The background of the entire page is a tropical beach scene. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach with a wooden building on stilts to the right. A small boat is beached on the sand. In the middle ground, there are several palm trees and a body of water. The sky is clear and blue.

THE *Windschief*

**News Muse on
Thursdays
2020/21**

**One year of pandemic through the
eyes of a small family and business
in Belize**

Prologue

Welcome to one year of weekly updates from the Windschief Beach Bar & Minigolf, Restaurant + Cabanas – a small Belizean-German family owned business in Hopkins, Belize.

After the total lockdown in April 2020 we were allowed to open again, first under curfew, then back to total freedom, then later back into the rules-&-regulations-jungle.

In July we decided we need to make some fun off of this whole mess and started blogging the “Windschief News Muse on Thursdays”. Follow us through this year of pandemic in Belize and what we made of it. Some references to national and international events at the time may come across a bit confusing now but also may remind you of some things that happened.

Enjoy the recapture!

Pam, Oli & Amon

You can find all news and updates on our Facebook page



Windschief Beach Bar

and download this book at

www.windschief.com/news

.... Ready? Let's go!

#1 – 2nd July 2020

After a seemingly endless period of “yo, it’s curfew time, you need to get outta here now” everybody is enjoying their freedom again. Reports leaked from Camp Covid that celebrations are ongoing there also, due to an optimistic outlook to a rising reproduction rate, though some said they are terrified by a number of humans still wearing their face masks.

Though freedom is restored, tourism is not, which is counterproductive to earning a living in the tourism industry. Luckily there are people who fill in and enjoy all the fun stuff Hopkins and its surroundings have to offer. Nevertheless we are still on the 3-day schedule and cutting back the afternoon hours again, starting from 4pm now, also because we will be watching somebody nurture a beer until it’s midnight and won’t be able to see sunrises from here on. (some co-workers mentioned that it was really nice when they could kick people out at 8pm and call it a night).

Awaiting our first proper Friday Night, rumor has it that it is gonna be a Masquerade Ball 2020 style – mask the lower part of your bright side and without holes. This should be interesting as nobody can lip-read foul language over the loud music and you can also hide a sheepish smile.

Sports:

Many are enthusiastic about the reintroduction of so-called MiniGolf-Tournaments. A few practice rounds have already been recorded. We are looking forward to some great events within the next weeks.

The foosball games didn’t go so well on the opening night, partly because people weren’t aware that this still exists, but also the maintenance officer in charge forgot to cut the grass on the field.

Weather:

The weather in Hopkins is like a box of chocolate these days, though

mostly dry with a few sprinkles from the guy washing his car. Blue sky during the day with temperatures around 32°C/90°F, which feel like a Turkish steam bath due to a humidity that obviously had a bad childhood. At night it might cool down to a chilly 28°C/82°F, have your blankets ready!

So much for the post-lockdown-news. Wishing you a great weekend and see you when we see you!



#2 – 9th July 2020

One week into the no-curfew zone, one comes to realize – this must be how it feels like turning 21 in the USA and finally being allowed to have a beer – about effin’ time, going overboard at the first chance and then it becomes normal really quickly.

So the masked parties continue and just to be safe a new strategy is gaining popularity: washing off sweat and germs in the sea during and/or after an event.

Fun Fact: While it is still mandatory to cover nose and mouth in bars & clubs, nobody said anything about the rest of the body.

Many members of Camp Covid are about ready for a vacation, also because their natural mid-northern habitat is being overpopulated. But much to the people’s approval Belize is not issuing visas for this month.

Sports:

As practice continues on the golf course, cussing takes on new dimensions. We are offering Self-Defense classes this Sunday to prepare you for your next golf round.

Weather:

When it hits the 90F (~32C) before 10am, you know it’s gonna be a hot one. A refreshing breeze will usually keep it bearable, but beware of no-wind days. Stay close to a water body and practice avoidance of the blazing rays of our star, aka Schattenparking.

It is also recommended to refill your perspiration tanks frequently at one of the fine establishments Hopkins has to offer – or just go to the Windschief...

So long 'til next week!



#3 – 16th July 2020

Still on slow season schedule, we are hanging in there 3 days a week, which have become quite the gathering of characters and center of activities. Monday Darts, Wednesday MiniGolf and Friday Dance. Rumor has it that Friday Nights are still much fun. The problem is, nobody can ever remember what really happened – or so they say. And so we will gather again to test and confirm latest theories.

-

Camp Covid is getting excited about the upcoming opening to international travelers. Some members were not able to restrain from their urge to invade Belize and already jumped the border. They are being closely monitored. Many eligible resorts are going on strike, respectfully saying no to potential danger over profit.

-

The beach of Hopkins is getting sabotaged once again by marine flora with a name that reminds more of a satirical climax, scientists are still trying to find the one responsible - for the name and for the invasion. Just in a few days we will find out if our "covid"-masks also protect from the smell of decomposing Sargassum. Predictive opinions agree: results will heavily depend on the test subjects' oral hygiene.

Sports:

As if we don't have enough weapons around here, playing with pointy steel tip air missiles is on the rise again. Team Sittee stopped by to inspect the new dart venue and promptly found out, that Hopkins is not so bad at this. This resulted in a counter-invitation into their own den for the very next day, which ended in – well let's just say they won. Convincingly.

Weather:

The diversity of Belize manifests itself not only in everything else, but also the weather. While we are struggling to keep one tomato plant from dying of thirst, highways are under water elsewhere. So, to keep it short, just imagine anything within the boundaries of 85-105°F temps & 0-20kts winds.

So long.....



#4 – 23rd July 2020

Another week has passed, including another Friday Night, which started in a very dark way after a bolt of bright light took out a transformer near us. But the electrical professionals came to the rescue and gave us back the essential electrons to run the show, just in time to crank up the spirit(s). Turns out, you don't have to get up early to watch the sunrise - just don't go to sleep in the first place! Again nobody is able or wants to say what happened, and so, to clear things up, Friday Night is suspended for this week.

-

As the Covid party continues up north, everybody is still very relaxed around the latitude 17 marker. That might soon change, therefore people are trying to fit parties and trips and weddings into the remaining days of the border-lockdown. What happens after that – only The One knows, and Jamaica, and Antigua, and the Bahamas. Officials ponder the idea of asking Mexico to build us a wall.

-

We are recently conducting a gender study about partying practices. The female event was a success, but we have some difficulties obtaining the other side's input. No one of that test group wants to (or probably is able to) have fun without the venues. Therefore we are coming to the conclusion that places like man caves and hardware stores are more like venues of longing and deflection. But, this theory needs further investigation. If you want to volunteer or have a venue, please contact us to set up a new series of trials.

-

Sports:

While the Sittee River Darts Team is giving Hopkins a break to practice, we did other stuff and are now welcoming a new junior member into the colored belt Jiu-jitsu family. Congrats Ayana, you are now officially to be tossed around.

Weather:

Do you remember the to-do list on extremely hot and calm days? – We neither, everything in the tower is fried. Common sense will tell you to cool off in any way possible, follow it's advice! Side note: Taking a road trip in an air conditioned car always helps. Make sure the wipers are working; you might encounter some misty air on the way.

Stay safe out there and remember – no kicking, no biting!



#5 – 30th July 2020

Under the cover of an important field study, some of the Windschief crowd decided to take Friday Night to a different location last week. The results are somewhat not surprising. First, turns out they don't need a beach to stay up late and indulge in dopamine dispensation. Second, even with a different DJ there are no observable differences in behavior. And C – we gotta do that again, with more test subjects!

-

With the airport opening in little more than two weeks, discussions are becoming heated on what is about to happen. Can the bug be confined within Gold-Standard-Resort-limits? How would it know where not to go? Does Karen know about rules and regulations and all the things she can't do when visiting Belize? How will she react when finding out? Are we going to run out of popcorn?

-

With business in the gutter, we are testing different theories of cut-back. Trimming out the Friday to save on running costs turned into numbers we do not want to nor can we explain. This week we decided to put Monday on trial. We will post results, maybe.

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Sports:

Although not as dangerous, horse tipping is not a reasonable alternative to Windschief bar sports and will not be considered a valid discipline in the future. Not so much a sport - but arguing with one on the other hand is quite entertaining (for the person watching).

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Weather:

About as windy as it gets without calling it a storm, a massive airflow is dominating our weather. Long-haired clients prefer the chairs on the downwind side of the Table of Wisdom, though it is a compromise. Sure, it helps to see who you are talking to, but you are also in a good position of catching most of spilled drinks in your lap.

Rumor also has it that there might be some more beach coming from Africa, which apparently took apart the first hurricane, who's path was predicted towards the western Caribbean. A good trade off – two days of dust beats flying houses.

Are you still reading? Well that's it for this week, see ya next one!



#6 – 6th August 2020

We are happy to announce that we have found many more theories that need evaluation. One of them is "How much respect for our star is appropriate?" This field study was conducted on a desolated island 35 miles off shore; just to be sure nobody would run off before results are firm. Many subjects started early and were already half way into the trial upon arrival, testing the amplification of UV-rays over water.

Of course melanin concentration plays a big role and geographical location might have something to do with it, but it turns out nobody is safe.

Three main variables that were tested here are choice of clothing, positioning and availability of chemical aids. Results show that those three factors are directly proportional to the IQ of the test subject. And so there was a lot of "don't touch me!!!!" and "ouch, I should have thought of that earlier" going on during the experiment. But we are glad to report everybody is still friends.

-

Belize is bracing for impact as Camp Covid announced a massive strike within the month. Some scouts sent out by CC have been apprehended and are being interrogated. It is believed that there are many more CC spies amongst us already and we have to proceed with caution. Cake-hole covering and appropriate distance to suspicious individuals is recommended for a chance of not being considered a potential target.

And for the latest development – Belize is now saying eff you, nobody is coming in anytime soon, we have enough to deal with on our own.

It looks like the school holidays will be extended also, much to the joy of all the little rugrats who have forgotten what it is to get up in the morning for something other than their video games.

-

Sports:

The sports scene has been rather quiet at the Windschief. Between the occasional competition for the best monthly golf round and some recreational foosballing and darting we cannot report any major news. People shoot hole-in-ones backwards between their legs out of boredom. Even a fizzled fishing event ended up with the participants eating hotdogs.

Weather:

Forgotten are last week's breezy days. We are again facing conditions best explained by Glenn Frey's words describing Beverly Hills back in 1984. Other than heat, heavenly electrical discharges are also on, taking out yet another transformer across the street. No light, no fan, heart wrenching noises from the transformer limping towards heaven, paired with a calm hot muggy buggy night – alright, this is what it feels like to be on "Naked & Afraid".

The occasional cool and rainy day is much welcomed in between the swelter.

So much for this week, stay safe out there and stop by when you are around!

p.s. When one doesn't work so late, one actually wakes up early enough to see this:



#7 – 13th August 2020

Once upon a time people came from a land of the free to buy land in the land by the Caribbean Sea. Camp Covid didn't hesitate to send their best along for the ride. And just like Bello and Bradley, they all baldly lied.

They managed to sneak by immigration and all safety measures. Now the party is on and the Windschief is off.

So as we are nursing the wounds of last week's UV experiment, we started a new one: how long can you hermit without seeing your friends? Goal: 14 days. Record so far: 42 hrs. Strategy to increase results: turning off the beer fridge.

-

Hopkins is once again on weed. Sea weed to be exact. Everything seems to come in waves nowadays; this is round two for this year's sargasso fest and so far a rather mild one. Hopes are up that there will still be Queensland left before the property markers when this one is through. When situated in north Hopkins, you hope for north wind, if your stable is in the south you want it the other way around. And so the weed is being passed back and forth along with the mood of nature. Being in the center of the bay it is like watching a tennis match in slow mo – until the wind comes straight onshore.

-

In international news: Black doughnuts producer GoodYear is being pressured into changing their name due to false advertising. Meanwhile, kids are taking it to the streets, protesting harsh hygiene rules implemented by their parents, stating "more than one time hand washing a day is torture!"

Corn farms in the northern hemisphere are facing new challenges due to the latest heat wave. Harvesting readymade popcorn creates disruptions in logistics.

-

Sports:

As much as we like beating each other up, it is not as much fun if we have to stay 6 feet apart. So in light of the latest virus invasion we had

to cancel Jujitsu classes for now. But, if we are not getting totally locked down we might be able to hoist rags and get on the water, given that our vessel still floats. We'd be happy to host sailing lessons but that is also not possible with a 6ft gap. (this just means we need a bigger boat ey!?)

-

Weather:

While global warming is working in the north, we are having quite some nice and comfortable days here on the coast of Belize. Keeping it under 90F, the occasional rain here and there, a nice breeze and some cloud cover make the outdoors bearable. One could actually get some work done, if one was into it.

Other parts of the Jewel are getting a bit much precipitation. Flooded bridges are a normal occurrence these days.



#8 – 20th August 2020

People in Belize are good at flattening things, like tortilla dough, and pandemic waves. And so it took over 4 months for the first wave to build up. But now, after a weak moment, it is coming like a tsunami. While numbers are comparably small to other bigger countries, they are bigly big here. The hopes are resting on the flattening skills and an immune-strong population.

As the South is generally protected from getting anything we are glad that this seems to not only apply to government funding but also to viral invasions, with just a little over 3% of countrywide cases being south of the Hummingbird Highway so far. Maybe it's time to build a Checkpoint Charlie at 6-Miles-Junction!

For an update on the hermit experiment – we must rephrase the goal: it is not about how long to not see friends; one can see friends, from a distance, of at least 6ft, don't touch the same things, wash hands and don't sneeze upwind of anybody.

The new goal is to stay 6ft away – on the way! It is easily done within the meetings, but getting there proves a real challenge. One has to dodge and fight off other loving individuals, who just want a hug, without mask, without worries.

And there is a new business idea for the entrepreneur – full body condoms!

On international grounds, astronauts on the ISS are laughing, reminding humanity that being able to go to a bar is a luxury, not an entitlement.

An interview with foreign prisoners in the US revealed: they are happy they don't have to live like sheep in this Corona Dictatorship out there. One, who is going to be released next week, said, he will seek immediate asylum in North Korea.

-

Sports:

While one could declare it a sport to try and not get kissed on the way to meet with friends, we are not sure yet on how to distribute points in this game. One conclusion we came to is that women seem to be more a target and deserve at least double the score when arriving unharmed.

Other than that, fighting for the TV remote has become another discipline. Points are given for minutes of possession.

-

Weather:

It seems like as soon as we report something, the exact opposite happens – of course within range of the possible. After reporting it nice´n´cool there was no way one could work outside the following days. So just to confuse whoever is responsible: It was bloody hot, there was rain, there was sun, there was a cool day and it was dry while it was windy and still – take that! Oh, I see, you gonna send a storm just to prove it! Alright, we´ll keep an eye on it...

Have fun, stay clean, good bye for now and thanks for all the fish!!!

(at this point we included a video of a guy being asked if, when quarantining, he would go with A) wife and kids or B)..... that´s when he quickly said B B B BBBB!)

#9 – 27th August 2020

Here we are - 5 days into the (non-)lockdown. Our leaders are terrified to use that term nowadays, so they put out a bunch of rules without the label.

Hoping it will help, the hermit experiment is back to not seeing anybody, which is now also a non-lockdown-law. Can't visit your friends, all the fun places are shut, no sports allowed – this thing sucks, but then again there are other things that would suck on a much higher level. And so we sit out our time in home-jail.

We've been closed for 3 weeks now – not an easy situation for some. In case you encounter any form of withdrawal symptoms, try one or more of the following:

- take a trip down memory lane and recall all the fun we had,
- message/call/whatsapp/facetime a friend to share some memories,
- scroll down this page (*Windschief Beach Bar on Facebook*) to find reports and pictures of the good ol' times,
- go to the fridge, get a beer, open it, take a sip and shout: "dang, this is not as cold as it would be at the Windschief!"

After you put your beer in the freezer, only to forget about it and find it all busted up, let us know which menu item you miss the most. We are thinking about opening a few days a week; for take-out only of course - in compliance with the latest non-lockdown-rules and all Covid19-prevention measures.

-

This quarantining, if not given the choice of option "B", reveals quite a lot of anomalies. There is only so much a maintenance guy can fix, and when out of work, one gets introduced to chores outside of one's job description and field of experience. Part of the agony is, for example, getting yelled at for not establishing a rainbow pattern on the laundry line or having to do dishes in order to earn dinner.

Fun fact: if you stare at a sleeping person for about 7-8 hours, they will wake up!

-

Sports:

The only sport at the moment is staying alive and sane. So far we are doing pretty well, although an insane person doesn't know they're insane, that's what makes them insane. So (I think we've been through this before) as long as we know we are insane, we are not. Wait, what?? Let's do some push-ups...

-

Weather:

It's the end of August alright – calm, steaming hot, weather that makes you get so lazy that you even stop talking to yourself. Watching the neighbors pour concrete is about the limit of the possible.

With the hot season also comes the threat of moist air twisters. Last week's fly by was just the beginning of the stormy season. This one missed us by a few hundred miles but there can always be a next one. Hope it's not gonna be this year, or the next, or the next or the ne.....
(the author fell asleep, it was probably too hot, he looks dehydrated. We will come back next week, so long!)





#10.1 – 2nd September 2020

And now the Windschief News on Thursdays – on a Wednesday!

Yes that's right! It's Wednesday. And it is gonna be a rough night in Hopkins and other parts of Belize and we might not have power nor internet in the morning.

Nana is coming - some call it storm, some may call her a hurricane by the time she's here. Others call it a swapping service. Put things out in the yard that you don't need anymore and they will be taken, while others will come to you. It's kinda like secret Santa – you never know what you gonna get! Wait, that was a box of chocolate, anyway, we are sorting things to put out on the launching pad and tightening down others that we don't want to lose...

Fun storm fact – under a coconut tree is the safest place to not get hit by a coconut!

Well, we are not gonna bore you for long today, we got things to do and you may too.

Everybody in the prediction cone - g'luck and see you tomaro, everybody anywhere else – don't worry, be happy!



#10.2 – 3rd September 2020

We like Nana, Nana was kind. She was like – sorry guys, on my way to the Pacific, just passing through really quickly, you won't even know. Well, she did take out a few trees, docks, palapas; redesigned a couple weak-stilted houses, but we are not mad at her.

