

Around The Swamp

Fall/Winter Edition 2021

“The only thing that stays the same is everything changes.”

- New Nan'tan!
- New Q's everywhere!
- New PAX!
- New format to the ATS newsletter!
- New AO's!
 - Grantland in Perrysburg!
 - The Yard in Rossford
 - The Rabbit Hole in Whitehouse!
- New traditions and events!
- New Maumee City Council Member! :)
- New and creative beatdowns being showcased!
- New relationships being forged!
- New shields being locked!
- New community invigoration happening!



Meatloaf:2nd F Q

- The first-annual F3 Black Swamp golf outing was a lot of fun. Solid turnout for the first-annual event.
- Get ahold of Meatloaf if you have cool ideas or want to throw an event on the Mumblechat.
- Wipers threw together an impromptu cafeteria at his place following a Battlefield beatdown! That was a nice touch! T-Claps Wipers!

Q Source Quip

The Q Source defines **Happiness** as: The transitory positive feeling governed by mere external circumstances.

But...

It defines **JOY** as: The permanent state of hopeful satisfaction unaffected by external circumstances.

Freed to Bleed? Dutch helped organize another very successful blood drive with the Red Cross. Nearly 50 pax supported their community through this initiative! T-Claps, Dutch!



- We committed to volunteer 500 hours of service to Habitat 4 Humanity. I think we still have some opportunities to reach that goal. Reach out to Homeslice or check the link in Mumblechat.
- Mosaic and Stalker have opportunities for us. Get down there and see what is going on! Good stuff! T-Claps, Stalker!
- Footloose brought us an service opportunity with Food for Thought. Get a plan in place with your shield lock, your 2.o's and M, or just encourage others at a beatdown to sign up with you to go and serve. You won't regret the time spent.



Your New 3rd F Q: Coconut

Coconut has brought us a fun challenge this fall with the Regional Pride Challenge. This challenge has been a lot of fun because Pax are posting like fools all over the Swamp! (Coco is a beast despite the incriminating photo of him at the Freed to Bleed blood drive.) Let's get that RPC shirt full of Pax names!

Challenge Details:

1. Post to 15 of our 19 AO's before 2022
2. Attend at least 1 coffeteria/2nd F
3. Engage in at least one 3rd F opportunity

For the stout of heart:

4. Q at half of the AO's to be commemorated as a Regional Super Q



Get to know your fellow pax: Lego

History:

I grew up in Bowling Green, with 2 sisters 10 and 12 years older than me. So in a lot of ways I was kind of an only child. My sisters were great, but they were more like babysitters. I was raised Catholic and throughout High School was a "good" kid. I was never in trouble much, was an altar boy at the church, and got good grades. My one "vice" was I played a lot of Dungeons and Dragons. Yes, I was a total nerd! I had some friends in HS that looking back on things were rather cruel and not really great friends. A lot of my shyness and introversion stems from that as it can be hard to trust people. I went to BGSU and while my grades were good I started to veer off-track. Drank and did pot most weekends. By the end of High School, I was drifting more and more away from organized religion and stopped in college.

After I graduated with my BA in Political Science I was accepted into law school but choose not to go. Financial Aid didn't really give me what I needed, and my parents nor I really had the money. So while I deferred enrollment, I ended up working retail and drinking/smoking more.

As friends started to drift away I realized I needed a change and went back to BGSU for Computer Science. I got a job at Walmart and met Amy. We started dating and within a year were living together and within 2 years engaged. After we both finished school we got married and then a year later after she finished her Masters we choose to move to Georgia so she could find a job teaching.

I was making ok money at the time but in Georgia, I doubled my salary and she starting making more than I was in Ohio. So we spent money like crazy! Two car payments, dinner at expensive restaurants, vacations, clothes, etc. We bought a house and 6 months after moving in were miserable. We over-extended ourselves and had never learned to communicate well so we'd fight or just not talk to each other. Porn entered the picture which didn't help. Soon, she had moved out.

Our marriage was really rocky for the next 2 years. We'd do some counseling and started to go back to church. We hit our bottom and luckily we choose to try one more time. We found a great marriage counselor and finally found a church we loved and got into a great small group where we could be real with others and grew so much.

I truly feel God was with us and had a plan for us to land with that small group. We started leading our own small group and served at the church as well at a wonderful organization called Lighthouse Family Retreat, where we served families with children undergoing cancer treatment. It was a game-changer. Seriously, I can go on about that and if you are looking for a mission that your whole family can serve in, I'm happy to talk about it! From that experience, we decided that we wanted kids. So after 10 years married, we decided to try. We were blessed with Mason and 2.5 years later Henry.

