

Greetings Sonshine Security Family!

Another year is done and most of you are feeling the sorrow of knowing we have to wait a full year for Sonshine to return. You already miss other people on crew and it's only been two weeks. Rookies that thought we were just a bit crazy with our countdowns and feverish excitement for Sonshine NOW know what we were talking about and feeling. My guess is you're hooked just like the rest of us. Sonshine is in your blood. I told you it would happen but you didn't believe me! You have indeed become members of our dysfunctional little family. This year's crew was an amazing one, responding to many challenges and tasks we didn't foresee. We always do our best to interview and pick the best people but you far exceeded our expectations. The rookies did a remarkable job doing what was expected and fitting in quickly with the team. Many of the Sups have sent in evaluations and comments about many of you and they are filled with glowing praise. As *Suzanne Lueck* would say...this pleases me.

Sonshine 2008 was a huge success for the security crew and EACH of you is partly responsible for that accomplishment. We got our share of bumps, bruises, spills, and injuries but we made it through another year. Sorting through the stories I've heard and received is always amusing and I will try here to pass along the memories that made Sonshine special. Thank you so much for your willingness to share your stories! In the future I would like to utilize some of the talented writers we have on crew to put this together. If you're interested please let me know.

While it's always been Sonshine policy that drug use is prohibited, nothing's ever been said about insect abuse. *Terry Post* swallowed a moth while buzzing around on his ATV overnight and was giggly, drowsy, and "trippy" all night long, VERY unlike Terry. He was convinced someone slipped him roofies but *Kelly Lowe* thinks it was just the moth. Lizzy, can you get high off a moth?

I got a phone call from the Willmar Days Inn Monday morning after Sonshine. A young lady tells me someone had left their wallet behind in one of the rooms. With around 30 security crew staying in the 5 rooms we had I was not surprised. Annoyed, I asked her, "Who's the complete idiot that left his wallet in Willmar?" Sheepishly she replied, "Well...the name on the license in the wallet is *Jeff Quiggle*." Wow. I was the complete idiot. Well, at least I went into the correct room every night!

Tom Winkler and *Starr Marshall* were wrapping up an incident in Red One and Tom wanted to speak to other tenters in the group that weren't there. Tom asked a willing camper to call his cell when the neighbors returned but gave them his home phone number by mistake! Four hours later his wife called and said, "Some girl named Angela just called for you. She said you should come over, her neighbors are back. I thought you were going to Sonshine?" Doing his best to calm his wife down, Tom assured her that he was at Sonshine and that the reason he gave Angela the *wrong* number is because he was thinking about his lovely, patient, lovely, understanding, trusting and lovely wife. How many spouses of ours would like to get that kind of phone call? I don't think Tom would find it very amusing if I called his wife and asked why he never made it to Sonshine.....

While I thought the process to become a member of the Sonshine Security crew was pretty well established and we had *no* trouble finding wanting to be on this illustrious team...*Diana Larson* has taken it upon herself to promise out future "dates" to random guys in the crowd if they agree to work security. Either we need to step up the recruiting each year or sign Diana up for EHarmony.com.

I suggested to a few of the crew that it would be fun to do a little remake of the Monty Python “Bring Out Your Dead” sketch. If you’re too young to remember this hilarious bit you should rent the Holy Grail. I originally thought it would be best to do at the HM stage after the night was over but **Ben Uden** and **Kevin Olson** decided to try it in tent city. They got a few campers to help by piling in the back of Kevin’s ATV, arms and legs hanging out like so many dead bodies. They cruised around tent city while one of the campers on board kept crying out, “Bring out your dead, bring out your dead!”

Early Sunday morning **Suzanne Lueck** dropped **Sam Jerome** off at the hotel. She was *trying* to drive in the parking lot, and poor Sam had to continually remind her saying, “Honey, this isn’t a golf cart!” Suzanne then realized that she had ALSO been using hand signals instead of her blinkers.

The North 40 Café has become a tradition for the Crowd Patrol crew (and others) as they all spend plenty of time there eating home cooked meals and enjoying each others company. **Keith Voller** said one camper thought the North 40 Café was Sonshine Security Headquarters! Many thanks to **Jeff and Deanna Musolf** for tirelessly feeding so many hungry crew members! I suggested that we have them paint a fire lane in front of their site to serve as a drive through lane for golf carts to busy to stay.

