

Sonshine 2010 Recap

For twenty four years now I've come to the Festival I call home every July and the anticipation builds all year, leading up to that magical moment when I drive over the hill and look onto the grounds filled with early tents and campers. This year as I approached the Sonshine Festival site, Skillet was blasting "Awake and Alive" on my CD stereo and I couldn't help but see how true that phrase was at that very moment... how Sonshine makes me feel AWAKE and ALIVE even at my age! I trust rookies to the crew already get a sense of just how blessed we are to be a part of such a great Festival, an even greater Security Crew, and most of all an incredible family. You would think after 5 days/nights together we would run from each other, but instead 50+ of the crew choose every year to spend Sunday morning at Green Mill sharing stories, laughing, hugging, and even crying some goodbyes. As we've told many a rookie, spend one Sonshine with us and you're hooked. Of course families do have a few scrapes...but we're still family. Well it's time to relive the wonderful and wacky events of Sonshine 2010, many of which you've provided. The stories you've sent will allow us to relive this Sonshine forever.

Sonshine 2010 had some incredible memories! Most of us will remember the unbearable heat. Every day, ALL day, HOT. We drank SO much water! Many crew succumbed to the unrelenting heat this year, ending up spending time in the EMS tent getting treated for dehydration. This year seemed to be particularly hard on Crowd Patrol with **Stephanie Carlson, Jamie Radich, Angela Lavallee,** and **Starr Marshall** all spending time in EMS. Starr and Angela enjoyed it in there enough to even go twice!

Angela Lavallee's first trip to EMS was more **Josh Fredrickson** related rather than heat related. The two Crowd Patrol partners "bumped" bikes and poor Angie lost that battle, crashing hard into the asphalt and scraping up her leg. One week later, the swelling is slowly subsiding and her leg has weird marks etched into it. While there are several versions of the story, Angela prefers to take the high road and say she simply "fell off her bike". At least she wasn't veering towards the Dipping Dots when she fell!

The next story includes a Sonshine first. Saturday's severe thunderstorm and high winds left a few Sonshiners a bit frustrated, and that became very apparent as the crew walked out into the crowd to form the wall for TFK. **James Peterson** led one of the lines and he pressed hard to make it to the edge of the center aisle. Just as he arrived he starts yelling, "Dude she's biting me"! **Carl Skaro**, next in the line, peers over to see a woman chewing on James' hand like a scene from a bad zombie flick, hard enough to shed skin! Not know he was security, she thought James was just "some guy" trying to cut in front of her and her first thought was to BITE him. Classy. The lady proceeded to apologize, even wiping off his hand and removing the hanging dead skin. I guess we need to make sure we're current on our rabies vaccine to work security.

Chris Brown and **Carl Skaro** were patrolling tent city when they noticed an elderly gentleman hauling a large plastic tote over to one of the water stations. Later when they came back the same way they found the man sitting inside the tote "bathtub" all soaped up and scrubbing away. As Chris and Carl passed by they laughed and waved. The man called out to them, "Wanna scrub my back?" Carl quickly replied, "No thank you" and drove away laughing.

Very first night and **Andy Sopher** and **Sarah Hayes** find themselves partnered for an early shift on overnight SRT. Despite specific instructions from **Kelly Lowe** NOT to let Sopher drive, Sarah allows him behind the wheel like you'd allow your 12 year old son to back the car out of the driveway. Even as he's continuing to profess to her how good a driver he is...he rams the golf cart into a culvert, launching poor Sarah OVER the front of the cart and INTO the water. Sopher rushes to her side like the hero he is, and drowns her radio in the process. Sarah was sporting three MAGNIFICENT bruises from the encounter, only two of which she can modestly reveal. Now, such a first impression is not usually one to win over the affections of a young lady, but Sarah chose to go out with him anyway after Sonshine. He will be apologizing for a LONG time! Makes one recall when cavemen would simply club their women over the head to make them fall in love...

