



April 2015

Volume III

BLUE ROCK BUZZ

"DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DOMINICK "TED" SCIARRA"

PERSON OF INTEREST...



Joe Flynn - For many years, Joe has been the Web Master for the Blue Rock Web site as well as the source for Blue Rock paraphernalia (T-shirts, coffee mugs, etc.) Recently, Joe spends much of his time leading the World Class Winter Guard Paradigm!

Blue Rock Alumnus, Joe Flynn, started with Blue Rock at the age of 10 with the feeder corps, Vanguard and was moved up to Blue Rock in the early 1966 season at age 12. He stayed with the corps through the 1974 season making a

total of 11 years as a member of the corps. Post Blue Rock, Joe remained involved in the pageantry activity for several years, working with color guards and marching bands, before leaving to start a family with his wife, Janet, who also marched Blue Rock 1974.

In 1994, Joe's daughter Chris turning 14, lead Joe to found the Paradigm Winter Guard out of Lake City, Florida. Working from the premise similar to that of Blue Rock, that the activity should be available to (all) kids who wanted to participate, the Guard prospered over the years and drawing youth performers from as far away as Mississippi (a 7-hr weekly drive to rehearsals.)

During the Guard's "first phase" that ran from 1995 throughout 2007, Paradigm was named Florida Federation of Color Guards Circuit Champion 8 times, were World Championship finalist 6 times, were the Winter Guard International A-Class Silver Medalist in 2002, the Winter Guard International Bronze Medalist in 2003, and attained a position as high as 7th in the Independent World Class in 2005.

From the start, and unlike any other program in the country, Joe had resolved to retain the low cost structure of Paradigm and is proud of the fact that the Guard never had a paid staff member. Everyone involved was there on a volunteer basis, working on a philosophy of giving back to the activity and being offered the freedom to allow their own creativity and skills to flourish.

By 2007, Paradigm had reached a point where this philosophy was likely no longer possible and, with the declining economy, it had become impossible to continue to fund the program through community support and donations. The decision was made to fold the Guard.

Joe remained involved in both the Guard and Drum Corps activity and, in 2013, he was contacted by former staff and performers interested in bringing Paradigm back to the competition floor. Meetings were held, a 501c3 non-profit corporation was formed, and a "new" Paradigm hit the floor for the first time in January, 2014. Starting over in the independent A class, Paradigm 2014 achieved semi-finalist status at the Winter Guard International Championships.

Paradigm is now mid-season for the 2014 season and continues with the same philosophy that "all" youth who wish to participate and are willing to put forth the effort, should have a home and that staff (both creative and technical) should want to be involved and not doing so for a paycheck. Paradigm continues the philosophy of a volunteer staff. For the 2015 season, all but one staff member is

a former Paradigm performer, returning to give back to the activity in the same manner that they enjoyed when younger.

I remember as a kid thinking that if I was ever able to do so, I wanted to give back in the way that I saw Ted Sciarra giving to us. Over the years, we've had better than 200 kids come through Paradigm and, during that time, to our knowledge, none has ever gotten into any serious trouble. 85% of our performers have gone on to college degrees and our alumni now includes kids that have gone on to become attorneys, registered nurses, teachers and successful business people.

"While the kids are definitely different than we were when we marched Blue Rock and while the activity is better far removed from what we experienced, the amount of effort, time, and dedication necessary to be successful has not changed. For nine months out of every year, our kids rehearse pretty much every weekend - many of which run from 9pm Friday until 6pm Sunday - simply for the opportunity to compete in 11 or 12 shows each Spring."

"Sleeping on a gym floor is something I thought I'd outgrow eventually (and my back tells me that I need to) but as long as we have kids willing to put in the effort, we'll continue to find a way to make it all come together for them."

IN THE PAST...