Things you SHOULD have seen at Sonshine 2008 or MUST SEES:

- The slow motion mosh/dance pit during Red at Stage 2 on Saturday
- The wall of death during Flatfoot 56 at HM Stage Saturday
- **Katie Stanek’s** car was crunched in the parking lot by another vehicle and the driver’s door would not open forcing her to crawl through the passenger window ALL weekend!
- Tobymac hurdles from the Main Stage over the trench into crowd, landing on some SRT
- **Diana Larson** being knocked to the ground by an itty bitty beach ball during Newsboys!
- The HUGE rolling thunder cloud barreling towards us on Thursday morning
- **Josh Fredrickson** dresses up like Scuba-Steve from The Waterboy to stay dry Thursday
- **Tracy Fuller** getting her groove on to Tobymac while working the Side Gate
- **Ariel Huddleson** wore his Hoodie into the Tobymac crowd!! Rookies....
- **Suzanne Lueck** had a close call with an EMT Vehicle but lived to tell about it!
- **Janna Langer** had a “coffee date” with the cute Sheriff (according to Suzanne)
- **Matthew Mika** took **Lisa-lynn Kern** to the ground before Wednesday’s meeting.
- **Jason Doehling** sliced the back of his leg open in the main stage trench
- Cravings for Oreos can lead to more problems than you care to deal with....
- **Carl Skaro** made little kids cry in the signing line instead of Kelly Lowe this year
- **Tracy Fuller** celebrated her 3rd year of sobriety Friday at Sonshine. Love & Congrats Tracy!
- The Flyleaf guitarist insanely leaped over several crew onto the catwalk. Quite unexpected!
- Things got a *bit* physical in the HM Stage mosh pits as **Brandon Jennum** broke his nose, **Tyler Quiggle** cracked his teeth (twice) and **Ken Tarnowski** (among others) sported nice black eye’s!

On Friday around sunrise **Tony Larson** and **Jason Lowe** called Kelly over to the concession stand area to show off their find. There was a HUGE spud gun of PVC about 6 feet long. They went to confiscate it, but decided to wait and catch the maker red handed. Returning later, the guy demo’d it for them. He could load it with ½ gallon of water and shoot it about 20-30 feet, soaking the person. Totally harmless and VERY entertaining.

Late one overnight an urgent call came in from **Sandi Stark** in full foot pursuit of a boy who had stolen a security shirt and was running through the high school parking lot. **Kelly Lowe** and **Terry Post** whipped the cart around and saw him running. Reaching him, Kelly yelled, "Terry, GO!!" He made some (lame) excuse about his legs so she leaped off the golf cart hollering "stop!" She and **Nigel Masters** reached him about the same time and Kelly slammed the kid up against a car and turned to look at Nigel. He DID NOT have his mean face on, and she knew immediately it was a prank. The kid was ok, and now has a story to tell as well. I guess the overnight crew found someone else to pick on in Jon's absence. Kelly Lowe, you've been PUNKED!

Shawn Klein, in his 8th year on crew, made a rookie mistake by allowing some band members to "borrow" his golf cart. They should be bringing it back any time now...

Sandi Stark crushed a package of Little Debbie Swiss Rolls into **Michael Curran's** face, and I do mean ALL OVER! She backed into **Kelly Lowe** as he came after her, so she grabbed Sandi and held her. What Kelly didn't realize was Sandi had an open bottle of Red PowerAde in her hand and proceeded to fling the contents into his face as he came after her. Got to love the way SRT rookies are treated.

Saturday night after Sonshine was over so I (**Jeff Quiggle**) "borrowed" the KTIS stretch golf cart bus and took a bunch of the crew on a Sonshine Tour. We would stop next to a group of Sonshiners sitting on the curb and **Shawn Klein** would describe the various Sonshine "animals" like a narrator of a guided tour at a Wild Animal Park. It was hilarious! After a while EVERYONE started throwing in their own narration, describing how ugly some were, how rare others were, and how some were known to fling feces so be careful! We even got to see an entire herd of SRT in their natural habitat! It was exhilarating! Our Chinese fire drill was genius as well (since it was my idea). It was a really cool way of saying goodbye to all the kids out celebrating Sonshine but next year we will have to charge admission for the 8 bus seats. Reservations are being taken now.

Ben Uden and **Derek Murphey** were coming around the corner by the RV lot on the side of the school and Ben takes a digger. His handle bar grips were NOT even attached to the actual bar so they freely slide on and off. Well, one slid off and Ben went flying! His front wheel spun around backwards and he went flying over his handlebars. Naturally Derek held his laugh long enough to go over and ask if he's ok. Ben picks himself up off the ground saying, "yeah, how are my jeans?" That's a tough man when you can take a dig and only be concerned about his pants! Ben wanted all to know that since he was moving it could not be mistakenly considered a "Hubbell".

Thursday night, **Terry Post** confronted a large street walking parties that was starting to turn a little too rowdy. The PD jokingly gave him permission to use his Mace if it got out of hand, which it did not. On Saturday the overnight SRT received a report that a bet of \$30 or a dare had been made between campers that one of them couldn't handle being maced. So apparently his friend Maced him! **Jason Lowe** and **Alex Schmidt** were read the "letter of the law and spirit of the law" by some adult camper who thought **security** had maced the young man. "We did not of course!" replied Jason and Alex. (Actually, we mace campers regularly)

Aaron Ash found himself chasing a "runner" overnight and the kid ended up running *right* into a group of three Willmar Police, one of whom tackled him and promptly handcuffed him. Oops!

