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05-Jul-23 1L12 pm @home 81° F

Happy July!

### Grapes

I planted my grapes about 10 days ago. The blue one has small leaves. On the other hand, the red and white show no growth!

It is a variety of grapes. Maybe because they sat too long before getting planted. It was chilly weather.

In any case two of them look like dead sticks in the ground.

I did all they told me about how and where to plant them. And I have been watering them regularly. I am stumped. Well, the grapes are stumps.

I went to the internet and researched the subject. It seems that if you try and grow grapes from cuttings, it could take one to two months before you have growth. The blue one is a fast grower and the white and red one are not.

I will give them another week and see what happens.

### X-Carve (CNC Router)

I cleared the junk from the CNC to see if it still works. It has been sitting there idle for over a year. I had to start slowly to refresh my memory on how

to run it. The computer in the garage was so far out of date. It took a while to get in and upgraded to the current.

The license for the X-Carve software. I started with the free 24-hour version. I cannot stay up 24 hours like I used to in the olden days.

I worked on my walking stick which will also be a chair or just a stool.

#### *EWT project*

I started working on the project for EWT. When I got tired, I decided to hang it up for the day.

Yesterday, I went out and worked on my sample until my time on the license ran out. Then I decided I had learned/remembered how to run it and renewed my license.

I needed to round the edges of the sample part to make it look better. I remembered the Maslow CND router had a big router. I looked for it and it was still where I left it 3-4 years ago. All I needed to do was to find the parts for it that let me use it for a hand router.

I finally found them and figured out how to use the thing. I have not used a hand router for 35 years. It took a while, but I learned fast.

After I finished my sample, I quit for the day.

## What's Next

I need to wet my plants then go work on my project for EWT.

Then my Cloud server is still down. I keep missing something. I will figure that out.

I still need to clear off the Train table, flip it over, and figure out where I left that project.

Enough projects for now. 😊

6-Jul-23 8:13 am @EWT 60° F

## Rough Day

Today is starting a little rough. I looked and my lawn needs cutting.

When I got to Starbucks, they were working on the roof. Pounding, pounding, and more pounding. And the music was too loud! I read my book for a brief time and headed to EWT to work on my project.

On the trip out here, I noticed the sky was hazy. That was from the fires in Canada. I could taste it. Well, I think I could.

Then went I got to EWT, I had to walk from the street through the gravel to get to the front door. Oh yes, they are putting in a new parking lot. They have been working on it since the first of May. At this rate, they will not finish until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We will have to celebrate when finished. In any case, we will have a nice cement parking lot when they finish. 😊

It would seem I am being negative, but I am not. The grass has these nice white flowers. The roof needed fixing. The smoke in the air needed to go somewhere. And the parking lot was getting bad.

Some things seem bad until you think about it a little.

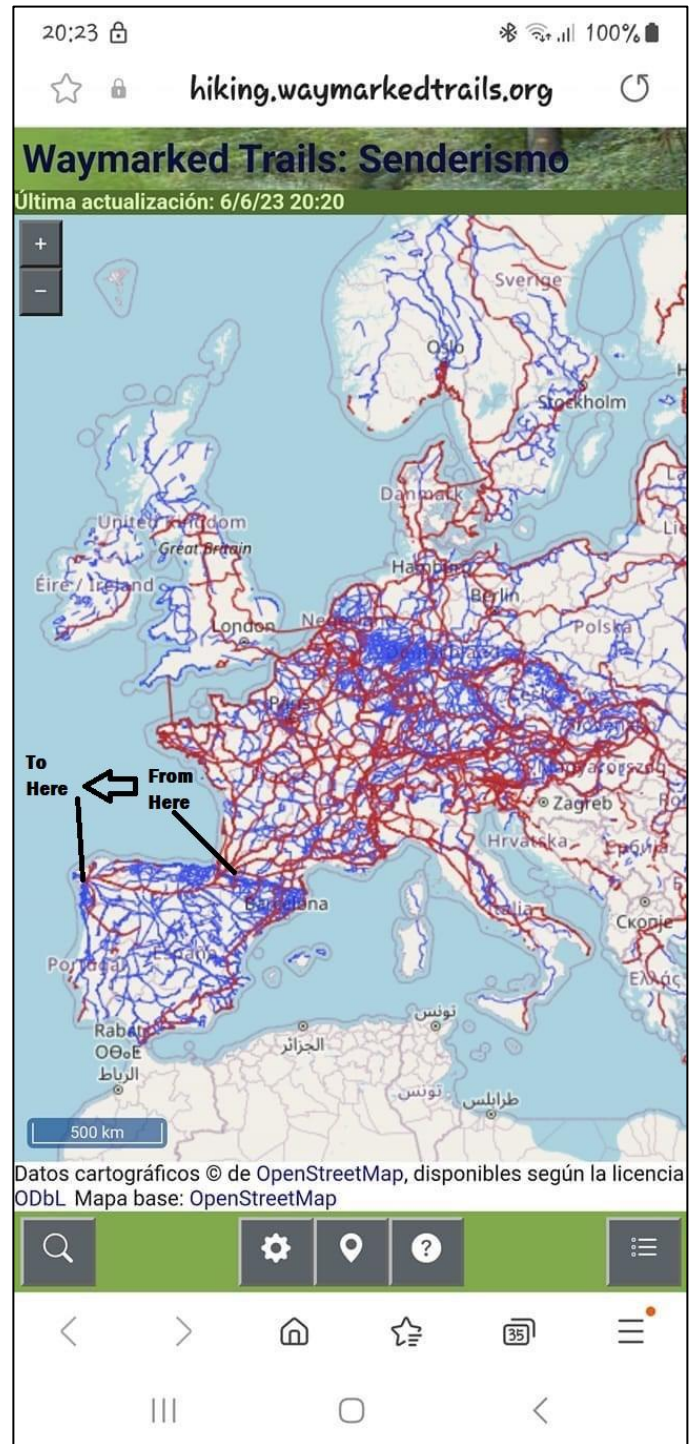
I must go and work on my project now.