As the boys got older, we started to feel the pull back to Ohio. My parent's health was declining and her parents needed some help too. So in 2019 we bought a house in Perrysburg and moved home so we could be closer to family and help out. The pandemic happened and shortly after my birthday in April, my Dad's kidneys started to shut down and he died a few weeks later. My Mom got sick in the fall and ended up having to move into Assisted Living. Then my Mother-in-law had knee surgery and lived with us for 2 months. So it's not been quite the experience we expected but I'm so glad we are here. The kids are getting more time with family and we are close to be able to help out.

So much of F3 has helped me to not only get physically stronger but also mentally strong. My experience in Georgia was great but it was a smaller group of guys I saw and Black Swamp has been incredible to be a part of. The range of guys and the feeling of being known and knowing so many has been amazing.

Heroes:

I love comic books! Love the history, the creativity and the unique storytelling that only comics can provide. Two artists that I admire for always doing their own thing is Jack Kirby and Jim Steranko. Teddy Roosevelt is fascinating and a great example of will and determination, not being afraid to do new things and fail. But, like many, my Dad is my biggest hero. He never said it but looking back, I know one of his goals was to push me and provide me with a better life. He worked tirelessly, had passions/hobbies outside of work, and was always supportive of whatever crazy endeavors I was willing to undertake.

Heartbreaks:

My middle sister lost a baby boy who only lived 2 weeks while I was in college. The way the pastor handled her heartbreak was the final straw for me with religion. Almost ending our marriage was a significant heartbreak, but I've talked about that and from this vantage point, I can see a lot of good that came out of it. The more recent wound is losing my Dad. That was unexpected and I think I get most upset when I think about my boys not having his awesomeness to experience as they get older. He was hurting for so long and always toughed out so much pain I just expected we would have more time together. I was blessed that we got to say our goodbyes to each other in hospice before he became unresponsive.

Hopes;

My grandfather (Dad's Dad) died when he was 81. My Dad died when he was 81. My other grandfather died when I was 7 (He was 62). Part of why I get up with you guys and do this stupid stuff is to keep a healthy routine so I can hopefully not only be around past my 81st birthday but also be active and engaged with my boys and maybe someday their kids. Nothing's guaranteed, but I'll try to stick around as long as I can for them.

I think we all want to change the world. I've come to realize though that while I may not change the world, there's a much smaller but more impactful legacy I can leave. My family, my friends, co-workers, fellow PAX are right in front of me and there to impact. I want to raise my boys to be compassionate and who love and give back to make this a better place. I want to model what a good husband and father should be so they can some day do the same. I hope to grow old with Amy and someday live on the beach in retirement, sharing and remembering great stories of a life well-lived. Short term hope? I want to finish the Murph at the Gauntlet in the time allotted by the end of the year.

La Biblioteca is fast becoming a hotspot AO for the 2.0's. Get your kids outside and working together. Show that kid what a great whetstone you are. Thursday nights at the Maumee Branch of the Toledo Library.

Biggie and his M, Breyan, welcomed their fifth child, and first of the female variety! Welcome to the world, Azalea! SYITG soon enough. :)



The Westward Expansion of The Swamp Continues

metroparkstoledo.com

In winter, head for the hill. Blue Creek has the largest sledding hill in the park system.

Located on the edge of the Oak Openings Region, Blue Creek was the site of limestone quarries in the mid- to late-1800s. In 1917, the city of Toledo bought the land to build a prison farm. The property features glacial grooves, a pond, a wetland and an oak savanna.

A focal point is a 20,873-square-foot barn with a gambrel roof and plank frame built in the late 1920s. The barn and other out buildings were part of the Toledo House of Corrections, also known as "The Workhouse," a jail where the inmates tended to the farm.

The Rabbit Hole opening day November 19, 2021



Huckleberry Manages Successful City Council Campaign For Iso's Wife, Margo!



Exicon

Derkins N'Diayes:

Introduced by Lonzo this morning at Grantland.

From Derkin position (feet up), a 5-count exercise in which you put each foot to the ground and back into regular Derkin position, and then complete a Derkin. Increase the decline to really increase the burn to your core.

Lexicon

Clusterfreeze:

Name for a beatdown in which the number of Pax posting exceeds the degrees Fahrenheit.

Servant: A man whose purpose is to seek Advantage for others.

Survivor: A man who depends upon the Community for his existential continuity.

Sur-Ser Continuum: The span between a Survivor and a Servant.

Let's continue to take care
of one another.
Check in on your fellow
Pax.
Commit random acts of
kindness.

And let us consider how we may spur
one another on toward love and good
deeds, not giving up meeting together,
as some are in the habit of doing, but
encouraging one another-and all the
more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:24-25



Rest Easy Red Ryder