



March 2015

Volume II

BLUE ROCK BUZZ

“DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DOMINICK “TED” SCIARRA”

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL BLUE ROCK ALUMNI

Please go to the Blue Rock Web site www.bluerock.us for an important announcement from Harry Jenkins. Please take the time to read it in it's entirety.

As previously stated, we need *YOUR* input for memories and stories. We also encourage everyone to share what is on *YOUR* mind in our *NEW* “Letters to the Editor” section in future issues.

This month's Person of Interest is **Bill DeLong**. Bill is one of our “Philly Guys” who came to Blue Rock in 1966...both Bill and his wife share some of their memories with us in this issue.

PERSON OF INTEREST...



Bill DeLong grew up in Philadelphia and was one of the “Philly Guys” who marched with the Rockies from 1967-1971. A founding member of the infamous “Rank Back Rank,” playing the triple bass drum, Bill's first foray into the world of drum corps was with the Rising Sun Cadets, then Philadelphia PAL Cadets before joining Blue Rock. He was also

a member of the percussion section of the famed Cardinal Dougherty High School band.

Bill graduated from Temple University with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1970, and then attended St. Joseph's University earning his BS in Chemistry before returning to Temple to graduate with his M.D., followed by residency at the University of Pennsylvania in Orthopaedics. He married the lovely Ginny Decker (Belles of St. Mary's) in 1971 and together they have two terrific children: Christian who works for the Miami Heat and Lauren who is a producer with Comcast Sports Net.

Bill's professional career began at Cooper University Hospital where he was Chief of Orthopaedics, continued with the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania as well as Temple University Hospital. Presently he has dual appointment: Temple University Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery as well as Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology. His main work these days is at St. Luke's Bethlehem where he helped to establish Temple University Medical School at Bethlehem and now serves as the Chairman of Orthopaedics for St. Luke's Health Network. He is quite proud of his accomplishments there, having established a top-notch residency program that graduated its first class in 2014. Bill is a member of the International Medical Surgical Response team and was deployed to New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina and also went to Haiti after the earthquake.

He is passionate about his distance running and participating in the Broad Street Run as well as the Philadelphia Half Marathon. Bill has also become a triathlete and competed in his first triathlon in 2013.

IN THE PAST... *(dedicated to the memory of Dave Bloom and Phil Rothsching)*

Bob McLaughlin did some research regarding BR's infamous "knicknames" and their origins that he is graciously sharing with us.

The year was 1969 and many hit movies were on the scene...one of our favorites was "Midnight Cowboy," with Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight. In this award winning movie, Hoffman played a down and out character by the name of "Ratso Rizzo..." at the same time, there was an old friend of the Philly guys from the Philly Corps days by the name of Jim Jimmo. Jim greatly admired Blue Rock and hung around us from time to time, as well as having some business dealings

in Delaware. After most of us saw Midnight Cowboy, it became immediately apparent that Ratso Rizzo was a dead ringer for Jim in appearance and also had a little of the same voice accent as Ratso. The best recollection of Harry and myself is that Dave Bloom started the nickname craze:

Tom (McNally) was "Tommo"
Bill (DeLong) was "Billo"
Bruce (Boyes) was "Bruceo"
Lee (Geisler) was "Leeo"
Harry (Jenkins) was "Harro"
Frank (Gatlin) was "Franko"
Dave (Bloom) was "Davo"
Bob (Yours Truly) was "Bobbo"
Even Ted got the handle of "Teddo"

Of all the names, mine is among the ones that seems to have stuck the longest... relatives, friends and co-workers still use it as a term of endearment..or so they tell me. If you listen carefully to the Blue Rock performance at '69 VFW Nationals, Philadelphia, Pa...you will hear my future wife, Peggy and her friend Diane yell "Yeah, Bobbo" at the conclusion of Baby Elephant. And, finally it is only fitting that the '71 Rock National Championship Repertoire includes Buddy Rich's "Midnight Cowboy medley..." In my opinion, the greatest corps concert of all time.

RATSO RIZZO





BJ Weisenbach (Blue Rock 1971-1973, CG 1973), Royaleers/Royaleer Mounties 1969-1970.)

Bill "Mintman" Weisenbach (Blue Rock 1969-1972), Yearsley Blackhawks.)

Interesting story comes from 1973...(not one of the better years of the Corps)...but we went on at the US Open Saturday night and in the

middle of our show, the heavens opened up and there was thunder, lightening and a downpour. Vicki kept us marching and we did the whole show, didn't stop even after the judges went running. Well, we were dripping wet as were our uniforms. The show was postponed till the next day, however, our jackets were a mess, so the US Open gave us each a red, white, and blue striped T-shirt....and we went on the next day in damp pants, skirts, boots, shoes and our new T-shirts (we took 10th!.) Then, our jackets were taken to the dry cleaners somewhere between the US Open and our next show, probably DCI/Whitewater (and that was the first time I remember a fresh, clean jacket!

