

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

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HALF BUSY, HALF BETTER

The month of April was a little like two mini-months. The first half of the month was packed full of work, school, church and social activities. We started the month by enjoying General Conference weekend. For those who aren't aware, General Conference comes twice a year and involves eight to ten hours of church over the weekend instead of our normal three hours. What we give up in time, we gain in convenience: we are able to watch from home, can use TIVO to time shift, and don't need to wear church clothes. Angie tends to listen from the pool area, and Ken often works in the garage during the Saturday sessions. That weekend also brought a visit from Ken's former mission companion Ryan Farrer as well as our fourth consecutive Conference After Party.

We stayed busy for the next week or two, as Angie planned and ran a pack meeting (her last one as leader) and got sick. We celebrated Easter, including our annual visit from Aunt Sandy and the rest of her family. Ken worked extra hours on quarter end and finished our tax return as well as his parents'.

The second half of the month was much less busy, especially in comparison to the first half of the month. Marnie had two opportunities to perform (which she will write about later) and Ken and the boys went to the Fathers and Sons Campout. There were a few other church activities mixed in as well, but other than that it was pretty slow, at least when compared to the first 15 days. Ken and Angie still worked and the kids still went to school, but at least there weren't so many "extras" going on.

We look forward to the next few months. School will let out in late May (freeing up the kids' lives) and we will make trips to St. George, Maui, Cedar City, Salt Lake, and Yellowstone over the summer. We may still be busy, but being busy traveling is OK with us.



Marnie in East High gear for her hip-hop/cheer performance

marnie on drugs

We occasionally call Marnie "Marna." One night when Angie used the nickname, Marnie protested. "Mom, don't call me that. Call me Marijuana."

Angie just said no to drugs.

marnie on cats

Marnie definitely has cats on the brain. One week in Sacramento Meeting, Audrey Nelson mentioned in her talk that "Jesus often taught in parables."

Marnie looked up at Angie in confusion and asked, "Did she just say that Jesus taught in *hairballs?*"

marnie on utensils

When Marnie nonchalantly asked where the spatula was kept, Angie started to tell her, then reconsidered.

Asked why she needed a spatula, Marnie replied, "Because I just saw a fly." Bleh.

SUPERSTAR!

By Marnie

APRIL 21 & 24

My dance class did a performance of a High School Musical 3 song and I was one of the cheerleaders. We performed after school up on the stage, and there hundreds of people watching us. (P.S. I was a little bit scared).



The song we did was "Now or Never," which is the very first song in the movie. When they are doing basketball they are singing because they want to win because it is the last basketball game. My part was to do cheerleading and also sing, and I had pom-poms and a cute cheerleading costume that my friend's mom made. My Mom and Dad said I did a good job.

Later that week my other group (show choir) sang at Scottsdale Studios for an open mic night. My Mom went with me but Chad, Jeff and my Dad were at a campout.

We did two songs. First was "Barking at the Moon," which is in the movie *Bolt*, and it's country music (Miley Cyrus sings it in the movie!). Second was "Always Love You." That song is from Miss Piggy singing to Kermit. My Mom thought this was our best performance of all of them, but we have one more left in May.

FATHERS & SONS

By Jeff

APRIL 24-25

Near the end of April, my Dad, Chad, and I went to the Ward Fathers & Sons Campout. We had to make a couple of stops on the way there for firewood and an oil filter because someone had lost his filter while he was coming up the mountain. Finally we got there and it was really dark, but we unpacked and found a good place for the tent, and then set that up.

We went by the campfire and roasted marshmallows and made s'mores. The Bishop led a short campfire program where we talked about going on missions (not secret agent missions, though those would be awesome). The dads talked about where they went on their missions millions of years ago when dinosaurs ruled the earth.

After that we went to the tent and talked about scout stuff as we fell asleep. Dad made me tell all I knew about photosynthesis and then taught me a little more because we were working on the Forester Activity Badge.

The next day when we got home we went on a hunt for tree stumps. I was the one who finally remembered this one, which is near my school. To finish the Forester badge, we made a video with me showing the rings and features of the tree stump.