Blue Rocks in Vietnam

From: The Painted Lady <thepaintlady@gmail.com>
Subject: April 26, 2015 at 10:30 PM
Date: April 26, 2015 at 10:30 PM
To: Michael Bates <michaelbates@bluewin.net>



Ken Dennis - I served with Battery C, 2/77th Artillery (105mm howitzer) attached to the 25th Infantry Division from Oct 67 - Oct 68. We were part of a large force that convoyed to an area near the Cambodian border to conduct search and destroy missions. The Fire Support Base was named FSB Burt. We endured a few mortar and 122 rocket attacks during the first week there but on Jan. 2, 1968 in the early evening we were hit by about 2

Sent from my iPad

divisions of NVA Regulars and Viet Cong. My job was in the Fire Direction Control of the Battery which computes direction, and distance to the coordinates that the infantry needs fire support. My shift was not on duty when the intense mortar attack and ground attack began. Because the attack occurred in our area our guns were firing point blank at them using beehive rounds. One gun was knocked out so our First Sergeant had us carry the ammo to the other guns and then set up on the perimeter with our M16s. It was like a Hollywood movie, with all the noise, flashes and tracer rounds flying by. By midnight air strikes were called in and the boys dropped napalm about 100 yards from us. We lost one man that night and I and three others had to carry him to the rear. He had 6 days left on his tour of duty. Many of the infantry who were outside the base as forward observers were forced to play dead as the enemy came on them so quickly. I remember how drained of color those guys were when they were brought in. I cannot imagine what those guys had to endure.

Mike Galloway and I served almost at the same time but in different areas. One time when my unit was on a convoy, we stopped to allow another to go by us and distinctly remember hearing "DO YOU HAVE ANYONE NAMED KEN DENNIS IN YOUR OUTFIT?" Found out many years later that is was Mike. While we did not see each other, we both were part of the a battle in Tay Ninh base camp. Our unit was again giving fire support during an attempt to overrun the camp. Mike was outside the perimeter but made it back ok. He claims he saved me but my recollection is a little different. It doesn't matter. We're home and safe now.

Mike Galloway - Kenny, Fergie and I all were under the 25th Infantry Division while we were over there...actually saw Fergie while I was there...he was with the same unit, different company (C Company 2/34 Armor/25th Infantry Division). I was HHQ Co 2/34 Armor). Fergie doesn't remember seeing me there; he doesn't even remember what happened when we saw each other...I asked him at the ceremony for the bench...can't tell here...kind of a private (funny) story :). Kenny and I were about 25 miles apart and passed each other in convoys...could never catch up...but my last week in country, we were on the same base camp (found out this in the last few years.) I was one week from going home...his artillery battery was at our back gate when they damned near got overrun...my company was going to rescue them...the attack was turned back before we were needed.



BLUE ROCK GOLD (THEY WERE ACTUALLY YELLOW) AND BLACK WOOL CADET STYLE UNIFORM JACKETS

BY EDD FISHEL

Back before DCI, civilian drum and bugle corps was more of a localized weekend activity than the behemoth traveling circus it is today. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy today's big time productions every bit as much as what we were doing in '68. It's just, different...

For instance, back in the sixties a lot of the east coast corps, in particular, wore the then popular, wool cadet style uniform jackets. Blue Rock, St. Lucy's, Garfield Cadets (who we all know still bear the cadet style), Boston Crusaders, St. Joe's ...the list goes on.

Only a few corps wore the lighter blouse style uniforms such as Blessed Sacrament, SAC and of course, there was B.S. I'm aware of the others but I hated B.S. the most, and will always jump at the opportunity to stick my thumb in their eye. Even over something as much of a "stretch" as this. LOL

In the summer months we were guaranteed to have either a Friday night contest or rehearsal followed by a for sure, high-brow, Saturday night contest, somewhere three hundred miles away. An occasional Sunday afternoon performance was added to help fill the corps coffers. A never ending endeavor.

If Blue Rock were alive today, we would probably qualify for some sort of government subsidy.

In 1968, we competed in 63 contests over 14 weeks. That my Rocky friends was 4.5 contests per week. All without the contemporary support mechanism on which today's DCI corps rely. Thus was the creation of massive quantities of sweaty, stinky, wool cadet style uniform jackets.

