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30-Jul-21 4:48 pm @home 73°
31-Jul-21 2:47 pm @home 78°

Electric Car

So, I was wondering where the public charging stations were in Woodstock. No, I did not buy an electric car. Just wondering about a local charging station.

Seems there are two on Throop Street next to the old gravestone store in the parking lot next door to the north. What is in the building now...

Oh, maybe they still have gravestones. Their name is Afterglow Creative Services.

It looks like they might be a photo/video production company now.

2-Aug-21 12:11 pm @EWT 73°

EW Training is now a Wellness Center too. A new person is moving into one of the rooms out here as I type. I will need to figure out what services she will be providing once she gets a little settled. I kind of know but I have not talked to you

about her yet. Right now, she is just making noise unpacking.

I guess it was a Wellness Center before. Heather has been giving massages right along. Sorry, Heather, you are so quiet I forgot you.

New Email

I replaced that old free email service for the MRT newsletter alerts with a new free email service. Let me know if you do not get my emails.

Funny, if you do not get my emails, how will you know I would like you to let me know you are not getting them. 😊

Virtual Camino

Well, I just synced up my FitBit to see how I am doing on my walk.

I am just not making any headway. I am averaging less than 1.6 miles a day. I wanted to do a whole lot better than that!

Marty's Random Thoughts

Tammy had finished the Camino and is ready the start in another place. Corky has covered 502 miles making him almost done too. I have walked 271 miles. That is not even halfway.

I am going to go on vacation if I want to make any headway. Michelle will just have to get her own coffee for a while. 😊

3-Aug-21 8:09 am @ewt 61°

Whole Point

I guess the real name is "Whole Point Acupuncture". That is Michelle's new tenant at EW Training. Candace moved in yesterday and is settling in more now.

I will need to check this out and see what she does.

Here is Candace's card.



Camino Plans

I think one of the things that might stop me from walking the Camino is my health. In the back of my head, I was wondering if I should walk across Spain.

I have a lot of things that give me concern. Yesterday I saw this on Facebook in an American Pilgrims post.

I trained for the Camino but then had to have a triple surgery procedure 12 weeks before my departure date that put me in bed for 10 of those weeks and unable to train due to pain right up to & including when I started my Camino - but I did it - I cried behind my sunglasses for the first week as I struggled with pain & fatigue but before I knew it I was starting to regain some fitness and it would take longer before I felt my body tiring - so just go - just do it - plan shorter days in the beginning and listen to your body. It's not a race and you will get fit!! By the time I walked into Santiago I didn't want to stop walking because I felt alive and energized... so don't let fitness be your excuse.. don't

out-think your abilities... just go knowing that yes it may be hard at first but by the end, you will be fitter and your new appreciation of your body will encourage you to start challenging yourself to get out more and walk.

Source: Facebook, American Pilgrim

Followed by this one.

Jeremiah's quote exactly :) no matter what your health issues are, a reminder of how amazing your body, mind and spirit is will be renewed during your journey. I love the Camino and am looking forward to doing many more. You not only get fit & healthy, but you also get an emotional reboot along the way <3

Source: Facebook, American Pilgrim

So, you see, I will be walking the Way, if I can still walk!

What was I doing before I was thinking about the Camino?

I looked at tours to walk the Camino, self-guided ones. You get a hotel and breakfast. They also transfer your backpack to the next hotel. It looks like that cost around \$4,200.

I still must buy my food and transportation to St. Jean, start points, and home.

Since it is a 36-day tour that meant it is about \$120 a day for a hotel. Albergues are from \$5 to \$12 a night. I think they charge less than \$25 to transfer your backpack ahead.

Everything I would have to buy anyway. I think I may be ruling out a tour company.

5-Aug-21 9:37 am @ EWT 75°

Taxes

Well, I would call it taxes, would you not. They are charging 10¢ a bag for those plastic bags in the stores.

Maybe I should find all those reusable bags in the car, Camper, and house and start using them.

I do not like paying for something and then take it back to get nothing in return.



Marty's Random Thoughts

In the old days the pop bottles you would get your deposit back. I remember 2¢ or was it more? It was a long time back.



Almost enough for a new car!

PT Cruiser

I was wondering what the "PT" in PT Cruiser stood for. I was thinking it might be Personal Transport but NO! The "PT" stands for "**Plymouth Truck**".

That kind of makes sense because it looks a little like an old panel truck from when I was a kid.

So, there you have it!

Wait!

