



THE MEGAPHONE

A Vestigial Organ of the Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS



Vol. 2, No. 12

December 31, 2020

WORST YEAR IN MEMORY WAS A MIXED BAG FOR THE RASCALS, ROGUES, AND RAPSCALLIONS

Founded in 2000, Lair No. 3 eagerly anticipated 2020 as the 20th anniversary of the Lair. But celebration was mingled with disaster and grief before the year was out.



Dan Bramer holds forth on UFOs in religious history at the Sept. 12, 2020 meeting of Lair No. 3 at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church. In the background are (l. to r.) Sam Wood and George Hindley.

One day after Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf shut down the state in response to the emergent COVID-19 crisis, Lair No. 3 was scheduled to hold its first quarterly meeting of 2020. Postulate Dr. Dan Bramer was slated to present on UFOs in religious history. The March 14 meeting was canceled as surely as if an armada of UFOs had begun the War of the Worlds.

Doylestown Maennerchor Society, regular rendezvous of

the Lair in 2018 and 2019, was closed by COVID-19 restrictions throughout the summer, so the second quarter meeting was also canceled.

It wasn't until Sept. 12, the scheduled date of the third quarter meeting, that Rascals were able to gather on a warm evening under a canopy tent on the lawn of Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church.

Never in Rascal history had two meetings in a row

been canceled because of a natural disaster. But the reunion of the Rascals, in the relative safety of the open air, was a memorable event.

Nineteen men gathered in shirt-sleeve weather to enjoy a dinner delivered by DoorDash from the Iron Hill Brewery and to witness Dan Bramer's witty and enlightening discourse on UFOs in Jewish and Hindu religious texts.

At the time, Ray Hull II was undergoing cancer treatment and was unable to attend large gatherings. In a Rascal first, he and his son Roger Hull joined the meeting via zoom.

Present at the meeting were: Jim Barr, Dan Bramer, Jordan Goretti, Jon Haines, Dave Hamalian, George Hindley, Christopher Holland, Ray Hull II, Ray Hull III, Roger Hull, Mark McDowell, Jim McGinnis, Sean McVan, Calvin Morrison, Dan Morrison, Leon Moscherosch, Michael Moscherosch, Rob Proffe, Sam Wood, Alex Ziegler, and Mike Ziegler.

But the glorious celebration of the first Rascal meeting of 2020 soon gave way to grief and mourning when Ray Hull II announced to the group that his cancer had taken a turn for the worse and his chances of survival were slim.

The elder Ray, a founding member of Lair No. 3, father of Rascals Ray Hull III and Roger Hull, attended no fewer than 70 meetings of the Lair in its 20 years of fraternal fun. He died, at home and surrounded by his family, on December 2, just 10 days before the final RR&R meeting of the year.

On Dec. 5, the Hull family and friends gathered to lay Ray to rest and a Rascal quartet sang *My Last Cigar* at his funeral.

One week later, on Dec. 12 the Lair gathered for its annual Research Report meeting. This time, the zoom crowd was big, made up of both veteran Rascal alumni and first-time visitors.

Appearing via zoom were John Blair, Jeff Campbell, Charles George, and Tim Esaias of Lair No. 1, Peter Marino, a Lair No. 3 alumnus living in Georgia, and Hayes Lewis, a prospective Rascal from Texas.

Again, the canopy tent at



Roger Hull discusses his collection of molds used in glass factories at the Dec. 12, 2020 meeting of Lair No.3, at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church.

Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church served as the meeting place. But with temperatures in the 50s, walls were erected on three sides and propane

heaters added to reduce the chill in the air.

Research Report meetings are a favorite in Lair No. 3 and the 2020 edition proved worthy of the tradition.

Michael Moscherosch kicked off the evening with a presentation on Japanese torii gates. Roger Hull had an interesting discussion of molds used in commercial glass factories. Sean McVan talked about Wim Hof, who does wild things in extreme cold. Sam Clover revealed the secrets of Yerkessville, Pa., a nearby village. Bricks were on Dan Morrison mind. Hayes Lewis

talked about the Republic of Texas. And Peter Marino read a poem about a pickle-less man.

