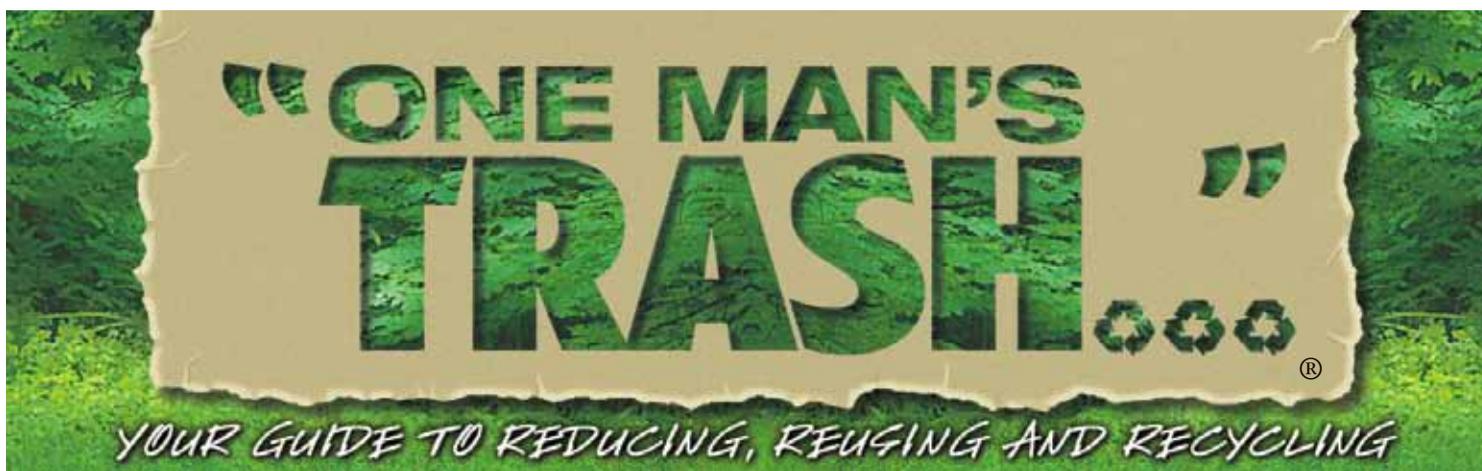




**Solid Waste District of  
LaPorte County**  
(219) 326-0014  
(800) 483-7700  
www.solidwastedistrict.com  
**Winter 2011**



# Resolve to recycle!

A new year is a time for resolutions. Kick off your new year with a resolution to reduce the waste in your household. Recycle the OLD and bring in the NEW!

- Old paper can be used to make new insulation, paper towels, tissues, book covers, puzzles, packaging, greeting cards, and newsprint!
- Old aluminum cans become new aluminum cans and siding!
- Old steel cans are recycled into new appliances and auto parts!
- Old corrugated boxes can become new cereal boxes and egg cartons!
- Old grocery bags can become new mail wrappings for magazines and catalogs, dog food bags, and grocery bags!



- Old plastic bottles can become new carpeting, plastic lumber, toys, and fleece clothing!
- Old glass containers can be used to make new decorative tile and paving material!
- Old tires can be shredded and used for new road paving and playground surfaces!

Your recycling needs to be in the blue toter to be picked up. If you would like a 2011 calendar or any help with your recycling efforts, just give us a call.

# Have extra recycling?

Did you have a house full of guests during the holidays? Do you have an overflow of recyclables? Use the public recycling drop-off sites. We ask that you use and fill your blue toters first and add a second recycling box if you regularly have more than will fit into your cart. However, if you have a one-time or short-term overflow, use the drop-off sites listed below.

At the drop-off sites, you can recycle the same items that are acceptable in your blue toter. This includes paper, cardboard (broken down), glass bottles, metal food and beverage cans, Styrofoam, and all plastic items marked #1-#7.