Saturday evening as the tornado sirens wailed, **Ben Chase** (a rookie) and **Tracy Fuller** had the opportunity to provide "security" in the hotel for one of the hip hop bands, Psalm Fresh, who happened to be staying in the hotel. They had brought their instruments to the first floor hallway where all those at the hotel had gathered for safety during the sirens. They made up a rap right there on the spot about the storm and how Jesus can stop our storms and faith...it was pretty cool. The show so good that those listening didn't even hear the Days Inn employee give the all clear. No reason to panic when God is watching over us!

Randy Quiggle, Kelly Lowe, Greg Nordin, and Richard Jennum were each entrusted with the Sonshine Cell Phone for a time each day. The experiment of allowing Sonshiners to call security at any time proved very interesting as some of the so-called "security emergencies" were quite strange. Randy got a text saying, "there was a boy and girl rolling on the ground outside my camper". Another asked if we could provide the number for Wal-Mart because the person wished to buy a chair with an umbrella.

From **Anna Walters**: Saturday night after the storm many of the campers had packed up and gone home, leaving not a lot to do that night. This forced some of the night SRT to find some fun of their own. While on patrol, **Chad Lecy, Jacob Chihak** and **Anna Walters** found some huge tractor tires in Purple by the tennis courts. Of course they realized something fun needed to be done with them, but not just yet. Eventually they flagged down **Alex Schmidt, Alex Bakker** and **Alyssa Riggs** to show them their discovery. This resulted in **Jacob Chihak** climbing inside the tire, and the rest of them pushing it down the hill. After this episode, **Alyssa Riggs** had to drive away on a golf cart because she nearly peed her pants with laughter. In her absence, **Alex Schmidt** then climbed into the tire. On the way down, he stated he felt like a hamster in a wheel because instead of riding inside the tire, he decided to run inside it. The tire then also got pushed up the hill with him inside of it, probably adding to his concussion from Thursday at HM.

Team Awesome= **Alex Schmidt, Matt Syverson, Sarah Hayes**

Team Jumping Black Tiger= **Jacob Chihak, Anna Walters, Kyle Voltzke, Chad Lecy**

Team Walking Wounded=**Alex Schmidt, Scruff Eaddy, Niqui Ruiz, Leah Preble, Kenzie Rhode, Alex Curran, Sarah Hayes, and Angela Lavallee.**

After reading many such stories I thought, who DID NOT break up a fight or scuffle at HM???

The Newsboys were just finishing up their autograph session Friday when two ladies in their thirties with extremely bad hair dye jobs made their way up the stairs for an “autograph”. **Janna Langer** and the rest of the security were stunned when one of those ladies rolled onto the table in front of the Newsboys, kicked her legs high in the air, and her friend took pictures! At least she kept her clothes on!

It would seem the “mother look” is enough to stop just about anyone dead in their tracks and force them to show their backstage wristband according to **Nora Nutt**.

From **Leah Preble**: Those of us in the pit crew were stoked to find there were bands that played the HM Stage last year who were playing the Showmobile this year. **Matthew Mika** thought it would be a good idea for some of the pit crew to be over there for certain bands, so every day **Mike Rodger, Scruff Eaddy, Matthew, Kenzie Rhode, Niqui Ruiz**, and myself headed over to the Showmobile for a bit. We all had a blast! First of all, we were so unused to actually being allowed to be outside doing our thing in the sunlight; we're used to creeping around in the dark at the HM Stage. Second, we didn't have to worry about people slipping, falling, and creating a bloody mess when someone threw water around in the dance pits: during one band's set some people were throwing loads of water balloons into the audience and everyone LOVED IT! Water was flying everywhere and I didn't have to do a thing about it! Grass is so much nicer than cement. Third, we didn't have to stop people from crowd surfing or stage diving: we HELPED them do it! I personally was really excited about this and totally grabbed some small kid and THREW him up on top of everybody. Overall, I had a blast at the Showmobile!

So did you see?

