



## *Mississippi Current*

October 2012



### *Captain's Log*

Rose Compton

As we go into the final quarter of the year, I'm reminded that we are NOT finished yet!! To date, we have shared bowling outings, dinosaurs, museums, Trekfest, picnics and Ghost hunts, but the fun does not end there. I'm thinking this final quarter will be our busiest one.

October has provided us with Ghost Hunting and Boo at the ZOO. Next; in November, we'll have Festival of Trees and SBI. December will bring on time spent with family and friends as we plan a Holiday pot-luck with a movie outing afterwards. (I'm almost looking forward to January and a little down time.... Almost.) Before I get too far ahead of the calendar, we need to cover this month's ship activities.

#### **In this issue;**

You'll get to meet some new members. I know everyone in SFC will be gracious in welcoming them.

We'll discuss Ghost Hunting. Can you really think better month to attempt this and on the 13<sup>th</sup> at that?

Then we'll regale you with a tale of Boo at the ZOO... what a fun day for the kiddies as well as some of us adults!



### *Words of Wisdom*

"Our neural pathways have become accustomed to your sensory input patterns." -- Riker, Quoting Data's definition of friendship (Time's Arrow, Part 1)



## Introductions

Recruits Alex & Katie Haugen



My name is **Alex Haugen** and I have just joined the USS Mighty Mississippi as a medical officer. I'm originally from Dubuque, Iowa and I've been living in the Davenport area (Buffalo to be exact) since 2006. I'm currently going to school at Trinity College for my nursing degree and working at Trinity Medical Center-Rock Island as a patient care tech in the surgery department. Before that I managed an Advance Auto Parts store.

I'm a huge sci-fi nerd and have a large collection of Star Wars and Star Trek paraphernalia. In my free time, I like to watch TV, go to movies and museums and hang out with friends. I'm also interested in modifying cars and racing. I used to auto-cross and road course race and I now enjoy going to rally races in Michigan and Missouri.



My name is **Katie Haugen** and I have just joined the Mighty M. as a communications officer. I'm originally from Dubuque, Iowa and I've been living in the Davenport area (Buffalo to be exact) since 2006. I graduated from Hawkeye College in Waterloo in 2006 with my medical laboratory technology degree and I've been working as a medical lab tech in Muscatine since then. I've since attended Muscatine Community College and received my Associates of Science degree in Biology and I'm now attending Allen College in Waterloo for my Bachelors of Health Sciences in medical laboratory science. In my free time I like to read and watch TV and movies.

My biggest past-time is reading and I feel deprived when my school work gets to be too much that I can't read for a while. I enjoy a lot of different genres of books, but currently I'm interested in teen novels about vampires. My favorite book is "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

We have been married since September of 2006. We have no children, but we do have 3 cats. Chewie Lynne is a 6.5-pound-7-year-old Lynx-point Siamese, who runs the house. Chewie got her name because she makes weird noises that sound like Chewbacca. Blazer is a 26-pound Maine Coon and he's about 5-years-old. He's the "big, dumb oaf" of the house. And our newest addition is Crookshanks Hermoine and she's a 12-pound Maine Coon mix. She's about a year old and looks just like Hermoine's cat, Crookshanks, from Harry Potter.





**Together** we enjoy traveling. When we go on vacations, we don't go to relax, **we go to do**. We are always on the go when we take trips because we want to see and do everything we can. This past year we went to Comic-Con Chicago for the first time and really enjoyed ourselves. Every year we go to Upper Peninsula Michigan for the Sno\*Drift rally and to the Mark Twain National Forest for the 100 Acre Wood Rally. We are official media photographers for both of those races.

Aside from us both being in school full-time and working full-time jobs, we also have a side-line photography business. We photograph anything from cars & racing to weddings, modeling, family portraits, senior portraits and boudoir sessions. Between all of our things we like to do, we stay very busy and we wouldn't have it any other way.

We enjoy being philanthropic and volunteering our time with the Quad Cities Race for the Cure and the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. We also sponsor a 7-year-old boy in Zambia through World Vision and periodically donate money to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Blood: Water Mission.



*New Frontier's*

### *Voyager 1 set to Leave Solar System*

Ensign Les Pullman

Launched on September 5, 1977, Voyager 1 is about to enter interstellar space. It will be the first man-made object to leave the solar system. Interstellar space begins somewhere between 11 billion to 14 billion miles from the sun. Voyager 1; at is writing; is about 11.3 billion miles out and traveling a million miles a day. That means it could be days, months or even years before it happens.

A relic of the early Space Age, Voyager 1 would seem primitive by today's standards. It has only 68 kilobytes of computer memory. Compare that to the smallest iPod today, the 8 gigabyte iPod Nano; which is 100,000 times more powerful and it also uses an 8 track tape recorder. How many people today know what that is? It contains a transmitter that's about as powerful as a refrigerator light bulb and its signal takes about 17 hours to travel back to Earth. Also on board are gold-plated discs containing greetings in 54 different languages. These discs also contain music, sounds and images from Earth.

How much longer can Voyager 1 last? It has enough electrical power to last until 2020. The team behind the spacecraft will then begin to turn off instruments to reduce power needs. The last instrument will likely be turned off in 2025. After that..... It will orbit the center of our galaxy forever.