Officially, the "PT" stands for "Personal Transportation," but the initials also designate the car's platform. The Neon was based on the Chrysler PL platform, or "Platform Low," while the Cruiser was based on the Chrysler PT platform, for "Platform Tall."

Source: Internet

Wonder what else I can find on the internet.

PT stands for part-time according to Chrysler.

And.

Originally, the PT Cruiser was to come out like a Plymouth product. It was originally to be short for "Plymouth Truck" or "Plymouth Transport". It's also a slight abbreviation of the original show car prototypes called the PRONTO Cruiser. When Daimler bought Chrysler (and ruined a great company), they got rid of the Plymouth brand and so the Cruiser was then shuffled into the Chrysler family - to become the "entry-level" Chrysler. At that point, it was then changed to mean "Personal Transport".

Source: Internet

Wait, it cannot stand for "Plymouth Truck", can it? It is a Chrysler is it not?

I think I will call it just a "PT Cruiser" until something sinks into my thoughts.

8-Aug-21 10:34 pm @home 74°

Cubs Lights

How many of you remember when they turned on the lights in Wrigley Field? Well, I remember it was on 8-8-88 at 8 pm.



9-Aug-21 9:47 am @EWT 69°

Raining

It is raining! It was pouring while I was at Starbucks earlier. Now it has been pouring again with lightning and thunder for about 15 minutes.

We need the rain.

Birthday

Today is Tammy's birthday. Happy Birthday, Tammy!

Well, I think it looks a little like her.



Rain

We have had almost 3.5 inches of rain so far. Yes, it is raining and raining and raining some more. And it will not be done until later this afternoon.

There is another wave of wet stuff!

Rain at 5:52 pm

Will it ever stop raining? I just looked at the weather map and I think it is finished for today. I recorded 4 inches of the wet stuff.



Marty's Random Thoughts

10-Aug-21 2:20 pm @home 86°

Well, the rains have stopped, and my weather station showed a little over four inches since yesterday morning. Enough for me for a while.

It warmed up and now it is very humid.

I am going out to the garage and work a little. Unless it is too humid for me.

I am trying to use the X-Carve to make some Wooden Nickels. Those little wooden discs are so small, I needed to make a fixture to hold them. I am trying to get the dimensions set for the fixture. I have still some more work on it. It should work this time. 🍌

11-Aug-21 9:40 am @EWT 79°

We did not get much rain last night, but the wind sure did blow! My weather station recorded a gust of 34 MPH. There are tree branches down in the neighborhood. I have a few to clean up when I get home.

The power went out for a short time too. Maybe I should go for solar and wind to create my electricity.

I hear thunder as I type. Don't worry, it is just a little rumbling. 😊

We have had about 4.5" of rain this month and 4-1/4" was this week. It has been wet the last few days!

Whoops, we just got hammered!

12-Aug-21 8:13 am @EWT 70°

After that rain yesterday I am tired of it. I think it is done for a while now. When I get home, I can start clearing the yard of tree parts.

After all those winds there are a few branches and a lot of twigs to clean up. I am pretty sure nobody else will do it for me. I need the exercise!

I wonder what else today will bring.

Laptop

I need a new laptop for home. Even though the one at home was a supercomputer when I bought it, it is not so much anymore. It is old technology and is starting to show its age.

I am thinking I will stay away from the high-end laptop and just go with a new Acer. My HP was a new high-end new technology laptop. I had so

much trouble with it, so it is time to look for a replacement. So, I will start checking and see what is out there.

13-Aug-21 4L57 pm @home 74°

Happy Friday the 13th

I was just checking out Facebook and I found this. I posted on Marty's Random Thoughts Facebook, but it needed to be here too.

Too funny not to share:

Yesterday, I had a flat tire on I-20. So I eased my travel trailer over to the shoulder of the road, carefully got out, and reached in the side compartment I took out two cardboard men, unfolded them, and stood them at the rear of my RV facing on-coming traffic. They looked so life-like you wouldn't believe it! They're dressed in open trench coats that exposed their nudity to the approaching drivers. But to my surprise, cars started slowing down to look at my lifelike men. And, of course, traffic began backing up. Everybody beeped their horns and waved like crazy. It wasn't long before a state trooper pulled up behind me.

He got out of his car and walked towards me. I could tell he was not a happy camper!

"What's going on here?"

"My travel trailer has a flat tire," I said calmly.

"Well, what the heck are those obscene cardboard men doing here by the road?"

I couldn't believe that he didn't know. So I told him.....

"Helloooooo, those are my emergency flashers!"

Always be prepared and safe first out there.....seriously be careful.

