictures. See if you can tell which one I am. Do you know who the others are?



### **Rain**

#### *Three Brothers*

I guess it rained last night, 06-Aug. If you know me I sleep through anything. I was late getting up. On the way to have breakfast I saw a lot of water standing. When I got to the Three Brothers, it was flooded from



the start of the side entrance on the north side all the way to the side of the building. I went to the south entrance and it looked to be closed. It was! Water was flowing from out the door on the south side of the building. I looked in the door and everyone was just mopping away. I figured the best thing I could do to help was stay out of the way. I went outside and took pictures and left. My rain gauge said we got about 4 inches of the wet stuff.

Later in the day I heard that there was a foot of water on the floor at Three Brothers. I haven't seen that much water out there since the 1980's. A couple times it was up over the counter in the restaurant and flowing across the road. When the brothers bought the "A&W" building and put in the pond, it has been controlling the rain for a very long time. The Three Brother's building use to be "A&W Root Beer" .

#### Basement

So I have 3-4 inches in the basement. There isn't enough water for my sump pump. So I bought another pump for my pond. These pumps, though slow, will pump it almost dry. Besides, I wanted another pump for my water garden/pond anyway. I hope I remember to check it in an hour or so, or else I will be buying another new pump. They do not like to run dry.

#### 48 hours later

I over heard some one say that they were swimming in Raintree Park. I thought; "Hey, I walk across Raintree Park for a short cut some times." Not today!



Looking from the McDonald's side on the east toward the tunnel, you can see there is a little water in the lake. The tunnel is about in the center of the picture. Just to the left of center is the parking lot. Look at the sky, it looks like we might set some more rain.

I went by 8 hours later and it is still full.



#### Saturday

Well Saturday after the rain it looks like Raintree Park is back to being a park instead of a reservoir. Looks like all the water has drained away. Yesterday it was way down. Today it was is gone. It may be soggy out here but I can't see it from the shore. Where does all of the water go? I remember a drain tile out there in the middle somewhere. It must go somewhere. Does anyone know where it goes? Note the picture from the west side. There is no water showing now.

#### Cookies

Sharon must have read the previous newsletter because at dinner she brought us some homemade cookies. Thanks Sharon, they were good!



**One of them is gone**

I guess they sold those portable buildings at the school next door. I took a couple pictures so I would have a before and after look. I figured I would be gone while they moved them out. Today they are gone when I returned from breakfast. So here is what it looks like before and after.



Before the big move.



After the big move

Now when you come up the street you might be able to see my house way before you get there. Better yet, I will be able to see down the street when I back out of the driveway. On the other hand, there will be nothing to stop the snow from blowing into my driveway this winter. Maybe you can contact me if you have a snow blower for sale. I remember a couple snow days last winter. Then I could just go to Arizona for the snow season. I could also do what I do ever year with the snow. Just let it be and wait for spring. Does any one remember



what date this was?

## **Missing & Found Friends**

### **Ina**

I was sitting having breakfast and Ina walked in. I haven't seen her in long time. It was good to see her. I am going to add her to the newsletter group, right after she sends her email address. I recall there were things in the past newsletters about her in them.

### **Reunion**

Saturday night, 8/4, I went to a get-together with some co-workers. Well, I guess you would call them ex-co-workers now since I have retired.

Some are just the same, some have changed, some have moved on to other jobs, some I feel may be moving on. I think this may be the same as you might see in any group of old friends.

It was good to see them and talk about old and new times. A few of us hung around long after the other left. We talked and talked until the wee small hours of the night. I think we all had a good time. I know I had a great time.

### **Melanie**

By now you know that Melanie is not working at Vaughan's. I contacted her to see what she is doing now. This is what I found out.

...I'm going to miss you, Bill, Irene, and Annie. I will also miss my former co-workers. I enjoyed my time there and we all had lots of fun picking on each other. I'm going to miss being in your newsletter. I think this last one was the first one that I've been pictured in. It looks like I will be moving to San Diego, CA in about 2 months. Jason wants me to move in with him. I can't find any reason not to go. The weather is great, there are no mosquitoes, and he really is a great guy. I won't forget to keep in touch. Wish me luck!!!

