



THE MEGAPHONE



A Vestigial Organ of the Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS

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RASCALS, ROGUES, AND RAPSCALLIONS ON TAP Rascals Drink RRR Suds at Van Lieus Brewery

With temperatures nearing 100 degrees, ten Rascals met at the Van Lieus Brewing Company to drink Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS IPA in memory of **Ray Hull II** on July 6, 2024. The party began indoors, to enjoy the air conditioning. Treasurer **Michael Moscherosch** distributed coupons to all members for one free beer, though no one stopped at just one. As the sun began to set, Rascals went outside to picnic tables and fired up cigars.

The VLBC in Perkasié, Pa., is owned by **Jim Barr** and his son **Galen Barr** and opened for business in a converted gas station on October 29, 2022.

The brewery had its start in the basement of **Jim Barr's** estate in Ringoes, N.J., and is named for the road on which the farmhouse is located. In 2018, **Jim** was approaching retirement from Johnson & Johnson, and his son **Galen Barr** was looking for a career change. Starting a microbrewery seemed like an appealing idea.

Jim Barr and his son had long enjoyed making wine and distilling spirits as a hobby. Beer was a natural next step. The older **Barr** then added a Rascal wrinkle to his sudsy project. On October 5,

2019, **Jim** staked a claim to this Rogue Challenge: "Get a beer named after the RR&R to be sold in at least four bars."

Once the VLBC was up and running, **Jim** and **Galen** developed a New England style hazy double IPA brew and under a license from The Ephorate named the beer Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS. That beer has been sold in four bars: J. T. Bankers in Perkasié, the Plumsteadville Inn, the Doylestown Maennerchor, and the Van Lieus Brewing Company.

On March 12, 2023, **Jim** made his Rogue Challenge presentation and he was declared a member of the Order of RapsCALLIONS.

The original batch of RR&R IPA quickly sold out and the beautiful brew, which **Galen** says is the most expensive VLBC

product to produce, was not again cooked until June 2024.

Present at the meeting were **Jim Barr, Dan Bramer, Ray Hull III, Roger Hull, Michael Landis, Sean McVan, Calvin Morrison, Dan Morrison, Michael Moscherosch, and Jeff Sivek.**



*Van Lieus Brewing Company brewmaster **Galen Barr** holds a crowler of Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS IPA.*



RASCALS SERENADED IN BELLTOWER

Art Bianconi Memorial Outing to Valley Forge

Lair No. 3 took an Art Bianconi Memorial Outing to the Washington Memorial Chapel, in Valley Forge National Historical Park, on the suggestion of **Jeff Sivek**, a docent at the chapel.

The late **Art Bianconi** was an occasional guest at RR&R events and friend of **Ray Hull II**. He was an engineer interested in telescopes and rockets.

On April 13, 2024, eight men gathered at the G Lodge Café, just outside Valley Forge Park, for a pre-Chapel lunch. The Café is a modest-looking roadside joint which opened in 1928. With a low, timbered ceiling, a large stone fireplace, a few scattered tables, and a Formica lunch counter with chrome stools, the G Lodge is an odd mix of colonial charm and greasy spoon kitsch. But the food – the Café only serves breakfast and lunch – is surprisingly good.

Following lunch, the Rascals traveled to the national headquarters of the Patriotic Order Sons of America, of which **Dan Morrison** is a member.



At the G Lodge Café, l. to r.: **George Hindley, Mark McDowell, Jeff Sivek, Jim Barr, George Green, Michael Landis, Dan Morrison, and Jon Faucette.**

Then the group proceeded to the Washington Memorial Chapel and **Jeff Sivek** gave a tour of the ornate Gothic Revival building. The exterior of the building was completed in 1917, while the interior was not finished until 1928. The chapel has three functions. It is a memorial to General George Washington who overwintered with his army in Valley Forge in 1777-1778. It is a wayside chapel for visitors to the Valley Forge National Park, in which it is located. And, most importantly, it is the meeting place of an active Episcopal parish.

