

The



Club

Issue #17  
June  
2012

An Elite Club Open To Anyone Interested In Making Their Homes Better And Having More Fun Doing It

# Barn Door Project

This old barn (not This Old House) has been under remodeling for the past 3 years. As salvage materials become available, I try to finish off another part of the barn. The two center bays are someday going to become my getaway wood shop. The plan is to get the wood tools out of the garage and also all the saw dust that goes with them. This should make several members of the family as well as their vehicles much happier. Two years ago, the concrete slab went in on the floor to finish off



that part of it. I then framed the openings square and flat as they originally were just 4x4 and plywood pole building construction. I never quite figured out the door situation for these openings. First planned were rolling barn doors that would stack to the left. This never came to be. Next, I salvaged some big, antique bifolding carriage doors off another garage and was going to use these. The mechanisms were impossible to find so that too never came to be. So I gave in and trimmed the openings to standard garage door size of 8' wide and 7' tall hoping I would tear out some doors at some time. That never came to be soon enough. Then I met Keven from The Garage Door Store. We talked, he came and looked, and a couple weeks later, he had just the thing for me. Two beautiful 3 panel doors!



# The Pro's Make It Look Easy!



The trick to this install was the low clearance tracks that Kevin sourced to make the doors fit into the low ceiling height that I have in the barn. If you notice to the right photo, the tracks are a dual set up to make the geometry of the door lift function as it should. Compare this to your standard garage door and you will see the obvious difference. Who would have known? Not me!



Now the following should never be done by you. EVER. Got it? EVER! Only a trained pro like Kevin should mess the tension on the springs of a garage door. Lots have tried and are now missing eyes or fingers. DON'T DO IT. I would tell you how many turns he did and why but that might empower you to try. No way. Trust me that Kevin has the right tools and the know how to do it safely.

In about 3 1/2 hours, Kevin and his assistant got the two doors up, one opener, and all adjusted and cleaned up. They look fantastic and make me want to finish out the rest of the barn to a bit higher level!



**After**

**The Garage Door Store  
208-514-2871**

# “The Independent” Newspaper Column-

By Joe Prin

MAY 2012



Those of you who pay way too much attention to this column may recall my writings on the 200,000 mile mark that my Ford F-150 hit. I felt like a proud Papa showing off pictures of his kid.

Last week that truck made its final trip to a job site. It happened on the road to Eagle coming back from Emmett. “Check Engine” came on in heart stopping yellow. Not only was it illuminated, but also flashing. “That must be really bad”, I thought. This was followed by ”thumpa thumpa thumpa” and a “tic tic tic” from under the hood. The light seemed to flash faster as it went on.

I pretty much coasted into Eagle Auto Repair where the Doc delivered the bad news to me a couple of hours later. They had to put her down. Broken rings in one cylinder is what probably did it.

239,000 miles was the final tally. Hard, abused, contractor towing a trailer miles. I got my money’s worth out of that truck. It owed me nothing.

So I had to go truck shopping. Right then, that day. Being a Contractor, I cannot be without a truck. No truck, no way to pull the tool trailer. No tools, no work gets done. No work, no income. First stop, Craigslist. Saw a couple of possibilities, but nobody was answering the phone. So then off to a few used car lots.

They can “tell” can’t they? Salespeople I am talking about. It must be the way I walk, but the salespeople must know that I need a truck that day. I can see the little bit of drool in the corner of their mouth as they know a sale is coming.

Actually it wasn’t that bad. I am an easy shopper. Find it, get it, and be done. It is not worth my life’s energy to spend days and days going back and forth trying to get a few more bucks off or to get them to toss in an oil change and floor mats. Not only that, but I have to get back to work and I need a truck...Now! There’s the drool again.

I found a Red GMC Sierra at Peterson’s Stampede in Nampa. Carlin there made it quick and easy. But soon I found out who my real friends were.