After each and every performance, be it contest, parade or exhibition we collectively went through the predictable shut down procedure after returning to our buses. Circle jerk critique on how bad we sucked, unless of course we won and then we received a little praise before learning how the judges must have had their "heads up their asses." There was always room for improvement and Ted liked keeping us humble. "Case all the instruments and other gear, turn your jackets in to Mom Scott at the Flamingo."

Where did the name Flamingo come from, anyway?

I loved that bus, the Flamingo! It was the only one of our dysfunctional stable of antiquated transportation that actually made sense, in an efficiency manner while remaining curiously road reliable. We were all proud, in our own sick way, that the rest of the drum corps used our buses as the butt of endless jokes. Never let it know that the real joke was on them, as their view of our buses was the exterior, the much classier half. We spent the better part of our summers on those buses and surprisingly no one died from contracting a surface born virus. (Remember how we would never let a family member or any other "normal" anywhere near the interior of those rolling gross outs?)

I can't tell you how many times I stood in line, at the Flamingo, to return a jacket that looked like I just snatched it from a crazed wolf who pissed all over it while laughing at me trying to tackle his ass retrieving it. Yeah, that bad...and some of you guys turned in "specimens" worse than mine.

I saw Fergie hand Mom Scott a jacket so nasty that she immediately rolled into a ball, stuffed it in a paper sack and threw it to the back of the bus. Three quick, deliberate, moves. I am thinking it is still back there...

To this day I still can't figure out what kind of magic Mom Scott must have performed to make those nasty, sweaty things not only presentable but sweet smelling, as well. Usually the very next day!

Pure freaking magic, I tell you. We should, at most, canonize her for Sainthood...at least, she should be remembered for helping to save the planet. She was a great Mom and we all loved her.

My dad had a way of describing such measures as..."she just clubbed the shit out of it."

Yeah, my Dad was a real pisser...a lot like Elmer Galloway. God love 'em both.

Thanks to Larry Seeney for the recent conversation that inspired this short story. Larry and I caught up at a DCI show in Roanoke, VA last August.

NOTE: LOOKING FOR SOME STORIES ABOUT MIAMI - 1963, CHICAGO - 1965 AND/OR MARION - 1968!!! HONESTLY, THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IS UP!!!

PRESCRIPTION ALLEY...

Please keep Mike Cable in your thoughts and prayers...Mike has had some serious complications due to an accident.

I am hearing nothing but positive things about Donna Haas Morgan. Please keep those good vibes going!

Ken Dennis had a defibrillator implanted on March 23rd. All went well and he asked me to thank everyone for all their well wishes.

We are hoping that the "stars will align" and Chuck Quackenbush will be released soon from Rehab...and is strong enough to make it to Wildwood in June.

And, finally, it is with much sadness that I write about the sudden death of Ray Keech in Garland, Texas on March 21st. Ray marched in the early 60's and played soprano...he was 65 years old.

BLUE ROCK NEWS...

A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

BRACK - BLUE ROCK ALUMNI CORE TEAM

What is it? - Who is it? - Why is it?

As most of you know, Harry Jenkins started his 25 year term as President of Blue Alumni Associated in 1989, the same year as he and several others planned and implemented the great reunion and dinner of that year. You also probably know that for most of that time Harry has flown solo doing stuff for (and to LOL) all of us in the alumni...assisted at times by many including Bill (Minuteman) and BJ Weisenbach, Ta Quackenbush (Treasurer) and Joe Flynn...all who aided greatly in the 2010 WW Reunion. If I missed anybody, I apologize...it is only because to date I haven't heard that story from Harry...rest assured I will...having lunch with him tomorrow.

For the past several years, Joe Flynn has been Harry's right hand man with many projects including providing info and writing for various drum corps publications and, of course, managing the Blue Rock Website...which includes every known major recording of Blue Rock...something you won't find in every top drum corps website...THX Joe for your labor in this, and also the production of T-shirts, Mugs, and other memorabilia for Blue Rock.