Lil' Melanie

## **RV Travel Stuff**

*By Chuck Woodbury*

Why do we do things a certain way without knowing why? Do you ever accept "truths" told to you by a parent or friend? When you ask someone why you should do something a certain way, and get the response, "because that's the way it's always done," do you just accept that answer or question it?

Permit me to tell a short story: An animal researcher put four gorillas in a big cage, their new home. Beginning the next day and for each day thereafter, he lowered a bunch of bananas into the cage. When the gorillas grabbed for the bananas, the researcher sprayed them all with a high-pressure hose that caused great pain. Even if only one of the animals went for the bananas, they all got hosed. Soon, the smartest gorillas began restraining those who still grabbed for the fruit. Before long, all knew to leave the bananas alone to avoid the awful punishment.

Then, the researcher pulled one of the gorillas from the cage, replacing it with another one, which, of course, grabbed for the tasty bananas



PHOTO OF THE WEEK: Excellent theme for a mailbox on the Oregon coast.

when offered. But the other three gorillas, knowing the painful consequences, held the new gorilla back. Soon, the new gorilla avoided the bananas, too.

One by one, each of the original gorillas was replaced with a new one. Each time, the newbie was physically restrained when grabbing for the bananas.

Finally, the last original gorilla was removed from the cage leaving four gorillas that knew nothing of the powerful hose.

The last arrival, like those before him, quickly learned to avoid the fruit. And so it came to be that none of the animals went for it.

A human observing the scene at this point might wonder "Why don't they eat those bananas?" If the gorillas could speak, they might say, "we don't eat them because that's the way it must be," with no further comment.

Ask yourself. What do you do in your daily lives "because it's always done that way?" Think of the gorillas. You might find that you don't have a clue, other than someone told you so.

Source RV Travel newsletter # 288

## **Mt Rushmore**

If mountains could talk: Rushmore as you've never seen it

This is a video you need to go to the Internet and see. Sorry people reading this on paper.

<http://rvvideos.blogspot.com/2007/07/mt-rushmore-as-you-have-never-seen-it.html>

## **Trivia. . .**

A cow must consume more than 125 pounds of food and water to produce one pound of butter.

## **Bumper Snicker**

"I love animals. They're delicious."

"I respect your opinion. I just don't want to hear it."

## **Worth Pondering**

"When a friend is in trouble, don't annoy him by asking if there is anything you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it." -- E.W. Howe

"Take chances, make mistakes. That's how you grow. Pain nourishes your courage. You have to fail in order to practice being brave." -- Mary Tyler Moore

Source: <http://rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue287.shtml> and #288

## **Something to think about**

### **Menard's Wisdom**

"The best thing for anybody who has nothing to say is to nothing and stick to it."

"I believe in forgiveness and the redemption of ignorance."

"Worry is a misuse of imagination."

"You are bigger than the things that annoy you."

"Like a postage stamp, sticking to it gets you there."

"It is better to learn late than never."

"Weather circumstances make one bitter or better depends entirely upon the 1."

Source: Menard's ad week of 8-8-07]

## **Feedback**

### **Newsletter personality**

I must be changing because someone said that part of me was missing in the newsletter. I will see if I can find him and bring him back to Marty's Random News.



Feedback on Feedback

I keep changing because that is what I do. Change it the only thing that is permanent. I hear that no one like change. Change happens all the time

**Letter to Marty**

Dear Marty (author of Marty's Random Thoughts),

I have been reading your newsletter for sometime now and have enjoyed it. But I have to say, since it has become an edited piece of work, it has lost "something". Dare I say, I think your newsletter has lost its "randomness".

While your editor has done an AMAZING job and she should definitely get breakfast or at least coffee out of the deal, I think you should return to your old, "unedited" ways.

Please consider it,  
A Concerned Reader

Feed back on letter

I must agree that I need to buy a round for Heather. She is doing a fantastic job. After the previous issue I might owe her more than just breakfast.

As for the randomness, I will have to some random thoughts on that.

**Request**

I was requested to put less computer stuff and links to the Internet in the newsletter.