You would think I switched political parties! Or gave up on the Methodists and started going to a different church! The Ford guys said; “You bought a Chevy?!” “I Can’t believe it, a Chevy?” Well not technically I said, “It’s a GMC”. Same thing in their narrow, blue oval closed minds. “Tsk, tsk, tsk. What a shame”, I heard. I felt so dirty. And for the record... I also have a Mustang so there is still a Ford in my garage!

And then there were others, General Motors folk. “Welcome to the Family!” they said. ‘Bout time you got a real truck. You’ll like that one a lot better!”

So what is my new protocol here? Should I wave now at other GMC’s? Nah, probably not cool to do. It will creep out all the Soccer Moms. After all, it isn’t a Harley or a Mustang. Should I get a Calvin sticker for the back window? Nah. Not cool either. And what about the Dodge guys? Where do they fit in to all this? Do they just want to “Ram” us Chevy, excuse me, GMC, and Ford guys?

I just hope it gets me to work trouble free like the F-150 did for so long.

# “The Independent” Newspaper Column-

By Joe Prin

JUNE 2012

I need to ask you, the reader of this column each month, if you have noticed something that I have. I am not sure when it started, or what event triggered it, but it seems to me that people (in the most general use of the term) are getting less patient with a whole lot of things in their lives.

Have you been on Eagle Road going south at about 7:45 AM lately? It is like a bumper car race at the amusement park! I am totally convinced that the usage of turn signals is inversely proportionate to the cost of the vehicle. If you are pulling a trailer, like your friendly neighborhood remodeling contractor-columnist does, that alone is an invitation to see how many times you can get cut off and have to slam on the brakes. And yet, we all seem to get “there” at the same time.

The lines at the grocery store to me are a negative and opposite reaction to the amount of intuition I possess to choose the fastest line. Let me pick and I guarantee you we will get behind Mrs. and Mr. Molasses chatting up the Cashier and trying to figure out how to write a check at the same time.

And appointments! When did a 2 PM appointment change to “Between noon and 4”? Is it that hard to commit to a schedule?

After deep reflection, is it perhaps me? Am I the one with the problem? Oh yeah, I got the Senior Discount last Tuesday at D&B without asking for it and that really ticked me off. I’m 53 for gosh sakes. I should not have grown out my beard. Nothing but gray.

I think I am the problem. If everybody just played by the rules, my rules, we would all get through the day just fine. I also think that I have come to the conclusion that it is not worth getting all riled up about it. What’s the hurry anyway? Why am I in such a snit to make all the lights on Eagle Road? How can I spend an hour cruising the aisles of the grocery store and not spend 3 minutes in line? I need a chill pill.

Therefore, in the interest of preserving my sanity and the public welfare in general, I am going to relax. I am going to make more time in my life for the unexpected. I’ll keep a book in my truck for when people are

late. Or I am early. I won’t over schedule myself trying to squeeze every minute out of the day. I’ll hit Eagle Road before or after the rush- or avoid it all together. (sometime the long way is the short way). I’ll listen more and talk less. Talking always gets me in trouble.

The best lessons learned in life are the ones you already know but finally wake up to and acknowledge that they truly do apply to you. We tell our kids this all the time. We tell them to learn from our mistakes. Do they listen? Heck no. They have to bump their heads a few times and then they realize that we did know what we were talking about.

A Senior Discount has to be earned by those of us not quite there yet. As I look around at those I admire in life, those I hope to be more like, they are not impatient people. They are not frustrated and flustered. They are the ones using their turn signals and talking to the cashiers. With a smile on their faces.



# Product Review: SikaFlex SL Self Leveling Sealant – Crack Filler

I am “Garage Guy”. I want things to be just so. Everything in its place, neat and tidy. Clutter I can control, the concrete someone placed in 1975 I can not. They used a 2x4 for the joint and while done well, it was about 3/8 of an inch in some places lower than the slabs. This made for a sweeping issue as well as a collection point for water and winter melt off debris.