After touring the chapel, the Rascals climbed a narrow spiral staircase in the carillon tower which rises 102 feet. In the tower, they met the carillonneur, **Doug Gefvert**, and heard him perform on the 58-bell carillon.

Attending this meeting were: **Jim Barr, Jon Faucette, George Green, George Hindley, Michael Landis, Mark McDowell, Dan Morrison, and Jeff Sivek.**



Rascals gather around Carillonneur **Doug Gefvert**. L. to r.: **George Hindley, Jeff Sivek, Michael Landis, Jim Barr, and Mark McDowell.**

SOUL MUSIC TOPIC FOR RASCALS

Morrison Delivers Non-Challenge Presentation

When the scheduled Rascal Challenger for the first quarter 2024 meeting reported he was out-of-state and not available to present, Rogue **Calvin Morrison** stepped in and delivered a non-challenge presentation on the Blues Brothers and Stax Records of Memphis, Tenn.

The March 9, 2024 meeting was upstairs at the Doylestown Maennerchor Society and, for the first time in Rascal history, the room was well-heated in spite of the chilly weather out of doors. That was because **Jeff Sivek** found the thermostat and turned it up.

The Blues Brothers were an R&B revival band formed in 1978 by the Saturday Night Live duo John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd. Their 1978 debut album *Briefcase Full of Blues* reached the top position on the *Billboard* chart and sold more than 2 million copies.

Between 1957 and 1976, Stax Records was a leader in the soul music scene, the southern competitor to Motown Records of Detroit. Isaac Hayes, the Bar-Kays, Wilson Pickett, and Otis Redding were among the label's leading acts.

In forming their revival band, Belushi and Aykroyd hired an all-star cast, including guitarist Steve Cropper and bassist Donald "Duck" Dunn of Booker T. and the M.G.'s, the house band at Stax Records. Thus, the link between the retro project of two late-1970s New York City comedians and the 1960s Memphis soul music powerhouse.

In January 2013, **Calvin Morrison** and his father **Dan Morrison** took a road trip to Memphis. While in Memphis, the Rascal father-and-son team visited Graceland, Elvis Presley's home, the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King was murdered in 1968, and the Stax Recording Studios.

These days, the younger Morrison enjoys the



Calvin Morrison outside the Stax Recording Studios in Memphis, Tennessee, in January 2013. In March 2024, Morrison gave a non-challenge presentation on the Blues Brothers and Stax Records.

complete Stax Records playlist on Spotify, while the older Morrison enjoys watching *Shaft*, the 1971 blaxploitation crime action thriller featuring a Stax soundtrack from Isaac Hayes.

Present at the meeting were: **Jon Faucette, Jordan Goretti, George Green, Jon Haines, Sean McVan, Calvin Morrison, Dan Morrison, and Jeff Sivek.**





Jim Barr is an unpaid intern at Van Lieus Brewing Company in Perkasie, Penna.



Jim Barr in the background, while some chippie lifts a glass of hazy beer.

Dan Bramer delivered his paper “A Faith Open to Unbelief: The Christian intellectual tradition as partner to Western (re)secularity” at the Second World Conference on Religious Dialogue and Cooperation in Skopje, Macedonia, in June.

Jason Enelow visited France in June. His French Facebook postings reveal his monarchist leanings, with King Louis XIV, Emperor Napoleon, and King Louis Philippe I all getting shoutouts.

Timons Esaias visited Ohio in June. His Hoosier Facebook postings reveal his Republican leanings, with reverent pictures

of the final resting place of President William McKinley.

Charles George swapped houses with his son. His new address is 226 Berringer Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15202.

Jordan Goretti has been gardening this summer. He has also been reading the Tanakh with daughters **Karineh** and **Dafne**, and studying the Book of Order of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

George Green has traveled back and forth to Florida quite a bit this year. We hear rumors he will move from Philly. A woman might be involved.

