Ripcord-itis

Falling objects accelerate at 32 ft/second^2 in a vacuum. In real life a falling human stops accelerating at terminal velocity of about 130 mph. I know this because I've reached terminal velocity more than 50 times during my skydiving days. My favorite uncle was a trail blazing sport parachutist in the 1960s. As a kid it was normal for me to see him jump into the July 4th picnic in the park. Naturally I had to be a skydiver too.

Skydiving was great fun. I’ve jumped from 16,500 feet and flew in formation with 9 other guys for 90 seconds and I’ve been paid to jump into a church carnival. But through my first 10 free falls I was stricken with a bad case of ripcord-itis, a disorder that causes novices pull the ripcord before reaching terminal velocity.

Ripcord-itis gave me the illusion of control. But at terminal velocity I learned how to cooperate with other controlling forces. The result was powerful; to turn right or left all I had to do was tilt my outstretched hands about 10 degrees.

Beating ripcord-itis taught me that control doesn’t always lead to accomplishment. We can often accomplish more my riding on top of greater surrounding forces.

WB John Gebhart
This year the recipient for in the Junior Boys category was Zachary Gottesman, whose father Greg won the Junior Boys awards in 1978.

Lakeside Lodge #258

On Monday April 24 Lakeside Lodge conferred the EA Degree for Mr. Max Box. Bro Phu Huynh served as Conferring Master.

Brother Phu also delivered the apron, working tools, and Master’s lecture and closing.

Royal and Select Masters Degree Day

Royal Arch Masons who are interesting in continuing their journey in the Council of Royal and Select Masters are invited to a Grand Council degree day on Saturday, May 27th. For information contact Grand Recorder, RPC Bryan Bechler at bry.kat@frontier.com.

The conferral will be held in Tacoma at 5405 S. Puget Sound Ave. There is ample parking in the lot across the street and this is a single-story building for ease of access.

Off To Work, Part 2

A short story by WB Chad Reece

Reaching the table my mentor handed me the gauge and the gavel. “Second day on the job is one not to take for granted young one” He said to me as he motioned me to follow him. Yesterday, my tool was a brush used to clean the wall upon which we are working today. We traversed the ground and headed to the center of the quarry. “Second thing you must always remember is to check the board for instructions.” We entered the line and began our slow approach to our next destination. Everyone around is quiet and the bird’s singing echoed off the walls pleasantly serenading us as we waited. Time seemed to stop as I listened to nature’s music and visually fixated on the few clouds drift in an uncouth transmogrification above. The visual radiation began stealing the upper rock face from the clutches of shadow, the golden rays glistening as it danced upon the surface. The face heated the air causing it to rise. This cavity was quickly filled as fresh cooler air moved to achieve equilibrium. A soft breeze slithered from the entrance and bade welcome to each of us increasing in velocity the closer to the rock face it became. It began to scrape the wall with an audible howl as it was directed upwards. A swift crash to my shoulder interrupted my daydreaming, arousing my senses to this terrestrial plane once again. Looking around my mentor was approaching the podium so I hurried to his side. Before us the podium rested a piece of parchment held fast by stones. Contained within its boundaries were instructions pictorially represented to convey our task for the day. Another breeze met us as we left the visual conveyance to our place upon which our work shall commence.

Junior Grand Warden Candidate Forum

Daylight Loge #232 recently held a Junior Grand Warden Candidate Forum where all of the candidates for the Grand South were asked about their plans, should they be elected, for Grand Lodge. Recordings of the Forum are available at this link: Junior Grand Warden Forum

Letters to the Editor

Finding the Joy in Ritual (April 15, 2017)

WB Editor,

Thank you for sharing the thoughts of our WB Dan Taylor. Our opening and closing ritual work is designed and intended to bring each Brother into the proper mindset of attending his Lodge, then to remind him of his responsibilities as a Mason in the outer World as the Lodge is closed. The ideal, of course, is that each man who is a Mason will practice our precepts in every part of his life, every day.

~VWB Gene Ulrich
WB Editor,

This is Guiness, my Black & Tan.

~WB Jonathan Seaton

Deadline

Submissions for the May 15 issue of the District 7 News are due on Thursday, May 11, 2017. Early submission is encouraged.

Be Nice to Mom Or Else Section

Happy Mother’s Day from the District 7 News

Square Meals

Myrtle #108 welcomes Masons and friends to breakfast at the Gas Lamp in Issaquah every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Goose and Gridiron, Nest 0 meets Mondays for lunch at the Longhorn restaurant in Auburn.

Falls City #66 Sticks & Stones meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Lit Cigar Bar in Snoqualmie Casino. Consumption of solid food at this “meal” is not customary.