Everything's still windschief at the Windschief, but it looks like we cannot open anytime soon – our OPEN sign fell victim to Nanas friendly wrath! Oh and who's gonna clean the yard???

-

In other news - utterly disarmed of any social skills by now, we are at the better end of two weeks of State-of-Emergency. But when an island, which was under lockdown as the center of the latest outbreak, is being evacuated due to a weather threat, you know the perfect storm has just begun. What to do? Scratch the rules anyway and leave it up to the population to act maturely? Get your popcorn ready... And while they're at it - why don't they just open the airport too – oh wait they are going to do that!

-

Sports:

Main activity of this week: running around the house and yard to secure anything that can be affected by rapid air flow. Then wait for rapid airflow. Then return to original state. We hope this is not becoming a regular discipline!

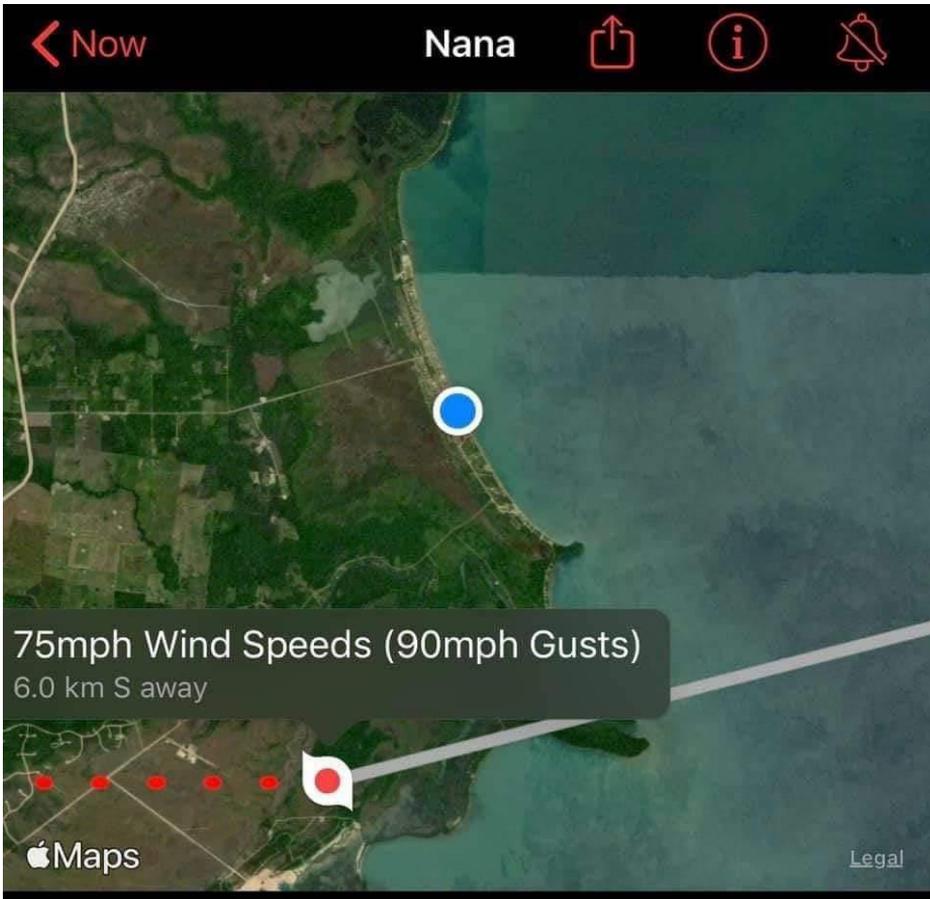
-

Weather:

When you stare in disbelief at the water stream coming from the showerhead after turning the valve that says "cold" and double check that you didn't accidentally turn on the hot side, you know it's the Grand Finale of summer. The only refreshing flash these days is the moment when you stick your head into the freezer to get a beer. The hurricane briefly cooled us down some, but we won't ask for another one just for that...

So much for this week, don't forget to wear your masks on the back of the head overnight to bend the ears back in place!









#11 – 10th September 2020

One week after the twirler we are back to the normal staying at home. At least the curfew is lifted but what good does that do if there isn't anything going on and you kinda want to stay at safe distance from the unknown anyway? Bars are still closed, restaurants on take-out only.

It is quiet in the village. Not much traffic, hardly any delivery trucks, only the motorbike guy with the sawn-off muffler makes you spill your drink while watching TV every now and then. Maybe everybody is just hot and this whole lockdown is a good excuse to indulge in the feet-up position in front of the fan. Yes, very good excuse. Now I'm starting to think what would happen, if you plug a 110V fan into a 220V outlet? There's gotta be a way to make that thing spin faster!!!

-

Another one of the few perks of living in Central America – it seemingly is the end of all shipping routes. You wait for your stuff. Long. This becomes exceptionally agonizing when you waited four weeks for a car part just to find out it's the wrong one. It was a little easier in the good old days when people would travel to Belize and one would find some friendly helper to get small items down here. But guess what, there goes another four weeks with a car that gets 11mpg...

-

In international waters – Last month an Italian "flat-earther" couple ended up in quarantine after breaking lockdown rules in an attempt to sail to the end of the world - just south of Sicily. They admit their mistake – finding the edge of a flat planet is tough when your sole source of navigation is a compass!

People are not only trying to escape the Cov horizontally – a magician and daredevil, David Blaine, tried the vertical vector by tying himself to a bunch of helium balloons to escape the Arizonian heat. At about 25000 feet he ran out of air and had to make his way back down to earth.

And in Switzerland 47 genital service assistants are in quarantine as suspects of covid-infection. A new law in the land of mountains and money allows happy ending massages only if the massageé (mostly

married males in their 50s & 60s) leaves an envelope with his contact info for potential contact tracing. I just leave that here...

Sports:

None. No, seriously.

Weather:

Hot, calm, beautiful warm nights, perfect for nocturnal activities on the beach.

Friendly reminder: if you named your dog „Shark“, don't bring him to the beach please! See you next week...



#12 – 17th September 2020

Why Thursday you might ask? Well, it is – used to be – our day off, so we would have time to mess around and brighten your day. Nowadays we are not even sure it is Thursday. There used to be a schedule to the weekly madness – beer delivery, meat truck, fresh veggies on Tuesdays.... The only regular thing still on time is the garbage collection, so we at least know when it is Saturday. But then again there isn't much garbage either. Why Thursday? So you know it's Thursday!

One day melts into the next, one of the highlights being the shower in the morning - the few hours the pipe water is below 85F (~30C). The disappointment of the day would be realizing in the evening, that nobody put beer in the fridge.

But, to be ready for when our government decides that it is ok to open a bar again, we are engaging in some minor renovations and maintenance. Hope to see ya'll soon!

-

People have asked us if we followed up on that fan experiment. NO! Don't do it! There are better ways to pass the time than tryin' to burn down your house just before the blade takes off on its own agenda, probably trying to avoid the s**t that's coming at it, and to burry itself into the couch cushion right next to your ear – not a good way to explore Newton's laws of motion. Go swimming, find weird ways to test Archimedes' principle, it's fun!

Also, if you have kids who are willing to experiment, make sure they put something under the resting glue gun. But even if not, you can now practice your skills in convincing a rug rat to clean something up. And as homeschooling lesson about the difference between adhesion and cohesion, explaining that adhesion between glue and tabletop doesn't necessarily have to affect cohesion within family and then come up with solutions to detach molten plastic from an Italian antique style dinner table.

-

And if after all the experimenting the house is still standing, the family intact and there's beer in the fridge, it's been a good day. Bad news – we are running out of fire wood for the nocturnal rituals on the beach.

Burning the furniture is not a feasible alternative (and not environmentally friendly in case of the dinner table). Looks like one needs to trim a tree soon. Drying the cuttings should take no more than a few hours in this late-summer sun.

Fun fact: the sun is south of us again – for quite a while now. In fact, it is gonna be straight above the equator in about 5 days, the equinox on September 22nd (yes, not just a car), when days are just as long as the nights. We do experience a northern sun for about 52 days out of the year, 26 days left and right of the summer solstice.

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Sports:

Some activities were reported this week. We don't actually want to call those sports though...

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Weather:

We have nothing else to say. It does suck having an electronically switched fan, as that thing does not come back on after a short (lightning caused) blackout. Which happens like 10 times per night during a tropical wave. We are ready for a nap. See you next week!



#13 – 24th September 2020

Number 13 – a dreading number to some. We have no problem with it and just continue to have fun!

We received message that we can open restaurant style again, and we will do so next week sometime, but rather indifferently. We are still waiting for green light from our beloved leaders to be able to hang at the bar with the usual suspects, to be able to have fun, to be able to put speakers on the roof and make a DJ save your life!

The reopening of the airport is a dim light at the end of the tunnel and of course we don't know if it actually is the end or just a freight train coming at us. Meanwhile we're sittin' on a deck of a bar, watching the dough only stretching so far...

While keeping busy when not busy, one notices weird abnormalities. That paired with some ethanol inside the circulatory system we were convinced our tectonic plate went south the other day. While latest hurricane Nana courteously twisted the right way – to the left, or counterclockwise as some smart people would say, our (dirty) dishwasher goes out in down-under-style the other way! Too much right-spinning amino acids? In any case - no more listening to Australian news while doing the dishes! (or maybe leave the beer in the fridge until after the dishes are done - we have seen the Southern Cross & Centaurus before, though that doesn't mean they were there)

As a social experiment and in order to keep the cohesion in the family intact, the leaders decided to leave the minors to design their own schedule this week. To no one's surprise this not only backfired dramatically but also made the minors' deficient work ethics almost irreversible. Vain attempts are under way to correct the mistakes made and liberate the younger population from the arms of hibernation.

Sports:

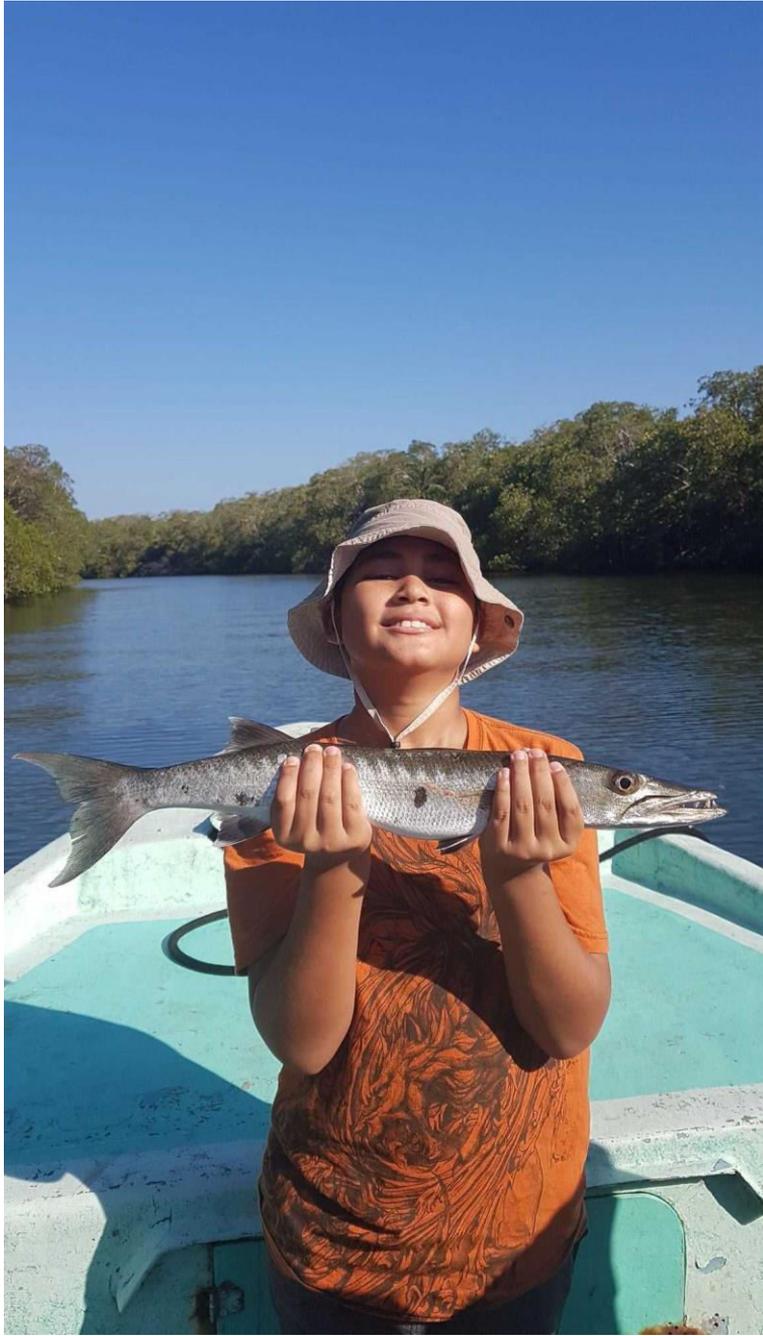
Since lately we call everything a sport that has faintly something to do with moving any parts of the body by more than a 1-inch margin, we can include a day of leisure fishing. Reported catches range from bait-

fish to more baitfish to almost eating size fish which was used to catch more baitfish. But at the end participants were happy to have at least half a dinner. The professionals are blaming the tides, since there was no banana to be found onboard.

Weather:

While days still hit the 90, we are glad to report that the nights are getting cooler. At below 80F it is possible to have nice dreams again. Also this ends the awkwardness of looking at your wife who fell asleep on the couch at night, thinking about leaving her there to have the bed & fan all to yourself. It was worth the bruises though...

This week's Fun facts of nature – chemically speaking, alcohol is a solution and biologically speaking, if something bites you it's more likely to be female.



#14 – 1st October 2020

October 1st, the day of the invasion – the history books are gonna tell. But it should be all safe, since we have a Safe Corridor and the Gold Standard. Well, some are golden in their standards, we not. Therefore we are not allowed to house foreigners, which might be a good thing for now. We'll scrape by selling some Fish'n'Chips here and there. Yes, we can open the kitchen again, and we can have up to 10 people gobble up food and drinks at a time. But only drink with food - no food no drink, according to the latest regulations. I guess they don't wanna have some intoxicated smartbutt with his mask protecting only the chin spittin' in other's faces while trying to explain Fermat's last theorem (which btw. Pythagoras could have come up with but he didn't have 3D glasses).

And so we will have to postpone meetings at the Table of Wisdom and the Friday Night rituals for now.

Opening up in the slowest of slow times ever can lead to unsatisfying service to some. Being used to the agile nature of our bartenders, people have to put up with the maintenance guy instead, since outside help is out of budget these days. People are getting used to no ketchup or napkins on the table and realize they won't get another drink unless they ask – at least twice. Nicely. Here it comes to the substitute's advantage that the establishment is only allowed to hold a maximum of 10 people at the moment. If only people could coordinate their drinking schedule to combine and cut down on the endless hikes to the fridge that would be highly appreciated...

During daytime hours, the youth is becoming a master in selective participation, but every once a while the minor's skills can be applied to a helpful task. Though the enthusiasm before the task is questionable, the happy smile when everything is done and the answer to "can I go now?" is a positive - priceless.

During tasks it is also fun to demonstrate, that there are a lot of things that one didn't know that one doesn't know. After all that is what education is about. And so you can for example use Pythagoras to figure

out, how much longer the new extension cord should have been and then realize you don't have a receipt for it. That is a couple of lessons in one go right there!

Sports:

Some activity on the links was reported under the full moon after finally turning on the lights again. Heated rounds and the fight for the month's best one are back!

Meanwhile the nocturnal swimming lessons are becoming insufficient due to decreasing values of air temperature after sundown. It takes quite some ethanol to convince participants that these sessions are very important and could be life saving.

Weather:

Here we go again – everything from steaming hot during the day whenever there is work in yard to do, to quite chilly at night time when the new bartender finally gets off shift and wants to jump in the sea to drown his self-pity about having to work again. That paired with some random downpours makes it a diversified experience to live along this latitude.

And to wrap it up for this week - note to self and everybody else: When eating out the chicken stew leftovers from the pot in dim light while watching an exciting movie, be sure to take out all habaneros before!



#15 – 8th October 2020

While Dolphins use Puffer Fish to get high, we just float in the wave of love we received for our re-opening. We are not yet allowed to really hang or dance, but the kitchen was hot, and so were the maintenance guy's soles trying to keep up with the drink orders. Thank ya'll for this warm and fun reintroduction to the working class! Still waiting to be able to crank up the music again and proof that there are two kinds of people: those who want to go home and those who don't, and that they are usually married to each other. And as about 30% of IT professionals hide their career from friends and family to get out of giving free tech support, we will not hide and give free advice and lots of reason to stay, on your own risk of course.

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The airport opened and over 800 people so far tried to find refuge from a land where the most important part of a presidential debate is an insect, and dissipated into the countryside through a very safe corridor. There have been reports of some that have escaped their holding cells to get some fresh air but were apprehended quickly thanks to a tight neighborhood watch and exemplary cooperation with law enforcement. The Safe Corridor is still safe and the Golden Standards have been reestablished.

Meanwhile members of Camp Covid are experimenting with other modes of transportation into the outside world. The Reverse Trojan Horse was one suggestion made at the last meeting, since carriers (tourists) are not allowed out but potential carriers (resort staff) can go in.

-

In domestic news: the rug rat is at school - at home! Now houses need an antenna on the roof with a big red light signaling to the neighborhood and the no-muffler-guy "quiet please, school in session". The system is still on trial, and not quite having NASA's bandwidth of 92GB/s the internet lines at the real school are running hot.

Another problem occurs at the maternal cafeteria – he refuses to pay for his lunch! And what do the students do when teacher says: class dismissed, you can go home now!?

Heated discussions about the fundamentals of the English language erupt when the kid is practicing playing the recorder, which is exasperating to start with but that word has no place in describing a vertically held flute!

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Sports:

Yeah no, who needs sports anyway!

-

Weather:

As nightly temperatures plummet into the abyss (aka under 80F) we were dominated by even more refreshing west winds as part of hurricanes Gamma's and Delta's south side twists. West(-northwest) also means barren dry, and being used to Turkish steam bath conditions this weather wears and tears on some peoples' nasal cavities like a dehydrator on grapes. Yes, low humidity and temps do cruel things to this spoiled population.