After the research reports, a few words were spoken in memory of the late Ray Hull II. First Michael Moscherosch rose to recount adventures with Ray in India. And then Jim Barr spoke to the character of the beloved man. Seth

Fluder played some mourning music as we sat for a while in the quiet with our grief and loss. Finally, Calvin Morrison tolled the bell in the steeple of



Rascal flag pin created by Ray Hull III to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Lair No. 3. These enamel pins were distributed to all who attended the meeting.

Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church, the clang resonating across the valley.

As a bonus, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Lair, Ray Hull III had an enamel pin of the Rascal flag made. Those attending the meeting received the beautiful souvenir.

It was a vintage Rascal evening.

Attending the meeting in person were: Alex Aimette, Jim Barr, Sam Clover, Seth Fluder, Jordan Goretti, Jon Haines, George Hindley, Ray Hull III, Roger Hull, Chris Kleppe, Sean McVan, Calvin Morrison, Dan Morrison, Leon Moscherosch, Michael Moscherosch, and David Rowland.

Attending via zoom were: John Blair, Jeff Campbell, Eric Erb, Tim Esaias, Charles George, Hayes Lewis, and Peter Marino.



New Membership Category Created: Non-Resident Membership for Men More Than 100 Miles From Doylestown



Hayes Lewis, founder of the Willoughby Club and resident of Texas, was elected as a non-resident member of Lair No. 3.

Lair No. 3 recently created a new category of membership for men living more than 100 miles from Doylestown, Pa., traditional center of the Lair.

The new “non-resident members” will enjoy the same rights as ordinary members, but because they are not likely to attend many meetings in person, annual dues were set at \$20. When non-resident members attend meetings in person, they will pay a \$25 fee for the evening.

The first two members in this new category are Hayes Lewis and Tim Esaias.

Hayes, who lives near Fort Worth, Texas, found the RR&R while surfing the web for a

diversion from the COVID-19 malaise. He was intrigued by the Rogue Challenges posted on the Ephorate website and contacted the Ephorate to see if he could start his own Lair in Texas.

Hayes is the organizer of the Willoughby Club, a group similar to the RR&R.

The Ephorate conceived a path by which the Willoughby Club would become

Lair No. 4 of the RR&R. That process will take about a year.

Meanwhile, Hayes is now a non-resident member, at the rank of Postulate, within Lair No. 3. When he becomes a Rogue and gathers five other would-be Rascals around him, the Ephorate will grant his group a charter.

Hayes zoomed into the Dec. 12 meeting and will

compete in the March 2021 Mass Challenge.

Tim Esaias is well-known to Rascals. He is a writer based in Pittsburgh and member of Lair No. 1. In 1999 he won a Mass Challenge and in 2003 finished his Rascal Challenge. He also served as Lair Secretary and wrote memorable accounts of meetings.

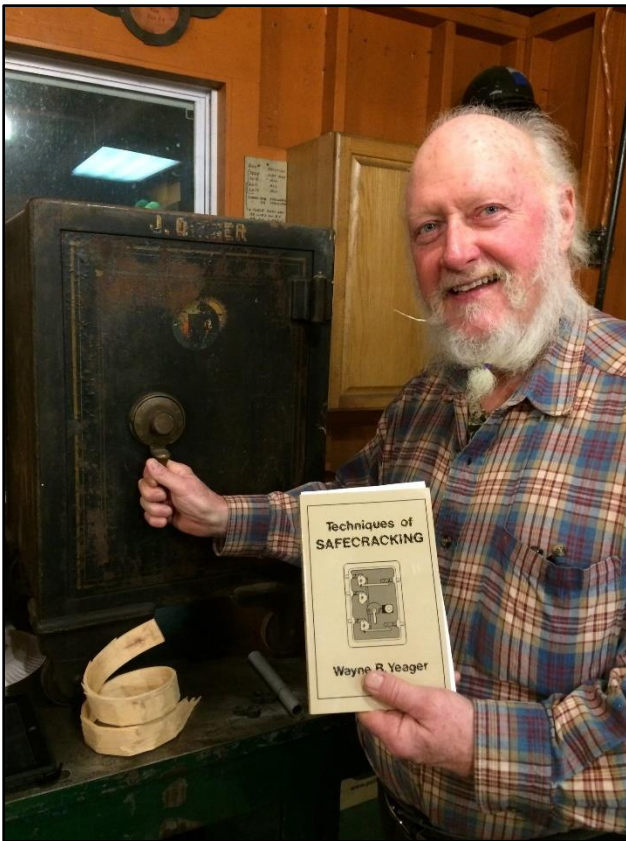
Esaias attended, in person, the Nov. 2000 and June 2019 meetings of Lair No. 3.