Karl Halter lives in Oxford, North Carolina. He was visited in March by **Jim Morrison**, his cousin. **Jim** is the brother of **Dan Morrison** and uncle of



Karl Halter, right, with his cousin Jim Morrison, March 20, 2024.

Calvin Morrison.

Ray Hull III was spotted in Woolwich, Maine, where he ate the world’s largest lobster roll at Taste of Maine restaurant. ToM also is home to the largest inflatable lobster.

Roger Hull works for Preferred Masonry Restoration. One recent project was the Vanderbilt Mansion, a National Historic Site in Hyde Park, N.Y.



Peter Marino and Diane Surdyke Marino moved from the USA to Italy.

Michael Landis has been selling sour cherries from a tree in his Elkins Park yard to Dave’s Backyard Farm, an organic food store in Huntingdon Valley.

Dave Hamalian, proprietor of the shop, says the cherries are popular with eastern European customers and are all sold out.

Hayes Lewis is moving to a larger house in Texas, one with a greenhouse. He anticipates the new digs will become the epicenter of the Willoughby Club, or RR&R Lair No. 4.

Peter Marino now lives in Todi, Italy, with his wife **Diane**. We are waiting to hear about an Italian RR&R Lair.



Sean McVan lives in the house he grew up in and works for Gilmore & Associates, a civil engineering firm.

Calvin Morrison and his wife **Cheryl** welcomed their first-born, **Archibald Alexander Morrison**, on December 22, 2023. The boy was named for the first professor at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dan Morrison completed his nineteenth year as pastor of Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church in June. Also in June, he traveled to Fayette, Mo., where he spoke with the folks at the Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art about publishing his monograph on Duard Marshall. On his way home, **Dan** stopped in Louisville, Ky., to visit with Bishop **William Myers**, the primate of the Old Roman Catholic Church.



Dan Morrison, right, with The Most Reverend William Myers, SSM.

Leon Moscherosch is couch-surfing at his sister's place in Heidelberg, Germany.

Michael Moscherosch holds the record for the most Lair 3

meetings attended. He missed, the first two meetings in 2024 as he was traveling in Africa and Europe. He missed the March meeting because he was in Uganda where he went to the Bidibidi refugee camp, home to 270,000 refugees from South Sudan. He then went to the Khaka 2 refugee camp which has 170,000 refugees from Congo and Rwanda. He also was at the Social Innovation Academy in Mpigi and the spent a few days with mentees in Kampala. **Michael Moscherosch** missed the June meeting because he was in Germany visiting his mother.



Michael Moscherosch with kids at the Khaka 2 refugee camp, in Uganda.

Harry Plantinga is still a professor of computer science at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Jeff Sivek recent sold his house outside of Coatesville and bought a place in Abington, overlooking the Huntingdon Valley Country Club golf course. In doing so, he and his wife **Carla** traded Amish neighbors and milk cows for oodles of nearby shopping and a steady

influx of golf balls. His new address is 1789 Old Welsh Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.



Lee Wolfson's profile on the NBP logo on a baked potato.

Lee Wolfson turned 72 in June and continues to be a Pittsburgh basketball legend. When **Wolfson** worked for the University of Pittsburgh, from 1983 until he retired in 2019, he played ball three times a week at a Pitt gym. Since 2009, he has also played at the Newlonburg Presbyterian Church in Murrysville. Recently, the Newlonburg Basketball Players Union used **Lee's** silhouette in its logo.



The Megaphone

"Mostly True ... Since 1994."

Pliny Miles, editor

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MAESTRO GREG SCHEER, RASCAL NO. 2

Plenty of Accolades, But No Landgraf Medal

He has a sterling Rascal résumé, but **Greg Scheer** never won a Landgraf Medal and the omission continues to rankle.