Borrowed from a friend.

Source: Facebook

I know it is Friday and the 13th, but all has been well for me to this point.

Since it is Friday the 13th, I figure my new laptop should be here in a couple of days. Amazon says tomorrow. I guess I can wait a day or so, but tomorrow would be nice.

I ordered another Acer. I also ordered a bigger fast drive and extra memory. I also have a slot for another drive which I already have. I have 2 of them one is 1TB HDD and the other is a 500GB SSD. Either will work in it.

Nowadays the HDD drive is slow but there is a lot of storage. The SSD drive I have is a little small but is very fast.

On the other hand, the M.2-NVMe drive that comes with it is only 128GB and I am



Marty's Random Thoughts

replacing it with a 1TB drive. The M.2 drive is much faster than the SSD drive.

If I got this right, the new laptop will be much faster than the Acer I use at EWT. And it will be many, many, many times faster than this HP.

Is it tomorrow yet! 😊

Fridays the 13ths do not always have to be unlucky.

Funny my first computer with a hard drive had a 10MB drive. 1TB is 😞😞😞😞 100,000% bigger!

Is that right? 10MB is 10,000,000. 1TB is 1,000,000,000,000. 10TB/10MB=100,000 times bigger. The 1MB drive is 0.001% smaller.

In any case, there use to be 4096 characters(4k) on a piece of paper printed from a computer. That means I could store up to 250 million pages on just one 1TB drive. Maybe it is a little overkill!

In any case, I only spend about \$500.00. I paid \$2,500 for my first computer, TRS-80 Model One. It only had 64k of Ram and a 150KB floppy drive. 😞

Is the new one here yet? 😞

So happy Friday the thirteenth!

16-Aug-21 9:42 am @home 72°

Covid-19

I had the shots but still need to get the test. I figured that would happen someday.

I need to go to the hospital for some other test. I must get some pre-test before the real test I am going therefore on Wednesday. One of the tests is for covid-19. When I got that second shot, I figured it would be the end of it. I guess not!

Well, I guess I best head to McHenry for the pretest test. 😞

Laptop

I got the new laptop last Saturday. I have most of the upgrades I wanted. An adapter will not be here until later today. Maybe that is a good thing.

I need to stay home after the Covid-19 test until after my heart test on Wednesday. I will have something to do. After that test, I need to take it easy for a couple of days while I heal up from that test.



Laptops can be tricky to upgrade. I will have a week with this one.

I need to make Windows the way I want it and get used to the new keyboard. It is a little different than this one.

I have upped the RAM to a maximum of 12GB. I installed a second drive with 1TBs of storage. I will install the 1TB main drive when I get that adapter.

I don't need that adapter, but it will make this that much easier.

The adapter is a USB drive tray. I can clone the main drive to the new drive and then just plug it in and go. Without the adapter, I would have to reinstall Windows and then load all the Acer drivers for all the hardware inside the laptop. That part would be a pain!

17-Aug-21 3:05 pm @home 80°S

Happy Birthday Mom!

Laptop

The new Laptop is almost ready for me. I have installed an extra 1TB hard drive and exchanges the 128GB M.2 NVMe for a 1TB drive. I also brought the RAM up to 10GB.

I still need to set up the email, but I do have Office up and running. Oh, I have my ownCloud installed and all the files are in sync.

There are a few utility programs I need to install. All-in-all, it will be up and running soon.

21-Aug-21 10:02 am @ home 82°

Duct Tape

I was on Facebook today and saw a question. "What is Duct Tape and what is it good for?" Here was the answer.

"Duct tape is like "The Force". There's a dark side and a light side and it holds the universe together. "

Need I say more?

New Laptop

I have been working on my new laptop all week.

Marty's Random Thoughts

I think I have everything transferred and installed on it. It is time to make it become my new Desktop Computer.

This Laptop

I think it is time to retire this one. It runs hot, it is too slow, and not upgradeable. After I use the new laptop for a couple of weeks, then I will find a new use for this one. Maybe a Linux laptop.

I think it would make a nice Linux Laptop.

I opened it up a couple of weeks ago, so I know it is pretty much not upgradeable. I bought it in June of 2014, so it is only 7 years old. The technology has changed so much it has not kept up. Changes are not available for it.

Linux runs fine on an older computer. The software also updates well. It is a hardware issue.

I need to transfer a couple of data files to the new Laptop, and I am done. Farewell, old friend!

Dollars, Cents, Euros, & Degrees

I forgot to set up \$C, \$E, \$Degrees up to be keyboard symbols. Let's see, how do I do that. It has been a long time!