Tim’s latest writing coup is having his disaster thriller story “GO. NOW. FIX.” included in Jonathan Straham’s *The Year’s Best Science Fiction Anthology, Vol. 2.*



Rogue Tim Esaias of Pittsburgh joined Lair No. 1 in 1999 and was elected a non-resident member of Lair No. 3 in 2020.

Ray Hull II, Founding Member of Lair No. 3, Mourned by All: He Lived Well, but Not Long Enough



Ray Hull II, presenting at the Research Reports meeting of Lair No. 3, at Hull Haven, February 20, 2016.

For 20 years, Ray Hull II was a constant presence at Rascal events. His passing on Dec. 2, 2020, was a blow to the society whose values he embodied.

Hull was born in Newark, N.J., in 1948 and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Newark College of Engineering (now New Jersey Institute of Technology) in 1970. In 1974, he earned his master's degree from the same institution.

Hull's 41-year career was spent at Johnson & Johnson, from which he retired as a Senior Engineering Fellow. He accumulated 56 patents along the way.

At J & J, Hull met Michael Moscherosch, a neighbor of Dan Morrison. And when the two neighbors decided to launch an RR&R Lair, Hull came to the first meeting on Nov. 11, 2000, at the Doylestown Maennerchor. He is a signer of the Lair No. 3 charter.

Hull attended at least 70 meetings of Lair No. 3. His Rascal Challenge was to find the interesting thing in a place named "Hull." At his Challenge presentation on Dec. 13, 2003, Hull proved Hull, Mass., is the

"the most interesting place, per capita, in America."

He was a four-time Mass Challenge winner (2009, 2013, 2016, and 2017), earning the right to wear a gold Landgraf medal with bonus star.

Hull's two sons, Ray III and Roger, joined Lair No. 3 in 2008 and 2009. His rural New Jersey estate, Hull Haven, was the scene of many Rascal meetings.

And on Sept. 12, Ray Hull II joined his final Rascal meeting via zoom, with his son Roger at his side.

A funeral was held for the fallen Rascal on Dec. 5 in Clinton, N.J. The Rascal flag pin created by his son Ray III was attached to his suit jacket. Rascal Dan Morrison officiated.

At the end of the service, a quintet of Rascals gathered in front of Hull's casket to sing *My Last Cigar* for the departed brother. He was laid to rest in the Union Cemetery on a hill high above Milford, N.J.



Rascals sing a final rendition of My Last Cigar at the funeral of Ray Hull II. L. to r., Michael Moscherosch, Ray Hull III, Dan Morrison, Calvin Morrison, and Roger Hull.

Mass Challenge: Chain of an Unusual Substance

Because of COVID-19, there was no Mass Challenge in 2020. The next Mass Challenge is slated for March 13, 2021. The challenge is to produce a chain of an unusual substance.

Members and guests may compete with the winner being determined by a vote of all present at the meeting. Tie votes are settled by an arm-wrestling match.

Participants may be present in person or via zoom.

Prize for a Mass Challenge win is the coveted Jon Landgraf medal, pictured below.



Jim Barr is working harder than ever since he retired. In spite of the COVID shutdowns, he and his son, Galen, are working to opening a new microbrewery in Bucks County.

John Blair made his first RR&R appearance since 2010, thanks to zoom.

Jeff Campbell attended via zoom his first RR&R event in more than two decades. Dr. Campbell's last RR&R showing was at the First Quarter 2000 meeting of Lair No. 1.

Eric Erb recently discovered Wolferman's English muffins.

Tim Esaias read 82 books in 2020, none by Jackie Collins. He was rejected by 119 publishers, one fewer than his goal of 120.