In August 2013, shortly after the Cadets West Chester DCI Show (my 1st major contest attendance in 42 years,) Harry contacted me and we hooked up for lunch...1st time together in 42 years. We spent the afternoon catching up, talking about the old days in PAL and Blue Rock, looking at some awesome memorabilia that Harry had, and of course countless Harry Stories about everything and everyone. It was awesome! We continued to meet regularly for lunch once a month...with more Harry Stories than I can remember. It was like we were never apart...amazing! And of course, Harry threatened me if I didn't go to WW 2014...I did.

Jim Tarlton and I also hooked up about the same time as Harry and I did...and we both were in WW last June (2014.) We all had a great time reuniting and enjoying fellowship with old and new friends...IT WAS AN AWESOME

FELLOWSHIP. After a great time, Jim and I were hooked! We wanted to do more...help Harry. We even talked about getting the band back together...mostly my brother Elwood (Jim)...”ON A MISSION FROM GAD!”

TWO (2) events really ignited the interest in doing more...Chuck’s near death accident on the NJ Turnpike in NOV 2014, and THE 68 US OPEN FLAG on EBay in DEC 2014...and not just from a few of us...but from many alumni on Blue Rock Facebook Site. Other events took place...like Donna Haas Morgan’s illness. In JAN-FEB 2015 others showed interest in providing more support and assistance to Harry...Joe Flynn, Mike Batten, Chuck Quackenbush and Steve Riccelli. And in FEB 2015 we formed the BLUE ROCK ALUMNI CORE TEAM with Harry as Leader. The first thing that we did was develop and agree on our Purpose...which is a 3-legged stool...which you will learn more about at Wildwood 2015 and through various social media communications. **Our Purpose is:**

FAMILY-COMMUNITY-FELLOWSHIP * LEGACY * CARING

- We exist to serve the alumni of Blue Rock, one of the greatest drum and bugle corps of all times! Yes, we are in a leadership position...however we are **SERVANT LEADERS**.
- **Servant** first...with the natural feeling that we want to serve, to serve first... then lead.
- As part of a **Community**...**Caring** for the persons, the more able and the less able serving each other, the rock upon which we want to build...get back to person to person caring.
- A participative leadership style that also endeavors to preserve as best as a possible our **Legacy**.

Near the end of February, we all learned from Harry that since WW 2014 he had desired to pass the baton of leadership...presidency to someone else...as the SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT on the Blue Rock website chronicles. The Core Team meets via teleconference every other week, and in early March the core team concluded the business of electing an interim president and VP:

- Interim President - Bob McLaughlin
- Interim Vice President - Mike Batten

With the hope and belief that an official alumni association could be formed in the future where the total active membership of that alumni association would elect a board of directors including these two elected positions.

Servant Leaders are also **Stewards**...faithful guardians and caretakers with the honor and privilege of serving OUR ALUMNI.

“...for it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”



Steve Riccelli and **Jimmy Tarlton** - got together for a little golf match at the Grand Cypress Gold Club in Florida. Sounds like it may have rained on Cupcake and Buttercup!

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY...

Phyliss Vanieken Ryals.....April 7
Harry Sharp.....April 21
Jeff Dennis.....April 29

UPCOMING EVENTS...

An annual tradition and pilgrimage is approaching quickly... 5 PLUS WEEKS TO WW!!!

Lodging: At this point we know that most of those alumni in WW for the weekend will be lodging at the Bal Harbor with several alumni at the Cape Cod. Others will be elsewhere with some day-tripping. The official count to date is **52** with more to respond. This is a great response. There were 45 in the alumni photo last year. We have heard from a few that rooms are sparse at this time... so if you are planning on making a weekend of the reunion...**better hurry!**

Events:

FRIDAY, JUN 5TH:

- **AM** - Several alumni **goofers**...sorry **golfers**...will be representing the alumni...slugging it out on the course with our old friends in Blessed Sacrament on Friday...I am not sure if this group should be equipped with clubs and little round missiles . However, I understand there are adequate emergency health facilities in the Wildwood vicinity.
- **PM** - Archer-Epler Alumni Corps has invited us to their concert at their hotel... time to be announced.