Sources: *Foxnews.com*  
*CNET.com*  
*CSMonitor.com*



## *Community Involvement*

### **Boo At The Zoo**

Lt. Rose Compton

One of the major fund-raisers for our local zoo; Niabi, located in Coal Valley IL; is centered around Halloween. Several local businesses' sponsor the event, with volunteers and donating candy to pass out to the trick or treating children who visit the zoo this particular weekend in costume. The proceeds from the weekend go to enriching the lives and living conditions of the animals residing there. These projects include a new elephant habitat, upgrading the wolf enclosure and up-dating the lion's den.

This is the second year the USS Mighty Mississippi has been fortunate enough to participate. This is thanks to David Baker, the operations manager and our host KALA-FM radio, St. Ambrose University. We cooperate as well as 'operate' with several other Trek clubs in the area, some SFC and some SFI. We donate candy as well as volunteer our time, while we assist a community event. The truth is... WE just have a blast while we are there. WE HAVE FUN!!!

The days started out cold at 29 degrees, a nasty breeze and frost on the ground, but it warmed up to 50 by mid-afternoon. This year, Rose Compton and Les Pullman III worked the crowd on Saturday. Rose went dressed as a TNG Captain and Les dressed as Ernie from Sesame Street. Les was a big hit with the kids and most loved Ernie. He stole the show!! Sunday, Katie and Alex Haugen, dressed in Star Trek uniforms and braved the cold to treat the little ones. For Katie, Alex and Les, this was their first experience with 'Boo at the Zoo', and they report they all had FUN. Our candy totaled well over 8,000 pieces and we ran out!!! Gate totals this year, including adults hit well over 12,000 for the two day event.



Before the gates opened, we set up, shivered and stomped around in an effort to keep warm. Notice the frost on the grass in the pic. It was COLD!

Left to Right: Rose Compton (SFC-USS Mighty M.), Bill Van Brunt (SFC-USS Lobo Moline) and Dan Hill (SFI-USS Riverside)

#### **L to R: THE CAPTAINS**

Bill Van Brunt (SFC-USS Lobo Moline)

James Olson (SFC-SB 03)

Aaron Clark (SFI-USS Riverside)

Rose Compton (SFC- USS Mighty M.)



Just before gate opening .....the flood of children will begin...

*Captain Rose Compton and Ernie AKA: Les Pullman III (on Saturday) and Katie and Alex Haugen (on Sunday) prepare to entertain the little one.*



**REC-Dec**

## **Ghost Hunting**

Rose Compton

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, Rose Compton, Ed Ciccarone, and Les Pullman III decided to have some fun with the season and search for ghosts with the Rock Island Paranormal club. Our destination was Rock Island Arsenal and Historic Quarters One (1).

The Island was originally established in 1816 as a government site and is now the largest government-owned weapons manufacturing arsenal in the U.S. In 1862, during the Civil War, it was used as a Union Army prison camp for captured Confederate soldiers. A total of 1,964 Confederate prisoners and 125 Union guards are buried in the adjacent cemetery, including 49 members of the 108<sup>th</sup> Regiment of United States Colored Troops. Most of those buried there, died of disease and exposure. Surprisingly, a total of 41 Confederate soldiers successfully escaped the Island during the prisons existence.

Historic Quarters 1, also known as building 301, was the residence of the highest ranking officer on Rock Island Arsenal until 2006, when the government decided to stop using the building. General Thomas S. Rodman began work on the building in 1870. The work was completed by 1872 by Major Flagler. Over the years, many dignitaries and notable personalities stayed at the residence, including Charles Lindbergh in 1927 and King Carl XVI Gustav and Queen Silvia of Sweden in 1996.

The architectural style of the building is Italianate and it contains 51 rooms, covering 21,965 square feet. It is the second largest federal residence in the U.S. (Second only to the White House.)

Our evening began at 6:30 PM at the Arsenal Golf Course Clubhouse, where we were offered a cocktail, a gourmet meal and dessert. Entertainment throughout the meal consisted of a lecture on some of the history of the Island by Jodi Wesemann, a registrar at the Arsenal Museum. Rock Island Paranormal Club then regaled us with tales of recorded ‘events’ or ‘occurrences’ in Quarters 1.

Around 8 PM, we left our comfortable seating and headed to Quarters 1. This building is not typically open to the public, so we were expecting to be thrilled. We entered through the Kitchen area and were soon surprised to find that this was not a tour! They opened the doors and basically told us... go explore!! We all had flashlights ... so away we went.. to any rooms we wanted! Some of the rooms did have lighting but not all. The only thing that was off limits was the roof.

The woodwork and the detail that went into this building is phenomenal! 51 rooms, a full basement, (on an Island?? A basement??) 16 foot ceilings, Marble fireplaces, detail and craftsmanship you would have to see to believe. Door knobs and hinges made from left over brass from the Civil War and woodwork that certainly did not come off an assembly line!

We went for a paranormal experience and we were not disappointed! While we did not see any actual ghosts, spirits ran amuck in the history, craftsmanship and detail that went into making this building. From a personal point of view, I know I began to start every other sentence with... “Can you Imagine How”.....or.... “ Can you imagine making”...

Les and Ed were as impressed by Quarters One as I. I heard more than one (several) comment from both regarding “Would you look at this?” and “Can you imagine that?” So at this point, I will stop writing about and show you a few pictures. Granted the pics do NOT do the building justice, but they are the only ones we have.

(The pictures will be small but you can enlarge by using the + and – on the screen.)



Note: The November edition of “Mississippi Current” will be late due to attending SBI. Hope to see many of you there!

Comments can be sent to : [USS.MightyMississippi@gmail.com](mailto:USS.MightyMississippi@gmail.com)