



Sunday, March 11, 2012

Montana man breaks world firefighter stairclimb record at Seattle tower climb

Graham firefighter wins 14th overall women's title

SEATTLE – A Montana firefighter has broken the world firefighter stair climbing record in Seattle, climbing Seattle's tallest building from bottom to top in 10 minutes, 38.2 seconds in full firefighter gear – including boots.

The record-setting ascent of the building's 69 stories, 1,311 steps in all, took place, Sunday at the 21st annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb benefitting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Missoula City Fire's Andrew Drobeck eclipsed the previous mark, also held by a Missoula firefighter, by just over 15 seconds. The Scott Firefighter Stairclimb is the world's largest firefighter climbing competition with 1,550 firefighters from 24 US states, Canada and Germany participating in 2012.

Drobeck, a 12-year firefighting veteran who has finished second in the event the past two years, scaled the building's interior stairwell with 50 pounds of "bunker gear" used in firefighting including protective, jacket, pants, gloves, helmet, breathing apparatus – and boots. He finished 12.2 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Peter Kilga of West Pierce Fire and Rescue near Tacoma, Wash. The third place finisher was Spokane, Wash. firefighter Paul Kimball, 28, of Spokane Valley Fire Department. Kimball's time was 11:55.4

The women's event was won for the 14th time in 15 years by Georgia Daniels of Graham Fire and Rescue near Tacoma, Wash. Daniels, 44, a 5-foot, 5-inch, 135-pound veteran firefighter, reached the building's 73rd floor observation deck in 14 minutes, 48.9 seconds. Her time was 3.27 seconds ahead of her 2011 winning time and 1 minute, 18 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher.

Michelle Croft, 43, of Columbia River Fire & Rescue in St. Helens, Ore. was second in 16:07.3 followed by Nevada's Jacqueline Palmer, 33, of Las Vegas Fire and Rescue.

The overall team competition was won by Missoula City Fire (Montana) with a combined time of their top three climbers of 37 minutes, 43 seconds. Vancouver Fire Local #452 in Washington state was second in 41:31. Oregon's Bend Fire and Rescue was third with an overall time of 41:35.

The 2012 climb, one of the most popular firefighter competitions in the world, sold-out in just 65 minutes.

At 943 feet, the 76-story Columbia Center skyscraper is about one-and-a-half times the height of Seattle's Space Needle and is the tallest building (by stories) on the West Coast and the 57th tallest building in the world.

Over \$950,000 Raised

Firefighters participating in the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb, which benefits The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and its research, education and patient services programs to fight blood cancer, have already raised \$950,000 with a month remaining to fundraise. To make a contribution to the LLS through a firefighter in your community please visit www.FirefighterStairclimb.org and click "Donate."

Honored Patient

The 2012 climb honored Lillian Trippe of Corvallis, Oregon who at just three-years-old lost her battle with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) in August. ALL is a fast-growing cancer of the white blood cells and the most common form of leukemia among adolescents.

Although throughout Lilli's short life she endured bone marrow transplants, chemotherapy and complications from her disease, her parents Kristin and Aaron Trippe saw her as a beacon of light to everyone she met. With her bright, glowing spirit and beautiful smile lighting her way, she made the most of every day, living her life to the fullest. To learn more about Lilli and the Trippe's visit:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lilli/journal/1>

Leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) are types of cancer that can affect the bone marrow, the blood cells, the lymph nodes and other parts of the lymphatic system. These cancers are all related since each are likely a result from acquired changes to the DNA of a single stem cell.

An estimated 912,938 Americans are living with leukemia, Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes. According to the National Cancer Institute, an estimated combined total of 137,260 people in the United States will be diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma in 2011 with one person in the US being diagnosed with a blood cancer approximately every four minutes. New cases of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma will account for 9 percent of the 1,529,560 new cancer cases diagnosed in the US this year alone.

Big Climb

On Sunday, March 25, the public will tackle the same Columbia Center steps at the 26th annual Big Climb, which also benefits LLS. For more information visit www.BigClimb.org.