Request feedback.

The previous issue of this had only links to the sources of where I got some of the information I used. I need this so the sources get credit for their stuff. There were only 4 of those links.

As for me going on and on about my DSL connection, that was more about getting something fixed than the Internet.

I get a lot of information from the Internet by surfing and email. The whole thing is written, edited, printed and stored on the computer. Without the computer and the Internet, there would be no newsletter. So, it is highly unlikely that that will change much.

Marty

**This is enough**

I end this issue with a bunch of old pictures.

So until next time,

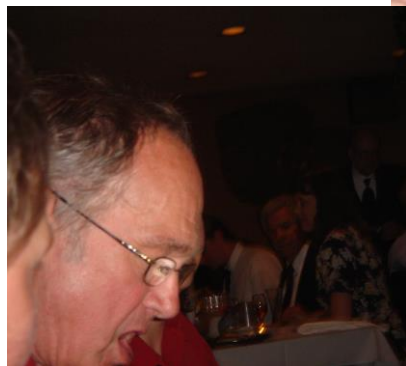
Te Dua

Marty

PS:

Oops, Puzzle answers are after the pictures.

## Pictures from the Past



**Top Left:** Dan, Marcia, and Aunt Annie. Did you pose for this? - **Top Center:** Aunt Annie and Jim at Family Picnic. When was that? - **Top Right:** Cork looks like he hit his head on tat fan at Jeremy & Tonya wedding - **Center left:** Why is that pig on the roof? - **Middle Center:** why dose mike have his mouth open? again at Jeremy & Tonya wedding - **Center right:** Shirley's birthday, 30 again? - **Lower left:** Diane, Cork, Jeremy, Chelli, and little Betsy. 3 years ago? **And last the Family Picture:** How did they get all of us together?



**Last weeks answers:**

5	4	8	3	6	2	1	9	7
3	1	9	4	5	7	6	8	2
2	6	7	1	9	8	4	5	3
8	2	4	9	7	1	5	3	6
7	5	3	6	2	4	8	1	9
1	9	6	8	3	5	7	2	4
9	8	1	2	4	6	3	7	5
4	3	5	7	8	9	2	6	1
6	7	2	5	1	3	9	4	8

I noticed that the Easy and Hard Sudoku answers were the same. So you get only one answer. Also I see they are only 9 pages. Since it process 12 any way, I am adding what I have after Heather finished editing this newsletter. So from the answer to the end is my editing. I get credit for the goofiness.

**Oopzy!****Names**

Names are personal. My Spelling is atrocious, spelled B-A-D! So, if I got your name miss spelled, *please* set me right. I understand I may have Triston's name spelled wrong. So, Tristan if it is wrong please set me straight. Is it "Tristan" or "Triston" or something else???

Marty

**Random Stuff****15-Aug-2007****New people**

The Dinner Group came in to sit in there typically spot. I looked down there and got a devilish grin. Anila said; "This is Tristan's mom and dad...What your name?" They replied; "Russ and Connie." Anila then told them; "That is Marty. He will put you in the newsletter for taking his spot!" Russ said that he knew all about it and has read the newsletter and that they were looking forward to being in the newsletter. Russ, are you happy now?

It was Russ's birthday so I guess it was ok. We would let it go this time. You know it is getting harder and harder to get my spot. I think I may have to lease that spot. Then I could sublease it on those times when I am not there. That would mean for 2-3 hours a day I could have it rented out to others.

**16-Aug-2007****Boss don't know**

I thought the owners and/or bosses should know what is going on. I came in and I stopped to talk to Mary a little bit before going to sit down. I see there was a cup of coffee in my spot. Thinking they had given away my spot to a real customer, I asked David if some one had put that coffee there for me or was some one else sitting there? He gave some kind of answer like he didn't know. I thought the owner should know those thing. He didn't! I asked Mary and she said that she takes care of me. The coffee was sitting there for me. She said she saw me drive up and wanted to make sure I got my spot. Mary, Thanks for taking care of me.

