



# Marty's Random Thoughts

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Volume XXIII  
Est. 1999

World headquarters  
Woodstock, Illinois, USA, Earth

Issue No 223  
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29-Mar-23 8:54 am @EWT 33° F

I couldn't wait any longer. I need to tell you this. Even though you won't see it until May.

### Alaska

Spring may be here next week, but I am heading to Alaska this month. Today there are only a handful of people that know.

When I told Michelle that Tammy and her family were going to Alaska, she told me I should go too. After the three of us talked for a while, we had a group of seven of us going to Alaska.

Michelle and Grant (Michelle's husband) are going to celebrate their birthdays, Tammy, Eric (her brother), Marie (my sister & Tammy's Mom), and Alex (Tammy's husband) are also in our group.

And I am going just because I want to. 😊 I will know if I can handle a trip with my LVAD. If this goes well, I will know if I should Pack for the Camino.

The Alaska trip will be in the middle of April.

### *Biting My Tongue*

I have been biting my tongue for a few weeks now. Michelle and Tammy talked me into going to Alaska. The others, Alex, Eric, and Marie have not been told that Michelle, Grant, and I are even going yet. I am just going to show up and see the reaction.

I think I went through three Saturday lunches without even a hint. My tongue is sore!

There are still about 19 days before the plane lifts off to take us to Seattle where we pick up the Cruise Liner to head to Alaska. 😊😊😊

That means that my tongue will be much shorter from biting my tongue for two more weeks.

Wait, wait, there are only 15 days before I leave Woodstock. It is 17 days for the boat to leave and 2 days earlier the plane leaves Chicago for Seattle.

I best get moving!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

# Marty's Random Thoughts

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## Camino

Since I am going to Alaska in April, I will not be going to the Camino in May.

I had this chance in Alaska, and I have never been there. I jumped on the Alaska trip idea!

I used up much of my funds, so I need to rebuild my stockpile.

I have my trip to Spain on hold for now.

## Petra

Petra is doing well!

Petra has been in India and Germany all winter. She is planning on walking the Camino in May and June. Yup, at the same time I was going to walk the Camino.

31-May-23 9:58 am @EWT 54° F

## Another Fine Mess

Well, last night around 10:00 pm I decided to publish my newsletter before I went to bed. I found I had an old version on my laptop at home. Then I noticed it was over 7 days old. I checked my cloud server and it had failed. I looked at it for a while, but it was too late in the day to deal with it.

This morning I looked again, and it was still not an easy fix. Maybe FREE is too expensive. 😞

So, you know where I will be this weekend!

Grrrr!

4-Apr-23 10:15 am @EWT 45° F

April is here and I will be heading to Alaska in only about 9 more days.

I have my clothes packed. I am waiting for the travel CPAP I rented. I am also waiting for the special memory stick I order to auto save my pictures on my iPhone.

If I am at home, I could just offload them to my PC or hard drive occasionally. The memory stick I ordered for just dealing with the iPhone.

I need to wait for the last day to pack the LVAD stuff that I must take along because I will be using it until I leave.

## My Cloud

I have been working on my cloud since the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. Things are not going as well as I would like.

I have another PC I can load Linux on for my cloud. That part works!

The problem I am having is with the OwnCloud app. There is something I am missing, and it is not going well. Well, it may not be missing. I have done something wrong, and it is not installing correctly.

I decided to stay away from it this morning. I will give it a chance to clear up in my head. Like most problems, you must get away from them and come back with a new perspective.

## The Camino

I have put the Camino on hold for now. I have spent all my moneys for the Cruise to Alaska.

I will learn new things about traveling on the Alaska trip that I will be able to use on the Camino.

## Petra

Petra is in India and will be heading to Spain and walking the Camino starting May 4<sup>th</sup>. Have fun Petra!

05-Apr-23 9:01 am @EWT 62° F

## Alaska

Michelle told me this morning there are only 8 more sleep nights before we leave for our Alaska vacation.

