



Ken & Roberta Williams join the Space Quest 3 commentary with Scott Murphy & Mark Crowe 6/3/12 chat on www.twitch.tv/andromedaguys.

On Sunday, June 6, 2012, Scott Murphy & Mark Crowe narrated a live commentary of Space Quest 3, answering questions from fans that were posted in a chat room.

Space Quest 3 commentary with Scott Murphy & Mark Crowe 6/3/12

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The session started (EST) at 2:05 p.m. and ended at 4:47 p.m. At 3:11 p.m., a user by the name of **caboken** posted to the chat room claiming to be **Ken Williams**. After a bit of a back and forth (and snarky comments), the Two Guys from Andromeda were eventually satisfied that it was indeed **Ken Williams**. The chat room was eventually visited by **Roberta Williams**.

Other "Notables" Present: **Ken Allen** and **Chris Pope**.

Note: This text was furiously transcribed by **dented1620** and **David6858** (we did the best job we could but there might be gaps!). We have removed comments from users that were not directly referenced by the above (sorry, including everybody would mean this a 100 page document!). Additionally, **Scott Murphy**, **Mark Crowe**, and **Chris Pope** were *verbally* responding to **caboken**'s written text.

Start: 3:11 p.m.

caboken: Hi guys! (Ken Williams here.. just watching the show ... bringing back a lot of great memories)!

Scott Murphy: caboken? Okay Ken, prove to me it's you!

Mark Crowe: [Laughing] Yeah...

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TWO GUYS FROM ANDROMEDA

Scott Murphy
Mark Crowe
Creators of the Space Quest Series



Scott Murphy: There are things only you and I know.

caboken: I know a lot of stories I can't tell!

Scott Murphy: Ken never uses exclamation points.

Ken Allen: Hi Boss.

caboken: It is really me .. but, not sure how to prove it .. old address was Mudge Ranch, currently in Seattle..

r1cola: wheres 'Berta?

caboken: She is walking the dogs.

Chris Pope: Alright, I'm going to start it back up... start the music and here we go. This is the MT-32.

Mark Crowe: [Referencing the Fester Blatz Music] I love this music.

Chris Pope: Will the real slim shady please stand up.

Scott Murphy: [laughing] The real slim shady.

Mark Crowe: Well then ask caboken something only Ken would know, Scott.

Scott Murphy: I could do that but it would incriminate both of us.

caboken: Is that Supertramp?

slipgate0: Are you a bonafide genius, Caboken?

caboken: Slipgate, not I
» It is really me ..

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Scott Murphy: The real Ken would know that is Supertramp! Ken knew about Bob way before us because Bob approached Ken.

caboken: Bob Siebenberg! (just remembered that)

Chris Pope: So I think I have confirmation that this is really Ken Williams, according to Ben.

Mark Crowe: Ken, what was the name of your housekeeper in Oakhurst? And why doesn't she like me.

caboken: I don't remember.. Doris? I remember it was a couple .. they were kind of strange
» Lots of parties at my house
» I had the raquetball court

Scott Murphy: Well, you know what? You're starting to convince me.

Chris Pope: Lots of parties at my house. Guys, I think you're busted. That's Ken.

Scott Murphy and Mark Crowe: We're busted!

Scott Murphy: It's Ken! Doris, that was the name.

Mark Crowe: I'm surprised you remembered that.

Scott Murphy: Well, if it isn't Ken it's impressive.

Chris Pope: Either that or Ken's stalker.

Scott Murphy: We are glad to have you.

Mark Crowe: Thanks for stopping by.

Scott Murphy: We couldn't have done these things without you, man. And we appreciate all the enthusiasm you showed us and for saying "Okay, make a map"!