- The guy in the head to toe, mildly see through, purple spandex outfit?
- **Jason Lowe** found a 12 gauge shot gun shell in someone's camp chair cup holder?
- **Sarah Hayes** and **Laura Holum** crowd surfed out of the trench during Skillet on Saturday, with both ending up out by the Sound Tower before returning to the ground? Next year... Anna Walters or Jessica Sievers?
- **The HM Gnome** from last year was used to raise money for a band that had their trailer stolen, including all of their equipment. It was surfed around and almost \$2000 was collected!
- The strange reactions from so many artists as **Janna Langer** picked them up using the “Special Ed short bus” to be brought to the Signing Table or VIP Meet and Greet?
- Aiming for Aurora hosting a Dodgeball game during their show at Stage 2?
- Paul Coleman, the Emcee, out having random water gun fights with kids in tent city?
- **Alyssa Riggs** seducing several on the crew and Michael Tait of the Newsboys with her Victoria's Secret Pure Seduction Spray and Hand Sanitizer. Stock up ladies!
- **Andy Sopher** got handcuffed again this year, this time to a golf cart with **Sarah Hayes**. VERY little objection or resistance was given.
- The Short Bus filled with **Greg Nordin's** handpicked crew to secure the High School slowly driving along through the pelting storm with tents flying past like a scene out of Twister?
- **Katie Hayes** making a love connection for several kids by passing notes across the aisle?
- **Sarah Hayes** eagle eye caught at least SIX fake wristbands according to **Kelly Lowe**!
- **Tracy Fuller** physically assaulted the lead singer for Rapture Ruckus at Side Gate?

So very sad to report a rookie type mistake, especially by one of our sharpest and finest crew. Following the FF5 show **Patrick Sadowski** approached **Tracy Fuller** backstage with arms wide open, and being such a sweetheart, GLADLY gave Patrick the big hug he was looking for. The hug turned out to be the “nasty, sweaty” hug reserved ONLY for unsuspecting rookies after the wall crew comes out of the crowd at Main Stage. Having fallen for the dripping wet hug, **Lizzy Alexandr** proceeded to give her ANOTHER sweaty hug and wiping sweat all over her face! Rumor has it Lizzy even threatened to show around a picture of Tracy to his HM Pit Crew so EVERYONE would search her out and give her a sweaty hug!

Matthew Mika found himself very dizzy Saturday from 3 days of intense pits at HM so he decides to make his VERY first trip to EMS. Problem is he has no idea where it is. After Bob Poe of all people directs him to EMS, they check out his BP and heart rate. They tell him it’s a little elevated and he should remain calm, take it easy, and get some rest. Ha! At that very moment the tornado sirens go off and Mika is running around assisting anyone and everyone. By this time his heart is probably redlining! He heads back to HM, gets prayed for by a few friends and he’s back to full strength and felling great. As Mika put it, “God sure blesses you when your main concern is Him, then others, then you”.

The storm was raging and all the security that had not been able to get to their cars were huddled inside the security tent, desperately holding it down as the winds threatened to carry it away. **Jeff Quiggle** grabbed the first 5 girls he could find inside and put them in his car for safety, even having **Laura Holum** drive the car to a better sheltered spot while Jeff continued to shuttle others by golf cart to the High School. Back at the High School **Greg Nordin’s** team was in place, calmly directing traffic inside. Once Jeff arrived, he remarked to several security, “Seems like a lot of trouble just for us to be able to use a flush toilet”.

With the storm bearing down Saturday, **Amy Pavlo’s** last shift was cancelled and she decided to head home early. After getting lost she decides to head back to Sonshine and stay the night. Skillet was JUST beginning when she returned and got to see the amazing show. Afterward, **Nora Nutt** tells Amy she’s lost her ONLY set of car keys. After some pointless searching of the ground Amy has a “duh” moment and remembers what a security crew member SHOULD do – check the Sonshine Office lost and found! Praise God they HAD the keys!

