

Masons May Be Compared to Boats

David T. Campbell No. 706 – September 15, 2011

Masons, who form a lodge, are like many other groups of men; they come in various forms, sizes, interests and ambitions. Some are real go getters while others sit back and are very willing to let someone else do the work and develop new ideas.

They can be compared to Boats. Some are like Rowboats, some are like Sailboats and Speedboats while others are like Steamboats.

The Rowboat people float along generally looking after themselves but waiting for something to pull them along. When rowed, they go in the direction that they are being pushed. A few Rowboat Masons in a lodge are okay. However if a Lodge has too many Rowboat Masons, the lodge will just float along. Should a Masonic Lodge have a Rowboat Mason in one of the Warden's Chairs or in the Master's chair that lodge may have trouble. It lacks goals and doesn't know where it is going and risks hitting a reef like a driverless boat.

The Sailboat people are indeed more interesting. Sailboats are great when there is a favourable wind blowing. Some Masons are like Sailboats just floating along waiting for favourable conditions. They are ready and willing to act when the going is good. They wait for others to develop ideas. Once the leader lays out the plans they skim along on the prevailing wind taking part in the work and activities with enthusiasm. They are indeed helpful however a lodge needs more than Sailboat Masons.

There are the high performing Speedboat Masons. Speedboats skim across the water at high speeds, kick up a great spray but if not careful may capsize on a reef. Often a man is initiated into Masonry, gets enthused about our Craft and quickly obtains his next 2 degrees. Sometimes he is propelled into the Masonic Chairs and within a few years, with very little experience he is the Worshipful Master of his lodge. Too often when the year as Worshipful Master is completed he becomes bored runs out of gas and disappears from the Fraternity. Sometimes this scenario is a result of a lodge looking for new officers and sometimes it is the result of a very ambitious Mason. We need Masons with this kind of enthusiasm. Once we have them involved we need to keep them challenged

What we really need are more Steamboat Masons. Steamboats are those that stay afloat, are dependable and steadily move forward regardless of the weather conditions. These are the Masons that are willing to take the time to work through each and every chair and obtain the experience needed to properly lead a lodge as the Worshipful Master. These are the Masons that you can depend on. They show up when expected. They have their work well rehearsed. They are there and on time to prepare the lodge. They are there for all of the work parties. Masonry can use more Steamboat Masons. As the Worshipful Master you can help and encourage some of the Masons in your lodge to develop some of the characteristics of Steamboat people.

What kind of Masons are in your Lodge? Worshipful Master Elect, you have the opportunity to lead and develop the brethren of your lodge to be the kind of Masons you really want them to be. I have for you a Steamboat to carry in your apron to remind you that all boats have a value. If you can enrich more Masons to be Steamboat Masons your lodge will indeed be a better lodge.

Worshipful Master Elect have a great year!

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