Ken Williams: Don't let me sidetrack the show.. keep doing it

Ken Allen: Hi Boss, your music guy here

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Ken Williams: OK .. didn't mean to distract .. Hi Mark! (I've swapped a few emails with Scott .. and did get your email)

Ken Williams: Space Quest is awesome .. I want the [Kickstarter](#) to win, so I can play the game

thezombiepug: Ken, please know we want Roberta to do another game too!

deepshoter: get roberta to say something

Ken Williams: (Roberta not here now) .. walking the dogs

Dented1620: Caboken does she walk the dogs in Daventry?

Ken Williams: Downtown seattle (daventry would be safer)

Scott Murphy: I remember when ken taught me how to do the coding for the slot machine in Space Quest 1. I was trying to do it the stupidest way and he said "no, just do this and this" and I was like "duh"! Learning to program from Ken was like drinking from a fire hose because of his knowledge.

If Ken can't remember who drew the cover for Hi-Res Football, then that isn't him probably because he has so many details in the head about the history of his company.

Ken Williams: Roberta's mom.

Scott Murphy: Roberta's mom, wow! I still have things like High-Res Soccer, still in its shrink-wrap.

Pcj_: Scott just admitted to drinking from ken's fire hose!

Scott Murphy: Yes I did admit to drinking from ken's fire hose. You guys are some really sick suckers.

In all seriousness, when I say that about Ken I mean that in the highest form of flattery. Ken was way up here, and I was always down here as far as knowledge, and he'd tell me about stuff and if I gleaned a little bit from it I was thrilled. Some of it went over my head, and some of went around.

How much did you sleep, 4 hours a night? You were always just going and going...

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Ken Allen: [Referencing the Monolith Burger Music] wow » more cowbell

Ken Williams: You were a very fast learner!

Ken Williams: Sleep!?...what's that?

Scott Murphy: I know there were some nights when you didn't get much of that, but the thing is you kept the doors open and made sure the cheques got cashed and you

did the best that you could in the circumstances and we are all grateful for that.

Robbo008: So Ken was a good boss?

Ken Allen: KW how did you attract so much great talent to move to Oakhurst?

Ken Williams: MrKenAllen .. are you "the" Ken Allen? .. as in music Ken? .. Sierra had an amazing reputation .. which made it where people wanted to be.

Ken Allen: yes, Ken "your music pal" Allen

Dsmith478: we got sierra big dogs here among us!

Ken Williams: Grin .. I didn't mean to derail the conversation .. I'll be quiet... It's Scott and Mark's show

Scott Murphy: It's okay Ken! We're glad to have you here, man.

Mark Crowe: Yeah, absolutely! It's a real treat. Thanks. Appreciate that you are still here.

Ken Williams: (thank you)

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Scott Murphy: So was Ken a good boss? Ken had some very strong points. And just like all bosses, there are always going to be times where you don't always feel like they were but in retrospect you have to look at the big picture. I'm sarcastic about things and I make fun of Sierra and stuff like that. It sounds like I'm sucking up because this might possibly be the real Ken and it sounds like it is but the fact of the matter is without Ken we wouldn't be here doing this guys.

Chris Pope: [Referencing Astro Chicken] You could play the game without decoding the message. Save the 2 Guys from Andromeda without even knowing why you were doing that.

Mark Crowe: Yeah, we glossed over a few details!

Scott Murphy: The interesting thing is that QA never picked up on this either. Trying to QA these games was a bear. We had a couple of beta testers out there too and nobody picked up on it until we had shipped hundreds of thousands of copies. And had another hundred thousand pirated!

Ken Allen: Our QA peeps were awesome

Mark Crowe: Hey Ken, I've always wanted to ask you as I never got the back-story, but what brought you to Oakhurst to begin with? Why did you move Sierra to Oakhurst?

Ken Williams: We wanted to go to the woods to raise our kids.. thought it would be better for them than LA

Mark Crowe: That sounds familiar!

Scott Murphy: I'm more convinced than ever that this is the real Ken Williams speaking.

Ken Williams: However.. it didnt work out as planned .. Oakhurst had "issues" ...

Scott Murphy: Yeah, Oakhurst had issues! We had a different address because Oakhurst couldn't handle our mail as I recall.