Mace was again the topic for another large walking party later on Saturday night, to which **Nigel Masters** replied the answer to everything was BEAR MACE!!! So for the rest of the overnight on Saturday the answer to any rowdy campsites was that we were going to BEAR MACE them. So bear mace is going to be mandatory gear for 2009.

While eating dinner at Applebee's Tuesday night in Willmar, a little water got tossed around at the table, mostly **Lisa-lynn Kern's** fault if I remember. **Rachel Hubbell**, noticing the wet marks on **Kinsey Anderson's** shirt, informed us all that "Oh! He must be lactating."

Saturday night found **Leah Vinkemeier, Katie Stanek, and Matt Syverson** all waiting at the security tent waiting for rides to Access Points at 10pm. After some conversation Matt asks Leah to teach him how to salsa dance. Katie asked him, "Why, was it for a date?" "No, he said." He just wanted to learn. So for the next 10 minutes Leah expertly moved around with Matt like a pro, shaking her hips like Shakira while Matt was desperately trying not to step on her feet. Katie stood back and laughed, and occasionally tried to imitate Leah without much luck. All that time spent in Latin America has paid off and Leah may be willing to teach a little salsa to others next year!

Tom Winkler and **Starr Marshall** met a young mother with a 6 month old baby boy named AJ. AJ has a disease that will end his life.... and his suffering soon. Mom is a believer and a very strong young woman. Together they prayed and cried with her. Starr and Tom went to see AJ and his mom again Saturday afternoon, delivered a gift to them, and prayed some more. Tom says, "My heart has been touched in a way that can't be undone by all the miles of walking or garbage tent sites". Thanks to both of them for being willing to be used by God and grab the opportunity to be His hands and feet!

In case you had not heard the story of the fake wristband, **Les Kinnunen** was working the side gate for Newsboys and closely checking wristbands. It was very busy and dark by then, however that did not stop Les from stopping a kid with last year's blue weekend wristband from trying to get backstage with 2 people who had legitimate backstage wristbands! We're all very impressed that he noticed the different shade of blue in the dark. Can't say I've ever even heard of someone trying that on us and Les caught it anyway! Great job for a rookie!

From **Kevin Olson** – *Late Saturday as I was patrolling with **Jamie Lee Radich** and **Alyson McCoy**. We were stopping at campsites that needed encouragement to clean up their sites and handing out garbage bags to assist them in picking up. Things were going well and the campers were being very responsive and polite until we encountered one group of young people along transportation road. Jamie got out and bounced into their camping space to share the love and some trash bags with the kids only to be ignored by everyone in the site! Alyson and I observed one youth that made a point of turning his back to us while he secretly stuffed something into his hands before walking casually to his tent and making a good effort at disguising the throw technique....but as I was vigilant I caught it! That threw up one red flag. Jamie then returned to the Rhino and as we started to roll, she commented that they were not at all receptive to the garbage bags. She felt there was something being hidden as contraband in that camp. That was all it took for me to stop the machine. All three of us walked into the camp to talk to the kids again. I suggested to them that we would all stand there and observe as they picked up and used the bags we donated to the cause. Of course while I was talking with them I was moving through and about their campsite. Now I wanted to catch a peek at the suspicious substance that was thrown into the tent so I was casually peeking through the screened portion of the*

tent while I walked by. I did not notice anything to be excited about but again Jamie observed some of the boys getting "nervous" as I got close to the tent so we made the call for backup for "possible contraband" to the security team. I have never seen the cavalry arrive so quickly! We had foot, bike and 4 wheeler responses to the call within minutes and had the camp surrounded.

I should back up to say that while waiting for backup the kids are picking up the trash in the site and when I had one of them alone I asked him if there was anything in the campsite that there shouldn't be and his answer was "no, Jeff keeps us on a short leash!" Of course when I ask him to clarify that statement is when I find out that we're dealing with Jeff Quiggle's youth group! We had them surrounded and explained to them that "this was nothing personal but it was for their safety and that of the other attendees and that if they would just sit tight it would be done with soon and we could all go on with our day." After a search of the tents and finding nothing to be alarmed over, most of the security detail went back to patrolling their assigned areas while some of us stuck around and smoothed things over as a PR move. It was then that we explained the red flag that went up when the youth turned his back on us and obviously was hiding something. We almost died laughing when one of the boys spoke up that he was the cause of the raid as it was he who turned his back on us and stuffed his DIRTY UNDERWEAR into a ball to get it to the tent before we saw it as he was embarrassed that he left it on the end of the cot that was outside!!!! That was fun!