Ok, "€" is preset. That is good.

©That did not work. What about (cent)? Nope!

° How about (°). Ok, now the Cents sign. Is this it?

¢ Yup ASCII Charter # 0162.

€ is Hex 20AC, ° is Hex 2070, and ¢ is ASCII 0162.

You go into File, Options, Proofing, then AutoCorrect to set them. Done!

Grammarly

I installed that! The free version of Grammarly and it told me I had 114 issues. I thought I was doing better than that! I cleaned all of that up before you find out. 😊

I had this on my old laptop. I thought it was handling my grammar. Maybe not.

When it was finished it only left me with a couple of words that were missed spelled. Those were in quotes. I generally don't me with others stuff.

Honey

I have Honey installed. It will save me a little money on Amazon.

I wonder what other little programs I might have missed.

22-Aug-21 9:55 am @home 70°

Virtual Camino

I haven't been checking my progress much lately on the virtual Camino. It looks like the 13th was my last check in.

I have updated my stats and I see I am not halfway yet. Both Cork and Tammy have completed the Camino and are on to other places.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Trail</u>	<u>Trail Position</u>
 Marty from Woodstock	Camino Francés	235.5
 Tammy from Woodstock	Appalachian Trail	128.9
 Corky from Woodstock	Tahoe Rim Trail	0

Source: Walking4Fun.com

I am not trying to catch up with them. The Camino is about Walking the Walk. My goal here is to get to Fisterra which is the end of the earth.

So far, I have been moving very slowly. I started 19th-March. At my average pace I will get to the end about the 2nd of April 2022. It will be just in time to start my real walk across Spain.

My average week is about what my average day was in 2012. What can I say, I have slowed down a little!

Marty's Random Thoughts

Breakfast

I need to go cook some eggs or something for breakfast. Then think about spreading the Weed-and-Feed on the lawn.

23-Aug-21 9:33 am @EWT 72°

Happy Birthday Mary!

Catch Up

Not that I am back at EWT after a week away, I need to catch up. Paper towels are out. I must go shopping! Wipes are out. More shopping. And I need to go to Menards!

Seems like I have not been gone long enough.

What's Up

Looking back, I did not tell you I have been disabled for about a week. I had to go to the hospital for test. They wanted to do an angiogram to see if my heart was doing what it should be doing.

Getting ready for this test was more of a pain then the real test. I had to get a chest X-ray, EKG, blood tests, and a Covid test. I guess the 2 shots were not enough, I still had to get tested!

After all of that I needed to stay home for a couple of days. Then they did the angiogram on Wednesday and told me to stay home for a couple more days. So, I took the weekend off too!

Other than them jamming the needle in my groin the test was not too bad.

They told me at the hospital they did not see anything they did not expect to find. Whatever that means!

I have an appointment on the 3rd of September where I need to ask a lot of questions. Until then I will do much as I always have.

Funny, I just thought of something. "If you always do what you always done, you will get what you always have gotten."

I bought a computer business once that did not pan out. It had a quote in the literature. I never forgot it!

I need to go do some of that shopping now.

Fitbit

You know you can walk all over Walmart pushing a cart and hardly register anything on your FitBit. It was not enough when you are on the treadmill it only registers steps and not miles.

I wonder what it does with a walking stick. It is getting harder and harder to get any distant on my Virtual Camino. Maybe I need to just get out there and start walking!

26-Aug-21 6:46 pm @Home 83°

My Cloud

I stored my cloud data on the hard drive on my new laptop. I thought it was a little slow. It took about a day to copy that data to the drive. There is about 150gb. I knew it was going to take a long time.

A couple hours ago I was wondering how quickly I could make a second copy onto the M.2 NVMe SSD drive I also installed on this laptop. I didn't even know I could do that.

Well, it has been a couple hours now and it is about 80% complete. I think the SSD drives are fast but the M.2 NVMe drives are much, much faster.

In a few minutes I will have 2 copies of my cloud data. I will remove the old copy as soon as I know the new copy is complete.

Virtual Data

If this works out, I will try and create a new cloud on the other server to just make a virtual copy of my other data. I found out before that I could just have virtual copies of the files instead of using all that space.

The whole server only has about 527gb of files. I see this server has only 2 drives totaling 3,500gb.

There is a lot of copies of data in these folders so I may not be storing this as a cloud. I need to look it all over.

I need to think on what I want to do.



Marty's Random Thoughts

28-Aug-21 9:11 am @Home 78°

Already Getting Warm

I was up to Starbucks already this morning. I was going to sit there for a while and read my book but left it out in the car.

