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We had a March wedding, now we have a March house payment. Unplanned expenses could blow our savings, but Check Exchange is there if we need them.



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## In praise of toasted marshmallows

Column by The Post's Jan Perry

Through the years some pretty odd things have been honored, even glorified, by well-meaning individuals and eager-to-please politicians who are willing to put their names to any number of benign proclamations for no other reason than to please the public and provide an uncontroversial photo op.

That said, today is National Toasted Marshmallow Day. (Well, to be honest, different lists have it falling as early as the 14th or as late as the 31st, but several sources list it for today, so I'm going with the majority.)

And in case you're wondering, I for one couldn't be happier the sweet puffs of fluff are getting some headlines. With all the grim news, foreign and domestic, we seem to face on a daily basis, it's nice to know that the lowly marshmallow and its camping cousin, the S'more, have earned an official place in the nation's heart.

Here are some sites to visit should you choose to join the celebration.

www.earthsunmoon.com/smores.

html. I'm starting with this one because I love the name -- The Earth Sun Moon Trading Company -- and all it implies about what you'll find on the site and, specifically, because they sell a wonderful T-shirt: "Campers have s'more fun" (designed with appropriate art, of course). Shirts sold in youth sizes, (\$13.99) through adult 2-X, (\$16.99).

• www.cdkitchen.com. It doesn't pay to jump to conclusions. CD Kitchen was named after a 9-year-old Dalmatian named Chili, sometimes referred to as the ChiliDog. The site, designed, developed, created and owned by Valerie Whitmore, has grown by leaps and bounds (or is that leashes and bones?) as friendly visitors send dozens of recipes in each day.

Search the site and you'll find a complete list of calendar "food days." This is a great week, starting Sunday with peach pie, advancing to banana splits, cherry Popsicles and pots de crème. Thursday's choice is cherry turnovers and, on this list, the week ends with Saturday's tribute to toasted marshmallows. Oh, and in case you wonder what happened to the other day -- Friday -someone slipped in "More Herbs, Less Salt Day." Go figure!



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- <a href="www.bedford.net/Tuor\_Beleg/FBM/sch.html">wwww.bedford.net/Tuor\_Beleg/FBM/sch.html</a>. This one is worth a click if for no other reason than to read the other important holidays. Some are traditional, (Halloween, Thanksgiving); some are historical (Bastille Day, Women's Rights Day); some are logical (Election Day, Malaysia's Birthday -- and some are flat out hysterical (Polka Day, Lazy Day and my absolute favorite, Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Night. (A close runner-up, found on a different site, listed Aug. 28 as Race Your Mouse Around the Icons Day.)
- www.holidayinsights.com/other/marsh.htm. Normally I love this site, but I have two concerns about this particular page. First, this one swims against the stream and puts National Toasted Marshmallow Day on the 14th. And, second, and by far more important, in the instructions for making a S'more, they recommend chocolate be added to only one graham cracker. I have it on pretty good authority that both sides need chocolate (unless, shame on you, you didn't bring enough and are trying to make it last). Seriously, this is a really fine collection of pages and worth a visit, especially for parents and teachers.
- <a href="www.kraftfoods.com/jetpuffed">www.kraftfoods.com/jetpuffed</a>. After the comment above, you might well wonder why I'm including the Kraft recipe page, which stingily (and laughably) suggests a single square of chocolate will do. I've listed it to, hopefully, hear from one of you. I've been curious for years. I finally learned why corn pops, now can one of you tell me what part of the jet they use to give a marshmallow its puff?

Jan Perry is currently a freelance writer but a camper from way back. (That's just a few years away from "way back when.") If you have a favorite camping site or a unique recipe for S'mores, send them to Jan at SiteSeer2K@aol.com.

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  Talks
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   Accepting Kyoto
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