I think I should think about packing a little. Ya, I will probably wait for the last minute. 😊

## Cloud Server

I must be losing it. I am starting over for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. I am doing my best to not get stressed over it.

I am using the last version of Linux and the latest ownCloud this time. I am using new instructions too.

I was trying to use what I used when I first installed ownCloud. It is not working! 😞

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It is easy if something does not go wrong....  
Wait, I need to be positive! When all goes right it is a piece of cake!

My walls are closing in on me at home. I need to work on that too. First it is my cloud.

I tried using MS OneDrive for my cloud, but I don't like the way it works. I will look at it again later.

I get one terabyte of space with MS Office. That is plenty of space.

## eBay Stuff

I sold some of that stuff on eBay. Some of it is still sitting here in the way. I will work on that after I return from vacation and my cloud is up and running again.

07-Apr-23 8:58 am @EWT 35° F

## Happy Days

### OwnCloud Re-creation

Well, I am on my third time trying to recreate my Cloud. Some of it was using old instructions that worked before and not now.

Some of it was a new version that may be a little too new.

This last time I found typos in the instructions the through me off a little bit.

I had my Cloud up and running and backed up last night but I had not rebooted the server since I had it working. Well, it would not boot up completely. After studying the instructions, I found that there was another error in the instructions and caused it to not mount the Cloud drive. I fixed that!

There was an "ext4" and a "ext3" that should have matched. Either would have worked, if they were the same.

Then I tried to use a "cron" job to do an automatic backup. The backup job worked fine but I could not get it to run in the scheduler, "cron".

Well after things everything I could think of, I found that the date/time was still set for "ZuLu" time. You know we use Chicago time around here.

Normally when you install a new operating system it asks you to set that. This version did not ask and I did not think of it.

Finally, I had everything working and changed it back to running on the internet so I could sync to my other computer.

I got here this morning, and I could access my Cloud server from here. Great! Well, it would not connect to the Cloud. Aha, I did not unlock the security to work over the internet. Since I could connect to the server from here, I could fix that.

So why I am typing here I am syncing this computer to my OwnCloud ... **Interruption...**

8-Apr-23 10:41 am @Home 50° F

I got interrupted yesterday and lost my train of thought. I will start over.

I have my cloud server up and running and all is synced except for this laptop. It is syncing now.

I forgot to turn the sync program back on. Am I bad!

## Alaska

Now that the Cloud server business is working, I can get back to packing for Alaska. I have my clothes packed. I still must pack all this LVAD hardware. This should be easy. I am just trying to get it all into one bag. I may have to take my small backpack along.

When I went to Spain, I took my big backpack and my fanny pack with my money, camera, journal, and stuff. It was a lot easier!

Today I am thinking I will have 4 bags. Including the Fanny pack. I may be over packing.

I am not sure on the spring weather in Alaska or onboard the cruise liner. First time you know!

And is spring like in Alaska? Never been there.

Oh well it will work out. April 13<sup>th</sup> is only 5 days away. I leave home around 8:00 am on Thursday.

## Vacation

I have been working on the server so much I need a day off just to recover from that.



# Marty's Random Thoughts

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It is like when you are on vacation for 2 weeks you need a couple of days to unwind. This is the case here too.

09-Apr-23 7:58 am @home 38° F

Been to Starbucks already and now I am thinking about my Alaska trip. Looks like there are only 4 days left. I need to get some things done.

I was thinking, what I should do?

- **Today**
  - Easter dinner at Michelle's
  - Rest up after I come home.
- **Monday**
  - Take out the trash.
  - Pack some more
- **Tuesday**
  - Wash clothes
  - wash dishes
  - Work on the packing
- **Wednesday**
  - Finish up packing.
- **Thursday**
  - Whoops, too late. Leaving at 8:00 am!
  - Quick finish packing
  - Water the plants
  - Lock the house.
  - Is my ride here yet? Do I have my passport, my phone, and my billfold.
  - Oh, the paperwork for the plane and cruise line.
  - Should be four bags.
    - Clothes
    - LVAD & CPAP hardware
    - Backpack with backup and stuff
    - Fanny pack so I don't need a purse.