Ken Williams: I think overall it was bad for the kids..

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Scott Murphy: Overall it was bad for the Kids? Aww, man! That's too bad. In a way the kids were kind of remote but there were some good things about being out of L.A.

Ken Williams: Right..

Chris Pope: Ken, it would be great if you could come to our wrap party in Oakhurst.

Mark Crowe: Absolutely, that would be awesome. Gonna have some brown bag beers in front of the Talking Bear!

Scott Murphy: Yeah, we are thinking of doing some hobo shots in front of the talking bear.

Ken Williams: I leave for Turkey on Wednesday.

Scott Murphy: I'm cool with turkey, I've got a passport.

Mark Crowe: Party's going to turkey.

Scott Murphy: Going on a world tour; sailing across the Atlantic with Ken and Roberta on his Nordhavn!

Ken Williams: www.kensblog.com .. I'm circumnavigating a boat .. my second 15 min of fame.. doing lots of boating these days.. (and books on boating)

Mark Crowe: We'll, I've always wanted to visit a Turkish prison! Sounds like good times.

Scott Murphy: What?! Well I guess they definitely don't leave you bored and the concierge service is wonderful.

Mark Crowe: I watched Midnight Express a couple weeks ago and I guess that was running through my head.

Scott Murphy: Oh god. That makes part of me want to go up inside me.

Mark Crowe: Oh, Scott!

Ken Williams: ROFL

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Page 7

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Scott Murphy: I don't want people to cane my feet. That's what I'm talking about.

Ken Williams: I'm boring .. focus on the guys.. they are funny...

Cocodyne: we're reminiscing on SQ3... any memories of the production Ken?

Ken Allen: we need to get Doug to participate in this chat room next time

Ken Williams: I mostly remember wanting to hang on in development, to watch Leisure-Suit Larry, and SQ in development.. my favorite games.. got in lots of trouble with Roberta because I seemed to like them better than Kings Quest

Mark Crowe: That is quite a compliment.

Scott Murphy: You got in trouble with Roberta? That must have been rough! Oh man, thank you though Ken. I always wondered – I guess with my insecurities about things – how honest you were being about how much you liked Space Quest. I always wanted to believe it and you got me believing it now. They were fun games, Leisure Suit Larry and Space Quest.

You did so much Ken – with Roberta – when you were working in your kitchen and putting things in Ziploc bags and taking them out to the hobby shops to hang on the hooks and so on.

Mark Crowe: Must have been exciting times; seeing the demand for those games grow!

Ken Williams: Yup . the "good old" days! ..

Ken Allen: Scott do you have Doug O's contact info?

Ken Williams: I'm ruining your broadcast .. didn't mean to do that!..

Scott Murphy: No! People are happy to have you; just knowing you are in the room makes them feel better. I don't know how much time you have. I know you are always very busy person.

Chris Pope: Your post on [Kickstarter](#) just the other day was a huge gain for us.

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Mark Crowe: Yeah, I was just going to suggest: hey go hang out over at our [Kickstarter](#) page and take the whole party over there!

Chris Pope: We'll tell walk you through what to click!

Scott Murphy: Ken Allen, I know about Doug is on Facebook. He's a friend on my page. Shockley rides bikes with him too.

Ken Williams: OK .. cool .. I'm mostly paying bills .. we leave for four months on Wednesday.. so, am watching this, but also packing, and paying bills .. (but, didn't want to miss this)

Scott Murphy: You guys heading down to Cabo, Ken? Or are you going on a cruise?

Ken Williams: Nope.. cruising on our boat (Turkey/Greece)

Mark Crowe: Just send us your coordinates and we'll beam in.

Scott Murphy: We are going to buy a Tardis with our SpaceVenture money, nobody knows that.

If you guys follow Ken, he keeps a blog or a journal on these trips that they take. He posts quite frequently and I'm guessing you are going to be doing the same. I'd definitely check that out.

Ken Williams: www.kensblog.com ..

