

Should I Laugh – or Cry?

Sometimes we do stupid things... and we just have to laugh to keep from crying.

This weekend my push mower decided to quit running. I am not a mechanic in any sense, but I am not afraid to get on Google and YouTube and try some things. After watching a few instructional videos for my model of mower, I took the cover off the mower and started removing parts -- being very careful to keep up with the parts and screws and bolts that I was removing. I ended up even removing the carburetor and carefully cleaning it...

Right in the middle of my lawnmower's open heart surgery, it started to rain. So, I moved the whole operation to our front porch -- being very careful not to lose any of the parts, screws, bolts, etc.

Finally the job was complete, and with some effort I got the thing completely put back together - - except for the outer cover. Two long screws were supposed to hold the cover together -- but I couldn't find them! What? I had been so careful! I looked everywhere around where I was working... nothing. I tried to look out in the driveway where I started working on my mower earlier in the day... still nothing.

I drove to my parents' house and borrowed a huge magnet-on-wheels... and after rolling this thing around for a while in the rain and darkness, I actually found one of the screws! I tried and tried to find the other screw... nothing. Today I tried again with the magnet... I went over and over the driveway and the yard... nothing. I hate to lose things like this... but...

I finally gave up. I decided just to attach the cover with one screw and let that be it. Defeated, I rolled the lawnmower off the front porch -- and what did I see under the lawnmower? The missing screw. As Charlie Brown would say: "Good grief!"

Well, at least I found it. And contrary to popular belief, I no longer have a screw loose!

(Originally Written: August 30, 2015)