- **Let's go!**

Anyway, that is today's plan. That and all the other stuff that needs to happen too.

Why am I just sitting here then?

## Tomorrow, Da day -3

My portable CPAP machine should be here. And my portable/external keyboard should be here too.

I have nothing else ordered for the trip.

I need to pick up the meds from the drug store and I can make up my meds for the trip. I need one of them so I had enough for a 14-day trip.

I must add that to Monday's list.

## Easter Lunch

I had a nice time with Michelle, her husband, and her father Gary, and mother Cookie for Easter lunch. Thanks for having me over Michelle!

11-Apr-23 9:49 am @EWT 58° F

Mom & Dad were married 81 years ago yesterday. I hope they are still getting along.

## Alaska

There are only two sleep days before we leave for Alaska. I don't think Marie knows yet. I almost let it slip Saturday.

At lunch Cork asked me if I was still planning to go to Spain in May. I said something like I wasn't sure and had not decided just yet.

Well, I had decided and should have said that. I quickly changed the subject.

## Yesterday

### *Travel CPAP*

I received my Travel CPAC machine. It is a lot noisier than the one I have been using. Maybe there is another setting I missed. It is smaller, lighter, and uses less power.

I have two days to figure that out.

### *iPhone Keyboard*

I also received a keyboard I can use for the iPhone. I tested it out at Starbucks this morning.

It is made by "Geyes" and it is neat. It powers up when you open it and off when you close. It folds to about 8" x 2" x 1/2". It allows you to use it with iPhone, Android, and/or Windows. You can easily switch between the two devices and setup.

# Marty's Random Thoughts

Here is a link

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07DDFFVDD/ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_o00\\_s00?ie=UTF8&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07DDFFVDD/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&th=1)

It comes in Black, Silver, Gold, and Rose colors that I have found.

## **Tuesday**

I will work on my Tuesday list now.

## **Whoops Got to Go**

Our temporary sign out front is blowing in the wind, and I need to fix it!

25-Apr-23 9:13 am @EWT 37° F

## **I'm Home!**

I got back from my vacation in Alaska Sunday afternoon. I had a good time. Here are the highlights.

### **Seattle**

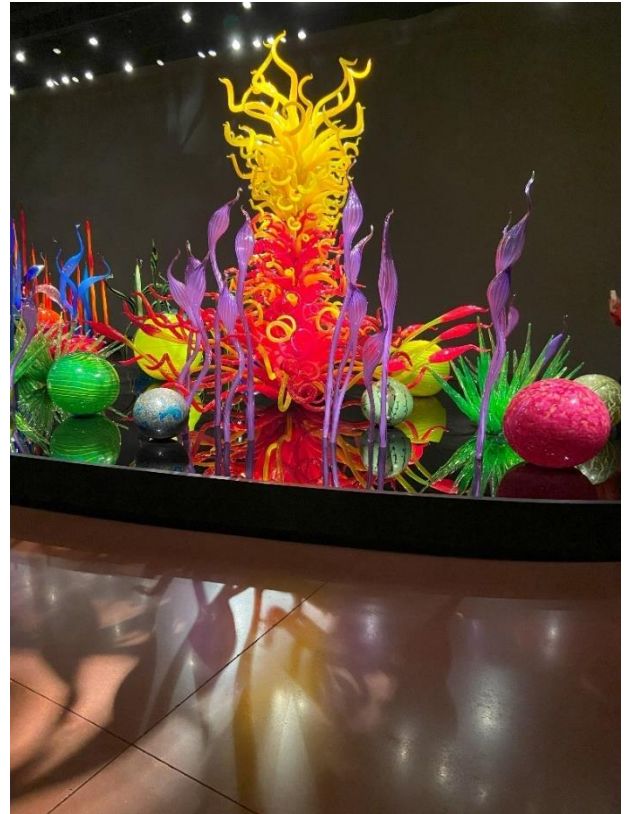
We first flew into Seattle from Chicago. Michelle's mom and dad had given us a ride to the airport.

