



# THE CRAWDADDY CHRONICLE

ANCHOR ON THE REEF



## What's New on the Reef

Piss on the that dirty groundhog. He couldn't forecast a tornado if high winds were whistling up his asshole. Here on the Reef we have our own prognosticator. Ollie the Oyster. We shuck 'em and let him forecast there are 6 more awaiting stacks of crackers dressed with cocktail sauce. To that my Reefer friends- can I get a big Amen! It's spring time. Open the window, take a deep breath; you can smell the roux cooking – low and slow. Now I've set the mood let's get down to the business of what's goin' on.

They couldn't help themselves. They sampled it, they loved it and they had to have it. That's right! Our great friends at Western Edge Seafood Outlet now stock Uncle Squigs' at their 4 store locations. They have received great feedback from their loyal customer base and are confident that adding Uncle Squigs Gumbo to their product line is a major win. Get it here, get it there, but either way; enjoy it responsibly.

Uncle Squigs merch has arrived. We procured a limited number of color selections and sizes of T-shirts from a high-quality manufacturer. We didn't want to jump into the ocean without a wet suit on, so we ordered a bit of trial run. We think they look great! Don't be bashful, get yourself one! Your honest feedback is appreciated. Besides, I screamed at the team- sell the flippin' shirts! I need the boat fuel.

This Quarters' Spirit Award goes to my great friend Charlie Allison. Chuckie put her anchor in the sand and created a wonderful Uncle Squigs commercial. Like pasta and red wine, she found a most complimenting companion for our seafood delicacy. Her commercial can be found on our website at <https://www.unclesquigsgumbo.com/media>. Please don't leave her marooned; join her mission to spread the word. I challenge all ya'll to come up with a commercial of your own: Almost anything goes!

Having fun yet?! I am! And it's just about to get better. I would like to unveil the incorporation of the Uncle Squigs Gumbo Charity Foundation. Miss Winnie and I agree that the good fortune we have been blessed with should extend out to help others achieve their God given potential. The Charity's mission will be for the preservation and advancement of the arts. Scholarships will be available for those interested in pursuing an education in the arts and entertainment. Details regarding the Charity will follow in later editions.

It takes 21 repetitions to break or make a new habit, so here's trial #1 of the next 21 attempts - You'll love this jingle - ***“Get off the couch and out your digs and get yourself some Uncle Squigs: Uncle Squigs Gumbo, The Best in the Bayou!”***  
A warm THANK YOU! Thanks so much to the following folks who have joined Uncle Squig's Reef:

Ed Smith  
Darlene Wise  
Larry Donovan  
Ross Hofbauer

Sarah Scott  
Jon Bruno  
Tim Lerner  
Marty Spittler

Dan Meller  
Andrew Piatt  
Margaret Carroll  
Tony Trapuzzano

Connor Naeve  
CR Piatt  
Michael Mooney  
Steve Beard

***“In Prosperity Our Friends Know Us. In Adversity, We Know our Friends”***

## Squig's Squibbles: Gumbo Therapy

It's been said a busy person should take ten minutes a day for silent meditation. If one is too busy for that, then they should take an hour! We now live in fast paced world with constant interruptions on any given moment with a constant stream of information blasted at us and urgent requests being made of us to respond to what is often white noise. Having others indoctrinate us with their flurry of information we can lose our individuality, sense of self purpose and focus on self-improvement. We get committed to living out of memory, not imagination; which is the day that we stop living and start dying. Careful as we may find that we are on the raft, however, being navigated by others.

Take five steps back, breathe deep and take a more thorough look at the immediate world around you. Are you really in total control of your thoughts and your actions? Please answer the person in the mirror, they are counting on you.

I have found sanctuary in making gumbo. The process takes about eight hours. Eight peaceful hours of just myself, inside my thoughts, inside my kitchen. Performing the task consistently to the T, but often many miles away working on my purpose, my course, my character, myself.

So I ask you to give yourself a break; get off the merry go round. Turn off the screens and find a hobby that you can pair up with meditation, mental therapy and self-development. Set time aside for it in your busy schedule and don't allow yourself or others to negotiate the window away from you. Challenge yourself, don't get comfortable with comfort. The only way to predict the future is to create it! As they say in the Big Easy “Lâche pas la Patate!”

***“Focus on your dreams, not your drama”***  
***- Uncle Squig***

## One More with Winnie

First, we'll answer the guess who from last quarter:  
"Success is not final, Failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts"

-Winston Churchill

For this quarter, can you guess who said this?

"I drink too much. Last time I gave a urine sample, there was an olive in it."

And for a little gumbo related inspiration:

"One of the things that's beautiful about New Orleans is how culturally rich we are and how well we have worked together. People call us a gumbo. It's really important that we get focused on the very simple notion that diversity is a strength, it's not a weakness."