Peter Fosl finally received his Jon Landgraf medal for his 1996 Mass Challenge win in Lair No. 2, the Lost Lair of Roanoke. Fosl teaches philosophy at Transylvania University.

Charles George became a grandfather in 2020.

Karl Halter suffered a series of strokes and is being cared for at Neshaminy Manor in Warrington, Pa. He would appreciate letters and calls.

Ray Hull III went spelunking with his family in Pennsylvania.

He has a new dog named Dotty.

Roger Hull successfully dodged the seven-year-itch and remains the happy husband of one wife and proud father of two children. He knows about bricks and muriatic acid.

Don Localio is reported to be once again doing Abstract Expressionist painting in Texas. Confirmation and contact info would be appreciated.

Peter Marino is busy as a drum instructor in Smyrna, Ga. We are still waiting for a copy of his pickle-poem.

Calvin Morrison owns more cars than President-Elect Biden. Some are parked at his father's house.

Leon Moscherosch finished at Temple University in 2020 and is heading into Big Data.

Michael Moscherosch has the world's longest job title at Johnson & Johnson: Director for Research and Development, Fellow for Social Innovation.

Dan Mundy is busy on his farm. He would have come to the most recent meeting were it not for COVID.

Peter Zaremba lives! His address is PO Box 699, Peapack, NJ 07977.



Rogue Challenges and the Creation of the First RapsCALLION: After 25 Years, Still No Members of the Highest Rank

Twenty-five years after the rank was created, there still are no RapsCALLIONS.

The 1995 RR&R constitution envisioned three ranks within the society. All are Rascals. Those who complete a Rascal Challenge are Rogues. And those who successfully satisfy a Rogue Challenge are become RapsCALLION and join the Order of RapsCALLIONS.

In 2019, the constitution was amended to add a fourth rank: Postulate.

Now a man joins a Lair at the rank of Postulate, without voting rights. If the Postulate, within two years of joining, participates in a Mass Challenge and in a Research Reports meeting, he becomes a Rascal, with voting privileges.

As in the 1995 constitution, the current law states Rascals are elevated to the rank of Rogue upon completion of Rascal Challenge, and Rogues are elevated to the rank of RapsCALLION upon finishing a Rogue Challenge.

Rascal Challenges are given by the Lair. Rogue Challenges, however, are issued by the Order of RapsCALLIONS.

And that creates a problem as there are no RapsCALLIONS yet. The Order of RapsCALLIONS, which issues Rogue Challenges, is an empty set. As a work-around, the Ephorate acts as the Order of RapsCALLIONS until

such time as real RapsCALLIONS are created.

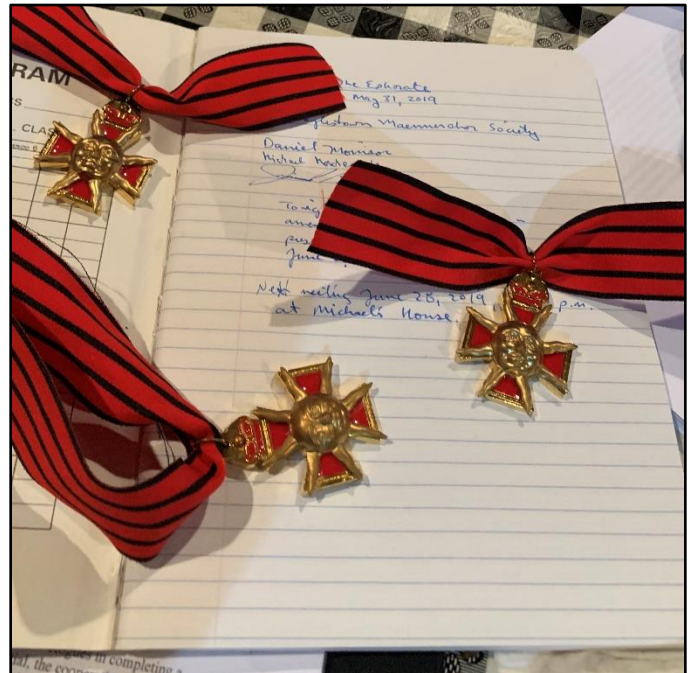
So far, no one has scaled that pinnacle of Rascaldom.