But this is also the moment we have been waiting for to put that nice blanket we were gifted a while back to use – thank you!

Oh and yeah, remember telling ya'll about a car part and other things that take long to reach us? Car is working again but we should have ordered that part for the water heater back then, too...



#16 – 15th October 2020

As we rock along in the waves of this dreading sea that is sinking a lot of ships, we have to make sure to keep on having fun in order to keep on keepin' on. Our customers do so by pointing out possible improvements like: "Since the substitute bartender and waiter is not as cute as the real ones, he could at least try and shave his legs" or "why is this guy even here if I have to get my own drink anyway?"

Questions arise about the decisions of our grand leaders – if you are coming from another land to enter this one, you get a wrist band, must stay within "The Safe Corridor", sleep and eat and sh*t in a Gold Standard approved shack and don't go anywhere unless your driver is golden as well. But, this applies only to tourists; everybody else is old enough to make their own decisions.

Well, in the past 15 years of running this business we noticed that some leave parts of their nervous system in storage when becoming a tourist, so the rule makers might be onto something. But, maybe it is time to put more faith into the population and let the engine start again – with all due precautions of course. And as opinions split about the extent of those precautions we all must remember, it is not always about the rate of the unaffected; one should consider the severity of the outcome to some, if only few. After all, Russian roulette is totally harmless to 5 out of 6 people!

So yes, we understand we must be cautious and diligent in trying to protect the vulnerable, especially when not knowing who that might be. But, allowing a loaded bus while limiting an open air establishment's capacity to 10 is hurtful. And while nowadays 2 people is considered a decent crowd, the good news is that occasionally there "could be" more business, it's just not legal for now – yeeehaaw!

-

Sports:

In a very fortunate turn of events directed by the Belize Amateur Golf Association, Agent Mutoff and Tiger Luckie were able to attend the 14th Belize Open at **Roaring River Golf Course**. Attend is about all they did as the balls had minds of their own on those two days, which might be blamed on not being able to counsel them ever since the first lockdown. But a lot of fun was had, a lot of sweat was lost and finishing side by side at ranks 14 & 15 shows they agreed on representing Hopkins as a team.

-

Weather:

You guessed it, as soon as we reported freezing nights, it turned on us again and got hotter than Pam's Conch Soup. More fan experiments come to mind. Hopefully the weather people don't read this and the warmth continues as there are weekend plans that require more of it, or maybe we should report about the torrential rains and it will be dry'n'sunny... (you may look forward to next week's report).

-

Closing thought:

Ya'll know the cat meme. Now if the person on the left yells "It's Taco Tuesday", and we read it because of course it is a picture and nobody really says anything; but the cat knows it's wrong – because it is Tapas Tuesday! So, what should the cat's speech bubble say: "you misspelled 'Tapas'" or "you mispronounced `Tapas`"?



#17 – 22nd October 2020

After a lot of rumbling and ranting Belize's culinary establishments can now welcome more than 10 people at a time again. This is much to the dismay of the substitute bartender & waiter at The Windschief, the job description and appropriate salary adjustment need to be reevaluated with management. Hopefully soon there will be room for the professionals again.

And we might not be too far from it – the airport is fizzing with arrivals, regulations are getting looser by the minute. Tourists are allowed outside of their cages, hoops for re-entry of citizens and residents are ditched. It is everybody's hope that this social experiment doesn't backfire and we can soon be on the road to prosperity once again. Therefore we wash and wipe, sanitize and disinfect, protect and distance.

There have been sightings of UWOs (unidentified walking objects) on the streets of Hopkins, a small step in the return to somewhat normal.

Meanwhile we carry on with our own experiments, which were once again conducted on a desolated island. For this week's agenda we decided on re-running the study about the potency of UV rays around latitude 17 in different environments: near the sea, on the sea, in the sea, by the sea, over the sea, under the sea – and those factors combined with different activities and parameters as time of day and night, application of various, sometimes questionable products to the skin, percentage of blood left in the ethanol, and of course mindset. Conclusion: during the day you will get fried, at night not so much.

In further observations we can report, that you don't have to drink Pina Colada to dance in the rain. Tequila works just fine, and it also leads you to believe, that, although we are approaching November, rain and sea are in the state of human body temperature. Fun fact: once it is raining, results don't vary much if on land or submerged. And if you want to know what can shrink by about 6 inches when exposed to drastic temperature changes, go to Paris and check out the Eiffel Tower in winter!

Final observation to close this chapter: no matter the absolute age or

its difference or level of tiredness, methane discharge in a dorm accompanied by the appropriate sound waves has everyone in stitches and jump starts a whole new party.

Sports:

Circumnavigating an island with any tool at hand at the moment can be considered a sport, especially when it has only been a few hours since the concert. Most made it in a timely manner, some took longer, some lost their mode of propulsion, which led right back into the UV experiment. But after all, everybody somehow happily crossed the finish line.

Weather:

If there is an English word for "durchwachsen", use it now. There was about everything there can be, except enough steady wind for sailing. And, it was probably not warm that night. But we are still in fair weather conditions, no cold front so far and 88F at the end of October is manageable, though at night it dips quite a bit. Slowly but surely everybody is digging up the long sleeves in preparation for a long hard winter...

Paradox of the week: Pinocchio saying "my nose will grow now!"
I'll let myself out, cheers!



#18 – 29th October 2020

The Saga continues, the ride through the craziest times ever looks like it had just begun. From going into complete lockdown for 2 positive tests in March to opening back up at over 1000 cases, from not being allowed to go sailing because those 2 confirmed infections could somehow jump onto our boat to “aw well, let me give you a hug because I’m sure I don’t have it and you seem clean, too”, the pandemic fatigue is catching up with the mob. One has to practice new defense moves, which one is not allowed to practice ‘cause that would be full contact sport. Also not allowed is going into somebody else’s house, especially when 10 others are there already. Some found out a little late and got time to think about it on the way over to the police station. And when the police is done arresting, some go and have their own party – after all, who’s gonna arrest them?

Let’s just continue to smile and be safe, and remember the prevention paradox – you don’t see the damage that didn’t occur.

And while you think about that, know that banging your head against a wall for one hour burns about 150 calories!

-

Every once a while I hear voices. From the little bugger’s room. School is in session. Didn’t even think about that yesterday when weed whacking behind the house. Hope he still learned something. This morning the schooling internet lines were dead due to a power outage at headquarters. There was no thunderstorm around, so it must have been a squirrel. No, for real, 10-20% of outages are caused by squirrels! Chewing on wires seems satisfactory to those little fur balls. And as long as they don’t stretch between two lines they are safe and won’t light up – but they don’t know that!

Online schooling might be missing a lot, but it also creates opportunities to combine subjects and activities. The request by the PE teacher to video-demonstrate volleyball skills turned out to be good video editing practice and also initiated a nice sportive family moment.

Btw - spell checking “little bugger” I came across the definition in the urban dictionary: “a species of wild animal often found in school classrooms.” – well, nowadays you mostly find them at home...

-

Sports:

As reported in the previous paragraph there finally was some beach volley action at the Windschief again. The new generation is being prepared to uphold what we once started and then let go. Good times were had by all and the heir proved to be full of talent and worthy of this position.

Weather:

What a beautiful week we had. Still nice and warm with coolish nights but enough thermal energy for a nocturnal dip, plenty of cosmic Vitamin D injection and some rain here and there, sufficient to keep the local flora going. And then again we are easy to please – as long as it is over 80 when we get up and the heat doesn't get too excessive to be held as an excuse to not work, we are good. Lacking the wind to have fun on the water, October turns out to be the second favorite time of the year right after Mr. March.

And the final thought is bringing us back to the squirrels: did you know they also forget where they stashed about half of their nuts? It all makes sense now... Cheers!

ps full moon is near, enjoy!



#19 – 5th November 2020

"One day it started raining and it didn't quit for four months" – well, we are 4 days into it and it doesn't exactly help pandemic-ridden outdoor businesses. While electricians have to strip to make ends meet, bar and restaurant owners can only hope for better times. The good ol' days of having the beer truck stop by twice a week for restocking are long gone. Nobody has a clue anymore how to dance, oh the grand reopening of the world is gonna be one funny event.

But besides hearing of more and more cases every day, nothing has changed. We are still on restaurant style only, no parties, no hugging, no kissing. "Stay away" is a commonly used phrase when somebody comes barreling at you with open arms and you try to fight them off with an elbow bump.

"Can we just all be responsible and get on with our lives" – says the one that just wanted to hug me...

If there actually is somebody sitting here enjoying one of Pam's delights and a cold drink, the main topic of conversation is often about what is and what is not allowed and when this will be over. But in these hard times we must also remember that repeatedly drinking your front lobe into submission is not a sustainable option. So, to occupy the minds, suggesting different conversational topics is an interesting way to start an evening, especially when you want to stay away from certain confrontational matters. Then the voting part is the best, since we just stop counting when the subject we like is up.

And so we end up talking about cats a lot (yeah, I know ya'll thought of something else just now!).

If you named your cat Whiny and you forgot why, lock her in the kitchen overnight. Over the following two days or so you will start speaking cat or at least get some practice. And then you realize, no wonder these seemingly harmless cotton balls have contributed to the extinction of at least 33 species, they drove them all nuts! But after all they actually came up with this language just for us - meowing is a behavior that cats developed exclusively to communicate with people! Now I'm wondering, if there is a cat-creole. Shouldn't be so hard, creole has one

main rule: the wronga you wrong the correcta you correc! How hard would it be to meow correctly wrong?

Oh btw, showing the backside is like making up. When your cat sticks her butt in your face after a couple days of being mad, she is doing so as a gesture of friendship! (needless to say, we're all good)

And when your kids tell you they want a cat for Christmas, ask them what exactly they don't like about the turkey before making regrettable decisions!

Sports:

Street kayaking might become a thing. We've tested that about 12 years ago and it was quite fun. Let's see what the next few days have for us...

Weather:

When the air contains more water than the sea you know it's the peak of the rainy season. And when goose bumps become part of the daily routine, we must be heading towards Christmas.

Last week we said everything's alright as long as it is over 80F when we get up. We didn't get up for three days now. We might have to lower that bar. This morning it was barely 70!

Influenced by the first cold front of the year, which pushed hurricane Eta away from us, we are seeing some rather cool and very damp days. More precipitation is to come once the remains of Eta do make it here and dump what's left on us. In these times you think back to the days when the house was going up and you told the people in charge that you want it built like a submarine; and then you question yourself if they spoke the language you used. Towels are being repurposed to compensate for those misunderstandings.

But in all seriousness, while we are happy we got spared from Eta's wrath (so far), many people didn't get so lucky. Our thoughts are with our fellow humans down south, out west and all others who have to deal with unfathomable conditions due to this weather pattern.

Until next week, hopefully with sunnier news!



#20 – 12th November 2020

Wow, 20 weeks ago we were so bored, we started telling you about it. Not much has changed. This kinda became the logbook of our side of the pandemic. Will be interesting to look back at in a few years, so here is the weekly status report... feel free to scroll down on this page for past ones!

The good news is, we are not suffering from Cherophobia. And before you leave this site to look up with this is: it is the irrational fear of fun or happiness. There, you learned a new word you probably will never and should not use again.

So, we are always open to have some fun. Sadly a lot of ways we used to have fun are somewhat illegal right now. We are still not allowed to visit or gather, full contact sports are off the schedule (will probably have to repeat the last belt grading when our Sensei face-palms in the first class after all this is over), only restaurants are allowed to welcome people from different households – and place them on different tables. So the only way we see other people leisurely is when somebody stops by for a treat out of Pam's kitchen during restaurant opening hours – and that of course while keeping the appropriate distance.

There have been multiple sightings of people who look like they are in dire need of some sun. Slowly the metal birds are bringing in the northerners. Which is good to restart some business, but of course there is that thing about bringing in more cases, too. We will see how it plays out. The Gold Standard is still a thing, anybody not golden cannot house the foreign business.

And to have general elections in this moment of evolution is unfortunate timing. No rallies, no campaign parties. We are not even sure which party wants what. I don't have Belize statistics at hand, but in North America 7% believe that chocolate milk comes from brown cows; you can just imagine how people decide on who to vote for. And so one week after the US decided on a new government, Belize did the same. Funny enough the same colors are involved – without common meanings of course. The only common thing is that nothing will change. Fun fact, here you see a bunch of people with a dirty finger on

and after Election Day. Everybody who goes to cast their ballot gets inked!

And next time, when you have the choice again, please go for the ones who will do everything to protect us from the meltdown of the Antarctic glaciers – 3% of that is penguin piss!

Sports:

While beach volley is being pursued at the Windschief, we are also working on another legacy. Anybody who knows how to play the German card game SKAT can attest, that there is enough brain jogging involved for it to make the sports column. And so this tradition is being handed down to the next generation. Too bad we can't practice on other people at the moment.

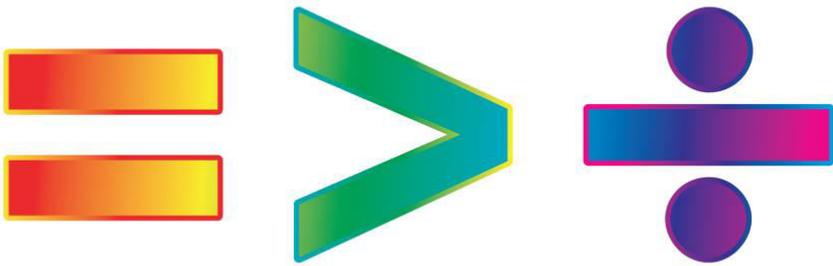
Weather:

After Eta zigzagged all over the place to not leave anybody out and Hopkins became an island for a few days, everything is somewhat back to normal here. For now. Where there is an idol, there is a follower, and so we are monitoring a potential copy cat trying to impress Mama Eta. But for as long as possible we will fuel up on the much needed Vitamin D and enjoy Mr. Blue Sky. Warm days in the high 80s and cool nights in the low 70s is a perfect mix – unless you wanna go swimming at midnight, then you need to oxidize some lumber on the beach for thermal support.

Also, the water coming out of the wall is actually cool now, a nice treat on a hard day's night. In the mornings it is a bit chilly though. (If you have problems with your on-demand water heater, talk to the maintenance guy at the Windschief, he might just be able to help!)

A warm fact from Mother Nature to finish this week's report: Sea Otters hold hands when they sleep so they don't drift away from each other.

Peace out!



#21 – 19th November 2020

Yes it is Thursday again, and it's November the 19th - Happy Garifuna Settlement Day to all! But battered by covid restrictions and firehose-like rain it is by far not as happy as it should be.

Cases are on the rise in Hopkins. Still many don't seem to care. Others pretend to care but then forget about it conveniently. And then there are those who live downwind of restaurants or grocery stores and think about a 12 foot KN95 fence.

Our lavish bar-liquor license is useless, we are still only allowed to operate as a restaurant, and that won't change anytime soon. The chances for us to be able to host a New Year's Party are getting slimmer by the day. But everybody is so ready to welcome a new year. Like somehow everything will be over on Jan. 1st 2021. It's a nice thought though.

There's talk about a new normal. It doesn't sound like anything we had in mind. What happened to free Tequila and more income with less work? We got word from the Great North that they are selling day clocks now – time doesn't matter anymore, just knowing the day is fine.

Let us know in the comments what your favorite "new normal" would look like!

In these times we find ourselves getting the kicks out of small things. Like the new-age butt dialing: butt facetimeing! Yes, I got butt-facetimeed the other day. It was a different experience. I will not mention who it was nor what I went through, just please lock your phone when you're done with it!

Also we came up with a new word: Electrathy. It's the ability to communicate with somebody on messenger without letting the others know and then the others think you telepathically relayed your thoughts through space and if you don't tell them what really happened you can sell them anything!

When you are really down, imagine being on Saturn's largest moon Titan. The atmosphere is so thick and its gravity rather low that if you'd

attach wings to your arms you could easily fly like a bird.

Another space fun fact while we're at it: Venus, the galactic symbol of feminism and what not, is the only planet in our solar system to spin clockwise. And while doing so it takes about 243 earth days for one rotation. But because of that it is also the closest to being spherical – aka the roundest of 'em all. Yeah, everything is coming together now...

Sports:

Back in the days (like earlier this week) when the sun was still shining, we enjoyed watching kids and teachers (wiping out) on windsurfing boards. As if that is not enough action, running from the sea to the bar to get more drinks and then back into the sea is more exercise than many get these days. And if you do that around midnight and you're dodging imaginary obstacles on the way plus jump over a fire, you can almost call it a sport!

Weather:

If we'd talk about storm-like conditions here, we'd insult our neighbors to the south, who just went through hell and back for the second time within two weeks. The 30th named Atlantic storm for this year and strongest hurricane ever recorded this late in the season, the latest cat-5, and second strongest November hurricane in the books, Iota made history that nobody needs.

Luckily for us we just had a few semi-violent gusts and got our east-facing windows pressure washed. The towels were out again to catch excess moisture leaking through the domestic crevices but we're high n dry n safe.

Needles to say we are barely hittin' the 80s during these grey rainy days – can't wait for the sun to show up again!

Btw the sun is nearly a perfect sphere, too, in fact the nearest to a perfect sphere known in nature.



#22 – 26th November 2020

In the Great North it's the day of birds and pies, and being thankful for whatever you can come up with in the heat of the moment of gazing at a steaming golden crisp avian corpse and not being able to dig in until you say something sensible, all while the pets are impatiently waiting under the table. Many members of the North have migrated all over the world, and though most know the supposed real meaning of giving thanks that day in the US, half of the world now thinks they have to bake a big bird and be thankful for something on this fourth Thursday of November.

Well, we don't have anything in the oven but we are thankful for having you in our lives! And life. And somehow being able to make it through hard times with your love and support... ok ok enough of that.

And then the next day people are very thankful for a good credit score as there is so much to acquire, that the November salary couldn't possibly keep up. An episode of "Alf" comes to mind: Why did you buy 47 cases of mustard??? Because it was on sale!

But apparently you might also have to physically fight to get the last of some deal. Yeah, got that TV for \$150 off – good deal for a broken nose. Wait. I don't have insurance!

