

Greetings Sonshine Security!

Sonshine 2012 was an awesome time and the weather cooperated by not throwing any floods or tornados our way for the first time in years. What we got instead was a dust bowl with swirling winds and unrelenting sun, teaching us to be careful what you pray for! This year we had more opportunities to visit with campers both day and night, a welcome relief from last year. We encountered lots of interesting things thrown our way, but that's what makes working security so enjoyable! We were in good spirits throughout, and nothing could dampen the joy we know from working Sonshine Security. What follows are some of the sights and stories of Sonshine 2012, laid out for you to recall forever a very memorable year. Enjoy.

We might as well begin with what will forever be the talk of Sonshine 2012 – the “Juicemaker”. On Thursday, the first night of HM, **Lizzy Alexandr** and I were approached by Tobin, the lead singer of Flatfoot 56. In his cheerfully thick Irish accent he described what he would like to try during their set that evening. He asked if we would mind gathering ALL of the security into a tightly packed group in the middle of the room, linking arms, and facing outward to all sides. The crowd would surround the security crew, as far back as they could get, and at the band's cue, CHARGE the security group in the middle. Being we were dressed in orange, and the crowd would look to crush us like orange juice pulp, he termed the maneuver..... “The Juicemaker”. Well...Lizzy's eyes lit up at the prospect of such mayhem and all he could quietly muster in reply was, “yes, please” with a sick little smile. I couldn't hardly say no either, what with Lizzy almost in tears at the thought of such a wild and crazy stunt never before attempted at Sonshine. It would have been like taking a toy away from an orphan on Christmas morning. We tried later to convince a few Sups to join us, each politely saying, “No thanks, I'd rather live”. Luckily before Flatfoot played, Lizzy had me get a security shirt for a 3X mountain-sized guy that would gladly join us on the security side, **Adam Kremer**. When Flatfoot 56 played that evening, a rowdy Celtic fun set as always, they eventually got around to their “Juicemaker”. They called for the security to gather in the middle, and like lambs to slaughter, they rushed in and formed a tight ball of flesh, eagerly awaiting what was to come. The Flatfoot lead singer said ANYONE with an orange shirt should join the security side too, so **Jeff Quiggle** grabbed hold of **Josh Evans** and pulled him in too. At the chant of “Jeff, Jeff, Jeff” I foolishly ran in to join the pit crew too. The crowd surrounded us and backed up as far as they could, looking at us with a hunger that made many of us realize this may not have been the smartest idea. At the band's signal, they charged and hit us from all sides like a huge battering ram, with wave after wave of kids slamming against us as we desperately tried to hold our ground. It was useless. We all went down in one huge, tangled heap of body parts, with crowd and crew lying on top of each other in an endless pile of flesh. We patiently lay there, waiting for help to separate the bodies and pull us off each other, for what seemed like forever. There were a few crew banged up, so they sat on the sound board staging, nursing various wounds. In true Pit Crew fashion

though, they decided we should DO IT AGAIN! This time, I wisely stayed on the sidelines, and watched as the crowd added a little special something by leaping onto the pile of security rather than just plowing into them full force. The result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Juicemaker was 1 dislocated shoulder (**Allie Jessich**), 5 ankle sprains of varying degrees (**Ben Jaschke, Dean Sibinski, Joe Remde, Hailey Hoefs, Mercedes Hartman**), 2 knee contusions or sprains (**Todd Hensel, Kenzie Rhode**), and 1 bruised shoulder and ribs (**Niqui Ruiz**). **Mike Rodger** went to EMS only for the free health care. The outside of HM looked like a M.A.S.H. Unit, with EMS treating the wounded and carting them off to the EMS tent. Lizzy spent the rest of the evening watching over his crew at EMS, even going to the hospital with **Amberlie Haak** to stay with Allie Jessich. It might have been the craziest, dumbest, and most exhilarating thing EVER done at Sonshine as most would say that experienced it. Most would also say they'd NEVER do it again and I would have to agree. If you missed out, too bad, because it will probably never happen again!