Ken Allen: Just sent Doug Oldfield a message through Facebook asking him to join in the next livestream.

Ken Williams: (Roberta just got home.. going to have her go see this)

Scott Murphy: Cool, Roberta's home! Everybody wave when she comes up.

Ken Allen: Hi Roberta

Ken Williams: OK ..going to talk to roberta .. will try to get her to say hi

Mark Crowe: Man, lucky us!

Scott Murphy: She may or may not come to the screen. Not that she hates us, but Roberta was always a bit shy about the attention she got.

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» Hi Roberta!!! Love you! -Scott

Roberta Williams: Hi Mark and Scott -- this is Roberta (Williams, that is!)

Scott Murphy: Hi Roberta!

Mark Crowe: Hey, Roberta! How you doing? Long time no see.

Scott Murphy: Hi Roberta!! I miss you!!!

Roberta Williams: Hi, HI, Hi, Hi, Hi, hi!!!!!!

» I really miss you guys.

Chris Pope: Oh man, are you going to make Roberta prove she's Roberta?

Roberta Williams: It's really me!!!!!!

Scott Murphy: She just said she was! Roberta was so good to me. I'm so glad you're here. I've got goose bumps, I swear to God. Remember when we did that interview? And then we all went to dinner afterwards and I sat with you and we made fun of Ken?

Mark Crowe: I don't remember that at all!

Scott Murphy: Don't tell ken that.

Mark Crowe: I wasn't there!

Roberta Williams: I do!

Scott Murphy: Sorry, sore spot. That was a fun evening, Roberta. I enjoyed that and it is a treasured memory. Thanks so much for showing up. People are excited!

I haven't seen you guys since the Metro in Seattle. When we went there for dinner and you and Ken were there.

Ken Allen: Hi Roberta, Ken "your music pal" Allen here.

Roberta Williams: I want to tell everyone that you guys are funny and will do a great job!!!

Mark Crowe and Scott Murphy: Thank you!

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Mark Crowe: That is high praise, thank you!

Scott Murphy: You are so sweet. I've told this story to many people, you gave me some really good advice when there was nobody else I could talk to about certain things and I'll always be grateful for it.

Roberta Williams: I'm also excited that you will be doing a new game!



Scott Murphy: There we go, there is Ken and Roberta. That Chris, isn't it? That is their son! He is not a small person. Not a short person I should say. There is a project they're working on, a massively multiplayer online game if I'm not mistaken.

Roberta Williams: That is Chris

Mark Crowe: Picture just came up for me. That is great picture.

Mark Crowe: Picture just

Scott Murphy: That is Chris, okay good. I think one of the last memories I have of Chris is one time we were all working in the computer room and I think your other son was holding him by the ankles over the railing from the bar under the spiral staircase.

Mark Crowe: Brothers will be brothers!

Roberta Williams: No, Chris is 6'2" -- but is that a statement because I am so short!

Scott Murphy: 6'2"? Wow! And Roberta is a petite thing, and obviously very beautiful as well. Look at him standing next to Ken. Ken is a tall man as well.

Roberta Williams: Yes, I remember that, too!

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Scott Murphy: You remember that too? Good! And you weren't sure whether it was a false alarm and we were all so tired.

Jaybertx: no hitting on Roberta with Ken in the room!

Scott Murphy: [Laughing] No hitting on Roberta? I'm sorry Roberta! We had some great times together and Roberta really helped me. I just had some times when I was really questioning myself and she just calmly told me some words of wisdom that nobody else in the building could have told me.

Roberta Williams: Chris is now a programmer -- and a darn good one. He has stayed in the software industry.

Scott Murphy: That's great.

Roberta Williams: So, Mark, how is Sandy?

Mark Crowe: She's doing great! She's at a tennis tournament right now. She still plays quite a bit of tennis.

Scott Murphy: I got to see her a couple of weeks ago and you wouldn't believe it! She's in great shape. Still the same sandy but with a little bit more authority because she's raised two children, as I'm sure you can relate to. It was really great getting to see her.