Rogue Challenges. Initial Rogue Challenges were given at what was labeled "The First Rogues Supper," on Jan. 18, 1997. At that event, hosted by Dan Morrison at his house on

Denniston Street in Pittsburgh, were Jeff Campbell, David Dunn, Brian Holly, Don Kellander, Dennis Looney, Don Pickerine, Greg Scheer, Glenn Vernon, and Lee Wolfson.

William Moulton, an English filmmaker, happened to be staying with Morrison at the time and so was present at the First (and thus far only) Rogues Supper. Moulton took the only known photos of that meeting.

Each Rogue present at the meeting was given a single challenge. For example, Greg Scheer was challenged to "get himself into the pages of the *National Enquirer* or a similar supermarket tabloid." Glenn Vernon was challenged "to have a prominent mural



Neck decorations of the Order of RapsCALLIONS waiting to be claimed by successful Rogue Challengers.

created on a public wall in Pittsburgh illustrating the Rogue's First Supper, after the manner of DaVinci's Last Supper." And Lee Wolfson was challenged "to have the RR&R flag blessed by the Pope."

Years passed and no one finished a Rogue Challenge. Morrison made some progress toward his challenge of raising the RR&R flag over the highest point of each of the 26 states east of the Mississippi by taking the Rascal banner to the top of Vermont, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Hoping to revive interest in the Order of RapsCALLIONS, the Ephorate issued a new set of Challenges in 2004, giving each Rogue three Challenges to

choose from.

Anonymous sources report Charles George is very close to completing his challenge to “place a Rascal emblem in 50 geocaches with each cache at least 60 miles distant from any other.” Close, but no cigar.

In 2019, more than two decades after the first Rogue Challenges were given, the Ephorate again tried to breathe life into the Order of Rapsallions. This time, rather than issuing Challenges to individual Rogues, the Ephorate created a list of 70 Challenges from which Rogues can choose three Challenges as their own for two years.

While all Rogues may claim Challenges from the list, thus far, only five Rogues have chosen a total of 13 Challenges. They are:

Jim Barr: Get a beer named after the RR&R to be sold in at least four bars.

Walk the length of the Mason-Dixon Line and publish your adventures under the RR&R imprint.

Ray Hull III: Have a feature on a planet officially named after the RR&R.

Get an official State Historical Marker placed.

Calvin Morrison. Trek, without motorized vehicles, above the Arctic Circle (minimum of 100 miles of travel above Arctic Circle).

Get the RR&R flag on a major holiday parade float with national television coverage.

Descend a river (minimum

100 miles) on a homemade, non-motorized boat with the RR&R flag flying.

Dan Morrison: Prepare first-class relics of all current RR&R members, confecting them in accord with customary procedures in standard thecae.

Resurrect a defunct chartered organization for RR&R purposes.

Launch a campaign to redesign the Pennsylvania state flag. Must result in a bill being introduced in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Michael Moscherosch: Develop an RR&R monetary system, applying all standard principles of monetary policy.

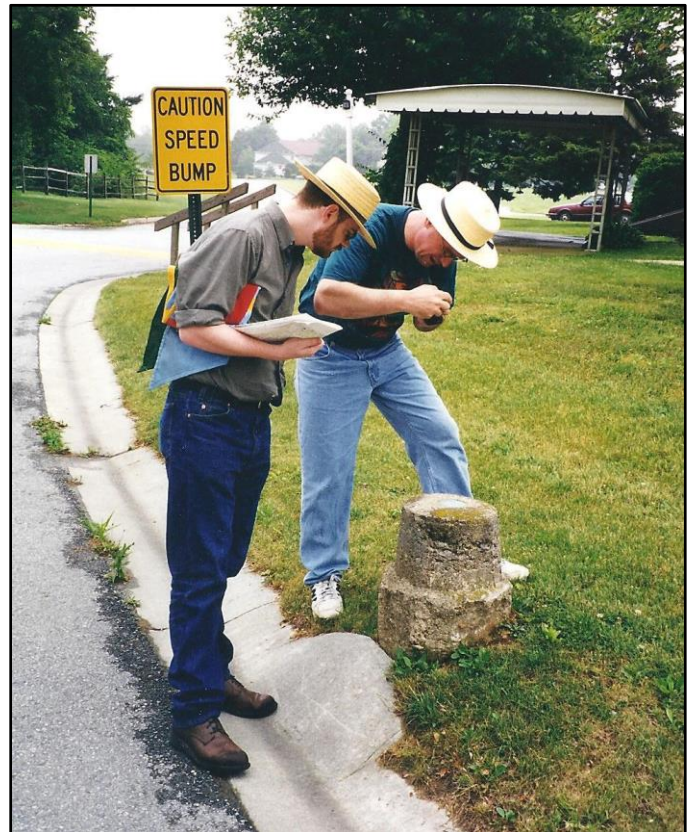
Create circulating high quality banknotes in at least four denominations that can be used within the organization.

