

## Chores and recreation

27Mar2021

It's 9:00am on a Saturday (and the regular crowd shuffles in...No, that's pm and I'm not a Piano Man) and I'm drinking my coffee and contemplating my weekend. I'm excited for this weekend because Mary and I have big plans.

We're going to do some weekend cleaning, of course, and one of us will make a grocery run but those are the everyday things. Those are the things we could as easily do on a Tuesday, say, or a Thursday.

Since we're both still working on weekdays, the weekend is reserved for those special activities that are best accomplished with an uncluttered mind and open schedule. For example, tomorrow Mary will be spending the day with Daughter One on some projects they've agreed to tackle in tandem. And today Mary will likely spend some time prepping the yard perimeter for the fence guy while I take down some branches from a madrone tree that overhangs the line. Might get some turning blanks from that big branch and even a walking stick or two from the smaller suckers – woohoo!

I can't wait to get back to my work in the garage. I finished wiring the garden shed and started in the workshop last weekend. Today I'll finish the workshop wiring runs and put in the insulation on the two exterior walls most subject to summer heat gain. Putting in insulation is nasty work and usually leaves me itching, long sleeves or no. So I fall back on my old mantra, "I really don't want to do this so I'll do it right now."

If things go well, I'll get started on skinning the workshop walls with ½ inch sanded plywood. That will be a slow process and not just because I have to measure, mark and cut the holes for electrical outlets. There was a time when I would start one or two screws, throw the sheet into position and hold it with my shoulder while I drove the starters into studs. But those days were already receding when I broke my back and altered my approach for good.

Nowadays, skinning the wall with plywood involves a story stick, temporary nailed jigs, a lifting cradle and as much as possible, reliance on body mass rather than muscle. Fortunately, body mass is a resource that is not in short supply these days. Where I might have taken ten minutes per sheet five years ago, I'll be spending probably a half hour or more per sheet this time around. And that is not including the 'back breaks' that are now a regular feature of my shop time. I will be thoroughly used up by this evening and will need a cup of Mary's special tea to get to sleep tonight.

I can't wait to get started! Even considered blowing off writing this post so I could begin right off. This will be a good weekend, a productive weekend, a FUN weekend!

Yes, I know I'm not supposed to like chores, especially those that leave me with sore lumbar and itchy dermis. There was a time when I would have described all my planned activities of this weekend as nuisance activities. But as I get older and especially in this time of enforced solitude, I'm finding anything I do that moves me forward feels more like recreation than drudgery.

I hope each and all of you have as much fun over the next two days as will I. And that your fun won't involve installing R-19 insulation.