Jeff's pulling a face while explaining the tree trunk

SUPER EXCITING

By Chad

Not much happened in April, so here's a list of the few things that did happen:

- I got several new games for the new PS3: Quantum of Solace (****), Star Wars Force Unleashed (***), Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion (**** - but should be even higher than that), and Mortal Kombat vs. DC Universe (***½).
- I ate a banana in one bite.
- I had AIMS testing. Yech.
- I moved up to Varsity Scouts, but kept attending regular Scouts because they were meeting weekly.
- One day, Dylan and I were playing Mortal Kombat when he got the idea to text some friends (Kaitlyn & Ivy), telling them to jump over the wall into the backyard to scare me. They did, and Jeff and I were very startled. Jeffrey thought it was hilarious.
- We had a Stake Court of Honor where I received a few more merit badges I had earned over the last few months: Citizenship in the Community, Personal Management, Communications, and Geology.

SPRING PORTRAITS



Jeff's spring portrait from school

Marnie was missed out because she was sick that day

No spring portraits at the Middle School

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



I really liked this painting of a red rock formation. The tiny white smudge over the right is the moon. It was hard to get the shadows and colors right, but I was pleased with the outcome.



This painting of Havasu Falls was done mostly with a wet canvas, and entirely with a palette knife. The waterfall was tough, but I liked the hazy tree at the top of it.

...AND KEYBOARD

- Faith vs. Doubt
- Scripture Study: What's Expedient?
- Scripture Study: The Joy of My Countenance
- More Christ at Church

Ken also did a very popular post on March 31st called *Help Wanted: Predicting the Next Apostle*. He predicted that Neil Anderson would be the next apostle chosen, and he was right!

MEDIA ROUNDUP

MOVIES

Duplicity

A stylish movie about love, betrayal, and corporate espionage.

Ken ★★★

Angie ★★★

Monsters vs. Aliens

A stylish animated movie about love, betrayal, and being dumped by a 50 foot tall woman on live television (spoiler alert).

Ken ★★★½

Angie ★★★½

Chad way too cool to see this movie

Jeff ★★★½

Marnie ★★★★★, I mean a thousand



BOOKS

Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs

Angie ★★★

Another memoir in which an author's alternately horrid and weird childhood is retold.

David O. McKay and the Rise of Modern

Mormonism by Gregory A. Prince & William Robert Wright

Angie ★★★★★

An outstanding read about one of the most intriguing leaders of the Mormon church and what makes the church tick at the highest levels.

MUSIC

Chad picked out some new music for his birthday that didn't arrive until April:

Angels & Airwaves: We Don't Need To Whisper

10 Years: Division

10 Years: The Autumn Effect

Boxcar Racer: Box Car Racer

Ashes Divide: Keep Telling Myself It's Alright

RANDOM NOTES

- Between Saturday sessions of Conference we welcomed a visit from Ryan Farrer, Ken's former mission companion, and his two oldest kids, Brad and Madison.
- The semi-annual General Conference After Party was held at the Reinsteins' house this time, where we were joined by the McKays, Ransils, Richards, and Harrigans.
- At the dinosaur-themed Pack Meeting, Angie attempted to teach Cub Scouts how to fold origami dinos (she had learned on YouTube). Some struggled to keep up, prompting Jaren Jensen to propose, "Next month maybe we can teach them calculus."
- Unwilling to admit she was sick, Angie insisted that she was suffering from hayfever. Either way she was miserable, and finally took a sick day right after Easter.
- We attended the ward break the fast dinner after completing a relay-style 40-day fast.
- Angie was alarmed watched a man in a hoodie walk up to the front door and seemingly try the handle she had just locked moments before. She called to report the incident to the police who came by to check things out. The police pointed out that he had left a flyer on the door. However, they were suspicious enough (or bored enough) to hang around the neighborhood for a while. Was he an innocent, hoodie-wearing (in 100 degree weather) flyer man or an insidious opportunist? We may never know.
- After discussing several ideas for a summer vacation, we finally booked an escape to Maui. Let the countdown begin!
- Angie attended Enrichment Night, and Ken came to help run child care along with seven other men. The only children present were their own, so they all packed up their kids and went home early.
- We bought Subway on April 27 to help support *Chuck* being renewed for its third season.
- Ken's department volunteered sorting medical supplies for Operation Cure. Ken was able to put his past work experience on display as he deftly operated a hand truck and forklift. The rest of the accountants were either impressed or confused about where he learned such skills. Maybe both.