At the sites, contamination is a serious problem. Please do NOT place unacceptable items into the bins. We do NOT accept window glass, light bulbs, mirrors, chemical cans, aerosols, paints, scrap metal, toys, rubber products, fabrics, furniture, tires, wood, or yard waste. Please help us continue to offer these drop-off sites by keeping the bins clear of unacceptable items.

These are the locations of the public drop-off sites:

### LaPorte

- Pulaski Street (off Brighton Street), by the railroad tracks, in Jaeger Unitek's back parking lot
- Sagamore Professional Center, off Monroe Street/Highway 4
- LaPorte Highway Barn, Hanna/Highway 30 and 400 West

### Others

- Marquette Mall parking lot, behind Sears, Michigan City
- Kingsbury Fish & Wildlife, Hupp Road, Kingsbury

## Recycling Schedule

January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	A	B	C	D	E	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	F	G	H	I	J	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	A	B	C	D	E	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	F	G	H	I	J	
30	31					
	A					

February						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		B	C	D	E	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	F	G	H	I	J	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	A	B	C	D	E	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	F	G	H	I	J	
27	28					
	A					

March						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		B	C	D	E	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	F	G	H	I	J	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	A	B	C	D	E	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	F	G	H	I	J	
27	28	29	30	31		
	A	B	C	D		

### LEGEND:

**Please note schedule changes for 2011:** The Town of Westville and New Durham Estates Mobile Homes will be changed from "H" to "C" days, which will be on the opposite Wednesday from 2010. Also, the LaPorte areas West of Route 35 and North of State Road 2 will be changed from "B" to "A" days, which will be Monday instead of Tuesday.

Where listed below, Township means outside of City Limits.

- A** City of LaPorte – South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of 35
- B** City of LaPorte – North of Hwy. 2 and East of Route 35; Also, East of Hwy. 4 and South of Hwy. 2, including Kankakee Township
- C** The Town of Westville; New Durham Estates Mobile Home Community; Cass Township; Dewey Township; Hanna Township; Prairie Township
- D** Clinton Township; Noble Township; Scipio Township; Town of Wanatah
- E** Johnson Township; Lincoln Township; Pleasant Township; Union Township; Washington Township
- F** Michigan City – West of Karwick Road; Trail Creek; Sheridan Beach; Pottawattamie Park

- G** Michigan City – East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills
- H** Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates)
- I** Center Township
- J** Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township

### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Your toters must be out by 6:00 a.m. and placed at least 5 feet from mailboxes, light poles, shrubs, trees, and other containers.
- Additional containers must be clearly marked RECYCLING.
- If you are missed, please leave your toter out and call our office within 24 hours.
- Please contain plastic bags to prevent littering. (Bag your bags inside one bag and tie it shut.)
- Each toter is numbered and registered to the address where it was originally delivered and should remain there. If you move, DO NOT take that toter to your new address. If you do not have one, please call our office.

## Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

"Waste not, want not" are good words to live by most of the time—unless, of course, you are going through an election like the recent one. I could not believe all of the mailers that came to my household from the candidates. It wasn't just one or two a day, but several, and all individually addressed. When there was more than one voter in the house, my guess is that the candidates must have thought we would not share the information. I would think the economy must have picked up during the election cycle, at least in the printing, paper, and advertising sectors. The logging industry must have been booming during this period of time, too.



That's not all, of course! I can't remember the last time I opened one of my bills and didn't find some sort of advertisement inside. Most of the time, I don't even look at the ads. They just go directly into my recycle bin. I imagine there must be some sort of study being done to determine the return on investment for those inserts and whether they are really worth it.

We are trying our best here at our office to work toward a paperless system by using email for inner-office memos and opting to receive subscriptions for our professional magazines online, when possible. We also suggest that residents use our website to access our calendars and schedules. These are small steps, but if we each do our part, it will make a huge impact on our environment.

Challenge yourself to be as paperless as possible and let me know your results. In the meantime, check out the following websites to help you with your goals: [www.paperrecycles.org](http://www.paperrecycles.org), [www.conservatree.org](http://www.conservatree.org), [www.stopwaste.org/paperless](http://www.stopwaste.org/paperless), and [www.whatsinyourpaper.com](http://www.whatsinyourpaper.com).