Seeing both **Melissa Ellis** and **Nerissa Wilker** at Sonshine but taking the year off due to being VERY pregnant it’s a real possibility we’ll have to add another position to the Security Staff – Daycare/Nursery Supervisor! Add **Beth Van Roekel** (also pregnant) and **Amberlie Haak** and **Suzanne & Kinsey Anderson’s** babies (toddlers next year) and it will be a very busy position! Did I miss anyone? **Kelly Lowe??**

During the last show at HM by The Devil Wears Prada, some kid decided to climb the netting around the rink to the rafters high overhead. **Lizzy Alexandr** tore through the crowd to where the kid was trying to come down, later telling him he almost ended the show with his stupidity. If he had fallen we would have had to clean up the pieces. He told Lizzy, “I just wanted to get a picture of the band...”

The North Forty grew again this year, home to countless security camping, and feeding anyone that stopped by. It is run more efficiently than most small towns, has its own police, fire, and medical, and I suppose the Mayor would be **DeAnna Musolf** herself. The ministry taking place there is so genuine!

Danielle Linder, a rookie, chose to use Sonshine as a time to get a tan rather than use heavy sunscreen. By Saturday she was a solid medium to well done and in considerable discomfort. Despite **Ben Uden's** pleas to apply Aloe she resisted. Seeing my chance to intervene and "help" her and Ben, I handed a bottle of Aloe to a crew of day SRT led by **Michael Curran**. My instructions to them were simple. "Tell Danielle to apply this Aloe IMMEDIATELY or they were to hold her down and generously lather it on for her." Wow did the guys eyes light up as they jumped in my golf cart and headed towards her. I guess Danielle had given in and put some on just before they got there. The guys returned with heads low, very disappointed at missing such a fine opportunity.

You had to be there, but in the middle of the night while all the SRT are out patrolling, **Scott Fisk** calmly announces over the radio, "Attention Sonshine Security, there is FREE chili available in Red 2". It sounded like a voice over the loudspeaker at K-mart advertising the special deal of the day in Aisle 5.

I like how **Jeff 'Moose' Musolf** wrote how we can respond to the question of why such a clean wholesome event like Sonshine would require Security – "Even the LIGHT of JESUS draws a few bugs."

Nigel Masters, Sarah Hayes, and Kelly Lowe were responding to a medical emergency in Red 1 Saturday at 1am. While Kelly and EMS were assessing the person and readying him for transport a middle aged woman walked up and asked Kelly why they were being so loud. Kelly calmly explained the emergency to her and the seriousness of the situation. Unfazed, the woman stared at Kelly and again complained how LOUD they were and that they should be quiet because they were DISTURBING her sleep! Boo hoo!

Of course there is so much more than pranks and strange behavior at Sonshine. There is incredible, REAL ministry that takes place. This came from **Leah Preble**, a 2nd year member of the Pit Crew:

God did awesome things at the HM Stage this year I'm telling ya...My best memory from Sonshine is what happened during and after For Today's show. First of all, Mattie, the lead singer of For Today, mostly preached during their show. They played some awesome music, but Mattie PREACHED and it was really intense stuff, things that really needed to be said. He talked about division in the church and how we need to unify under Christ, not denominations, about how God is calling people of my generation and young people to follow Him and that God wants to use people including those who were at the HM stage that night. It was so powerful! It definitely spoke straight to my heart because everything he was saying was something God had been teaching and convicting me of over the last couple years. I don't say this flippantly, so understand that I really mean this and I've only had this experience a few times in my life, but I literally FELT the Holy Spirit in the room during their set. It was so powerful and I felt God's love raining down in that room. I excitedly ran over to someone else in security, I don't even remember who, but I asked them "Do you feel that?" and they just smiled and said "Yes!"

After For Today's set, I saw a kid who was crying and so moved by what he heard standing by For Today's merch table. There was a group of four people around him talking to him and praying for him. From what I could tell a couple of them were his friends, but the others were just random people caring for him, talking to him, and praying for him...it was awesome to see God at work. Outside of the HM stage I saw at least one member of For Today talking with kids

and praying with them and just loving on them. When we had our security meeting after For Today's set, I actually had to just stay outside by myself for a little bit and walk around and pray. I got really emotional too because I could feel God moving and I could feel his love. I was struck by the fact that He has NOT forgotten my generation and that He is using people like For Today to reach them and tell them about Himself.

