

M A Y 0 8

LET RIP



RIPCARD SKYDIVERS ASSOC.

Player Profile

Name; Sam Hood (25/5/84)
Jump #: 220

Favourite Jump; Night jump

Worst Jump; "Tubee" jump, I bounced on my knee resulting with a strange bulge growing out of my knee.

Jump Goals: Wing Suit BASE jump and Sex in free fall.

Travel Goals: Having sex in free fall in another country.

Best Part About the DZ: The BAR

Scariest moment: Skiing in USA off a cliff I didn't see, tumbled for ages into a rock, destroying the helmet, 12 years old.

Best Words of Advice Received; "Don't eat that" and "trying is the first step to failure".

Occupation; Bank loans officer.

Recommended Reading: Kama Sutra.

What Inspires You : Kama Sutra.

Who (dead or alive) would you like to invite to dinner: Jennifer Hawkins, Albert Einstein, Osona Bin-Laden.



Calender

May 12 or 17 or 24 or
June 12 or 19

PLE Party Come
dressed as part of
PLE

May 12 & July 14
Learning curve Camp

May 22 Egypt
Competition.

Jun 9 Queens
Birthday

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Introduction

***The brave may not live forever,
But the cautious do not live at all.***

We are a generation of risk takers, or so we tell ourselves. We distinguish ourselves from previous phases of humanity as being the ones that really get to celebrate it all. We have the best technology ever invented to take us higher and further. We benefit from incredible advances in medicine to fix us up and get us back out there. We are, in short, on top of the world. Unfortunately for many, this drive to explore the most extreme reaches of human experience can come with a very high price tag.

Although we have made great advances in the technology that takes us up mountains, across the water, and into the air, the percentage of participants that are injured or killed varies only slightly. In other words, the number of casualties associated with “extreme sports” is steadily rising, in direct proportion to the number of participants. It seems that our careful purchases of the “right equipment” are not enough to ensure our survival.

I have spent my entire adult life studying safety practices in adventure sports, and have concluded that the primary problem is that we are in fact the generation least prepared to engage high-risk situations. We have grown up in a society that lives far from “the edge”. We watch life as spectators, more than as participants. We then go out and buy the gear that some website says is necessary, and we are surprised when we get hurt. We are a generation of naïve dreamers, who awaken occasionally to dare our fate in the real world.

I do not believe, however, that we are a hopeless bunch. It has been said: “what one man can do another can do.” The trick is to develop the necessary skills and discipline. We have a vast amount of information available at our fingertips, if we only look for it. We can learn to do anything that is possible. All we need do is learn all the components necessary for survival.

If we are to survive, we must first accept the fact that the necessary skill-set is vast and multi-dimensional. We must explore all the relevant details necessary to engage in the particular adventure in which we are involved. This however, is just the beginning. We must also become self-analyzing psychologists, and come to understand the workings of our own minds. We must learn about the physiological responses to stress and emotional arousal so we can recognize and manage our physiological response to the situation. The list goes on, and so does the process. The learning must never stop.

The purpose of this book is to begin the process of education that will assist skydivers and other adventurers to live long and healthy lives. It is the groundwork for life’s graduate degree. As with all mental models, it is not complete. The nature of reality is that of unpredictability. The more complex the situation, the more unpredictable the result will be. Even with perfect understanding, if such a thing were possible, there are variables that are beyond our control.

People will continue to get hurt. If you want to avoid getting hurt, there are any number of activities that are out there for you. As you have already realized, there isn’t a whole lot going on that far from the edge...and you still die at the end, anyway.

Most modern models of risk-taking behavior point to the conclusion that the percentage of casualties will not change. Advanced mathematics, such as “Chaos Theory”, suggests that it is impossible to predict the outcome, even when the number of variables is relatively low. Perhaps this is the case and perhaps not. These bleak theories do not, however, preclude the possibility that a single individual can engage in high-risk situations and live to a ripe old age. Although many math geeks and “primary prevention” dogma-thumpers may use these models to hide behind, there remains a growing sector of the population that is drawn to adventure despite what the statistics and predictive models suggest. Our kind does not make excuses. We simply do our homework, and then we: “Just Do It”.

