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28-Feb-23 6:20 pm @home 45° F

I just published February so his is March.
Beware of the ides of March!

1-Mar-23 9:05 am @EWT 38° F

Email Mistake

Maybe you have seen it already, I sent to email notice using the wrong email account. If you did not get the notice, you will next month. Sorry!

The notice should come from
Thoughts@MartysRandomThoughts.com.

I need to get out and exercise now!

3-Mar-23 9:40 am @EWT 35° F

Happy Thursday

I lost a PC the other day when the power failed during the ice storm. The network was not working. I tried things before I added and new network card. Even with a new network card I could not get it working.

Since there was only a little data on this PC, I decided to reinstall Windows to see if it was just the software that had a glitch.

That did not help! This means I save the drives and power supply and scrap the rest. I could just swap out the motherboard, but all that other stuff would have to come out to get at it. I have another

PC that could use the drives and I need a spare power supply.

This is the first time I lost a PC in many, many years. This PC is a 2011 vintage. I will use the parts in a 2016 vintage with a much smaller hard drive. Maybe put both in it.

The PC that failed is the one I would have run my train with. I had the data backed up in my cloud. This is the only reason I want to repair this one.

iPhone

I went up to Starbucks this morning to read my book and to checkout Facebook on my phone. Somehow the battery was dead.

My iPhone is never dead. I put it on the charger every night. It goes 2-3 days without being dead. Even on a heavy use it last more than a day without charging.

So is my charger working or was it me. I have a wireless charger and you must lay it on it right to charge. I usually check that it is charging.

Well, maybe not the last 3 nights! 😊

I have it charging off my backup power battery now. I see it is fully charged. Only about 1-1/2 hours. Using one of the wall warts it would have

taken all day. It only used 15% out of the battery pack.

Battery Pack

After all the inconvenience the other day getting my Camper started. I decided to buy one of the booster packs for helping start a dead car battery.

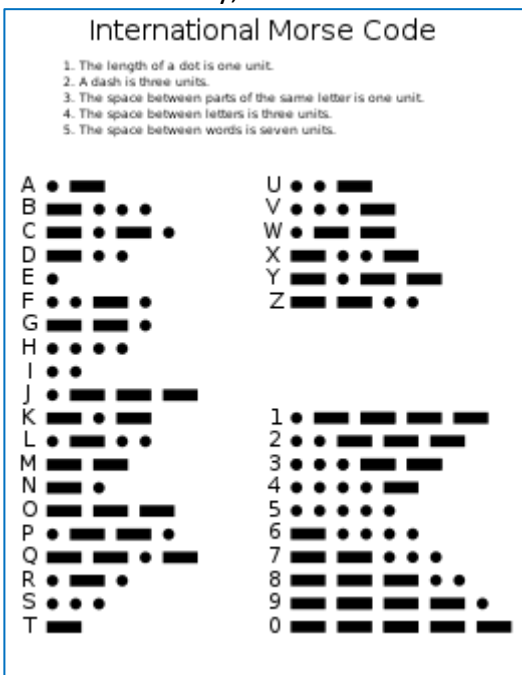
I looked around to see what was out there and decided to get one that also have a 110 vac plug on it. It also has 2 USB and 1 USB-c ports. Oh, and a light that also flashes "... --- ...". You know S-O-S.

Can still transcribe Morse Code?

I remember "SOS"! 😊

--- .- .-.- --- .-.-.- ... / .- .-.- .-.- --- -- /
- --- ..- --. - ...

How about Marty, -- .- .-.-



3-Mar-23 9:30 am @EWT 36° F

Camino de Santiago

I have not talked much lately about walking the Camino in a while. I just checked the cost of the plane ride, and it is \$1,134.00 for the end of April returning early July.

I still have not found any that is toying with the idea.

I just checked the current estimates. Seems you could make the trip for as little as 20 € per day. That plus your gear and transportation to get to and from the Camino.

I was gone 53 days in 2012. I paid around \$2,000 for transportation.

I am thinking I should plan on 90 days this time. They say you could walk it in 30 days, but those people end up with leg and feet problems. Slow and steady to avoid blisters and leg problems.

Let us say 60 days at 20€ plus 2,500€ that would be about 3,700€. That is about \$4,000 US.

High end they say 40€ plus transportation. That is about 4,900€ or about \$5,200 US.

