



## Tom's Message Board



### Tweet, Tweet

With email, texting, blogging, and Internet access at home, work, in the car, boat, and now on commercial airplanes – I'm [reluctantly] tethered to the world with my trusty laptop and Blackberry. The only techno-gadget hardware I'm missing is a pair of tin cans and a string for when there's no satellite signal to be found. Like it or not, there's no escaping the advance of communications and it appears that keeping pace in the marketplace means jumping on the bandwagon.

So when talk began to surface about this thing called *social media* my first thought was "GREAT... just one more thing to wire me up and spread my time even thinner!" MySpace, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, just to name a few. So, I put these off rationalizing them as fads; but I've had second thoughts. *To be or not to be...* socially wired that is. Bill Gates hasn't done so badly, so I suppose I'll follow his lead and hope for the same. The next thing I know, I'm registering on twitter.com to test the waters and before I can click the escape key on my keyboard, I'm *tweeting!*

So *tweeting...* what's up with that? I change my own oil, own (and even use) a chainsaw, play poker, drink beer, and have a big red Craftsman toolbox full of wrenches and drill bits in the garage – so I have to admit the notion of *tweeting* is a little hard to warm up to. "Can I tweet you?" I sent a tweet today! Hey Bob, tweet me will you? I find myself developing a twitch just mumbling these cute little words, but then I remind myself that I'm learning another language. How *worldly!* With a mere 140 characters I can inform the entire world that I just finished washing my car, grilled a steak, walked the dog, or brushed my teeth. Wow! I'm beginning to feel the POWER of this *tweeting* thing already!

If humankind is truly a social animal, then I suppose this new mode of communication has a future. Twitter is evolving into a quick and easy way to put something out to anyone and everyone. As much as I enjoy my quiet time, I'm happiest when I'm around people and sharing stories. Whether funny or sad, personal or business-related, frivolous or poignant, we all possess an innate need to communicate and share those parts of our life that are special or of interest to at least one other person. I'm just beginning this social media thing and maybe you are too. So let's twitter...follow my tweets at: **[www.twitter.com/pawprintmail](http://www.twitter.com/pawprintmail)**. I'd love to hear what you had for breakfast. ☺

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