It is a matter of risk versus payoff. An adventurous personality is said to be one that is less afraid of dying than he is of not living. As a card-carrying member of this society of misfit toys, I appreciate this perspective intimately. We get such a good feeling by engaging real life and real risk that we are willing to let it hang out a bit. We are not, as some indoor psychologists suggest, suicidal. We simply believe that we have the “Right Stuff” that will keep us alive.

This is the heart of the issue, and the reason I have written this book. It is true that some people react in a manner more favorable to responding correctly to environmental stress than others. Making the right decision, without the impedance of emotion seems to be one of the big keys to survival. It is, as far as I can tell, not a skill given only to the fast and the strong. Natural selection is not, so it turns out, a process pre-determined by our genetics. We can learn in order to increase our “fitness”, and our chances for survival.

We are a very clever species. We have a very large hard drive. When we can acquire the right information, and access this data at the right time, we have a pretty good chance of walking away from sketchy situations. Both aspects of the situation must be intact: acquisition of knowledge and the emotional intelligence to maintain access to these memories. Both sides must be constantly cultivated and maintained.

Learning is the beginning. It is when the mind stops incoming data that we die. Despite a cessation of new information, we may in fact live on physically for many years. Luck and probability have a strange way of calling the next contestant. By closing the door to new information about our worlds and ourselves, we have essentially taken a number for the Big Butcher Shop. We are unknowingly awaiting the situation for which we are unprepared. We may slide by for a while, but eventually the sun always sets. Having the “right stuff” isn’t about knowing everything. It’s about heading in the right direction and remaining open. It’s about allowing the process of safety to continue.

When Apollo 1 burned up on the launch pad, the world went into a frenzy of finger pointing. We asked ourselves: “How could these great scientists have overlooked something as simple as a quick escape system for the spacecraft?” One astronaut aptly stated that the astronauts died in the fire because of a lack of imagination. No one considered that something like that could happen. If they had considered it, an escape plan would have been formed long before the accident. We must remain thinkers if we are to become old skydivers. We must imagine the worst-case scenarios, and have solutions for all of them. Pretending that danger does not exist is the best way to ensure our demise.

The answers are many, and they are changing as quickly as the gear changes. As soon as some clever person comes up with a better, safer

mousetrap, the situation usually becomes even more complicated, and therefore more dangerous. We therefore must not rely on innovation to save us. We must rely on ourselves and on the mentors available to us. We must think our way to survival.

Nobody intends to get hurt. If you planned on committing suicide, you probably would have selected a more cost effective means of “offing” yourself. It is more likely you are just like me. You want to have fun, and sometimes the dog you turned your back on comes back to bite you. This book is intended to show you some of the dogs that you didn’t know were there, and remind you of the ones that you knew of but have been ignoring. May it make you a better student of reality, and a better teacher of life.

Burn brightly,
But don’t burn out.
Brian Germain



Recently I had the pleasure of meeting a gentleman of skydiving, Brian Germain. Even our experts were listening intently. That night I ordered his Book and highly recommend it, to be read as a reference book rather than be read from beginning to end.



I think that was a first jump on new gear... Big Sam.

What's the difference between a bad golfer and a bad skydiver?

A bad golfer goes: WHACK ... "Damn"! A bad Skydiver goes: "Damn"! ... WHACK

There was this student skydiver who was very nervous before his first jump. On the way up in the plane he looked so pale and miserable, that the Jumpmaster wanted to cheer him up.

"Don't you worry", he said. "You just jump out and the main parachute will deploy automatically. And if it still hasn't been fully deployed until you count to three, just pull the reserve. And if you land offsite, we'll pick you up in a yellow minibus."

It was time to jump and after a few seconds of hesitation the student leaped out of the airplane.

He started to count - "onethousand one, onethousand two, onethousand three", but nothing happened. He looked up towards the sky but he saw nothing but a big mess of lines - no canopy.

He pulled the reserve handle just as he had been instructed. But nothing happened except that he was left with a broken reserve handle in his hand.

The ground got closer and closer as the he reached terminal velocity.

"Great", he mumbled between his teeth. "I bet that darn minibus won't be there either."

Irish Brian



The blind leading the blind
Bear blindfold pack
LJ blindfold jump



Dan and Brenda on Grad jump
also Phil and Bear on grad jump,
at least Phil got his grad kiss from
Bear.
Bad luck Dan.



Bear with Crocdaigator just
before the kiss of death
and rips his head off