Our annual rookie hazing happened when **Nigel Masters** and **Kelly Lowe** waited for the perfect opportunity to handcuff **Alyssa Riggs**, the unsuspecting rookie Overnight SRT. It presented itself when they went to pick up Lizzy from the HM stage on the closing night. She put up a good fight, but **Jason Lowe** and **Nigel Masters** managed to eventually get her to the floor and handcuffed. It was quite a struggle to get her down! After they uncuffed her she came up fighting, and her and **Brandon Jennum** had a duke out. Moral of the story....DON'T mess with Riggs.....

Out of fairness, here is the story from **Alyssa Riggs'** perspective: So on the last night of working overnight SRT, my partner **Alex Bakker** and I were called to the HM stage to help Lizzy and Kelly with something. **Kelly Lowe** was with **Nigel Masters** and someone else on her cart and we were parked right next to her. After a few minutes of waiting around and talking to my fellow SRT crew, I see out of the corners of my eyes Kelly and Nigel coming at me from both sides of the cart and they pounced on me! With both of them having my arms in a death grip, I suddenly hear the cracking of a handcuff starting to open. Right when I heard that, I started thinking "oh crap this is not good" and I started throwing my arms around like crazy to free myself. Kelly eventually let go, but being the trained EMT (actually convicted felon) or whatever he is, Nigel still had a solid hold of my other arm. Using what little energy I had left from the weekend, I was putting up a good fight with him for a good five minutes. But out of nowhere he used this maneuver to throw me to the ground (almost crushing my very expensive radio!) when he finally handcuffed my other wrist. I just turned over onto my stomach and gave up. I was laying there for a few minutes trying to catch my breath and while that was going on, people were taking pictures of "the rookie" being defeated, with Nigel smiling next to me looking very proud of himself. Now after a few days I still have a pretty nice looking battle wound on my wrist from the fighting. But there will be payback next year and you can quote me on that!

Every once in a while a story comes from the Sonshine experience so inspiring, pure, and genuine that it makes the countless hours preparing and working security for all of us worthwhile. Sure, we like the funny tale, but such a heartwarming story *transcends* all others. **Jamie Lee Radich**, a rookie Crowd Patrol crew member, provided a story so beautiful it still brings tears to my eyes when I read it. It has

always been my heart's desire that her story is the essence of why we ALL should be working Sonshine. It is mine. I hope you all can agree. Here is her story in her own words.....

While spending Saturday night at the HM Stage, I was initially bothered that I didn't hear As I lay Dying talk about God or Jesus at all. It just seemed like such a wasted opportunity, because so many kids wanted to hear them, and they were one of the only bands I saw all weekend at any stage that didn't take a moment to address the crowd and talk about God. Plus they wouldn't let security on stage and just... encouraged chaos a little at the end... so I admit I judged them a little. After the concert Lizzy still wanted me to sit backstage and make sure no one came through. The lead singer of As I lay Dying came out and stood next to me, and I was impressed that he stopped and talked with every single fan. He was very genuine. Then (this is my favorite memory of Sonshine) a slightly overweight girl came up. She was rocking the whole punk look, and when she came up she showed him a tattoo of something on her wrist. She started by saying "Man, you don't even know, your music has saved my life so many times" and started crying. She said she was so angry all the time, and she tried to kill herself, and she cuts herself... all her words just came tumbling out. I admit there was a moment when I thought "Stop listening to such angry music... buy a Third Day Cd"... But then he looked at her and smiled and asked her to step to the side with him, away from the crowd. Then that same singer who stood on stage and screamed lyrics I couldn't understand and was dressed in clothes many Christians would consider socially unacceptable. That same man took his hands and cupped her face and said that she was beautiful, and that God thought she was beautiful, and God loved her and had a plan for her life. He then asked her if he could pray for her, laid his hands on her shoulders, and prayed. It was one of the most touching moments I saw all weekend, and completely unexpected. And it reminded me to not judge the outside of the book, because the light inside can still be blindingly beautiful. I think that is what Sonshine is about... speaking to each other and to God in our own way, in music and dress and with words that mean something to us. And reaching out to others who speak the same language and learning to love and understand those who don't.

I think that beautiful story is a fitting way to conclude the recap of Sonshine 2008. It was a wonderful year, filled with laughter, tears, joy, (lots of food) and just plain fun as always! I wish to thank my group of dedicated, phenomenal Supervisors (and of course the new night SRT Sup, Kelly Lowe!) for putting up with my crap all year. Thanks to EVERYONE on the entire crew for a job well done! You ALL played an invaluable role in making Sonshine happen. It was certainly a team effort! I look forward to seeing each of you next year as we take on another 20,000 people at Sonshine 2009!

Working together;

Jeff Quiggle