Both days are widely celebrated in Belize by now also. Dinner specials everywhere, cranberry jam is sold out and the media is full of Friday deals. But also here everyone has to socially cut back in the wake of this crazy year.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everybody in and from the US and all others celebrating it, but be safe! Oh and if the oven is not hot by now, it's too late! Save the bird for Christmas.

Sports:

No major activities were reported in the area. We blame it on the weather.

Weather:

Rain, rain, rain, rain, sunsh.... naw – rain, rain....

What's worse than the 13th rainy day in row? The 13th rainy day in a row with an almost teenager in music online class learning to play the recorder!

And now we want to finish this week's report on a more serious note:

We are living through a time very different from what we are used to. It is about business or personal financial survival, trying to keep up the fun, love ´n friendship and staying somewhat sane. But most importantly it is about health. Here are some facts to consider:

#1) The Virus is here. People get sick. People die.

#2) Nobody knows for sure if and how one personally would be affected by it.

#3) Even if one is 99% sure to be "alright", everybody has somebody in their "social bubble" who might not be.

#4) Everyone's social bubble is bigger than everyone thinks.

#5) There isn't a prevention measure which is 100% effective or even close to it. Everything we implement is a small percentage towards the goal.

Yes, we've shut down our business before under a much lower threat than there is right now. It was a vain attempt to be part of drastically slowing it down or even stopping it. That didn't work so now we have to carry on and open up shop to survive. We can do so with the appropriate measures to cut down on spread probability to protect us and everybody we get in contact with. And right now we are just receiving news of more restrictions again – curfew, max. number of patrons and all. Cases are spiking. The Belize health system is not prepared for a big wave of sick people.

We want to appeal to all friends and patrons and everybody else in the contact circle to move about with caution and respect. We appreciate every bit of business you bring to us but we cannot shake hands, hug, greet-kiss, conversate into each other's faces or invite anybody into the house within the next half year or so, just so nobody's missing when we can do it again a life time after this. Cheers!



#23 – 3rd December 2020

All of a sudden it is December. The capitalistic world looks like Christmas is tomorrow, though we have another three weeks to go. A little oxymoron is to be against early Christmas preparations and living in Belize – it is now too late to order and ship the new golf clubs for your hubby in time!

And we're almost one week into the latest state-of-emergency with nightly curfew and many business restrictions. But who's mad? Us? You? When word got out that a potentially dangerous virus is on the loose and our leaders said hey, it would be helpful if y'all start wearing a mask more often, stay home when you can and maybe don't get so close to each other for a while – did you do it? Yeah, we neither.

Then the dictated lockdown happened, and it worked! Belize went off the covid map for a while. Until some realtors decided it's time to make foreign money, and others thought they need Mexican toilet paper 'cause it is 50 cents cheaper over there (for the record: we never had a tp shortage!).

That was of course after many nations didn't do it either, even when the rules came, 'cause it's our freedom not to follow rules right? Hey whatever, state of emergency - yay!

Fact of life: our chance of survival is linked to the common sense of others...

But you know what's more fun? Talking about German words that don't have an English translation. Take for example the word *Fahrvergnügen*. I don't know how that can not be a word, may have something do to with the native cars and local driving restrictions, but imagine yourself behind the steering wheel of a BMW 535i cruising in the left lane of the Autobahn in sixth gear at 4000rpm with Pink Floyd blasting through the system. Yeah!

Another one is *Feierabend* – the moment and time after you punch your card to enjoy the rest of the evening after a hard day's work. Without that word – what are you looking forward to when sweatin' your nuts off for the greater good?

Well and then there's *Schadenfreude*. This is a tough one. How do you

explain to a non-German to laugh at somebody's misfortune – like for not having the word Feierabend!?

And now in one sentence: Alright, it's Feierabend. Have some Fahrvergnügen on the way home and be schadenfroh at anybody who is still at work!

Next week we will explain Klabusterbärchen...

Sports:

Literally being in the rear end of the rainy season, the sports week doesn't look so good again. Despite that we did get some volleyball in and there are reports of UPO sightings on the golf course. We are hoping for better days.

Weather:

Yeah, no! Not getting up if it's below 70! This cold front wants to get us into the Christmas mood it looks like. Will order some windshield scrapers tomorrow. After the initial dry northwest wind with some sunshine in between we went through an awful grey cold rainy day, and now it is trying to make up with blue sky again. Only the temperature is still unacceptable. But clear cool nights make for some nice moon rises and awesome star gazing. And the other good news – this should mark the end of this atrocious hurricane season!

So, ending this before going nuts – like every Thursday at time of publication, the spawn is in online music class practicing the flute – uhm recorder – uhm torture stick - whatever you wanna call it.

This week's wisdom: Being experienced is knowing, that a jalapeno popper will be the cause of some agony and funny faces and sounds the next morning. Living life to the fullest is regardlessly biting into one with a big smile!



#24 – 10th December 2020

Remember those mornings after a long night at the bar, when you feel and look like a jigsaw puzzle with a few pieces missing? Those are a thing of the past in a curfew state. "Sorry, it's nine o'clock, we will have to close up shop and you have to be off the street soon!" is the early night ritual. Also, due to imposed capacity restrictions for businesses, owners and managers are struggling with Pandemvertising: the art of trying to get people to come but not too many. The GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) of Belize is going for a low record.

Nevertheless there are highlights. This week was predominated by welcoming the heir into a new age. Thanks everybody for all the well wishes!

Did you ever ride a bike through the desert way too fast, suddenly cocked the handlebar to gracefully disembark right over it and found yourself intimately embracing a cactus? - Me neither, but that is apparently what it feels like to hug a teenager. Fun fact: nobody complained about our statement of being "the owners" of one. But so far he hasn't been too prickly, the hopes are up. If he would only already learn how to master that darn torture stick so they can move on to a different instrument!

Remember those German words that don't have an English rendition? We had an inquiry: Schlafzimmerblick – so here we go: The literal translation "bedroom view" is far away from what it really is. It could be translated to bedroom look – it's an erotic invitation, the seductive look on a woman's face, who wants to take you to third base and beyond. Eyes locked on you, half open, slowly blinking, a faint suggestive smile. But be aware, these can also be signs of the girl you are starting to really like right now just being bloody high as a kite. Check for dilated pupils before getting all excited.

Then we have the Schattenparker. Literally translated that is somebody, who would actively look and go out of the way to park their car in the shade, so this word became an idiom to describe a person who is overly cautious and extremely proactive on a nerd level.

Here's another good one: Backpfeifengesicht: Do you sometimes look

at somebody and out of nowhere an urge arises to slap that person across the face? Then they have a Backpfeifengesicht – a face that begs to be slapped.

And now for Klabusterbärchen..... oh dagnabbit, we'll have to push this one to next week, we are receiving notice from above that this column is at capacity for today.

Sports:

Trying not only to keep up the spirits but also bodily functions, exercise routines come into play. In addition this helps against hypothermia during this brutal cold front. Fun is looking at the teenager's face when the fanfare is sounding to congregate for the next session.

Weather:

Last week was quite hurtful. We open three days a week and there is rain three days a week – guess on what days! But it had to change. If we'd changed schedule that would have been like switching queues in the supermarket and then ending up spending all afternoon there.

After last week's cold front passed on by quickly, the next one came over us. Whoa!! Please don't let this be a weekly thing! At least this one was much sunnier in the beginning. Two days of blue skies and cool'n'dry north-west got us off the 3-day rain schedule from last week. Now we're in the literal rear end of it, but it's ok, it's Thursday! And it's freezing! But in these times we must be thankful not to be living in the craters around our moon's south pole – temperatures there never exceed -238C/-397F!

For this weekend we hope for clear nights: it's the time of year when earth passes through the Geminids, an intense meteor shower appearing to radiate out from the Gemini constellation. The peak is on the evening of the 13th into the morning of the 14th. This also is near new moon, so it should be an awesome show, eyes up! Cheers



#25 – 17th December 2020

Ha! You thought we forgot about you and the fact that it is Thursday? Yeah, almost...

Well, except for some shooting stars, this week was rather uneventful anyway. One week till Christmas and other than for a few restaurant specials you wouldn't know what's coming. The most common question during this time is (or used to be) "Do you have all Christmas presents ready?", and many are still out and about to get that last minute Corona for their loved ones before it's too late.

But hey, it's like you only need a parachute if you intend to go skydiving twice, right? On a side note, did you know that the average male gets bored of a shopping trip after 26 minutes, while most women last two hours and longer! Yeah of course you knew...

The wave is still rising, some call for a total lockdown again, others are trying to find money to support such.

At the moment SOE restrictions limit us to 50% of our capacity. Therefore we appeal to all professionals (who can eat and drink for two) to step forward!

The past few weeks we talked about the German language. Did you know, that people in a German speaking area actually do have 6 senses? The intuitive one they call the Seventh Sense! Now which is the Sixth? Proprioception. My spell check doesn't know this word. Do you?? It is something many poor souls temporarily lose when visiting the Windschief: it's the perception or awareness of the position and movement of the body.

But, here at the Windschief we also claim an 8th Sense: the Common one! It is not on the official list of senses because it's very rare. We want to create awareness, so let this be the week of the 8th sense!

And now to fill this column, here is another German word with no English twin, Pantoffelheld. As for the literal translation it would be slipper hero. In public, especially in front of his friends he is a tough guy who would make John McClane look like a little girl. But at home the wife is the boss and the only words allowed are "yes dear!"

There was another word I wanted to talk about, but it slipped my mind

for now, will have to come back to that one next week...

Sports:

Since close contact sports are still not allowed and will not be for a long time, we can only dream about beatin' on people while sensei says "nicely done!". Circuit training is the new favorite discipline around here. Can't do it on a work day though, 'cause man it knocks it right outta ya!

Weather:

Hopkins is reporting some beautiful conditions this week. It could be compared to an awesome Central-European summer. Nice'n'warm, not too hot, a little sprinkle here and there and cool nights for a good sleep. If there wasn't any dogs. Or chickens. Well, mainly roosters. Many.

Alright, enough for this episode, next time it's Christmas Eve!

Wisdom of the week: A missing box of chocolate raises less attention than a half empty one!



#26 – 24th December 2020

This marks half a year of reporting and keeping record of these crazy times; and if we can make you chuckle a lilbit on the way we are happy. A long time ago we made a family pact – nobody works on their birthday. Good thing it's Thursday, we're closed anyway, and good thing this isn't work. And since school is out and there is no recorder playing goofball around it is even relaxing to write up the thoughts of the week.

It's Christmas Eve and there is finally some holiday feeling coming about over the past few days. The seasonal Sorrel Stout in the fridge, every Christmas song under the sun humming through the neighborhood with the occasional Baby Shark in-between, our 17-year-old, 2-foot-tall plastic pine tree is dressed fancily and lit up by some LEDs, and the spawn still thinks he's getting something from the fat guy.

-

Reporting about our week, the prevalent topic of course again is how to survive when the universe doesn't want you to. With an 8pm curfew we can open until 7, but for some barbaric reason the great kingpins decided to ban alcohol from 6. So be free to finish your meal but we'll have to swipe that nice drink you didn't gobble down in time, and hide the shelf of truth - basically make the place look closed and make sure you are really uncomfortable. Just beautiful. Closing at 6 now. We will regroup over the next week and come up with a plan for the new year. Well, Car manufacturer Volkswagen makes curry wurst (a special sausage in a special sauce with its origin in Berlin), and they sell more sausages than cars! Just gotta think outside the box I guess.

Or get nearly 2 million views on Youtube with a slideshow of pictures of top-heavy women in bikinis and call it Natural Wonders...

-

Task allocation is very important to uphold a working structure in both business and family. Being called to remove a deceased opossum from under the house, of course first one must check that it is not playing. This is easily done by approaching the corpse and breathing through the nose. While they probably don't shower too often, it is still a quick and unequivocal diagnosis. Now it takes a few tries to load the poor

thing onto a shuffle, and when you take too long, other members of the clan become impatient and want to show "how it's done". Armed with a plastic bag the boss lady heroically steps forward, ready to pick it up in the absence of any tools. But approaching ground zero turns out to be more challenging for some. Our heroine confirmed the diagnosis of expiration by making some strange noises while turning around and running, just to barely make it to a patch of grass for a breakfast re-view. Remember the phrase task allocation!

Btw, the o in opossum is silent, but a possum without the o is still a very different animal. Though both are marsupials, the possum is native to Australia and surrounding islands and is more closely related to kangaroos.

Sports:

We are happy to report that our little boat "Sin Nombre" (on the port side, on starboard she is called "Sin Nobre") is still floating, and she's screaming through the waves with the crew members holding on tight to prevent premature disembarkation, when the wind blows haad. 50 minutes to Bread & Butter Cayes is a decent run, though of course with an offspring who gets taller and bigger by the minute there is just too much ballast on board to break any records nowadays. The all time record remains at 35 minutes from South Water Caye to Hopkins on an H16 two crew!

Weather:

Nothing much to complain about except that this week we were open on two days for five hours a day and 4 of those hours fell victim to horizontal precipitation again. We get it. We didn't forward that email.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, have fun and all the best for the 2020 season finale!



#27 – 31st December 2020

'Tis the last day of this not so normal year. While the „party here“ sign for the road side remains in storage today, we will still stay up till midnight, just to make sure this year is really gone.

Many hope for a better one coming. Many know it is gonna start as messy as this one ended, but there is light at the end of the 2021 tunnel. Maybe we can open again like we used to, spin the tunes, forget, enjoy and party. Maybe we can travel again, see family and friends far away. Maybe we can patch up the business and get back on track. Maybe when you say loudly “this one time”, somebody will spout out “in band camp” again. Just as crows can hold grudges against specific individual people I wonder if humans can hold a grudge against a year. We will find out. According to one theory, January was named after the Roman God Janus, who is depicted two-faced – he can look forward and back. He might be the only one in the universe wanting to look back at this.

Another speculation is that the month's name comes from the Latin word *ianua*, which means door. The island nation of Kiribati, aka Christmas Island, will be the first one to go through. Also, cruises usually offering a double party by going back over the date line into the old year, or tourists flying from Samoa to American Samoa to do the same, probably won't do so this year – everybody is happy to leave this one behind, who would voluntarily go back??

Now many come up with something they think they need to change about themselves. And I'm thinking – why would you pick one thing? Why don't you just get your life together all at once? For many it could take decades to do so at the rate of one checkbox per year. But also have some mercy on the alcohol and tobacco industries, spread the quittings over the year, don't ya'll do it on January 1st!

Hey and how about we don't pick a resolution ourselves, why don't we do it like a secret Santa, everybody pick a name from the hat and tell them what to change!

Apparently in Italy it is considered good luck to wear red underwear

when going into the new year. Well, at least they have underwear on! This is usually not the case at a proper Windschief party. Last time it was comfortably warm to bring in the year submerged in the temperate Caribbean water, and when coming out just picking random clothes from the beach made for some funny mix ups. But don't worry – it can't happen this year...

Sports:

I know couch surfing is used to describe a form of travelling where one stays in other people's houses. But for this week this is the best way to describe the sporting activities around here. Yes you guessed it – bad weather – as follows:

Weather:

Do you know the story of baby polar bear going around the family asking everybody if he really is a polar bear? Then grandma bear finally asks him why he thinks he's not and he says "cause I'm f***ing freezing!"

This week's cold front would have polar bears learning how to make fire! (Well, bears that lived in Belize for a while at least). Waking up to low 60s is really annoying! The butane water heater is dialed so high that you have to take cover when it comes on with a big boom. But thankfully the sun could finally melt the clouds away again and we are hoping for a comfy NYE under the stars and moon...

Did you know that polar bears are nearly undetectable to infrared cameras? Yeah, in reality they would get really hot down here, even in a cold front. Also, apparently one of those fur mountains could eat over 80 (small) penguins in one meal – good thing they live on different continents...

Guten Rutsch, Happy New Year and all the best! – and since we won't watch it together, here it is on Youtube: Dinner for One
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BN9edpdCH7c>

Windschief out

Last one: if 2020 was a golf swing...



#28 – 7th January 2021

Welcome to a new year of the old crap! Well, we hope not, and everybody is looking forward to a betterment in the coming months.

Though this must have been the most unconventional NYE of my adult life, it was a beautiful night – but would have also been a perfect warm party night under the full moon. Can't wait to do that again. Until then we try to be part of the solution and conform to the sometimes unintelligible rules – the six-o'clock-alcohol ban being the biggest head shaker of these times, when there's an 8-o'clock curfew anyway. Also parents with their kids are scrambling to get off the road by 6 because of a minor curfew 2 hours before the adult's.

If we'd all behave like our cat Boots, we wouldn't need all those regulations. He displays very mature distancing behavior and keeps dogs a safe 6 feet away at all times.

Anyway, one week in - that's about the trial period, - how's it treating y'all?! Any broken resolutions yet? We made a pact that we will not go to bed angry. Well, we've been up since Sunday!

-

In other news, the new 2021 Belize holiday schedule is out and it was decided to have two more of those grand days this year. Another thing of the south is as cool as it is funny as it is annoying: the moving of holidays. Since it is so not fair if one falls on a weekend, and the supposed extra day off becomes a regular Sunday, many holidays are moved to the following Monday. Great for all employees (including government workers and those who make the laws) to get the day off or get holiday pay, bad for small businesses to have to pay the extra.

Also, if one falls e.g. on a Thursday, it might be moved to Friday, just to make it a long weekend ('cause nobody would be really working on that Friday anyway)

So for example this year's Christmas day will still be Saturday – can't mess with Santa's schedule, but we'll have Boxing day on Monday!

-

In other news: Word on the street has it there is a new party drug on the rise. Speed, Acid, Ecstasy are a thing of the past, simply because there is no party in the first place if you don't have The Vax! Local

dealers are scrambling to explore sources as soon as possible to stay competitive.

-

Also a very hot topic nowadays - side effects: They are well documented by now and it is unnerving how many probands complain about light or even severe symptoms. Immediate reactions include heavy tongue and vertigo, while next day symptoms range from disorientation, stomach cramps/nausea and other digestive issues, to stuffy nose, loss of memory, severe headache and arrhythmia.