**17-Aug-2007 8:15am 62°F***Rainy Weather*  
.....

I was looking at the history of the rain fall that I have recorded since I put in my weather station. I see that the top three month for rain since March 2004 were May2004 with 7.25". and then July2007 6.25" and August 2007 7.19" so far. And there are still a few days left to water us down this month. Lot of rain!

*Insurance*  
.....

You may remember I was in the hospital about six weeks ago. Yes, it has been six weeks already! Good thing for insurance. 95% was paid. Well, I guess I should pay my part now. They might beat me up and then I might have another hospital bill to pay. You never know. ☺

*Mom's Birthday*  
.....

Today was Mom's Birthday. She would have been 90 today. Some times I wonder if she had never had smoked if she would still been around to tell us about it. Please do not read this newsletter while your are smoking. Now, I am not telling you to stop smoking, that is your choose. Just have one less for your Mother.

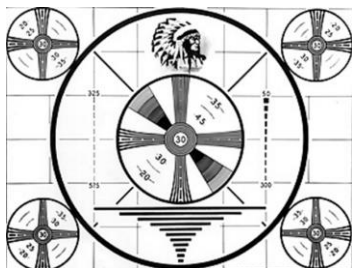
*Rabbits*  
.....

What does "rabbit, rabbit, rabbit" mean when said at the first of the month? Kim said that Spike O'Dell says this on WGN radio every first day of the month. And she said that she cannot find out what it means. She has emailed WGN and Spike and has not received a response. I have never heard it before. Yes, there some things I do not know! So if you know please stop down at the Three Brothers between 7:00am - 1:00pm on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday and let here know. This is Kim the waitress not Kim owner. I think the owner could care less about rabbits.

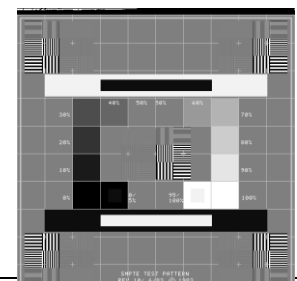
Thinking about Kim she was saying that she was looking at some pieces of new furniture for their house. She was talking pieces of of furniture for the dinning room or some where. I am always glad to hear about new furniture for the house. I like it too. But when I go to get furniture I like to get the whole thing not just pieces. Kim, why don't you look at the whole thing in stead of pieces?

*Printer quality*  
.....

I was wondering how good the print quality of my printer was doing with the newsletter. I went out looking for test patterns to see what I could find. And the first one I found was this one with the Indian. It came out in the 1930's.



So I needed something a little newer. So I found this one that is good for black and white. I can see the letter ok so I don't think it would



help me much for the printer test.

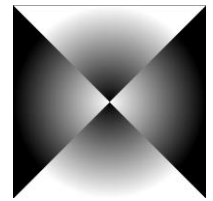
I do print pictures so I really need one for the gray scale and for contrast. I found this neat one for that. (on the right)

Then I remembered that I am red-green color blind. So I have to put one in here

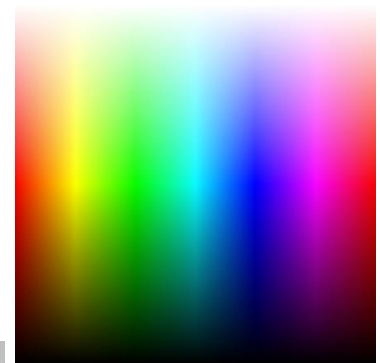


with the colors with the names on them to see how they look. That is why this one is here. I made it a little bigger so we could read it.

And then there are all of the different versions of the colors and that we can see. That test looks like this one.



And now that I have all these mini test patterns, now we need one that really tells us if looks good or not. I found the test pattern below for that. I thought this was a good visual test pattern to see pictures in black and white and in color. You can decide if it is ok for what you see with your eyes. My eyes think it is ok.



So there you have the print test. Know you and I can see how I am printing . I am sure you needed to know this!

### **Second closing**

So this is the second closing of thins news letter. I have nothing for page 12 so I leave it blank for you to take notes.

Bye again.

Marty

PS: I stuck in a couple more birthdays. Check yours.



Page  
Left  
Blank  
for you