Clay

REMEMBER — WASTE NOT, WANT NOT!

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? Here's an idea—replace a burned-out light bulb with a high-efficiency bulb. The most common energy-efficient bulbs are compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). You might think of these as the “twisty” bulbs, although some of these now come with globe or torpedo enclosures. About one-quarter of all light bulbs purchased last year for residential use were CFLs. Another option is light emitting diodes (LEDs).

An average household spends about 11% of its electricity budget on lighting. The electricity cost to light a \$1 incandescent bulb for six hours a day for one year is about \$14. Before the end of the year, you'll need to replace the bulb. A \$3 CFL will only need about \$3.25 in electricity for a year—and the bulbs will last four times as long. Over four years, your cost per fixture for an incandescent bulb would be about \$60. To use a CFL in that same fixture, your cost would only be \$16. Plus, you would have used about 75%

# One Change

less electricity. Multiply that by all the lighting fixtures in your house, and you begin to see a big savings on your electricity bill and a reduction in your waste.

LEDs create even more energy savings and last much longer. An LED bulb would only need about \$1.85 of electricity each year and would last for nearly 23 years! Unfortunately, the initial cost is much higher, with bulbs costing \$20 to \$40 each.

However, the price of LEDs continues to come down.

Remember that CFLs contain a small amount of mercury. During use, this mercury is contained inside the bulb and poses no threat to your family. However, when the bulb burns out, you will need to recycle it. Some retailers accept old CFLs for recycling when you purchase new bulbs. You can also contact us for information on when and where to recycle your CFL bulbs.

For more information, go to [www.energysavers.gov/tips/lighting.cfm](http://www.energysavers.gov/tips/lighting.cfm), [www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org), or [www.ewg.org/CFL-savings-calculator](http://www.ewg.org/CFL-savings-calculator).

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## Rare Earth

When you hear “rare earth,” you might wonder if it is the name of a science fiction book, the title for a nature show, or perhaps a mistaken reference to “Middle Earth” from *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy. Actually, it is none of the above. Rare earth elements are 17 metallic elements found in the earth's crust that are essential to electronics manufacturing. They aren't particularly rare, but they are often found in low concentrations, making extraction difficult or costly. China is the world's largest supplier of these rare earth elements, which are necessary in the manufacture of everything from batteries to cell phones and from computers to cars.

As more and more products require electronic components, sourcing rare earth elements becomes a larger concern worldwide. One ready source of rare earth elements can be found in our workplaces and homes—used and unneeded electronics. Recycling electronics of all types recovers rare earth elements, creating a domestic source that requires less energy to capture and use. Of course, recycling electronics also recovers precious and other metals, chemicals, and plastics.

Contribute to “urban mining” in the United States by properly recycling unneeded electronics. Not sure how? Contact us!

**Powders of six rare earth elements oxides. (Photograph by Peggy Greb, Agricultural Research Center of United States Department of Agriculture.)**



# FAST FACTS

## NASCAR chases recycling

During 2010, NASCAR's Sprint Cup series drew 3.6 million fans to racetracks across America. On average, those fans each drank three beverages from PET bottles and two from aluminum cans, for a total of 18 million beverage containers!

During the 2008 race season, NASCAR kicked off a beverage container recycling program, collecting over 15 tons of material. By 2009, recycling more than doubled, with 34 tons of beverage containers recycled. In 2010, an estimated 3 million containers were recycled, topping 50 tons.

According to the Aluminum Association, recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television set for three hours—about the time it takes to watch a race from home. Wherever you are and whatever event you are enjoying, remember to recycle!



Photo courtesy of Michigan International Speedway

## Don't Text and Drive

For every 6 seconds spent texting while driving, the driver's eyes are off the road an average of 4.6 seconds—that's 77% of the texting time spent *not* looking at the road, oncoming traffic, pedestrians, and stopped or slowed vehicles. According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, people who text while they drive are 20 times more likely to be in an accident. Texting and driving can result in near-misses, accidents, and, even, tragedy.

