

# Halfway there...

My dear daughters again gave me a 1-2 punch. This was when my oldest got married and my second youngest graduated from High School. My Second youngest is getting married in 2 weeks and my youngest graduated high school today. So, as a family we are halfway there. It has been an interesting 3 years. I was actually reminded today that it is a 1-2-3 punch since both this year and in 2006 I had daughters graduating from the community college. Since they got early graduation gifts for college (they both 'needed' laptops), they didn't really want to do much for the college graduations. I'm grateful for that, but I should recognize that they both got their degrees.

Well the graduation portion of this is finished except for a party or two. It is interesting how the students stagger their parties from weekend to weekend.

The graduation was the easy event of the year. My youngest was able to give a short speech as one of 4 students with perfect 4.0 grade points. That is out of less than 100 young adults. (Yes, this is a small rural school.) It was interesting to hear what the students found to be important in their 4 years of high school. It is also interesting as an adult to realize that what they think is important now may not remain that way in the coming years. They get to experience a greater freedom and less free time as they grow into the adult world.

So here are my best wishes to all the graduates of 2009.

One final thought, the wedding dress is finished. That is a full 2 weeks before the wedding day.

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# Things I've noticed...

I've been living on this earth for a bit over 50 years now, and I've noticed a thing or two. Some of this has to do with normal aging, but some is just things I've noticed over the years.

1) I've always liked spicy food, but I've come to the realization that it doesn't like me. I won't go into all the symptoms, but I'm glad modern medicine has kept up with my eating habits. Tums and Roloids just don't cut it anymore. Thank goodness for Zantac... Maybe the medicine world will keep up with me as I get older year after year.

2) For some strange reason I just can't sit in the lotus position as long. My knees and ankles rebel at the thought. I'm still limber enough to flex, but my body doesn't like the same position, any position for very long. At least I'm getting my exercise by moving around. No, I can't touch my toes now, but I couldn't in high school, long legs, short arms (really).

3) The old eyes just don't focus as well. Oh well, I guess that's why they make glasses. What is funny is that I used to be able to focus on distant object while wearing my reading glasses. That takes some doing now, but gives me a headache if I do it to long.

4) People respond better if you are nice to them. People respond quicker if you are loud and obnoxious. People give you strange looks if you sound like Stitch or Bullwinkle. ☐

5) Friends are worth their weight in gold. If you could convert them to gold, would you choose heavier friends?

6) Being alone is not the worse thing in the world. When you know what true companionship is, and you are now alone is in the top 10 of the worse things.

7) Tomorrow doesn't always come, so make use of your time today. See the first part of number 5, it makes it easier to use your time today with friends.

8) I'm glad they never developed a way to get smell over TV. Some of the shows are real stinkers.

9) Sunsets should be time to reflect on the day. Sunrises should be a time to plan the day. Rest in between them, you may need it.

10) Sleep is overrated until you don't get enough of it.

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## **All I could think was WOW!**

This past weekend I was fortunate enough to see my daughter in her wedding gown. The gown was not quite finished, but she was very beautiful in it. As a father, I am slightly biased when it comes to how beautiful I think my daughter is, but I'm sure most will agree when they see her on her wedding day.

The exceptional part of this, is that the gown is being made by my oldest daughter. We all like to tease her on how long it takes her to finish this project or that project, but we don't usually complain about the work done. The gown looks to be almost a work of art. I'll know more when it is finished.

Well this is the third wedding out of four daughters. I do hope the youngest waits a few years (more than 2+). My oldest and her husband are celebrating their 3rd anniversary tomorrow, so in just over a 3 year span, I've been or will be the father of 3 brides. I'm wondering if they can think of any other way to torment me. ☐

Count down in earnest.

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# Interesting phone conversation...

and results.

My 2nd daughter lives in Florida and is trying to make it to Ohio for her sister's wedding. The cost of round trip tickets have gone up recently. She called today to see if she could get a little assistance from me for the tickets. Well, we started talking about the ticket prices she found, and layovers here or there. Found out that the major cost of the tickets was always the return flight to Florida.

So I realize it may cost a bit more, but I offered to drive her back down to Fla. This way I get to spend more time with my daughter and I get to see my son-in-law. He can't make it to the wedding since he just started a new job and does not have any time off accumulated yet. 2 birds, 1 stone. I like that.

Now there are a few hickups in the plan. I was planning on going with some friends to a Cubs/Tigers game. No can do. I'll be on my way to Florida. Sorry Taylhis and Admin... I will be spending a bit of cash to get the truck ready to go to Florida. I'm thinking I will need at least the a pair of tires. The front tires are in need of replacement. Not bad for driving short distances, but I'm not sure I would trust them for 8 to 12 hours of non-stop driving. Then of course there are the general problems with taking care of the animals while we are gone, but I've worked that out before.

I'm really looking forward to getting some time with the Florida family. Can't wait. I don't even have to schedule any extra vacation, it is already taken care of for the wedding.