The car was far from the door because of the Farmers Market. They are taking over The Square. They take the whole inside of the square as well as West Judd and Dean Street. They also take the space in front of Starbucks!

Yes, there are only 5 parking spaces for Starbucks but 90 % of the time one has my name on it.

I wonder with all the parking blocked how it effects the businesses on The Square. There is some parking on Johnson Street for Starbucks.

I do not go to any of the other places on The Square. I am not sure what they sell any more.

Maybe I should look around and see what there is in those other businesses.

I am sitting on the front porch. I need a table out here when I am using the laptop!

It is already 79° and a little humid for this time of the day. There is a nice wind out of the southwest that makes it better. Maybe a little window. It just blew over my coffee cup. Not to worry as it is cardboard and empty. 😊

I left Starbucks because it was crowded. People were packed in the back where drinks are picked up and there was a double line to the entrance.

I have been hanging out there a little, but it is not like it was before the pandemic started. I do not see any of the regulars for pre plague days.

I also see more people wearing mask. Maybe 25% in line had mask on their faces. Maybe it is time for me to think about putting one on again.



Virtual Camino

You may have heard me talk about my Fitbit not counting miles while on the treadmill. It does count steps. Well in Walmart I went up and down many aisles and it marked up many less steps the I

figured it should have. Maybe it was because I was holding on to the cart.

Well yesterday I started hunting around and found 2 old pedometers. One only counts steps and works in your pocket. The other one goes on your shoe. It counts steps and figures miles and calories.

I will use all three for a while and see if the step counts are close.

With me averaging only about 1.5 miles a day. 500 steps are a lot to lose. If I was walking 10 miles or 25,000 steps, I would not even think about it much.

When I go to Spain next spring, I will be walking from 5 to 20 miles a day. Mostly about 10 miles.

Let's see, 10 miles at 2 mph is 5 hours. That is about right. That is about an 8-hour day. Yes, a lot of breaks.

I have done three 20-mile days in a row. It is not much fun. Twenty miles occasionally is not bad.

So far on my Virtual Camino I am averaging 1.5 miles a day. My weekly total is what I was walking it.

Table

I leg keeps falling asleep sitting here on the front porch holding up this laptop. I need a table so I can put my feet on the floor. How would I do that.

Let's see, hinges on one side hooked to the balusters.

Maybe have it tilt so the laptop is at an angle. The legs could be on one side. Either propping on the balusters or onto the floor.

The legs need to hide away when not being used.

The other idea is a free-standing table with a tilt top. Maybe a fold away. This might be a better idea because I could use it anywhere.

I think a free-standing table that has a tilt top that folds away is the thing.

Time to go!



Marty's Random Thoughts

Road Trip

I was just thinking I have not gone on a Road Trip in a while. A while back I found a web site showing places you go, and it will be at 70° all year. Meaning a Road Trip over the USA having it be 70° each day. I need to rethink that to see if it would be doable on a trip to all 48 States.

The route I saw was something like I was going to take. The route misses many states and has me staying way too close to one area for 3 months. That will not do! I will look at it for ideas.

I looked and the 80° days map starts in March and ends in November. It covered more states.

FoodShed.coop

We are starting to gather fund to build our grocery store. Once we crossed the 1,200-owner count we could start looking for investors.

We have the land, Lake Shore Drive and US 14 in Southwest Woodstock.



Become an owned, FoodShed.coop

September Birthdays

- 17th August, Mom's aka Esther,
Sorry Mom, I forgot to post it last month!
Wonder who else I forgot.
- 2nd, Amber, Niece
- 15th, Anila, Friend
- 15th, Corky, My Brother
- 15th, Dan, Brother-in-law
- 17th, My Dad, Tom aka Lawrence
- 18th, My baby sister, Edie
- 26th, Cork's & Diane's Anniversary,
Brother & Wife



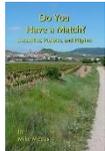
Marty's Random Thoughts



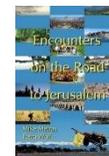
MY BOOKS
 ← **MY CAMINO DE SANTIAGO ADVENTURE**
WALKING THE WALK, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012 →
 2ND EDITIONS
 (2022 *MY NEXT CAMINO TRIP*)



My books are available online from Lulu.com, Amazon.com, and from me personally.



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



FoodShed.coop
 1210 owners 29-Aug-21
 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!



FoodShed.coop Location Video:
<https://youtu.be/Uc3-OlpXe-I>



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