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27-May-20 9:50 pm @home 70° ●

Ok #188 has started and I have nothing yet!

Camino de Santiago

28-May20 12:32 pm @EWT 75° ☁

Today I was walking on the treadmill for 20 minutes. This is the first day in a row of one. I need to keep this going for eleven more months.

If I get going with this walking, I will not need to get a new vehicle.

Now I am hungry!

Changing the Look 🔍

29-May-20 11:17 am @EWT 66° ☀

I decided to change my headings. Most newsletters/newspapers have the date written after the headline. I thought I would try this.

I would add “by Marty Metras” too, except I am the only one writing anything here.

I am looking to not having the graphics in the Table of Contents, but I want those icons in the body.

If I italicize the date, then the icons look funny, but the date looks ok. I used a 7-point type and left it un-italicized. I will also align it to the right.

Now if I add something new, I will just have the type on this line.

And now more things.

Starbucks ☕

Did I tell you the Starbucks on The Square is open? You can get your coffee but cannot stay to drink it. The tables are across

Marty's Random Thoughts

the street. I never even parked on the inside of the square let alone walk over there.

For now, I will just get my coffee and drive away.

EW Training

EWT is still closed for classes though Michelle is doing some personal training through video on Facebook.

The current plan is to start up classes in July. It will be good to get back in the groove and see all the people.

I am here today to see what is happening. That is about all I have heard that is for sure.

We will see.

Garden

I planted all those radishes in my garden. They are growing like weeds. The seed was 20 years old. It was nice to see them things germinate.

The strawberries in blossom. Will not be long and I can make strawberry/rhubarb pie. Yup I have rhubarb that is near ready too.

That is about all I have in the garden.

CNC Router

I have not been working with it much. I have a lot of ideas but have not been interested in doing anything.

Sewing

I sewed a few face masks and made my pin cushion, then stopped.

I have those shirts I never finished.

I just have not been motivated to finish more.

If I do not start sewing, I need to put away my stuff and stop tripping over it.

Treadmill

I need to go out to the treadmill since I am still out here.

Ok, I got 21 minutes today.

New Month, June

1-Jun-20 11:05 am @EWT 63° ☁

Here it is June and I still do not have a new car yet. I need to start looking soon or I will be walking. Not really, I could put air in the tires of my bicycle and use that. 😞

I cannot see me on my bike too soon!

Exercise

I need to go out on the treadmill now. My goal today is one more minute than the last time.

Yesterday I mowed both the front and the back grass in the same day. I am still walking behind the mower. I do not have a rider yet. I cannot buy a new car and a riding mower. Well not a \$1,200 mower.

I best get out there on the treadmill! 🏃

It May Be Time

5-Jun-20 4:18 pm @home ~86° 🌞

My Car is getting less reliable. I must start doing some serious car hunting. I have done some web surfing to see what I could buy for around \$5,000.

I looked at the reviews and it looks like I can find a 10-year old car with 100,000 to 150,000 miles on it for that price.

Toyota's and Honda's cars are promising. There are few pickups in that price range, but most of them have 200,000 miles on them.

Hinge

My Camper it starting to show some ware too. I had to order a hinge for the utility door. I looked at using something different than what was made for it. It was easier to just order the replacement hinge.

The hinge is 2 meters (78") long and has a built-in seal. If I put in a piano hinge it could leak and could rust. Finding a Stainless-Steel hinge had to be drilled and would cost almost as much as the OEM hinge, I ordered. I just must get some rivets to install it.

Marty's Random Thoughts

Want to help install it. Mabe 2 hours with two of us. Maybe all day if I do it alone.

EWT Training 🤖

Michelle is getting ready to paint the back wall at the training center.

You may ask why I am not there to help her. Well, I just get in the way. Painting and I do not get along. If she needs me, she will ask, and I will be there to do what I can.

Walking

Oh, I forgot to get on the treadmill this morning. I am up to 36 minutes. I am trying for one more minute each time until I get to an hour. Then I will start going a little faster.

The reason I say 60 minutes is because that is as far as the timer goes.

Maybe since it is a nice day, I could walk up town or out to the garage.

Back Porch

6-Jun-20 10:58 am @home ~79° 🌞

I had all these plans for today. Sams Club, Walmart, Car looking, and maybe work in the garage a little.

I went out to the garage and started carving a project and it said 32 minutes to finish. I decided to sweep the floor in the back porch.

To sweep the back porch I need to move some stuff around so I could see the floor. My dumpster was empty, so I started filling it. You know 90% of all that stuff fit in the dumpster. I put the stuff I wanted to keep where it belonged and everything else filled that trash bin!

I washed some of the stuff and it is now dry. Even washed the floor mats from the car.