For people who work on and near our streets and roads, texting by drivers can be particularly dangerous. Think about a trash or recycling truck. It goes slowly and stops frequently, and workers are often outside the vehicle and in the roadway to do their jobs. In 2009, Manny Mejia, who was only 19 years old and working for a Florida trash hauler, lost both legs after he was struck behind a garbage truck by a driver who was texting while driving.

The U.S. Department of Transportation now bans texting everywhere in the U.S. by interstate truckers and drivers of commercial vehicles. Many states have banned texting for drivers of passenger vehicles, as well. Wherever and whatever you are driving, please don't text and drive! That message can wait!



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# Play green



What if the milk jug you emptied today turned into a toy next month? It just might! Green Toys, a California company, uses recycled plastic from recovered milk jugs to create new toys, including trucks, blocks, stacking cups, dishes, sand toys, jump ropes, and more. The toys are made in the U.S. from milk jugs recycled nearby.

How did milk jugs become the raw material of choice? Green Toys co-founder Robert von Goeben explains, "A lot of companies start with style, for example, it's got to look like Sponge Bob Square Pants, and then determine the material. We go the other way around. We say, we want the greenest, safest material. Now, what toys can we make?"

The toys aren't the only things made from recyclables. The boxes are eco- and kid-friendly, too! The recycled corrugated boxes that hold the toys contain no plastic inserts or annoying twist ties. Plus, the box is 100% recyclable.

Green Toys has one product not made from milk jugs—a flying disc made from recycled grocery bags!

To learn more, visit [www.greentoys.com](http://www.greentoys.com).

## QUOTES REQUOTED

We go on multiplying our conveniences only to multiply our cares. We increase our possessions only to the enlargement of our anxieties.

Anna C. Brackett, 1836-1911  
*The Technique of Rest*  
American Educator

# Giving it a college try

Colleges are competing for more than sports championships this year.

In the fall, ThinkGreenLiveClean.com held the first **Greenest Student College Challenge**. Students were asked to make a green resolution and then explain how they would accomplish it. The winner, Brennan Bird, a senior at the University of California-Davis, started a project that he called, "Operation Zero Waste 2010—Less We Can!" During 2010, he kept all of his non-biodegradable waste packaging in his dorm room. He composted food waste and paper products, but he washed and stored all other packaging material. He spent the year looking for ways to reuse or creatively repurpose his non-biodegradable packaging waste. He plans to load the material onto his bike in early 2011 and ride it around Davis to raise awareness about the amount of packaging waste brought home by one person each year. Read more about Brennan's project and those of the runners-up at [www.ThinkGreenLiveClean.com](http://www.ThinkGreenLiveClean.com).

During October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program issued the **Game Day Challenge** to colleges and universities. The participating schools were asked to select a home football game during October, plan and implement a waste reduction program for that game day, and track their results, including the attendance, waste generated, and recyclables collected. Awards were given in five categories: Waste Generation, Diversion Rate (highest combined recycling and composting rate), Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Recycling Rate, and Organics Reduction Rate. The winners were Ithaca College, University of Tennessee at Martin, University of California-Davis, University of Central Oklahoma, and Marist College. Read more about it at [www.epa.gov/](http://www.epa.gov/)



wastes/partnerships/wastewise/challenge/gameday/.

In November, the Alliance to Save Energy sponsored the **Campus Conservation Nationals**, challenging college students to reduce energy and water use in their dorms. Because college students don't pay monthly utility bills for their dorm rooms, it is easy to forget the energy- and water-saving lessons they learned at home. During the three-week competition, 120,000 students at 40 colleges and universities competed to achieve the greatest resource reduction in their residence halls. The winners, DePauw University for electricity savings and Humboldt State University for water conservation, earned bragging rights and prizes. For details, visit <http://CompeteToReduce.org>.