After a short visit through security, we were off to Seattle. It was fun going through security at the airport. I needed to be hand searched because I had the LVAD and pacemaker.

I got frisked and they opened my bags and looked through everything I was carrying on. I passed!



*Our Cruise Liner in Juneau*



*Chihuly Garden and Glass*

In Seattle I visited the Needle, and the Chihuly Garden Glass where there was a bunch of glass things to look at.

It was here where Tammy texted me a picture of them to let us know they were in town. Remember at this point Marie still didn't know Michelle, Grant, and I were in Seattle.

I saw the Needle in the picture. That meant they were nearby. I looked around and saw them.

After they got near to us, I came up behind Marie and put my arm around her and said something like; "I must know you because we both have blue jackets." She jumped wondering who it was. She was shocked for a little while.

Later, we took a picture of the 7 of us and sent it to Cork & Diane. They didn't know we were all going to Alaska either. Cork thought we had Photo Shopped the picture. He has still not talked to me. Maybe he is mad. 😞

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*Needle in Seattle*



*The Revival to Cork & Diane*

## **Juneau**

The Cruise Liner took us to Juneau where some of us went on a Tram ride up 1,800 feet. We could see for miles when we got to the top.

I looked down and could see the boat and we were a long way from it. It was so small.

There was a lot of snow on the top of the mountain. Well, there was more to see from where we were.

Alex and Eric decided to walk back to the ship. The three of us took the Tram down and then did some shopping in Juneau. About an hour after we got back to the ship, Eric and Alex got back.



*Snow and warning*



*Our boar way back down the Tram*

## **Skagway**

We headed for Skagway next.

We went on a train ride from Skagway and 100-year-old train path through what is gold country. They said that there was a 600-mile path the miners took to find gold in the 1800s.

# Marty's Random Thoughts

Many didn't make it. I was thinking that Spain was only 500 miles across. Then I remembered it was a lot of ice and snow. They need to have a thousand pounds of food before they can even start their journey.



*Part of a 600-mile trail to the GOLD!*

## ***At Sea***

We spent one day at sea. We went into Glazier Bay and looked at glaziers. There were seals, otters, whales, rainbows, and glaziers.

I did not see the otters, rainbows, or whales. I was on the wrong side of the ship.

Michelle called me and told me about the whales on the west side of the boat. By the time I got there the whales were gone, but I got to watch a nice sunset.

## ***Ketchikan***

We got to Ketchikan, and I left the boat and only did some souvenir shopping. I did not really feel like doing anything else.