It's called rum intolerance and one would think and wish that substances like that would be as thoroughly tested as for example vaccines before given to the public.

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Sports:

Nothing much again, and this week we can't even blame the weather. We'll just eat less, yes, that should do...

-

Weather:

We have nothing to complain about – well it does get a little chilly at night as to one has to put on a shirt when sitting outside, but give it another two months and that will be a thing of the past. For now we are happy with very temperate blue-sky-days and clear starry nights. Of course the next cold front can't be too far, so everybody from around here - enjoy! Everybody from not around here – come here!

Wisdom of the week: Smart people know when to play stupid !

And to close it off, this is what Amon sent his mother on whatsapp this morning:

**when you tell a funny story to your
mom and it turns into a lecture**



i just wanted to make you laugh

This happens all the time

#29 – 14th January 2021

Still in the latest State-of-Emergency, rumors, probably growing from hopes, are going around that there will be a loosening of regulations soon. We thank all the professionals who make a 10-people crowd feel like 20! The maintenance guy is not complaining anymore, he surrendered to his fate in the new job and keeps his head high to all the cat calls and other exploitations. He even managed to collect some tip the other day! Well, he always wanted to be somebody, but he should have been more specific. At least the schedule is pretty easy on him and he has plenty of time to rest between shifts.

And so we carry on with the daily routine of running a half business.

-

Going to Dangriga, preferably only once a month, always entails challenges and surprises. For everybody not from around here, 'Griga' is the next town about 20 miles away, where you pay bills/file taxes, check the P.O. box, shop for stuff you can't get in the village etc.

Doing a simple plumbing job here 18 years ago meant writing a list, travel to town over a mostly hole-y dirt road, get what you need (and try'n get something else done while you're there) and hawl yo rass back home before the day is over, just to find out you are a half-inch-elbow short, yay, let's go again!

Nowadays it's different. The roads are paved, many stores popped up in the village, that satisfy most needs for small jobs or other goodies, bill payments have mostly been moved online. Still, there is that dreaded trip of standing in lines and adhering to superior powers. Renewing driver's license and car registration was on the list this week. Finding out that the costs for those have doubled is a slap in the face after a year of earning close to nothing. And the inquiry to keep the old and expired (laminated 'student-id' looking) DL as a souvenir was turned down by the bossman with a despondent 'NO!'.

Hey, let's go to town!

-

We haven't talked about funny German words in a while! Besides those hard to translate, there are those most people in the world can't even pronounce. This can mostly be attributed to those riotous dots over

some vowels. Watching people making up their faces when trying to say such word is always entertaining. And when talking about names containing those letters one can experience the transition and change in a family tree. Our last name is losing the dots, just because they are non-present in local systems. The next generation will probably never know they were there...

While we're at it – here is a funny word and it even has the dots: Eselsbrücke. Literally translated "donkey bridge", but does any of you know what it really means?

Sports:

There has been some unexpected activity on the golf course, people are starting to enjoy the outdoors again. Next time we will even have it clean! Meanwhile we continue the couch surfing with some circuit sessions in between.

-

Weather:

I always wondered and even laughed about people who sell a car in Belize highlighting the seat heating feature – well, we used it this week! Barely 70F/20C and raining, after sitting somewhere outside, the behind is first in line to suffer, that is as long as you were smart enough to put socks on. Yes, as predicted, another cold front hit us haad. It feels like a normal summer in northern Germany! But, we will try'n enjoy the cool – after all in about two months we will start to steam again...

And it's not like waking up from permafrost, like it happened in Russia in 2018 – two of the oldest guys ever alive were discovered. After thawed out, two worms started moving and eating. One was 32000yrs and the other over 41000yrs old!

Wisdom of the week: if you find yourself at a dead end of a one-way street – put it in 4WD!



#30 – 21st January 2021

As another cold front had the country in shivers, hopes are diminishing that the theory of "latitude related heat will limit the virus" is applicable anymore. Back to soap, bleach and alcohol. However, the internal use of such is still not recommended, but the latter is often experimented with. Problems arise when trying to apply eligible tinctures to problem areas targeted by the beast. The professional way of consuming a tequila shot - snort salt, drink firewater, squeeze lime in eye - has to be revisited and modified as to where the disinfecting solution can reach the appropriate nasal cavities.

Having in mind that we haven't done much field studies lately this would be a great opportunity to open minds. We are now accepting applications for new test subjects, though we do have somebody in mind who took on similar challenges in the past.

We will inform the public as soon as the first results are established. Please don't try this at home or unsupervised!

-

As mentioned before, meteorological conditions like we had earlier this week are also not favorable for the well being of an open air beach bar & restaurant, and the maintenance guy got a well deserved break. But when on commission based salary this is not feasible in the long run. Being caught between the claws of comfort and work he has to reevaluate the meaning of life. Which others have tried many times. And failed miserably. Chances are we won't be able to post any results on this matter anytime soon.

But, to compensate for income gaps we are rallying to add a double-or-nothing option on ATMs. It would be a great opportunity to come up. For the bank.

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For funny German words, here is last week's challenge of Eselsbrücke - a donkey bridge is a helpful metaphor or otherwise connecting thought to remember or keep something in mind.

This week's challenge: Pfandflaschenrücknahmeautomat – try to say that one! (and video tape it for us)

Btw, did anybody ever find out what Klabusterbärchen are?

Sports:

Not to sound like a broken record there is a notion to abolish the sports column. Please feel free to fill in your week's accomplishments in the comments!

Weather:

In revision of last week's weather report we have come to the conclusion that there is no such thing as 'enjoying the cool'. It escapes our imagination how anybody could voluntarily live north of here. And then discovering that the spawn has grown out of any long legged and -sleeved clothing is hurtful. Dad's closet is a preferred target for intra-family robberies these days.

Fortunately we are approaching the 80s once again until the next front is coming for us.

Wisdom of the week: if you think you will regret your decisions in the morning, sleep 'till noon!

here is a recent family picture:



#31 – 28th January 2021

Approaching February, another one out of those 12 months with 28 days, we are starting to look at the world differently. Well, the world looks differently and probably doesn't care how we look at it. The curfew and even more so the 6pm alcohol ban is hitting us hard, and with the days getting longer, it's not even dark yet when we have to swipe your nice drinks!

But mainly, the inner clock is suffering. With only speculations about relief from regulations, we wonder what the first normal Friday Night will look like if/when it does happen. Everybody dozed off by 10pm? We might have to switch to Heavy Metal!

Another question would be if everybody is keeping up with their physical fitness? We don't want to have to call the SES paramedics after 'Paradise by the Dashboard Light' (and don't you even dare to interrupt it!), so make sure you are able to jump around for at least 8 minutes at all times. And, for your safety, the DJ's strategy will be alternating fast and slow songs.

Though we don't agree with certain restrictions and believe it could be handled differently with similar results, with under 300 active cases countrywide and dropping daily, the hope remains that the Jewel has it somewhat under control and we can soon start to live again. About time, some have resorted to selling their land one bag at a time, while we are running at roughly 15% of last year's numbers. And then again, at least we are still running, thanks to our supportive professional crowd! Sorry it is not enough to hire our skilled bar staff back, we can't wait to shun that maintenance guy from the front lines.

-

The room of our teenager is becoming a man cave as he is becoming a man. Cozy lights, screens and gaming stuff, but most dominantly dirty dishes and clothes everywhere. No empty cans or bottles though - yet. The other day he let out a scream when suddenly exposed to daylight after we lulled him out. Can't remember what trick we used but it won't work again anyway.

Another annoying fact – he found out about the exasperating nature of

his first instrument and now uses it as torture device when not getting requested items delivered into the den. Fortunately this can be countered by a simple threat to change the wifi password.

Accordingly, when he does show himself to the outside world voluntarily, it is a strong indicator that it's time to call the cable company.

-

Sports:

No, we won't let go, we need sports in our lives! Sometimes it can be exhausting just thinking about push-ups or a 100m dash – an activity we call cerebral sport. Not to be confused with brain jogging, where you actually use your cognitive abilities to solve a virtual problem. The third category of playing something while not actually moving a bone is mind games – a certain type of encephalous athletics that has been dominated by the feminine world over centuries. While outplaying each other is certainly entertaining to watch, targeting the other gender often results in disastrous states of affairs. Succumbing to their mental injuries the male is often forced into reparation measures like serving breakfast in bed.

In international waters, this year's **Vendée Globe** is just coming to an end with the leader crossed the finish line yesterday. This treacherous single-handed non-stop sailing race around the world takes place every four years and not everybody always comes home. Check out the book "Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters" - it is an interesting and exciting read about what goes on during those 80+ days.

-

Weather:

Alright! Now we're talking! Over 80F(~27C) by 9am – that called for a morning dip in the big swimming pool after we stayed up late on Friday (like 'til 9:30pm)

A beautiful January week with no complaints, mid 70s at night, mid 80s in the day. Hope this splendour will not be terminated by yet another cold front too soon, and we welcome a little rain this morning, just to keep the golf course juicy green.

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Wisdom of the week: Be aware – “I wrote a lot of cheques” and “I rode a lot of chicks” in a Louisiana accent are phonetically very similar.

and here the definition of physical distancing in the countryside:



#32 – 4th February 2021

Much welcomed are the recent changes to regulations. We don't have to go home when the street lights come on anymore. We felt like teenagers begging the parents to be able to stay out a little longer. 10 o'clock is fine. For now. Ethanol prohibition is over as well, we can now deal with tippie solutions again all the way 'till the end, in combination with a meal plan that is.

But, that also means longer shifts – it was kinda nice when taking the first break after opening up and thinking, ok, four more hours till Feierabend!

But even with a relatively low case rate and loosened regulations, we are still pretty much hermitting. And hanging on top of each other a lot creates divergent ideas of mischief. This combined with a certain German-rooted base OCD, fellow inmates can find much annoying things to take the p*ss out of the one affected. When for instance changing the water bottle in the house (and there is still only one person in the household who is able to do this) and placing the empty one in the middle of the doorway for it to be carried downstairs, other clan members find mysterious ways to avoid touching the bottle and climbing over it on their way out, just to then watch the chief contemplating, how everyone is downstairs yet the bottle is still there.

Not putting keys and other items where they belong so one could find them easily is another popular discipline pursued by the ménage and very entertaining. For them. And why take the empty toilet paper roll off the holder when there's enough space to hold both!

Also, even when not within the confinement of the domestic barriers there are various challenges to take on. Dare your teenager to get a bag of eggs safely from the store to the car. An easy task you think? Not to somebody who's mind is anywhere but the task at hand. The record stands at two lost bum nuggets.

Sports:

The Vendée Globe inspired the inhabitants of the Windschief to hoist the rags and race the boat over to **Mango's Beachfront Bar** for lunch. Not intending to circumnavigate the world, just Sittee Point is always a good target for a Sunday afternoon sail. Turns out, **Bread and Butter Caye** is on the way! - When the wind is right, the sun is shining and there are drinks in the on-board cooler. It also turned out to be a good decision to get away from couch surfing as it was the last day of beauty before another savage cold front showed up.

Weather:

Ok, it was all fun and games until now. The weather makers outdid themselves with this one. Mid to low 50s (~13C) in the morning is just something people should not have to deal with around here. Keep in mind that most houses are built in a way that inside temperatures pretty much match outside conditions, and heaters are nonexistent. When proposing a fireplace during design talks for our house everybody just gave me a blank stare and shook their heads.

The coconut oil is permanently frozen. The bathroom floor is too cold for the cats to chill out on. The thickest blankets we own are out and you fear that moment of lowering yourself onto the cold toilet seat. Just hoping the butane for the water heater doesn't run out now...

However we are still a few clicks away from the all time low – apparently there was a day in the 1960s when Belize nearly froze up at a low of 38F/3C. Btw „coldest temperature in Belize“ is a popular search term at the moment and pops up right after typing “col...”

But, like many say, “too cold” is manageable with the right resources, while “too hot” can be just too hot. Imagine trying to sip a beer on Venus – at about 900F/480C surface temperature there is not much you can do. Only question there would be: how much time do you have before your beer evaporates?

So, what would you answer to your kid's question "would you rather be in -11 or +44C?"

Wisdom of the week: If you are too drunk to stand up, don't!



#33 – 11th February 2021

This week was filled with joy and laughter, celebrating and practicing this staying-up-late thing, and getting used to the darkness again. Especially happy were those who could enjoy the pinnacle of the American Football season. One week earlier that would have been a disaster for many.

And so at least there is light in the tunnel, don't know yet where the end is though...

-

With the big day of love quickly approaching, there are only a few days left to find a Japanese girlfriend! Apparently over there the girls buy the boys gifts on that day! And it's mostly expensive chocolates - this is how Valentine's day came to Japan - lobbied and pushed by chocolate companies.

There are quite a few mysterious theories surrounding the origin of this day, and a 3 minute Google session (or nowadays also known as "research") revealed the roots to be somewhere in the Roman Empire around the 3rd century. A priest named Valentinus who secretly married young couples when Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriages for young people because single men would make better soldiers, was beheaded after his dealings came to light.

Or was it because of an imprisoned Mr. Valentine who fell in love with a girl who was probably the daughter of his jailor and used to visit him. Sending her a love letter actually may have created the first "valentine" greeting - it was signed "from Your Valentine".

Anyway, where ever it came from, love is in the air, restaurants in the area are outdoing themselves with sweet meals and menus. It should make for a great day for everybody.

-

Reviving the German Column, today we want to highlight a few funny literal translations. So here are some teutonic ways to describe things:

Hubschrauber (helicopter) - literal translation: uplift screwer.

Scheinwerfer (head lights) - glow thrower

Fernseher (TV) - far viewer

Handschuh (glove) – hand shoe

Krankenschwester (female nurse) – the sick's sister

Yes, they don't just make up words, it all makes sense over there!

Another German complication, as was picked up by the Faktillon (a very earnest news source) recently: We all know by now that everything has an end, except for a sausage – that one has two. Now, if you bite one of them ends off, does the sausage become infinite on that side?

Sports:

Did you ever realize that when you are exercising and the pounds come off, you are actually "losing" the weight by breathing it out? O₂ goes in – CO₂ comes out. When at rest, an average person exhales about 250ml CO₂ per minute, and when exercising up to 2000ml, which translates into a net weight loss of 0.125g per minute resting vs. up to 1g per minute during exercise - breathe faster!

Weather:

After last week's freeze-Belize-challenge we had days we can easily call some of the most beautiful we have seen here. High 80s F (just over 30C), a comfortable East breeze, very few clouds, refreshing crystal clear Caribbean water in all kind of colors – life is good! And even better it is that it might stay like it for a few more days!

Survival tip: when you try to bust a habanero pepper in your soup but you applied force into the wrong direction which makes the juice squirt right into and all over your face and you're starting to feel like some urban pansy has mistaken you for a bear, soak cotton balls or a paper towel in milk and rest them on your eyes. Priceless is the moment when the pain eases off!

This week's mind boggle: Does anybody ever recklessly sweep everything off the table to make space for a hot romantic moment or does that only happen in movies?

...from Windschief with love!
see ya next week...



#34 – 18th February 2021

Show must go on, everybody is still enjoying the freedom until 10pm, though people are getting used to staying up later again and there is the regular scramble to get home in time. But it is late enough to miss sunrises and be woken by the thumping noise of your teenager hitting the floor falling down the bunk bed stairs because he, too, stayed up late and had 3 minutes to get into class.

Known as the carnival week in many parts of the world this last week would have caused a lot of happiness, sore feet, hangovers, and left some fond memories and maybe some regrets and empty wallets. But of course nothing much happened. Parades in Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans were canceled; in Cologne they modeled a 1:3 scale miniature version to stream.

And there would have been a big party here, too – some of you know that right around the love day it's also the Windschief birthday! 17 this year, it's alright. As long as there will be no rona messing up the 20th in 3 years, or we will gain some serious Kummerspeck – yepp, another funny German word – "grief bacon" – the pounds you put on when trying to numb your emotions with food.

As we are into the Germans again, did you know, that there is a house in Hamburg, that has living solar panels? Algae are grown in slim tanks mounted to the façade, then harvested and the biomass is turned into biogas which is used in a fuel cell to produce power and heat. The resulting CO₂ is then fed back into the algae tanks. A very cool concept that should be explored further. (look up algae powered building!)

But enough German talk, let's have a go at the Jewel! A friend started a post asking everybody to chip in on Belizean superstitions. Here are some of the comments (we left them unedited for full authenticity):

If u bathe dah sea good Friday u wah turn into a mermaid!

Dont sweep house after 6 caz you the sweep out your luck!

If you want to get rid of visitors then put the broom upside down behind the door to get them to leave!

When a funeral procession is passing your house lock the door to keep the spirit away!

If deh sweep u foot u wa married old man!

If u go home after 12 walk in back way or else ghost a follow u!

Nuh open umbrella inside the house or else wa family member wa dead!

If u hand itch u wa get lota money!

So, now you know a little about how dangerous it is to mess with divine forces in Belize. Be careful out there!

Sports:

How much weight did you breathe out this week? We did about 3 pounds. The unfortunate part of the equation is that I think I had that in burgers and nachos just over the weekend.

Yes it was a lazy one around here – that will change, starting today! (maybe, it's kinda hot)

Weather:

We really only post nice beach & sea pictures to take the p*ss out of those of you northerners, for whom at the moment it is harder to get out of their refrigerated country than for refugees to come in. Though we do feel a bit of compassion ever since we received photographic evidence of frozen whiskey; we agree nature is taking it a bit too far now.

We had another wonderful week here where we could have used some of those whiskey ice cubes, but the next cold front is lurking around the corner. It is not predicted as brutal as the last one though, we might survive it without bawling for help.

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Idle thoughts while cruising into the sunset: Keel hauling the first mate is double the fun on a catamaran!



#35 – 25th February

The new normal continues, and another fatigue sets in, the one where people are tired of hearing “gosh, I hope we can soon do this and that again”. Nevertheless the global pandemic fatigue is on top if it all - still vehemently fighting with huggy bears and kissy bugs trying to act invincible but sometimes it’s good for the soul to pretend everything’s alright.

