



# THE MEGAPHONE



A Vestigial Organ of the Rascals, Rogues, and Rapsallions

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## SAVILE ROW MEETS SALVATION ARMY: Rascals Learn to Sew in Latest Mass Challenge

In an historic first, a non-Rascal took the big prize in the thirty-sixth Mass Challenge competition. **Jon Haines**, in his eighth RR&R appearance and second Mass Challenge entry, was the clear and easy winner of the Jon Landgraf Medal.

This year's challenge was to produce an article of clothing.

Saddled with the Buchanan Medal for a second year was Calvin Morrison. The BM is the booby prize for the worst entry.

Competitors drew numbers from a hat to determine the order of presentation. First up was **Dan Morrison** who hired Dan Bramer's mother-in-law, **Naomi Trask**, to teach him how to sew an Amish vest. He collected a few votes, but the purple silk lining struck some as un-Amish.

Next up was **Jason Enelow** who produced a necktie out of Van Gogh "Starry Night" fabric. While the Texan was not 100 percent satisfied with his entry, most Rascals thought it looked store-bought.

Also from Texas was **Hayes Lewis**, who created a falconer's glove out of deer hide. Lewis and Enelow are the pillars of the Willoughby Club of Fort Worth, Texas, which aspires to



*Calvin Morrison, left, wearing his Phrygian liberty cap and Buchanan medal, is consoled by Mass Challenge winner Jon Haines, who sports his award-winning rabbit mittens.*

become Lair No. 4 of the RR&R.

The most inventive interpretation of the challenge to produce an article of clothing was the pressed glass and limestone ashtray produced by **Roger Hull**. The leather thong by which the ashtray could be hung around the neck justified Hull's dubious claim he had produced an article of clothing.

The night's winning entry was a pair mittens **Jon Haines** made out of rabbit fur. Jon, a church musician and rep for a company that sells industrial printers, raises rabbits in his Hatboro backyard. Fluffy, Bun-Bun, Flopsie, and Snowball gave their all to the project, and the result was beautiful and would have made an Eskimo proud.



Front row, l. to r.: Calvin Morrison, Jon Haines, and Hayes Lewis; back row, l. to r.: Dan Morrison, Jim Barr, Mike Landis, Jason Enelow, Jordan Goretti, Roger Hull, Dan Bramer, and Michael Moscherosch.

Also making mittens was **Mike Landis**. The Yale-trained theologian gave a song-and-dance about high-latitude native people, but the hand coverings he produced were made from green fleece bought at Wal-Mart and the waistband of a tired pair of BVDs. For his efforts, he earned a couple of votes for the Buchanan medal.

**Michael Moscherosch**, in keeping with his past practice, not only produced an entry to the competition, but also created an entire philosophy, factory, and supply chain for that entry. This year, he made silkscreened t-shirts reading “We will search for that interesting thing,” but along the way he also excavated the history of a Weimar Republic cartoonist, a steel-nib-enabled font outlawed by the Nazis, and

he constructed the factory needed for silk-screening.

The recipient of this year’s Rascal raspberry, the man who garnered the most “No!” votes, was **Calvin Morrison**. His entry was a Phrygian liberty cap, also known as a Smurf hat. Fabric and sewing were involved in the project, but the result could not be called “clothing.” The misshapen beanie was enough to break a hipster’s heart.

Calvin was a good sport about being two-time “winner” of the Buchanan prize for the worst entry into the Mass

Challenge. But the indignity of wearing the gong for a second year raises the question: Is it better to run and fall on your face, or to not run at all? This writer is confident all Rascals would agree: the adventure is in the trying, come victory or failure. And life without adventure is a paltry thing.

Philosopher and paintballer **Dan Bramer** gave a show-and-tell with a pair of specialized pants he designed and created for paintballing. While his talk was fascinating, Bramer did not enter his pants into the Mass Challenge competition as he created them prior to the issue of the challenge.

The Mass Challenge took place in the smoky upper room at the Maennerchor Society building in Doylestown, scene



Mike Landis gets happy with his homemade mittens.

of many happy RR&R meetings. Also present at the meeting were **Jim Barr** and **Jordan Goretti**.





## ANNUAL RESEARCH REPORTS

### Rascals Updates on Extracurricular Investigations

**Rascals were back at the barn** at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church for their Research Reports meeting on September 10, 2022. Our usual berth at the Doylestown Maennerchor Society was not available as our contact with that venue is **Michael Moscherosch** and he was in Germany on the appointed day.

While the location had been announced via postcard, email, and Facebook posting, **Calvin Morrison** and his guest **George Green** drove to Doylestown looking for the Rascals and ran into **Sean McVan** who was heading to Huntingdon Valley. To avoid future misunderstandings, the Director promises to employ carrier pigeons and newspaper advertising to announce the location of the next quarterly meeting.