According to **Todd Hensel**.....The Definition of Irony: the follow-up band to the Juicemaker?  
**As I Lay Dying**. How absolutely appropriate.

Much like every other year, we had some amazing rookies. One such delightful rookie, **Hannah Taylor**, was paired with **Paige Henggeler** on Crowd Patrol. Normally most rookies spend a lot of time learning the ropes of a new position on their first day, but not this team. They decided to visit the kid's tent and make sculptures of the security tent and **Jeff Quiggle** in his golf cart out of Play-Doh. Crowd Patrol really attracts the "special" people. The next day they made Supervisor Lanyards from string and popsicle sticks (one for **Suzanne Anderson** that said, "Jeff's Best Babysitter"), and they were promptly banned from the kids craft tent as they were creeping out the little children.

Red on Thursday night was the first pit experience for a number of rookies, so **Lizzy Alexandr** was in the midst of the pit, getting rookies comfortable going through the pit and joining in. The pit itself was a blur of dust and sweat. He threw quite a few into the pit but had a bit of trouble getting BIG **Ben Chase** in. Let's just say Lizzy went back to picking on smaller crew members.

Wednesday night after Red, **Ben Chase** stopped Mike and Terry with The Solid Rock Strength Team, and started the conversation with, "Gentlemen, I have to say, I'm very disappointed." They looked goofy at me, so he continued, "I guess I'm not the biggest guy here this year!" They both laughed and gave me a big handshake and said, "You're still the biggest guy in orange!"

Taking a final group photo of the Overnight SRT Team, **Nigel Masters and Terry Post** backed away slowly and grabbed a water cooler full of ice, which **Kirk Partello** and Nigel had filled, and dumped it over **Kelly Lowe's** head. It was a fantastic expression of surprise, shock, freezing and yet feels good look on Kelly's face. All caught on camera by **Kinsey Anderson**!!

From **Carl Skaro**: Not going to lie, I think that the HM Pit crew did well in trying to hide their stench this year by camping next to not only the Biffy's but also behind the garbage dumpsters as well. The stench alone kept the mosquitoes away so it made for a good get away during patrols in the evenings. Come to think of it, doesn't the pit crew camp there EVERY year? How very clever...

While on Patrol in tent city Friday night, **Alex Schmidt and Anna Walters** ran into a group of campers and chatted with them for a while. Out of nowhere, one young lad came forward and pleaded, "Man, help a brother out! You got any baby powder!?" Ever the helpful and kindhearted SRT, Alex responded with a polite, "NO". I suppose it would have been worse if he asked them to apply it!

Things seen and overheard at Sonshine 2012:

- Everyone signed the couch in Purple 4, even **Kinsey Anderson** after some coaxing!
- The beautiful Northern Lights on Saturday night watched by night SRT
- **Suzanne Anderson** was told to "Flash your Badge!"
- Star Wars Storm Trooper and Chewbacca riding in our golf cart
- **Amberlie Haak** "missed her crabs"...
- The lady that claimed FF5 was stalking her and she was trying to avoid them seeing her!
- "Death just passed me by" said **Randy Quiggle** when the Grim Reaper walked past he and I at HM Saturday.
- **Keith Voller** was understandably upset that "*Nacho Mamas*" was NOT at Sonshine!
- The over-abundance of black boogers from ALL the dust!
- **Michael Curran** ROCKED a Kilt but it was awkward when he asked people to hold his sack – the pouch that he wore with the kilt GUTTER minds! I think **Nigel Masters** may wear one next year??
- Thankfully, NO inappropriate Michael Tait sightings this year for **Anna Walters**!
- The newest candy sensation? Mr. Bumpy's brought to Sonshine by **Sam Jerome**!
- **Luke Gruhlke** was unfortunate enough to be forever nicknamed "Lukey-Poo" by the waitress at Applebees with a bunch of his SRT crew.
- **Kinsey Anderson** was locked in a porta-potty by his loving night playmates! It was a birthday present I'm sure.
- Trevor from TFK tweeted to **Ben Chase** he was looking forward to an arm-wrestling match next time they meet.
- A well meaning group of the crew lured **Suzanne Anderson** up to the front trench of Main Stage during Family Force 5 on Thursday, removed her radio and shoes, and promptly sent her surfing into the crowd!
- We found out **Lizzy Alexandr** will scream like a little girl and jump from a moving golf cart at the sight of even the smallest of spiders!
- The group of guys that converted their wooden trailer into a swimming pool and filled it with Goldfish and **Randy Quiggle** told them to open a sushi bar.