And with seemingly unlimited time at their hands, people are doing funny things. This year’s Guinness Book of World Records is filling up fast. Somebody in Ontario finished a jigsaw puzzle with over 40000 pieces in just 150 hours, averaging 16hr days. Other people put on 35 shirts to get an entry. A man from Cincinnati is on his yearly Lent diet consisting of only water, tea, coffee and beer – doesn’t sound too bad! We are trying to open as many beers as we can to win something from our beloved brewing company. That of course leaves you very lazy the next day, so no records here.

And a lately discovered fun fact – with so much time at hand nothing gets done! After all one could always do it tomorrow...

Very popular posts on social media are “any suggestions on what to watch?” – of course by then they very well reached the end of any streaming services and the answer to suggestions is mostly “yeah, that was fun, already through that one”

And while others do all that, Germans come up with new funny words. Last year’s count for new creations is 500 percent over average! “Let’s go for a drink” turned into “You wanna meet for an Abstandsbeer?” – distance beer is the new going out with friends at safe distance.

Also people are “overzoomed” (this one doesn’t need explanation, does it? Yes, some German words are actually English), pandemic friends with benefits became the Kuschelkontakt (cuddle contact) and the urge to clean out stores and stockpile food is called Hamsteritis. We’ve talked about people barreling at you to hug and kiss greet – this is now the Todesküsschen (“kiss of death”)

And if you happen to envy those who already got vaccinated, you have Impfneid!

Sports:

Some golfing was recorded this week, and it becomes more apparent, that the smart gender seems to let the monkey win to avert possible personal crises. And while mini golf might not be considered a sport by some, it is at the Windschief and we could prove it by measuring the amount of exhaled CO₂ in conjunction with certain sound waves when the ball keeps rolling back down from Victoria Peak.

Weather:

Yepp, there was a cold front. But for only two days and by barely going below 65F (18C) you know it's very close to the last one for this brutal winter we had. We heard spring was this morning, so the summer can start now. March is coming fast, the time for strong and steady east winds – sailing season is open!

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Mind boggle of the week: when you post something for sale, does the line "serious inquiries only" actually do something other than patting your ego that you "showed them"?

Here the last rays of our star before the front hit...



#36 – 4th March 2021

Alltag is another German word – “all day” literally or “everyday life” in a better sense, “same old” as the ultimate translation. And that’s what we have here right now. No changes to regulations, no major changes in weather, we almost didn’t realize another week has passed. The most exciting thing probably was when the wifey choked on a home grown radioactive habanero and thought the best thing to do would be dashing it into my plate – guess who got burned next!

Well, there was one thing different: Wednesday was municipal election day – and as on any day when people dip their fingers in ink (so they can’t vote twice) alcohol sales are restricted. This of course means for us yeeehaaww – day off! Time for some yard work. Turns out, a teenager with arachnophobia will do anything to get around work in the outdoors. Is it a bad thing to use that to get the house cleaned? The laundry is out on the line, too. Didn’t even have to ask.

-

We can’t really complain about manageable regulations and people that mostly follow them, and we are happy to be in Belize. Countrywide known active cases are nearly down to a hundred – it seems to work! Not so in other parts of the world. As mentioned by the Postillon – another trusted news source – the German government has a new strategy now: introducing rules so complicated, that everyone rather stays at home anyway.

But, people will still come up with ways to beat the system. And they start young: an 8yr old got around zoom classes for a while by repeatedly entering wrong passwords until getting locked out and blocked. Parents, teachers and tech support couldn’t figure out what was happening for 3 weeks!

Also some are still finding weird stuff to do, the Guinness Book of World Records is not full yet, people still have at it: two Welsh women pulled an Airbus A320 over 20m (~65ft) in under 38 seconds!

Other people just start cleaning the house inside out. A homeowner was convinced his carpet was grey, until the steam cleaners came. And they were just as surprised to find out the carpet is actually beige.

Oh, that brings up another funny German word: Staubsauger (vacuum

cleaner) – the literal translation is “dust sucker”

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Sports:

Why would one go sailing when the coconut trees are bending over backwards and big waves are crashing onto the beach? Well, for the Windschiefs the actual question here is: why not? And they didn't get smarter after a rudder broke. They fixed it and went right back out! But it didn't take much longer and just a slight increase in weather and they admitted defeat; and keeping in mind that the most stable position of a catamaran is upside down, they successfully navigated their vessel back to HQ without experiencing further complications.

Furthermore, while we are used to playing with small balls, we took on big and heavy ones this week. Bowling might not be considered a reasonable option when surrounded by sun, beaches and 90F, but hittin' the **Jaguar Lanes** is always a fun outing. The maintenance guy didn't do so bad either but at the end had to bow to experience and wisdom (and some age 😊)

-

Weather:

Beautiful! Beautiful windy days, beautiful calm days, beautiful warm days, beautiful sunny days – as previously mentioned, our favorite month is here!

Wisdom of the week: Don't place a bowling ball shelf onto a tiled floor.....



#37 – 11th March 2021

March is usually the month when business slowly makes a turn towards the gutter – if it wasn't already there. Of course everything's different this year and it might just be the other way around, as of today we are down to 65 known active cases countrywide!

But for now we are monitoring and adjusting. We might go back to opening later again, only crickets and tumbleweeds in the afternoon and half the staff is drunk by the time the first customer arrives.

Not having much to do, one can read and learn. Which one doesn't do of course, but still comes across new wisdom almost every day. By scrolling through Facebook for example, just how you came across this little gem of tutelage.

As a non-english mother tongue one learns new words on a daily basis. I never knew – well, I always knew, just didn't have a word for it – that I have a severe case of dysania. That's what it's called when you find it difficult to get out of bed. Ok, there might be a more or less direct relation to activities of the preceding night.

Another word, and the root makes it clear how it came about, is for that hippo-feeling after eating or drinking more than the intestines are designed for. It's called crapulence. Have that a lot, too. Gotta finish that pizza before the ants get to it!

To get the transition to German words, here is a mix: "morgen" as a noun means morning, but it is also the word for tomorrow. The day after tomorrow is "übermorgen", and here comes the funny thing: the actual (old-)English word for that is overmorrow!

So, now we've been talking about words a lot, let's upgrade to proverbs! Like this one: "Ein Rülpsen ist ein Magenwind, der den Weg zum Arsch nicht findet" – a burp is a stomach wind that can't find its way to the rear end (with some poetical freedom it rhymes in German) – a very popular saying in bars when somebody busts one in C-minor.

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Besides all the newly acquired knowledge, we have more of that Alltag going on. Fortunately the recorder seems off the music class schedule. But there's still a lot of "boy boy watch out, zombie behind you" coming out of that room. Oh, talking about house sounds, there's another

new word I learnt this week: retch – what a person does who is overly sensitive to bad smells (does the opossum story ring a bell?) and starts thinking about her own morning breath. Yes, that noise came from upstairs...

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Do you remember that we once worried about if, when on Venus, we'd have enough time to drink a beer before it evaporates? Well, we called in the help of a Swedish scientist who, after his CPU got at least as hot as Venus' surface, came to the conclusion, that it would take about 24 minutes. If you take that long to drink a beer there, you will probably be well done or more likely be burned to a crisp...

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Sports:

We can report a very active week. Not so much with sailing or golfing, but since it cooled down a little bit it set the stage for almost daily circuit trainings. And under those conditions you can tell by perspiration if the teenager is properly working out.

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Weather:

As mentioned a little cooler, and also some much welcomed rain – just when we thought the dry season had begun - a late cold front tried its best, but this time of year they can't do much damage anymore. I don't think it went below 70F at any point. Enjoy the rest of the cool, soon this place turns into one big bakery again!

Wisdom of the week: If you soak your mask in alcohol overnight, the next day will be much funnier and more relaxed.

Let's go have an Abstandsbier at the Windschief!



#38 – 18th March 2021

Remember back then, when somebody blew over a cake and then everybody ate it? A year ago around this time was our last days of normality with no clue what was about to come. Many things changed. Like the job description of the maintenance guy, which was drastically mutilated. Trying to adapt to the new norm however peeling potatoes is clearly outside the skill spectrum and should be registered as an unacceptable activity. Now on a new study – how do fingernails affect the compost?

Much better off he is when installing new lights in the bar so guests can actually see what they are eating – although we've heard about restaurants that offer eat-in-the-dark experiences: turn one sense off and the others become more intense right? But we don't really trust our clientele with metal cutlery in the dark.

Also yard work is perfectly admissible. Those challenges might be tough but can be overcome. Do you know that situation when somebody says "I hate" something obvious like going to the dentist, and you just think well duh, who in the world likes it?? Does anybody like ants? Bruce Lee said: do not fight with hate. How do you do that when your opponents crawl up your foot and start eating it?!

Backyard trivia on the side: Many are quite advanced in age when finding out that a tomato is a fruit (yeah and ketchup is a fruit smoothie), so how old were you when discovering that if you have a luffa (or loofah) in your soap you are getting all fruity on your behind?

And some more organic knowledge that you will probably never need: just came across an article about Viagra - of course we all know it can help things stand up, for a long period of time. Once I heard a story of a 20something year old take one and went to the doctor after having hard problems for over 3 days – hm, sounds like a normal weekend! But it doesn't only work on humans – it can also help flowers! Apparently 1/5 of a pill is enough for two vases of cut roses to stand up for a week longer!

And since we're on a nature trip already, here a funny story from Macedonia: In 2008 a court convicted a bear of stealing honey from a desperate beekeeper. And since the thief didn't have an owner and also was protected, the state had to pay about \$35000 reparation. And if the bear is still alive, it is probably the only one in the world with a criminal record.

Sports:

Running up and down the driveway because one forgot one's mask is a favorite activity these days and now – by us – declared a sport. Of course depending on one's destination after the mask is retrieved, sweat is less or lesser desired. So with temperatures higher than the melting point of Gallium and the ground being almost as hot as a beer after 23 minutes on Venus, the actual challenge here is to go as fast as possible without turning into a glassblowers arse!

Weather:

Not to brag but man it's nice! Warm and sunny during the day, cool enough in the night. Another cold front is about to roll in, most likely the last one for this season. But we are not afraid anymore. The Oracle told us that it won't drop below 70 for the next 7 months and we would fall in love with this year 'cause this is the One...

Wisdom of the week: "...It doesn't matter what we're losing, it only matters what we are going to find!..."

Cheers!

p.s. enter this yard on your own risk!



#39 – 25th March 2021

The country is on the verge of opening up a bit. The ministry of Education changed their course of waiting until the next school year and now wants to have the kids back in school after the Easter break. We have two weeks to teach the little bugger to get up in time, get cleaned, dressed, and out of the house without waking us up. And he has two weeks to get used to daylight. And get a haircut

Many parents complain that their offspring grew out of the never-used uniforms for this year and have to get new attire. There is hope that the schools will be easy on the dress code since few have the extra funds in this beaten economic state.

Well, it would be a good thing to get the kids back into society. But maybe a bit early one could ask? With 38 active cases, why not touch ground before getting rid of the parachute? And what are we gonna do when the kid is gone the whole day? We'll find out...

Otherwise business continues as usual. With the maintenance guys' work schedule all muddled up, the better half is pretty much doing what she used to do and does best: Turning random things into delicious meals, but also scrupulously taking care of other branches of the establishment.

When cleaning cabanas one gets rewarded with all kinds of little leftover thingies. The other day she found a bottle with a lotion that claims to remove dark spots. She didn't try it yet, obviously - she's still here! Other chores are also enriching - like watering the yard that produced the radioactive habaneros whose juice ended up in the boss' face. But we don't only have murderous plants growing - we are also proud parents of seven baby papayas! We never took on tomatoes again though, after the first try shriveled and parched to a pitiful death. Dogs vs. cats, tomatoes vs. papayas - one needs daily endearment and devotion, while the other doesn't care a brass farthing. We like papayas.

Sports:

We did not invent another discipline this week; let's check some international news instead: In the Ladies Tour of Norway the four leading cyclists came to a halt at the gates of a draw bridge, waiting for a sailing yacht to pass. With only 5km to go they had about 30 seconds advantage, but the field caught up and joined the wait, and none of the four ended on the podium.

And the probably greatest three-pointer in basketball history was shot by Khy Kabellis, North Dakota State, when he tried to save the ball from going out of bounce. Flicking it back into the court the thing went straight through the net – of the home basket. Denver didn't oppose the free points.

Weather:

Heading into April, the Easter heat is settling in – it's baking season! 6 months of sauna from here on... The good thing about this time is that the water is still somewhat refreshing.

As predicted, the last cold front was a nice try and gave us some good sleeping weather, but no threat to comfort. And now we are back to "how can I get this fan to spin faster?"

Wisdom of the week: If karma is a beach, you've done well!

This picture of the week is the product of wifey's new passion sparked by **Shelly Redden Art** : turning colored liquids into something nice to look at. And she is getting quite good at it!



#40 – 1st April 2021

The first day of April I'll never forget
When three English blades together had met
They mounted on horseback and swore bitterly
That they'd play a trick on the first man they see...

Though many theories exist, nobody really knows where this foolish tradition comes from. Nowadays it's hard to find a good prank 'cause it is all too real, and everybody is tired of being the fool anyway - people call this day March 32nd. That's why we are not gonna make up a crazy story and get you all excited about a new baby and the Windschief closing for the weekend to get our ducks in a row. We'll just act normal as if nothing happened...

And that brings me back to German – lets enjoy some more funny proverbs. The closest expression for “ducks in a row” would also have something to do with animals: “bring deine Schäfchen ins Trockene” – get your sheep into the dry/under the roof. “Friede, Freude, Eierkuchen” – it's all peace, joy and pancakes sarcastically describes a situation where seemingly everything is in order and everybody is happy. “Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof” – I only understand train station means I have no effin idea what you are talking about. And next time somebody tells a crazy story and gets all carried away, tell them “na lass mal die Kirche im Dorf!” – c'mon, leave the church in the village will ya! The phrase “then the shit hits the fan” is only half as exciting in German – it is merely steaming over there: “dann ist die Kacke am dampfen”.

If anything is almost as bad as Kacke when it hits something that spins really fast, it's a noni. Yes, another item in our fruit repertoire, it is supposed to be really good for you, but it reeks like somebody spilled a gallon of milk in the car and left it parked in the sun for a week. Letting that hit the fan, or a weed whacker's blade for that matter, it evenly spreads itself across the operator's forefront. And anybody who is familiar with this produce knows what would be next if that operator was a certain person we know who is really sensitive to bad smells. No, if you haven't encountered one of those fruits before you wouldn't know

– it could beat the stench of the decaying opossum - after somebody spilled their guts on top of it. Luckily we have a big swimming pool in the front yard...

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That swimming pool is also attraction to many, especially during a holiday. Local guesthouses are booked out, everybody is ready to party over this Easter weekend. There only is one problem – it's not allowed! It usually being the busiest weekend in Hopkins, it was rather eerie last year, when the total lockdown had just hit and the only noise came from roosters and dogs. Yesterday the ComPol reminded the public of the latest regulations and their strict enforcement – get the popcorn ready!

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Sports:

Did we mention about running home before the police snatches you up for breaking curfew? Practiced by many every night after looking at the clock, yelling "oh shit", chugging the last bit of beer and throwing the bartender the look of "I'll pay you tomorrow"...

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Weather:

Mr. March held up his end – mostly beautiful warm and sunny weather with a few sprinkles and the famous March winds blowing day and night. There have been years when there were no marine tours for weeks due to rough sea. This year it was due to a pandemic of course. Now April is here, usually hot, dry and calm – that too is something to look forward to: still waters are crystal clear and bathtub-like warm – also at night...

Wisdom of the week: Don't do anything we would do!



#41 – 8th April 2021

The Great-tailed Grackle, locally known as blackbird, is certainly an icon in Central America. About a thousand of them paired with a big mango tree in front of your house can be quite entertaining – if you are a morning person. If not, well you know that in-between state when you are sleeping but not really and in that delirium have the ability to think about the most horrific ways of torturing and killing something? But of course with at least a thousand of them buggers there's little one can do. During Christmas season – when firecrackers are on the market – kids make it a game to blow up their money and scare the sheit out of those birds and thus the birds out of a tree, which is a spectacle in itself to see, how many birds were actually in that tree. But of course the scare doesn't last long and they come right back. And once they have chosen that specific tree – it's their home for a long long time...

They do stop grackeling eventually though – as soon as you deemed the night over and are brightly awake.

But a nature concert in the morning is not the end of the world. Imagine having your groceries stolen by birds! Times are rough already, and maybe that's exactly why some ravens in Anchorage/AK decided to wait till somebody else paid for the short ribs inside the Costco and delivered them out into the parking lot. The gang of several hundred comes to the city in winter and is very organized in their mission – spot free food, distract the owner and strike! Remember that bear with a criminal record? There are ravens on the most-wanted list now!

Not quite as smart but almost are their smaller cousins the crows. There is a story about a crow-vending machine. Making them play with coins and peanuts and a vending machine, then take the peanuts out of it, the crows started banging the coins around until one slit into the machine – out came a peanut. Confirming that they got the drift after putting a bowl of coins a few feet away from the machine one can now remove the coins altogether and send the hungry thieves to town...

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Speaking of birds – with the northern regions becoming bearable again, snowbirds are packing up to move back to higher latitudes. Saying good bye to friends, this also correlates with the end of tourism

season, but as mentioned before with increased travel due to pandemic related cabin fever and a rising number of vaccinated people this could be quite different this year. Congratulations are in order to the well organized admission of the shot here in Belize. It was a walk through and the longest time waiting was the 20 minutes observation afterwards. Even got a little care package with allergy- and head ache pills - just in case... Btw here is another new word coming out of this ordeal: Impfkater – vax goma - When you feel your immune system at work after the jab...

Sports:

After hot and calm was predicted by a very unreliable source, the immediate day after was probably the windiest of the last four months and needed to be surfed. Good thing the sail ripped in between to give the maintenance guy some time to breathe and recover while taping it up – apparently he is not getting any younger. But, it truly was a Good Friday.

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Weather:

Well, we didn't see that one coming! It shouldn't rain in April. It never does! Cold front? What? So the Easter weekend wasn't as beautiful as planned, much to the demise of all the inlanders who came here for a mini beach vacay. Nevertheless fun was had a lot, just with a little running for shelter here and there.

And when this system is gone by Saturday – yes there are still a few clouds lingering around – there is nothing but sun on the weather map...