Twelve men gathered in person and two online. Food for the night was from Huntingdon Valley Pizza. The evening was warm so rather than meeting inside the barn, we gathered under the overhang in front of the barn.

Kicking off the presentations for the evening was **Rich James**, a member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors, who discussed the business of installing escalators, complete with shop diagrams and videos of escalators James has worked on.

**Hayes Lewis**, zooming in from deepest, darkest Texas, talked briefly about reading an Italian book about the Ludovico Manin, the last Doge of Venice, who was deposed by Napoleon in 1797. As Lewis does not know Italian, the book is a long-term project.

With Lewis was **Jason Enelow** who talked of the drinking habits of royals. In a timely nod to the decease of Queen Elizabeth II, Jason raised the apt question, "Is the pineapple wedge on the rim of a Queen's cocktail an affectation?" The spotty Wi-Fi connection prevented anyone from alerting Jason to the correct spelling of the drink: it's a Queens cocktail, as in, not a Manhattan or a Bronx.



*Jim Barr pours out Guinness stout with a head of fine nitrogen bubbles, at the Lair No. 3 Research Reports meeting on September 10, 2022.*

**Calvin Morrison** talked about a rolodex with a few dozen neatly typed index cards he bought at a Goodwill store. The item likely stopped being used 30 or 40 years ago and Calvin proposes identifying its former owner as a self-imposed Challenge. He also talked about making his own electronics for his many Saabs.

**Jordan Goretti**, who recently vacationed in Brigantine, New Jersey, home to more shore birds than you can shake a stick at, talked about the joys of birdwatching.

**Sean McVan** brought a bucket of old bottles he found in his basement. Most, it seemed, were

from the 1940s and cleaned up nicely. Thank God no one bothered to clean out the basement!

The mysteriously fine bubbles in Guinness stout occupied brewer **Jim Barr** in his presentation. We also learned that the Irish harp which serves as the Guinness logo is the reverse of the harp featured on the Irish green flag.

**George Green**, a friend of **Calvin Morrison** attending his first Rascal meeting, extemporized gamely on his attempts to learn how to make hard seltzer. Green lives in Philadelphia.

**Dan Morrison** talked about Ebby Flack, a choir director at his church from 1965 to 1984 who went off the rails and whose misdeeds are featured in a chapter of the dissertation Morrison is writing.

Also present at the meeting but not presenting were **Dan Bramer**, who brought the beer and sodas

for the night; **George Hindley**, who with 18 RR&R meetings under his belt is the non-member with the best attendance record, a record that beats that of a number of members; **Roger Hull**, who brought a fine selection of cigars for attendees to chose from; **Michael Landis**, who walked more than five miles to attend this meeting; and **Leon Moscherosch**, who upheld the family honor in the absence of his father.

Absent members were: **Timons Esaias**, without excuse; **Ray Hull III**, just returned from North Carolina and dealing with childcare issues; **Mark McDowell**, complaining of COVID-19; and **Michael Moscherosch**, traveling in Germany.



*George Green at the podium holds forth at the RR&R Research Reports meeting on September 10, 2022, at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church. Widdershins from the podium: Rich James, Leon Moscherosch, Dan Morrison, Sean McVan, Jordan Goretti, Calvin Morrison, Jim Barr, Roger Hull, Michael Landis, and Dan Bramer. Photo by George Hindley.*



**Jim Barr** and his son Galen have opened the Van Lieus Brewing Co. in a restored gas station in Perkasie, Penna. This brewpub currently is open Wednesday through Sunday.

**Dan Bramer** teaches philosophy at Holy Family University and won the 2022 School of Arts and Sciences Teaching award.

**Jason Enelow** was voted into membership of Lair No. 3 on December 10. If he returns the appropriate forms and dues payment, he will be a Rascal, as he has already met the requirements of a Postulate.

**Timons Esaias** teaches at Seton Hill University and received a perfect “awesome” rating on ratemyprofessor.com. One student wrote: “Absolutely a gift to the world ... Take anything he ever teaches. Be wherever he is.” Dang!

**Charles George** is a research statistician at the University of Pittsburgh. His paper “Higher Angiotensin II Type 1 Receptor Levels and Activity in the Postmortem Brains of Older Persons with Alzheimer’s Dementia” appeared in the April 2022 issue of *Journal of Gerontology*. When asked about it, Charles didn’t remember the article.

**Jordan Goretti** is the secretary at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church. He also was elected secretary of Lair No. 3 for 2023.

**Karl Halter** is now living at the Brantwood Nursing and Rehab facility at 1038 College Street, Oxford, NC 27565. Phone 919-690-3334.