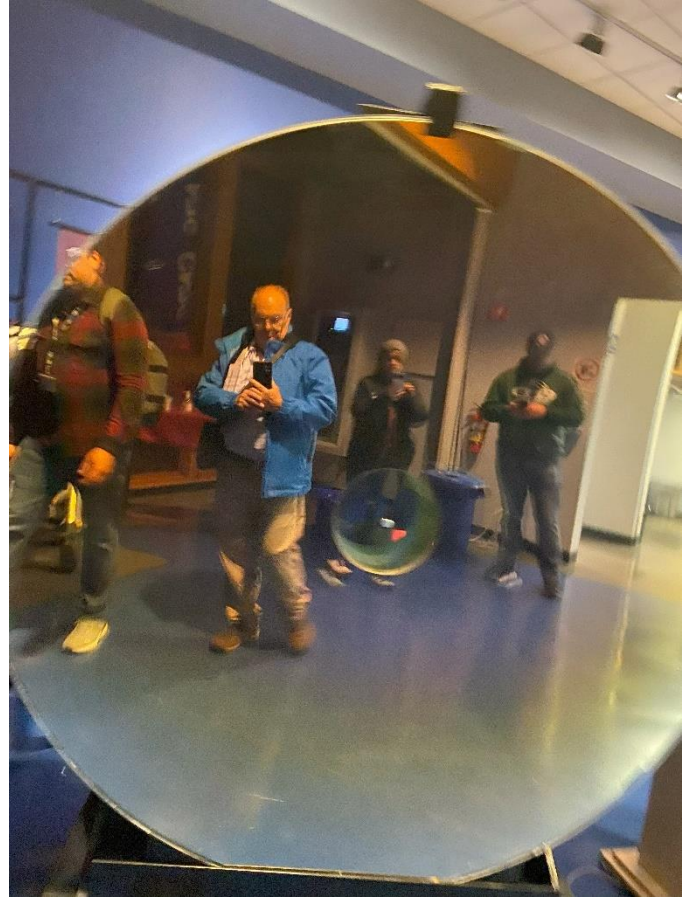
## ***Victoria, BC, Canada***

On day 6 we got to Victoria in the evening. There was a long wait for them to let us off the ship and into Canada. We took a bus to the Telescope that was a 200-year-old observatory on the top of a big hill. It seems the stars tinkle a lot less there and other places in Canada. This is great for looking at the stars.

The telescope is well over 200 years old up a steep winey road. When they built it in 1816 everything was brought up that road with horses and wagons. The cement base that the telescope sits on is two stories thick.

The telescope is still being used today.

It was late when we returned to the ship and they waited for us and left shortly after.



*Old telescope mirror. Everybody wanted a picture.*

## ***Seattle***

We traveled from Victoria to Seattle and got back on solid ground.



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We went to our hotel. I went across the street to have pizza with Marie and Tammy while Michelle and Grant were having dinner for their Birthdays.



100+ year old telescope still in use. Well, except for this day :)

## ***Returning home***

We headed to the airport to return home. It was fun going through security again at the airport. There was a little confusion at first. All worked out in the end. I passed the test!

Then we retrieved our luggage and waited for Cookie and Gary (Michelle's mom & dad) to pick us up the take us home.

I returned home, and I pooped. Took a nap! Later I unpacked and threw my laundry in the machine and set it to start running 8 hours later. Watch TV a little and then went to bed!

24-Apr-23 1:23 pm @home 42° F

Wow, it is Tuesday! I am kind of back in the routine. Most of my vacation gear is put away and I have been to Starbucks. We had Starbucks on the Cruise Liner. I got to have coffee at sea too.

I spent time typing in MRT. Now I am going to investigate my journal and see what I wrote that I have not told you.



And out the window on the ride home. :-{

started typing the notes into my iPhone, it became a hassle. I wrote some notes but kept forgetting. After a while I just stopped and decided I would remember everything.

## **The Weather**

The weather in Alaska was better than you had here. It was in the 40s & 50s and partly cloudy. We had a few sprinkles on the last night in Seattle. I see there is no rain, and it will be warmer here for the next few days.

26-Apr-23 8:22 am @EWT 37° F

I have been home for 3 days now. And I am starting to settle back into my routine. Been to the



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bank, post office, drug store, EWT, and of course Starbucks.

It is time to look over this issue to see how many typos I can find and get it off to you.

I need to add some pictures of my Alaska adventure before I publish this newsletter.

## Camino

Today I do not think I will be walking the Camino in May. My body says "no!". Also, I spent all my funds going to Alaska.



Figure 1 And the sunsets on this vacation. And time to go home!

# Marty's Random Thoughts

## The Backer Page



### MY BOOKS

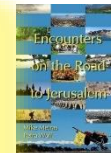
← MY CAMINO DE SANTIAGO ADVENTURE  
WALKING THE WALK, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012 →  
2<sup>ND</sup> EDITIONS  
(2022 MY NEXT CAMINO TRIP)



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



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



### FoodShed.coop

1663 owners 30-Apr-23

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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This issue randomly published on Sunday, April 30, 2023 10:38:00  
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