Friday night at the North 40, some of the pit crew folks were discussing push-ups, when one of the rooks started bragging. The next thing we knew a challenge had been made and accepted: the rook vs. **Todd Hensel's** daughter Charlie (she's 10). As impressive as his push-ups might have been, his inexperience was his downfall – something the veteran pit crew folks knew. The rook started off and completed an impressive 46 push-ups. As he failed to put up number 47, **Ben Jaschke** yells out, “Charlie wins!”, and she proceeded to prove Ben right by pounding out a jaw-dropping 50 push-ups, 4 hours after her bed time.

Willmar Police Officer **Dobransky** was quoted as saying, “I'd rather single-handedly break up a gang fight instead of going into HM.” Is it really that bad in there?

A certain unnamed SRT crew member with the initials “LG” had a crush on a certain photographer (not named **Miroslav Skorykh**). Adorable as it was, **Alex Schmidt** would probably say at age 12 he's far too young to be thinking about girls.

During the Sonshine Festival, **Todd Hensel** was intentionally punched by two different people: **Lizzy Alexandr** and Charlie, his ten-year old daughter. Bruise count left by each encounter: Lizzy – 0, Charlie – 4. Six more years and she is eligible to replace you on crew Lizzy!

While at times it almost hurts writing stories that involve the Crowd Patrol crew...I suppose I must. While at one campsite **Bethany Findell** went to go use the biff without obtaining a pass first. (A requirement on CP??) Upon returning she was forced to wear the necklace of shame by her leader **Randy Quiggle** (Yarn with an empty bottle and various other garbage items found in tent city). She was allowed to take it off after a short while. This group needs some serious therapy, STARTING with their leader.

Apparently needing to get even with **Bou Gazley** for leaving Overnight SRT, a group of his “former” overnight buddies planned an elaborate prank for him. **Kirk Partello, Greg Nordin, and Nigel Masters** set up a mock tent site with **Luke Partello** and his friends. They gave them 5 cans of silly string, and told them to start acting drunk inside the tent about 12:30am. When Nigel went to make sure it was ready and give the go ahead, **Kinsey Anderson and Eric Erickson** were already there scoping out the tent, ready to bust the kids inside. When Nigel told Kinsey to go away, Kinsey was dumb founded and confused because it sounded SO REAL. Then Nigel called it in for Greg Nordin and Bou Gazley to respond. Bou was then asked to show Greg how to properly take down a rowdy campsite. Bou could not get anywhere with the rowdy tent. He finally had to threaten to open it himself after hearing those inside mocking him. As he opened the tent, the silly string appeared and covered Bou from head to toe! All of this was caught on video, can't wait to see it!!

From **Ben Chase**: A Plea for Purging had a great pit going, and in the midst of their pit, I noticed a dime on the floor. I leaned over to one of the pitters to tell him about the dime, which was overheard by the guy next to him. They both instantly dove for the dime that was in the middle of a mosh pit. Luckily, the song ended just before they did it. Goes to show how awesome crazy our HM crowd is!

**Chad Leidall** called over the radio late Friday night, asking for help at Main Stage. Apparently, the four little ponies had gotten loose. So, in true cowboy fashion, SRT responded and aided in collecting the group of wild ponies. Can't say we've ever had that happen before!

**Alex Schmidt** forgot many things at home, but the most important was his flashlight, a must for Overnight SRT. So, a Wal-Mart run was necessary. Of course Alex chooses the cheapest, biggest, most ghetto flashlight available. It cost \$3.50. The large battery that went inside of it was \$7.