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Wisdom of the week: Don't look at your beer as half empty – you are half way to the next one!

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And here's another birdish fun fact – owls have really long legs!



#42 – 15th April 2021

Yeah well, it got a little late, a good day, a good week – no time to write about it! But it looks like anybody outside of Belize needs a little mood boost right about now! Good news – we can stay out 'til midnight on weekends now. Bad news: unless you are in a casino, still no partying - I guess gambling is more profitable for the government. How are we gonna tell people that yes, you don't have to go home right now, but we can't serve you anymore because the kitchen is closed – remember, restaurant license only, no food – no drink. So this latest opening up thingy doesn't do us any good (unless you can convince Pam to cook all night – g'luck!).

But back to the positive. A beautiful month this is, sailing season is in session. Various trips to the islands make up for any restrictions on the mainland – even the officials know that there are no rules out there!

This also brings back memories about UV studies – very red memories for that matter and one thinks to one's self: whisky tango foxtrot – didn't I learn anything from last year (or the other 20 years before that)?? This might also have something to do with the abundance of Ethanol mysteriously present at any island we dock up to, the well known effect of india delta golf alpha foxtrot it casts on its victims. But hey, nothing a cooling night swim can't fix...

A year ago we were in the middle of the mother of all lockdowns – don't leave the property unless it's for an essential errand. That's when – amongst other things - we started to throw seeds in the ground. The only survivor of this original initiative is that radioactive habanero pepper. And if evolution is right, this is the fittest of the fittest – it will kill anything it comes in contact with. Getting used to its power after accidentally chewing a few and the boss lady pepper-spraying herself in the face, Mary Sharp's fiery hot sauce is now being used as ketchup around here.

And that's a good thing since obviously the tomatoes didn't make it. But, as mentioned in a previous edition, we're onto less demanding produce and will report on which one to go for when your family is like – hey let's plant something but we're not gonna take care of it

Sports:

It's that time of year where you start to not give a darn thing about having a bucket of water thrown at you – every 5 seconds, if you should come sailing with us. This warm and dry weather makes you not want to stay dry! Now the challenge is to remain on the boat until we reach our final parking position and the fasten-seatbelt-signs are turned off. Not everybody makes it that far...

Weather:

Why do cold temperatures always feel colder and warm degrees are just a number way below what you are really experiencing?? That is when you are inland and look unemotionally at the 101F on the car's thermometer thinking, whatever... though in between you do cast a little thank-you-note to whoever is in charge of the AC not failing right there and then.

Back to the coastal areas, the mid 90s (~35C) are just right to have loads of fun without goose bumps, and you can still enjoy a nice cold beer without it evaporating, like it would on other planets.

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Wisdom of the week: if you feel down, don't be angry – be grumpy, it's more entertaining for the others!

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Oh look: Mike took a picture of Pam taking a picture of me taking a picture of Eric taking a picture of the sunset!



#43 – 22nd April 2021

Well now, one day you wake up and realize you've been married for 15 years! Happened just this morning. Then you think – wait, what?? Where did 15 years go? (The boss said if I tell a whole lot of nonsense now she'll slap me right back into last week, so I better tighten up) - We had a great ride so far, not planning on changing that. And with lots of support from experienced sailors we'll go on to more fun. A good friend – when asked about the secret of a lasting marriage – said: Know when to shut up! Great advice, but maaan it's hard! Bourbon in the steam iron is another good thing...

Obviously, to most, one marries for love, but it's also cool to have somebody around who always knows where your things are. And if you're not sure you found the right one in the first place, put them in front of a computer with slow internet to see who they really are!

When your wife asks: did you fart? And you look at her like – “honey, are you serious? You are eating, you think I would do that?” And just when she is about to confirm, you quickly remind her that it must be the rotting sargassum on the beach. Yes, it's back. Up till now not as bad as in previous years but enough to be a stinky, beach eating nuisance. In those times it is a toss-up between waking up to a sea breeze loaded with hydrogen sulfide or the delightful smell of burning plastic from the neighborly waste incineration plants when it is calm. But the sea weed will disappear before long, so keep this breeze coming!

And it is not as bad as we make it sound right now, there were times when we literally had to get out of Dodge – uhm Hopkins – because the stench became unbearable, some even reported physical reactions. So far we are alright – luckily! Do you remember the story about shipping duration and waiting for car parts? Right now we can't go anywhere anyway! And on top of that our second vehicle – the 17 year old beach cruiser – is down as well. Who would have think that a country can run out of 26" bicycle tubes???

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While part of the world is being crushed by a third wave of the Rona, Belize is experiencing what might be the start of its second. Or is it just a little peak after the Easter parties? Avoid it like the plague apparently

is not a thing anymore. But so far this has been a good place to ride out any waves.

School is still online, despite certain notions to huddle 800 kids onto campus – bad idea the majority said. Fortunately the music classes are more into theory lately. Haven't noticed that pesky instrument in a good while, kinda miss it.

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Sports:

People often ask: how far do you go out when windsurfing? My answer always is – no further than you are ready to swim back. When sailing, you don't necessarily need to swim, but paddling could be an activity you need to take up when the divine fans run out of gas. A Sunday sailing trip turned into the La Routa Hopkins. A friend said to me: you are a funny guy, you go sailing when there is no wind and you make a fire when it's raining – like both would happen in one day – uhm – yepp! Nevertheless we made it for Happy Hour at The Sea Bar and back home just as the sun dipped, and rewarded ourselves with some pirate water around said fire on the beach, until the heavens opened.

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Weather:

Nice n warm, mostly windy – except when the Windschiefs set sail, beautiful blue skies and starry nights – except when the Windschiefs make a fire. And you already know there is not supposed to be rain in April!

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Wisdom of the week: If the grass is greener on the other side of the river, you didn't water yours properly!



#44 – 29th April 2021

Wow, a big phat thanks to all for last week's shower of greets, well wishes and love. We are overwhelmed and happy to have y'all in our lives. And together we can continue the pandemride with ease. 🤗

You know we are really bored when we start painting things. But the new wooden chairs needed some color. And when you are looking forward to an afternoon of happy-hour pub crawl by boat it goes easy! - Just another Sunday in Hopkins...

Just another occurrence when living here: others move in with you. Few are welcome – like cute little fur balls, some are tolerated, and some lose their three dimensional characteristics very quickly upon being discovered. Yeah, having clan members with arachnophobia is not healthy for some critters.

Amongst the tolerated ones are hundreds of geckos, which seemingly defecate more than they eat. Sometimes you wonder what is better, having live mosquitoes buzzing in your ear or the digested version lying around everywhere.

There are also very powerful critters. The boss lady says: get rid of this one or I'm moving out! Now some husbands have been looking for such creature for years, so I will tell you what it is: a frog! In the bathtub drain! Making some cool honking noises every once a while which echo through the bathroom and the rest of the house. Now you might ask: what's wrong with a cute little frog? That's where ophidiophobia comes into play. Yes this family is ridden with phobias, the latter being about snakes. And the connection? In #34 we reported about Belize superstitions, well here is another one: where there are frogs, there are snakes! She always tells the childhood story of the whole family literally moving out of the house when a little garden snake showed up for dinner. Well, not the whole family. Grandpa "Pah" - the man of the house - was out of town and when coming back to an abandoned residence the next day he was very amused at his family's phobia.

Another critter that moved in out of nowhere is now 13 and growing at a rate where it is not feasible to buy clothes. A new business idea:

Hopkins Teenager Clothes Rental. We have a mountain of shirts, shorts and sweaters for 11-13yr olds as a starter package; feel free to inquire if you need any!

Also funny to watch is how difficult it must be to constantly having to adapt to new heights. It specifically showed when he bonked his head against a wall while bending over to pick something up.

Sports:

Trying to flush novices off the boat is really fun! This Sunday's sail turned into another adventure. Just when you thought it is a nice relaxed cruising day, Neptun will show you what he can do! And then you find yourself sitting at a rest stop with weak knees, having just one more happy hour drink because you are kind of afraid to push the boat back into the raging sea. Now another bar patron asks if she can get a ride – that's when you do everything to hide any concerns and, in anticipation of another entertaining round of our new sport, say with a smile: let's go! She fared well and even survived an attempt to sink the boat. Some fiberglass work is on next week's schedule...

Weather:

Not enough wind, too much wind, wrong direction wind, but sometimes it is the perfect wind! Right around the 90s (over 30C) and sun 'till the skin is crispy. The sea water is heating up rapidly, midnight swimming season is on – if it wasn't for that dang curfew.

The water coming from the shower is still refreshing in the morning and the first part of the day, but don't look for relief later in the evening!

Also, those pesky trips to our beloved business town 20 miles away are becoming more popular again – for the half hour ride in the ac...

Wisdom of the week: If you've lent somebody 20 dollars and never see that person again, it was a good investment!



#45 – 6th May, 2021

Cinco de Mayo – nope, nobody was sinking in mayonnaise, of course we know it's Spanish for the day after the fourth was with us. And because the French army, on the way to claim Mexico, came to an abrupt halt at Puebla City on that day in 1862, it is now a good excuse to eat tacos and drink excessive amounts of tequila all over the world. This year we didn't see any ads to celebrate at a local establishment in the company of like-minded suspects, the restrictions don't allow that kinda fun yet. So we had a shot in private, good thing they don't tell us when to go to bed, just when to be off the streets...

But once your world got hit by a pandemic, you kinda involuntarily choose to stay at home anyway most of the time, and one could do all kind of exciting things there too, but who does that? So when paying more attention around the house, one notices strange things and abnormalities, and starts contemplating. Certain mysteries come to light, like the time it takes for an empty shampoo bottle to exit the shower stall. I think there is one in there from 3 years ago (it says Gran Bahia Principe on it). Another interesting observation is how much toothpaste is in an empty toothpaste tube if you squeeze it the right way. You can go days and weeks! That of course is born out of necessity because do you know how long it takes for the new toothpaste, that was bought and left in the downstairs kitchen, to reach upstairs? Also, why is the garbage bin always full – and there are no shampoo bottles in there - but most importantly: where did that spider go??

Not a mystery but an interesting fact has to do with a certain male aptitude. You know what guys do when there is a call for choirs or other unwanted activities? Yes, they have to go to the bathroom. Apparently this is not taught but already instinctively established in young males barely over 12, and then being refined during further aging. Problem arises when the wife/mother is patient enough to wait it out - your behind is going numb, and you've reached the end of Facebook – back to work. Sometimes it takes a little bit of bribing though, especially when trying to convince the heir to do last night's dishes – without telling him how busy it was and how the maintenance guy didn't do any dur-

ing his shift (he was in the bathroom a lot). Hearing the cry of repentance echoing through the neighborhood upon entering the kitchen – priceless!

This week's riddle:

Noticing our passion for the word "and" here is a challenge: find a sentence that has the word "and" in there five times in a row – aaaand it has to make sense of course!

Sports:

The "Sin Nombre" is on dry dock, wonder how we made it back to HQ with those holes in the hull! I guess when you go fast enough the water doesn't see the hole in time to get in. Anyway, we had to try 'n find other activities to keep us busy and fit. We didn't...

Weather:

Does anybody have an old-school thermometer we could borrow to check the sea temperature at Hopkins beach? This has to be close to or even over 90F during the day! One sits in there, shakes head and thinks "you gotta be kidding me!" Don't try and find relief from the baking you encounter when working in the yard or walking down the street. Well, just don't work in the yard or walk down the street. Sit in the shade and apply cold tinctures to throat and stomach!

Wisdom of the week: No bathroom breaks on Mother's Day!

And here the last full moon - gorgeous as always:

Cheers!



#46 – 13th May 2021

Mother's Day – the day everybody suddenly remembers they were somehow born and raised, therefore buy overpriced flowers and greeting cards, and flood social media with heartfelt wishes.

Around here it is another excuse for the guys to have more beer than they can handle and leave the dishes for the next day – 'cause then it ain't M-day no more... Anyway, had a good time hangin' with the ol' boys, can't wait for Father's Day 🍷

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Have you heard of hyaluronic acid? It is a natural substance found in the body and therefore often used as filler injected into lips to increase volume. The cool thing – there's no need for that in Belize, at least not in doctor fly season! For our readers from abroad, those despicable little twits not only sting hard and noteworthy, but what makes them so creepy and gave 'em their name is that they numb your skin before sticking their little trunks of evil into you so you won't feel a thang until it is way too late.

Waking up to a stranger next to you only used to happen after college parties, but when one of those pesky bastards sneaks into the bedroom and goes down on the lip of your love, you kinda jump at the first sight, but then quickly realize - it's gonna be a funny day! Another german phrase comes to mind: "Wer den Schaden hat, braucht für den Spott nicht sorgen" – who has the damage doesn't need to worry about the mockery... (btw she can now kiss somebody from across the room!)

-

All the while people up north are selling their houses for parts, filling up their coffee mugs with gas and wishing they had bought some DOGE Coin last year so they could now get an electric car for close to nothing, we continue the march towards normality. News of further lifting of restrictions are now coming in almost weekly. The plan to clamp down on the Easter super spreader to then re-open afterwards seems to be working. After a short rise of cases we are back down to 44!

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For our “and” riddle from last week: a sentence with the word “and” in there 5 times in a row: imagine Mike and Paul are opening a car wash. They hire Shelly to paint a sign for their new business “Mike and Paul Car Wash” and tell Shelly: “Make sure to leave the same space between Mike and and and and and Paul!”

Aaaaand here is a new riddle: Imagine being on the pilgrimage to Mecca, treading on a trail through the desert, maybe on a horse – just please give it a name will ya, and approaching a Y. At the junction there are no signs but an old man who is the only one knowing the right way to Mecca, while the other will get you deeper into the desert. The problem is, this man lies on one day and the next day he will speak the truth, just to lie again the following day, but of course you don’t know which day it is today, but at least you know that he does this! He will grant you one question to find out which way to go – what would you ask him?

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Sports:

This week was used to get as much not done as possible, just to prepare for the reopening of Jujitsu classes aka you can legally hit your spouse and throw them around for two hours. Full contact sports are allowed again – for training purposes only, and that’s what we’re gonna do! Anybody wants to stop by and check it out, Sunday 10am & Tuesday 4pm on the premises of Windschief!

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Weather:

This is the time of year when a weekly weather report sounds like a broken record – sunny, dry, hot – that’s all there is to it. Still didn’t measure the sea temperature – anybody?

Wisdom of the week: Posting “I don’t own the copyrights to this music” in your video post doesn’t do anything but you admitting, that you are knowingly infringing on copyrights!

In Belize trees are being hurricane tested before put in the ground:



#47 – 20th May 2021

Mangasm: the intense pleasure of biting into the first sweet juicy mango of the year – yes, it's mango season! Hopkins is especially known for an abundance of mango trees. Kids trying to stone the fresh fruits down (a good time to get those hurricane shutters out), birds going wild (remember the grackles?), and the streets are plastered with mango chutney and the fermented version of the fruit. All different sizes, colors and flavors, over 20 varieties here, some with really cool names like Number Eleven, Bellyfull, Thundershock, Hairy...

There used to be the annual Hopkins Mango Fest, this will be the second year without it, due to - we all know. We hope for next year. And speaking of 'asms, here's another word born out of recent events: Airgasm – the intense pleasure from air felt on your face when mask is removed.

And we will be able to enjoy this one for some more time. Remember that great idea to open up casinos? Yes, awesome! Just the employees of one increased the countrywide cases by 50% last week and it is now being spread by their kids through some schools that have also opened prematurely. Conclusion: hoarding a bunch of people into an air conditioned enclosure is probably a slight misstep in the fight against a pandemic of an airborne villain, no matter how much money they bring in. You know why it is so awesome to look into the Grand Canyon? Because you get the awe-feeling of looking down a mountain without having to climb it. But, this is a rare exception, in most cases we have to climb first. And it is not the highest mountain on earth we are climbing right now, we can tackle that!

But which one is really the highest mountain do you know? Of course everybody immediately thinks of Mt. Everest. But the question is really very unspecific: which height are we referring to? Everest's summit is 8848m above sea level, whereas Mt. Chimborazo's summit in Ecuador is only 6268m above the sea, but, because our planet is slightly out of shape, over 2000m farther away from earth's center than the tip of Mt. Everest. Now taking a look at the tallest mountain from base to top, no

matter the sea level, we go to Mauna Kea in Hawaii. This one peaks over 4000m out of the sea but its foot is about 6000m under, so at over 10,000m this is really the tallest mountain on earth.

Now, when going to Mecca, you don't have to climb so much once you get off your boat – it is only 277m above sea level. But did you figure out how to get there? We'll give you another week. In addition here's this week's riddle: What was the highest mountain before Mt. Everest was discovered?

Sports:

They say the difference between being young and being old is, when you drop something and you're young, you pick it up, when you're old you think really hard if you still need it. Well, you don't have to be old to contemplate the value of your droppage. Just stop doing Jujitsu for a year and then suddenly start again! By now there are a lot of things lying around the house, can't wait to be able to go down again!

Weather:

I mean it's really not that hot. Right around 90F (just over 30C) appears reasonable. In winter there is a windchill, which sounds really cool, but when you go the other direction they just call it heat index. Can we please make up a new word for that? Like Turkish steam bath effect or something? Because 80% humidity make it feel like over 100F (close to 40C) easily. And you can imagine what the shower water feels like, which goes through pipes that are buried 1-2ft deep in sand on which you could flame broil a hamburger patty right now. Still don't know about the sea temperature but the only real natural relief this time of year is a nice mountain creek. Do make sure that you are not on somebody's property and get locked in the jungle while you are enjoying a cooling bath. Or if you are, have enough beer for the night (and some bug spray). Knowing the nephew of the owner in that situation – priceless!

Wisdom of the week: Some people take 3 slices of pizza at once 'cause they think it might run out, others take 1 small piece for the exact same reason – choose who you want to be!