Build a boat and circumnavigate most of Pennsylvania using canals and other waterways; route to be approved in advance by the Ephorate.

Create a completely new type of bread, using heretofore unused grains or yeast, etc., and have it sold in at least four

bakeries or one supermarket chain.

Rising to the Challenge. All current Rogue Challenges, both claimed and unclaimed, are listed in the Ephorate archive www.geocities.ws/ephorate.



RR&R flag under his arm, Sam Wood, left, accompanies Dan Morrison as he takes a photograph of the USGS benchmark at the highpoint of Delaware as part of his Rogue Challenge.

Our society is called Rascals, Rogues, and Rapsallions, but the sad truth is the name is only two-thirds right. Until some Rapsallions are minted, our august organization remains incomplete.

All Rogues should claim for themselves Rogue Challenges. Instructions about how to stake claims to Challenges is provided on the Ephorate website.



Rascal Beer Ball Offers a Foretaste of Suds to Come Fledgling Van Lieu's Brewery Hosts Rascals and Women

The 2019 Rascal Ball was a one-two punch. On March 16, with just the men, was a beer brewing demonstration. And three weeks later, on April 6, this time with women in tow, was a sampling of the beer that had been brewed.

Both events happened at Jim Barr's farm in Ringoes, N.J., where his mancave has become a full-blown brewery.

At the March 16 gathering, a regular quarterly meeting of Lair No. 3, Barr's son Galen, took the Rascals through the many steps of beermaking: malting, milling, mashing, lautering, boiling, fermenting, filtering, and packaging.

Galen and his father have been preparing to open a commercial microbrewery.

Attending that meeting were Jim Barr, Eric Erb, Seth Fluder, Ray Hull II, Ray Hull III, Roger Hull, Calvin Morrison, Dan Morrison, and Michael Moscherosch.

Three weeks later, on April 6, Rascals and women gathered again at Barr's brewery for the 2019 Rascal Ball which featured a sampling of the special beer that had been started at the preceding quarterly meeting.

Fabulous finger foods and endless liquid refreshments were available throughout the evening as people mingled and visited. Once appetites were sated and thirsts were slaked,



Rascals gather in the Van Lieu's Brewery for the 2019 Rascal Ball. L. to r., Eric Erb, Ray Hull III, Dan Morrison, Jim Barr, Calvin Morrison, Leon Moscherosch, Ray Hull II, Michael Moscherosch, and Roger Hull.

Lair Archivist Dan Morrison gave a presentation of some Rascal history and events of the preceding year in Lair No. 3. The two Rascal theme songs, Greg Scheer's *Interesting Thing* and James Hubbard's *My Last Cigar*, opened and closed the evening's program.

Our liberal hosts were Jim Barr and his wife Buff. Eric Erb was dazzling in his resplendent Korean garb. Donning a kilt was Ray Hull II, accompanied by his wife Connie. Their firstborn, Ray Hull III, was present with his wife Christina. Wearing his Landgraf medal and a German hunting hat, Roger Hull was joined by his wife Kimberly.

Dan Morrison came with his wife Eva and daughter Amelia Grace. His Rascal son, Calvin Morrison, was also there. In lederhosen was Michael Moscherosh, with his wife Lisa and Rascal son Leon.

And rounding out the crowd was perennial Rascal observer and non-joiner Sam Wood.

The Megaphone

"Mostly True ... Since 1994."

Pliny Miles, editor

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