



A Mere Paws . . .

the Official Newsletter of Doggerel Unlimited.



Winter 2008

Pipe (Tube) Dreams

By John Gutekunst

The Internet can be a confusing place. Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska once said the Internet is not a big truck, it's a series of tubes. Not very illuminating — we're talking about the World Wide Web here, not the World Wide 6" PVC Sch 40 pipe with an outside diameter of 6.625" +/- 0.011.

The concept of domain names is sometimes confusing, and it doesn't help when there are people out there purposely trying to mislead you. Basically the domain name is the www.whatever.com you type into a browser to visit a website, for example www.DoggerelUnlimited.com.

Back in the day (before 1999), there was only one place to go for .com, .net, and .org domain names — Network Solutions. However since then the process has been opened up to other registrars, and the door was opened to (didn't see this coming) internet scams.



The idea behind these scams is to trick customers into switching registration by sending a notice that your domain name is expiring.

Many of these companies have very similar sounding names, and most people don't know offhand the name of their legitimate registrar (why should they — they have other things to do!) These notices contain legalistic text and a look of authenticity that make people think they are official documents.

What can you do? Be leery of any notice you get in the mail or through email stating that your domain is running out, you must act now, etc. Call you hosting company or web designer, they will know who your true registrar is and can set you straight. And beware of anyone selling truckloads of 6" PVC Sch 40 pipe with an outside diameter of 6.625" +/- 0.011 — sounds like a pipe dream.

A Closer Look

Chester County Firefighters



I was walking around the campus of West Chester University one day last June when I saw a sign that said **2007 Chester County Firefighters Muster**. On seeing this I ran to the nearest hotdog stand, pushed several cute-as-the-dickens kids out of the way, got my hotdog, ran back to the firefighters and shouted:

Condiment me!

Stunned silence. Even the Dalmations didn't bark a word. Suddenly someone said "Not mustard you idiot, muster! Release the hounds!" Well I ran, but those Dalmations spotted me and rescued me to the ground.

Later, Jim O'Brien from the West Goshen Lions Club explained what it was all about.

A firefighters Muster and Challenge is a skills competition among firefighters and first-responders based on the firefighting and rescue tasks performed in emergency situations. The goal is to perform the challenge task perfectly, according to strict rules, and in the fastest time.

"The Firefighters Muster is hosted by the West Goshen Lions Club," Jim said, " we put into action the motto of Lions International: "We Serve."

2007 was only the second time the muster was held, and the growth of the event in just two years has been



phenomenal. There were more participants, more competitions, and more sponsors this year than last. The West Goshen Lions Club intends to build on that for next year, and the 2008 Muster will be bigger and better than ever . **The 2008 Firefighters Muster on June 8 is free to attend! For more information about attending, sponsoring, or participating visit their website at firefightersmuster.com — and hold the relish.**

Doggerel Unlimited

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A Mere Paws
This newsletter by any other name
would still smell.

Baying at the Moon

By John Gutekunst



Revenge Against the Nerds

Ever notice that the silly-sounding names of a lot of the things related to computers seem like they were dreamed up by nerdy geeks? Well guess what, they *were* dreamed up by nerdy geeks.

Let's look at a few examples.

1. A computer is *hardware*, so of course the programs used in them are *software*.
2. There are no *IBMs* or *Mutual of Omahas* on the internet, instead we get *Google* and *Yahoo*, (the kind of names thought up by a bunch of giggling yahoos).
3. A website doesn't have a *web address*, it's a *domain*, and maintenance isn't the responsibility of an *associate web consultant*, your domain is lorded over by a *webmaster*. A little too much time playing *Dungeons and Dragons* in the rec room perhaps?

Alas, the nerds success was also their downfall. The use of computers is so ubiquitous that this terminology has become part of our everyday

language, they've lost their nerdy mystique. But fear not, the next nerd-words will no doubt soon appear on your floppy-blackberry-ipod-drive.

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Recipe of the Week

Fondue = FUNdue

Fondue became popular (groovy) in the U.S. in the 1970s. It usually

consists of a pot with melted cheese kept warm by a small burner, and the diners use long forks to dip morsels of food into the sauce.

Cheese fondues are the most common type, but there are many other possibilities for the what is used for dipping (the Dipper) and what is being dipped into (the

Dippee).

For this recipe you will need:

- A fondue pot
- Fondue forks
- Cheese (many processed cheese products claim to be "easy-melting." The same can be said for paraffin or the dreams of a starry-eyed boy who wants to play the lead in a Broadway revival of *Annie*, but I wouldn't put either one in a fondue pot. Use real cheese.)
- Dippers
- Friends willing to wear striped hip-hugger bell bottoms

Simply melt the cheese in the pot, fork your dippers and dip away. For dippers we recommend crackers (cheese & crackers are a classic combo!) Caution: some crackers may require you to pre-drill fork holes to avoid breakage. Use a 1/8" food-grade drill bit. Enjoy!

Nest Week: Oil & Vinegar — The Shocking Truth!

