

Dear Sonshine Security Friends;

Our last Sonshine Festival of this Millenium is now history. I'm so glad each of you were a part of what turned out to be a fabulous crew. As years go, Sonshine 99 may not have had the pizzazz of 97 or the relentless heat of 98, but it was a special year for reasons all its own. Every crew I have ever had stood out from the others because of the people on it, and 99 was no exception. You are to be commended for a great year. Bob Poe was very satisfied with our overall performance doing security. A few highlights are in order, followed by the annual awards. Keep in mind the irreverant humor intended before sending me any pipe bombs in the mail.

- **Jeff Pappas** and **Chuck Hinkley** somehow managed not to drop anyone on the heels of their infamous "incomplete pass" of last year. The story behind the dropped girl has now reached 12 versions, none of which has either of them accepting any blame for the incident.
- **Becky Bollin** vented pre-Sonshine frustrations on a lawn chair, broke her toe, and missed Sonshine 99. She currently plans on a full year of anger therapy in hopes of avoiding this kind of "accident" in 2000.
- **Jason Wilder's** absence from Sonshine 99 was greatly felt by the ER crew and myself. Tylenol and Pepcid AC consumption was down 75%, and not once did **Jason Dodge** call out over the radio "Where the #\$@&# is **WILDER?**" or ask him, "Don't you have anything you should be doing?"
- I got a valuable vocabulary lesson from **Sam Jerome**, who taught me the term "Hottie", as in, "Stop the golf cart, **Randy**, I think I saw a hottie!"
- **Sheila Quiggle**, yes, the wife, showed off the fancy driving technique I have grown to love (and fear) when she tossed **Joe Olson** off the back of the golfcart onto his backside with one of her patented hairpin turns. Just add Joe to the growing list of people who politely refuse to "ride with the Rae".
- **Leigh Olson** will most likely be having hip replacement surgery later this year after insisting on going toe to toe (or hip to hip) with **Todd Gray** more than once. Rookies.....brave but.....
- In a stunning development, **Jon Ness** reportedly did not hit anyone with his mag light this year. Way to keep it holstered! Maybe next year, Jon!
- Not gonna name names, but bathing was not optional, as some of you decided, due to the prospect of using the high school showers.
- **Carl Kutz** is considering leaving one of his golf carts at home next year in favor of something amphibious after Thursdays rain/flood.

- The careful of drunks picking fights and cruising around Sat night were pointed out by **Josh Scott** and **Brad Fox** as they did overnight security. What I found odd was that as the car sped by I could have sworn the two guys in the back were **Lee Barlau** and **Brian Peterson**.
- **Jeff Berg** and **Tom Moor** would just as soon change the name of "Crowd Patrol Crew" to "Meet Lots of Women Crew" from what I heard. I know I asked you guys in that crew to be friendly to campers, but.....
- **Nancy Kutz** and **Claudia Quiggle** both have yet to have their hearing fully restored after listening to Stages 2 and 3 simultaneously for 3 days from the security tent as dispatchers. I tried talking to each of them several times, but all they kept saying was, "WHAT!?", or in Claudia's case, "EH!?".
- **Devon Ness** learned the true definition of "Supervisor - person that does not see any concerts." And you thought seven 2 hour shifts was tough!
- **Jason Rightler** came out of the Jars of Clay crowd looking as if he had just "Saved Private Ryan". He looked the part of a 10 year P.O.W. and there was no way he was going back out there! (I have the picture)
- More news from the frontlines, or the "Battlefield". **Andy Frey** looked ready for a 911 call when I saw his knees buckle and eyes kind of glaze over during the DC Talk offensive. Fellow trench warrior **John Ness** had to be ordered to "stand down", after shaking off numerous attempts by fellow soldier **Todd Gray** to remove him from the fence. I'm not saying he looked bad, but if he was a dog, a vet would have put him to sleep.
- The Water Brigade reached peak efficiency on Friday during DC Talk when **Bobbi Jo Frey**, **Keri Geis**, and **Sam Jerome** served up water at a feverish pace, giving water to the 60+ sufferers pulled over the front fence. It looked more like a M\*A\*S\*H\* unit when **Danyele Otey** and **Jen Oftelie** came to the aid of a young girl having an asthma attack. I don't know what all they had to do, but I almost passed out myself. Only **Scott Fuch's** quick thinking got her to the EMT's. Meanwhile, **Nick Thunker** and **Rob Calvin** were bravely pulling girls over the fence Friday when one young lady asked them shyly but firmly to "wait just a second, my pants are falling off". All in the line of duty, right guys? By the way, they did wait. As for those going out into the surging crowds, I never did see much of **Josh Schramm** and **Karl Lehrke** after they headed into the masses. There were times when we didn't know if they were alive or dead. Asking **Andy Frey** if he was worried if they were ok or not, all he said was something about "expendable rookies". **Aaron Livingstone** was all too happy to fight his way out into the crowd, leaving me a little worried

about his possible motives. He enjoyed it too much to not be insane. We think some of what he did to "keep the peace" was actually illegal.

- My most difficult task preparing for Sonshine 2000 is to recruit a boy that *Kelly Quiggle* is not attracted to. A nationwide search is under way.
- Was it just me, or did it seem that every time you turned around, you were running into a Biddle? (*Wendy Biddle, Joy Biddle, and Christa Biddle*.....aka.....See no evil, Hear no evil, Speak no evil). And speaking of Biddles, I almost had to twist their arms off to get them to go front and center to see Michael W Smith. Its OK to go up there girls!