More plans and things to do, but that is the fun of life...  
Right?

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## Things that make me go HMMM...

I was scanning the web site for a local paper, and came across a picture of a bunch of school kids releasing balloons into the air. I'm sure they are hoping that some people would find them and send the cards back to the school. This has been an interesting human interest activity for kids. But recently this sort of activity is frowned on because of the problems those pesky balloons can do in the 'wild'. We've all heard stories about various animals eating and choking on the balloons. All well and good, less flights of balloons... But the thing that made me go HMMM was the fact that the school was celebrating the successful campaign of recycling milk cartons. Hmmm, adding to environment problems after helping the environment...

Second thing that made me go HMMM, is our local paper's web site. I would love to give you the link for the article I read, but I don't think it is there anymore. If it is there, you need a subscription to read the full article. Because of this tedious fact, I won't even give the name of the paper. It looks like with a subscription you can get a full 30 day archive!!! (sarcasm here) Anyway, because of the unfriendly atmosphere, I won't link to the site. No free advertising from me. It would be in the paper's best interest to allow access to at least the community announcements. But no, that isn't happening. Oh well, it isn't my paper.

And finally an [article from CNN](#). Apparently Pete Rose (the guy banned from Baseball for life) thinks that Alex Rodriguez

deserves a hall of fame nod. Since he is banned, why is anyone asking him? I'm sure he thinks he deserves a spot in the Hall too. Not that A-Rod doesn't, but since he hasn't been retired for 5 years, isn't it a bit early to start thinking of that? Hmm..

Any others?

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## Space, the final frontier

These are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise...

In 1966 the voyages of the Enterprise started. I was only a lad then, but I was glued to the set for 1 hour each week. Then this wonderful show went into syndication. For a time it was on every afternoon. It was on weekends. There were Star Trek marathons on the weekends. Then a cartoon, some movies, the Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, Voyager and Enterprise. Finally, this past weekend, another movie was released.

While I like Star Trek, I would not consider myself a die hard fan. After the initial run of Star Trek, I was no longer glued to the set. If it was on, and I happened to find it, I would watch. I wouldn't go out of my way for it. Marriage, family and friends became more important than Trek. So you didn't find me waiting for the midnight showing of this movie. I did want to see it on the big screen, with full sound and comfortable chairs. So I had some time available last Saturday, and I was near the multi-plex.

For those who don't know, this movie goes back to the beginning of Star Trek. It starts with James T. Kirks birth and quickly goes to his first time on the Enterprise. I found the characters plausible for the Star Trek Universe and the

story line seemed to be well thought out. Overall a good movie. Lots of action, reasonable storyline and good characters. Even for the non Trek fan, this is a good Sci-Fi action movie.

More than that I can't say, without giving the whole story away. So if you don't want any spoilers stop reading now.....

## **S P O I L E R S**

This started out as a standard Trek time travel movie/story. Someone goes back in time and changes the future of our intrepid Enterprise heroes. Kirk's father dies in the very beginning of the show, making his upbringing quite a bit different than the normal Trek time line. In the TV shows and the movies, the crew of the Enterprise usually would go back in time to fix something (bring back whales, prevent a star from exploding, get the pilot back to his plane ect.). This time the people that did the time traveling either end up dead or staying in the future. Hmmm, does that screw up the time continuum? You bet...

This whole movie was one big screw up of the Trek time line. As of this movie, almost anything you thought you knew about Star Trek has been thrown out the window. They started fresh folks. Let's see if I can touch on the basics.

Kirk was still an conceited, womanizing, know-it-all jerk (some things never change), but wow, Spock was made captain of the Enterprise before Kirk was. Kirk was marooned on a planet by Spock! He wasn't even supposed to be on the Enterprise, he was under suspension for cheating on a test. Hmmm, he didn't start out nearly as well in this 'reality'.

Spock, still logical, still had problems as a child on Vulcan, but his choice is a bit different. It seems he chose to be a bit more human. In this show he had a human girlfriend!!! I think that is a good thing, since Vulcan was destroyed, he can never go back during Pon Far. He may need that girl friend..

Except now there are two Spocks in the universe. Old Spock who remembers all the stuff that isn't anymore, and the new Spock who doesn't.

Uhura, still bright, competent and beautiful, and she is Spock's love interest!!!! Hmmm and in the 60's the first inter-racial kiss between Uhura and Kirk was a major deal on TV.

I'm not sure that Dr. McCoy changed at all. This character seemed immune to the changes in the time line.

Scotty, well he was an engineer on some out of the way Ice World. I don't recall enough of his history to know if this was happened or he was down on his luck too.

Chekov and Sulu, well Chekov wasn't in the first season of Star Trek in 1966 (joined the crew in 1967) and Sulu was the pilot of the ship, so something changed here...

One final question... How the heck did everyone know about the Romulans? I seem to remember the first time they appeared, and everyone on the Enterprise was surprised they looked like Vulcans. Hmm something really changed in the time line. It seems the Federation knew about Romulans and the similarity to Vulcans before Kirk was born and before the random act of time travel that changed everything. Why didn't the crew of the Enterprise know it? Hmmm?