Fern Hill #80 Past Masters welcome Masons and friends in South King and Pierce counties to breakfast at Angleas Restaurant just south of E. 72nd St on S. Portland Avenue (behind Safeway), Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Meeting Times</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Falls City #66      | 4304 337th Place Southeast, Fall City, WA 98024 | 2nd Saturday, 1st Saturday June; dark July & August. 7:30 p.m. except January, 7:00 p.m. | WM: David Hisel [dlh.mason@yahoo.com](mailto:dlh.mason@yahoo.com)  
Sec: Nick Michaud (contact WM Hisel) |
| Myrtle #108         | Street Address: 57 West Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA 98027  
Mailing Address: PO Box 766, Issaquah, WA 98027, www.myrtlelodge108.org | 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (The lights stay on in the Summer months) | WM: Chad Reece [damnthings@gmail.com](mailto:damnthings@gmail.com)  
Sec: Jeff Swanson [jeffswanson@platosnw.com](mailto:jeffswanson@platosnw.com) |
| West Gate #128      | 8561 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052, westgatelodge.org | 3rd Monday except July, August. 7:30 p.m. | WM: Earl Lara [earllara@westgatelodge.org](mailto:earllara@westgatelodge.org)  
Sec: Les Snavely [lsna761057@aol.com](mailto:lsna761057@aol.com) |
| Kirkland #150       | 702 1/2 Market St., Kirkland, WA 98033, www.kirklandmasons.org | 2nd Thursday (3rd Thursday June) except July, August. 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. | WM: Bill Reynar [wjreynar@gmail.com](mailto:wjreynar@gmail.com)  
Sec: Topher White [topher.white@comcast.net](mailto:topher.white@comcast.net) |
| Unity #198           | 119 North Bend Way, North Bend, WA 98045, www.unity198.org | 1st Wednesday. If Holiday, 2nd Wednesday except July, August. 7:30 p.m. | WM: Matt Roalkvam [webmattr@hotmail.com](mailto:webmattr@hotmail.com)  
Sec: Jonathan Seaton [jonathanseaton@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanseaton@gmail.com) |
| Lakeside #258       | 8561 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052, www.lakeside258.org | 2nd Monday, except July & August. 7:30 p.m. | WM: Mike Campbell [mikecampbell_759@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecampbell_759@hotmail.com)  
Sec: Dean Markley [wdeanm@gmail.com](mailto:wdeanm@gmail.com) |
| Mercer Island #297   | 1836 72nd Avenue Southeast, Mercer Island, WA 98040, www.mercerislandmasons.org | 1st Thursday; 2nd Thursday if Holiday or Grand Lodge, dark July & August  
Open bar 6:00 p.m., catered dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, $20. | WM: Dan Taylor [dantaylor@msn.com](mailto:dantaylor@msn.com)  
Sec: Scott Anderson [papabear120@hotmail.com](mailto:papabear120@hotmail.com) |
| Renaissance #312     | 11440 Avondale Road Northeast, Redmond, WA 98052, www.renaissance312.org | Last Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December; if holiday, next available Monday that is not a holiday.  
Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Table Lodge at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, $25. | WM: Bill Werner [bigwer1@hotmail.com](mailto:bigwer1@hotmail.com)  
Sec: Craig Wood [cwood1234@hotmail.com](mailto:cwood1234@hotmail.com) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Falls City #66</th>
<th>Myrtle #108</th>
<th>West Gate #128</th>
<th>Kirkland #150</th>
<th>Unity #198</th>
<th>Lakeside #258</th>
<th>Mercer Island #297*</th>
<th>Renaissance #312**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WM</td>
<td>WB David Hisel</td>
<td>WB Chad Reece</td>
<td>WB Earl Lara</td>
<td>WB Bill Reynar</td>
<td>WB Matt Roalkvam</td>
<td>WB Mike Campbell</td>
<td>WB Dan Taylor</td>
<td>VWB Bill Werner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Br Robert Coats</td>
<td>WB Geoff Joosten</td>
<td>WB Phil Nylin</td>
<td>Br Brian Clubb</td>
<td>WB Mark Goodwin</td>
<td>Br Vincenzo Sainato</td>
<td>WB Paul Hoeffer</td>
<td>WB Joe Oates, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JW</td>
<td>Br Joshua Bushman</td>
<td>WB Jeff Craig</td>
<td>Br Vance Hill</td>
<td>Br Bryan DeNosky</td>
<td>WB Ernest Jenner</td>
<td>Br Phu Huynh</td>
<td>WB Thomas Aquino</td>
<td>Br JN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec</td>
<td>WB Nick Michaud</td>
<td>WB Jeff Swanson</td>
<td>WB Les Snavely</td>
<td>WB Topher White</td>
<td>WB Jonathan Seaton</td>
<td>WB Dean Markley</td>
<td>WB Scott Anderson</td>
<td>WB Craig Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Br Noah Phillips</td>
<td>VWB Bill Werner</td>
<td>Br Kurt Egts</td>
<td>Br Steve Preston</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Kevin French</td>
<td>Br Carl Bronkema</td>
<td>WB Todd Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JD</td>
<td>Br Norris Daltman</td>
<td>Br Gerry O’Brien</td>
<td>Br Arjay Protacio</td>
<td>Br MG</td>
<td>Br David Bach</td>
<td>WB Jim Groves</td>
<td>Br Denis Osmanbegovic</td>
<td>Br Sheraz Malik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chp</td>
<td>WB Matt Roalkvam</td>
<td>Br Thomas Monds</td>
<td>VWB Mark Williams</td>
<td>WB Dan Chadrow</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Steve Banin</td>
<td>Br Dane Shaffer</td>
<td>WB Doug Stamper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrsh</td>
<td>Br Warren Oltmann</td>
<td>Br Shane White</td>
<td>WB Jim Nash</td>
<td>Br Gary Weber</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Derk Benisch</td>
<td>VWB Roger Barnstead</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mu</td>
<td>Br Carmer Sorensen</td>
<td>Br Bert Bertram</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Praveen Sattaru</td>
<td>WB John Gebhart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Karl Egts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Pat Brennan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Brent Fleckner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Ken Hill</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Kevin Ward</td>
<td></td>
<td>Br Stephen Burns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>WB Frank Schumacher</td>
<td>WB Brian Thomas</td>
<td>VWB Henry Fletcher</td>
<td>WB David Pearson</td>
<td></td>
<td>WB Josh Rice</td>
<td>WB Steve Paige</td>
<td>Br Jeff Guthrie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* VWB Dean Quigley is Mentor
** Br Andy Precious is Master of Ceremonies for the Festive Board