Now for some of the more dubious awards of 99. I had input on some decisions, but the ultimate choice made by the judge (me) was final. So, whether you like it or not, here are the Sonshine 99 Security Awards, and may God have mercy on each of the winners.

The **Most Outrageous Socks Award** goes to *Dara Hunt*, whose striped numbers on Thursday made me think I was at an old barber shop. Sorry I forgot your name on Thursday evening while doing overnights!

The **Cooloest Hair Award** went to *Chris Hennes*, proving once and for all that security alternates just have way too much free time on their hands. (or their heads) Green is truly your color, man! Or was it pink?

The **Worst Driver Award**, a fan favorite, saw last years winner, *Devon Ness*, lose her title to the odds on favorite every year. Her talent as a supervisor is remarkable, but her driving of golfcarts has scattered many a crowd. If she could reach the pedals without so much effort maybe she could concentrate more on where she was going and who might be in her way. The winner, as you might have guessed, is none other than *Sheila Quiggle*.

The **Catch of the Day Award**, a tie last year between *Jon (Tactical Flashlight) Ness* and *Wendy (Crimestopper) Biddle*, was won by a newly formed (wedded) team on the Crowd Patrol crew. The whole crew spent most of Friday doing their best impression of the Texas Border Patrol as they sought a pair of known Mexican criminals seen in Tent city. Their capture was thanks mostly to the efforts of this years winners, *Josh and Keri Heintzeman*. The win is even more amazing considering it meant taking their honeymoon eyes off of each other long enough to see anything else.

The **Most Bizarre Injury Award** is given to the person who overcomes all precaution and common sense and gets hurt. Bear in mind that the injury, though possibly serious and not funny at the time, is only now looked back at with a smile. Last year saw several deserving individuals, with ***Dan Ball*** beating out the pack with his "mosh pit adventure wearing sandals". I can still see his bloody toes. This year, ***Levi Connor***, as the story was told, fell asleep or wore his contacts too long, and couldn't see on Saturday night. Some people will do anything to miss a shift.

The **Scavenger Award** goes to the person most likely to scrounge a free meal or morsel. This person probably didn't even use half his meal tickets, all the while eating like a king. Perennial favorites, and the winners of the last 2 years, ***Chuck Hinkley*** and ***Charlie Bowen***, performed admirably, and pointed the way to many campsites with handouts. But the nod goes to two guys that did overnights together and single-handedly cleaned the remains off many a grill. ***Jeff Pappas*** and ***Aaron Livingstone*** didn't seem to use the charm of previous winners, but still managed to eat all night long. I can't prove it, but I believe they either used scare tactics or the approach of just sticking around a campsite until they feed you. Think of them as Yogi Bear and Boo Boo, with Aaron being Boo Boo. Keep up the good work fellas!

The **Worst Radio User Award** went to ***Rebecca Hughes***, a win obtained easily due to all the times she kept calling over the radio, "Jeff to Rebecca, come in?"

The **Best Prepared Award** was an obvious choice if you happened to encounter ***Keith Voller*** late each night after the temperature dropped. The man was ready for below zero with his hunting attire and stylin' gloves.

The **Best Reason to Work Security Award** goes to ***Angela Warren***, who ended up last year being one of the many hurting kids we had to haul over the fence. The year before she got kicked in the head by stage-diving John James of the Newsboys. She decided it would be safer and easier to start the night backstage and save us the trouble of saving her "you-know-what".

**Most Energetic** goes to *Annie Weeks* since she spent the whole weekend at Sonshine literally bouncing off the walls. She either hooked up to a Mountain Dew I.V. every morning or she's just high on JESUS!

**Most Soft-Spoken** goes to *Matt Baumgardner*. Matt was so quiet I thought he didn't show up at all, but Devon said he covered all his shifts. We still have yet to determine if he was just saving his voice like I should have.

The **Creative Schedule Interpretation Award** is a brand new category, one that I'd rather not have a winner at all. To win, you can't just miss a shift or two. You have to miss a bunch, have no reasons why, and never tell anyone you can't make a shift. You have to look at the schedule I give you as a loose guideline for your Sonshine visit, a sheet filled with options of places you might want to go each day. The uncontested winner - *Matt Brown*. You may not have met him as he missed all but 1 of his shifts.

The **Rookie of the Year Award** annually is a tough decision. Each rookie was carefully screened (yeah right), hand picked (sure!), and most importantly coughed up the \$25 deposit/fee. All kidding aside, many rookies quickly assumed vital roles at Sonshine 99, performing at the level I expect from seasoned veterans. A Rookie of the Year must display an intangible quality not found in the other rookies. Of the rookies, I was especially impressed by *Rob Calvin's* eagerness to throw his body into the fence front and assist people over it. I liked *Annie's* exuberance, *Lee Barlau's* steady routine, and *Sam Jerome's* hard work in the trench. I don't want to leave out *Keri Heintzeman's* willingness to come with Josh to Sonshine 3 weeks after their wedding. What a wife!! But the Rookie that left the greatest impression on me was actually the last to join the crew. A shortage in the Crowd Patrol crew left me scrambling and I asked *Josh Heintzeman* to find a body that could fill in. He chose *Matt Hamilton*. We spoke by phone and 2 days later I had his check. At Sonshine, he spent most of Thur and Fri stopping each car at the end of the D.O.T. road and asking them to follow the ATV's to parking spaces. A critical job not many would accept without complaining. He was out there where you couldn't even hear music being played and yet worked as a vital member of the Crew helping with traffic. Hats off to *Matt* for a job well done, a good example of the kind of security crew I look for every year.

See ya next year. Keep in touch. Let's do lunch or dinner, really.