Starting February 6 and running through April 2, 2011, college students face the biggest challenge of them all:

### RecycleMania!

During this contest, more than five million students from 600 colleges and universities representing 49 states and the District of Columbia

will compete to see who recycles the most on a per capita basis, who produces the least amount of waste, and who recycles the largest percentage of their overall waste stream. During last year's 10-week competition, students collected 84.5 million pounds of recyclable and compostable materials. Recycling and composting those materials saved an amount of energy equivalent to the annual electricity use of 15,140 homes and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by an amount equal to taking 23,850 cars off the road. Last year's winners were: California State University-San Marcos, United States Coast Guard Academy, North Lake College, Rutgers University, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, Kalamazoo College, Ursinus College, and Johnson & Wales University-Denver. To learn more about RecycleMania, visit [www.RecycleMania.org](http://www.RecycleMania.org).



## Design for Recycling

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) is a trade association representing businesses that process, broker, and remanufacture recyclables. Every day, ISRI's 1,600 member businesses deal with recyclables. The more than 105,000 employees of these businesses know the challenges of sorting, disassembling, and remanufacturing. That's why ISRI promotes "Design for Recycling," a voluntary program that encourages product designers to consider end-of-life recycling at the earliest stages of the design process.

According to ISRI, Design for Recycling has two basic goals: "first, to eliminate or reduce the use of hazardous or toxic materials that may present a grave danger to the environment or put a recycler's workforce in jeopardy, and second, to discourage the use of materials that are not recyclable or manufacturing techniques that make a product non-recyclable using current technologies." In other words, make products safer and easier to recycle.

In order to promote the Design for Recycling program, ISRI recognizes businesses which are designing with recycling in mind and organizations that support them. In 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was honored for fostering innovative design partnerships. In 2008, Hewlett-Packard was recognized for building computers and printers for easy disassembly and recycling, as well as reducing the use of hazardous substances. In 2009, Herman Miller received the award for eliminating waste during manufacturing and selecting product components that are easily recyclable. In 2010, Coca-Cola was recognized for creating "The PlantBottle," a fully recyclable PET bottle in which up to 30% of the petroleum has been replaced by plant-based materials, such as sugar cane and molasses.

Learn more at [www.isri.org](http://www.isri.org).



# WHAT'S UP?

Do you still have your "real" Christmas trees to dispose of? The Solid Waste District of LaPorte County is accepting cut, real Christmas trees at two locations: the

**Compost Facility** on County Road 1100 West in Westville, and the **Yard Waste Drop-Off Site** on Zigler Road by the LaPorte County Fairgrounds, just past the grandstands on the west side. Be sure to remove all of the decorations, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand, and deliver the bare tree. Please do NOT put it into a plastic bag.

© iStockphoto.com | Lisa Thornberg

## First-Ever Swap and Switch

By Nancy Gibson, Education Coordinator

The first-ever Children's Toy Swap and Switch was held in September at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. It was well received by area moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, and, of course, KIDS. Participation in this new event hosted by the Solid Waste District was a little light, but that is to be expected for a new program. There were also several other community events in LaPorte County that same weekend.

Clean, working children's toys, books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, games and game systems, bikes, and more were dropped off at the County Fairgrounds on September 16 and 17. At the time of drop-off, the resident received a coupon for each item dropped off. The participants returned with this coupon on Saturday, September 18. Each coupon could be redeemed for an item of



choice FOR FREE. All items were checked to ensure they were in working order. One of the first items to be taken on Saturday was a very handsome Radio Flyer tricycle. It went home with a very excited child.

There were four LaPorte High School volunteers from two separate clubs who helped us on Saturday. All items that were left over were donated to the Stepping Stone Shelter for Women in Michigan City.

The comments from the event were very positive, and we expect the program to continue to grow. One addition to the event will be a children's clothing exchange. Right before school starts will be a great time for this event.

Keep an eye on our website for dates and information on our next Swap and Switch in 2011.