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"Like" us on Facebook to learn more about the firefighters competing in the 2012 Scott Firefighter Stairclimb and who they honor. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Scott-Firefighter-Stairclimb/318121251536813>

The Scott Firefighter Stairclimb is sponsored by Scott Safety, CAC Real Estate Management Co. Inc., McCormick's Fishhouse and Bar, Lion Apparel, Firehouse.com, Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Alaska Airlines, Talking Rain, Columbia Tower Club, True North, Dragon Wear, Service Master Clean, Fado Irish Pub & Restaurant, SeattleHook.com, Seattle Bagel Bakery, Clif Bar, and Jamba Juice.

About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services.

About the Washington/Alaska Chapter

The Washington/Alaska Chapter (www.lls.org/wa) is one of 60 local chapters across the U.S., with an additional 11 chapters in Canada. Located in Seattle since 1984, the Washington/Alaska Chapter is close to the treatment facilities where patients and families come for lifesaving therapies. Major annual fundraising campaigns include Team In Training[®], Light The Night[®] Walk, School & Youth ProgramsSM, the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb, Big Climb, Winter Pineapple Classic and The Leukemia Cup Regatta.

21st Annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb
Benefitting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Sunday, March 11, 2012
Columbia Center, Seattle

69 Floors

Men's Competition

1. Andrew Drobeck, 30, Missoula, Mont. (Missoula City Fire) 10:38.3; 2. Peter Kilga, 39, University Place, Wash. (West Pierce Fire and Rescue) 11:50.5; 3. Paul Kimball, 28, Spokane, Wash. (Spokane Valley Fire Dept.) 11:55.4; 4. Brent Molsberry, 34, Bellingham, Wash. (Everett Fire Dept. Local #46) 12:02.5; 5. Ryan Pickering, 34, Woodinville, Wash. (Orting Valley Fire and Rescue) 12:20.6; 6. Thomas Guttu, 26, Mercer Island, Wash. (Mercer Island Fire Dept.) 12:27.0; 7. Steven Harms, 20, Cheney, Wash. (Spokane City Fire Dept.) 12:0.9; 8. Charlie Schmid, 31, Portland, Ore. (Vancouver Fire Local 452) 12:58.6; Tyler Dillmon, 29, Vancouver, Wash. (Vancouver Fire Local 452) 13:01.2; 10. Scott Wyman, 40, Bend, Ore. (Bend Fire and Rescue) 13:04.6.

Women's Competition

1. Georgia Daniels, 44, Tacoma, Wash. (Graham Fire and Rescue) 14:48.9; 2. Michelle Croft, 43, Portland, Ore. (Columbia River Fire and Rescue) 16:07.3; 3. Jacqueline Palmer, 33, Las Vegas, Nev. (Las Vegas Fire and Rescue) 16:47.3; 4. Kara Phillips, 43, Elizabeth, Colo. (South Metro Fire Authority) 17:20.5; 5. Liz Thompson, 37, Ridgefield, Ore. (Portland Fire and Rescue) 17:21.6; 6. Jessi Nemens, 31, Renton, Wash. (Kent Fire Dept.) 17:26.0; 7. Sabine Arnold, 45, Seattle (Shoreline Fire Dept.) 17:41.6; 8. Maia Earle, 28 (Bainbridge Island Fire Dept.) 17:53.7; 9. Tricia Connolly, 42, Bend, Ore. (Bend Fire and Rescue) 18:07.2; 10. Robin Ace, 34, Wasilla, Alaska (Central Mat-Su Fire Dept.) 19:13.4.

Team Competition

1. Missoula City Fire (Montana), 37:43; 2. Vancouver Fire Local 452 (Washington), 41:31; 3. Bend Fire and Rescue (Oregon), 41:35; 4. Renton Fire and Emergency Services (Washington), 41:41; 5. Spokane Valley Fire Dept. (Washington), 42:04; 6. Boise Fire Dept. (Idaho), 42:11; 7. Seattle Fire Dept. (Washington), 42:28; 8. Kennewick Fire Dept. (Washington), 42:43; 9. Mercer Island Fire Dept. (Washington), 43:01; 10. Everett Fire Local #46 (Washington); 43:10.

Complete Results

www.FirefighterStairclimb.org

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Our mission: *cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families*

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