

Frankly Plank

By Duane Plank

Back in town and typing better than ever. I hope. Spent a good part of the last week camping and fishing and fooling around in the Eastern Sierras. Love the camping thing. Rent a mini-van, rent a trailer, board the dogs, drive 300 or so miles up the 395, pack a bunch of stuff, unpack a bunch of stuff.

The vacation was great, but it's always nice to return to the mansion. And a shower. May have neglected to shower too often while on the hiatus. Definitely forgot to bring a toothbrush. Had multiple opportunities to buy said toothbrush. Leave it at that.

Because of the vacation, you will only be reading one of the *Plank* columns this week. Cuz I only took the time to write one column this week. Back with three must-read soliloquies next Thursday.

But I would be remiss if I didn't mention a "Letter to the Editor" that appeared last week. Some guy claiming to be a Dr. penned it. Doctor of what, who knows? Said some really caustic things about the *Political Penguin* and *Plank*.

Anyway, my feelings were really, really hurt, because I really, really value the opinions of a doctor. More on this subject next week in the *PP*, but just wanted my readers to know that I am not running scared from the good doc's thoughts. I had the week off. Somewhat. Glad, oh so glad, to be back in the South Bay.

Y'all know that I love my research, hanging out, watching games with the fans, signing autographs. Well, gotta make a recent exception. Spent a challenging hour-and-a-half sandwiched between two Yankee fans, who were so dang obsessed with a recent game against the Red Sox, one of 162, that they tarnished my night out. And I rarely get out.

Had seen one of the dudes fall off of his chair during another Yankee/Sox series, so I

knew that he was intense. But c'mon, guys. Talking over and around me is okay. People seem to do that all the time. But it's August, fellas, and you know that the Yankees will get their butts kicked by the Angels if the two teams should meet in the playoffs. Much like all Halo fans dread facing the Red Sox in the postseason. For the same reason.

Good news on that front, as I pen this gem switching back-and-forth on the 200-inch plasma adorning the TV wall in my front room on a Sunday afternoon. The Sox just dropped behind the Texas Rangers in the wild-card race. And they ain't going to catch the Yankees for the division, so if the playoffs were to start today, which is a bunch of hooey because they don't start today, the Halos would host the Detroit Tigers in the first round of the AL playoffs. With the Chowderheads watching from the sidelines.

Oh good, Halo closer Brian Tito Fuentes just blew another ninth-inning save, but my guys clawed back to score nine runs in the 13th to edge the Orioles 17-8. And wasting more time watching TV, Tiger Woods just fell a stroke behind Y.E. Yang after 14 holes in the final golf major of the year, the PGA Championship. Call me whatever at 3 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon, but I am rooting for Yang to win out.

If you are lucky enough to peruse this gem on Thursday and run into *Dodger Girl*, pay your respects cuz the column fave is turning 29 or so today, and deserves a birthday shout out (or shot) or two, cuz she took good care of *FP* and the wife during our ribald birthday weeks. She may try to rightfully string out this b-day thing for the month, but there is nothing wrong with that, right? We get away with whatever we can, right? I know I do.

Okay, so the camping/fishing trip has ended

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Community Briefs

Boy Scouting's Highest Honor



Scott Bradley Craig



Matthew Donahue



Ryan Donahue



Will Usher



Chris Warner

FIVE YOUNG MEN FROM EL SEGUNDO BOY SCOUT TROOP 762 HAVE ATTAINED THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

Provided by Lily Craig

Scott Bradley Craig earned his Eagle rank in September 2007 at the age of 17. His service project involved the planning, organization and direction required to build raised garden beds for the El Segundo Preschool providing an outdoor, hands-on learning environment for the students. Scott and his volunteers logged 135 hours to complete the project.

Scott just completed his sophomore year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, majoring in Industrial Engineering and is currently working as an Engineering Intern at the Tesoro Refinery.

He is the son of Lily Craig of El Segundo and Steve Craig of Manhattan Beach.

Matthew Donahue earned his Eagle rank in November of 2007 at the age of 17. His service project involved raising funds and the painting and refurbishing of the El Camino College Fire Academy's five-story training tower and kitchen facility.

Matthew is entering his sophomore year at El Camino College majoring in Real Estate and Computer Science. He is the son of Martin and Nancy Donahue of Torrance

Ryan Donahue earned his Eagle rank on October 2008, at the age of 15. His service project involved raising funds to beautify Towers Elementary School in Torrance. He painted a mural with the school's mascot and a welcoming message on the block wall entrance. He also refurbished and painted crosswalks, curbing, classroom doors, backpack shelves and picnic tables.

Ryan is entering his junior year at West High School in Torrance.

He is the youngest son of Martin and Nancy Donahue of Torrance.

Will Usher earned his Eagle rank in November of 2008. His project was to refinish patio furniture at the Star House in Torrance.

He graduated from El Segundo High School in June of 2009 and is the son of Anne Mason and Michael Usher of El Segundo.

Chris Warner earned his Eagle rank in March of 2009. His project involved raising money with a car wash and recycling, and then cleaning, providing desks and helping organize the Friends of Animals Shelter in Los Angeles. Chris also gathered donations of blankets, towels and other items the animal shelter needed.

He is the youngest son of Brad and Julie Warner of El Segundo. •

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GUEST SPEAKER:

Robert Watkins, IV, M.D.
Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon

Date:

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Time:

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Registration

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Presentation, Q&A

Location:

Radisson Hotel Los Angeles Westside
6161 West Centinela Avenue
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