Then there was the time that Debbie Corridori reminded us that we, the color guard, got a Perfect 10 at the CYO's in 1971 and beat the Troopers color guard to end their dominance as best color guard! And that night, the Corps went to sleep in a barn on a horse farm.

OUT OF THE BLUE...

Heard from **Tom Scott** (BR 1965-1971) and his wife, **Cathy Gant** (BR 1969-1971...) Tom is retired from Simmens Medical Diagnostics and served in the Air Force in Vietnam 1970-1971. Tom marched part time while still in the Air Force. Cathy has been in and out of the hospital but presently doing well.

I wanted to thank **Edd Fishel** for the beautiful Christmas CD that he made from computer-generated music for the holidays. Be sure to check out Edd's web site at Powerhousepercussion.com.

PRESCRIPTION ALLEY...

Pete Hazlett -one of our great baritone horn players, played with both BR Junior and Senior Corps is in remission and feeling good. He recently had a Stage 4 melanoma removed and is getting prepared for back surgery.

Marty Broomell - BR 1973-1974 is recovering from corrective heart surgery this past February and is doing well.

Donna Haas Morgan - please keep Donna in your thoughts and prayers as she starts chemo this week and everyone is looking forward to great results.

Kenny Dennis - is having an external defibrillator put in this coming week...we all wish him the best...tells me he is feeling really good!

Chuck Quakenbush - still rehabbing at Lutheran Crossings in Moorestown after an early November motor vehicle crash...Chuck says he is improving all the time.

BLUE ROCK NEWS....

Steve Riccelli, Mike “the Cableman” Cable, Mike Haas and Jim Cook all took advantage of the WMMR 93.3 Cardboard Classic Ski Trip at Jack Frost. The trip took place March 6th with an “All Day Lift Ticket of only \$9.33 which gave them access to skiing, cardboard sleds cardboard houses and bathtubs...A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!! These guys hope to get more BR alumni out for next year’s event...are you game?

IT’S YOUR BIRTHDAY...

Bill Weisenbach (Mintman)...	March 3
Skip Cable.....	March 9
Mike Dennis.....	March 15
BJ Weisenbach.....	March 15
Jim Sutton.....	March 17
Bob Cook.....	March 20
Edd Fishel.....	March 22
Billy Zane.....	March 23

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Are you ready for some Drum Corps?

EVENING WITH THE CORPS

7 PM - MAY 9, 2015

SPONSORED BY THE HAWTHORNE MUCHACHOS FOUNDATION, INC.,
HOSTED BY THE GOLDEN KNIGHTS AT THE STATE THEATRE IN NEW
BRUNSWICK, NJ - statetheatrenj.org.

PERFORMING:

HAWTHORNE CABALEROS
HAWTHORNE CABALEROS ALUMNI
FUSION CORPS
BRIDGEMEN ALUMNI
BLESSED SACRAMENT GOLDEN KNIGHTS
SAINTS BRIGADE



DRUM CORP CRUISE

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE - 7 NIGHTS
WESTERN CARIBBEAN - JAN 10 -16TH
LEAVES MIAMI JAN 10 - WILL VISIT COZUMEL, MEXICO - BELIZE -
MAHOGANY BAY - HONDURAS - GRAND CAYMAN BACK TO MIAMI, JAN.
17TH.

***Fund raising for World Drum Corps Hall of Fame!**

ANNUAL BLUE ROCK GET TOGETHER

JUNE 5 - 6 - 7

MOTEL BAL HARBOUR

508 EAST STANTON RD.

WILDWOOD CREST, NJ 08260

(609) 522-3343

The Bal Harbour is only about a 5 minute drive to the official Blue Rock Elks Parade viewing site! The parade is at noon on Sat. June 6.

If you have not done so, make your reservations as soon as possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Just about 40 years ago, the Blue Rock Drum and Bugle Corps gave its last performance. It was probably not one of its best performances, but it gave credence to the end of an era. This was an organization in which hundreds and hundreds of young people participated in its proud 17 year history.

When you look back on those times, what stands out in your mind the most? Could it be the long grueling hours of practice or sitting on the side of the road in a broken down bus; or, maybe it just might be a gentleman by the name of Ted Sciarra suggesting that you resemble the “south end of a north bound horse?” Or, maybe it was sleeping on a loud, smelly bus or, better yet, on a hard gym floor?!

Maybe your thoughts go back to a particular great performance, winning a championship or finally beating a corps that you thought would **never** happen?!

Here we are 40 years later, still looking forward to the annual get-together in Wildwood, seeing old friends, meeting new ones and exchanging “old war stories.”

Maybe the biggest gift of all was from a man by the name of Dominic “Ted” Sciarra...the gift of wonderful memories and lifetime friendships!

****FOR ALL YOUR BLUE ROCK APPAREL, COFFEE MUGS AND LICENSE PLATES, GO TO BLUEROCK.US AND CLICK ON OUR STORE.****