I need to cut a few boards that will not fit in the trash bin with the door open. After all that is why I still have that dumpster, is it not! So, the dumpster is near full and I am done. 😊

Well I must check on my glue in the garage.

Busy Day Yesterday

9-Jun-20 9:52 am @EWT? ° 🌞

Yesterday, yah, busy! Not really. A lot of interruptions. I needed to mow the lawn. That did not happen. I had a Doctor's appointment. Did not happen either.

Oh, I got the hinge for the Camper. I was going the turn around the camper so that side with the utility door is easier to work on. That also did not happen yesterday.

On the other hand, I watch the last episode of The Flash. And I took the trash out to the curb. 😊

I am always amazed, how God laughs when you have a plan.

I had a nice visit with my nephew, Jeremy. It did not bother me that I did not finish all the things I had planned.

So Far Today

I have brought in the trash containers. I have turned the Camper around and that door did not fall off while doing it.

I got up to Starbucks and found a parking spot. Parking spots are a premium on Farmers Market Day on the Square.

This is the second time they got my order correct since they reopened.

I order a "Blended Ice Grande Blonde Latte with Almond". This is basically a latte mixed in crushed ice.

I tried an "Espresso Frappuccino® with Almond milk". They were too sweet.

The difference it these two drinks is the Frappuccino® syrup. That's it! 😊

Oh well, I need to get out on the treadmill.

Frappuccino®

10-Jun-20 12:32 pm @EWT 82° 🌞

I went to Starbucks this morning and ordered an Espresso Frappuccino with Almond Milk and only one pump of

Marty's Random Thoughts

Frappuccino mix. It was still sweet but much better than the Latte. Maybe I just do not know what I really want. I must watch them mix it because I think they make it in habit mode and make it the same way. 😊

Lawn Mowing Delayed

Yesterday I remembered a little late to start cutting the grass. When I got out there, I thought I might get done. I got down the edge of the driveway and half the way across the tree bank when it started to rain.

Did I say "rain"? It poured!!! I was soaked by the time I got back to the garage. It kept pouring off and on the rest of the day.

I see the grass is dry now, but I have an appointment to go to. Friday is my next no rain day.

Camper Hinge

The rain stopped me from working on the Camper too. I need to get that fixed because one of these days my car will cease to work, and I will need it.

Since I have it turned around, I can work on it most any time, if it is dry out there.

Oh, it is treadmill time!

Garden

11-Jun-20 9:44 am @EWT 67° 🌞

I have not been watching my garden much this year. Yesterday before it rained on me, I looked.

Radishes

The Radishes are big enough that I need to pull a couple and see what is happening. Maybe eat them. 😊

Remember, these were 20-year old seed. Any would be great.

There are a bunch of weeds in there I need to take care of too.

Strawberries

The Strawberries looked good! A week or so ago there were a lot of flowers. I see I have little berries starting. Soon I will be able to eat a few.

Rhubarb

I planted green Rhubarb and not the red kind. I thought they were the same. As I remember the red kind did not go the seed until late in the year.

We the Green Rhubarb start flower stalks almost as soon as there are leaves. The part you eat is green. I have a lot of stims for Rhubarb/Strawberry Pie. They are just green. No matter they taste the same to me.

I think I need to do some research on the difference between the red and green Rhubarb. I will be back...

Well here is the lowdown on green rhubarb. It seems that the green variety is green and the it is basically the same.

As for the flowering it is because they are older plants, or they need more care. Care like food and water or maybe even transplanting. It is just that the red rhubarb gives the garden a different look.

So, Green is good! 🟢

Red too! 🟡

Tools or Robots

13-Jun-20 9:23 am @home 56° 🌞

I never had a horse and buggy. My first major tool was a '47 Chevy. Later, I have a 2003 Honda Civic Hybrid. It is still a tool for the most part. More modern cars are so much a robot than they are a tool. I still want one of the self-driving cars.

I had a robot in the 1980s. It was a Heath Kit "Hero-One". It had one arm and it moved around on wheels. I gave it away because of being color blind. Me not the robot. I had to assemble it and most of the parts were color coded. That was difficult for me.

I have many tools. Tools meaning something I need to do a lot of handling to make them do things. I have learned a lot by using tools.

My CNC Router is more a Tool than a robot. I must help it a lot!

Marty's Random Thoughts

In the earlier part of the century I bought a robot vacuum. You charge the battery and push the button to make it start. If something got in its way it would bang into it and back up and go around it. It was more robot.

My newer Roomba (robot vacuum) is much better. I set it to start to vacuum at noon and it takes off running. When the battery gets low it finds its way to the charger and charges itself. Occasionally, it gets stuck on rugs and dirty socks on the floor. All in all, it does well.

