



R & R

(Rough & Ready)

A product of www.TumblingWithTheTroops.com



JULY 2011

ON TAP

Lasers on the High Seas



~ Image: Boeing

The U.S. Navy wants to put powerful lasers on its ships to shoot down artillery shells and even cruise missiles at the speed of light (and really, who wouldn't). But there are a few scientific details to sort out before sailors can deploy the beams. "First we want to make sure the physics is right before throwing buckets of salt water over the thing," says Ed Pogue.

Pogue is the program manager for Boeing's free electron laser (FEL) program, potentially the most ambitious laser weapons program since the Pentagon's controversial airborne laser. In that program, the Missile Defense Agency spent billions of dollars and over a decade to get a laser-rigged jumbo jet to destroy a ballistic missile in its boost phase of flight. They eventually succeeded in February 2010, but the Obama administration nixed plans to develop the experiment into a battle-ready weapon.

Maybe the Navy's project will meet a better fate. In 5 years, at a cost of \$163 million, Boeing hopes to get the physics right and demonstrate an extremely powerful--and hopefully seaworthy--giant laser. It's no small task, in part because the laser they're using is powered by several particle accelerators.

www.jlab.org/ gives an overview of how the Navy's free electron laser works. (That the pictures are not on a ship; for now, researchers are working with a landlubbing laser based at Jefferson Lab in Newport News, Virginia.)

~ Source: <http://discovermagazine.com/>

ON THE HOMEFRONT

July 4th - Independence Day & National Country Music Day

Since country music is tightly woven into the fabric of what makes America unique, it's appropriate for it to share our most patriotic holiday. Every decade holds millions of die-hard and loyal fans. Make your family holiday celebration distinctive this year by holding a backyard barbecue western-style!

Country music is all about living in the "good ole USA," waving the flag, wearing red, white and blue, and wearing your heart on your sleeve. Ask guests to wear cowboy hats, boots, and well-worn jeans. As you dine on burgers, hot dogs, and apple pie and everything American, broadcast CD compilations of your favorite country songs performed by country stars.

Patriotism and country music go together. Albums have become popular in recent years, especially those designating part of their profits in support of the USO, active servicemen, and families of fallen soldiers. Recent examples include: Patriotic Country (2004) and its sequels, Patriotic Country 2 (2005) and Patriotic Country 3 (2008).

While the music is entertaining your guests, hand out a few instruments to form a band.



Although those used in country music include the fiddle, banjo, bass, guitar and mandolin, you can have fun with inexpensive harmonicas and washboards; add a few hum-a-zoos (kazoo) and low-cost tambourines.

Then, teach everyone the Texas Two-Step in your backyard honky-tonk. Get guests moving to the most performed country dance in America. Couples move counter-clockwise in a circle in the steady timing of quick, quick, slow, slow . . . four steps to six beats of music. You can find instructive videos on YouTube.

It'll be a Fourth of July you never forget.

FOR THE ADULTS

Check out the website:

www.TumblingWithTheTroops.com

It's Just a tad naughty!

JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

First Name

Email Address

IT'S FREE!

~

Nothing naughty about this:

Pretty cool stat!

This year July has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This apparently happens once every 823 years.

FOR THE BRATS

BuzzingKidsWorld.com is a site for parents and kids about kids.

We just put up the **July BuzzLetter**. Check it out. **It's FREE**, too.

www.BuzzingKidsWorld.com/

July National Events

2, Halfway point of 2011. Marked at noon, with 182 days of the year remaining.

3-Aug. 11, Dog Days. (see... http://www.buzzingkidsworld.com/_files/Image/jul08buzz.pdf)

4, Independence Day. National holiday marks adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

12, Major League Baseball All-Star Game at Chase Field, Phoenix, AZ, 82nd Annual.

23, National Day of the Cowboy. To honor our cowboy and pioneer heritage.

The 1500s cont'd . . . Babes in the Kitchen!!



In the old days of the 1500s, the women cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.

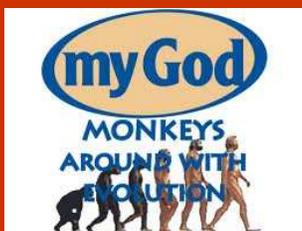
Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "*Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.*"

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "*bring home the bacon.*" They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "*chew the fat.*"

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "*upper crust.*"

Next month: Getting married in the 1500s (You won't believe this one!)

From the Brat Brigade



The Human Race

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children, and so all mankind was made."

Two days later the girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved."

The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

So tell me, who are *your* ancestors? ~Editor

FROM THE MAILBAG

Watch out for those deck gratings!

Aboard a ship, I was making rounds in port when I came across the engine room 'watch' sleeping soundly between the generators. He was on his back on the deck grating.

I thought about waking him up and taking him to Captain's Mast but then what I thought was a better idea came to mind. Taking him to Mast would have ended what had been shaping up to be a promising career.

Instead, I went to the level below where, through the grating, I could see him sleep-

ing above. I found some tie wire (very thin and strong) and used it to carefully wire his belt and loops to the deck grating.

I left and came back later to find him sheepishly busy and obviously waiting for the other shoe to drop.

To this day, he doesn't know. I only wish I could have stayed to watch him wake up; he probably had to take his pants off to get out of the predicament.

**Have a funny story to tell? Send it to:
The Editor, mrennbiz@gmail.com**

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Top Ten Reasons Why Men Prefer Guns Over Women

And here we go...

- #10 - You can trade an old 44 for a new 22.
- #9 - You can keep one gun at home and have another for when you're on the road.
- #8 - If you admire a friend's gun and tell him so, he will probably let you try it out a few times.
- #7 - Your primary gun doesn't mind if you keep another gun for a backup.
- #6 - Your gun will stay with you even if you run out of ammo.
- #5 - A gun doesn't take up a lot of closet space.
- #4 - Guns function normally every day of the month.
- #3 - A gun doesn't ask, "Do these new grips make me look fat?"
- #2 - A gun doesn't mind if you go to sleep after you use it.

And the Number One reason why men prefer guns over women...



- #1 - You can buy a silencer for a gun!

Women like men in flashy cars; BUT, get this...



Signs that a man is seeking a "short-term" relationship:

- Drives a flashy car.
- You met him at "No Strings" Swingers club out by the airport.
- Knows what "romantic priming" is.
- Has overall cheerful disposition.
- Thinks your boyfriend "is a great guy."
- Bought Rick Springfield's memoir *Late, Late at Night* before it was remaindered.
- Refers to you as "you" throughout dinner and before, during and after sex.
- Inhales oxygen. Exhales carbon dioxide.

Just Saying

Civilian Quote:

"Maybe the answer to Selective Service is to start everyone off in the army and draft them for civilian life as needed." ~ Bill Vaughn

Definition:

RECRUIT, n. A person distinguishable from a civilian by his uniform and from a soldier by his gait.

Mission Statement:

Having close ties to the military most of my life, I am a big fan of the military and wish to bring them some joy and humor with a little bit of attitude. No offense is ever intended toward any particular group. I am a mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law of one of your own. Don't ask me who (I don't want him to be embarrassed by my naughtiness) and don't ask me how old I am... I'll only smile and say, "I'm somewhere between the age of consent and collapse, closer to collapse."

~ Marie Renn, Editor
Email: mrennbiz@gmail.com