**Ray Hull III** was King Tut for Halloween this year. While we haven’t seen him for a while at an RR&R meeting, we hear reports he’s been getting around and tearing it up.

**Roger Hull** makes a living with masonry and gets his kicks from melting glass.

**Donald Kellander**, an original member of the Ephorate, was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in 1937. Beginning in 1965, he taught French for many years at Duquesne University. His Rascal’s Challenge, in 1997, was on the history of Max’s Allegheny Tavern, a regular meeting place of Lair No. 1. His wife, Ann, died in 2010. Don is still alive and kicking in the Dormont section of Pittsburgh.

**Hayes Lewis** is learning Māori for his Rogue



Challenge.

**Dennis Looney** is the 2022 recipient of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Wilga Rivers Award for Leadership in World Language Education. Dennis taught Italian at the University of Pittsburgh for many years. These days he lives in Manhattan and continues his Dante research.

**Peter Marino** splits his time between Smyrna, Georgia, and Todi, Italy. His website is [onehourdrummer.com](http://onehourdrummer.com).

**Mark McDowell** is still a Baptist and recently traveled to New Jersey to celebrate Cookie Day.

**Sean McVan** took in the lakes of Killarney, the strand at Rossbeigh, and the city of Inverness in his travels to Ireland and Scotland this past October.

**Calvin Morrison** recently moved to Bethlehem, Penna., and now lives just five blocks from where his great-great uncle Bobby Morrison lived in the 1920s. His new postal address is 33 East Goepp, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

**Dan Morrison** became a grandfather on Nov. 30 when Sebastian Adamson Bruce was born to his daughter Rosie. The large and fortunate child lives in Philadelphia.

**Leon Moscherosch** is a data wrangler. Not a data rustler. We want to set the record straight.

**Michael Moscherosch** has been preparing his outdoor pizza oven for the coming winter months.

**William Moul** makes movies about shipwrecks and has been poking around the Baltic Sea.

**Lee Wolfson, Charles George, and Dan Morrison** for dinner at tākō tōrtä in Pittsburgh this past July 8. Earlier in the day **Dan Morrison** visited **Timons Esaias** at home to pick up a couple items for the Rascal Archive.

## Voice of the Reader

### “Clothes Make the Man”

As a Rascal from years past who continues to follow the goings on of Lair No. 3, I am compelled to mention a fascination I have developed watching the current members through zoom calls. These calls don't make it terribly easy to participate, but they do allow me to observe and listen to all the presentations. The presentations are, as ever, interesting and informative. I am happy to see that as the next generation jumps into the fray, the membership maintains a certain idealistic and intelligent focus that gives me hope in these fraught times.

I joined the Rascals because it represented many things that I loved: cigars, alcohol, interesting conversations, and friendship among like-minded people. So it is with some trepidation that I raise an issue that may not even enter the minds of the general membership.

Upon review of the latest *Megaphone*, I read

about the goings on and saw photos of the event. A big hat off to Mr. Morrison for attaining the rank of Rapscaillon. Imagine my dismay, however, to note that only the aforementioned Morrison and Mr. Moulton, who is not even a member, dressed appropriately for such a grand event.

Gentlemen, to be a Rascal should fill your hearts with pride and a desire to always show that you are a cut above. I mean, even if you just put on a Polo shirt and clean trousers, your status would rise in the eyes of everyone you associate with.

It is often said that “clothes make the man.” I suggest you take that to heart and not look like you just arrived after cutting the lawn. And I do think your appreciation of our group and each event would feel as great as it truly is.

I write with a true sense of pride as a Rascal.

Peter Angelo Marino, Smyrna, Georgia



# SOME OLD, SOME NEW, SOME RED, SOME BLUE

## Rascals Elect New Officers and Set 2023 Schedule

### 2023 Officers

The election of officers for 2023 came off without a hitch at the recent meeting of Lair No. 3 in Doylestown. The lineup of officers presents some familiar faces along with some new blood.

**Dan Morrison** was elected Director, an office he also held in 2022.

Our new Assistant Director is **Hayes Lewis** of Fort Worth, Texas. This is the first time a non-resident member has been elected to a Lair office and will be an interesting experiment.

**Jordan Goretti**, who joined Lair No. 3 in 2021, was elected Secretary. In his professional life, he works as a secretary, so

work and play may look kind of the same for him in 2023.

**Michael Moscherosch**, who served as treasurer last year, was reelected to that job for 2023.

**Calvin Morrison** made a bid to be Keeper of the Humidor for 2023 and inherits that office from **Roger Hull**.

And finally, **Dan Morrison** will continue as Archivist in the coming year.

### 2023 Schedule

The calendar for 2023 will open with Jim Barr presenting at the March 11 meeting. This may be a Rogue Challenge presentation.

Jason Enelow, newly

elected to membership, will take the plunge and make his Rascal presentation at the June 10 meeting.