Roberta Williams: Great! Say, hi to her!

Mark Crowe: I certainly will! I'll say hi for sure.

Chris Pope: We gotta con Roberta into coming to the wrap party for the game.

Scott Murphy: Roberta is a shy flower!

Mark Crowe: Sure, but its BYOB though.

Scott Murphy: BYOK. Bring your own Ken.

Oh, I can't tell you how cool it is to have both of you guys here. Aww, man!

Mark Crowe: I'd like to hear about what Chris has going. I haven't gotten the details.

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Scott Murphy: Want to tell us about that project?

Roberta Williams: Okay -- guys, I just popped in for a minute to say 'hi' -- but we are now going to meet John Williams (Ken's brother) for lunch.

Scott Murphy: Okay, say 'hi' to Johnny for me! I lost his e-mail and am trying to get in touch with him.

Roberta Williams: Brand X went under. They ran out of money.

Scott Murphy: Sorry to hear that about Brand X, man. I hope Chris is still going at it and not giving up. And definitely say 'hi' to Johnny for us. He has been posting for us and we really appreciate it.

Roberta Williams: Chris is now working for a company called UIEvolution, software for car radios and more

Scott Murphy: UIEvolution is where Chris is working now? He's picked up his dad's smarts on the programming front. That's great. Good that those genes got passed along.

Roberta Williams: I just want to add that these guys -- Mark and Scott -- are great guys and WILL do a great job! I am looking forward to seeing their new project!

Froggy: A Frog hugs Roberta and Ken

Roberta Williams: So, ante, up!!!

Scott Murphy: Thank you very much!

Roberta Williams: Bye!!!!

Mark Crowe: Great chatting with you guys. Hope we get to chat again offline; would be great to catch up with you.

Scott Murphy: Thank you Roberta and Ken!!!

You guys have a great lunch and a good 4-month travel!

Mark Crowe: Safe travels!

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Chris Pope: Tell John: 'thank you for spreading the word'. As the PR guy I really appreciate it.

Mark Crowe: Good ol' Johnny 'Magpie'.

Scott Murphy: Johnny 'Magpie'!

Ken Williams: (This is Ken waving goodbye, going to see John .. his daughter's birthday) ... see you!

Scott Murphy: Bye Ken! Say 'hi' to your brother and we'll be in touch.

Mark Crowe: Thanks guys. Appreciate it. Will catch up later.

Scott Murphy: Thank you for showing up; I couldn't be more happy!

Well that was a very rare and unexpected treat! You guys are the only ones who have had a chance. With all the things that [Roberta] did, and the way that Ken and Roberta saw Sierra change, especially after they left. All the work that [Roberta] did, without her work Ken would have never started Sierra. So many games that you guys like – *not just talking Space Quest* – wouldn't have been published and the bar wouldn't have been raised and other companies wouldn't have done the work they did if those two people hadn't pioneered the way they did.

Ken's vision – on the market, and programming, and dealing with vector graphics and storing a lot of information on an Apple Disk. And with Roberta's imagination on fairy tales and things like that. It was this wonderful piece of fate that helped create sierra.

Mark Crowe: Absolutely. Well that was awesome, what a treat and very historic! Glad you could all be her to experience that.

Scott Murphy: Anybody who can point out any place where Roberta has shown up and done a public appearance – even though this was a limited one – good luck finding it. That is why we feel so incredibly honoured. She would take the time to pop on the keyboard – *Ken may have had to talk her into it* – but she came on and was very gracious.

Having those two come on, I dunno, it just warmed me up and I feel different than when we started this podcast!

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Mark Crowe: [Laughing] How do we follow that? That was pretty cool I think the podcast is done!

Scott Murphy: Everybody! Let's pop a beer and we'll talk later.

Chris Pope: [Laughing] I doubt they'd let us off that easy guys!

END: 3:47 p.m. EST



Roberta Williams



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