Let's start with highlights from **Scheer's** groundbreaking Rascal career:

- Attended first RR&R meeting (Aug 1993).
- Organized Rascal Quartet (Dec 1993).
- Signed first Rascal charter (Mar 1994).
- Completed first Challenge (June 1994).
- Elected first Rascal of the Year (Feb 1995).
- Composed *Interesting Thing* (June 1995).
- Signed Rascal Constitution (Dec 1995).

Between 1993 and 1998, **Maestro Scheer** was the epitome of Rascaldom: urbane, witty, and handsome. After that, his rising career as a composer and church musician took him far from Pittsburgh and Lair No. 1.

Despite his many Rascal accolades, the Jon Landgraf Medal, signifying a win in the annual Mass Challenge, has eluded him. Some would say unfairly.

But more on that later.

In 1993, when America's most interesting men's club began to coalesce in an organized way, **Scheer** was choir director at Bellefield Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Singing in his choir was **Dan Morrison**, who called the first meeting under the RR&R banner in 1989.

Scheer attended the first meeting of the nascent Lair No. 1 on August 21, 1993. The theme that night: the lost Republic of Tannu Tuva. And after that, **Scheer** maintained nearly perfect attendance, showing up for 21 of the next 23 meetings, until **Scheer** moved to Florida in 1998.

Scheer's musical talent was first shown at the December 4, 1993 meeting, at which **Dan Morrison** presented on Moses Gale, a Brooklyn brass worker who patented a gas-fired cigar lighter in 1871. For that meeting, **Scheer** organized the Rascal Quartet [**Greg Scheer**, **Harry Plantinga**, **Jack Brice**, and **Dan Morrison**] which sang three songs: "Good, Good



Greg Scheer, at Tramp's Grand Olde Saloon, in Pittsburgh, December 3, 1994. Prof. **Don Kellander** is in the background.

Indeed, the Herb's Good Weed," an anonymous medieval madrigal; "A Woman is Only a Woman, But a Good Cigar is a Smoke," a song from a 1905 Broadway musical; and the now classic, "My Last Cigar, or, Twas Off the Blue Canaries," which has been sung at every Rascal meeting since.

Scheer was the first man to take an honest-to-God Rascal Challenge. On June 11, 1994 he made his presentation on Burgettstown, Pa., a seriously depressed borough with 1600 citizens. **Scheer** poked around and found interesting characters, including **Caesar Grossi**, the Italian organist and

choir director at Our Lady of Lourdes Church who was unceremoniously fired by the new priest after 50 years on the job; **Pauline**, a giant potbelly pig living in the hardware store on Main Street who drank Dr. Pepper and was embroiled in a court case about livestock in the business district; and the town drunk who had a tattoo of Jesus on one forearm and a picture of the Devil on the other.

Scheer also checked with the local historical society, but found the DAR ladies stuffy and boring.

With this rich material, **Scheer** made a video documentary, using professional equipment from the local public access channel.

When the film screened for the first time at the Burgettstown Library, the local grand dames were horrified. Instead of tales about early settlers and Civil War heroes, **Scheer** presented inebriated lowlifes, illegal livestock, and Italian immigrants.

And then, to add insult to injury, when Our Lady of Lourdes had its summer festival, **Scheer** got a spot on the entertainment program and showed up with the Rascal Quartet wearing Save Pauline Pig t-shirts to sing songs by **Caesar Grossi**.

“**Caesar** was a delightful human being,” **Scheer** said. “He had an understated, wry sense of humor that won me over right away. We soon were sharing compositions and he brought his whole family to my church when we premiered one of his songs. We remained friends until his death.”

The present whereabouts of the original video documentary remains a mystery. **Scheer** misplaced his copy; the Rascal archive has nothing; and the copy given to the Burgettstown Library has gone missing. **Scheer** smells a rat.

“The Burgettstown Historical Society was a force to be reckoned with,” **Scheer** noted. “They may be the reason the copy of the documentary went missing from the library.”