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## **This and that, and something else**

The Graduation and Wedding days are fast approaching. There

was an award banquet, and during the weekend one of my daughter's wedding showers. Since my oldest threw the shindig, I got to drive my youngest to the party. I was supposed to have a day playing laser tag, but that was canceled. Too bad.

I've been a bit tired the past couple of weeks. Sometimes I wonder why. Then I think again and I'm wondering how I can spend as many hours awake as I do. Maybe things will so down, or not.

I have been able to get some 'down time' in. I've seen a couple of movies and was able to see the current play at WCCT. I've been listening to some ball games. I spent some time with friends and family. That is all good.

I've read that taylhis will be taking a bit of a blogging break, I guess I've been doing the same thing. I do want to keep some of my readers up to date on the various events with my girls, so I have some things I will need to blog about. So maybe not a total break. Star Trek review coming up...

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## **Mutants attack – Movie review with spoilers...**

Yes, I saw the new X-Men movie ([X-Men Origins: Wolverine](#)) on the first day it opened. For you fans of comic books and haven't seen the movie yet, I suggest looking at this as one of Marvel alternate universes. If you're looking for comic book continuity, you won't find it. The names have been kept the same, but the characters may be different.

That being said, I really enjoyed this movie (see other movie reviews for disclaimers on my liking this type of movie). And

I have more than a few reasons

1) Character setup – In a very short time you were able to ‘know’ the characters involved. The back story was handled quickly and gave enough information for the rest of the film. I’m sure that most of this is because we were introduced to this character and the class of characters in the earlier X-Men films, but this is how all comic book movies should be done. Make sure the audience knows the driving force behind the character, and then get to the guts of the movie. People go to these movies to see the action and character interaction, without that, the comic book movies fall short.

2) For a comic book setting, the actions were believable. Yes, if we had those powers, those things could be done. I didn’t see much that was unbelievable from the aspect of what ‘powers’ the characters were given by the script writers.

3) Action sequences were very good, and well placed. The general rule was relax, action, relax and then more action. This kept the movie flowing. The action sequences fit in with the story line developed in those time of relaxing. Also there was a lot of humor in the show. Very important to have that in a comic book movie, in my view.

Spoilers-- Stop reading now if you haven’t seen the movie and might want to \_\_\_\_\_

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This movie was a set before the other X-Men movies, and my biggest complaint is that some of the things that should have been kept consistent between the shows. While I liked the actor that portrayed Saber Tooth, he did not match the menacing form of Taylor Mane in the first X-Men movie. I think they could have used some makeup to get a better match. I also

had a problem with Cyclops being captured. From conversation in the first X-Men Movie, Xavier found him soon after he had his optic blasts. He would not have been in a normal school, he would have been in Xavier's institute. Nitpicking here, but I would have assumed some continuity between the movies. I don't think I would have minded as much, but they did go through a lot of trouble to get Logan his leather jacket, and signature look. I'm sure if I see this show again, I will find more.

Another nitpick and I'm sure it was done to keep the PG-13 rating, but there was never any blood on weapons or blades used to stab people. Even with advanced healing, this gave the movie a strange look. I know a comic book, but I found it a bit strange.

I did find the way that Weapon X was able to convince Logan to get the Adamantium fused was very good story telling. I was not shocked when his wife/girlfriend was killed, but I was shocked to find out it was all a setup and she was working for the project. Yes, in the movie Stryker was a very sick individual. I think even worse in this movie than in X2. A very sick, twisted mind. Other X-movies indicated that Xavier and Magneto knew about the Weapon X program, but it didn't seem lie it in this movie (another continuity problem?) .

Other characters. Well I have a lot more to say on this, so for another time

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## **In a galaxy far far away...**

Well, I guess I haven't really been that far away but it sometimes seems that way. I've done nothing as energetic as pulling carpet and painting. I haven't tried out for any

musicals (never will). I've just been dealing with daughters. Daughter getting married, daughter in her senior year, just being a dad.

I did take some time off to be with friends. A little help here (have truck will haul part 3 ☐ ), a little help there (moral support during tryouts), and that was that.

I really didn't have much to say or blog about. Except for two movies I was able to see. I may do some full write-ups later. Full of spoiler alerts.

First bridal shower for 3rd daughter seemed to go off without a hitch. I dropped off some food, and the youngest daughter, and then made my self scarce for a few hours. I was going to spend some time with my son-in-law, but since he had to work, I spent the afternoon with my father-in-law. S's parents are good people, and they've kept me as part of their family. Another one of those 'family we choose' situations. Sometimes we get lucky.

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## Can you dance.

I think I will have to admit this video shows someone who can dance better than I do. It doesn't really take a lot.

[Dancing Parrot](#)

I thought I knew how to embed a video, but I can't seem to make it work. Oh well, it is worth the time to click on it.