



THE HARDWARE HERALD

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OUR LOSS, YOUR GAIN!

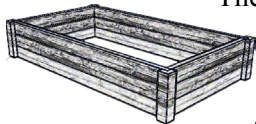
- Here's a great deal for a greenhouse or a club house! We have two (4'x6') fixed skylights just sitting in our yard, ready for the taking! They're double-paned in a metal frame. **Get one for \$250 OR both for \$400** (the regular retail is \$800 a piece).
- Another great deal that could go with the skylights is 155 sq ft of 1x4 tongue & groove fir flooring. **\$77 for the whole unit.** Unfortunately, we can't get any more of this.

GARDEN NOTES

- Skagit Gardens' plants are arriving every Wednesday! If you have a special request or two, or you'd like a particular Mother's Day basket that you'd like to get, please let us know and we'll get it for you. 
- Don't forget the whiskey barrel halves that are just waiting for you to add dirt and to plant flowers inside. **\$66** 
- We are fully stocked with **Peckie Cedar** for raised garden beds.

6"x8"x10' for \$31.47

6"x8"x12' for \$37.75



The (Peckie) holes are made from a fungus that grows on a cedar tree; once the tree has fallen, the fungus dies, leaving the hole. These boards are great for anywhere you would put a railroad tie. Use for steps, borders, etc. Note that they are untreated.

GET READY FOR SPRING & SUMMER



Kick off the month of May the right way with a brand new

MI-T-M Pressure Washer!

2400 PSI 2 GPM 170cc 30' of hose

Just \$299! (Tim loves his!)

FOR MONTH OF MAY: CABOT SALE!

15% OFF all Cabot products

10% OFF 30 Second Deck & Siding Cleaner (\$12.99)



SAVE THE DATE!

50th Anniversary Sale! Saturday, June 24th.

CARING FOR OTHERS

Pahrump, Nevada, has three major food markets. Smith's discounts sales to the local food banks. Walmart has never offered anything but their regular prices, which are quite often cheaper than their competitors' discount prices. My favorite market has been Albertsons. Their everyday prices are markedly more than their competitors, but until recently, when their food closed in on its "best if used by date," Albertsons would give these products to the local food banks and the Senior Center's needy members. The last few years I have watched Albertsons' customer base dwindle and I've worried about their place in my poor desert town's future. Well, it's happened: New management has drastically limited the gifts to my favorite food bank. To compete with the others, Albertsons is now selling these aging calories at special reduced prices. I do not blame Albertsons—they are struggling to protect their business.

The sweet Community Church Food Bank volunteers have had to cut their hours of operation by one third due to lack of food! This food bank provides basic food groups to 1200 families. How do they tell the children that they are out of food? Amazing how one small change can affect so many!

Paul

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 • "I am only one, but I am one. I
 • cannot do everything, but I can
 • do something. And because I
 • cannot do everything, I will not
 • refuse to do the something that
 • I can do. What I can do, I should
 • do. And what I should do, by the
 • grace of God, I will do."
 • ~ Edward Everett Hale
 •••••

I have had a love affair with high speed sailboats ever since I bought my first catamaran in 1962. I could ride waves with it at San Onofre, CA, and it had powerful enough sails to tow a water skier when the wind blew hard enough. I continued to race catamarans for the next twenty-two years.

Even with my many years of sailing experience I was speechless as I gazed at my friend Larry's BMW Oracle trimaran. The hull and Alma's were built in Sedro Woolly and Anacortes and their size is hard to comprehend. The main hull is one hundred feet long and the two Alma's or outriggers as some people call them are one hundred feet apart. That's right; it's a sail boat that measures 100 feet by 100 feet. The sails are a 5,000 square foot main and a 3,500 foot jib with a 6,500 square foot Gennaker, all hanging on a 158' tall mast that is three feet wide at the base. This speed machine has been created by a group of people who couldn't care less about the yachting establishment and think far outside of the box. It has already gone 20 miles an hour in only seven mph of wind and the boat has cost him only ten million dollars.

I had made arrangements to have my friend Ron pick me up in his thirty five year old, 24 foot, 30 mph runabout so we could chase the BMW Oracle during its sea trials and this is where it got really interesting to us. I had

Oracle's radio channel 5 written in my notes and as Ron and I took off after them, we disappeared into pea soup fog. Visibility was less than 100 feet and when I said, "Ron, turn your radio to Channel five," he answered, "I forgot to bring it along." Ron did know the compass course to where they were supposed to be sailing, but thirty minutes later it was obvious to me that we were completely lost because he didn't have any radar either. By now we had slowed down to about three mph when a steep cliff appeared in the fog about a hundred feet away.

I relaxed a bit because I knew Ron would have a chart of this part of the world. He had raced sailboats for fifty years, fished in Alaska for fifteen, and cruised back and forth a dozen or more times. I did know he had a small hand held GPS, but when I asked him to transfer his GPS coordinates to the location on his chart he replied, "I didn't bring one."

We had been chasing this ten million dollar boat for an hour and a half without a chart, radar, or a radio. When we finally emerged on the other side of the fog bank where we thought the Trimaran was practicing, there wasn't a boat in sight between us and Port Townsend, twenty miles away.

When I asked Ron, "How are we on fuel, he answered, "Ooops, we better go somewhere and get some." The closest place was Rosario, about ten miles from where we thought we were. When

we got to the fuel dock, Ron put 38 gallons of fuel into a 40 gallon tank at \$5.00 a gallon.

I did have cell phone service, so called Dan in Anacortes who said, "They are down sailing off of Deception Pass." This was in exactly the opposite direction from where we had gone and about fifteen miles from the fuel dock at Rosario. Half way there, we were again lost in the fog. It was already after three when Ron wisely suggested, "We should just head back and haul my boat out of the water. They'll be wrapping up in about an hour or so anyway so what if we skip chasing it and try and watch it another day when the fog isn't so thick?" So we slowly cruised back to our favorite Chinese restaurant in Anacortes and never did see the ten million dollar BMW Oracle speed machine underway.

The international judges have not yet handed down their verdict on whether or not they will let Oracle race, but the designers and crews goal is to make the boat go 40 mph in 20 mph winds. When it does, the entire crew will still be wearing their crash helmets as they were the day we didn't get to see the boat under sail. Remember, it is a one hundred foot trip from one side of the boat to the other every time it tacks and if anyone stumbled and fell without a helmet, they would be as dumb as Ron and I were.

For more of Warren's stories and stuff log onto: Warrenmiller.net

SEEN ONLINE

Here are some interesting tidbits. Since I haven't tested them, I can't be sure of their accuracy. ☺

Did you know...?

- Keep an onion near you at night if you have a stuffy nose.
- Put your hands in ice water and flex them if you have a migraine.
- Press your tongue against the roof of your mouth when you get a brain freeze.
- Scratch your ear if you have a tickle in your throat.
- Put deodorant on a mosquito bite to stop the itching.
- Press your tongue firmly against the back of your teeth to prevent a sneeze.
- If you're having trouble falling asleep, blink fast for a minute.
- If you're feeling sleepy, hold your breath for as long as you can, then release it.