From **Doug Nelson**: A man dressed like "Death" (in black from head to toe, hooded, with black material covering his face) entered the HM stage ... it wasn't unusual, people do that sort of thing there, so none of us were really shocked by it. After the show, I personally approached "Death" and started asking him questions. To stay in character, he spoke no words, but only shook his head. I questioned him further, guessed his gender, age, etc. He simply pulled up his sleeve and showed me a tattoo that read "No Fear". He then broke character and finally spoke, explaining that his whole intent was to communicate "No Fear in Death." I said to him, "I bet you're hot being dressed like that." He (ironically) said that he was dying. I suggested that he should go out to where EMS was handing out cold towels because that would really help cool him off. He agreed and off he went. Seconds later, I talked to **Leah Preble** about what happened and she said, "Wait! What? You sent Death to EMS? That's awesome!" We searched for a bit to find a photographer, but coming up empty we went outside to see what happens when Death goes to EMS. Leah was in the process of trying to arrange a picture opportunity when I noticed 2 members of EMS attempting to push their Gator into Death to run him over and finish him off. I explained to them that if they did that, they would be out of a job. They decided I was right, and stopped trying to "kill" Death. **Pastor Ray** took out his camera phone while Leah posed for the picture with Death and EMS. It was priceless.

Smitten with the "love bug", **Alyssa Riggs** wrote the stage manager Ben-O a love note saying how cute he was, and wanting him to read her a poem in his charming accent. She placed the note on his golf cart and waited patiently for his response. Sadly, the entire night SRT team had to hear about the story for 12 long hours.

**Lizzy Alexandr** was showing off his new texting skills using **Suzanne Anderson's** phone. He texted Suzanne's Mother saying, "I pierced my spleen." Suzanne's Mom wasn't quite as amused as Lizzy was...

As said earlier, **Todd Hensel** was sent to EMS due to a slight mishap during the "Juicemaker" at the HM Stage. While in the EMS tent, **Lizzy Alexandr** informed Todd he was NOT allowed to leave until released by a yellow shirt (doctors). As Doctor Who (yellow shirt), Nurse Betty (red shirt) and Todd discussed his release, Dr. Who asked for Todd's thoughts, and he said with confidence, "I'm good to go!" The Doc then asked Nurse Betty, and she suggested they start an IV and conduct a full rectal exam. Todd was unusually tightlipped about what happened next, BUT he was walking very "funny" that night back at the North 40!!

Saturday night during the last HM band (War of Ages), on their last song, **Matthew Mika** ran around and tapped **Mike Rodger and Leah Preble** to go ahead and start a security dance pit. Leah was SUPER stoked as we hadn't done a security dance pit the WHOLE festival. She gleefully jumped into the pit with her arm up ready to take any hits. Just when she thought it was safe she dropped her arm, getting ready to dance. At the same moment she saw the dancer in front of her swinging his arm right at her face. Having no time to defend herself, she got bludgeoned squarely on the bridge of the nose. Blood literally fountained (not an actual word but you get the picture) out of her nose and poured into her hands (graphic enough for ya?). EMS was amazing and responded immediately. As she was being rushed to the EMS tent she heard **Suzanne Anderson** holler from a passing golf cart "Oh no Leah! What did you doooo?!" More of the story from **Leah Preble**: It turned into a really cool moment when the kid who hit me actually came all the way over to the EMS tent and apologized profusely for accidentally hitting me. He felt so badly about hurting me. I recognized him from years past and remembered him being a difficult and somewhat troublesome kid to deal with the first couple years I worked Sonshine. He always seemed to be so angry. Last year and this year when I saw him in the pit he was so joyful. It was proof to me that God had changed his heart, and getting smashed in the face was my opportunity to chat with him for a bit and witness his heart change. THAT is awesome and totally worth a bloody injury to have the privilege to see how Jesus has worked in his life!!