## Camino

I am still thinking about walking the Camino once more.

I found this map of all the paths to Santiago. I do not think this is all of them. It is just someone's screenshot.

Your Camino starts at your front door. Well, mine did in 2012!



I went to this website and there are trails from northeast Maine to Oakland Calif. I think I will pass on that one!

I just checked my Virtual Walk log and from Mar-21 to yesterday, have walked over 3,000,000 steps. That is about 1,200 miles!

## What Next

The sun will come out tomorrow. Well, the sun is shining, but things are still in chaos.

The PC I use for the X-Carve failed. Now the X-Carve failed. I cannot connect to its controller to do anything. I am working on that through X-Carve Support.

At EWT they are still redoing the parking lot. It looks like it will be finished in a few weeks. We have been parking on the street.

Now the City will be redoing the street starting next week. Well, it needs it! We will not be able to park on the street. I wonder how that will work out. I am guessing they will be working on the street all summer.

Things will get better, won't they? 😊

## EWT Project

I have my first project finished. The other project I was going to work on with the X-Carve. That means I must do most by hand. It will take much longer. Oh well, it is what it is.

11-Jul-23 10:31 am @EWT 80° F

## Again!

I was doing updates to my blogs this morning a got another failure! MRT has an error again. All these updates are just "clicker-here to update" items. I do not have to do anything except click here!

The blog for MRT is not even at my house. I pay for my website hosting. 99% of the time it all goes simply fine. Grrr!

There is more! I was trying to recreate the Dads100th and Moms100th blog. I removed them when I dropped the Marty-Metras.com URL. I was trying to just recreate a blank blog and then restore it to where it was when I dropped it.

Again, to create a blog you just click, give it a location then wait a while. I keep getting an "internal error." Hmmm! I need to call support again. 😊

14-Jul-23 9:46 am @EWT 77° F

Well, there are still working on the road out front! Today they are digging it up again to put in

these big sewer pipes from one side to the other side of the road. Will it ever finish?

One wonderful thing is that we can always get through even though we need to wait a little.

The last word I heard was that they will finish in August. All I can say is it will be nice when they finish!

## Grammarly

I am trying to do a *Grammarly* check every time I enter something I type something. Right now, I must develop a habit to do so.

It costs \$12.00 a month for the paid version. I have too many monthly paid versions I am not using. So, I will wait for now. The paid version will do more. I am not ready yet.

I can get the paid version for 7 days free then \$12.00 a month for a year. Well, see, maybe!

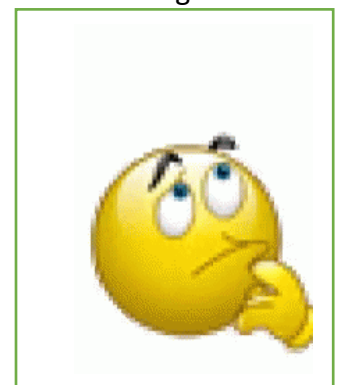
It reviews while I am typing, and I choose the changes. And it is on the side of the screen, so it is not in my face. Hmmm! 😊 😊

## Emojis

Do you know with Word, it is a Microsoft thing, you can get a whole bunch of Emoji popups on demand? Just pick the Windows key (⊞) and semicolon (;) or period (.) and a box pop-up opens with a bunch of them. There must be a gazillion of them!

There are a bunch of GIFs in there too.

Here is a sample. I don't know if it will show a GIF. Maybe just a picture or a blank spot!



