

'Boys night' at Brown Farm

This past weekend, The Sidekick flew the coop, to spend some family time in Ottawa.

While she was helping celebrate her big brother turn 60, as well as catching up with her dad and cousins, I spent the weekend at home, just me and Hamish the border collie, holding down the fort, watching the lambs arrive at Brown Farm.

The Sidekick is one of those people who gets so excited about going somewhere to visit, especially her family, 'cuz they are so wide spread— but she's also the first one to wanna get back home again ASAP.

By the same token, I don't mind her taking a couple days to venture out. When that happens, I get the entire bed to myself, and full command of the remote control.

And even though Hamish and I are best buds forever, there is one damned annoying aspect of that dog when The Sidekick is away.

Every single time we come into the house and The Sidekick ain't there— well the dog pretty much arranges a search party.

He checks the den, the dining room, takes a peek into the living room ('cuz he's not supposed to go in there but I know he does when The Sidekick ain't around 'cuz I let him) and then he starts checking bedrooms upstairs.

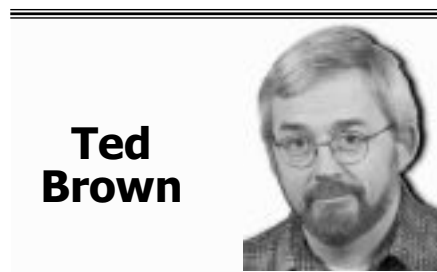
Once he has come back down and sniffed the basement door— just to make sure— then he'll settle down and concentrate on watching TV with me, or begging at the kitchen table ('cuz The Sidekick doesn't like him to do that as a rule.)

The biggest concern that occupies The Sidekick when she's away is that I'll let him sleep on our bed.

I never have, nor would I— but dammit it's fun to let her think that he's sprawled out all over the bed.

Geez, why on earth would I let him sleep on the bed? It would take away space from me. When she's away, I woke up in the morning with all the blankets still on me— such a novel situation.

Having The Sidekick away for a week-



Ted Brown

end is also prime time to cut loose and party the night away.

It's me and Hamish havin' boys night at Brown Farm. We got to scratch, belch and do whatever else guys do when together, and we didn't even have to apologize for our profanity.

We watched all the good shows on TV, like *Cool Tools* and car shows, not to mention were able to play the raunchiest rock and roll music at eardrum splittin' volume. Not once did the vocals of Dean Martin, Tom Jones or Engelbert Humperdinck even so much as violate the stereo.

And not one damned episode of *Say Yes to the Dress* or any other 'chick show' was on TV for the entire weekend.

Hamish and I watched television shows like *Aerial Dog Fights of WW1* (but I think he kinda misunderstood the title) and we spent lots of time just doing the guy thing.

But, having spent the weekend as 'the boys', I will have to admit one thing.

Monday afternoon, when I picked up The Sidekick at Pearson International Airport, and brought her home, there were two very happy guys on Brown Farm.

Hamish came into the house, tail wagging as he 'found' her in the kitchen— all in the world was well for Hamish the border collie.

No more organizing search parties.

At the same time, I had to agree it was pretty nice to have her home again, and be back in the routine.

'Cuz ya know, having to listen to Engelbert Humperdinck or Tom Jones from time to time ain't all that bad.

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