Remember what I said about CP earlier? Well, it gets worse. **Page Henggeler** frantically called **Randy Quiggle** to a site and when he drove up they started chanting "Randy! Randy! Randy!" According to Randy, "I thought they were just some more worshippers at first, since that is a common occurrence at tent city". Wow. It turns out Page had won a card game (evidently part of CP's normal duties in tent city) and challenged Randy to one also and the "worshippers (or campers) were verbally encouraging me to take up the gauntlet Page had thrown down".

Hoping to capture the same magic found in the now-famous **Andy Sopher/Sarah Hayes** golf cart incident of 2010, **Michael Curran** carefully plotted out his plan to win **Anna Walter's** heart. First he would need to get behind the wheel of a golf cart and somehow lure Anna to ride in the passenger side. Having somehow accomplished this (why would ANYONE get in a cart driven by Curran!?), Curran did his best Sopher impression by driving like a drunken senior on his way home from Prom, and throwing poor Anna from the cart onto the gravel road. Bruised and bloodied, she did NOT have that look of "love at first sight" like **Sarah Hayes** had when she was thrown over the hood of the cart by Sopher. Instead, hers was one more of contempt, possibly because Mr. Curran was laughing instead of helping her check for broken bones.

**Jessica Sievers** and other Pit Crew watched as the lead singer for Children 18:3 was doing barbershop quality haircuts for members of other bands, even using clippers and the plastic smock! Last year was the massage therapy, this year haircuts. What will HM provide in 2013?

Not to be outdone by CP in terms of just being odd... we turn back to the beloved Pit Crew. Sitting around North 40 Cafe after HM ended Friday night, **Lizzy Alexandr** discovered an electric bug swatter thing. Naturally he turns it on and touches it! He then convinces **Ben Jaschke** (the rookie!) to touch it too. Then one by one it gets passed down the line so EVERYBODY can take turns zapping themselves with it... THAT'S what HM'ers do for fun late at night :)

It would be a TERRIBLE injustice if I forgot to thank those that helped provide food to the crew this year. **Ray Carlson** made some amazing deep fried tacos on Tuesday with the help of his family, **Char Coal, Justin Vazquez** and probably many others. The rest of Sonshine we were ALL treated to some AMAZING food at the North 40 under the incredible leadership of **Jeff Musolf and Gabe Hackmann**, and a team of crew too many to name that assisted them in this huge effort. We are so grateful for all you do to give the security crew a place to gather, eat, and enjoy each other's company! We owe you a huge debt of gratitude.

We all know that the HM crowd (and bands) can be very unique. This is no different. A lead singer of a band split the crowd and put an innocent beach ball in the middle. He then announced, "At the end of this song, whoever has the ball can have what they want from our merch booth. Now...GO!" **Jessica Sievers** reported that she *almost* felt bad for the defenseless beach ball, with all of the crazy wall of death, moshing, pit dancing enthusiasm directed toward it!

When the Red Cross Bloodmobile showed up this year, we were all reminded that it was NOT a good idea to give blood in the scorching heat. So imagine **Jeff Quiggle** and **Suzanne Anderson's** shock and severe annoyance when they found two CP girls (**Paige and Hannah**) sitting down outside of the Bloodmobile being bandaged! Suzanne leaped out of the golf cart and immediately started scolding the poor girls. Paige looked properly reprimanded, but Hannah

couldn't keep a straight face. They had wanted to prank someone, and Suzanne had walked right into their trap.

What another great year we had. I already miss you all, and reading this again reminds me how much I look forward to next year. You are such an amazing crew – I truly mean that, and I am so blessed to consider each of you my second family. If not for you Sonshine Security would NOT exist and would certainly not be the same. Next year we will say goodbye to a few veterans unable to join us and say hello to another crop of wide-eyed wonderful rookies. That's what makes Sonshine so great for many of us. It's not the music. It's the PEOPLE. Have a great and blessed year, join us at some of the many local shows we'll be doing, and we hope to see ALL of you back on the frontlines of Sonshine 2013!

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