- Mitch Landrieu

## Icky's Noodle Factory: Funk's Law

Anyone who has ever built something new or useful has certainly run into problems and small failures along the way. As we talked about last quarter, these failures are not to be viewed as a setback, but a learning opportunity! That being said, after many hours of blood, sweat, tears, and sometimes a couple beers, it can be frustrating when things just won't work out the way you want them to. Sometimes it seems like you just can't get a win. No matter how hard you try some nagging little thing keeps breaking or failing, or maybe despite all your troubleshooting efforts, checking and double checking your circuits, making sure nothing is broken or misplaced, things still don't work the way you planned. Many engineers have experienced this, and just as many have said something along the lines "I don't understand! It should be working!" But it isn't. When working on complicated machinery you will most often find, regardless of who you are, the system is much smarter than you, and you may only predict, not dictate, how it will behave. That being said, years of study and engineering by our ancestors have provided us the huge bedrock of empirical knowledge that we all stand on, as we previously mentioned. So, while we may not understand the magnitude of an effect that an experiment might show, a competent engineer should certainly know the direction of that effect. Still, the longer you troubleshoot a problem, and the more invested you get into making something work, the more likely something small and nagging is to get overlooked.

For this problem, I present Funk's Law, which takes its name from one of the engineers I've been able to look up to in my so-far short career. It goes something like this:

***"If the results don't make any sense at all, the problem is probably something small and stupid."***

Do you have a pump that's not working? Make sure your lines are connected to it. Is your sensor not reading? Make sure its plugged in. Remember this the next time you find yourself completely stumped by a problem, and hopefully you can save yourself a few hours of head scratching.

## Shorty's Short Stories

There I was, 7 years old. Uncle Squig had yet to have the dream of the gumbo, this was years to come. But he had the heart, the untamed wild drive to push what couldn't be done. For me, he knew what I needed to do in order to realize my own full potential. He convinced me to climb, and climb we did. Every landing we crest felt like the highest I had ever been. Yet upon conquering my fear as I reached the top, I looked up only to find another flight to overcome. 13 flights or so it seemed to the top. Upon arrival at the summit, there were 3 options; left, right, and center. You see these were the tallest water slides I had ever seen, and Uncle Squig insisted this was the test to prove your worth. He and Miss Winnie hit the flanks and instructed me to lead the charge up the middle. Being a good soldier at the seasoned age of 7, I stood fast, and made haste for the 'all clear'. Upon receiving the signal, full send! Ankles and arms crossed, head back, core tight, good flight!

Few can say for certain what happened during that faithful plunge...other than when I hit the bottom of that water slide mothers were scrambling for their children. You see, I hit the water like the perfect flat rock. You know, the one that you spend all afternoon searching for. The one you know will only caress the surface, and graceful glide to the opposite bank. The one you can brag about to anyone who appreciates the finer things in life.

When they retrieved me from the steps at the opposite side of the Olympic sized pool, and I removed my shorts from the depths of my crack, I was met with praise and good cheer. He made me feel like a king, even though several mothers were cursing me for 'almost decapitating their children'. But Uncle Squig couldn't have been more proud. He found his perfect rock, and he skipped it all the way to the opposite bank, and that was bragging rights.

The one thing I remember, other than the exhilaration of Mach 1.5, was what we did afterwards. You see, every year on our annual retreat, Uncle Squig gathered all of our family and friends to host a crab boil. At the time, I had little appreciation for what this was, a feast among all those you care for. Uncle Squig made that a true memory, and it was born around the plates and pots of seafood.

Now, here we are years later, with children of my own, surrounded by friends and family with a refined recipe. One that we want to share with you, and hope that you too surround that table with your friends and family. Making memories, skipping stones, and appreciating the finer things in life.

*Shorty and Uncle Squig, c. 1987*



## The Buck Naked Truth: Quick Bits with Uncle Buck

Everyday we hear phrases and idioms, that, if we stopped a moment and thought about, make absolutely no sense! Luckily for you, Uncle Buck's spent the past quarter scouring the archives for where some of the more common phrases we all use have come from. Read below and count how many of these phrases you've used recently, and di you even know the origin?

- In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight, sleep tight'
- It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the 'honeymoon'.
- If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of non-battle related causes



*The U.S. Grant Memorial in Washington D.C. Grant died in 1885 of Cancer*

- When sailors took their wives to sea on long voyages inevitably some of the women fell pregnant. The safest place to give birth was deemed to be between the cannons, or guns. Therefore, a child born on the gun deck was known as a 'Son of a gun'.
- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- The British Naval hero, Admiral Horatio Nelson, had one blind eye. Once when signaled to stop attacking a fleet of Danish ships, he held up a telescope to his blind eye and said, "I do not see the signal" and continued on to victory. Hence, "Turning a blind eye".
- During World War II, the fighter pilots were equipped with nine yards of ammunition. Hence the expression give them the 'whole nine yards'.
- A "blue moon" is a real astronomical phenomenon, referring to the second full moon in the same month. It's a rare occurrence—once every 2.7 years—which is how the phrase came to be.
- At least 75% of people who read this tried to lick their elbow! You know you want to!
- During the Civil War, prisoners at a camp were confined to a pen and surrounded by a "deadline"; so called because if a prisoner crossed it, he would be shot dead.
- When Josephus Daniels was appointed Secretary of the Navy in 1913, he abolished alcohol being served aboard ships. From that time on, coffee was the strongest drink available to sailors; thus the expression of having a 'cup of Joe,' and a 'cup of Joe' sounds good with a big ole heaping bowl of Uncle Squigs gumbo, and that's **The Buck Naked Truth!**