...Wait a minute I lost my coffee...

There is even a Roomba that dumps its own dirt. You only empty its bin from time to time.

My last Robot is out in the back cutting the grass. Yup, I had to do it!

The Worx Landroid cuts the grass on a schedule and parks itself on the charger when it needs it. And if it rains, it comes back home and waits for it to be drier.



Worx Landroid

You do have to do some setup for this. I started by putting a wire around the yard so it would not get lost. That is all I have done so far. I can extend it to go around trees, garden, and other stuff.

I have found that it will bang into these things and backup and go around trying to avoid them.

It is running its first mowing now. 😊

It had got stuck in a rabbit hole once. Well, hole!

I watch it go all the way around the outside without crossing that signal wire. That means it should not meander into the street on its own.

It also has an anti-theft device on it. It is kind a Lo-Jack for robot lawn mowers.

I must fill some of those holes in the yard. I see it scuffling with a few of them. I wonder how many bags of dirt I will need. Maybe it would be cheaper to get a truck full. We will see! 🚚

Well, I should check on my new baby.

Looking Good

I checked on my Landroid and it was doing so good I set it the cut a little shorter. I had set to the maximum height because I had not ... Woops, another hole! That too I need to fill! 😞

Where was I! Oh yah, height its cutting. The max height is about is 3.4 inches. I can go down to about 1.6 inches.

It seems to be struggling to cut my six inch plus grass. The manual says to mow the lawn down below 4" before you use the Landroid. So, who reads manuals before you start?

It is cutting most of it. I may have to get out there a mow it once.

First, I need to get some dirt and fill some of the holes that cause the Landroid to stop.

Accessories

There are a few things I see I need to do. One is either run wire around my flower boxes or get the "Landroid Anti-Collision System". It is basically eyes, so it does not run in to things. For now, that will wait.

The other thing is the "Landroid Garage Protection". Yes, garage! It is a cover for the charging station. It is sitting under the eaves. It could still get soaked in a rainstorm.

There only a few other gadgets I could buy for my new friend. One is 'Landroid Off Limits Digital Fencing'. This is for your

Marty's Random Thoughts

yard chairs and tables or maybe a summer pool. It is for temporary obstacles.

I already have the GPS tracker.

You can get extra wire, stakes, and new cutting blades too.

Whoops, it must have found another hole. My iPhone just told me it is stuck again.

I best go get a couple bags of dirt! 😊

June 18th, 2012

18-Jun-20 6:53 am 😊

No, I did not enter the wrong year. On June 18th, 2012 I spent the evening on the beach near Fisterra, Spain. Many of my fellow pilgrims joined up to celebrate Iain's birthday. I miss the Camino!

Fisterra Spain was considered the end of the world as it was the most/is the westerly point in in Europe. I long to go back!

It was kind of the end of my walk. My Camino, Way, Path of life had just begun. I really enjoyed those two months.

My thought today is to try it again in April or May next year. It all depends how my health and money hold up.

It took 48 days from the time I made my first step on May 4 onto the Camino.

I returned home on June 23rd and have thought about going back ever since.

When I headed off to walk the Camino in 2012 it was to finish something. Most of my life I start something and never finish it.

Trying the Camino in 2007 was a bust, but a learning process.

I had retired in early March 2007 and headed off to Germany in mid-April. I stayed at Mike and Petra's for a week or so then headed to Spain with Mike to walk the Camino. After Mike left everything fell apart.

After I had walked only 1/3 of the way I hopped a train to Santiago then got on a train back to Germany then home.

In September 2011 I met Michelle and started exercising. In May-2012 I headed back to finish what I had started. Not finish,

but to start over. One-way plane ticket so I did not have to rush.

I had a great time!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lunch Time

19-Jun-20 11:41 am @EWT ☀

Wait lunch will wait. Well for 10 minutes.

Landroid

Yesterday I wired the south side of the lawn in the front for the robot mower (Landroid). Now the back yard and half the front yard is covered.

My body does not like that crawling on the ground driving stakes. 😞 Like the back yard it took all day.

I would go until I got tired and then take a break. In the old days I would take a break for a few minutes and then work for hours.



Anyway, only two more sections to wire and stake down.

I got out to lunch. I will continue...

I cannot do any more wiring and staking because I ran out of wire, stakes, and I need those cord protectors to cross the driveway and sidewalk.

The sidewalk will be easy as there is a bad piece of cement I need to replace. I can put the wire in the cement when I pour it.

On the driveway I need to go over it to get that strip between the driveway and the school fence. I am not sure where I will cross the driveway. There are things to consider. Things like snowplows, shovels, cars, and things like that.