Today's price for one Euro is \$1.06 US. When I went in 2012 1 Euro cost \$1.66 US.

That makes the cost about the same as the last time. If memory serves, I spent around \$4,000 last time.

I need to think on this more. \$5,000 is not too bad! \$650 a week or \$2,500 a month for 60 days for a high-end trip.

I am dreaming today! 😊

6-Mar-23 8:48 am @EWT 36° F

Birthday

Happy Birthday Marie! Marie has always been my younger sister; even though she was born before me. Therefore, I have no idea of her real



Aunt Margret, Dad's youngest sister and my oldest sister, Marie

age. Happy Birthday Marie!

Sad News

Raquel Welsh died last month. I had the hots for her when I was much younger. She was 82. That is a little old for me. Rest-in-peace!



MGM Presents
"KANSAS CITY BOMBER"
METROCOLOR

7-Mar-23 11:33 am @EWT 42° F

The say we are going to get over 4" of snow on Thursday night. Who are "they" anyway?

Well, it is still winter, and the groundhog did see his shadow.

eBay

I finally started listing that stuff I have been going through. I have two item to list. My eBay selling account has been inactive for so long, I must wait a few days for them to reactive it.

I have 2 of the label/receipt printer to go up on the site once activated. These two are my test item to see how things go. The are packed up waiting for the shipping labels.

I'm working on the PC I still have next. I think there is still four to sell.

I need to get moving this stuff out of the house. My house is cluttered most of the time, but now it is getting out of control.

Train

I keep having all these ideas getting in my head, but I cannot do any with it because I have all this stuff in the way.

I want to switch the train table and the cutting table for sewing, to save space.

Sewing

I received the sewing pattern to make a vest. I want to start with a pattern then add pockets for my LVAD equipment. I am using a fishermen's vest now and know about what I need for the LVAD.

Remember I need to carry two batteries and a controller. It is about 6-1/2 lbs. The weight is not an issue here. It is the way I carry these things.

Since I need to carry this equipment for quite a few years I need to make it as comfortable as possible. You do know I can sew? Just have not been doing much.

CNC Router

Now that the weather is getting a little better, I can start working in the garage. The CNC router has been sitting idle for a year. I have a bunch of things I want to make.

Robot Lawn Mower

Last year I did not use the robot much because the was a broken perimeter wire. I was not in good enough shape to locate the break. I pulled up some of the wire where I thought the break might have been.

I got distracted and it never got fixed. I drug some branches out the curb the be hauled away. With the storm the city picks them up.

I caught my foot on one of the wire and fell on the that hard, frozen ground. I am OK!

That reminded me that as soon as the ground thaws I need to fix that.

Second Thoughts

I switch from "HO" gauge to "N" gauge to save space. The cost of "HO" is about a third of the price of the "N".

I have both “N” &” HO” stuff to work with. I need to decide before long which way I want to go.



13-Mar-23 12:33 pm @EWT 29° F

Thanks to the Groundhog spring is not here yet. Still a week left.

21-Mar-23 9:46 am @EWT 37° F

Wait a minute! Ok I am back. I had to get some water to drink.

Happy Spring

Now that it is spring, warm weather will be here soon. I have a garden to plant.

The ground is still a little cold.

And I must fix that perimeter wire for the robot mower. There is a break in it somewhere.

Then there is the lawn that needs to be cleaned up. There are many leaves left over from late fall.

My Camper needs a good washing, as it is filthy.

There is so much to do once the weather warms.

I am getting tired just thinking about it.

New Shoes

Not normally a topic for the newsletter, but I have thoughts related to this.

I bought new shoes yesterday. These are water resistant. I need to replace my “New Balance 1540 v3” because they were finally falling apart.

I liked them because they have vented toes and my feet stay dry.

These are the same model of shoes I wore in Spain for 400 miles. That is around 1,000,000 steps or so.

I started my Virtual Camino on 17-Mar-21 and is says I am over 2,500,000 steps. I think I had these shoes when I started. If not, I had the same model.

That is around 1,000 miles.

I remembered that Walking4Fun.com reads my FitBit and recorded my steps. It makes it easy to look up all the stats on my walking.

I am in a group with Cork and Tammy. Tammy has not logged anything is quite a while.

On the other hand, Cork started about a month after me and has logged some 8,578,537 steps. That is over 12,000 steps a day.