## The JukeBox – Tales from the Revolution

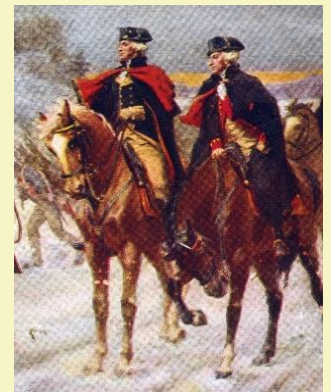
I have always enjoyed stories, anecdotes, and tales told to entertain and teach. Perhaps this is because I grew up around so many great story tellers, like my dad, Squig, or my Uncle Buck, known for his perpetually long-winded stories. We frequently find need to remind Uncle Buck as he begins a story, what his dear wife Brenda once advised him. "The day *of* the story, Rob, please don't start it 3 days before." Read more in *The Buck-Naked Truth* segment of the chronicle!

Whatever the reason for my love of short stories, it seems that these tales can do so much to heal, reveal reason, make us cry, and laugh. In this segment of the Jukebox, I want to tap into my other great love interest, American History, to provide one of my favorite anecdotes about George Washington.

At the conclusion of the American Revolutionary war, the future of the newly independent conglomerate of 13 states was eminently uncertain. The ruling law of the land was described in the Articles of Confederation, which left a centralized national government with no taxation power and no money. During the war, generals and soldiers were promised wages by the continental congress that they should duly receive after the war. As the war ended, the government had no money to make those payments until congress could find a fundraising solution to take care of the nation's soldiers.

George Washington was the most powerful person in the country. Ever a committed man of democratic principles, Washington shrugged the attempts of others to make him a king-figure or to assume any political powers that would have been granted to him should he have taken them. He instead wanted a democratic political system that would serve at the will of the people but understood that such a system would also create a level of tumultuousness that might seem inefficient or just messy to many observers. He nevertheless stood by his principles, even as the new congress debated what to do about the debts owed to Washington's loyal soldiers and generals of the war that won the Revolution.

The dissatisfied soldiers and veterans organized a meeting in Newburg, NY to voice their frustrations and debate marching against the government that had earlier promised to pay them. Several of General George Washington's, most loyal were among the organizers of the rebellion. As the men gathered and began advancing their ever-louder voices, the door at the back of the hall opened and a tall respectful George Washington advanced his way through to the head of the hall where he was finally met by a hushed audience of uneasy soldiers. The soldiers stood and saluted their beloved General, and he put them at ease. The men were shocked to see Washington here, and the organizing generals were no doubt embarrassed.



*Washington and Lafayette at Valley Forge*



Washington, now holding the collective attention of the room, pulled out a nine-page speech and read it to the hall. He implored them to yield to patience and assured them that he has done and will continue to do all he can to implore congress to do the right thing and make their payments to the veteran soldiers. At the conclusion of the speech, Washington revealed another piece of paper, a letter from a member of congress. Washington glanced to read the letter and squinted at the small hand-scribbled font before taking pause. He then reached into his pocket and produced a pair of spectacles, fixed them to his face, and glancing over the small rounds of his spectacles, took a moment to look at the group before him. He asked, "Gentlemen, would you permit me to put on my spectacles, for I've grown not only gray, but almost blind in the service of my country?"

When Washington finishes, the officers are moved by the gesture, and restored in their respect for the great General. The people of the hall then held a vote. This time, their vote is not to march in defiance of the government and upend its authority, but instead to stand with the congress, and allow for the due process of democracy to take place on their behalf. It is a moment when it can truly be seen why George Washington is so crucial to the United States becoming a nation enthralled to the principles of a grand democratic system of government.



*General Washington Resigns his Commission as General before the Continental Congress*

## Chelsea's Cupboard Creations – Tasty Tomato Soup

With the spring and summer months approaching, it's nice to try out some new recipes to use our garden crops! This tomato soup is a great way to utilize your homegrown tomatoes in a delicious, comforting meal.

### Tomato Soup

#### Ingredients:

- 1 Head of Garlic
- 2 Steak Tomatoes
- 1 Handful Cherry Tomatoes
- ½ Red Onion
- 1 Teaspoon of Oregano
- 1 Handful of Basil

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. On a baking sheet with tin foil, place cherry tomatoes, steak tomatoes cut in half, and roughly chopped onion. Cut off the top of the garlic, wrap in tin foil. Drizzle olive oil over all the vegetables and lightly season with salt. Roast vegetables until the skins of the tomatoes have started to blister. Blitz in a food processor to your desired consistency, more or less chunky. Put in a pot and add oregano, basil and salt to taste. Serve with fresh basil on top and fresh grilled cheese on the side