I have used the Sika product shown here before. I just never thought of sharing it with you till now. I have used this multiple times for my customers, all with great results. So when I finally had enough with my floor, I bought a case of this Self Leveling Sealant. The case of 12 cost me \$96.24 after tax. Not cheap, but the results were worth it. I must also say, that I used a BUNCH of this stuff. Probably to the point of over kill. Hopefully you will not need as much.

I started by cleaning out the gap and plugging any visible spots where I could see it would fall in further than I wanted. I also dammed up one of the ends where it would run out if not stopped. The Gray Sikaflex SL is runny so that it will level itself. It is also designed for horizontal surfaces. My garage floor had a bit of a slope from the back to the garage doors and this was not a problem for the product. However, I can see that with just a bit more slope, it could have all ran down to the end. If in doubt, build it up in a couple of thinner layers. Also, if any soaks in or dips, let it firm up, and just add more on top.

You can see by the photos, parts were about 1 3/4” wide. I also kit a few cracks. Shown for reference is a section that I did about two years ago where the concrete joined an asphalt drive. While not specifically recommended for this, it has held up well. See all the dirt and change of color? Get ready for this as the finished product does attract whatever blows by or runs over it. I could care less about the final color, what was important is that I can now keep out the water and chunks and my slabs will last longer.



The product takes a while to cure so make plans to not walk on it or drive on it for up to 3 days depending on how deep or wide you apply it. Again, I took it to an extreme.

Summary? Good stuff. Works well. Does what it is supposed to. Lasts and is of value. Cautionary advice? Go slow. Practice, don't overdo it till you see how it is to work with. Also, do it on a warm day. Not hot or cold. And have a good caulk gun. A smooth, comfortable caulk gun. Junk guns make for junk results.

# How Totally Inappropriate

By Joe Prin

Some of you may know that one of my non-woodworking, fix up, home improvement hobbies is collecting beer cans. Thousands and thousands of them. Since 1974 in fact, and while rearranging them a while back I noticed some that crossover into the HomeFix World. Any others you can think of?



# Spud Box Works!

A neighbor built these spud boxes and I gave some a try this year. The plants go in with only the bottom redwood 2x6 in place. As they grow, the cedar 1x6's are added and back filled with dirt. I am at the 3rd level now and ready to do the last fill. Soon the boards will come off, the soil will crumble away, and the 'taters will be right there to pluck out with very little effort! I'm all for that. I planted Golden, Reds, and Blues. Fourth of July Potato Salad coming up!



Saturdays 8-10 AM



670 KBOI

Thanks for Listening!

## Kitchen Details

A couple of things for you to look at here that I am impressed with and hope you might be too. First are the Butcher Block Countertops. While not right for every kitchen or family, they do have several benefits that other tops do not offer. The look is very “Gourmet” looking and gives the feel of a serious cook’s preparation area. They are very do-it-yourself friendly and easy to install. They are also very earth friendly as they are domestically made by Boos Blocks in Effingham Illinois from sustainable forest certified products.



The tile backsplash while looking like a common mosaic tile is anything but. These are 8 x 12 tiles with lines in them that duplicate the look of mosaic. Why? Well, from what I found installing them, they are much easier to deal with than the mesh backed sheets. They stay flatter, and the glue does not squish out between the tiles. They also cut better for around outlets and switches. I felt that this part of the job went very smooth and quickly. I will try to use this system again if given the chance. If you look close you will see that I have not applied the grout to them yet. Still deciding on which “White” to use.



Last, take a look at the under counter lights. LED lighting rather than fluorescent or halogen. The light is very clean and bright, and generates no heat. They are supposed to last a lot longer and do not buzz or hum. Instant ON too. Perhaps a bit too bright though, might have to put them on a dimmer. If you have been wondering, yes, this is my personal kitchen and we as a family are very glad to be bringing this project to a close. It has been a long time in the works. ---Joe.

The



Club

Issue #17  
June  
2012

An Elite Club Open To Anyone Interested In Making Their Homes Better And Having More Fun Doing It