After a two-year COVID hiatus, a Rascal Ball is slated for August 12. The theme and location have not yet been determined. Anyone who wants to volunteer to chair a ball committee should contact the Director.

Research Reports, always a favorite meeting, will happen on September 9.

And the Mass Challenge for 2023 will be on December 9. The challenge has not yet been chosen.



## Long-Lost Rubber Stamp Resurfaces!

Created in 2001, the official seal of Lair No. 3 resurfaced recently in Roger Hull's barn.

Long given up for dead, its rediscovery inspired Roger's 2023 Mass Challenge entry. He used the stamp to make a mold and used the mold to make a form for molten glass.

A number of Rascal-related items are the property of the RR&R, though they are held in trust by individual members.

Items owned by the RR&R as an organization, not by individual Rascals, are: the rediscovered Lair No. 3 rubber



*Roger Hull recently rediscovered the long-missing seal of Lair No. 3.*

stamp (Director), Lair No. 1 rubber stamp (Archivist), Lair No. 3 minute book (Secretary),

the Ephorate minute book (Prior), McGeoy Bitter Cup (missing), two Last Cigar ashtrays (Archivist), three flags (Director, two are missing), two Rascal o' the Year trophies, viz., Our Lady of the Interesting Thing (missing) and the Ark of the Humidor (Jon Haines), and the James Buchanan Medal (Calvin Morrison).

Landgraf medals, while purchased by the Lairs, are the property of the winners. Rascal flag pins and shirts also are private property.



# RASCAL PUBLICATIONS

## Available for Sale

**Through the years** the Rascals have created a number of publications. The following are available for \$3.00 each, postpaid. Complete your RR&R library! Send order, with cash, to King of Patagonia Press, PO Box 211, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009.

***Historical Introduction to the Order of RapsCALLIONS, An***

(n.p.: n.p., 2022). 7 x 8.5 inches, 12 pages. Published for the Second Rogues' Dinner, Doylestown, Pa., 2022.

***Introducing Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS:***

***America's Most Interesting Men's Club*** (n.p.: King of Patagonia Press, 2019). 7 x 8.5 inches, 20 pages. 2019 edition, out-of-print.

***Introducing Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS:***

***America's Most Interesting Men's Club***. 7 x 8.5 inches, 20 pages. 2022 edition, out-of-print.

***Mass Challenge: Poems*** (Bryn Athyn: King of Patagonia Press, 2022). 7 x 8.5 inches, 36 pages. Collection of poems from the 2021 Mass Challenge.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 1 (November 1994); 8.5 x 11, 2 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 2 (February 24, 1995); 8.5 x 11, 4 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 3 (April 1, 1995); 8.5 x 11, 8 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 4 (July 1, 1995); 8.5 x 11, 6 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 5 (October 15, 1995); 8.5 x 11, 6 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 6 (March 15, 1996); 8.5 x 11, 8 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 7 (October 31, 1996); 8.5 x 11, 2 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 10 (February 24, 2000); 8.5 x 11, 4 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 11a (December 29, 2000); 8.5 x 11, 4 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 11b (May 30, 2001); 8.5 x 11, 3 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 1, No. 13a (February 16, 2002); 8.5 x 11, 4 pages. Reprint.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 2, No. 12 (December 31, 2020); 8.5 x 11, 8 pages.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 2, No. 13b (June 16, 2021); 8.5 x 11, 8 pages.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 2, No. 14 (December 15, 2022); 8.5 x 11, 8 pages.

***Megaphone, The***. Volume 2, No. 15 (June 22, 2022); 8.5 x 11, 8 pages.

***Occasional Papers, 2001 no. 1*** (Horsham: King of Patagonia, 2001). "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Mathias Althouse: Being a Case of Adultery, Fornication and Bastardy in Upper Bucks County." 5.5 x 8.5, 12 pages in wrappers. First edition.

***Occasional Papers, 2001 no. 1*** (Bryn Athyn: King of Patagonia, n.d.). "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Mathias Althouse: Being a Case of Adultery, Fornication and Bastardy in Upper Bucks County." 7 x 8.5, 18 pages in wrappers. Revised edition.

***Occasional Papers, 2020 no. 1*** (Bryn Athyn: King of Patagonia, 2020). "UFOs in Religious History," by Daniel Bramer. 7 x 8.5, 12 pages in wrappers.

***Occasional Papers, 2022 no. 1*** (Bryn Athyn: King of Patagonia, 2022). "Of Relics and RapsCALLIONS: The Dubious Business of Preserving Pieces of Human Tissue," by Daniel Paul Morrison. 7 x 8.5, 24 pages in wrappers.



### ***The Megaphone***

*"Mostly True ... Since 1994."*

Pliny Miles, editor

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