SATURDAY, JUN 6TH:

- **12 NOON** - Elks Parade at the usual location ...**Kelly's...where else? :)**
- **2 PM** - Alumni Group Photo @ Kelly's...note we are not waiting till the end of the parade.

- **Other Group Shots** - many candid photos will be taken all afternoon. If you have a small group that would like a photo taken...see one of the alumni photos: Frank (Flash) Gatlin, Jim (Fat Fingers) Tarlton or Bob (Bobbo) McLaughlin anytime throughout the afternoon at Kelly's...a beverage may be required. :)
- Socializing - **Go for it...make it the best yet!** This, sad to say on occasion, may be the final time you see an alumnus or alumnae on this side of Eternity. Last year I saw and reminisced with Chris Davis (Belles) for the 1st and last time in 42 plus years...Chris passed away this past November... she is missed.
- **4 PM** - Alumni Refreshments, Food and Sharing at Cape Cod Hotel...9 blocks North of Kelly's on the Ocean....
 - More info forthcoming including options for parking.
 - This event will last as long as you do!
 - During this time the core team wants to get to know all of the attending alumni a little better and understand what you would like to see as an alumni association going forward.
 - Opportunity for other group photo shoots.
- **EVENING** - Your choice...small group gatherings, dinner, other corps parties, etc.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH:

- If you are still in WW...**a reminder to go home**...of course after some final farewells...but only for a short time.
- Several events are under development to offer to all...will be announced at WW or sooner...includes the schedule of corps contests...including a Cadet contest at PPL Park, Chester, PA...this contest replaces the annual West Chester, PA contest...all corps scheduled are in the top 7-8 DCI Corpsdom.

DCA

CABS ON THE BEACH

JUNE 20

6:30 PM

MAXWELL FIELD, WILDWOOD

**CABALEROS
BUCCANEERS
BUSHWACKERS
FUSION CORE
HURRICANES**

EXHIBITION CABS ALUMN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Mike,

Another wonderful Buzz. I thought I'd bring you up to date on Jack and Ef Deal's adventures in drum corps these days.

In 2008, I dropped by a rehearsal of the South Jersey Vagabonds Alumni corps, and I played along as best I could not being able to read the music and not having played in some 33 years. It was fun to play some of the arrangements of the old songs, and before long the director asked if I would take over as horn instructor. That's when I set about putting the drum corps into the repertoire, and soon we were playing exclusively arrangements of the songs played by corps in the 1960s and '70s, corps that are now long gone. In 2010, Jack officially joined us, after playing a few parades and exhibitions here and there. As our horn line filled out, we decided to enter winter competitions at the Bugles Hall of Fame, and we took a few mini-corps titles as well as I&E placements, including the Jersey Regional 1st place for duet (Jack and me.)

Anybody in the South Jersey area who would like to pick up a horn, but can't put in the physical hardship of marching, South Jersey Vagabonds rides on a trailer with secured seats for our parades...downright luxury!

Meanwhile, at Wildwood last year, some guys from BSGK invited us to join, and we said, "Sure!" so we have been really having a kicking time together playing lead soprano with the Golden Knights Alumni corps.

And still on valve rotors!

Folks may not know that Jack is the President of the The Atlantic Brass Band, a British-style Brass band out of South Jersey. They're a championship band playing a repertoire ranging from Sousa to contemporary arrangements and original pieces. They recently took 2nd place at the North American Brass Band Association championships, which makes them the top community band in North America. Jack holds down

the solo flugelhorn chair and serves as the emcee at concerts. Atlantic Brass has a Facebook page and a website, so if you love the thrill of good brass, check out their schedule and catch them in concert. They'll be playing Cape May on Memorial Day weekend, and they play Laurita Winery in December...two wonderful venues.

Meanwhile, how are YOU recovering??

Ef Deal

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SENT ME INFORMATION AND ARTICLES FOR THIS ISSUE.

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