## Cough

My cough is persistent, So I am trying Cough Drops. The brand name is "Cough Drop." Go figure!

It says suck on one every 2 hours. I wonder what would happen if I sucked on 2 every hour?

Well, let us see what happens with one every 2 hours for now.

17-Jul-23 9:52 am @EWT 71° F

I don't think I ever went outside yesterday. What's up with that?

### Train layout

Well, I did get my turnout Servo sample working. I know what I need to do to have the turnouts work with a push-button switch and have the light come on to show where the train can go.

Most of these controller servos will be out of sight under the layout. There are a few that I will need to hide the servo near the track on the surface. We will see.

I have ordered some telegraph poles to hold the wire for these servos. That way I can have some telephone poles running some wires that have some real use. Either that or I must find some place to hide those wires for the servos.

And I finished getting all the track laid out, so I can finish gluing it down. That may be later today.

I am using a mixture of Elmer's glue and water to hold the track. After I put down the ballast it will be glued more securely.

After the track is glued, I can put in the wirings and hook some of it up to make sure things are assembled ok. The track must have electricity going through it for the engines to run. 😊

I may need to solder the tracks together in some places. That is for later.

There was some other thing I did too. I glued down the overpass where the train crosses the river. Yes, there is a river, though it is a dry river right now. 😊 This required a lot of weights to hold it in place while the glue dried.

The first side took overnight. The second side took 24 hours. Well, the weights are still on it.

I also filled the gaps on the supports so it might look better after it gets a little paint.

That is why I never got outside yesterday. 😊

18-Jul-23 9:23 pm @home 66° F

### \$1,000,000,000.00

Again, the Lottery is up over 1 billion dollars. I see the other one is \$640,000,000.00!

I need gas in the morning so I guess I need to buy a couple of chances.

### Train

I glued another ¼ mile of track. I would have got more done but I forgot to bank the curve.

N-scale is 160 to 1, so banking the outside of the curve was very small. A thin piece of cardboard 0.020 of an inch would be equal to 3.2 inches.

It made it look good.

That ¼ mile was done quickly before the glue dried. Then I did another section.

I am progressing slowly. 😊

18-Jul-23 10:49 am @EWT 77° F

### FoodShed.coop

Yesterday afternoon we at the Food Shed broke ground at the site of the new store.

We have a supporter that will match up to \$100,000 are donations made by 25-Jul. It would be a good time to become an owner!

FoodShed.coop is the place to go to do so.

It is coming! 😊

We are 1773 Owners and growing. I am No. 322.



I did not hear the timeline for when the store will be completed. I am guessing before the end of the year. 🍀

### I Forgot

The Earth was the farthest from the sun on Jul 7<sup>th</sup> this year. On the other hand, it will be the closest about January 9<sup>th</sup>.

30-Jul-23 8:15 am @home 70° F

### Weather

As many of you know the weather has not been the best this year. It has been hot and only a little rain. I thought I would look up the stats for the year and see how we have fared.

Woodstock			
Month	High	Low	Rain (in)
Aug-22	92	55	8.88
Sep	90	36	5.84
Oct	80	28	1.52
Nov	76	11	1.46
Dec	61	-10	2.54
Jan-23	57	-10	1.65
Feb	52	-4	3.77
Mar	70	11	2.41
Apr	82	26	3.04
May	82	20	3.40
Jun	89	35	1.95
Jul	90	55	4.32

I guess that isn't as bad as I thought.

Maybe it was just me who thought it was hot and miserable out there. 😞

Let's see; July-2022 Temp (hi/Lo) 96°/55°. Rain 5.43". Maybe it is normal?

In any case, it is 71° now and I am going out and cutting the hay field in the back. Maybe I'll get 10 bales of grass and weeds. 😊

6-Aug-23 6:22 pm @home 72° F

Wow, it is August already! I need to get this published.

I got distracted with other things and forgot to finish this off.

### Follow up.

- The garden is going well, not great, but well.
- The train is coming along.
- I didn't win that billion, but I am working on the next one on Wednesday. 😊
- I still have only one Grape plant growing. I have until May-2024 before I can't return those other two for replacement. 😞
- We are well on the way with the build for the FoodShed.coop store! 😊
- The Camino count is 250,000 people who made it to Santiago.
- I started working on my Waking Stick/Chair. I got distracted.
- I must review this and get on with other things.

# Marty's Random Thoughts

## The Backer Page

### MY BOOKS

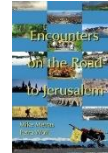
← MY CAMINO DE SANTIAGO ADVENTURE  
WALKING THE WALK, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012 →  
2<sup>ND</sup> EDITIONS  
(2021 MAY BE MY NEXT CAMINO TRIP)



*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**

1816 owners 6-Aug-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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