Me on the other hand I have only averaged 345 steps a day.

Things are better for me now that I have my LVAD. I will walk more. It will take a long time for me to get my average up to 12,000 steps a day.

I can only try.

I have go now and start breaking in these shoes now!

23-Mar-23 6:15 pm @Home 43° F

Spring is Here!

I was unloading some groceries earlier I noticed something different in the lawn. There were these patches of green. Yes, spring has started! 😊

First Robbin

A few weeks ago, I saw my first Robbin. Michelle said that she had seen one a couple weeks before that. She also has some Crocus flowering.

I looked and I do not have any flowers showing their faces yet. Soon. Spring is here! 😊



1st grass of 2023!

Vacation

Camino

There are only about 6 week for my planned trip the Spain to walk the Camino again. My plan was to leave here about May 1st. I need to book my plane ticket by the 12th of April. Or I will need to pay a small fortune for it.

Right now, the best price is \$1266. May 1st to Jul 10th I may move that out to August. Two months might be pushing a 500+ walk this time. I may need 3 months.

I have started packing my backpack to see how light I can make it without buying anything new.

Some of the lightweight clothing I have does not fit any more. I think some have shrunk!

It has been 11 years since I went to Spain.

Stick

When you hike a lot after a while you might want a walking staff. Sometimes you only need a stick.

New Glasses

I picked up my new glasses today. I should be able to read my compass on the Camino. 😊



This is not a stick...

It's a wand
It's a guitar
It's a shovel
It's a horse
It's a baton
It's a telescope
It's a sword
It's a microphone
It's a ski pole
It's a spoon
It's a fishing pole
It's a treasure finder
It's a paddle.

and anything else a child can imagine!



Stick is not always what it seems!

27-Mar-23 10:29 am @EWT 37° F

The End is Near

I mean it is near the end of March. That will be 1/3 of the year has passed.

I Need a Vacation!

I have not really been anywhere for quite a while. I think the last vacation I had was no vacation! Other than going up to Wisconsin a few times I have not been out of the state.

This last year I have been recovering from heart surgery. The two years before that I was nursing a heart problem. And before that was COVID.

Oh, Woe is me. 😊

I am ready for the Camino, or somewhere for a week, or so to recharge my battery.

I have always felt more energized after I come from a couple of weeks away from home.

Come on April

May first is only about 4 weeks away. I will start counting the days.

Thinking about counting the days. When I worked at Woodstock Die Cast, I started counting the days until I retired. There was something like 11,000 days when I started counting. Yes, that something like 30 years! I think I stopped counting around 8,300, or at 22 years to go.

I know how many days were left every day for 8 years. I made up calendars every month and had them stuck on my die cast machine.

Not sure why I stop counting. It was I needed to count until 12-Dec-2004. I think I stopped when I became a foreman. Management does not count days!

Anyway, I left Woodstock Die Cast in April 1983, so I had no more reason the count those days.

I missed my target date. It became longer after I started working at Knaack.

I finally retired on 4-Mar-2007. About 2-1/4 years late.

That was 22 years after I started at Knaack.
Best thing I ever did for myself was to retire!
Now, I need a vacation from retirement!

Happy Birthday Jake

Jake would be 66 this year. Rest-in-Peace Brother. Happy Birthday Jake! I miss you!

This month is over now! I need to finish this newsletter and get on to the next one.

Goodbye March, Hello April!

Marty

Follow up.

- My Train is still on hold. I am still plugging away at getting back to it.
- I am trying the make a vest for the LVAD from scratch. I have a good start. A vest is so much easier than this shoulder bag I am using today. I Bought a LVAD backpack. It is made just for the LVAD. It didn't have enough padding and killed my spine. It had other issues too. I sent it back!
- eBay: I have sold some of the stuff I have listed.
-

Marty's Random Thoughts

The Backer Page

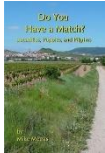
MY BOOKS



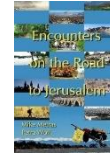
← MY CAMINO DE SANTIAGO ADVENTURE
WALKING THE WALK, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012 →
2ND EDITIONS
(2021 MAY BE MY NEXT CAMINO TRIP)



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



Mike and Petra's Books
are on
LuLu.com and Amazon.com



FoodShed.coop

1641 owners 29-Mar-23

We are a group of 3 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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