## Bright Ideas

In our Fall edition, we featured bright ideas offered by Solid Waste District staff members. In this edition, we turned to the members of our Citizen's Advisory Committee (see box), who offer their bright ideas:

- Ted Daube recycles 50-pound seed bags. He wraps them up in a bundle and puts them into his toter.
- Dan Tompkins flattens his milk and juice containers after rinsing to create more room in his toter. He also flattens his boxes for the same reason.
- For 16 years, Juli Charlesworth has had a recycling container next to the trash container in her kitchen. When it's full, her family empties it into the blue toter. Her family also saves pop tops and sends them to Riley Children's Hospital to contribute to the hospital's fundraiser.
- Tom Larson wants to remind everyone that you no longer have to take the labels off of cans and bottles before recycling. This saves a lot of time.



© James Hoenstine | Dreamstime.com

In our Spring issue of "One Man's Trash..." we will feature bright ideas from our residents. So, please send your ideas to the Solid Waste District by calling 219-326-0014 or 800-483-7700, or by emailing your ideas to pschuster@csinet.net.

## Community Spotlight

Kicking off Alcoa's Month of Service in LaPorte, over 400 Alcoa Howmet employees participated in the launch of Make an Impact during a two-day event in October. Alcoa has teamed with the Pew Center on Global Climate Change to develop Make an Impact, a program offering employees, their families, and the local community the tools to lower energy bills and manage our environmental footprint.

On the first day, six workshops were led by Pew Center environmental experts, who walked through sustainable living practices everyone can put into practice. A simple and fun tool, the carbon calculator ([www.alcoa.pewclimate.org](http://www.alcoa.pewclimate.org)), leads people through a series of easy questions to assess living habits and then calculates a "carbon footprint" along with recommended actions to reduce the imprint we leave on the earth. Its effect can be monumental: 91 Alcoa employees completed the calculator and tallied more than 400,000 pounds of potential carbon savings.

"This is a huge impact I would not have

guessed possible from such a small group," said Tera Grinnell, manager, Human Resources, who was a LaPorte launch team member. Tera was one of several Alcoa employees who brought Make an Impact to LaPorte. Six other U.S. Alcoa Howmet locations have rolled out the program to their workforces and communities.

"This is my second Make an Impact launch," said Laura Carpenter, plant manager, about the October program. "At each kickoff, I have learned something new about where to look for opportunities to reduce energy use in our operations and at home. I truly believe Make an Impact has made a difference among the Alcoa workforce and community in Winsted, Connecticut, since 2008, and it's off to a fantastic start here in LaPorte."



Alcoa-Howmet employees enjoy the Green Fair activity.

Visiting Alcoa on the second day were State Representative Tom Dermody, Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce President Mike Seitz, and community partners that participated in a Green Fair. Employees took time to discuss energy saving tips and various "green" topics with the Solid Waste District of LaPorte County, NIPSCO, the Soil and Water Conservation District, Geothermal Specialist, Inc., and the Purdue Master Gardener Program. Pine Ford provided a hybrid Escape vehicle for display. Goodwill Industries set up a collection center. The event also featured local foods from SIMMS Processing, Lewis Bakeries, Burek Farms, Kettle Brands, Garwood Orchards, Canteen Services, and roasting specialist Al Lundell.

"One of the best features of Make an Impact is that it brings together different community resources, giving us a chance to see what's readily available in our hometown," said Carpenter. "The tools are here for us to practice the 3Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle."

Nancy Gibson, District Education Coordinator, spoke with several hundred employees who stopped by the District's booth, and only three people were not already recycling. That day, they signed up to start!

Tom Dermody, State Representative, and Sandy Alvarez, from the Center for Workforce Innovation, visit the Soil and Water Conservation District booth at the Green Fair.



### Solid Waste District of LaPorte County Citizen's Advisory Committee

- Juli Charlesworth
- Charles Ted Daube
- Jim Irwin
- Jim Kintzele
- Cary Kirkham
- Karen Kleist
- Thomas R. Larson
- Dick Reel
- Daniel Tompkins

*We want your suggestions, questions and comments!*

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