This from **Laura Holum**, a non-Pit Crew veteran working the same For Today show:

I was trying to process the whole thrashing thing and how someone could seem so angry and out of control. I chalked it up to just not being very godly, but trying to reach people even on a surface level with Christ. Anyway, into the show, the band broke into part of a song that wasn't screaming, but singing, and talking about God's holiness. And I tell you what; you would've thought Casting Crowns was on that stage. People dropped to their knees and put their hands in the air. I even saw one person lay completely prostrate on the ground in worship. I was just completely dumbfounded. I began to cry myself. I didn't understand how God was working in that smelly, hot room, but there's no doubt that He was. It was an amazing, humbling experience. I still don't get it, but I'm okay with that :)

On Saturday the hardcore fans at HM may just have saved the Festival for those eagerly awaiting TFK and Skillet at Main Stage. The tornado sirens went off even as **Lizzy Alexandr** was explaining what the crew should do when they sounded. Sleeping Giant took the stage and decided to pray, joined by all those at HM. As many of you know, a second severe weather front was bearing down soon, so many of us watched in awe as the sky above us parted and the ominous clouds went on EITHER side of us. It was the most amazing and miraculous site! Shortly after, crowds lined up for the final two shows, and TFK and Skillet DID NOT disappoint with incredible performances! What a way to end Sonshine!

After getting off of a shift, Alex **Schmidt, Chad Lecy and Anna Walters** decided to hit up the hot tub back at the hotel. But the hot tub was closed as you would expect at 4am. So instead, they talked the desk worker into letting them get some fruit loops for breakfast. In mid conversation, Alex stops to say, "I have exactly enough fruit loops left to make a pyramid. I have 4 green, 3 red, 2 turquoise looking ones and an orange!" He proceeded to create one in his bowl. Remember that Alex was "concoosed" pretty much all of Sonshine. **Jeff Quiggle** stopped to chat with them and they all laughed at how little Alex made sense. He would start sentences but not finish or say something totally off the wall weird!

Greg Nordin, Kelly Lowe and Jeff Quiggle had been discussing how to staff the Newsboys autograph line late Friday night. We decided to ask the new guy, **Dustin Moffett**, incidentally the last guy to join the crew this year, just the week before Sonshine. Greg sees Dustin and goes to ask him while Kelly discusses overnight plans with others. He agreed, simply telling Greg, "Whatever you need". Now, Kelly has no idea Greg has already asked Dustin to assist with the Newsboys. She proceeds to ask him herself. As she is asking, Dustin and Greg look at each other, unbeknown to Kelly, and Greg shakes his head and nods to Dustin. Completely straight faced in a stone cold voice, Dustin tells Kelly off, saying how sick and tired of working he was and that he was going home. He turns and storms away, Kelly looking on with jaw dropped in absolute shock. She is STUNNED at what just happened. A few

moments later Dustin turns around and with a wry smile says, "Just kidding". Greg is practically rolling on the ground laughing! Best prank from a rookie EVER...and supposedly no help from Greg.

So panhandling was all the rage this year! We saw lots of people with a bucket or hat and a sign begging for money. It would have been less awkward if so many of those begging weren't security crew.

Well, as I said, Sonshine 2010 was absolutely incredible and YOU made it happen!! All 143 of you should be proud to be a part of Sonshine Security. The feedback and compliments I've received both at and after Sonshine only proves how incredible a staff we've put together, from the 13 Supervisors down to the youngest of rookie crew. I could fill pages with thanks to EVERY one of you. The rookies were simply amazing, jumping right in like they've worked Sonshine for years. To work together in such heat and humidity with so little sleep is a testimony to your dedication, character, and faith. Your praise fills me with pride and inspires me to continue what I do – plan, staff, prepare – and then turn it over to the best crew money could NOT have bought. I hope to see you in uniform for Sonshine 2011 when we do it all again, face new challenges, and overcome fresh obstacles.

Your Leader and friend;

Jeff Quiggle

Director of Security

Sonshine Festival

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