Maybe I could saw a line across the driveway and put the wire in there. Maybe I could do that later. For now, I will just go across the top.

These are things to think about. 😞

Where the Landroid is mowing it is doing fine. I will know more after it rains. It has

Marty's Random Thoughts

not rained since I fired it up last Sunday. It is a nice toy tool!

Quiet Time

21-Jun-20 10:28 am @Home ☀️

Nice morning. I went up to Starbucks and grabbed a cup of coffee. Found out you still cannot hang around, so I came home.

The cat was checking out Goofy, my robot lawn mower. He moved on and laid in the grass for a while then jumped the fence and when home.

I noticed the glue that held the steering shaft came loose so I figured I should fix it. This is part of my add-on and not a Landroid part.

I also modified how Goofy was sitting. He looked goofy staring into the sky. He needed a cushion behind him, so he sat up more erect. I gave him the day off because the grass is growing slowly.



Goofy getting ready to mow the Lawn.

You know I had to get those two together! 😊

Sore

The other day I strung that guide wire around half the front yard. I was getting

tired when I got lucky and ran out of wire and stakes.

My right thigh is still in pain today, though it is getting better. I am sure this will pass.

I will not have more stakes until Tuesday or Wednesday. No cord guide for crossing the driveway until next week either.

Oh, woe is me! I will have to rest up my sore leg!

Calm of the Day

It was nice sitting out on the picnic table in the back yard sipping coffee and reading my book.

The book I am reading is titled "The Way is Made for Walking", by Arthur Paul Boers.

It is one of those books I cannot put down very easily.

He talks about the Camino and is a particularly good writer. The book is so much about the Camino as it is a theology of the Camino and life.

I am enjoying the read!

The Quiet Got Broken

While reading and enjoying my book I am noticing the quiet of the day. My mind wonders a little from time to time when I get a twinge in my leg. For the most part it was peaceful and quiet.

Then someone nearby started mowing the grass. I remembered how loud those gas engines are when they explode the gasoline each time the piston gets to the top of the cylinder and the spark plug fires.

I had an electric lawn mower a few years back and it was heavy and loud. When it needed a new battery, I stopped using it and went back to a gas engine. It was noisy, but it pulled me around the yard and I did not have to push it.

The Landroid, Goofy, randomly cuts the grass running very slowly as it goes. I make truly little noise. Goofy has razor blades that

Marty's Random Thoughts

Michelle is going on vacation and I will not be out to EW Training until Monday or Tuesday. She is going to start classes on Tuesday. Monday people will bring back the equipment they have at home. We need to sanitize everything to get ready for the reopening.

I am not sure how it will be at first. Some people are scared and will be staying home.

Even though I am in that age group that should be careful, I am not that fussy. It is just another day of the week.

I wear the mask if I must and have been staying home for the most part. You can go any where with out it.

Today I forgot my mask in the car and sat in Starbucks visiting with Steve for a half hour. I do not think the world is over it yet.

I came back from shopping for supplies to make sanitary wipes for the training center. They have been hard to find for a while. We have been making our own for a few years. We started adding Alcohol since the coronavirus started being an issue.

I found alcohol, paper towels, and Lysol wipes today! All in one trip to two stores. Things are getting batter!

We had 2 inches of rain yesterday. All at once!

My leg feels much better today. I have been sore for more than a week.

What else?

The hinge for the utility door on the camper. I am thinking I need to have Sunny Island RV change it. It is more than I want to do.

I need to call them!

I have other things I would rather be doing. I just need to empty that bay or tape it, so it does not fall off when I drive to Rockford.

Wow, I just called Sunny Island and they said they are busy until at least July 13th.

I have to re-think this.

July 1st, 2020 8:09 am @EWT

Here it is a new month and time to publish this issue. My mouse battery just got drained and I do not like the touch pads for editing. So...

I hope you are all well in the new month. I should get a battery now.

Love yah,
Marty

MARTY'S RANDOM THOUGHTS

The Backer Page

MY BOOKS



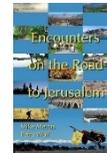
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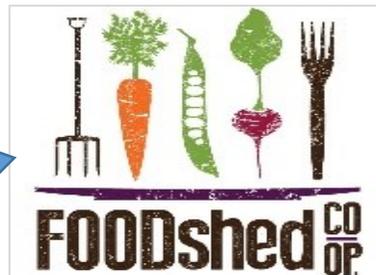


Mike's and Petra's Books
can be found on
LuLu.com and Amazon.com



FoodShed.coop

We are a group of regular folks working hard to open a community-owned grocery store in McHenry County, IL and we hope you will join us!



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Woodstock Illinois

(815) 308-5021

info@EWTrainingWoodstock.com

EWTrainingWoodstock.com

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