And here are the cabanas you could be staying in, if you only wanted it bad enough 😊



#48 – 27th May 2021

The subsolar point on a planet is the point at which its sun is perceived to be directly overhead (at the zenith aka high noon); that is, where the sun's rays strike the planet exactly perpendicular to its surface. This doesn't happen for everybody – you have to be somewhere between the latitudes 23.5 North and 23.5 South, which is the definition of the tropics. Over yesterday and today we are at the subsolar point - our fireball is shining straight down on us at latitude 17 in Hopkins. From here on it will move north, hit 23.5° (e.g. just south of Key West) on June 21st, come back and will be over us again on 17th July before going south. So, that means, if you wear a hat with a rim as wide as your shoulders, you won't get burned today. At noon. Some will have to pull their belly in though...

Life in the tropics has also a lot to do with battling abundant, fast growing nature. Grass and bushes that stretch 3 meters in the air in a matter of weeks. Bugs – crawling and flying – reproduce at a rate that leaves anyone speechless.

Man comes and claims land. Ants do not understand that claim nor are they willing to learn. Leave out the tiniest bit of something edible on the table, here they come within minutes. Plant something so you can have nice juicy tropical fruits and veggies later – nope, they like that, too. Wee-Wee ants or Leaf Cutter ants will trim your plants professionally. Get bit by a Bullet ant and guess what, it hurts like you got hit by a bullet! Try'n run a minigolf course, fire ants really like to play, too! The coolest ones are the Army ants or Marching ants though. They march through the lands and eat everything in their path. Never had them come through our house but others experienced it. All you can do is get out and wait, they will clean up and leave. Roaches, scorpions, basically anything they find they will devour, and they would do you too if you decided to stay.

But those are the only ones who leave again voluntarily. For the others - there are ways to fight back. Of course one can indulge in chemical warfare, not the most sustainable approach but sometimes the only way out other than giving up and letting them have the land. And of

course after they ate your crop or your feet, there are certain anger issues one has to deal with, which then basically dictate the decision.

As for a simple solution for dealing with the constant plague of having those little sugar ants all over the house – they don't cross chalk lines! Draw a chalk circle around your Bailey's colada and it's save! Line your dinner table legs with a ring of chalk and you are at peace. For a while. Until your kid(s) or pet(s) brush it off...

As for flying critters - another doctor fly attack was also reported: As if the maintenance guy's nose is not big enough yet, one of them little twats decided to poke the tip of that – needless to say, a lot of fun was had – by everyone else.

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In other news, Square Grouper season was declared open when a small jet was found, which had crashed into the sea just off the shore of Placencia (about 25 miles south of here). This kind of airplane is often used to transport stuff that shouldn't be transported, in fact shouldn't even exist, to places where it shouldn't be sold. And since it shouldn't be, it's very valuable and called sea lotto around here. Heaps of prosperity-seekers were reported out in boats or combing the beaches.

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Sports:

It doesn't hurt anymore. We are back in shape and on the track we lost last year, and rediscovered, that tossing around family members is really good fun!

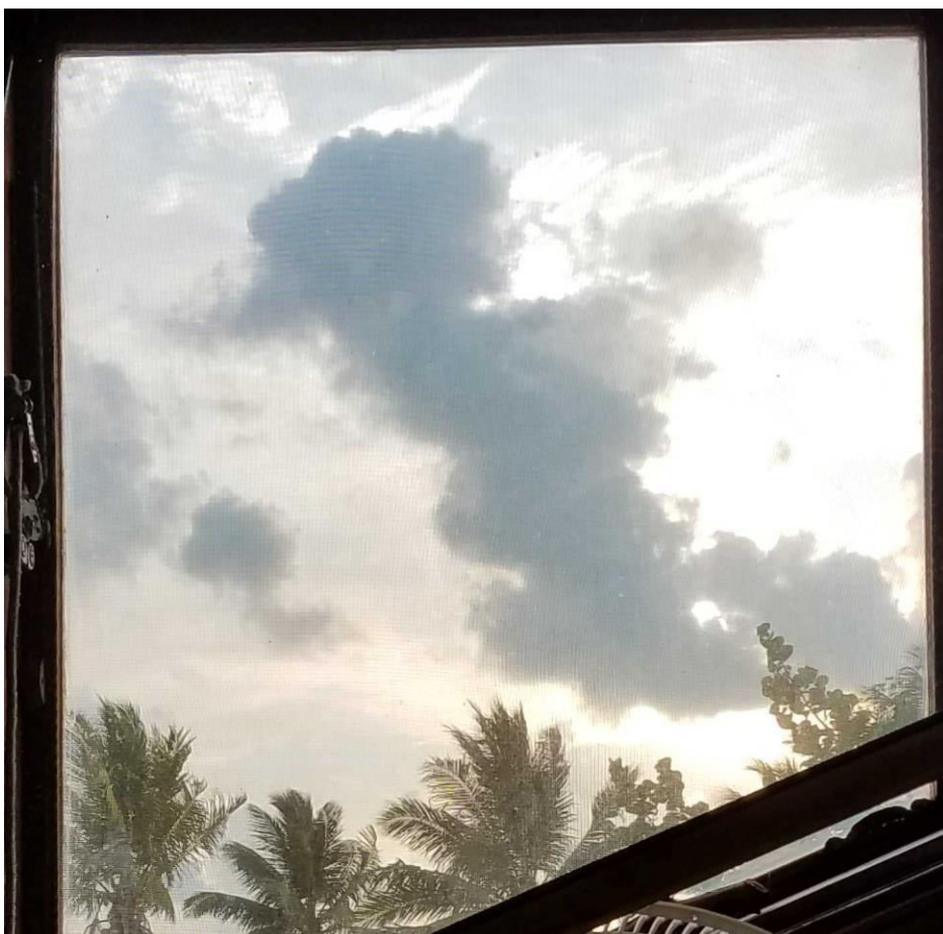
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Weather:

We did it again: we said sunny, dry and hot – it got cloudy, wet and cool. The first proper thunderstorm of the season came over us out of nowhere and left many pet owners sleepless that night. It cooled us down quite a bit – mid 80s F is a good thing, but remember, with rain comes more humidity and it still feels like the devil's fart.

Wisdom of the week: Follow your heart, but please take your brain with you!

When I woke up this looked at me down from the sky, now I can't remember what I saw there:



#49 - 3rd June 2021

Aaaaaand the land borders are open! To tourists only for now, who must get a test and have to have a Gold Standard accommodation waiting for them, so there is some control but man, did you see the case numbers of our neighboring countries? To the north they have over 260000 active cases – that's like more than half of Belize's population. We are keeping them steadily under 100 so far, let's see what happens now...

While Belize has the record low in those numbers for Latin America, it holds the high record in its constantly increasing gas prices. With Premium gas slowly approaching the BZ\$12 mark for the gallon, people in their V6 and V8 rigs are now crawling down the highway at 35mph. Always wonder if I should tell them that they need to use the highest gear in order to save gas?

And to put it in perspective, BZ\$11.60 for a gallon means ~ US\$ 5.80 p.g. ~ CA\$ 1.85 p.ltr ~ Eur € 1.30 p.ltr. This is almost on par with prices in Germany and apparently about the worldwide average, while our neighbors can buy their transport juice for less than half! Ecuador is reporting the low record around here with about US\$ 0.50 p.ltr or ~ US\$2 p.g. – not to mention Venezuela's ridiculous 2 cents per liter.

If you really want to cry when approaching a gas station, drive a V8 through Hong Kong: at nearly US\$2.50 p.ltr or US\$9.40 per gallon a German would say "Da bleibt kein Auge trocken!" (no eye will be left dry).

But while gas is expensive and lately also lacking the proper supply, the other life juice is not doing any better. A few weeks back the community's main source for Adam's ale experienced sudden shrinkage and fell into a jumbled mass through the force of external pressure, which left us with little to no pressure in our pipes, at least during the day. The first morning activity nowadays, besides making some indifferent noises and jumping at the sight in the mirror, is checking the water level in the storage tanks. Many times it supports certain clan member's chorephobia – not much to do without water. That's when the maintenance department orders the refilling of said tanks one bucket at a time – if there is any water at least in the low spigot...

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In those other news: Police is cracking down on the sea lotto. Road blocks and house searches are common in the area near the crash site of a certain type airplane, and a few square groupers have been located. Other than that – look out for new cars and houses!

Sports:

There were sightings of an old blue catamaran at sea, though witnesses are contradicting themselves in the further description. Some say they saw the name Sin Nombre, others sighted a boat called Sin Nobre. Good thing nobody knows that each of our hulls has a different name! Yes! She is floating again and screaming through the Hopkins- and neighboring bays. On the quest for play dates she found one boat abandoned and another one in a position that is not recommended for sailing. And by the time that boat was ready for the sea it was beer-thirty. Maybe next time we will play together!

Also, when slowly approaching the fifty, Jujitsu and sailing in one day is a serious challenge and promptly left the Hausmeister stiff as a mahogany 2x4.

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Weather:

Yepp, proceeding towards that time of year – around 90F with the aerial water capacity topped up to 85% - sweat doesn't evaporate much, it just runs. And you don't even have to move to be on the verge of overheating. Best to sit in the sea breeze and don't move. The bad news: sea breeze stinks! The beloved sargassum is back, raked some beach into the sea and then died on the shore, which left millions of little sea corpses to decompose right under our noses. Might go inland for the afternoon...

Wisdom of the week: The best time to start something always is right now! (Well, maybe a little later, after breakfast, maybe...)



#50 – 10th June 2021

Ok, it got a little late today but we didn't forget. A good day of yard work and a good day to fall victim to the bad influence of your partner for the Feierabend: Oh, there is a little bit of tequila left in the bottle – let's have that. Oh, we got mint in the yard, let's have a Mojito. Oh, it's late, but let's not go home and have another one of this and that. Well, we won't tell ya who is who in that equation; things just happen for a reason, we are certain about that!

And so while others were contemplating, if giving birth or getting kicked in the nuts hurts more, we were free of pain and went with the flow...

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Through our ability to alter the future by stating and/or predicting the exact opposite, it is probably our fault that country wide cases are now far above 100, with an outbreak cluster in a little village just down the highway from us. And with the latest extreme version of pandemic fatigue we have to get back on the lookout and protect those who can't or don't want to get jabbed.

Now, our new high season is playing out not too badly, though still under restrictions the going-out-and-have-fun thing is not quite a thing yet. But people still love to eat and drink good things, even though they are not allowed to jump around in between. And so our Friday Nights remain busy but rather contemplative than the usual bat shit crazy...

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Good news have arrived about the liquid gold of Hopkins – water. There is a drilling rig ready to go down to find more. As of now, making sure to have enough of this life juice to run a business and wash one's underwear every once a while became part of the daily job description of at least one clan member - sure looking forward to the end of this shortage.

And as we are at "living in paradise sometimes stinks" - it literally does, right now. More Sargasso came to rest on Hopkins' beach and the tang reminds of things that shall not be written here.

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Sports:

Looking at the next belt grading in a few weeks – which we started training for a year ago and then took a mandated break just to forget everything again – classes are getting heated. But as Sensei says: you didn't do it right if there is no blood on your gi!

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Weather:

Trials continue to find ways of coping with the current heat index: After taking a shower don't dry off and remain undressed for as long as possible! Also taking a fan into the bathroom for certain excretive activities has proven to be a very effective, in fact quite delightful method.

During yard work, the doggy style technique – hang the tongue out and breath fast - was tried and is not recommended while weed whacking near a Noni tree! (see edition #40 – things that should not be hitting the fan)

Furthermore, everybody is waiting for some rain as everything is as dry as an Englishman's joke. Trying to keep at least some plants alive in the backyard is quite the challenge. Our first home grown papaya could have been juicier, but it was a good start. Hoping that this tree's roots reached the water table by now to properly pump up the next ones.

Nothing is usual anymore, the usual at-least-a-week-of-June rain came several weeks early and was about 6 and a half days too short. Now the once lush green minigolf course is turning into a dust bowl. And with the community's main water well still out we have to make sacrifices. We'll keep the mint and the recently started passion fruit though!

Wisdom of the week: Don't!







#51 – 17th June 2021

Begpackers - people who think they deserve free stuff for posting some nice pictures to their 5000 something followers. Promotion is everything they teach you in business class, but that is not equal to getting some likes from a few acolytes.

As a friend and fellow business owner (who also made us aware of the term) puts it:

"Thank you for your interest in (our business) and for your enquiry.

We are very happy to invite you to sojourn at (our business) at our regular low rates. Click (our website) to book your accommodation.

After we have received payment for your stay, we will give you permission to use our name, and any images of our property you capture, to promote your service/product/website while staying with us, at no additional charge, provided we receive a copy of all materials produced.

If, after review, we are interested in purchasing your service/product, we can discuss remuneration to you at that time, as a completely distinct and separate transaction."

Thank you Roy!

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When living in Hopkins you encounter many different village atmospheres over the years. The weather is a major dictator of those. We had sunny, dry, windy, hot, cold, wet, very windy, very wet etc etc. But when in the evening the breeze suddenly completely dies off, the sea turns into a mirror, a bit overcast and hazy, dusk is creeping in – there is something in the air. Mainly smoke. Hundreds of little fires pop up everywhere, partly against those pesky sandflies and mossies, partly to get rid of all the garden rubbish that one couldn't burn all this time it was windy. And with that smoky smell in the air, the calmness that makes one hear anything going on around the block and beyond, people on the street chattering and laughing, more or less loud music from several different sources – it is an extraordinary mood. Before this whole "DO NOT meet your friends and have fun"-thing one would go through the contacts and call for a byob beach bonfire get-together. Nowadays we just go to bed...

When the spawn grows and gets smarter, he starts to call out your frugality: as the occasional kitchen helper he gets yelled at for various reasons, one of them is not draining the last bit of oil out of the bottle and the boss says we probably save 5 cents per week if you do, that adds up! So he added it up – and said: so you are yelling at me for \$2.60 a year?! The only answer to that – well yeah life isn't fair, get used to it! But hey, the next morning after every shift is like Christmas Day – he can't wait to open the tip jar!

And how do you know that you have accepted the fact of being a parent to a teenager? When he pops his head out of his room at 9am and you ask "What are you doing up so early??"

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Sports:

Japanese Jujitsu is a great and boisterous evening activity. And it's all fun and games, until the above mentioned conditions set in – it's 90F at 85% saturation and there is no air movement to even give your perspiration the slightest chance to justify its existence; it becomes evident that the creators of the German anatomy didn't see this coming. That one student is called Drippy under normal (windy) circumstances. Now the mats are covered with an undistinguishable slippery film, and said guy is safe from being called in for technique demonstrations once again.

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Weather:

The March winds finally quit – not that we were waiting for that, 'twas a pleasure to have them around for so long and we almost forgot about the sandfly dance – rubbing your feet against the calves alternately. We did quite a bit of that this week. And with the Sargasso stink on top we tell people: this is the worst state you might ever find Hopkins in – only uphill from here! And as of today the tang is almost gone...

A little rain revived the yard, but now it seems dry again. Also, season is open for hurricanes once more; a few systems are/were out there already, hope we don't make the acquaintance...

Wisdom of the week: Every day without a beer is a risk to your health!
Cheers!

p.s. is it time to put the Christmas tree away yet?



#52 – 24th June 2021

In times like these, when the movie 'Idiocracy' seems like a documentary, when it became normal that people freely offer the answers to their email- or bank account security questions for a cool stripper name or to be bragging about their first ride and favorite movie, when 'pineapple on pizza' became a right-or-wrong debate rather than a matter of individual taste, when the lumber in a popsicle is worth more than the eatable stuff, when people are bothered by others wearing a mask, when some think it's ok to trust people with a gun while having to tell them not to pick up a lawn mower by the chassis to trim their hedges, to not drink the contents of their car battery or put a hot coffee between their legs while driving; when fatalities caused by selfies are higher than by shark attacks, in a society that has minimized itself to counting money, pounds, calories and steps, - we are not really sure where we go from here. Only thing we do know is that we're gonna have fun no matter what and we hope you do, too.

With this longest sentence we have written so far we are concluding one year of our News Muse and we have put it together in a file for you to download. We are happy we did this to have a log about what happened during this crazy year, and of course that y'all were part of it and followed the insanity. So feel free to download and enjoy the recapture. And if we got you to giggle here and there and you have a dollar or two to spare - consider hitting the donate button to help through those strange times (well it's really just to get the maintenance guy some beers - when he gets tipsy enough he might write some more 😊)

Download here: www.windschief.com/news

Of course we will continue to keep you updated when there's something to report, but it might not be every week on the dot...

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Clean-up:

Now we have to tie up some loose ends: in #45-47 we had riddles, and to some we still owe you the answer.

What was the highest mountain before Mt. Everest was discovered? Well, Mt. Everest of course, we just didn't know.

And remember the old guy at the junction who lies one day and speaks the truth the next? Ask him: "When people asked you for the right way yesterday, which way did you send them?" and then take the other!

Another loose one goes way back – the German word Klabusterbärchen. Well, this is Berlin slang and it actually is Klabusterbeeren, the difference being "little bears" and "berries". Did that so it wouldn't be so easy to google. Well, now you can google it!

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Last week, well more its end was dominated by a clan member's birthday. "Not getting drunk on Friday night because we are going on a road trip the next morning" ended in "why does everything spin around me really fast?"

There were one or two people at the bar in the past who we had called "Dr. Evil" for their skill of shoving shots of tequila down your throat when clearly all signs including the absence of regular bodily functions indicate the need for different fluids. Now once there is a birthday celebration at the Windschief everybody seems to turn into a Dr. Evil! Needless to say a lot of fun was had and even the trip the next day wasn't so bad. Mind you, in Belize "road trip" means like 2 hours max. And nothing an ice cold stout on a lush green golf course can't fix!

The youth was especially happy to be able to drive the mothership around on a golf cart while the maintenance guy had to walk of course. Father's Day didn't help that fact at all. On the contrary – he was told to prove to be a good father on this day – a whole new twist to that celebration!

Weather:

While by far not being the hottest spot on earth, this is plenty. Golfing at 95°F (35°C) is somewhat bearable with the right input of appropriate coolants and the outlook of hanging by the pool with good friends in the evening.

And after some calm moments it looks like the March Winds are back! Not in full force but just the right breeze also makes for perfect conditions to go east on a floaty – begs the question: why are there up to five days in-between weekends? We need more weekends in our lives!

Wisdom of the year: your turn to comment – which one did you like best?!

We'll close this episode and year with the war cry of one of our favorite vacation spots:

Cheers maddafakkas!



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