Still No Landgraf Medal

Greg Scheer was a Rascal among Rascals and in the first five years of the organized group he took every laurel the society had to offer. Every laurel except for the Landgraf Medal, symbol of a win in the Mass Challenge.

Scheer almost won in 1995, the first year of the competition, when all Rascals were given random



Greg Scheer, left, with Dan Morrison, at McGillin's Olde Ale House, in Philadelphia, April 17, 2023.

coordinates within 100 miles of Pittsburgh.

On June 3, 1995, Lair No. 1 met and heard a crazy assortment of tales. When it came time to vote on the best, **Scheer** tied with **Jeff Campbell**.

Campbell's location was a bit of boggy land in Ohio. **Campbell** collected water from a puddle and discovered a bug swimming around. He took it to the county entomologist who said it was a water mite. **Campbell** dubbed it “Lenny the Water Mite” and talked about the life cycle of this arachnid.

Scheer's assignment took him to Warren County, Pennsylvania, in the Allegheny National Forest. He looked around and penned a song titled, “There's Nothing There,” which he sang for the Lair to much applause.

In the end, the tie was broken with an arm-wrestling match, and **Campbell**, a neurosurgeon at the University of Pittsburgh, outmuscled **Scheer**, the chagrined composer and choir director.



SECOND QUARTER MEETING GOES ACADEMIC

Dan Bramer Tweaks Pagans and Lauds Christians

When the scheduled Rogue Challenger begged off, Prof. Dr. **Dan Bramer** came to the rescue with a non-challenge presentation titled, "Fighting its Own Infection: Convers(at)ion, Accommodation, and the Virus of Pagan Christianity." **Bramer** teaches philosophy at Holy Family University in Philadelphia. His remarks were related to a paper he delivered later in the month at a conference in Macedonia.

Lair No. 3 gathered in the upper room of the Doylestown Maennerchor Society building on June 8, 2024. Dinner, as usual, was cheesesteaks and other filling bar fare.

Dan Morrison conducted a business meeting of the Lair at which the noteworthy decision was

gatherings, reported that the Lair coffers are full.

A round of self-introductions was made for the benefit of **Scott Wolfertz** who was attending his second RR&R meeting. The last time **Wolfertz** met with the Rascals was on December 14, 2002, at the Moose Home, when **Peter Marino** presented his non-challenge follies.

The Lair sang **Greg Scheer's Interesting Thing** and **Bramer** stood to deliver a tightly-reasoned and decidedly-academic presentation.

While Christians lament the secularization of the formerly Christian West, and secularists and atheists complain of the intrusion of religion into the secular sphere, **Bramer** argued both discontents are sides of a common coin: namely

the mutual infection and interbreeding between the Christian Church and pagan Rome.

Michael Moscherosch offered the most pointed critique during the question-and-answer period after **Bramer's** remarks. "It seems to me," **Moscherosch** opined, "that when the Church does something good, you attribute that to its Christian roots, but when the Church does something bad, you attribute that to pagan influences." To which a chorus of Presbyterians said, "Well, duh!"

Keeper of the Humidor **Calvin Morrison** was absent which meant many Rascals suffered a cigar-less evening.

Present were: **Jim Barr, Dan Bramer, Jordan Goretti, George Green, Jon Haines, Roger Hull, Michael Landis, Sean McVan, Dan Morrison, Michael Moscherosch, Jeff Sivek, and Scott Wolfertz.**

♣ ♣ ♣



Dan Bramer delivers his comments to Lair No. 3 assembled in the upper room at the Doylestown Maennerchor Society, June 8, 2024.

replacement of the 2024 Rascals Ball with a stag outing to Van Lieus Brewing Company to drink fresh drafts of Rascals, Rogues, and Rapsallions Hazy Double IPA. **Michael Moscherosch**, the treasure who had been absent for the past three